



## **CURRENTS**

OCTOBER 2022

***Reach Out , Share Christ with All***

**FROM PASTOR CHRIS**

### Always Being Made New

Every Sunday we begin our time together by centering ourselves in the promise of baptism. Whether we start in humility with confession and forgiveness, or joy with a thanksgiving for baptism, we hear those delightful words of promise “in Christ your sins are forgiven!” remembering that we have been washed by the Word of God, made alive again by the Holy Spirit, and now live in Christ to join his mission in the world.

Our baptism is what roots us in faith, and the font is that source of living water from which the roots of our faith find their nourishment.

There are other essential elements to our faith as well, things that are extremely meaningful when understood as expressions of our baptism. Our traditions, ethnic identities and histories, the rich practices of worship we have, even our service projects and daily work of serving others all feed our faith and give us vocabulary for living out our baptism. These elements are like leaves on a tree. They are necessary to life in Christ, but are different than the roots. The leaves, when a tree is well-rooted, are always being made new. In this part of the world, we see every fall and spring how they change each year. When the time comes, old leaves are made beautiful, colorful, and are then shed. Each year, new leaves take their place and provide sustenance from their capture of the sun’s warm light.

Our personal faith journeys and even our collective Lutheran faith is like that tree. We, being rooted in our baptism, are nourished and given life by the Holy Spirit. Rooted in baptism we spread our new leaves in many directions and soak in the light of Christ around us. The expression of our life in Christ—those things named above, our faith practices, our worship routines, the ways we listen to and serve our neighbors—change and grow with the seasons and with our life circumstances. And each of the ways we live our faith, like leaves on a tree, nourish us and tell a story to the world.

As the next season of our lives and the season of the world comes about, what will be our new leaves? How will our current leaves turn that beautiful shade of yellow, red, orange or

brown? What new expression of faith will you inhabit this season or what old habit will shine a beautiful new color for us together at HCLC?

Change is a certainty. We continue to move into a time of great change in our culture and in the world, even as we grow and change in our individual and families lives. But God is always present working new things in us. With new leaves, we will be nourished by our taking in of Christ's light around us.

It's the same faith. It's the same tree. New leaves. We are always being made new in Christ.

-Pastor Chris

## **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**

## **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation students will have a unique experience this year as we have combined some classes with Journey Lutheran. We are looking for volunteers to provide a meal for the students and leaders each evening as we gather at 545 pm. Check E-News for the links to sign-up, or use the links below.

Meal sign up: Sign-up [HERE](#) when class is at HCLC. Sign up [HERE](#) when we have combined class at Journey.

All are welcome... reach out to friends who may be interested in Confirmation and invite them to join you!

## **CONFIRMATION DIRECTORY HELP NEEDED**

Have you ever seen the extensive and comprehensive directories at other churches? We have pictures of confirmands dating back to the 1920s. How fascinating would it be to have those displayed at HCLC? Would you be interested in helping put this together? Contact Gaye at 608-780-5179.

## WHAT KEEPS US GOING?

What keeps us going? Perhaps in a fleeting moment when you are reminded that you are a child of God and that you are special, loved and unique! Sometimes those moments are not obvious. We are human. We get busy with our lives and the million things we have to do. It is easy to let life become overwhelming. If we *slow down* just a little and look around, we can be reminded of God's love and His presence.

So what does "slow down" look like? There is no easy answer. But here are some things you could try. Breathing. So many times in the day I catch myself "not breathing". When I pause to inhale, hold, exhale—it just resets my thoughts and reminds me to be thankful. Being present. Often we think about the past, what just happened or worry about what will happen next. If we are present, we can truly enjoy all that surrounds us. Look around and name five things that are near you. Thank God for each of those things. Praying. We can pray in quiet and alone, on the move (walking, running, driving), or even with a group. Talking to God, reading the Word, and reflecting on Bible passages are all ways to reconnect or stay connected to our Lord. In return, we are reminded of His love for us. Blessing someone else. When we are intentionally kind, spend time with a friend or loved one, or reach out to someone we haven't seen for awhile, we are blessed in return. I hear our Befrienders group talk about that a lot. When they visit our friends that cannot make it to church, they are filled with so much joy. They are grateful to visit and share their time with others and in return are reminded of God's love and feel His presence.

At Halfway Creek Lutheran Church we have several ways to connect with our Lord. Worshiping in person or Livestream on Sundays is a great way to spend time in prayer and be reminded of God's love. Joining a ministry or class at church: Befrienders, Bible Study, Quilters, Card Making, Bible Journaling, Education team, and Worship Team are just a few of the great ways to spend time with the Lord and with others who will remind you—you are a child of God, and you are special, loved and unique!

I hope you know how special you are and that you are loved by our Lord and by us at Halfway Creek.

God bless you today and always.

Shari

## VISION BOARD

### HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2022

6:00 PM

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

#### **ITEM:**

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

**Approval of Agenda:** *Amy N. made a motion to approve the agenda, Diane J. 2nd, motion passed*

**Chapter 2 "Leading with Presence" Holding Steady:** *Amy will take Chapter 3*

**Approval of June minutes:** *Amy N. made a motion to approve with changes to minutes, Kari W. 2nd, motion passed*

Action by VB since June Meeting: *Non*

**Pastor's Report:** *Please see attachment*

**Treasurer's Report:** *Mike requested a meeting with President, Vice President and Jodi to discuss opportunities to meet the deficit. Jess C. made a motion to approve financial report, Amy N. 2nd, motion passed*

**Property Team:** *Follow up on elevator contract question, there is 4 years left on the elevator contract.*

Request to paint walls in Heritage room: *Tabled until VB receives more information.*

#### **Worship & Liturgy – Word of God**

Always needing help moving equipment outside for services

Dates of Interest:

1st Sunday of Advent – November 27

Committee will meet in September to discuss Christmas Schedule

Worship Team rehearsals TBA

Fall Worship & Sunday times : *Amy N. made a motion to approve worship & Liturgy proposal to have church at 9am, Sunday School at 9:45am with having 1st Sunday of the month having an additional service at 10:30am., Diane J. 2nd, motion passed*

Supply Pastor Compensation guidelines: *Kari W. made a motion to adapt the new supply pastor rates, Jess C. 2nd, motion passed*

#### **Education Sunday School. Confirmation. Adult Ed**

Preparing for FALL 2022

Request for TV

Rally Sunday Sept 18

Continued

Sunday School Christmas Program Dec 11

Next Meeting??

Evangelism – Go & Tell

No volunteers for Kornfest Parade Entry

Discipleship – Learn & Follow

Finance – Noisy Offering choice of budget item for August - Sunday School.

*Noisy offering happening monthly*

Stewardship:

NEW BUSINESS

Visioning Ideas: *Welcoming/Come see our church ideas*

Closing Prayer:

ADJOURN: *Kari W. made motion to adjourn meeting at 8:07pm, Diane J. 2nd, motion passed*

Next meeting September 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

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## 2022 VISION BOARD

Gaye Johnson, President—gayemj3@gmail.com

Amy Noel, Vice President—noelpairie@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: October 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

<b>August</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Y-T-D Actual</b>	<b>Y-T-D Budget</b>
General Fund	20,168.41	18,868	122,211.88	150,947
Expense	17,220.17	18,867	140,688.90	151,035
Debt Reduction	470.00		4450.00	

### **NOISY OFFERING UPDATE**

September Noisy Offering total was \$111.53 for Children and Youth Education. Since the Noisy Offering has been so successful, we will continue this offering at each upcoming service. The October Noisy Offerings will support Disaster Relief for Hurricane victims.

### **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!*



### **IN RESPONSE TO OUR FINANCIAL CHALLENGE**

The Vision Board and Finance Team met in August and presented a financial challenge to the congregation. A letter was mailed to you detailing our spending and borrowing from the dedicated fund. Our goal is to replace the money borrowed from the dedicated fund and pay current bills totaling \$17,424. Since the challenge started, we have received \$5,920! **We are still in need of \$11,504.** 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!

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

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



<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>
Steven Johnson	William Achterkirch	Bridget Gander	Aubrey Henthorn
<b>3</b>	Kendra Bringe	<b>16</b>	Rubianne Kinsman
Leanne Erdman	Cary Heyer	Micah Hill	<b>25</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	Sunny Wilson	Jen Strangsalien
Ronald Johnson	Daniel Ulrich	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	Joshua Johnson	Dave Betsinger
Christopher Baxter	Ben Fiers	Brooke Nelson	Isabella Medd Beville
<b>6</b>	Jimmie Ann Gates	Mitchell Noel	<b>28</b>
Jason Pralle	Keith Krause	<b>18</b>	Lori Anderson
<b>7</b>	Luke Oines	Mary Crocker	<b>29</b>
Rich Berger	Aiztdon Stumlin	Brianna Howe	Nicole Stumlin
<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>
Archie Achterkirch	Kate Pederson	Julie Hemp	Annie Fiers
Susan Daily	<b>14</b>	Mike Yeiter	Jamie Lohrentz
Joe Lepsch	Sue Kolbo	<b>21</b>	Mark Witte
Shawn Wegner		Adam Pederson	
		Shari Ireland	



*We pray for ... Lisa Herrera Evans, Stan Schwier, 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*

## WORSHIP AND COVID PROTOCOLS

In our weekly E-News, we will continue to include COVID-19 risk levels for our area. However, we have lifted all COVID-19 masking and social distancing protocols at HCLC. We ask that you continue to make informed decisions for your health and those around you. If you are not feeling well, please consider watching worship online and masking when around others. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have navigated through the pandemic.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

### 2022 La Crosse Fall Ingathering Lutheran World Relief

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church  
414 Mormon Coulee Road  
La Crosse, WI 54601

**Collection Date: Saturday, October 8**

7 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Contact: Jim Balow; 608-788-8408

Items accepted: **Quilts**, School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, and Fabric Kits. For general assembly instructions, visit [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) and on the menu bar click Get Involved.

Your faith in action wraps God's children in love. Thank you for your love and generosity.

## COFFEE SERVERS NEEDED

We are hoping to extend our weekly fellowship after worship to include coffee and treats. We are looking for volunteers to make coffee and bring/serve treats and clean up after we gather on the following dates: October 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13, 27 and December 4, 11, 18.

Call the office (608-526-3701) to sign up or sign up [HERE](#).



## #MAILITMONDAY MINISTRY

Stop by and pick up a card or two to mail to a friend, family member, someone from church you haven't seen in a while! What better way to share Christ's love with all than by reaching out and letting someone know you care.

Help make cards on Tuesday, October 11 at 2 p.m. If there is interest, we could have class in the evening. Please let Shari know by calling or texting at 608-397-9928 .



## BIBLE JOURNALING

### First Class—Sunday, October 16 after worship at HCLC

Please RSVP no later than October 10—[assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org)

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

## BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Bible Study each month beginning October 20 at 9:30 a.m. We'll pick up from where we ended at chapter 50. An evening Bible Study option will also be available after the first of the year. Contact the office for more information.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH'S  
166<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16  
9 AM WORSHIP



WITH SPECIAL MUSIC ANTHEMS BY  
OUR WORSHIP TEAM and  
SPECIAL GUEST, CHANSE MORTENSEN,  
HOLMEN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR DIRECTOR

REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE SERVICE





Join us at

**Halfway Creek Lutheran Church**

W6016 County Rd W

Holmen, WI 54636

for

**Community Trunk-or-Treat**

Saturday, October 29

1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

Wear your costumes and enjoy

Trunk-or-Treating, games, and more.

Bring your friends!

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
608-526-3701  
[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://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](mailto: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

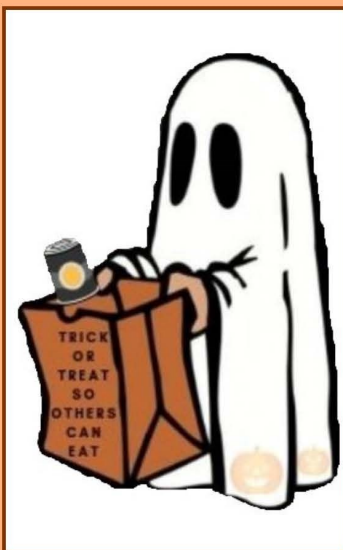
@halfwaycreeklutheranchurchholmen  
#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch  
#reachoutsharechristwithall

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
W6016 County Road W  
Holmen, WI 54636



# TRICK OR TREAT SO OTHERS CAN EAT

**October 31st**  
**5:30pm-7:30pm**



@HolmenLutheran-Church



hlcfoodbaskets@gmail.com

**Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat is a food drive hosted by Holmen Lutheran Church, with volunteers and donors from the ENTIRE Holmen community.**

*All donations support Holmen area families.*

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- Fill a bag with non-perishable food items and self-care products
- Leave your bag of donations on your doorstep or give to volunteers who are collecting in your neighborhood on October 31st
- Or drop off your donations by November 2nd (or if your donation isn't picked up) at
  - Festival Foods (Holmen)
  - Dollar Tree (Holmen)
- Make a monetary donation through Venmo (@HolmenLutheran-Church)

## **WHAT TO BUY**

- **Personal care items:** paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, deodorant and other personal care items
- **Much needed food items:** canned meats, peanut butter, cereal and canned fruit

***PLEASE no opened or expired items***

