



CURRENTS

MAY 2025

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

Dearest Halfway Creek Family,

During Easter, we talked about growth and planting seeds of faith. Let's continue that conversation..... The concept of planting seeds of faith can be interpreted in different ways, from planting the Word of God in a person's heart to sharing faith through acts of kindness and service.

These "seeds" can be spending more time in God's Word, or putting more focus on nurturing generosity, kindness and compassion. There may be times when we struggle to do these things, but that is when it is the most important. Loving our friends and family is easy, but God also commands us to love our enemies. That takes extra thought and effort.

As I have been thinking more about this, the song "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" came to mind:

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Let's take the time to nurture our relationship with God, so that we may better nurture our other relationships.

Happy May & Blessings to all ~

Patti Happel

Synod Authorized Minister

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

4—10:00 a.m. Confirmation Sunday; Patti Happel presiding

6—5:00 -6:30 PM **Life Planning Seminar** at HCLC; catered dinner.

11—10:00 a.m. Worship; Rev. Jim Arends presiding

16—9:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m., **Versiti Blood Drive at HCLC**, sign-up online [HERE](#).

18—10:00 a.m. Recognition of Graduates; Pastor Garman presiding

25—10:00 a.m. Worship; Rev. Bill Pursley presiding

JUNE—Summer Schedule begins

1—9:00 a.m. Worship; Ron Christensen preaching

2-6—As a note, there will be no office hours **June 2-6, 2025**. For pastoral care or to make an appoint to see Patti, please contact her at pastor@halfwaycreek.org or by phone: 608-317-9525.

6-7— La Crosse Area Synod Assembly at Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church.

Thank you to our members attending: Carolyn and Jeanne along with Patti.

8—10:00 a.m. Worship at Riverside Park for Synod Assembly. There will not be worship at HCLC that day!

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
Vision Board Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2025

Present: Patti Happel, Bette Pedretti, Nicole Stumlin, Carrie Payne, Wayne Atchley, Andrea Baxter, Nancy Holley, Ema Nedoba, Olivia Nedoba

Absent: Amy Noel, Michelle Olson

Guests: Jodi Anderson, Shari Ireland

Call to order at 6:02 p.m. Devotion lead by Bette Pedretti.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made and second to approve agenda.

Actions since last meeting

- 3/20/25– Approval of March 13, 2025, minutes via email.

Financial Report

- Noisy Offering:

April – Outreach ministry

May – Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch Program

June – HCLC Gardeners

July – HCLC Cemetery

- March financial reports reviewed by Jodi Anderson. Discussion of parsonage rent, Jodi to bring further information to next meeting.

Office Update – Shari Ireland

- Supply pastors are scheduled through October.

Music and Liturgy

- A motion was made and seconded to have summer services at 9 a.m. starting June 1st through August 31st. Motion passed.

Old Business

- Membership Roster Update – 40 responses have been received. A second communication is planned for anyone who has not responded.

May 2025 Currents

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- Closing Action Plan – John Daily has agreed to lead this project. Patti Happel will follow up with John.
- IT Team Update – Wayne continues to work with the streaming and computer crashing.
- Outreach Update – Bette provided update on youth night on April 4th and Council Retreat.
- A review of job descriptions and policies is currently being done.
- Doorbell Update – Wayne installed a bell, and it appears to be working well.
- Blind/curtain Update – tabled at this time.
- New Member Materials – Nicole will review and update the current material to bring back to Vision Board. Marna Holley will update these once the charges are confirmed.
- Date for New Member – bulletin recognition in June and December.
- Synod Assembly Attendees – June 6th- 8th – Patti Happel, Carolyn Bjerke, and Jeanne Atchley

New Business

- Roof is leaking in the back of the church. Property Committee to call company to look into repairs.
- -New Emergency/Safety Plan/Policies – information from Michelle and Council Retreat shared.
- Fall Health Fair – looking for volunteers to plan event.
- Presentation of Confirmands – six youth to be confirmed. They are Blake and Jordan Anderson, Aspen Barlow, Abby Fredrickson, Aleasha Payne and Dominic Rosenow.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Next meeting – Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 6 p.m.

VISION BOARD

President

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

Treasurer

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

Nancy Holley
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608-526-3418

Vice President

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Michelle Olson
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(608)780-9802

Olivia Nedoba
Ema Nedoba

Secretary

Amy Noel
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608-386-0299

Andrea Baxter
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608-738-3896

Synod Authorized Minister

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

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

FINANCIALS THROUGH MARCH 2025

	<u>Total Offering</u>	<u>Rent Income</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Difference</u>
January-25	\$11,212.00	\$2,150.00	\$13,676.56	-\$314.56
February-25	\$10,732.00	\$2,150.00	\$11,094.45	\$1,787.55
March-25	\$12,072.18	\$2,150.00	\$13,616.82	\$605.36
Three month total	\$34,016.18	\$6,450.00	\$38,387.83	\$2,078.35

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Upcoming Events hosted by HCLC!

LIFE PLANNING SEMINAR at HCLC-

We are hosting this seminar for the community. It is coordinated by Fredrickson Funeral Home and will take place Tuesday May 6, 2025 at 5PM. This event is FREE and you will be served a catered meal and hear a short presentation on the benefits of funeral planning. This is Open to the Public so invite everyone! Please **RSVP to Margaret at 608-397-8672.**

APPRECIATION OF EMERGENCY

WORKERS- We will be taking treats to our local emergency workers in May. A sign up for cookie donations will be coming out soon. This is our way of saying thank you to those who are keeping us safe in our community.

BLOOD DRIVE- We are hosting a blood drive with VERSITI on Friday, May 16, 2025, 9:30 AM—2 PM here at church!!. Donating blood is a very special way to give back to our community. The whole process takes about one hour, but the actual donating of blood is only about 10 minutes. Three lives can be saved with each donation! And did you know

that Versiti supplies the blood for our local hospitals? So, your donated blood is used locally.

Helpful tips before donating blood:

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a healthy meal at least one hour before donating.
- Be well hydrated before your donation.
- Make sure to bring a form of verification—such as a driver's license, donor ID card or government-issued ID—that shows your name and birthdate.

Invite your family and friends to donate. Our goal is 17 donors.

We will have some homemade BBQ, treats and beverages! Sign up online at: https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11611176 or Call 608-526-3701 by May 15.

Hope to see you there!



HALWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

Job 14:7-9

New International Version

⁷ “At least there is hope for a tree:

If it is cut down, it will sprout again,
and its new shoots will not fail.

⁸ Its roots may grow old in the ground
and its stump die in the soil,

⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud
and put forth shoots like a plant.



Job observes that if a tree is cut down, it can sprout again and bring forth new shoots even if its roots are old and the

stump is dead. Recently, William Achterkirch Jr., Mark Witte, and Dan Brudahl worked hard getting the old stumps pulled out of the cemetery. The stumps were probably over 100 years old. Wally Knudson, Mark Witte, and Dan Brudahl later filled in the holes and seeded the areas. It looks great guys! Thank you for your hard work.

A gravestone cleaning day will be happening May 3 starting at 10:00 am in the cemetery. Members of VFW Post 7908 in Holmen will be cleaning headstones of Veterans buried at Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery. Hannah Scholze will be working with the volunteers.

April rains have really enhanced the green grass in the cemetery. If you are feeling down-and-out, remember Jesus is the vine that sustains, refreshes, and revives you to Himself. Please feel free to visit the cemetery and share in the spring renewal.

For more info on the cemetery, or to reserve your resting place, call one of the cemetery trustees:

Dan Brudahl, 608-526-6950

Mark Witte, 608-317-0183

Hannah Scholze, 608-797-9388

IT'S MOWING SEASON

Mike will be mowing again this year! Please consider helping him out with gas money. We'll have a basket in the gathering space for donations. Thank you! And thanks to you, Mike! We appreciate the time and care you put into our property!

GARDENING GROUP

The gardening group is looking forward to another fruitful (or veggie-ful) year! The garden is moving to the flat area on the north side of the lower parking lot. It will be more accessible for everyone. If you head over that way and see some weeds, you are welcome to tend to the garden all summer long! Thanks in advance to everyone helping prep the land and get it planted this month.

HOLMEN LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Requests for May: cake mixes, beef stew, jars of spaghetti sauce, Minute Rice. Please bring items to HCLC and we can deliver them to the food pantry! Thank you to all who are contributing, your generosity is appreciated!

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 you for helping us further our mission.



NOISY OFFERING

In April we collected money to help fund our outreach ministries here at HCLC. A total of 370.17 was donated. Thank you so much!

Throughout May, we'll be collecting for Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch program. This is an outreach ministry we have supported for years! Let's keep making some noise! If you have any ideas for additional outreach we can do, please contact Bette.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will begin our Summer Worship Schedule on Sunday, June 1st. Worship time will be at 9 AM. We'll continue this schedule through Sunday, August 31st.



YOUTH NIGHT OUT

We hosted Youth Night Out on April 4th. It was a big success and fun was had by all! We had 14 youth attend. Games, food, laughter and a great bunch of kids!! Thanks to all who helped support this night and to all the parents who dropped off and picked up their kids. We are looking forward to another youth night during the summer, so stay tuned!



CONFIRMATION

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

Confirmation Sunday



MAY 4, 2025 AT 10:00 AM

Join us as we welcome our newly confirmed members of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m. Congratulations to:

Blake Anderson

Jordan Anderson

Aspen Balow

Abigail Fredrickson

Aleasha Payne

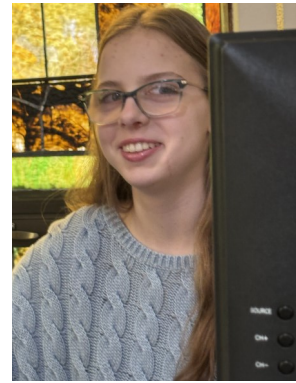
Dominic Rosenow

EASTER CELEBRATION

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Holy Week and Easter worship at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church! We especially want to thank the dedicated worship team for sharing their musical gifts and time, and our delightful Sunday School students and friends for their performance at the 10 AM service. Our sincere appreciation extends to Lynn for her musical direction and preparation of the liturgy. We also recognize and thank the many hands working behind the scenes – from our office staff to Patti, Rich, Bette, the altar guild, sextons and all the Worship and Fellowship v volunteers. It is the collective talent and spirit of individuals like these, along with the entire congregation, that makes Halfway Creek the special place of worship it is. We were so excited to have many visitors as well! Thank you for worshipping at HCLC.

Happy Easter! Alleluia!





Maundy Thursday



Beautiful flowers graced our worship space and altar. Thank you to those who purchased flowers in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of loved ones and friends.

SEEKING COOKIE BAKERS!

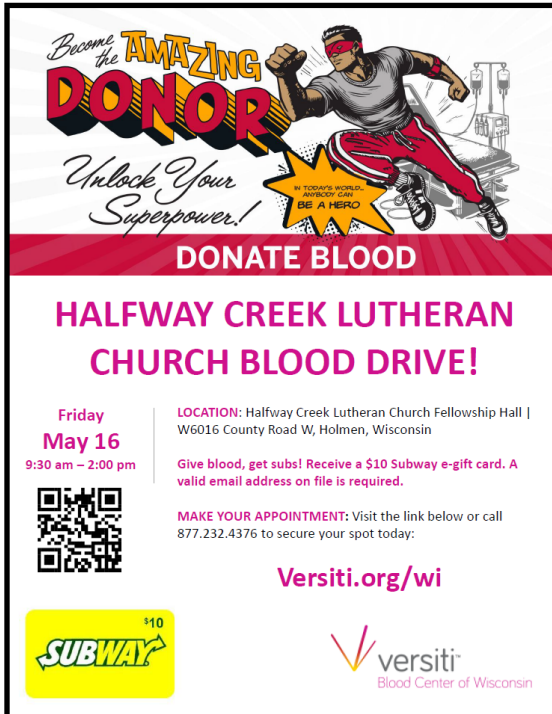
May is recognition of EMS/First Responders month, and HCLC wants to do our part to show appreciation, and who doesn't like cookies! There will be a sign-up for cookies in the gathering space on the information table.

Cookies need to be dropped off at the church no later than Sunday morning, May 18. The start of EMS week.

Cookies will be delivered to the following agencies: Tri-State Ambulance, La Crosse County Sheriff Department, Holmen Fire Department, Holmen Police Department, Onalaska Fire Department, Onalaska Police Department.

Thank you for your support.

HCLC BLOOD DRIVE



Become the **AMAZING DONOR**
Unlock Your Superpower!
IN TODAY'S WORLD, ANYBODY CAN BE A HERO!

DONATE BLOOD

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE!



Friday May 16
9:30 am – 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall | W6016 County Road W, Holmen, Wisconsin

Give blood, get subs! Receive a \$10 Subway e-gift card. A valid email address on file is required.

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT: Visit the link below or call 877.232.4376 to secure your spot today:

Versiti.org/wi

SYNOD ASSEMBLY



 **La Crosse Area Synod**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worship In The Park

Join us for an outdoor worship service!

What to Expect:

- ✓ 9:00am Choir Practice
- ✓ 10:00am Pentecost Worship with Communion
- ✓ 11:15am Picnic – Freewill Offering

 **Sunday June 8, 2025**

 **Riverside Park**
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Congratulations Graduates! We look forward to celebrating you at worship on May 18 at 10 a.m.



Tyler Rosenow who plans to attend Northern Iowa Area Community College (NIACC) in Mason City to play baseball and study Business/Marketing.



Sammy Nedoba who will attend Western Technical College in the education program.



Hannah Wegner who will be attending UW-Stevens Point in the fall and majoring in Music Education to become a choir teacher.



Camden Thiele who will be going to University of North Carolina - Charlotte and majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a motorsports focus.



Jerin Rink will be attending Winona State University this Fall majoring in Accounting.



Josie Happel will be attending Winona State in the fall and will pursue a degree in nursing.



Congratulations Jacob Wegner! Jacob is graduating from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. He accepted a job with Saputo which is a big dairy company. He will be starting there the day after Memorial Day at their location in Waupun Wisconsin as a production/operations manager trainee, and will be moving to Fond Du Lac right before then.

We also extend congratulations HHS graduate, Connor Mihm.

*Be strong,
be brave,
be fearless.
You are never
alone.*

Joshua 1:9

www.halfwaycreek.org

MAY BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Abigail Fredrickson Lise Graham</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>Melissa Strauss</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Tate Burnikel Tina Mueller</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Laura Arnold Nancy Holley</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>Paul Anderson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Megan Jostad- Myhre Rhette Ulrich</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>Samantha Bartnik Lauren Bringe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>Mary Severson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>Jenny Lee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Paul Eide Kermit Jostad</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>Bill Achterkirch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>Roger Casberg Nicole Plomedahl</p> <p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>Susan Chase</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>Zach Arendt Dylan Severson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Barbara Hale James Noel</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Penny Achterkirch Jon Strangstalien Olivia Temp</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>Susan Anderson Miles Bartnik Jeffery Severson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>Pamela Gran</p>
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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 Robin Ruhbusch, Mike & Pat Martin, Laurie Noelke, Brooklynn Cook, Megan Sacia Ulrich, Perry Voshage, Owen Gilbertson, Adisyn Rhyme, Kannon Hap-pel, 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 Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, the Coats family.

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
MAY 4	10:00	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
MAY 11	10:00	Stan	Bette	Bette Susan J
MAY 18	10:00	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E
MAY	10:00	Joe A	Bette	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.

Volunteer Clipboards are also in the gathering space.

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!

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

SUPPLY PASTORS

Thank you for welcoming all of our supply pastors we've had the past month! In April we welcomed Pr. Wayne, Pr. Kuespert and Pr. Garman along with Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister.



Pr Ralph Kuespert



Pr Wayne Van Kawuwenbergh



Patti Happel, SAM

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

WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:00 AM

SUMMER WORSHIP

June 1–August 31 at 9:00 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

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