



CURRENTS

MARCH 2025

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

Blessings Halfway Creek family!!

Happy March!! I don't know about you, but I am definitely looking forward to warmer temperatures and gardening, which to me, symbolizes new life.

As we enter into the Lenten season, our focus should be on repentance, renewal, new life, and hope. This is the time to reduce distractions and stress in our lives, so we can focus more on God.

How can we do this?

We need to identify the things in our lives, that we can improve upon, to be the best version of ourselves we can be. That can mean anything from controlling our tempers, to finding healthier ways to deal with stress and anxiety, to learning how to treat each other with greater respect. Whatever the circumstances may be, a bit of self-evaluation and a few extra prayers can certainly start us in the right direction.

Joshua 1:9 reads, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Fear and discouragement are two of the biggest roadblocks on the path to personal growth and self-improvement. They can hold us back, preventing us from taking necessary steps towards our personal development. Joshua 1:9 is a powerful antidote to these hurdles. It reassures us of God's constant presence and support in our lives, even in times of change and growth.

This verse encourages us to be strong and courageous on our journey of improvement. It reminds us that we're not alone in our journey. God is with us, providing strength and courage when we most need it.

Wishing you all a blessed season of self-reflection, renewal and hope!!

Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister

HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 2, 2025—10:00 a.m. worship with Pastor Tara Shilts

Wednesday, March 5, 2025—6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 9— 10:00 a.m. worship and Installation of our Synod Authorized Minister (SAM), Patti Happel; Bishop Felix Malpica presiding

Wednesday, March 12, 2025—5:45 p.m. Lenten Meal; 6:30 p.m. Service

Sunday, March 16— 10:00 a.m. Worship and Baptism; Pastor Jim Arends presiding

Wednesday, March 19, 2025—5:45 p.m. Lenten Meal; 6:30 p.m. Service

Sunday, March 23— 10:00 a.m. worship with Pastor Kuespert

Wednesday, March 26, 2025—5:45 p.m. Lenten Meal; 6:30 p.m. Service

Sunday, March 30— 10:00 a.m. Worship Pastor Wayne Van Kauwenbergh presiding

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Ash Wednesday: March 5, 6:30 PM

Wednesdays March 12-April 9: 5:45 PM meal, 6:30 PM Lenten Service followed by reflection and conversation

Maundy Thursday: 6:30 PM

Good Friday: 6:30 PM

Noon: Crosswalk—meet at Halfway Creek bandshell

1 PM: Community Worship at Holmen Lutheran

Easter Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES - February 10, 2025

Present: Patti Happel, Amy Noel, Carrie Payne, Bette Pedretti,, Nicole Stumlin and Wayne Atchley

Absent: Andrea Baxter, Nancy Holley, Michelle Olson, Ema Nedoba and Olivia Nedoba

Call to order at 6:05. Devotion lead by Patti Happel.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made and 2nd to approve agenda. Motion passed.

Election of Vision Board Officers. Motion made and seconded to elect Bette Pedretti as president, Nicole Stumlin as Vice President, Carrie Payne as Treasurer and Amy Noel as Secretary. Motion passed.

Actions Since Last Meeting:

- 1/12/25 – Meeting with Bishop Felix on SAM Ministry
- 1/15/25 – Approval of Budget Amendment
- 1/21/25 – Approval of December minutes, via email 1/22/25. One correction noted in the name spelling of new member, **Robert Cottrell**.
- 1/22/25 - Letter to congregation re: Vision Board hiring of Patti Happel as Synod Authorized Minister for HCLC beginning March 1, 2025.

Financial Report:

- We recently received a generous \$20,000 donation from new member Bob Cottrell for debt reduction. THANK YOU!!!!
- Noisy Offering:
 - February – Quilters
 - March – Coulee Region Immigration Task Force
 - April - Support congregation outreach ministry (supplies, mailings, etc.)
 - May - Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch Program
- January finances: No financial report available.

MUSIC & LITURGY

- Reviewed SIMS (Sound system) bid
 - Mixer Board needs to be replaced - 1st priority
 - Wireless microphone - OK with corded microphones for now but will replace in the future outside of this bid.
 - Total cost approximately \$3500. Will do a fund raiser later this spring or summer hoping to take minimal money out of dedicated funds to cover cost.
- Recommendations for Lent & Holy Week
 - All Lenten services, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 6:30PM
 - After Ash Wednesday, Lenten services will include a meal at 5:45, service at 6:30 and short Bible study to follow.
 - Established menu for meals. Will ask for volunteers to contribute.
 - Easter services at 8AM and 10AM
- First Communion planned Maundy Thursday
- Last Sunday of April designated as 1st Responder Sunday

OLD BUSINESS

- Membership roster update - Patti, Bette and Amy will meet in February.
- Closing Action Plan/Legacy Committee - John Daily has agreed to lead this project.
- IT Team Training - delayed as we are still having trouble with Live Stream and getting all the screens to work together.
- Council Retreat – Trinity Lutheran in Sparta – March 22, 2025, 9-1.

NEW BUSINESS

- Education Team (Sunday School & Confirmation)
 - Patti will start the conversation about Children's Initiative Co-Director for the coming year. Nicole is interested in being a part of this.
 - Sunday School will sing at the 10AM Easter service.

- Bette (with Rich's help) will be organizing a Youth evening (6 -10PM) for confirmation and others in early April.
- Installation of Vision Board - Planned for February 23,2025
- Installation of SAM's Minister by Bishop Malpica is planned for March 9, 2025
- Outreach:
 - Will provide water and protein bars with a note welcoming them to our worship service to the Jazzercise classes the last week of February.
 - Will provide water and donated cookie to the area 1st responders later this spring.
- Update to Pastor's Office - Patti requested permission to paint office. VB supported this request.

Closing with Lord's Prayer

Adjourned at 7:42.

Next meeting(s): Thursday March 13, 2025 – 6pm

FINANCIALS JAN 2025

	Total Offering	Rent Income	Expenditures	Difference
January-25	\$10,212.00	\$2,050.00	\$13,676.56	-\$1,414.56

SUPPLY PASTORS

Thank you for welcoming all of our supply pastors and speakers we've had the past month! In February we welcomed Pastor Tara Shilts, Pastor Carol Garman and Ron Christensen. Laurie Noelke shared her musical talents one weekend as well.



Ron Christensen



Pastor Tara Shilts



Pastor Carol Garman

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING - February 2, 2025

(Note: Reviewed by Vision Board on February 10, 2025 and will be approved at 2026 annual meeting.)

- I. Call to order @11:07 by VB President Patti Happel. Quorum established with 42 HCLC members signed in.
- II. Motion made and seconded to adopt agenda as published. Motion passed.
- III. Opening Liturgy by Patti Happel, bible reading from 1 Corinthians 12.
- IV. Motion made and seconded to approve minutes of February 4, 2024 annual meeting. Motion passed.
- V. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of August 4, 2025 congregational meeting. Motion passed.
- VI. 2024 Ministry Review - Motion made and seconded to accept all reports of teams and ministries as published in the annual report. Motion passed.
- VII. 2024 Financials
 - A. Income and Expense Report reviewed by Bookkeeper Jodi Anderson.
 - B. Jodi gave an overview of the proposed 2025 budget and answered questions. Motion made and seconded to adopt the proposed budget as published in the annual report. Motion passed.
 - C. Thank you to the congregation and our friends for their generosity in weekly offerings, debt reduction, and replenishing Thrivent and Dedicated Funds.
- VIII. 2025 Ministry Plan
 - A. This past week you received a letter indicating that the VB has hired Patti Happel for 15 hours per week beginning March 1, 2025 as a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM). We will continue to use supply pastors as we can and Patti's role will supplement that and provide leadership for programming and pastoral care.
 - B. New Vision Board members elected by paper ballot include: Michelle Olson and Wayne Atchley. Emma Nedoba and Olivia Nedoba will join the Vision Board as Associate Members/Advisors. There were no nominations from the floor.
 - C. Thank you to outgoing VB member: Kari Washburn.
 - D. Anyone interested in attending synod assembly in June, please let a member of the VB know.
- IX. Motion made and seconded to adjourn the annual meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:38
- X. Closed with the Lords' Prayer.

Submitted by Amy Noel, Vision Board Secretary

VISION BOARD

President

Bette Pedretti
bettepedretti@yahoo.com
608-526-3241

Vice President

Nicole Stumlin
bigfarmer053@yahoo.com
608-769-3642

Secretary

Amy Noel
noelprairie@icloud.com
608-386-0299

Treasurer

Carrie Payne
payne.carrie@hotmail.com
608-790-4401

Members

Wayne Atchley
atchleyw@charter.net
608-317-1638

Andrea Baxter

baxtera42@gmail.com
608-738-3896

Nancy Holley
5445nanh@gmail.com
608-526-3418

Michelle Olson
michelle@abeeinc.com
(608)780-9802

Olivia Nedoba
Ema Nedoba

Synod Authorized Minister

Patti Happel
pastor@halfwaycreek.org
608-317-9525

Please contact the vision board with any input you may have.

LOOKING FOR TWO VOLUNTEERS TO ATTEND SYNOD ASSEMBLY

“For the Beauty of the Earth” - Climate Addition

June 6 - 7, 2025 (Friday eve and Saturday). Place: Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church

June 8, 2025 - Worship for everyone at Riverside Park

What is Synod Assembly?

Synod Assembly is an annual gathering of elected congregation voting members, leaders, pastors/staff, and volunteers from all 73 of our ministry sites in the La Crosse Area. It is a time where we intentionally walk together, to cultivate life-giving relationships rooted in God's love through times of worship, prayer, learning, conversation, offering, meals, service and highlighting our interdependent ministry relationship as we support mission partners, carry out synodical and church-wide initiatives, work to end hunger, respond to disaster and emergency needs, and heed the call to be a church engaged in all the world.

If interested, leave a message in the office or reach out to a member of the Vision Board.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

2025 is off to a great start!

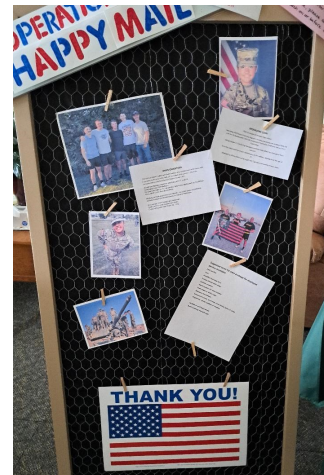
Pizza fundraiser was a great success with total of 146 pizzas sold by HCLC. Our earnings from that totaled \$1198. We had many hands from HCLC that helped in preparing veggies, making and selling the pizzas, including 10 youth. It was an awesome time and we have received many positive comments about the pizzas. We look forward to working with Journey Lutheran again next February on this project.



Update on Operation Happy Mail. We shipped out several notes/drawings/Valentines to our National Guard Units in the Middle East and Africa. We also sent care packages to each unit. Thanks to all of you who sent notes of encouragement and appreciation, for the young artists who did



wonderful coloring and card making, and to those who brought items for the care packages. I know they will appreciate hearing from those close to home. Thank you again for your participation!



Jazzercise Appreciation in March. In appreciation of the Jazzercise members, who have been renting our fellowship space for years now, we put together a special treat for them (bottle of water and protein bar). We wanted to let them know how much we appreciate them and thank them for being here and also supporting our outreach ministries like the food drives this past fall.

Upcoming Opportunities

Kid's Night Out, Friday April 4, 6pm-10pm at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. For confirmation age and high school students. Bring a friend. Enjoy ping pong, corn hole, card and board games, other activities and of course, FOOD!

Life Planning Seminar, Tuesday May 6, 5pm at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church. A 20-minute presentation on the benefits of funeral preplanning and a complimentary Peace of Mind planning kit. Then a FREE meal, catered by Augie's, following the presentation. This is open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors. RSVP to Margaret (Fredrickson Funeral Home) at 608-397-8672 by May 1st.

In the Month of May, Appreciation of our local firefighters, police and EMS. An opportunity for all cookie bakers to contribute to our chance to give back to community and appreciate our emergency workers. There will be a sign up for cookie donations coming out in April.

There will be more opportunities and events happening throughout the year, so please watch for more information in our newsletters and other communications.

I would encourage everyone to take advantage of helping with, participating in or attending these events. The church as we know it is changing. We need to be present outside of our building. We need to put ourselves out there to spread the Good News...but as they say "actions speak louder than words." Whether you can contribute time or money, prayers or promotion, your actions matter. The Holy Spirit is here at HCLC, it is working through each and every one of us. If this year has taught us anything it is that we can overcome adversity and come out stronger as we keep God's will, (not our will), at the center of all we do. -Bette Pedretti

HOLMEN LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Requests for March: Chili Beans, Chili, Baked Beans, Hamburger Helper. All donations accepted! Please bring items to HCLC and we can deliver them to the food pantry! Thank you!

GIVING AT HCLC

We have another option for giving at HCLC. You can use Paypal—just search for Halfway Creek Lutheran Church or scan this QR code! Thank



COFFEE, TREATS AND FELLOWSHIP

Staying after worship for coffee, treats and conversations is a great way to build community at HCLC. Thank you to those who make the coffee, bring treats to share, clean up afterwards and those who stay for fellowship! We would love a few more volunteers to help with coffee and treats. If you are interested in signing up, please find the clipboard in the gathering space.

NOISY OFFERING

In February our noisy offering supported the HCLC Quilters group. We collected a total of \$285.36! Thank you for your response to this important ministry!

Our noisy offering for the month of March is for the Coulee Region Immigration Task Force (CRITF). The mission of the Coulee Region Immigration Task Force is to welcome, advocate, and educate in the service of new, recent, and established immigrants. Goals of the CRITF include:

- Increasing community members' respect for and understanding of
 - ◇ The circumstances that cause immigrants to leave their homelands.
 - ◇ The challenges of immigrating to a new land and culture.
- Increasing community members'
 - ◇ Openness toward and acceptance of immigrants.
 - ◇ Understanding of the community enrichment brought about through immigrants' culture and contributions.

- ◇ Understanding of history and current events related to immigration.
- Supporting and advocating for legislation that improves the immigration process and that supports the well-being of refugees and immigrants in the United States.
- Identifying opportunities to serve the emerging needs of the immigrant community on an ongoing basis, in partnership with immigrants themselves.
- Improving services to immigrants in the greater La Crosse area through formal program evaluation and other continuous improvement methods.
- Investigating, evaluating, and acting on partnership opportunities with other service organizations to increase the effectiveness of the Coulee Region Immigration Task Force.

BAPTISM

We welcome Tate Grant Burnikel, son of Kyle and Paige, to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church through the Sacrament of Baptism on March 16. *We thank God for the gift of baptism, which affirms our faith, washes us clean with God's love and forgiveness, welcomes us to the vast community of siblings in Christ and grants us a new life of service and sharing the gospel wherever we go. Amen.*



HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

March brings the season of Lent, a 40-day period of reflection, repentance, and reconciliation for Christians. You received the sign of the cross on your forehead with the words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Psalm 90 A prayer of Moses the man of God. Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery Association for many generations holds the remains of your loved ones in this sacred dwelling place. Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery Association thanks everyone who attended the annual meeting in February. Hannah Scholze was elected as the new president along with Mark Witte as secretary and Daniel Brudahl as treasurer. Please consider stepping up to help with the lawn care this summer. We have a family interested but more help will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please reach out to one of the trustees: Hannah Scholze (608-797-9388), Mark Witte (608-317-0183), and Daniel Brudahl (608-526-6950). Ruth Scholze can be the main contact for funeral needs, 608-797-9391.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION

All ages will meet on the following
Sundays at 9:15 a.m. - March 2 and 9.

Confirmation (grades 6th–8th) will be meeting on the 19th at 6:30 p.m. for our **Little Hearts Service Project**. Families are invited to help.

Confirmation looking ahead:
March 26—regular class time
Apr 4—Night Out

April 16—8th grade ONLY will meet to write rough draft of Faith Statements.
April 23 and 30—regular class time
May 4—Confirmation Sunday

LETTER TO SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES

Dear Sunday School families,

We will be asking the children to sing on Easter Sunday, April 20, at the 10:00 a.m. service. This will be a wonderful way to wrap up this Sunday School year. They will be practicing with Lynn during Sunday School time the first two Sundays in March and April. When the kids sang at Christmas time, our congregation loved it!!

Also, if there are any families looking to have their child receive their First Communion, please contact either Shari (assistant@halfwaycreek.org) or myself. Once we know how many are interested, we can choose a date.

Please feel free to email or call with any questions or concerns.

Blessings, Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister
email: pastor@halfwaycreek.org

CONFIRMATION AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**YOU ARE
INVITED!!**

**RSVP:
608-385-9968
CALL OR TEXT WITH YOUR
NAME**



Confirmation & High School

YOUTH NIGHT OUT

**Friday, April 4, 2025
6 to 10 p.m.**

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
Bring a friend if you like and join us for
Ping Pong, Corn Hole, Cards and other
board games or a movie!
There will be food, of course.
R.S.V.P to Rich by Wed. March 26:
Text/call 608-385-9968 or
Richpedretti@outlook.com

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

2	13	21	29
Graham Kinsman	Gaye Johnson	Brian Wille	Nollan Gander
3	Michael Martin	22	Nic Hill
John Fredrickson	Garrett Pederson	Marc Jandt	Ruth Scholze
Kynzie Severson	Tricia Syverson	23	30
Lynn Wegner	15	Kathy Christensen	John Daily
4	Braxton Lohrentz	Jeremy Cook	Stella Pederson
Wendy McCoy	17	Connor Lee	31
5	Lyza Yahnke	24	Daniel Brudahl
Doreen Wille	18	Linda Pralle	Reid Stumlin
6	James Dokkebakken	26	
Timothy Severson	Collin Noel	Katrina Bringe	
11	20	27	
Robert Nelson	Jesse Oines	Ivy Severson	
Sydney Page			



IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for friends and family of those who have passed: Charles Severson, Ray Cook, Madilyn Vang, Jeff Rose, Ron Hanson, Rod Sutherland, Curt Nedoba, Judy Campbell, Mike Nedoba, Raymond Lee, Marie Jezova

We pray for Laurie Noelke, Brooklynn Cook, Megan Sacia Ulrich, Perry Voshage, Owen Gilbertson, Adisyn Rhyme, Kannon Happel, Marjorie Lee, Jean Latham, 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, the Coats family.

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
MAR 2	10:00	Mike Martin	Carrie Nicole	Jodi E Sonja
MAR 9	10:00	Stan Schwier	Bette	Bette Susan J
MAR 16	10:00	Archie	Nancy	Rhonda
MAR 23	10:00	Joe Anderson	Bette	Mike
MAR 30	10:00	Archie	Nancy	Mike

Volunteer to help at Worship

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

Gift 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!

Thank you!

Thank you Joe Anderson for answering the call to be a Sexton! We appreciate you.

We would love to have a couple more Sextons to help as substitutes.

Would you please consider volunteering for this important role? Training is available. Thank you!

Sign-up in the office or email Shari: assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

Check out our Google Calendar now on the home page of our [website](#)!

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

WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:00 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Closed

Tuesday—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Wednesday—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Thursday—9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Friday—Closed

Saturday—Closed

Sunday—Worship

PASTORAL CARE

If the need arises for Pastoral Care,
please contact Patti at 608-317-9525.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Find us on Facebook, Instagram,
YouTube and our website

@halfwaycreeklutheranchurchholmen

#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch

#reachoutsharechristwithall

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
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