



CURRENTS

SEPTEMBER 2022

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

I don't know what Rally Sunday means for you. But I do know that this year, it feels important- not just for the kids, but for all of us.

One of the comments that I hear most often is "I miss [insert name], I never see them at church anymore."

Now...

Part of me thinks that in many ways, this statement isn't fair. Usually it's not that they haven't been to church, but just not on your same Sundays – once, I think I even heard it from both parties! The other thing is that there are so many ways to connect with people that we don't always need to rely on church as the only way to meet up.

BUT...

There's also something deeply true about how the people we come together with, sing in worship with, stand around the communion table with, drink coffee and chat about faith with, are how we meet and interact with Jesus. Every single one of you is important in this community and makes the expression of Jesus' love in this place unique and personal. And that is what, I think, is behind the "I miss [insert name] in church."

It is important that we are the church, the body of Christ, outside these walls, because we do Reach Out and Share Christ with All in that way. But there is also something unique and powerful to our experience of faith about gathering in the same time and space as one people.

This year, Rally Sunday feels like that kickoff gathering we all need to start another year at church off well. We've had so many disruptions these past years, and many of you feel that longing of coming together again.

So for this one day, in many ways the beginning of our year together at church, consider your presence important and requested. There is someone here whose experience of Jesus is heightened by seeing your smile, by playing a yard-game with you after worship, by knowing that you are here. Yes, even you who are shaking your head right now.

Join in the fun, come back together, and get ready for another great year of Reaching Out and Sharing Christ with All. Christ is with you here, as he is present with you in all the ways you shine his light to those around you.

Even though gathering is a huge part of the day, we also celebrate that we are church together even if you cannot gather with us. We thank God for all our siblings in Christ at HCLC.

-Pastor Chris

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School – Milestones:

This year, one of biggest Sunday School focuses will be on walking with one another through the milestones of our faith.

As the young people of our congregation grow into the promises we made for them at baptism each grade will have special days in worship where they, and their faith journey, will be celebrated.

Those promises, remember, are:

- living among God's faithful people,
- hearing the Word of God and sharing the Lord's supper,
- learning the Lord's prayer, creed, and 10 commandments,
- getting the Holy Scriptures placed in their hands

Six milestone lessons throughout the year will bring families together during the Sunday school hour for pastor-led, family-focused lessons around these promises. In church these will be lived out – students will receive their Bible, help serve communion, lead the Lord's Prayer, lead the Creed, proclaim the promise of baptism, and help us celebrate the ten commandments.

Please see the Sunday School schedule for these important lesson dates and worship celebrations. Parents, please join pastor during Sunday School on Sunday, September 25 for an introduction to this program.

You should have received a letter with the Sunday School schedule for the year in the mail. If you did not receive it, please let Shari know in the office.

See you Sunday, September 25!

WHAT KEEPS US GOING?

What keeps us going? Our heritage, history, family? Of course! As I get to know the members of this church and hear stories about the past and the connections each of you have, I am moved! What a beautiful gift this church family is to its members, the community and visitors.

It's not only the physical beauty that brings people here; but also the spiritual beauty. In the short year I have been your administrative assistant, we have had several visitors inquiring about their ancestors and checking out all of the historical records we have kept. We've also had young people in the community seek us out for their wedding and attend worship. Halfway Creek Lutheran Church is bursting to welcome all of God's children. Thank you for that! While the history is deep here, it is also a place for new beginnings and new stories to be written.

As you go about your days and you wonder if someone might want spiritual direction or support, remember Halfway Creek Lutheran Church and guide them here. Pastor Chris has appointments available weekly, and worship is welcoming for ALL. Perhaps it's just what they need to keep them going.

I hope to see you all at our Rally Sunday Community Party after worship on September 18. It will be a couple hours to tell stories, make new memories and enjoy each other's company.

God bless you today and always.

Shari



We pray for ... Stan Schwier, Lu Pertzsch, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Ayla Humphrey, Gayle Kuespert, Mark Sanders, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Zach Mossman, Marie Jezova, Coats family

CONFIRMATION

Welcome to 6th Graders and welcome back to all our confirmation students this fall!

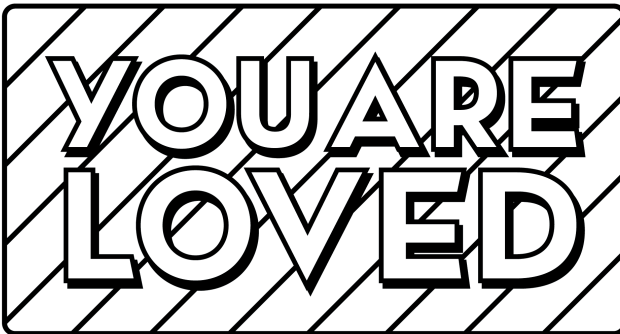
On Wednesday, September 14 there will be a parent meeting with information for the Confirmation year (students are welcome but not required to attend). We are looking at more service/activity days this year, and combining with our siblings-in-Christ from Journey Lutheran for those days, as well as some class days. More details will be available at the meeting.

Please check your mail for a letter with similar information and the preliminary schedule for the fall. If you did not receive a letter in the mail, please let Shari know in the office.

See you Wednesday, September 14!

-Pastor Chris

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSINGS



illustratedministry.com

Blessing for Backpack Tags:

May these tags remind you that God is always with you. As you sit and as you stand, as you learn and as you play, in every fear and every celebration, may you know God, your friend, is always there. And this school year, may you be curious and kind, gentle and strong, brave and loving.

Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively places for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

RALLY SUNDAY COMMUNITY PARTY AT HCLC



Food, Games, Fun for all ages
All are Welcome!

Rally Sunday Community Party

September 18
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

It's our Family Picnic, and it's open to all!

Come enjoy some Halfway Creek fellowship after worship on Sunday, September 18. Enjoy pizza, root beer floats, yard games, and a bounce house! There will also be the usual coffee-hour fare after worship for your caffeine and sugar fix.

Start the year off right with all your favorite churchmates, and get excited about all the wonderful things that happen among the great group of God's people we call Halfway Creek Lutheran Church!

You will be missed if you're not there...so join us!

VISION BOARD

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2022

6:00 PM

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Pastor Chris Sesvold, Gaye Johnson, Jessica Cook, Mike Martin, Kari Washburn, Diane Jostad.

MEMBERS BY PHONE: Amy Noel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andrea Baxter

ITEM:

Call to Order @ **6:00 PM**

Approval of Agenda, *Jess C. made motion to approve agenda, Diane J seconded, the motion passed*

Gaye - Chapter 1 "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going", *Discussion about chapter 1*

Approval of May Minutes, *Diane J. made motion to approve May's minutes, Kari W. seconded, the motion passed*

Pastor's Report, *Please see attachment*

Treasurer's Report – Mike, *Diane J. made motion to approve Treasurer's report, Mike M. seconded, the motion passed, Discussion: Gaye bright up putting thrivent account into a trust. Also checking on elevator contract.*

Property Team. Lawn Mower Fundraiser, *Discussion about selling old lawnmower from shed and using money from sale to start a Lawnmower fund for a new lawnmower. Fire inspection: Mech Rm - Exit light out and extension cord need to be addressed.*

Worship & Liturgy – Word of God, *No updates/changes*

Education – Preparing for Fall 2022. Next Meeting July 13.

Sunday School. Confirmation. Adult Ed, *Discussion of confirmation small group leaders needed for fall. Also Adult Ed is starting an evening book study soon.*

Evangelism – Go & Tell, *Discussion about Kornfest parade and possible groups for cornhole fundraiser for Holmen Area Community Center.*

Discipleship – Learn & Follow, *No Discussion*

Finance - Pick a budget item to help. Noisy Offering. *Month of July donation for piano tuning*

Stewardship, *Table for next meeting*

NEW BUSINESS

Visioning Ideas, *Logo Wear fundraiser, consider thank you gift package for Jazzercise etc.*

Closing Prayer

ADJOURN, @7:44pm, *Mike M. made a motion to Adjourn, Kari W. Seconded, motion passed*

Next meeting September 8 at 6:00 p.m.

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. **Next meeting: September 8 at 6 p.m.**

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

July	Actual	Budget	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget
General Fund	16,539.62	15,784.00	102,043.47	132,079
Expense	15,714.85	18,868.00	123,215.05	132,168
Debt Reduction	190.00		3780.00	

DESSERTS, YARD GAMES, CHIPS AND MORE...

*We are hosting God's work. Our hands. Sunday Sep. 11 with Journey Lutheran and Holmen Lutheran. Journey is planning food for the event and would like help with donations of **brownies and chips**. If you can help, please use the sign-up genius. You can search by email: journeypastorluci@gmail.com or follow this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4bafac23a2f9c34-gods>

*Rally Sunday (Sep. 18) we are looking for **desserts and yard games**. Sign-up by emailing Shari at assistant@halfwaycreek.org or sign up on the clipboards in the Narthex.

NOISY OFFERING UPDATE

The Noisy Offering has been a huge success and will continue through September as donations will support Children's and Youth's Education! Thank you for supporting this program!

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!*



IN RESPONSE TO OUR FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

The Vision Board and Finance Team met in August to discuss our financial situation. A letter was mailed to the entire congregation detailing our spending and borrowing from the dedicated fund. Our goal was to replace the money borrowed from the dedicated fund and pay current bills totaling \$17,424. Within a week of the letters being received we've already reached about 20% of our goal. Thank you to everyone for supporting HCLC. We appreciate any amount you give to help us recoup our costs and continue to support the mission of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. God bless you!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

**1**

Rachel Temp

3

Adalyn Ruhbusch

4

Gail Dent

5

Gregory Britton

6

Teagan Yahnke

8

Angela Kinsman

9

Casey Clark

10

Rayna Hendrickson

11

Brody Happel

13

Jason Bramwell

Susie Johnson

Emersen

Strangstalien

14

Buelah Sanders

Rodney Sutherland

Shelly Thompson

15

Jesse Fiers

17

Kaden Casberg

18

Diane Jostad

Emily Jostad

Kimberly Noel

19

Alyssa Shisler

20

Dawn Rink

21

Nicole Lepsch

22

Hadley Given

Hannah Wegner

23

James Hansen

David Johnson

Morgan Jostad

Mark Sanders

Stan Schwier

Lila Sutherland

25

Ruth Jostad

Benjamin Mueller

Richard Pedretti

26

Eric Theisen

28

Aaron Balow

Jason Ruhbusch

30

Jessica Cook

Chad Hanson

Julia Yahnke

GARDENING GROUP

We meet every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. If you love the outdoors and don't mind digging in the dirt, come one out and join us! Each year we donate the harvest from our garden to the Salvation Army.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” SUNDAY

September 11th is “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday at the Halfway Creek Bandshell. The morning will be filled with worship, service, lunch and music!

The schedule for the day:

- 9:30 a.m. worship
- 10:30 a.m. service project—Blessing Bags
- 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. lunch and Music Festival

Three things you can do to get ready—mark your calendars, donate blessing bag supplies and sign up to sing or play. If you would like to perform during the music festival portion of the day, please contact the office at assistant@halfwaycreek.org or call 608-526-3701.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We are adding a second service to the **first Sunday** of the month from October—December. If we like this option, we may continue it into the next year.

Worship Schedule this fall:

9:00 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. additional service on **October 2, November 6 and December 4**

PLEASE LET US KNOW

We often get busy and even overwhelmed in our lives. Know that your parish family is here for you. Please let us know how we can help. Perhaps in silent prayer. Or perhaps in joyous celebration of a milestone or event. We care about you! We have an active prayer chain. We have a befrienders group that will visit you, pray with you and celebrate communion. Pastor Chris is eager to pay you a visit ... or you may stop by and see him. Please call the office or email us! We want to hear what’s happening. If you are hospitalized, please have someone call us. Due to privacy laws, we do not get that information from hospitals. Office email: assistant@halfwaycreek.org; phone: 608-526-3701

#MAILITMONDAY MINISTRY

In response to our mission: Reach Out, Share Christ with All, we are gathering monthly to make cards for our congregation to send to members, friends, family, neighbors. Our goal is to let everyone know we are here and we care! Join us in making cards (no experience needed). Join us in mailing cards. Join us!

Tuesday, September 13 at 2 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Shari in the office..



Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16
Because we love the Lord our Savior, we do good things for others and share His love with them.

BIBLE JOURNALING

At Halfway Creek we have created a unique opportunity for us to gather and be engaged in the Word. Bible Journaling starts with the Bible. Pastor Chris will lead us through the scripture we choose, and we'll reflect and express God's word in our Bible with pictures, words, color, and more. You'll bring a Bible, your favorite pens, color pencils, stickers, etc.

If you want to learn more about Bible Journaling, or are intrigued by this opportunity to gather, let us know. Pastor Chris and Shari will be starting this study this fall. Sign up at Rally Sunday or give us a call.

No artistic experience is need, just a desire to gather. Journaling can bring peace, healing, happiness and gratitude to enrich your life.



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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m.—Noon

For Wednesday or after
hours appointments please
call the office or email:
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
W6016 County Road W
Holmen, WI 54636

