



# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **CURRENTS**

APRIL 2022

*Reach Out , Share Christ with All*

**FROM PASTOR CHRIS**

The drama of Holy Week and its motion into the joyful Easter Sunday marks the most sacred time of the church year. I hope you are able to celebrate the entirety of Holy Week this year. Living in this story is so central to our faith as Christians, so transformative to our lives as we seek to live the Way of Jesus each and every day.

The whole week is set up as one long worship service.

On Palm Sunday we enter with Jesus into Jerusalem. The joy and anticipation is palpable as the people cry “Hosanna! Save us!” Are there not things in our lives, too, from which we long Christ to set us free? They expect a revolution, a new reality to be ushered in by the Son of God.

By the end of Palm Sunday the crowds begin to turn. The Pharisees consort with the Romans. And they begin to turn the crowds against Jesus. We see again how difficult it is to follow Jesus, to adopt his Way and enter into his kingdom in our own world. Finally, at the end of Palm Sunday we realize the gravity of the week as we see Jesus ready his disciples and himself for his journey to the cross.

The Holy Week service picks up again on Maundy Thursday. We sit with Jesus at the table, remember the forgiveness and love he shows us, that he calls us to show one another. He washes our feet and tells us to love one another. He shares the Passover meal, telling us

to remember him as the one whose body is broken for us, whose blood is poured out for us, like the saving lamb of Passover. As Maundy Thursday closes, we strip the altar and join Jesus in the Garden to pray, knowing that he is about to be betrayed.

The Holy Week service then picks up the next day, Good Friday. Before the sun rises Jesus is tried and sentenced. By noon they've hung him on the cross. His disciples, the crowds that had supported him mere days before all wonder why the kingdom he taught, the promise he lived did not come to be. Good Friday closes in mourning and we recognize the ugliness of the sin that has such a hold on our lives, that humanity would crucify the God among us rather than humble ourselves before God and seek Jesus' kingdom above our own ambitions.

Then there is a pause. There must be pause, because that is a heavy, heavy day.

Finally, we hear the Easter mystery. Christ is Risen! And we learn that these things – death, decay, chaos, hardship – none of these have the last word. Yes, they certainly happen in our life – and happened to Jesus as well. But they do not get the last word. The life we have in Jesus, Jesus who is risen, has the last word.

The Easter message, dear body of Christ, is Jesus lives! – and has given that life over to you! He has given his life to his church, to his people who follow his Way.

The life he gives is life for the changing of this world – here and now. His life, his victory, he gives to us to change our hearts, to change our world, to bring life and peace and blessing and abundance and love to all around us now!

In the epilogue to our Lenten study (The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus by Adam Hamilton) Adam writes about this amazing narrative that orients our lives. He writes, I'm counting on the fact that there is always hope. I'm counting on the fact that God walks with us through hell and back again. I'm counting on the fact that God forgives our sins and that he's the God of the second chance. I'm counting on the fact that sin and hate and

sickness and death will not have the final word. When we walk in the footsteps of the resurrected Christ, we walk with hope.

May this whole drama, this whole story be a chance for you to reflect on the amazing story that we are baptized into, the amazing narrative that frames our faith and our lives. May you be refreshed this Easter season to follow the Way of Jesus. May you find strength to put your hope in the way of peace, joy, love, and life – to have Christ’s message take root in you and turn your life toward living more fully in his kingdom – to know that in all the pain or struggles this world will throw, Jesus is always with you. May you know that Jesus chooses to live and reign and keep up the victorious, life-giving work in us – in our bodies, among us, in us.

Dear church, may this Holy Week and Easter season bring you a renewed sense of Jesus’ life inside you, this congregation, the church – working to make this world a reflection of the love God has for you and for each one of us.

Happy Easter!  
-Pastor Chris

## **COMMUNION AT WORSHIP**

Beginning on Palm Sunday, April 10, we will offer two options for communion distribution:

1. People who prefer to continue with the communion kits may pick one up as they enter church and commune in the pew like we have been.
2. Pastor Chris will consecrate the bread and wine, and we will have communion assistants serving the bread and wine for communion in the aisle.

*As we add more traditional practices to worship, we encourage you to use hand sanitizer before entering the sanctuary.*

*We will need at least Two (2) Communion Servers on Sundays! Please volunteer today.*

## 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.

### GUIDELINES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

With new guidelines put forth from the CDC, we have decided to relax some of our mitigation procedures in worship for those of you who feel you need a break when conditions are suited to it.

We have previously used metrics at [covidactnow.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html) and are switching to the new CDC formula. The metric we are using is found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

You will know how we are worshiping by the level reported on this site each Friday. This will be shared before worship in the weekly E-News. Physical distancing practices will continue to be normal, and we'll keep the first three rows of pews empty during worship.

The new levels and our related protocols:

Low risk—masks optional

Medium risk—Masks strongly encouraged (and people at risk should consult with their physician according to the guidelines)

High risk—Masks required

We continue to do our best to protect the health and well-being of all our members, especially those most vulnerable. We also hope that these new protocols will give some relief to those who feel they need it. We continue to offer services online, live at 9:00. We continue to recommend masking as an easy way to protect yourself and others from any respiratory illness (\*note that N95 or KN95 masks are recommended for protection against the omicron variant), and urge you to stay home if you are feeling unwell or experiencing symptoms.

Thank you for your continued respect, flexibility, patience, and prayers.  
-Leadership of HCLC

## BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study group will meet the third Thursday of the month—April 21 at 9:30 a.m. We will continue using our book, "We Make the Road by Walking. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Holley at 608-526-3418.

## FIRST COMMUNION

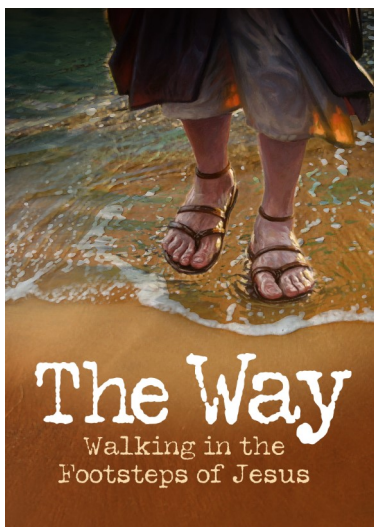
Instructional classes will be held Sundays: April 3 and April 10 at 11:00 a.m. First Communion will take place on Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 6:00 p.m. Contact Shari at [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) for more information!



## WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS

Join us for worship on Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. through Lent. 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

**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!

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

*If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.*

1	12	19	26
Nicole Barbour	Cohen Lee	Jennifer Kruckow	Dawn Bandoli
2	Kennedy Strangstalien	Wyatt Oines	27
Anika Sesvold	14	21	Rebecca Hauser
3	Alexa Lautenschlager	Kathleen Hagel	28
Noah Hanson	15	Chantel Temp	Ryan Olson
Gregory Temp	Kristi Johnson	22	Cartyr Stumlin
4	16	Gabriel Hansen	29
Rachael Hauser	Erica Daily	Allison Oines	Audrey Bringe
Trinity Horstman	Cora Klich	Ethan Oines	Lars Oines
6	17	23	
Rhonda Britton	Marcella McDonald	Savannah Britton	
Doug Gordon	18	Philip Johnson	
Zach Johnson	Andrea Baxter	Joanne Mihm	
Cassie Tremain-Tolvstad		Randy Tuquero	



*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, Milden 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!

Amy Noel and her husband, Jim, have been members of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church since 1989. They have two daughters. Kimberly Noel and her friend Mike live in Salt Lake City, Utah. Hannah Noel Bouchard and her husband, Eric, live in Charleston, SC, with their children, Freya and Wells. Amy has been retired since 2020 and enjoys focusing her service on HCLC and helping care for her parents. Her involvement at Halfway Creek includes keeping the constitution updated, assisting in recruitment and interviewing of new employees, assisting during worship, visiting members through the Befrienders group, and chairing the Stewardship committee for the past six year. Amy shares, "I believe that HCLC is a congregation of survivors, We continue to make small but consistent steps forward as a faith community and followers of Jesus!"

Please welcome Amy to the Vision board and contact her with your ideas! May God bless her as she helps guide our faith community this next year!

**VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

MEMBERS: Pastor Chris, Mike Martin, Mike Nedoba, Gaye Johnon, Diane Jostad; NEW MEMBERS: Kari Washburn, Andrea Baxter, Amy Noel; by phone: Patti Happel

TIME:  
6:33

ITEM:

Call to Order- Patti Happel by phone

Approval of Agenda – motion made by Mike Martin; seconded by Mike Nedoba, motion passed

Welcome New Members – Kari Washburn, Andera Baxter, Amy Noel.

Outgoing members – Patti Happel, Carolyn Bjerke, Mike Nedoba.

Election of Officers – President, Gaye Johnson (motion made by Diane Jostad, seconded by Amy Noel); Vice President, Amy Noel (motion made by Gaye Johnson, seconded by Andrea Baxter); Secretary, Jessica Cook (motion by Diane Jostad, seconded by Gaye Johnson), Treasurer, Mike Martin (motion made by Amy Noel, seconded by Diane Jostad); Slate of officers approved. Gaye Johnson proceeded with meeting.

Devotion/Reflection/Prayer – lead by Pastor Chris

Approval of January minutes – motion to approved made by Mike Martin, seconded by Kari Washburn; approved.

Financial Report – submitted by Mark Martin. Accepted and approved.

Discussion: Amy Noel questioned the availability of hard copies of Pastor’s report and financial report. Amy expressed concern that documentation made available between meetings via phone/email, etc.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Sunday School Review: decided to keep time the same through the end of the school year. Like to see an increase in numbers attended.

AV-Tech bid & SIMS update: new iPad ordered, YouTube live – first usage Sunday, February 13, Narthex TV is now working.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Church Teams – tabled for future discussion; Amy Noel will stepdown from the stewardship committee; plans to keep constitution update; teams need to reorganize like World Hunger, finance, etc.

Parsonage Usage – Concerns expressed. Amy Noel noted -well is shared with church, septic system is separate. Noted because church is non-profit, cannot rent to make a profit. Question about fair market value. Pastor Chris suggest we use it as retreat center. Amy Noel will check with WI Council of Churches about rental policy. Tabled for further discussion.



Future schedule – request made to move March meeting to March 3 due to members having prior commitments. April meeting to be moved to April 7 because of Maundy Thursday conflict.

Closing Prayer  
Adjournment at 8:20 p.m.  
Submitted by Diane Jostad

Side note: Mike Nedoba expressed his appreciation for serving on the board and offered his future service.

Next meeting(s):  
Thursday March 3, 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](mailto: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*

<b>February</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Y-T-D Budget</b>	<b>Y-T-D Actual</b>
Expense	18,891	14,575.78	37,783.00	33,585.26
General Fund	18,869	11,393.00	37,738.00	22,459.83
Debt Reduction		470.00		740.00

## **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.

## **PROPERTY TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP**

We are getting the parsonage ready to rent. We have a few tasks that the team is unable to do because it involves climbing a ladder.

The parsonage gutters need to be cleaned and there is a piece of soffit that needs to be reattached. Also, the play area in the back of the building needs to be removed.

Contact Rich Pedretti (608-385-9968) or Mike Martin (608-797-4858) if you can help.

Other Property Team activities that could use your help are: Removing the dividers in the Ladies Bathroom in Heritage Hall. Cleaning existing landscaping. Pulling shrubs along the original church west wall and planting new.

Please watch the weekly announcements for tasks as they come up this spring. We are still looking for a plan to replace the decking and the railing on the handicap ramp.

More information will be provided as we receive it.

Thanks! Gaye Johnson (608-780-5179).

## SYNOD WIDE HAPPENINGS

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

### **Lutheran Disaster Response: Eastern Europe Crisis Response**

[Give Now w/ \\$1 for \\$1 Match](#) - “Together we pray for our siblings in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. May God be with them in their time of need. Your gifts to ‘Eastern Europe Crisis Response’ will be used in full (100%) to address the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries. We know there are many organizations that you can choose to support, but it is only by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response that guarantees your gift will fund ELCA-supported work through faith partners in the region.”



The 2022 Synod WELCA Convention will be held at  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, La Crosse  
on Saturday, April 30.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. (Except Easter)  
 Sunday School and Fellowship/ Education 9:45 a.m.

### APRIL

**Friday, April 1**

Office Closed

**Sunday, April 3**

9:45 a.m. Lenten Study

11:00 a.m. First Communion class

**Wednesday, April 6**

6:00 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Lenten Series - The Way;

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

**Thursday, April 7**

6:00 p.m. Vision Board

**Sunday, April 10**

9:45 a.m. Lenten Study

11:00 a.m. First Communion class

**Wednesday, April 13**

6:00 p.m. Worship

6:30 p.m. Lenten Series - The Way

**(Thursday—Sunday: Holy Week schedule below)**

**Friday, April 15—Good Friday**

Office Closed

**Sunday, April 17—Blessed Easter to you!**

**Monday, April 18—Easter Monday**

Office Closed

May Newsletter articles due

**Monday, April 18—Sunday, April 24**

Pastor away for continuing education and vacation

**Thursday, April 21**

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

**Tuesday, April 26**

5:00 p.m. Holmen’s Hope Community

Dinner at the Legion

6:30 p.m. Faith+Full+Life at Journey

Lutheran

## 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 and livestream

10:00 a.m. Worship outdoors on the parking lot;

please bring chairs

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

Worship online:  
[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org),  
 Facebook page, and  
 YouTube channel

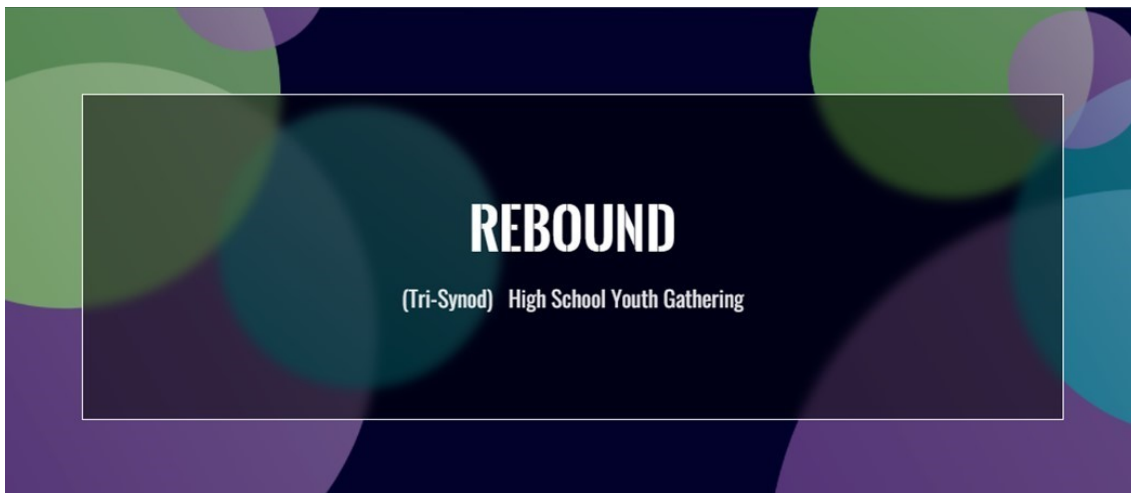
## CONFIRMATION

**Important date:** 2022 Confirmation is set for Sunday, May 1 at 11:00 a.m.

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](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) or 608-526-3701.

## ATTENTION HCLC—HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH



REBOUND - Tri-Synod High School Youth Gathering

**Save the Dates – JULY 25-27, 2022**

All high schoolers in grades 9-12 are invited to join REBOUND where we will encounter God and one another together in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning, and uplifting worship. [Watch for more info to come here!](#) This event will include participants from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, the La Crosse Area Synod, and the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED SIGN UP TODAY!**



The Aging & Disability Resource Center is looking for volunteers to help deliver meals to our elderly participants in Holmen, Onalaska, West Salem, Brice Prairie and La Crosse locations. Shifts are usually only 1 hour and start between 10:30am-11am.

By becoming a volunteer, you deliver more than just a hot meal. You help the elderly stay healthy, safe and independent in their own homes.

We also have openings at the meal sites to help package the meals.

**For more information call the ADRC at 608-785-5700.**

*Make Today Somebody's Best Day, Volunteer!*

**be a volunteer**



## SERVING

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	Communion Assistants	OFFERING COUNTERS
<b>APR 3</b>	9:00	Mike Martin Morgan Jostad	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin		Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
<b>APR 10</b>	9:00	Stan Schwier VOLUNTEER	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Volunteer Volunteer	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
<b>APR 17</b>	8:30	Archie Achterkirch Volunteer	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer	
	10:00 Outdoors	Mike Martin		Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer	Jodi Eide Mike Nedoba
<b>APR 24</b>	9:00	David Bringe David Chase	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Volunteer Volunteer	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](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org) .

New to the volunteer list: Communion Assistants! Please sign up today.

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

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
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