

WWW.HALFWAYCREEK.ORG

The logo features a stylized cross composed of four colored squares: yellow (top-left), purple (top-right), blue (bottom-left), and pink (bottom-right).

Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

JUNE 2025

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

Dear Halfway Creek family,

Happy June!! You will often hear me say that fellowship is my favorite time at church. Coffee hour after church or a shared meal, a home visit or a phone conversation, however it may happen, I am more than happy to spend time with all of you, my church family and friends.

What is the purpose of spiritual friendship? If you read through the bible, you will find that we aren't meant to go this road alone. God has given us families – whether by blood, by choice, or forged in faith, we are there to offer each other support and guidance. Even Jesus had a community and devoted friends.

Our spiritual brothers and sisters not only help us grow in faith, but they may also offer a different perspective when needed. We may all be at different stages of life, but what a wonderfully diverse group we are. Encouragement and support, or even advice shared amongst one another. Spiritual friends are a reflection of God's church. We come together to celebrate, despite our differences. We are God's people and His love connects us all.

If we haven't had the opportunity for conversation, I would really appreciate the chance to connect. A cup of coffee, meeting for a meal, or just a phone call would be wonderful. I would also be happy to make a visit to your home, if you prefer. Please reach out if you would like to get together. In the meantime, I wish you a sun-filled summer!!

Blessings ~ Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

Summer Schedule begins

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

2-6 No office hours **June 2-6, 2025.**

Patti will be available by appointment June 2-5. She will be at the Synod Assembly June 6-8, but may be reached in case of an emergency. To contact Patti, please email her at pastor@halfwaycreek.org or call/text 608-317-9525.

2 Jazzercise begins summer schedule (see Google Calendar on our website)

6-7 **La Crosse Area Synod Assembly** at Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church. Thank you to our attending members: 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!**

2:30 p.m. La Crosse County 4H Goat Project—Heritage Hall

12 6:00 p.m. Vision Board Meeting

15 9:00 a.m. worship; Patti

22 9:00 a.m. worship; Rev. Bill Pursley

2:30 p.m. La Crosse County 4H Goat Project—Heritage Hall

29 9:00 a.m. worship; Pastor Carol Garman

HOLMEN'S HOPE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch Program is in need of food items including **granola bars, juice boxes, fruit snacks, peanut butter, and jelly**. If you can help, please bring items to church, and we'll deliver them!

You can also volunteer to make and deliver lunches this summer. Lunches begin the week of June 9th. Coulee Life Church has volunteered to take Mondays during the summer, so they are looking for volunteers for Wednesdays and Fridays. If you are interested in helping, please sign up [HERE](#) or contact our office.

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES -May 8, 2025

Present: Patti Happel, Amy Noel, Carrie Payne, Bette Pedretti,, Nicole Stumlin and Wayne Atchley, Nancy Holley, Michelle Olson and Olivia Nedoba

Absent: Andrea Baxter and Ema Nedoba

Guests: Shari Ireland and Jodi Anderson

Call to order at 6:04. Devotion lead by Bette Pedretti encouraged us to reflect on gratitude. Approval of Agenda: Motion made and 2nd to approve agenda. Motion passed.

Actions Since Last Meeting:

- 4/27/2025 – Approval of April 10, 2025 VB minutes.

Financial Report Received:

- Parsonage rent - Will table until early 2026.
- Noisy Offering:
 - April - Support congregation outreach ministry (supplies, mailings, etc.). Offering total was \$370.17.
 - May - Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch Program
 - June - Gardeners who work all summer and provide vegetables to area shelters
 - July - HCLC Cemetery
 - August - Will consider Synod Assembly recommendations
- April financial reports reviewed by Jodi Anderson. By the end of April our mortgage will be approximately \$125,400. Loan comes due in April 2026. Thank you for the thermometer visual that communicates to the congregation our progress in paying off the mortgage.

OFFICE UPDATE - Shari Ireland

- Confirmation last Sunday of six young people. It was a beautiful service and each of the confirmands were strongly supported by their family and the congregation.
- Senior recognition on May 18, 2025.

June 2025 Currents

4

- Starting to create the calendar for the coming year.

MINISTRY REPORT from SAM Patti Happel

- Shared a list of activities over the past month.
- Focusing on visibility in our church community and at worship.
- Biweekly meeting with Bette and Shari.
- Always open to feedback on the role and how to better support the congregation.
- Youth Team meeting on May 14, 2025 to consider programming for SS/Confirmation/Youth in the fall.

MUSIC & LITURGY

- Total cost of replacing the old sound system is ranges from a minimum of \$3500 to \$5000-\$6000 if we could do everything. The VB encouraged the team to move forward with fundraising. We are hoping to take minimal money out of dedicated funds to cover cost.

OLD BUSINESS

- IT Team Training - Planned soon before or after an upcoming church service.
- March Council Retreat – Refer to 4/15/25 email from Bette of Resources from the presentations at this year's retreat.
- Seeking a quote from Tri-Cor for property insurance.
- God's Work Our Hands - Patti will contact Pastor Matt to learn focus of this year's service project.
- No information on leaky roof.
- Outreach:
 - Life Planning Seminar with Fredrickson Funeral Home on May 6th. Sixteen people attended.
 - Blood Drive - Friday, May 16th from 9 - 2. Nicole is our point person.
 - Will provide water and donated cookie to the area 1st responders later this month. Wayne will assist with that the week of May 18th.
 - May 22nd meeting with ADRC to discuss opportunities for education and outreach

- Future focus - Suicide Prevention

Project/Goal	Lead/Team members	Next Step
Legacy Committee	John Daily	Form a committee
Review Staff Job Descriptions	Bette/Patti	Staff reviewing their own JD
Review current church policies		Need to identify small group to begin working on this
Updating duty cards for worship volunteers	Nicole/Carrie	Recommendations will be reviewed at June VB meeting
New members materials	Nicole/Bette/Patti/Shari	Reviewed and seeking help from Marna Holley
Emergency/Safety plan and policies	Lead: Michelle Team: Carrie	Have not received any responses from other churches. ELCA has resources that we are beginning to tap into. Note: Doorbell functioning on front door.
Fall Health Fair	Lead: Wayne Team: Michelle, seeking other members of the congregation	Start to create a plan.
Constitution	Lead: Amy Team: Patti and Nancy	Begin review of Chapters 10 - 14 that focus specifically on HCLC

Note: We are always seeking volunteers in the congregation who might have an interest in any of these projects. Contact the office or the Project lead.

NEW BUSINESS - Care Companion Program

Amy presented information on the recent Care Companion Education provided by the Synod that she participated in. A care companion is a volunteer who provides a listening presence to anyone experiencing grief, loss, transition, joy or other life situations. They embody the caring presence of God and of the faith community. As the program develops, her goal, in partnership with the SAM minister, is to provide ministry support to members of the congregation. The Synod will be doing another Care Companion education on September 13 and 20.

Closing with Lord's Prayer
Adjourned at 7:38

VISION BOARD

President

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

Treasurer

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

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

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

Vice President

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

Members

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

Olivia Nedoba
Ema Nedoba

Secretary

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

Andrea Baxter
baxtera42@gmail.com
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.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

We have had two wonderful opportunities to utilize our building and help out the community during the month of May.

Our **Life Planning Seminar** was a great success! We had a very informative presentation with a lot of good resources to take home. There was no sales pitch! Just good food, fellowship and information. If you are interested in attending a session let Shari or Bette know, we may consider hosting again!



The **Versiti Blood Drive** was well attended. We had a few first-time givers and some that have given many times. Thank you for all who were donors and all who donated food and time to make this happen. What a great service to our



community and a perfect way to “Reach out to share Christ with all!” Watch for the next blood drive later this year.

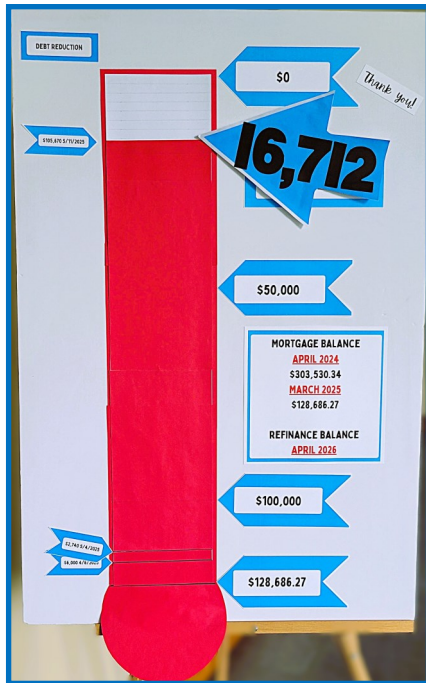
New outreach opportunity

Anyone interested in getting together to send out greeting cards from the church? Come enjoy some coffee, fellowship and extend our thoughts and prayers to those on our prayer list, shut-ins and others, to help them stay connected to our church family and know that they are being thought of often. Everyone likes to get some mail! Please let Shari, in the office, or Bette know if you are interested in helping send out cards. All supplies provided.

FINANCIALS THROUGH APRIL 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
April-25	\$13,895.00	\$2,150.00	\$16,634.74	-\$589.74
	\$47,911.18	\$8,600.00	\$55,022.57	\$1,488.61

DEBT REDUCTION UPDATE



Have you seen our Debt Reduction thermometer in the Gathering Space? We started it to show how far we've come over the past year, and set a goal to be debt free before we had to refinance in April 2026. Well, through the generosity of so many this past year and most recently, our debt went from \$128,686.27 in March 2025 to \$16,712 by May 11, 2025!! WOW!! What an amazing congregation we have along with so many friends of Halfway Creek that support us! Thank you for coming together over this past year. We are truly a family, united in God's Spirit.

NOISY OFFERING

In May, your offerings supported the Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch Program with a total of \$445.83 donated.

The June noisy offering will support our Gardening Group! The garden was moved to just above the lower parking lot. Planting was started in the rain the last week of May! Check out the progress throughout the summer!

If you pass by and see some weeds, feel free to tend the garden or join the group on Wednesday mornings at 830 AM.



GIVING AT HCLC

HCLC uses on-line giving through VANCO. You can also use Paypal—just search for Halfway Creek Lutheran Church or scan this QR code to go directly to the App. Thank you for helping us further our mission.



HOLMEN LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Requests for June: rice/pasta sides, cake mixes, soup (no cream based soups please), peanut butter, spaghetti sauce. Please no green beans, macaroni and cheese, tuna, black beans, garbanzo beans or corn, due to ample supplies of these items. Thank you for your support! Items dropped off at Halfway Creek will be delivered to the Food Pantry!!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us for worship as we begin our Summer Schedule on Sunday, June 1st! Worship will begin at 9 AM. We'll continue this schedule through Sunday, August 31st.



CONFIRMATION



Congratulations to:

Blake Anderson

Jordan Anderson

Aspen Balow

Abigail Fredrickson

Aleasha Payne

Dominic Rosenow

Who were confirmed at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 4. They each shared their faith statements which were beautifully done! Congratulations again!!

HALWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery has been busy with lawn care thanks to Joe, Kelly, Jordan, & Blake Anderson. Families have added beautiful plants and flowers on gravesites for Memorial Day. The flags have also been placed to honor our veterans. A special thanks to Hannah Scholze and members of Holmen VFW Post 7908 who cleaned the veterans' gravestones in the cemetery on May 10 ahead of Memorial Day.

GRAVESTONE CLEANING GUIDELINES

Provided by the Monroe County Local History Room & Museum, Sparta, WI

With Memorial Day around the corner, our thoughts return to honoring the men and women who died in the service of their country. Honoring the fallen often takes us out to cemeteries to mourn for those whom we have lost. As we place a flag at the grave marker, many of us will notice the signs of age and neglect upon the gravestones—the green growth and black grime obscuring the soldier's information inscribed thereupon. Algae, lichen, and fungi can obscure gravestone lettering and be

hazardous to the stone itself. Removing this biological growth will make the stone last longer and easier to read. The thought comes to our mind, "this soldier deserves a nicer looking gravestone...someone needs to clean it...I can do that!" Cleaning a gravestone does help to preserve it—when done correctly. Before you plan your gravestone cleaning outing, please consider these helpful tips which will work to keep you and the gravestone safe:

1. Permission must be granted to clean a gravestone. You must obtain permission from 1) the family (if possible), 2) the property owner to enter the cemetery itself if you must cross private land to access the cemetery, and 3) the Trustees of the cemetery to do any work with a gravestone (such as cleaning) or within the cemetery (such as brush removal). "Trustees" means the recognized representatives of the original incorporators, board of directors, affiliated church, town board, or cemetery association.

2. Remember to do no harm—cleaning a gravestone should not pose a risk to the gravestone or to yourself.

3. Evaluate the general condition of the gravestone. Do not attempt to clean the gravestone if it exhibits any cracks, flaking, or eroding surfaces. Do not clean the gravestone if it seems physically unstable (i.e. wobbles).

4. Come prepared with a lot of water. Plan on several gallons per gravestone. Do not let the gravestone dry out during the cleaning process.

5. Use no household chemicals to clean a gravestone. Use only D/2 Biological Solution or just water.

6. Never use metal scrapers or wire brushes to clean a gravestone.

7. The biological growth will return. However, you are “resetting the clock” to help prolong the life of the gravestone.

8. Suggested supply list:

- Brushes with poly bristles
- Plastic or wood scrapers and picks
- Water bucket
- Water sprayer or watering can
- Gloves (optional)
- Safety goggles (optional)

–D/2 Biological Solution (available to purchase through the Monroe County Local History Room)

–Aqua-tainer (or some other water container)

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



JUNE IS BRAIN HEALTH AND DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH

Dementia is the loss of cognitive functioning - thinking, remembering, and reasoning - to such an extent that it interferes with a person's daily life and activities.

While there are many factors that may influence risk of dementia, such as genetics and environment and may be beyond your control, there may be steps you can take to lower your risk. Understanding risk factors and the choices you can make is important for your health - both now and later.

A brain-check up is a wellness tool that helps identify possible changes in cognition. This is not a diagnostic test, rather a tool that allows for conversation and planning. Just like blood pressure, cancer or diabetes screening, brain checks can help you identify early: both the irreversible dementia and other reversible causes of dementia-like symptoms. The Holmen Community Center will be hosting a class on June 5th, call 608-399-1870 to register for this class. You can call the ADRC at 608-785-5700 for other classes across the county throughout the year.

While researchers cannot yet say for certain whether making lifestyle changes will protect against dementia, all are good for your health and are part of making healthy choices as you age. What can you do?

1. Control blood pressure.	7. Stay connected with family and friends.	12. Stop tobacco use.
2. Maintain a healthy weight.	8. Treat hearing problems.	13. Prevent head injury: Take steps to prevent falls. Wear seatbelts and helmets.
3. Manage blood sugar.	9. Take care of your mental and physical health.	
4. Eat a healthy diet.	10. Sleep well.	
5. Keep physically active.	11. Avoid or limit alcohol .	
6. Stay mentally active.		

Sources: National Institute of Aging - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2022
ADRC - Aging and Disability Resource Center of La Crosse County 2025

WE APPRECIATE YOU



In May, Halfway Creek Lutheran Church appreciated our local EMS, Police, and Fire Departments with a card signed by the congregation, bottles of water and delicious cookies made by our wonderful bakers here at HCLC! Rich and Wayne delivered the items to the Holmen Police and Fire Departments, Onalaska Police and Fire Departments, Tri-state ambulance and the La Crosse County Sheriff's Department. Thank you to the dedicated emergency response professionals who serve our community! We appreciate you!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

1	10	18	26
Adelynn Balow	Brian Johnson	Henry Barbour	Jameson Happel
2	12	Jessica Harper	27
Stacey Fredricks	Jillian Eide	19	Sami Adam
3	Hallie Halverson	Rowdy Beneke	29
Bryce Hale	13	Anna Holley	Gunnar Gates
4	Joe Anderson	Andrew Wilson	
Blake Anderson	14	20	
Jordan Anderson	Susan Swackhamer	Patti Happel	
Karla Anderson	15	Glenn Schmidt	
6	Tyler Rosenow	21	
Liam Oines	17	Benjamin Olson	
Aleasha Payne	Mary Gordon	23	
9	Dylan Hale	Nadine Strauss	
Alice Miller	Samanatha Pralle	24	
	Abbey Stasiak	Jack Bringe	



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 Stacey Fredricks, Robin Ruhbusch, Mike & Pat Martin, 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 Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, the Coats family.

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
JUNE 1	9:00 Ron Christensen	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
JUNE 8	10:00 Riverside Park	Synod Assembly Worship at Riverside Park La Crosse.		
JUNE 15	9:00 Patti	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E
JUNE 22	9:00 Rev Bill Pursley	Stan	Bette	Mike
JUNE 29	9:00 Pr Garman	Archie	Bette	Mike

SUPPLY PASTORS

Thank you for welcoming all of the supply pastors we've had this past month including Pr. Jim Arends, Pr. Carol Garman, Rev. Bill Pursley along with Patti Happel, our Synod Authorized Minister. Thank you pastors and ministers for sharing God's word with us!

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](#)!



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

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

June 8 at 10 AM:



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