



WWW.HALFWAYCREEK.ORG

Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

CURRENTS

NOVEMBER 2025

Reach Out , Share Christ with All

WHAT A REFORMATION SUNDAY CELEBRATION!

We had a truly wonderful day celebrating our faith and a major milestone!

The worship service, led by Pastor Wayne, was filled with special music from Lynn, Samantha Bartnik, and the Celebration Choir (including Kathi, Marjorie, John, and Patti). The highlight was the Retirement of Our Debt! The congregation joined Patti in a special thanksgiving ceremony that concluded with the joyous shredding of our mortgage! The celebration continued with warm fellowship and a delicious catered meal by L&M Café.

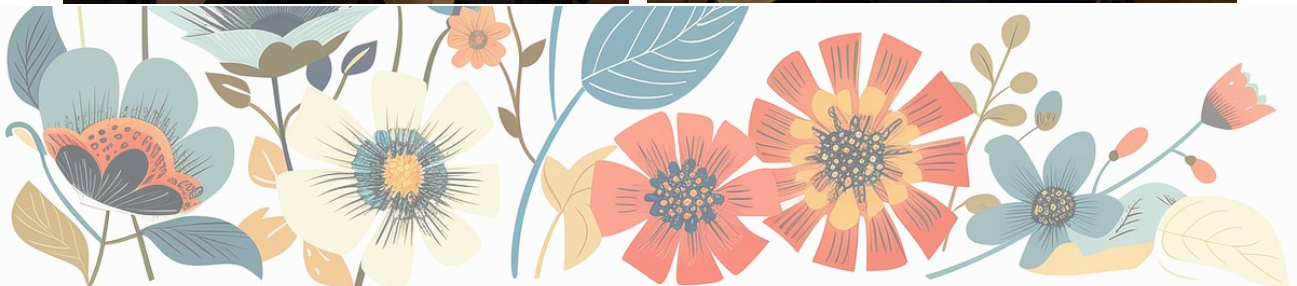
Thank you to everyone who planned, prepared and/or attended this celebration!!

Thank you to those who helped us reach this financial freedom and those who ceaselessly prayed. The last 10 years, working toward this goal has, had its highs and lows, but God has guided us to this point and continues to work through our church community to bless us and those around us. Thank you for being a part of that!



Celebration Highlights





CALENDAR

November

(Sunday School meets at 9:00 AM each week)

2—10:00 AM worship; Ron Christensen & Patti; All Saints Sunday

5—6:00 PM Confirmation

9—10:00 AM worship; Rev. Ralph Kuespert; Blessing of the Quilts

12—6:00 PM Confirmation

13—6:00 PM Vision Board Meeting

16—10:00 AM worship; Pastor Garman; Blessing of the Hunters

17—9:30 AM—2 PM HCLC Blood Drive

19—6:00 PM Confirmation @ English Lutheran for service project

20—9:30 AM Bible Study

23—10:00 AM worship; Jennie Norberg & Patti Happel

6:00 PM Gratitude and Giving Thanksgiving worship and service project at Halfway Creek; hosted by the Holmen Area ELCA churches

27—Happy Thanksgiving; Office Closed today

30—8:45 AM Hanging of the Greens—all are welcome to help!

10:00 AM worship; Pastor Wayne Van Kauwenbergh; First Sunday of Advent



VISION BOARD

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FINANCIALS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 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
May-25	\$10,455.00	\$2,150.00	\$13,731.81	-\$1,126.81
June-25	\$13,480.00	\$2,150.00	\$14,350.63	\$1,279.37
July-25	\$10,921.00	\$2,150.00	\$16,254.89	-\$3,183.89
August-25	\$12,859.00	\$2,150.00	\$13,557.12	\$1,451.88
September-25	\$20,966.00	\$2,150.00	\$20,191.06	\$2,924.94
Totals	\$116,592.18	\$19,350.00	\$133,108.08	\$2,834.10

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 2025

MEMBERS: Patti Happel, Amy Noel, Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley, Michelle Olson, Wayne Atchley, and Olivia Nedoba

GUESTS: Jodi Anderson

ABSENT: Carrie Payne, Andrea Baxter, Nicole Stumlin, and Ema Nedoba

Call to Order @ 6PM

Approval of Agenda - Motion made and seconded to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Devotion/Prayer - Bette

Actions since last meeting: Approved 9/23/25 VB minutes via email.

Financial Report :

- We received the report with a review of the financials by Jodi.
- Noisy Offering: October: Breast Cancer - we will split the proceeds between Mayo and Gundersen to accounts that directly support patients. November: Star Center - The **STAR Center** helps all **La Crosse**-area community members live their best lives through adaptive fitness programming, wheelchair sports and more. We have congregational members directly involved in this program. December: ELCA Good Gifts along with ornaments on the tree.
- Discussed noisy offering schedule for upcoming year and inviting speakers to talk about their program.
- Thrivent Maintenance account will be set up next week.

Ministry/Office Update: SAMs report - Patti reviewed her activity during the month of September and responded to questions.

Music and Liturgy: Sound System update - new sound board and microphones are being used. We are hoping to raise enough money for a key board. Recommend: Communication update (newsletter and email) about progress and what we still hope to raise.

Old Business:

- Tech Team - All upgrades working well.
- Property Team - Outside door by old office is in process of being installed. Still waiting on parsonage patio door. Winterized stain glass windows in worship area. Checking to see if choir loft still needs to be done.
- Outreach - Wayne working on more durable outside signage for November 17, 2025 Blood Drive.

- Legacy Committee - Has invited the congregation into conversation during the fellowship hour on Oct. 12 and 19 to answer questions and get input.
- Safety plan/policies:
 1. Update from walk-through with LaX Cty Sgt. Kevin Bauer. He can offer several opportunities for education and preparedness.
 2. La Crosse Area Security Network involving several area churches, extended an invitation for Nov. 1, starting with a light breakfast at 8 and then meeting from 8:30 to 10 at North Side Community Church. Please let Michelle or Bette know if you are interested in attending.

New Business:

- La Crosse Area Synod RIC Discernment - Bette asked us to review the La Crosse Area Synod RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Discernment document (dated 8/8/25) and asked us to begin to think about how we have this conversation with the congregation in the future.
- Six-month review of Patti and the SAM (Synod Authorized Minister) role at HCLC using the yearly review input form recently introduced by the Synod. Next steps:
 1. Amy will write up the responses from our conversation.
 2. Patti is also completing this form.
 3. Bette and Amy will meet with Patti and establish goals for the coming year and then share with Vision Board

Closing Prayer

Adjournment: 8:00 PM

**Next meeting(s): Budget Planning on Saturday, November 1, 2025 9am
VB on Thursday, November 13, 2025 6pm**

Next agenda:

- Review of church policies: Andrea/Patti
- Job descriptions: Amy/Patti
- Follow up of constitution changes and updates to Model Constitution: Amy
- La Crosse Area Synod RIC (Reconciling in Christ) Discernment document (dated 8/8/25) - next steps.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

At worship on November 2nd, we remember those saints of God whom we have known and loved and who have died in this past year, as well as celebrate the new saints among us who are newly baptized this year.

O God of the pilgrim's way, we give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for us of God's love at work in the world.

Duane "Dewey" Crocker

Harvey Miller

Beulah Mae Sanders

We give thanks for the newly baptized, those saints who have just begun their pilgrimage with us:

Tate Burnikel

Join us on All Saints Sunday 11/2 at 10:00 a.m. as we celebrate the love of God in Christ Jesus for all us saints.

PROPERTY TEAM—OCTOBER



The back door on the northeast side of the church building was replaced and looks great.

Thanks to our extra helpers, Dan and Kent for assisting!

The windows in the sanctuary have been leaking below the ledges. Filler was used to fill the open areas inside the wall and new board applied along the window edge.

Hopefully it will be a little less breezy this winter.

Clear Choice installed the new patio door at the parsonage.

BLOOD DRIVE



Did you know that every 2 seconds, someone in America requires a blood transfusion? From trauma patients to those battling cancer, your donation can make a lifesaving impact. You're invited to donate and become a hero at our upcoming blood drive.

Blood Drive Details:

11/17/2025

09:30 AM - 02:00 PM

Sign up here: https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11622574

Give local, stay local. You are Versiti. You keep the pulse of the community going. Every donation is needed to meet high demand for blood in your community. We look forward to seeing you there!

LOVE TO BAKE?

Get your whisks ready! We're hosting our **Second Annual Cookie Walk** on **Sunday, December 14**, right after worship.

We need your best Christmas cookies and festive treats! Your donations will help us create a wonderful spread for everyone to choose from and fill their containers.

The best part? All proceeds from the Cookie Walk go directly toward funding the **Youth Gathering 2027 trip!**

To donate your delicious baked goods, please contact **Jodi Eide** at jodieide66@gmail.com or sign up in the gathering space later this month. Thank you for supporting our youth!

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

Join us on **Sunday, November 9th** at 10 AM as we bless the quilts made here at HCLC before they are donated. Enjoy the beauty of these quilts displayed throughout the sanctuary and bless those who will receive them. They will be sent to the Salvation Army, where they will be distributed locally to those in need as the weather turns colder.

The Quilters are excited to start their next session of sewing and tying quilts in February 2026. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Nancy Holley or Shari in the office!

BLESSING OF THE HUNTERS

Join us on **Sunday, November 16th** at 10 AM as we pray for the hunters during this season!

Dear Lord,

May all hunters be blessed with your grace. To all who wander the fields and forests, may you guide them safely back to camp. Thank you for the blessings of venison meat. Let the hunters always remember it is a gift from you. Thank you also for the hunting knowledge, fellowship, and outdoor experiences you give the hunters. May they always remember these blessings from you. May their hunt be honest, their aim be straight, and may they always give thanks for creation and for the sustenance that their hunt provides. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

As we begin the season of Advent we welcome all to join us on Sunday, November 30th at 8:45 AM for Hanging of the Greens. We'll decorate the church, place ornaments on the trees and enjoy refreshments before 10 AM worship.

GRATITUDE AND GIVING

A Joint Thanksgiving Service of the Holmen Area ELCA Churches

Sunday November 23rd, 2025 at 6:00pm

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

Join us on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, **Sunday 11/23, at 6pm** at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church (W6016 County Road W, Holmen, WI 54636) for a service of Gratitude and Giving. We will give thanks to God for the many gifts we have received and during the offering we will be doing a brief community service project: making meal kits to give to local food pantries.

This is a joint service of Holmen Lutheran Church, Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, Journey Lutheran Church, and Mindoro & Lewis Valley Lutheran Churches. Friends and community members welcome!

The choir will gather at 5pm at Halfway Creek Lutheran, everyone is welcome to join the choir. The song will be simple enough that it can be learned in one practice and the choir will share the song during the worship service at 6pm. Please consider joining the choir and raising a joyful noise during the worship service!

During the service we will be putting meal kits together for local food pantries. Halfway Creek is invited to bring the following items to church in November so we can bring them to the Gratitude and Giving worship service to put together these meal kits. There will be a bin in the entryway at church to receive these items:

Cake Kit: Box of Cake Mix, jar of frosting, disposable baking pan, sprinkles

Tags with a list of items needed to build these kits may be found in the gathering space at church. You may also bring in the items listed anytime before 11/23.
Thank you!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat was a HUGE success! Thank you to Jess Cook, Olivia and Ema for organizing the event this year! A huge thank you to Rainbow Ridge and the La Crosse County 4H Goat Project for bringing goats and a decorated trunk. Thank you to our Onalaska Fire Department for handing out treats and giving tours of the fire truck! Thanks to everyone else who volunteered a trunk or help indoors with games, cookie decorating, pumpkin painting and face painting! We had well over 100 kids plus their families stop by this year!



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.



NOISY OFFERING

In October the Noisy Offering supported Breast Cancer organizations. We collected a total of \$222.38. Throughout November we'll support the [STAR Center](#). The Star Center's vision is to close the gap between medically based therapy and fitness programs and sport activity opportunity for ALL community members, regardless of their ability. Check out their website for more information.

HOLMEN LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY

Food Pantry Requests for November: rice sides, pasta sides, baking items, peanut butter, canned chicken, jam/jelly, egg noodles, potato sides, pancake syrup, mustard, instant potatoes, toilet paper. Thank you for your support! Items dropped off at Halfway Creek will be delivered to the Food Pantry!!

MORE TRUNK OR TREAT HIGHLIGHTS



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is off to a great start this year, as we are focusing on the New Testament.

We traveled to ConFest at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sparta where we had a great time as we met up with other confirmation students throughout the synod. The energy from the youth was amazing!

We were also able to get information from English Lutheran Church about the Bethlehem Event and will be volunteering in November to help build the town as part of a service project.



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING MINNEAPOLIS, MN JUNE 28-JULY 2, 2027

The ELCA Youth Gathering is just a little over 19 months away! It's not too early to start thinking about attending. If you want to know more about the gathering and what to expect, talk to past attendees or check out the website at elca.org/gathering.

We will have our annual Pizza Fundraiser in February 2026. We are also planning a Cookie Walk on December 14! Want to help? Let Jodi Eide know by emailing her at jodieide66@gmail.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—CHRISTMAS PRACTICE

The Sunday School children will begin practicing on Sunday, November 2 for their Christmas performance. They will be sharing special Christmas music on Sunday, December 14 during the 10 am service. All rehearsals will be during their Sunday School classes.

PET BLESSING

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pet Blessing on October 5th! It was a beautiful morning for such a special blessing.



OUTREACH MINISTRY



Our card ministry met in October and mailed out 34 greeting cards to those on our prayer list and other members. We enjoyed a delicious lunch along with fellowship! We'll gather again in January! All are welcome to join!

Part of our outreach ministry includes keeping in touch with our young adults! This past month we requested care package items to send to our college freshmen. Thank you for the overwhelming response of snacks and gift cards! The recipients were surprised and so excited to get the packages. "What a nice surprise! I loved the snacks and was so excited for the Cheezit Mix!" said one student. "I got my care package! Thank you so much—it made my day!" Another student reached out to say, "Oh my gosh! Thank you so much for the treat box! I absolutely love it, and it is so sweet! Tell everyone else thank you as well!!" And we heard from another, "I just wanted to thank you so, so much for the package, I love it!! The dark chocolate M&Ms made my day!!"



HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

Something Told the Wild Geese

by Rachel Field

Something told the wild geese
It was time to go.
Though the fields lay golden
Something whispered,—"Snow."
Leaves were green and stirring,
Berries, luster-glossed,
But beneath warm feathers
Something cautioned,—"Frost."
All the sagging orchards
Steamed with amber spice,
But each wild breast stiffened
At remembered ice.
Something told the wild geese
It was time to fly,
Summer sun was on their wings,
Winter in their cry.

The seasons are changing, summer has moved into autumn. Just like nature prepares for the changes we can focus on a new journey of life. God invites us to join the migrating geese in this autumn blazing season of colors. Be prepared for life changes, especially planning your final wishes with your loved ones. As you think about changes visit the peace and love felt within the Halfway Creek Cemetery. Walk among the headstones, sit inside the little church,

listen to the birds or see the creek nearby. We are blessed knowing God's in charge. It's never too early to purchase your final resting place. If you wish to purchase a lot for either full casket or cremation burial, please contact one of the Trustees below. Lots are \$300 for members of Halfway Creek and \$600 for non-members. A single lot can be used for either one full casket burial or up to four cremation burials.

For more details, 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

Your cemetery needs your support. Remember Halfway Creek Cemetery when you're making your charitable contributions — and please consider a donation to the cemetery.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday is missing, please notify the office.

1
Les Kolbo
2
Sue Bramwell
Noel Jandt
Jean Latham
3
Brian Rosenow
8
Carmon Jostad
11
Angela Balow
12
Kari Washburn
14
Ema Nedoba
Olivia Nedoba

16
Sammy Nedoba
17
Elisa Moss
18
Joe Fredrickson
20
Connor Mihm
21
Aspen Balow
23
Kathy Johnson
25
Marjorie Lee
27
Steve Lee

29
Coleton Lee
30
Gavin Bramwell
Jill Noel



IN OUR PRAYERS

In Our Prayers:

We pray for friends and family of those who have recently passed: Beulah Sanders, Harvey Miller, Charles Severson, Madilyn Vang.

We pray for Bob Cottrell, Jackson Ammerman (grandson of Les and Susan Kolbo), Gayle "Susie" Johnson, Laurie Gillespie, Diane Jostad, Betty Bender, Stacey Fredricks, Robin Ruhbusch, Pat Martin, Laurie Noelke, Megan Sacia Ulrich, Perry Voshage, Marjorie Lee, Jean Latham, Joan Vaughn, Bridget Ferk, Thelma Severson, Katie Wier, Phoebe & Bill Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Cary Heyer, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, the Coats family.

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
NOV 2	10:00 Ron/Pati	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
NOV 9	10:00 Rev Kuespert	Stan	Nancy	Bette Susan
NOV 16	10:00 Pastor Garman	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E
NOV 23	10:00 Jennie Norberg/Patti	Joe	Nancy	Mike
NOV 30	10:00 Pastor Wayne	Archie	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!

NOVEMBER

N - Notice Small Things
O - Offer Kindness
V - Value Quiet Time
E - Enjoy Each Day
M - Make Time to Rest
B - Breathe Deeply
E - Embrace Change
R - Relax and Let Go

@Harvard-Fiction KH



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

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

WORSHIP & EDUCATION

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship

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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