



Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

MARCH 2022

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

Welcome to the season of Lent.

Are you all familiar with the traditions of Lent in the Christian church?

Lent is typically the time of year when we think about deepening our faith, learning a new spiritual practice, taking part in Bible study, or increasing in our generosity. That has a lot to do with the ancient practice of catechesis.

People new to the faith, before being fully welcomed into the community, would undergo catechesis – a lot like Confirmation today. They would learn about Jesus, learn what it means to be a part of the family or body of Christ, and gain education and training on all things church.

Finally, at the end of the season, they would be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This time of study, preparation, and learning of all things church was not only for the benefit of the learner, it also protected the faith community during times of religious persecution, when some would try to infiltrate a congregation and expose them to the

authorities.

Time goes on, and the empires of the world become more friendly toward Christianity. Lent then becomes a time of focusing on the story – and particularly the passion – of Jesus. It becomes a time of intentional self-examination and repentance. With this shift, pious Christians adopt annual practices of fasting, attending additional prayer and worship gatherings, and charitable giving.

In that vein, we, too are offering and putting together some resources and ways for you to connect, perhaps, differently or deeper with your faith this season.

First, we are complementing our worship with resources for study in the form of books, devotionals, and video that all go together. We are using (if you haven't already heard) *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus* by author and pastor Adam Hamilton. Our texts and themes in

[Cont'd from page 1](#)

our weekly worship will be influenced by each chapter of this book. Additionally, we are very much urging you to stay after worship for a short time of discussion and further learning. On Sundays, this will include watching the video that accompanies each chapter. We will also benefit from the additional insights of those who've followed along in the book and/or devotional. But you don't have to be a reader to come and learn more! Gathering together with your churchmates will be itself a powerful experience – and you will have all experienced the video together for a common discussion base.

Secondly, we will be adding worship and programming on Wednesday evenings! This is exciting because we have groups for everyone – all ages! The first thing of the evening will be worship at 6:00. It will be a short, prayerful service where we will encounter the video for the week's chapter together. Prayer, singing, video, coloring pages – all great for both small wiggly people and larger humans who like to move less.

Also at worship (and this is true on Sunday as well) will be a time for prayer and reflection with a tangible, experiential station to go with it. A prayer wall to tie pieces of cloths, a gem from the baptismal font, a rock to decorate with marker, or beads and string to make a prayer bracelet...these and more will

accompany our worship together.

Following the short worship on Wednesdays, there will be a place for everyone to keep fellowshiping and studying together. Nancy Holley is leading the group for adults, I will be with the confirmation students, and Carrie Payne is providing a time for the young ones.

Also, Lent bags! Pick one up or let the office know you need one delivered. We have put together a Lent-at-home bag with some decorative symbols of the season, a devotional, a candle, and more – all to enhance your devotion or worship practices at home!

I pray that you find lent to be a time of renewal and deepening faith. And I encourage you to take advantage of the things we are doing together here. It's not just about keeping busy or studying hard – but doing these things together, centered around Jesus Christ, unites us in faith, unites us as community, and brings us together in ways that are deeply healing after enduring the past two years the strain of life in pandemic.

Come experience Lent together this year. Deepen in faith, grow in community, and let the Holy Spirit warm, challenge, encourage, push, and move you this season.

Welcome to the season of Lent.

WORSHIP AND PROGRAMMING

Our mission is to Reach Out and Share Christ With All. In our worship, fellowship, and education that starts with creating environments where God's love for us and for our most vulnerable neighbors is strongly communicated. Creating spaces in worship and programming that are safe for anyone to gather when other spaces around us may not be so, and engaging in other non-physical ways are essential for that mission.

Thank you all you've done, and for your continued patience, prayers, diligence, and advocacy toward ending this pandemic. -Pastor Chris, and HCLC Vision Board.

UPDATE: Since we last set our guidelines, a number of things have changed around us. Vaccines have become more available (only one more age-group is waiting) and we have come to the other side of the winter spike of covid cases. A less strict cases-to-singing ratio is needed for the same amount of risk management.

At the time of writing this, we've not yet had any meetings to decide or adopt new protocols or guidelines. Please stay tuned. In the interim, please know that we will be singing again in worship (barring any ridiculous new spike), because we have been, and will continue to be, excellent in our masking and distancing practices.

More information on worship and fellowship practices will be relayed as they are made available. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP DURING LENT

For forty days, Jesus took stock of His life—who He was and what He wanted to accomplish. We call this forty-day period LENT. Christians are called in Lent to a special period of taking stock, of setting priorities, of rethinking what it means to be a steward of God's gifts. May this holy season be a time for you to contemplate anew the many blessings of God and to respond to God by a generous giving of your very selves. Generous giving always brings rewards, as our Lord found out. And while generous giving does not protect us from the difficulties and challenges of life, it does assure us of a deeper life. As surely as Lent ends with Easter, so a life of giving ends with a greater sense of satisfaction and greater joy. During this Lenten season as it leads up to the Lord's resurrection on Easter, consider giving a financial gift to HCLC in celebration of God's great love.

BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study group will meet the third Thursday of the month—March 17 at 9:30 a.m. We will continue using our book, "We Make the Road by Walking", and will begin with chapter 45, page 226.

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Holley at 608-526-3418.

QUILTING IN MARCH

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m.

Quilters group will meet on Tuesdays through March at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Hall.

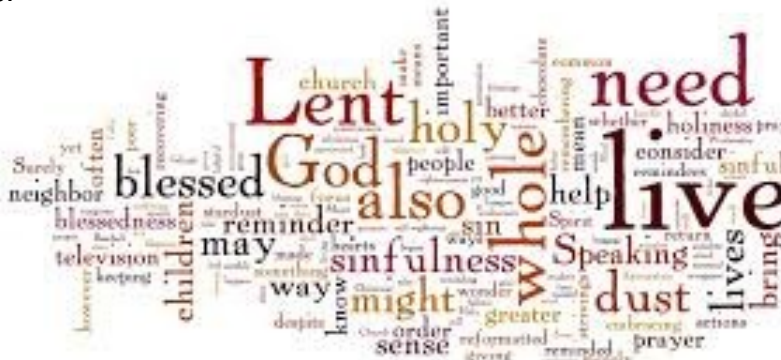
CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes meet each Wednesday at 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Thank you to those who've volunteered to walk with our youth in this amazing ministry as small group leaders. If you'd also like to help or contribute, contact Shari at assistant@halfwaycreek.org or 608-526-3701.

FIRST COMMUNION

Instructional classes will be held during lent with First Communion Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022. Contact Shari at assistant@halfwaycreek.org to sign up!

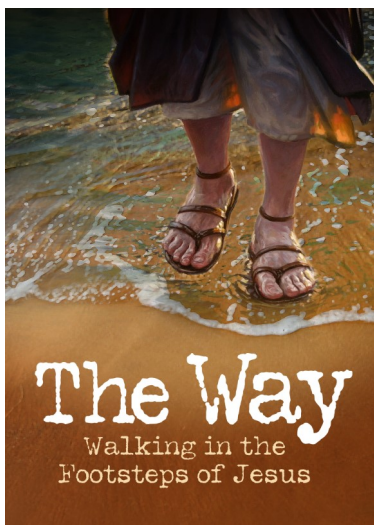


LENT 2022

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS

Join us for worship on Wednesdays, beginning Ash Wednesday, March 2 and continuing through Lent. Worship will begin at 6:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for each service. This service will be in person and not recorded,

LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES AND BOOK STUDY



Join us at worship and after during Lent as we follow Adam Hamilton's journey in the book The Way; Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus.

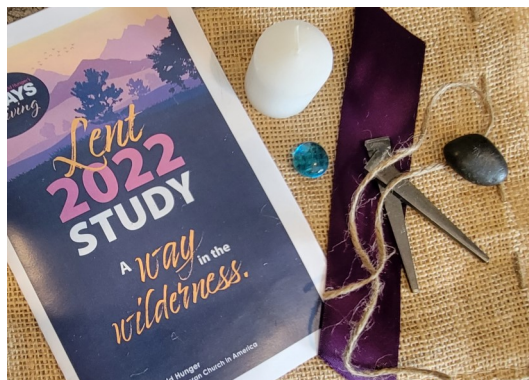
When: Wednesdays and Sundays of Lent - March 2—April 10, 2022.

Time: Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.; Sundays 9:00 a.m.

We have a few copies of the book on hand if you would like to purchase one for \$12. They will be available at each service. Books are not required to participate!

LENT BAGS

We have put together a Lent-at-home bag with some decorative *symbols of the season, a devotional, a candle, and more* – all to enhance your devotion or worship practices at home! Pick one up or let the office know you need one delivered.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

2	11	20	29
Douglas Johnson	Robert Nelson	Jesse Oines	Nollan Gander
Graham Kinsman	Sydney Page	22	Nic Hill
3	13	Marc Jandt	Noah Nelson
John Fredrickson	Gaye Johnson	23	Ruth Scholze
Kynzie Severson	Michael Martin	Kathy Christensen	30
Lynn Wegner	Garrett Pederson	Jeremy Cook	John Daily
4	Tricia Syverson	Connor Lee	Stella Pederson
Wendy McCoy	15	24	31
5	Braxton Lohrentz	Linda Pralle	Daniel Brudahl
Michael Nedoba	17	26	Reid Stumlin
6	Elyzabeth Yahnke	Katrina Bringe	
Timothy Severson	18	27	
	James Dokkebaken	Ivy Severson	
	Collin Noel		



We pray for Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Ayla Humphrey, Ted Latham, Gayle Kuespert, Mark Sanders, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Mildred Schwanebeck, Kathy Johnson, Zach Mossman, Marie Jezova

Help us keep our prayer list updated.

Please call or email the office this month to keep your name or your loved one's name on the prayer list. Please let us know if there is anyone we should add. Thank you!

2022 VISION BOARD

Gaye Johnson, President—gayemj3@gmail.com

Amy Noel, Vice President—noelprairie@icloud.com

Jessica Cook, Secretary—jcook5410@gmail.com

Mike Martin, Treasurer—michaelmartin49@charter.net

Andrea Baxter—baxtera42@gmail.com

Diane Jostad—608-526-3597

Kari Washburn—kari.washburn@yahoo.com

Please contact the vision board with any input you may have. Vision Board meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month.

GET TO KNOW YOUR VISION BOARD MEMBERS

Each month we'll feature a Vision Board member! Reach out and visit with these members and help build the future of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church!

Kari Washburn has been a member of Halfway Creek since 2011. She is an Accounting Manager and lives in Holmen with her two children: Abigail and John. She served on the Call Committee in 2018. Kari sees God at work “through His word, so that we may share it with others and it may work through us. I also see God working through HCLC by His callings, giving congregation members the opportunity to serve and lead.”

Please welcome Kari as she faithfully and prayerfully serves HCLC through the Vision Board.

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. John 13:12-14

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2022

MEMBERS: Pastor Chris Sesvold, Patti Happel, Mike Martin, Mike Nedoba (attended by phone), Gaye Johnson, Jessica Cook, Carolyn Bjerke (attended by phone), Diane Jostad

TIME:

6:30

ITEM:

Call to Order – 6.32pm

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Gaye J/second

By Diane J- approved

Approval of December minutes – Motion by Mike M./

Second by Gaye J - approved

Devotion/Reflection/Prayer – Gaye reviewed Chapter 3

Of “How to Lead When You Don’t Know

Where You’re Going”

Pastor’s Report - Submitted

Financial Report - Submitted

OLD BUSINESS

Review Covid procedures – Virtual?

Motion to continue in-person worship, maintaining

Current safety protocols, made by Gaye/

Second by Mike M. - approved

Vision Board Members – nominations – Discussion to

Prayerfully continue searching for new recruits

Annual Meeting – set for Sunday Feb. 6, 2022 – 10am

Sunday School Review - tabled

Final Vote on 2022 Budget – motion to approve made by

Carolyn, second by Gaye - approved

NEW BUSINESS

AV-Tech bid & SIMS update – motion to moved forward

With proposed repairs/updates, up to \$1,000 made

By Gaye, second by Mike M. - approved

2021 Housing Allocation for Pastor Chris – motion

To approved Pastor Chris’ numbers for housing

Allocation, made by Gaye, second by Mike N –

approved

Rich vacation – 1/28/22 - 2/18/22 – Need volunteers
Shari will post requests for help

Closing Prayer
Adjournment – 8:24pm

Next meeting(s):
Annual Meeting – Sunday February 6, 2022 – Time TBD – 10 am, following 9am service.
Diane and Gaye will prepare coffee and donuts (Thank You!!)

Thursday February 10, 2022 6:30pm – Regular Vision Board Meeting

PayPal

Giving has been made easier!! You may now donate to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church and it's ministries using PayPal! Read the QR code here, or find us on PayPal with the email address treasurer@halfwaycreek.org. *Thank you for your continued support and for making a difference!*



Your giving helps with our mission-*Reaching Out to Share Christ with All*

January	Budget	Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Actual
Expense	18,892	18,911.03	18,892.00	18,911.03
General Fund	18,869	10,917.83	18,869.00	10,917.83
Debt Reduction		270.00		270.00



SYNOD WIDE HAPPENINGS

Courage Conversations

Our Synod's Church in Society Committee is hosting "Courage Conversations" this Lenten season on Sunday evenings from 6:00–7:00 p.m. (ZOOM). We will discuss Debby Irving's book *Waking Up White*. Participants need to register with the synod office (608 788 5000) or (melanie@lacrosseareasyndod.org).

Following registration you will receive weekly invites to attend the meeting. There is no fee to participate. It is asked that participants have access to the book and make every effort to engage in assigned weekly readings. A few copies of the book are still available for free at the synod office.

We promise a lively conversation rooted in our shared Lutheran beliefs.

Sincerely, Pastor Joanne Richmond, Chair, Church in Society Committee

2022 Prayers in Preparation for Synod Assembly

Please use these prayers in congregational worship and personal devotion

March: For strength in our Lenten journeys Merciful God, accompany our journey through the forty days of Lent. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those in need, pray for the world and our neighbors, fast from self-indulgence, and find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. As we look to gather in assembly in a few months, keep us mindful of our life together even as we have been so separated by COVID and its effects for two years. We pray that we will be able to meet safely together, to share both sorrow and celebration, wild lament and whirling dancing. Inspire our synod and congregational leaders as we strive to find our way with you always guiding us. We pray in Christ's name, Amen.

Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen



2022 Synod Assembly June 10-12, 2022

Wild Lament—Whirling Dance

Synod leaders are planning for an in-person assembly at this time, knowing that it may be necessary to transition to a virtual assembly as June draws closer. You can see our theme above and we look forward to sharing more info with you as the event nears.

Watch the [assembly web page](#) for ongoing updates.

Friday, June 10th - Opening of assembly and worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran, La Crosse

Saturday, June 11th - Assembly continues w/ business, reports and workshops at UW-La Crosse in the Student Union

Sunday, June 12th - Meeting at the bandshell at Riverside Park, downtown La Crosse for a Synod-Wide worship service and picnic -- inviting ALL synod members, not just pastors and voting members

Pre-Assembly Conference Caucus Meetings

North Conf - Mon., May 2, 6:30 pm, Journey Lutheran



THANK YOU

To the Volunteers of Halfway Creek Lutheran,

Thank you to everyone who helped clean our church building while Rich was on vacation! The time you spent serving our church community is so appreciated!

We'd like so say a special thanks to Mike Martin for all the extra cleaning and maintenance he did to keep the church shining!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Lenten Study 9:45 a.m.

Wednesdays in March
Worship 6:00 p.m.
Lenten study 6:30 p.m.

MARCH

Tuesday, March 1

9:00 a.m. Quilters

Wednesday, March 2

6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

6:30 p.m. Lenten study

Tuesday, March 8

9:00 a.m. Quilters

Thursday, March 10

6:00 p.m. Vision Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 15

9:00 a.m. Quilters

Thursday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Monday, March 21

Currents articles due

Tuesday, March 22

9:00 a.m. Quilters

Tuesday, March 29

9:00 a.m. Quilters

5:00 p.m. Holmen's Hope

Community Dinner

Holy Week

April 14-17, 2022

Maundy Thursday

6:00 p.m. Worship and First Communion

Good Friday

Noon Crosswalk– meet at Halfway Creek bandshell

1:00 p.m. Community Worship at Holmen Lutheran

7:00 p.m. Worship

Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship indoors

10:00 a.m. Worship outdoors

(We'll move indoors in the case of inclement weather.)

Worship online: Halfway Creek Lutheran Church website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel

EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

At Easter, we decorate the church in celebration of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. If you would like to present an Easter flower in honor, memory or celebration of a person or event, please fill out this form and place it, with payment, in the offering plate. **All orders & payment must be received in the office by Monday, March 7.** See the list below for available flowers and cost.

___ Easter Lily - \$19.00

___ Easter Lily - double - \$39.00

___ Tulips - \$19.00

___ Rainbow Mums - \$19.00



Presented by: _____

Please note whether this/these plant(s) are:

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

To the Glory of God for _____

Place this form with proper payment in an envelope and place in offering plate or send to the Church office at W6016 County Road W, Holmen, WI 54636. (Please note on your check "Easter Flowers")

SERVING

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
MAR 6	9 00	Mike Martin Morgan Jostad	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
MAR 13	9 00	Stan Schwier VOLUNTEER	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
MAR 20	9 00	Archie Achterkirch VOLUNTEER	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Jodi Eide Mike Nedoba
MAR 27	9 00	David Bringe David Chase	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Richard Granum Diane Jostad

Volunteers at Worship

Use Sign-up Genius button on the website or E-News; call the office or email: assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

Gifting of your time is important to help meet the needs of this congregation at each service. Thank you to those that serve the church!

Worship Team Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.



Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
608-526-3701
www.halfwaycreek.org

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.—Noon. Leave a message on
the answering machine or e-mail at
assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

PASTORAL CARE

If the need arises for Pastoral Care, please
contact Pastor Chris at 608-526-3701 or
608-397-1578 .

SOCIAL MEDIA

Find us on Facebook, Instagram,
YouTube and our website

@halfwaycreeklutheranchurchholmen
#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch
#reachoutsharechristwithall

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