



Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

MAY 2023

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

Happy May, everyone! We're entering the summer season, the important time when many of you go off to enjoy the abundant sun, participate in the outdoor sports and activities, and all the many other blessings the warm season brings.

We need that time to enjoy and celebrate the blooming and abundant world around us. For, even while we do, we are energized for the seasons ahead. As well, so much good everyday ministry happens through you in all those settings of summer.

Just as God is working through you in all areas of your lives, the great ministries and everything that happens in this place are possible only because of the generosity and sharing of y'all's gifts. Which leads me to emphasize stewardship in this month's article.

Even as I write this article, we are finding that we have to get creative just to cover payroll for our great employees at the end of this month. While that is what's happening, that is not at all what I see as characteristic of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. For some reason we find ourselves disconnected with funding the mission we love, and summer is traditionally a harder time to see that connection. So let's remember and talk about the good of who we are together.

We are a generous bunch, and we have a great ambition for sharing our message of God's love with the world. We just celebrated the confirmation of 5 of our youth –

[Cont'd from page 1](#)

hearing what a great and life-giving community this has been for them, and how they want that to continue and to be part of that legacy. We are a place that works on welcome, moves toward increasing inclusion, and strives to let the love of God guide us and shine through all we do.

Every week, each and all of you make that true. The importance each of you make every single week here cannot be understated. Not just in the offering plate, but absolutely there also. It is in each and every way you show God's love to the people around you, that you make Halfway Creek what it is.

You are God's hands and feet everywhere you go. Smile once more at someone this summer. Give another dollar. Share your skills one more time. Grow your friendships. And know that Jesus is with you – ahead of you, in you, above and around you – enriching the world through you.

You are enriching the world with Jesus' love by your participation in this place, as well as your wonderful presence in all the places you go. Let us all share abundantly the love and blessings God has given us.

Let's close with a blessing appropriate for May. They say, "April showers bring May flowers."

Let May display the love and blessings of God in your lives, at this church and in your communities, through your giving and through your living, as you Reach Out, and Share Christ, with All.

Happy May, dear siblings in Christ,

-Pastor Chris

Whatever task you must do, work as if your soul depends on it, as for the Lord and not for humans, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

2023 VISION BOARD

Gaye Johnson, President—gayemj3@gmail.com
Kari Washburn Vice President—kari.washburn@yahoo.com
Amy Noel & Andrea Baxter, Secretary
Mike Martin, Treasurer—michaelmartin49@charter.net
Andrea Baxter—baxtera42@gmail.com
Diane Jostad—608-526-3597
Amy Noel—noelprairie@icloud.com
Patti Happel—patiszoo@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 Vision Board Meeting: Thursday, May 11 at 6:00 pm

WISH LISTS

Ever wonder how you could help out at HCLC? Besides volunteering and sharing your talents, we could use your assistance in fulfilling our wish lists!

We have a list started on [Amazon](#). Follow the link or email the office for more information.

Property Team: We would like a Snow Blower 7hp. Please contact Mike Martin for more information. (608)797-4858

Sunday School: We could use camping chairs in the 3rd-5th grade space. Contact Andrea Baxter for more information. Email: baxtera42@gmail.com

Audio/Visual/Tech: We are starting a fund to support updates needed to sound equipment, AV Tech rack, updated support for additional TVs. Ask a Vision Board member or Pastor Chris how you can help support this fund!

Thank you to those who have fulfilled a wish list request. We so appreciate you and your generosity!

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Members: Pastor Chris Sesvold, Gaye Johnson, Kari Washburn, Mike Martin, Andrea Baxter, Diane Jostad, Patti Happel

Absent: Amy Noel

Item:

Devotion and prayer led by Pastor Chris Sesvold in the Sanctuary.

Call to Order @ 6:15 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda: Patti Happel made a motion to approve the agenda, Kari Washburn 2nd, motion passed.

Approval of February Minutes: tabled to next meeting.

Action by VB since February meeting: Email about purchase of new tv for the Narthex. Email about the letter to be sent to the congregation regarding offering envelopes. Copies attached.

Pastor's Report: See attached.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Martin: _____ make a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as stated by Mike. _____ 2nd, motion passed. A survey was sent out by the office to members regarding offering envelopes. The noisy offering for April to be used for an environmental issue. Rhonda Britton is working on forming a team for the Trust Foundation. A motion was made by Mike Martin to allow monies in the youth funds to be used for summer camp and gatherings, Patti Happel 2nd, motion passed.

Property Team: Ramp Railing to be completed in the spring. Ideas of what to do with the old lawnmower and snow blower were discussed.

Worship & Liturgy – Word of God: Communion Milestone will be March 26th. Confirmation will be April 30th with two services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Pastor Chris Sesvold will be on vacation May 28th. HCLC will hold a joint service that day with Journey.

Discipleship: The Ladies Bible Study on Thursday morning with Nancy Holley will be starting a new book.

Evangelism – Go & Tell: No report

Visioning: Discussion regarding Pastor Ben Morris sermon on February 19th regarding what are we leaving for the next generation.

Closing Prayer

Adjourned @ 7:20, motion to adjourn the meeting my Mike Martin, Patti Happel 2nd, motion passed.

Next meeting: April 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

March	Actual	Budget	Y-T-D Actual	Y-T-D Budget
General Fund	17,581.53	19,186.66	52,315.88	57,561.00
Expense	19,889.38	19,186.66	59,806.65	57,561.00
Debt Reduction	185.00		770.00	

NOISY OFFERING

May's Noisy Offering collections will support various Environmental Causes. Stay posted to E-news for weekly updates on how your donations make a difference! Since April 1st we have raised \$119.59! Keep making some noise!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HCLC?

BIBLE JOURNALING

Let's gather Wednesday, March 31 at 6 p.m. at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. Marna Holley will lead us in a watercolor lesson. We'll practice on paper before diving into our Bible! At this gathering we will also discuss additional meeting days/times throughout the summer. Won't you join us?

#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 throughout the summer. Stay tuned to E-News for dates and more information. If you would like to schedule a card making event to support this ministry, contact Shari in the [office](#).

BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, May 18 at 9:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Both sessions will be studying the book, Unafraid, by Adam Hamilton. Hope you will join us! Books are available for purchase or you may bring your own copy!

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.

SENIOR CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations HCLC graduating seniors Gavin Bramwell, Owen Bringe, Rayna Hendrickson, Declan Mihm, Allison Oines, Ethan Oines! Join us as we recognize the accomplishments of these young adults at worship on Sunday, May 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. *A reception will follow with coffee, juice and pastries.*

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.—3:30 p.m. from June 4 through September 1, 2023.

HCLC AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY WORSHIP

On June 11, 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!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Get out your summer calendar and mark down these dates because you won't want to miss Vacation Bible School!! July 10-14, 2023, following Holmen School District's summer school. VBS will be a collaboration with Journey Lutheran, Holmen Lutheran and HCLC! Watch for more details coming soon!!

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
Abigail Fredrickson
Lise Graham

2
Melissa Strauss

3
Tina Mueller

4
Laura Arnold
Nancy Holley

5
Paul Anderson

6
Benjamin Johnson

8
Megan Jostad-
Myhre
Jordan Ouellette

10
Samantha Bartnik
Lauren Bringe
Patricia Krause

11
Mary Severson

13
Jenny Lee

15
Paul Eide
Kermit Jostad

16
Bill Achterkirch

17
Roger Casberg
Nicole Plomedahl

19
Susan Chase

20
Zach Arendt
Dylan Severson

24
Barbara Hale
James Noel

25
Penny Achterkirch
Jon Strangstalien
Olivia Temp

27
Susan Anderson
Jeffery Severson

31
Pamela Gran



*We pray for ... Andrea Baxter, 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 Dokkebakken,
Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Zach Mossman, Marie Jezova,
Coats family*

SERVING AND WORSHIP

		SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
MAY 7	9:00	Mike Martin	Carrie Payne Nicole Stumlin	Rhonda Britton Sonja Nelson
MAY 14	9:00	Stan Schwier	Diane Jostad	Bette Pedretti Susan Jostad
MAY 21	9:00	Archie Achterkirch	Nancy Holley Diane Jostad	Jodi Eide
MAY 28	9:00	David Chase	Barb Hale Bette Pedretti	Diane Jostad Mike M

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

The last day of Sunday School is May 7! We'll be celebrating Milestone 6—The Apostles' Creed during worship and have a reception afterwards! Hope to see everyone there!! Thanks to the students and leaders for an amazing year!!

This summer we hope you will take “Flat Jesus” with you as you go on your adventures to the pool, playing in your yard, going on vacation, visiting different places in our area! Snap a picture of you and “Flat Jesus” and then share it on social media #halfwaycreeklutheranchurch #reachoutsharechristwithall OR email it to Shari in the office at assistant@halfwaycreek.org!! Flat Jesus will be sent home on the 7th OR check for him in this Newsletter (print, color, cut out and take lots of pictures with Him!).

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to our Confirmation Students who received the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, April 30, 2023.

Jason Bramwell, Kaila Casberg, Cameron Hill, Gracie Holley, Maison Payne

We rejoice with you in the gift of Baptismal life in Christ.

Just two classes left this year for all Confirmation Students!

May

3 - 5:45 p.m. at Journey
10 - 5:45 p.m. at Journey -
End of Year Celebration!



SYNOD ASSEMBLY: JUNE 9-11, 2023

Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships



Location: La Crosse Area

Friday, June 9th:

Service Projects Kick-Off Synod Assembly Friday afternoon in Holmen. You do not need to be a voting delegate to participate in these indoor & outdoor projects. Want to take the lead on a project? Contact Pastor Dione Stepanek.

Saturday, June 10th:

Workshops are available to the public in the afternoon at the La Crosse Center. From Rural Ministry strategy, to first 3rd of life, to solar energy options for your church, these workshops will share ideas for living into our mission to "Cultivate Life-Giving Relationships Rooted in God's Love."

Sunday, June 11th: HCLC will WORSHIP at Riverside Park

Shall We Gather at the River? All are invited to Worship at Riverside Park at 10 a.m. with a picnic to follow. Please consider participating in the Assembly this year by collecting Socks and Underwear to bring to this service for offering. **Drop off items outside the HCLC office!**

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

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



This summer, bring Flat Jesus with you
on your adventures—to the park, your
camping trip, and even the pool!
Where will your journeys take
you and Flat Jesus?



Color and cut out this
picture of Jesus! Then
email pictures of you
with Flat Jesus to
HCLC, so we can put
together a summer
scrapbook of all your
adventures with Him!

Email: assistant@halfwaycreek.org Or use: [#reachoutsharechristwithall](https://www.instagram.com/reachoutsharechristwithall) on Instagram.