



CURRENTS

NOVEMBER 2022

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

Thankfulness and Peace

In November many of us start to think about Thanksgiving and all the things we are thankful for. We also think about and give thanks for our Veterans and the freedoms we have in this country because of their dedication and service. As I think about veteran's day, for me at the heart of our appreciation for those who've fought for our country is a thankfulness for the perpetual journey toward peace.

Peace and an end to fighting in the face of a world of violence can sometimes seem hopeless, or feel naïve. Yet the message of Jesus and the Christian witness throughout time is a bold testimony to the hope we have of seeing a world of peace.

I want to share with you a story I learned a few years ago that has stayed with me and moved me toward hope in the power of gospel, the power of non-violence, to bring peace to the world. I heard this story when I visited the city of Leipzig, Germany and learned of the witness of the churches there when tensions were high.

In 1989, the wall dividing East and West Germany began to crumble, in large part because of the valor of peaceful protestors and the church's efforts to organize non-violent "fights" for peace.

On a watershed night outside of St. Nicholas Church in Leipzig, East Germany, a city rose up to demand an end to the separation of families, friends, and communities. They marched together and gathered in incredible mass on the streets of Leipzig, met by armed resistance.

The church leaders in Leipzig scrambled to action, knowing as we all do, all too well, that

gatherings of this magnitude for causes so dire often turn tragically violent. They quickly outfitted as many as possible with candles for light.

Why candles? Candles, unlike many other instruments of illumination are very delicate. If one moves or even breathes too heartily, they are extinguished, and one is left in the dark. So, it is told, "With one hand to hold the candle, and the other to tend the flame, we have no hands left for violence." It was in this way that a city of candle wielding people met an army of resistance that night.

The army that was assemble against the people was ready for anything... anything that is except one thing. As the mass marched forward, the unsuspecting army was stupefied when the most powerful weapon was unleashed. The city of Leipzig began to sing. They had no plan, no strategy, to combat the singing of hymns.

No one was hurt that night. Violence did not have it's way in hearts of humanity on those streets that night. For, "With one hand to hold the candle, and the other to tend the flame, we have no hands left for violence."

Farther back in history, over 100 years ago now at the end of WWI the armistice was signed to take effect on November 11, at 11:00. In an address, President Woodrow Wilson said this: Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interests of men.

This November, we give thanks to God for efforts of so many toward peace in the world. Jesus' ministry on earth was about breaking down barriers. He continually included those outside, "sinners and tax collectors" as well as dining with Pharisees or healing a centurion's daughter. The world comes together in Jesus.

All the walls, literal and metaphorical, that separate us are brought down in Jesus. The barrier between heaven and earth was torn when the Son of God came to dwell with us. It is in Christ's coming to us, being with us, working through us, we find a way forward. Not with weapons or with fighting, but with laying down his life for friends and enemies both, Jesus turned us toward peace. It is in hope of his resurrection that we can pray and work for peace as he did – the way the city of Leipzig did those years ago, "With one hand to hold the candle, and the other to tend the flame, we have no hands left for violence."

WHAT KEEPS US GOING?

The days are getting shorter, temperatures are falling, the holidays are upon us, people are busy making plans, and yet there seems to be no time at all or maybe too much? Being human is quite complex and even confusing, isn't it?

For me the less time I spend with the Lord, the more chaotic and overwhelming my life becomes. It can be hard to find a place to regroup and reconnect. Last month I talked about "slowing down". I am in a unique position being at HCLC. This building, this location, is so special and brings such peace. It is a perfect place to "slow down". I know the timing isn't ideal, but if you ever need a place to sit in peace and just regroup, come on out during office hours or make an appointment. Just being in the quiet and sitting with the Lord in the sanctuary may bring your life back into focus. Please know that Pastor Chris is available to pray with you when you need that, too.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4: 6-7

This fall/winter we are also leading a unique class that may help you regroup and reconnect: Bible Journaling. I personally hope this class encourages me to open the Bible more often, pray and find peace in The Word. If you don't want to journal in your Bible, bring a sketch book or some paper. Join us for class after worship November 27—the First Sunday of Advent. What better way to prepare for the birth of Jesus?

May God bless you with His Peace today and always!

Shari

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.

PRAYING FOR YOU ON VETERAN'S DAY

On November 11, we celebrate Veteran's Day. Thank you to all our HCLC members and community members that served our country during wartime and peacetime. May God bless you and keep you.

All Saints

At worship on November 6, we remember those saints of God whom we have known and loved and who have died in this past year, as well as celebrate the new saints among us who are newly baptized this year.

O God of the pilgrim's way, we give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for us of God's love at work in the world.

Roy Ackermann

Douglas Ray Johnson

Keith Krause

Richard Granum

Lisa Betsinger

Ted Latham

Diane Stankey

Gracious God, we thank you for the new life you give through Holy Baptism. Bless those who have, just this year, begun their new life in Christ.

Ezekiel Finnell

Bear Gates

Berkley Gates

Join us in-person or livestream on All-Saints Sunday as we celebrate the love of God in Christ Jesus for all us saints.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CARING TREE BACK AT HCLC

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church is partnering with Holmen Lutheran Church to provide Fall and Christmas Care Packages to Holmen Area families in need. One way we'll support this ministry is with a Caring Tree. Watch for the tree in the Narthex this month. It will be filled with tags and an opportunity for you to fulfill a request on that tag.

Thank you in advance for your support of this very special ministry!

A Thanksgiving Service

And gathered around the table as friends they ate pie, sang hymns, and celebrated the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Where's that quote from, you ask? I don't know, I just made it up. But what could be more perfect to celebrate Thanksgiving than these things?

We all have our own traditions for Thanksgiving celebration. Some of those involve raveling, others involve cooking and cleaning. For many those traditions change over time as people spread out, grow up, or we lose loved ones. Being together with others – whether that is friends and family or your family here at church – is what makes the holiday special.

This year the Holmen area ELCA churches are gathering for pie and hymns on November 20. Come to HCLC from 6:00-6:45 p.m. and share a time of thankfulness and delicious pie. We will gather around tables in a more informal setting than typical worship. Hymns will be sung, prayers will be prayed, but at the heart of it will be eating and gathering in Jesus' name with friends. Delicious pie, good conversation, and the presence of Jesus among us.

This is a great setting whether your household is one person or several, whether you have to pack and travel or clean your house for Thanksgiving gatherings, whether you have young people, old people, energetic or subdued.

Come and be together as Christians giving thanks in this way, remembering Jesus' love for us.

SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM—DEC. 11

The Worship Team and Sunday School students will be presenting a special program during worship on December 11. Mark your calendars to attend. If your Sunday School student will not be there, please let their teach know. Thank you!

Click anywhere the title to sign up.

November 2022 Worship Volunteer Schedule

Please arrive 20 minutes before worship begins.

Date	Worship Time*	Sexton	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Greeter	Power-Point Camera	Usher	Reader	Communion Assistants	Offering Counters
Nov										
6 All Saints	9:00 a.m.	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Aspen	Linda Pralle	Amy Noel	Kari Abby		Carrie	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
13 Blessing of the Hunters	9:00 a.m.	Stan Schwier	Diane J	Maison	Linda Pralle	Amy Noel	Bette P Rich		Kari Abby	Bette P Susan J
	10:30 a.m.					Aspen B.				
20	9:00 a.m.	Archie Achterkirch	Nancy H Diane J			Kari Abby		Pat M.		Jodi Eide
	10:30 a.m.									
27 Advent Begins	9:00 a.m.	David Bringe David C.	Barb Hale Bette P			Kari Abby		Raymond Lee		Diane J Mike M

Advent Preparation Program

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: November 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

IN RESPONSE TO OUR FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

Our financial challenge continues! Your gracious donations of \$6820 have allowed us to pay a couple bills (Zeigler's and Pastor's Insurance). We still owe our Dedicated Funds \$9,272. We are asking for you to prayerfully consider making an additional gift to help us replenish our Dedicated Funds by December 31, 2022.

The second part of our challenge happens weekly. We are successfully operating under our budgeted expenses, but we frequently fall short each week in meeting our average weekly costs of \$3912. Will you prayerfully consider increasing your regular contributions to help us meet our expenses? If you have already done this, thank you so much!! Your giving help us continue our ministry as Halfway Creek Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your generosity, Vision Board

NOISY OFFERING

November Noisy Offering will support World Hunger. Please bring your change or donate on-line at <https://www.halfwaycreek.org/giving/>

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2022 - 6pm

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

Call to Order **@ 6:03pm**

Approval of Agenda **Andrea B. made motion to approve agenda, Diane J. 2nd, motion passed**

Chapter 3 "Tending the Soul of the Institution" Presented by Gaye J.

Approval of August Minutes **Mike M. made a motion to approve minutes, Andrea B 2nd, motion passed**

Action by VB since August meeting **No action**

Pastor's Report:

October HCLC 166th Anniversary - **Discussion of Cake**

November 6 - All Saints Sunday – Kathe Engbritsen

November 13 – Blessing of Hunters

Thanksgiving Service – 3 Churches together? **Nov. 20th at 6pm and a possibility of pie hour**

Finance Team

Treasurer's Report – Mike **Andrea made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report, Jess C. 2nd, motion passed**

Noisy Offering - **For September is Sunday School, October will be discussed at Oct Mtg. (Per Email. 9/27/22 Hurricane relief was decided for October Noisy offering due to the destruction of Hurricane Ian.)**

Property Team.

Ray Lee – Ramp Railing - **Ray presented his idea of updating the ramping railing, needing rebar and 4x4 post costing around \$1100.00. Jess made a motion to approve \$1100.00 allocated to finish the ramp railing, Mike M 2nd, motion passed.**

Request to paint walls in Heritage Room - **Andrea shared that it will be in the alcove area of the Heritage hall and with chalk paint, that she and her son would be painting. This was approved.**

Mike M also updated us that the elevator had gone 1yr and 4mths without an inspection from the company that we have a contract with.

Worship & Liturgy – Word of God

1st Sunday of Advent – November 27

Continued

Committee will meet in September to discuss Christmas Schedule

Worship Team rehearsals TBA

Education Sunday School. Confirmation. Adult Ed

Request for TV/DVD player

Rally Sunday Sept 18

Bible Sunday – October 9

Sunday School Christmas Program Dec 11

Evangelism – Go & Tell

Need Team Members

Welcoming ideas -*asking congregation to help with ideas.*

Discipleship – Learn & Follow

Need Team Members

Bible Study

Stewardship

Need Team Members

NEW BUSINESS

Visioning Ideas: Pray Ground - *possibly doing an amazon wish list for items, asked to bring this to the education team.*

Bible Journaling

Closing Prayer

ADJOURN @ 8:05pm

Next meeting October 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

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

September	Actual	Budget	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget
General Fund	18,875.30	18,868	141,112.18	169,815
Expense	19,615.10	18,849	160,866.33	169,884
Debt Reduction	290.00		4740.00	

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!*



TRUNK OR TREAT—HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in Trunk or Treat!
What a beautiful day and what fun!! Check out all of our photos on Facebook!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

**1**

Les Kolbo

2

Sue Bramwell

Noel Jandt

Jean Latham

3

Bob Bandoli

Brian Rosenow

Jayden Tuquero

6

Masen Harper

8

Carmon Jostad

10

Kari Hendrickson

11

Angela Balow

12

Kari Washburn

14

Ema Nedoba

Olivia Nedoba

16

Sammy Nedoba

17

Elisa Moss

18

Joe Fredrickson

20

Shannon Given

Hadleigh Lohrentz

Connor Mihm

21

Aspen Balow

Hannah Noel-Bouchard

23

Kathy Johnson

25

Marjorie Lee

27

Steve Lee

29

Zach Gordon

Coleton Lee

30

Gavin Bramwell

Rylan Hendrickson

Jill Noel

Chesney Plomedahl



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

What's Happening in November?

Join us for Worship each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. *(additional services noted below)*

Sunday School and Fellowship at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 2—5:45 p.m. confirmation @ Journey Lutheran

Sunday, Nov. 6—All Saints Sunday

5:00 p.m. Union Mills 4H—Heritage Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 9—5:45 p.m. confirmation

Thursday, Nov. 10—6:00 p.m. Vision Board

Friday, Nov. 11— Veteran's Day

Sunday, Nov. 13 - 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

Blessing of the Hunters (wear your camo/blaze orange)

Tuesday, Nov. 15—2:00 p.m. Mail it Monday Card Making

Wednesday, Nov. 16—5:45 p.m. confirmation @ Journey

Thursday, Nov. 17—9:30 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday Nov. 20—9:00 a.m. Worship; 10:30 a.m. Advent Preparations & Jesse Tree lesson—help us decorate the church!

Sunday, Nov. 20—6:00 p.m. Hymns & Pies

Thursday, Nov. 24 - **Happy Thanksgiving**

Sunday, Nov. 27—First Sunday of Advent; Blessing of the Quilts during worship.

10:00 a.m. Bible Journaling after worship.

2:30 p.m. 4H Goat Project—Heritage Hall

Wednesday, Nov. 30—5:45 p.m. confirmation @ HCLC

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: November 6, 13, 27 and December 4, 11, 18.

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

BIBLE JOURNALING

Sunday, November 27

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.

GARDENING—THANK YOU

Despite the best efforts of local deer to eat (again this year) our green beans, we had a bumper crop. Diane Jostad commented, "They were Miracle Beans!" Seven of our fourteen trips to the Salvation Army contained beans! We were also able to donate radishes, onions, beets, carrots, cucumbers, cabbage, broccoli, tomatoes and a few green peppers.

The Salvation Army workers use the produce to prepare meals. They are so appreciative of the produce donations. The Salvation Army is always looking for volunteers, especially now with their Red Kettle Campaign. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities check out their [website](#).

While we love working in our garden (also the outdoor worship area and weeding in general), we simply would not be able to have our garden without the help of Archie or Bill, who supplies us with tomato, broccoli, cabbage and green pepper plants! A giant thank you to both of them!!



#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.

Join us for card making on Tuesday, November 15 at 2 p.m. If there is interest, we could have class in the evening. Please let Shari know by calling or texting 608-397-9928.



GATHERING THIS FALL

November and December bring many opportunities for gathering and fellowship. Here are just a few events happening near-by.

Meatball & Lefse Dinner, Wednesday, November 2 from 4-7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, La Crosse. Dine in, Carry-out and Drive-thru all available. \$10 adults; \$5 ages 3-10; and under 2 FREE.

Mission Fest Sunday, November 6 with 10:00 a.m. worship followed by Meatballs & Lefse from 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Dine-in, Carry-out and Drive thru for \$15—
Pre-order only at 608-857-3474

Holiday Marketplace Bazaar, Saturday, November 12 from 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2135 Weston St., La Crosse. BBQ lunch and pies from 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Road to Bethlehem, Saturday, December 2 from 2-5 p.m. at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Journey through Advent at different live action worship stations, sing carols, enjoy refreshments. No cost, but consider a free will offering to the camp and bring nonperishable food items for local food pantries.



At Christmas, we decorate the church in celebration of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you would like to present a poinsettia in honor, memory, or celebration of a person or event, please fill out this form and place it, with payment, in the offering plate at church. You may also send or deliver it to the church office. **All orders must be received in the office by Sunday, November 20th.** Cost \$20.00 per poinsettia. All poinsettia donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve Worship Bulletin.

_____ Red Poinsettia @ \$20.00 each = _____

Presented by: _____

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

In Loving Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

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 "poinsettias")

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:30 a.m.—1:30 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

@halfwaycreekluththeranchurchholmen
#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch
#reachoutsharechristwithall

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