



# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Welcome to Worship!*



*Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*First Sunday of Christmas*

*December 31, 2023*

*10:00 a.m.*

*Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Sesvold*

*Worship Accompanist: Lynn Wegner*

# Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Opening to Worship

Confession and Forgiveness

Gathering Carol

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” ELW 275 v 1-2

Greeting

Canticle of Praise

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” ELW 270

Prayer of the Day

**Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Psalm 8

Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

**You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Refrain: How majestic is your name in all the earth!**

LESSON 1: Isaiah 12:2-6

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW 283 refrain

LESSON 2: Matthew 1:18-21

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

ELW 272 v 1-3

LESSON 3: Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW 283 refrain

LESSON 4: John 1:19-23, 29-34

“The First Noel”

ELW 300 v 1,2

LESSON 5: Isaiah 6:1-8

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW 283 refrain

LESSON 6: Luke 1:26-35

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279 v 1,2

Nicene Creed

ELW page 104

Prayers of Intercession

*God of Promise. c: In mercy, hear our prayer.*

Peace

Offertory Carol

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

ELW 276

Offering Prayer

**Generous God, out of your abundance you provide all that we need. We return now our gifts, from what you have given us. Use them for the sake of the one who gave all of himself for the good of the world, Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Oh, may the good Lord be with you. **And may the Lord be with you too.**

Lift your hearts to Him in praise. **To the Lord our hearts we raise.**

Let us offer praises true. **It is fitting so to do. Gratefully we sing, to the Lord our King!**

Holy, Holy, Holy

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts, by all adored:**

**Heaven and earth cannot contain All the glory of your name!**

**With the heav’nly host we sing Highest praises to our King:**

**Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame be to him who, in God’s name,**

**Now draws nigh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hail, Hosanna! Praises be to the Lord Eternally!**

Lord’s Prayer

**Our father, Lord on heav’n’s high throne,**

**Most holy be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, Your will be done**

**On earth—in heav’n the same**

**Give us this day the food we need;**

**Forgiven may we be;**

**Into temptation do not lead;**

**From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto You**

**In grateful love we bow;**

**And Yours the pow’r; Lord, let us view**

**Your mighty presence now.**

**The glory Yours; Your praise be sung**

**By angel hosts and men**

**In ev’ry land, by ev’ry tongue**

**Forevermore! Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

**Lamb of God, the world’s Redeemer,**

**Mercy to your people give.**

**Lamb of God, the world’s Redeemer,**

**May we in your mercy live.**

**Lamb of God, we all implore,**

**Grant us peace forevermore.**

Communion Hymn

*“The Bells of Christmas”*

ELW 298

Announcements

Litany

## Announcements

Birthdays this week: 31 Jacob Thornton, 1 Tuck Kinsman 4 John Noel, Carrie Payne 5 Mia Bartnik 6 Keith Casberg, Petra Nedoba

Confirmation: We'll resume class on Wednesday, January 10 at 6 p.m. Enjoy your break.

Sunday School: will return January 7 for our PJs and Pancakes party!!

On January 14 between services, the Vision Board will have an open meeting to present and discuss the 2024 budget options.

Office Closed: The office will be closed December 25 - January 1. Normal hours will resume January 2. If you need pastoral care, please contact Pastor Chris at 608-397-1578.

Check out the Google calendar on our website!! If you have church events to add, just let us know in the office: [assistant@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org).



*We pray for Jean Latham, Ed Scholze, Bob Loper, Joan Vaughn, Bridget Ferk, Thelma Severson, Lisa Herrera Evans, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebakken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, Marie Jezova, Coats family*

**Halfway Creek Lutheran Church ELCA**  
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**Website: [halfwaycreek.org](http://halfwaycreek.org)**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. or by appt.**

**Pastor:** Pastor Chris Sesvold,  
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**HCLC Vision Board Members:**

**President:** Gaye Johnson, **Vice President:** Kari Washburn, **Secretary:** Amy Noel/Andrea Baxter, **Treasurer:** Mike Martin, **Members:** Diane Jostad, Patti Happel