



Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

MAY 2022

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

Easter morning has come and gone, but the Easter proclamation rings throughout our halls for 50 days after Easter Sunday until Pentecost—the Birthday of the Church. The news of the resurrected Christ emboldens our witness in the world. As the earth around us is bustling with signs of new life, new energy, we have about us a feeling of renewed spirits.

As we sing our Easter proclamation “Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!” for the days leading up to Pentecost, we remember that God calls us to be that body of the Risen Christ.

As the body of Christ we live in the Easter established rhythm of death and resurrection. In the midst of the darkest places, the most broken areas of life, Christ joins us and accompanies us, moving us toward new and everlasting life—holding that promise before us and staying by our side as we realize it. So it is that when we build and deepen relationships with one another and with our neighbors, we encounter the risen Christ.

We are instruments of the work God is doing in the world – the body of the Risen Christ alive in the world today. God is working by deeply entering the lives of each of us, broken people. And as the body of Christ, we are called to enter also into this work, cultivating life-giving relationships with one another and all those around us.

As we enter those broken places, allowing ourselves to be vulnerable and taking time to learn about one another deeply, we will meet Jesus. He will be there with us, and we will learn about him more as we deepen our relationships with our community and our world.

In our ministries, worship, and life together, how might we more fully embrace the work God is doing among us and through? Where can we more boldly enter into relationship with the Christ who meets us in the other and in our brokenness?

We encounter Christ in those around us, even as we embody his work in our own lives.

I am reminded this season of a quote attributed to Teresa of Avilla:

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

Christ is Risen, He is Risen, Indeed! And you, dear church, are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Let us go out into that world seeking Christ, and continuing his life-giving work.

-Pastor Chris

COMMUNION AT WORSHIP

We are now offering 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.



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

PROPERTY TEAM

The parsonage was built in the mid 1980's. It has been the home to many pastors and their families over the years. In the past two years it has only been used sporadically. The Vision Board has been in conversation over the past couple of months on how we might use this valuable resource to further our mission of "Reaching Out to Share Christ With All". After exploring a few different options and consulting real estate experts, we have decided to offer it for short term rental. In reaching out, we want to help families or individuals in transition from one housing situation to another.

There has been a lot of work done to physically prepare the house for this opportunity. Most of it regular maintenance and repair that a house well lived in needs. Over 50% of the cost of the work was covered by the generosity of the congregation and friends of the congregation.

A few of those projects include:

Replacing the carpeting downstairs and the flooring upstairs.

Storm damage repair to the outside

A new roof went on last summer

Replaced the washer/dryer, water heater and air conditioner

Bathroom fixture upgrades

Repainting the entire interior

In working with real estate and insurance experts, we have created a lease and determined a monthly rental cost. We currently have two parties interested in using the house.

While the house has been there for over 30 years, most of you have probably never been inside. The Vision Board would like to invite you to a

Parsonage Open House on Sunday, May 1st. The parsonage will be open after the worship service until 11AM.

In addition, Cathy Gabrielson has painted her way upstairs. So we can begin cleaning the lower level of the parsonage on Monday May 2. If you can help for an hour or two, call Gaye (608-780-5179) or Mike (608-797-4858) or Rich (608-385-9968) so the door can be opened. We will use the office entrance to the lower level. Buckets, mops, cleaners, rags and paper towels will be supplied.

In addition, we have left rakes outside by the little shed if anyone is inclined to do a little raking around the parish.

Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study group will meet the third Thursday of the month—May 19 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

Congratulation to the following young people who completed the First Communion instruction classes and will receive the Lord in Communion on Sunday, May 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. worship.

Blake Anderson
Jordan Anderson
Graham Kinsman



CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, May 1, six young people will be confirmed in the Faith.

Audrey Bringe, Violet Chase, Sara Osese, Emerson Strangstalien, Alyssa Shisler, and Addison Wille.

Congratulations on your Confirmation! We rejoice with you in the gift of Baptismal life in Christ.

SENIOR CLASS 2022

Congratulations graduating seniors Zachary Arendt, Brooklynn Cook, Kennedy Strangstalien, Aiztdon Stumlin, and Carter Thiele! Join us as we recognize the accomplishments of these young adults at worship on **Sunday—May 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

A reception will follow with coffee, juice and pastries.

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!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

1	Benjamin Johnson	Kermit Jostad	James Noel
Abigail Fredrickson	8	16	25
Lise Graham	Seth Heiser	William Achterkirch	Penny Achterkirch
2	Megan Jostad-Myhre	17	Jon Strangstalien
Melissa Strauss	Jordan Ouellette	Roger Casberg	Olivia Temp
3	10	Nicole Plomedahl	27
Tina Mueller	Samantha Bartnik	19	Susan Anderson
4	Lauren Bringe	Susan Chase	Jeffery Severson
Laura Arnold	Patricia Krause	20	31
Nancy Holley	11	Zach Arendt	Pamela Gran
5	Mary Severson	Dylan Severson	
Paul Anderson	13		
Lyle Gordon	Jenny Lee		
6	15	24	
	Paul Eide	Barbara Hale	

May Calendar

Worship: Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship: Sunday 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, May 1

9:45 a.m. Reception

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Parsonage Open House

11:00 a.m. Worship Rite of

Confirmation

Sunday, May 8

First Communion

9:45 a.m. Last day of Sunday School

Happy Mother's Day!

Thursday, May 12

6:00 p.m. Vision Board

Sunday, May 15

Senior Recognition Sunday

Monday, May 16

Newsletter articles due

Thursday, May 19

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, May 24

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

Lutheran—games, root beer floats,
last meeting

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 31

5:00 p.m. Community Dinner at
American Legion

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 3, 2022

**HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 3, 2022

6:00 PM

MEMBERS: Gaye Johnson, Amy Noel, Jessica Cook, Mike Martin, Andrea Baxter, Diane Jostad, Pastor Chris

ABSENT: Kari Washburn

ITEM:

Call to Order @ 6:00pm

Approval of Agenda: *Amy recommends moving old business before new business. Jess Cook made a motion to approve the agenda with Amy's recommendation, Amy Noel 2nd, motion passed*

Approval of February minutes: *Amy Noel made a motion to approve Feb. minutes, Andrea Baxter 2nd, motion passed*

Devotion/Reflection/Prayer: *Review from Chapter 4 in How to Lead.*

Pastor's Report: *Please see attachment*

Financial Report: *Jess Cook made a motion to approve financial report, Diane Jostad 2nd, motion passed*

NEW BUSINESS

Restructure Teams: *Tabled until next month*

OLD BUSINESS

Parsonage Usage: *Amy made a motion, "we create a small group to investigate the opportunity of a short term rental while following our mission to reach out to share Christ with all." Andrea Baxter 2nd, motion approved*
With discussion of possible usage as community retreat in the future.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment @ 7:46pm

Next meeting(s):

Thursday April 7, 2022 6:00pm – Regular Vision Board Meeting

Email Vote on March 8th.

Jess Cook “I make a motion to accept the Worship & Liturgy Team’s recommendation dated March 8, 2022.” Kari Washburn 2nd, motion passed

Hello,

Here are the recommendations:

I copied and pasted from the email that was sent to the music and liturgy team last week.

We decided to follow the updated CDC guidelines which would be:

Low risk-masks optional

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

High-Masks required

If we are following the CDC guidelines, congregation singing at any level is allowed as long as we are still socially distant.

The following link is directly from the CDC and it appears to update daily with LaCrosse county numbers so the most accurate source for information. We decided to look at the numbers weekly on Friday to determine the status for Sunday morning.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

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.

2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY



**Friday - Sunday
June 10, 11 & 12**

Under the theme:
**Wild Lament ~
Whirling Dance**

**There will be opportunities for ALL Synod
Members to join in!**

Synod Assembly is for Everyone

All synod members (even non-voting members) are welcome and encouraged to participate in Saturday afternoon workshops and Sunday morning worship!

Friday evening worship - June 10

7 pm - Good Shepherd Lutheran, La Crosse will include a celebration of church anniversaries and pastors' ordination anniversaries & installation of Pr. Dione Stepanek as Dir. for Evangelical Mission / Asst. to the Bishop

Saturday Afternoon Workshop Sessions - June 11*

Cost: Non-voting members \$10 ea.

Contact the synod office to register. melanie@lacrosseareasynd.org

Sunday - Worship in the Park & Synod-Wide Picnic - June 12

10 am Worship @ Riverside Park, downtown La Crosse

(in case of rain, we'll meet at UW-La Crosse in the Student Union)

*Saturday afternoon workshops at 2:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Workshop Topics:

- ♦ Role of Summer Camp in Developing Leaders for the Church
- ♦ Let Us Play to the Lord - children and their experience of God belong in worship
- ♦ Creating Cultures of Honor - on anti-racism
- ♦ Workshop with our ELCA Representative - description pending
- ♦ How to Do Advocacy - Lutheran Office of Public Policy-Wisconsin
- ♦ From the Boxing Ring to the Baptismal Font - discuss politics and act for justice with the gentle compassion and courageous boldness of Jesus
- ♦ Faith, Imagination & Proclamation - on preaching
- ♦ Rural Ministry / Shared Ministry
Workshop with our assembly musician
- ♦ Doing Hybrid Ministry

HCLC AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORSHIP

On June 12, we will not have worship at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. Instead, we will be worshipping together at the Synod Assembly Service, 10:00 a.m. at Riverside park in La Crosse! Let's meet there wearing our HCLC apparel!

SUMMER WORSHIP

June, July and August will bring us opportunities to worship outside at Whispering Pines! Those dates will be posted in the weekly E-News and in the June Currents.

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.

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

March	Budget	Actual	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Actual
Expense	18,889	19,220.38	56,672.00	54,120.72
General Fund	18,869	13,526.75	56,607.00	35,986.58
Debt Reduction		970.00		1,408.00

SERVING

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	Communion Assistants	OFFERING COUNTERS
MAY 1	9:00	Mike Martin Morgan Jostad	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Volunteer Volunteer	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
	11:00			Volunteer Volunteer	
MAY 8	9:00	Stan Schwier VOLUNTEER	Karla Johnson Diane Jostad	Volunteer Volunteer	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
MAY 15	8:30	Archie Achterkirch Volunteer	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Volunteer Volunteer	Jodi Eide
MAY 22	9:00	David Bringe David Chase	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Volunteer Volunteer	Richard Granum Diane Jostad
MAY 29	9:00	Archie Achterkirch Morgan Jostad	Diane Jostad	Volunteer Volunteer	Mike Martin John Daily

Volunteers at Worship

Use Sign-up Genius button on the website or E-News; call the office or email:

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
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#reachoutsharechristwithall

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