



Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

FEBRUARY 2023

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

In February our worship centers around Jesus' ministry and teaching as we make our way into Lent.

Jesus instructs those listening to live in ways that glorify God and build up the kingdom. In the Sermon on the Mount, followers hear who they are called to be as disciples of Jesus. Jesus' lessons on prayer teach us how to build our lives on the rock, guided by God's promises. Through Jesus' teaching, we learn what matters most to God, and how we are called to respond as disciples.

As disciples, we remember that it is not up to us to do everything, but instead it is God's power at work in us that allows us to accomplish great things. Jesus teaches that things that seem small, like a mustard seed, can with God's power, become something great. In a moment of dazzling glory at the transfiguration, God reminds us to listen to Jesus and to be guided by his life and teachings.

As we journey toward the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday, February 22), we are reminded of all that Jesus taught his disciples about living the kingdom of God and trusting God for strength and guidance before he turned toward the cross.

After hearing these lessons in the gospel of Matthew, the story slows down around the

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culminating event of Jesus' story – his crucifixion. As Jesus heads to the cross and is put to death, we reflect back and see the lessons he taught even in his final words from the cross. During Lent we will slow down, too. We will look closely and reflect on these words from the cross that point us back to all the lessons Jesus gave us, and show us how his love might call us into his kingdom of love and mercy.

Join us for worship this month as we gear up for the journey of Lent by hearing the lessons of Jesus in Matthew's gospel. These parables and stories paint the foundational picture of God's kingdom in our world and how we might live into it as people who are claimed by Christ in baptism, loved by God, and sent to bear Jesus' message to the world as salt, and light, and a city on a hill.

"You are the light of the world," Jesus said, "let your light shine before others that they might see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." (Matthew 5)

-Pastor Chris

JOIN US IN WELCOMING PASTOR BEN MORRIS

Pastor Ben Morris from LuMin La Crosse Campus Ministry will be joining us at worship on Sunday, February 19. Let's give him a huge HCLC welcome by having brunch with him after worship. Please take a moment to sign-up to bring a dish to pass or some pastries, juice, etc. Please sign-up on the clipboard in the Narthex or use this link online: [BRUNCH](#).

We will be presenting Pastor Ben with a check from our January Noisy Offering donations!

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Next meeting of the Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association to vote on these proposals will be held following worship, **Sunday, February 12, 2023**. Any questions, please talk to Raymond Lee, 608-526-3900.

Motion made and approved at the February 13, 2022 cemetery association annual meeting to change the date of the annual meeting from the second Sunday in February to the first Sunday following the Halfway Creek Lutheran church annual meeting. Due to the fact that the members of HCLC are also considered members of the cemetery association this allows us to conduct two annual meetings on the same day to enable more participation.

Proposed changes to the Halfway Creek Cemetery Association Constitution and electronic access are in **bold letters** are as follows:

PROPOSED: ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

The annual meeting of this association shall be held in the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, in the Town of Onalaska, County of La Crosse, State of Wisconsin **following the annual meeting of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church on the first Sunday of February**. Public notice of the annual meeting or a special meeting shall be given at least two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting date. Such notice shall be included in the regular Sunday bulletin, monthly church newsletter and posted in the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. ***The posting of such notice may alternatively be done via electronic notice.*** A special meeting may be called by the president, by two trustees, or by a petition of 10% of the acclimation membership. A quorum of either meeting shall be 10 voting members of the association.

PROPOSE ADDING: ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

A. This association may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference as long as there is any opportunity for simultaneous aural communication to the extent permitted by state law.

CURRENT: ARTICLE XV. SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS:

A proposed amendment to this constitution shall be:

A. Posted at the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church and notice of the posting given at two of the regular Sunday worship services prior to the meeting or mailed to the members of the association not less than fourteen days before the legally called meeting at which it is to be considered.

PROPOSED:

Public notice of the proposed changes in the constitution shall be given at least 14 days prior to the meeting date. Such notice shall be included in the monthly newsletter and posted in the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. The posting of proposed changes may alternatively be done via electronic notice.

Please attend:

HCLC ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.

REVELATION STUDY

Pastor Chris will continue our Revelation Study after worship in **March** on the 5th, 12th and 26th. Join us for this intriguing study of a book often misunderstood.

BIBLE JOURNALING

Our next Bible Journaling gathering is scheduled for February 26 following worship. Bring your Bible and/or sketch-book along with markers and color pencils. All are welcome!

#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? We'll be making cards to refill the basket on **Thursday, February 9 at 2 p.m.**—join the fun, no experience needed!

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study meets the third Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

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.

QUILTERS

Quilters will meet on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Heritage Hall beginning February 7. Come join us!



LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES AND BOOK STUDY

Join us at worship on Wednesdays during Lent as we follow Adam Hamilton's book and video series: Final Words From the Cross.

When: Wednesdays during Lent - February 22 (Ash Wednesday) — March 29, 2022.

Time: 5:45 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

New to Wednesday Lenten Services: Dinner! That's right we will be gathering at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays for Worship with our Lenten series and dinner provided by a different HCLC ministry group each week! Worship and dinner happen together, so come right away and stay for this "Dinner Church" experience!

As for the book, we can order copies for anyone interested. The cost would be about \$14. Please let Shari know if you'd like to place an order. You may also purchase one on your own; know that the book is **not necessary** for this Lenten study.

SUPERBOWL PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Pizza Order for our HCLC fundraiser will be accepted through Sunday, February 5. Please contact the office (608-526-3701) to order your pizza: Cheese, Pepperoni, Sausage & Pepperoni, Deluxe (sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, onions and green peppers). Pizzas are \$10 (\$12 for Deluxe). HCLC and Journey congregation members, leaders and confirmation students will be assembling pizzas on Wednesday, February 8. They may be picked up that day at Journey OR on Sunday at HCLC! Online orders may be placed here: [PIZZA ORDERS](#).

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 2022
6:00 PM

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

Absent: Amy Noel

ITEM:

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

Approval of Agenda: **Andrea B made a motion to approve the agenda, Diane 2nd, motion passes**

Pastor - Chapter 4 "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going"

Approval of November Minutes: **Mike M. made a motion to approve the November minutes with the corrections, Kari W. 2nd, motion passes**

Action by VB since November meeting: **Moving meeting to December 15 from December 8**

Pastor's Report: **Please see attachments (3 sheets)**

Word & Liturgy Team: **There is a meeting coming up in January**

Education Team: **Pancakes and PJ's will be January 8th**

Sanctuary Changes: Pray Ground, Sims Audio, Pew Removal: **Sim Audio Rack \$3200.00 this would help organize the area in the back of the church, thinking about a fundraiser to help with cost. Pray ground researching different churches and bring back information to help guide us.**

ELCA/HCLC Constitution Changes - Amy

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

Repayment to Dedicated Funds. Current Balance owed: **This was a discussion**

Property Team:

Sewer Odor: ***This was a discussion and how to possibly solve it.***

Elevator Update: ***Reply to Shindler's letter with a refusal to his offer. Also make contact with the new company for the maintenance needed.***

Railing - Design, Cost: ***Quote for railing to go down the center of the stairwell is \$2675.66, this is tabled until the January meeting.***

Entry area: Reconstruction of 2 pews. Framed Baptismal Promise. Confirmation. ***Jess C. made a motion to go ahead with shortening benches and putting pictures up by the office for a welcoming area. Andrea 2nd, motion passed***

Approval of 2023 HCLC Budget: ***Diane J. made a motion to approve the 2023 Budget, Andrea 2nd, motion passed***

Closing Prayer

ADJOURN @ 8:15pm, ***Motion to adjourn the meeting by Andrea, Diane 2nd, motion passed***

NOISY OFFERING

The Noisy Offering in January supported LuMin Campus ministry! In February, we'll be supporting the Warming Shelter—Catholic Charities! Bring that change and let's make some noise!

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

December	Actual	Budget	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget
General Fund	28,773.27	18,868	207,804.48	226,419
Expense	21,136.59	18,848	217,696.53	226,419
Debt Reduction	1290.00		9,870.00	

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

1	12	19	28
Alexa Shisler	Donald Graham	Vivianna Yahnke-Kolbo	Josie Happel
2	Brayden Wanie	20	
LeRoy Holley	13	Heidi Rosenow	
7	David Bringe	21	
Lee Thoma	Erin Bringe	Megan Page	
8	Cassie Noel	Maison Payne	
Judy Casberg	Carter Thiele	22	
10	14	Ellie Adam	
Matthew Tolvstad	Whitney Happel	23	
11	Susan Jostad	Cailyn Schreiber	
Bear Gates	15	24	
Berkley Gates	Savannah Horstman	William Miller	
Jodi Lee	Jesse Plomedahl	Noah Oines	
Lee Lohrentz	16	27	
Sonja Nelson	Jaxson Happel	Bambi Daily	
Matthew Page			



*We pray for ... Joan Vaughn, Bridget Ferk,
Pat Krause, Thelma Severson, Lisa Herrera Evans,
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*

SERVING AND WORSHIP

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
FEB 5	9 0 0	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
FEB 12	9 0 0	Stan Schwier	Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
FEB 19	9 0 0	Archie Achterkirch	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Jodi Eide
FEB 26	9 0 0	David Bringe David Chase	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Diane Jostad Mike Martin

Volunteer to help at Worship

Use [Sign-up Genius](#) button on the website or E-News; call the office or email assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

Gifting your time is important to help meet the needs of this congregation at each service.

Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents!

Volunteer Roles

Acolyte
Greeter
PowerPoint
Usher
Reader
Communion Assistants

These volunteer roles are needed at each service. The duties for each of these roles may be found in the Gathering Space. If you have any question, please contact the office.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE

With HCLC and Pastor Chris hosting Pastor Ben Morris from LuMin Campus Ministry on February 19, we had to adjust our Sunday School Schedule. Please make the changes below to your home calendar. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us in the office.

February

5 - Sunday School Students with Confirmation Students during annual meeting
12 - No Sunday School - Annual Cemetery Meeting

Note changes in schedule beginning here:



19 - Brunch with Pastor Ben; No Sunday School classes
26 - Milestone 4 lesson - 10 Commandments - Parents and students meet in the Fellowship Hall

March

5 - Milestone 4 Celebration during worship and afterwards
12 - regular Sunday School
19 - Milestone 5 lesson - Communion - Parents and students meet in the Sanctuary
26 - Communion milestone at worship - reception to follow



*Take delight in
the LORD, and he
will give you the
desires of your
heart. Psalm 37:4*

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

WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. **Sundays**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9:00 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

@halfwaycreeklutheranchurchholmen

#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch

#reachoutsharechristwithall

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