

CURRENTS

Reach Out, Share Christ with All

www.halfwaycreek.org

Calendar

January

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

- 1 Happy New Year; office closed today
- 4 9:00 AM Pancakes & Pjs
10:00 AM worship; Patti Happel presiding
- 7 6:00 PM Confirmation
- 8 6:00 PM Vision Board Meeting
- 11 10:00 AM worship;
Ron Christensen & Patti Happel presiding
- 14 11:00 AM—1 PM Card Ministry
6:00 PM Confirmation
- 15 9:30 AM Bible Study
- 18 10:00 AM worship; Ron & Patti presiding
- 21 6:00 PM Confirmation
- 25 10:00 AM worship;
Pastor Wayne Van Kauwenbergh presiding
- 28 6:00 PM Security Safety Meeting
(see article page 2)

ANNUAL MEETINGS & POTLUCK

Save the date for our Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday February 1 following worship. The Annual Halfway Creek Cemetery Meeting will follow along with a Congregation Wide Potluck. Please sign up in the gathering space.

Dearest Halfway Creek Family,

Welcome to a New Year of Faith and Fellowship!!

As we step into 2026, we give thanks to God for the blessing of the past year and the promise of the one ahead. A new year always brings fresh beginnings—an opportunity to renew our faith, recommit to our spiritual growth, and strengthen our bonds as a church family.

This month, may we seek God's guidance in all we do, trusting Him to lead us through every challenge and opportunity that lies ahead. Let us continue to serve with compassion, worship with joy, and share Christ's love with everyone we meet.

Here's to a year of hope, renewal, and grace. May God's peace fill your hearts and homes in 2026!!

Blessings ~ Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Your attention is needed: Please review the December 11 Vision Board (VB) minutes, the Constitution changes approved by VB on Nov. 13, 2025, along with the Model Constitution changes in this newsletter. You can also request a hard copy by contacting the office. **Thank you!**

VISION BOARD

President

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

Vice President

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

Secretary

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Treasurer

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Olivia Nedoba
Ema Nedoba

Synod Authorized Minister

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

YOU ARE INVITED!

Safety/Security Presentation
Wednesday, January 28th at 6pm at HCLC

This presentation will be done to educate us on our response to an emergency if that were to occur here at HCLC. This will help us in setting up emergency plans and making any updates necessary to ensure increased safety at our church. Sgt Bauer of the La Crosse County Sheriff's Dept was here and did a walk through with Michelle Olson, one of our Vision Board members. She received a lot of useful information and great tips for safety/security. We think it is important to share this information with our staff, Vision Board, Sunday School/Confirmation staff, volunteers (who all are highly encouraged to attend) and anyone in the congregation who is interested in learning more.

NOISY OFFERING

In December our noisy offering supported ELCA Good Gifts! We sent a total of \$465.55 to this very important ministry and this amount was given in time to be matched! Thank you!!

Our January noisy offering will support the La Crosse Warming Center through Catholic Charities. Lacey Hein from Catholic Charities will be our guest speaker at worship on January 4th!

The La Crosse Warming Center's mission is to work with the greater La Crosse community to better serve those experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect by providing a safe and warm place for homeless adults 18 years and older to get in out of the cold during the winter months from November 1 until April 30. The

Warming Center is located downtown at 413 South Third Street in La Crosse. Guests are able to take a shower and wash their clothes. Hours for the center are from 7:00 pm until 8:00 am, Monday through Sunday, including holidays. To keep the doors open, hundreds of volunteers from area churches and the community are needed to staff the center.

In-Kind Donations

ALL In-Kind donations are being accepted at the Catholic Charities Office Building (508 South 5th Avenue - downtown La Crosse) on Mondays - Thursdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Staff and volunteers will be available to assist you.

(CONTINUED PAGE 3)

Warming Center and Guest Needs

We appreciate your support given to the Warming Center and our guests! Below is a shopping list of needs, however, please remember monetary donations are vital to keep our Warming Center open. Make a monetary donation today!

Resource: <https://cclse.org/la-crosse-warming-center/>



SHOPPING LIST

warming shelter

<input type="checkbox"/> sugar	<input type="checkbox"/> shampoo, conditioner, body wash 20oz or larger
<input type="checkbox"/> cereal	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels
<input type="checkbox"/> Ramen to go cups	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Warmers
<input type="checkbox"/> CHEWY Granola Bars	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapstick/Lip Balm
<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Items To Go	<input type="checkbox"/> Disposable Razors
<input type="checkbox"/> Juice or Juice Mix	<input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant
<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Soap	<input type="checkbox"/> Winterized Gloves
<input type="checkbox"/> Dish Soap	<input type="checkbox"/> New Underwear (Adult)
<input type="checkbox"/> Shower Towels (Gently Used or New)	<input type="checkbox"/> Long Johns (Adult)
<input type="checkbox"/> Any Cleaning Products	<input type="checkbox"/> Duffle & Book Bags
<input type="checkbox"/> Men's clothing 2X & larger, work boots size 10 & up	

OUTREACH MINISTRY

It was another busy month. Thank you to all who contributed to the **Caring Tree**. We filled the need for 20 tags this year. Thank you for your generosity and making these children a priority this holiday season!

The **Cookie Walk** on December 14th to benefit the youth was a great success! Thanks to all who donated cookies, we had quite the variety (and we

have some really good bakers!) Also thank you to all who bought cookies. The youth raised nearly \$500! WOW! And last, but not least, thanks to Jodi Eide for heading this up and to her helpers, Jillian, Petra Nedoba, Ema and Olivia! Great job!

Our **blood drives** have been quite successful in 2025. We are planning on doing 3 drives in 2026-April, July and November. Watch in the next couple months for more details and dates. Please spend an hour with us at HCLC and donate blood! (Plus, you get some good food afterwards!) Thank you to everyone who participated in all our outreach events in 2025. We are truly a generous bunch and are living our mission of Reach Out, Share Christ with All!

Next on the Calendar our Card Ministry will meet on January 14 at 11 AM to write out greeting cards and share a meal. Please RSVP to Shari in the office if you can attend!

CONFIRMATION

In December, we visited the Bethlehem Event. It was neat to see the hard work that goes into it after volunteering to help with set up. The kids enjoyed talking about what it was like to live back then. We have been reciting The Lord's Prayer & Apostle Creed along with reviewing baptism and our lessons. We look forward to January when we'll continue with lessons. We would love to have more students! Invite your friends to join us.



HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

Happy 2026 Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, as a young person quotes:

“This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.” – Taylor Swift

Everyone knows life brings changes every day! Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery is ready to help you make life changing decisions. 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.

Wishing you a year of blessings, peace, and good health.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School students performed at worship on December 14. We had a great turn out and everyone enjoyed hearing the kids sing and listening to Calvin and Esther play Christmas music on the piano. Thank you all!

We'll gather on Jan 4th for Pancakes and PJs at 9:15 AM. All are invited. We'll resume classes on January 11 at 9 AM. See you soon.

Happy New Year!



FINANCIALS THROUGH NOVEMBER

	Total Offering	Rent Income	Expenditures	Difference
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	\$16,641.73	-\$596.73
May-25	\$10,455.00	\$2,150.00	\$13,958.96	-\$1,353.96
June-25	\$13,480.00	\$2,150.00	\$14,350.63	\$1,279.37
July-25	\$10,921.00	\$2,150.00	\$16,522.12	-\$3,451.12
August-25	\$12,859.00	\$2,150.00	\$13,651.15	\$1,357.85
September-25	\$20,966.00	\$2,150.00	\$20,754.31	\$2,361.69
October-25	\$13,611.00	\$2,150.00	\$15,242.75	\$518.25
November-25	\$12,319.00	\$2,150.00	\$11,351.96	\$3,117.04
Totals	\$130,203.18	\$21,500.00	\$149,509.48	\$2,193.70

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Tuck Kinsman
 3 Ryder Sherry
 4 Carrie Payne
 5 Mia Bartnik, Joe Feltes
 6 Keith Casberg, Petra Nedoba
 7 Tonya Holley, John Stasiak
 9 Paula Hammes, Noah Lepsch
 10 Lonnie Oines, Edward Scholze, Tyler Sherry
 11 Cody Smith
 14 Mary Jane Nelson
 18 Joy Jandt, Jordyn Stasiak
 23 Kathie Severson
 26 Erica Nichols, Matt Rink, Camden Thiele
 27 Brystol Pralle
 31 Wayne Atchley



IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for friends and family of those who have recently passed: Bob Cottrell, Amanda Anderson, Beulah Sanders, Harvey Miller

We pray for 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.

Tell us what you think!

We have a new look! We've recently updated our newsletter platform and redesigned our layout to better serve you.

We value your feedback—please let us know what you think of the changes so we can continue to streamline our updates and keep you informed. Thank you! Shari

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR BUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
JAN 4	10:00 Patti	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
JAN 11	10:00 Ron & Patti	Stan	Bette	Bette Susan
JAN 18	10:00 Ron & Patti	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E
JAN 25	10:00 Pastor Wayne	Joe	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!



HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES, 2025
December 11, 2025

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

GUESTS: Jodi Anderson

ABSENT: Carrie Payne, Nicole Stumlin, Olivia Nedoba and Ema Nedoba

Call to Order @ 5:59PM

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

Devotion/Prayer - Nancy

Actions since last meeting: Approved 11/13/25 VB minutes via email.

Financial Report :

- We received the report with a review of the financials by Jodi.
- Noisy Offering:
 - December: ELCA Good Gifts along with ornaments on the tree.
 - January: Warming Center in La Crosse. Bette will identify a day when we can serve breakfast.
 - February: LuMin Campus Ministry
 - March: Outreach Ministries here at HCLC
- Motion made and seconded to adjust the proposed 2026 budget by decreasing Mission Support from \$10,000 to \$9000.
Discussion: Most of what we collect in our noisy offering goes through the synod to the organizations that we have supported.
Motion approved. This will be presented at the annual meeting.

Ministry/Office Update:

- SAMs report - Reviewed Patti's activity during the month of Oct.
- Patti shared her goals for the coming year. On December 16, 2025, the VB will meet with the Bishop and review Patti's evaluation with him.
- Motion made and seconded to allow Shari and/or Jodi to use the facility for the purpose of craft events as the calendar allows.
Motion approved.

Music and Liturgy:

- Children's Christmas program is scheduled for December 14, 2025. The schedule that day will also include a cookie walk sponsored by the youth.
- Special Christmas Music Sunday on December 21, 2025.
- Christmas Eve services are planned for 2PM and 4PM. Volunteers are still needed.

Property and Maintenance: There are two items that we are watching.

- **Boiler:** It is working right now, but the company that made it is out of business. If we have any trouble with it, we may need to replace because parts aren't available to fix it.
- **Elevator:** Getting an estimate for repairs if we continue to have problems with it.

Old Business:

- Safety plan/policies:
 - Michelle will organize an informational meeting on January 28th in the evening with La Crosse County Sheriff's dept on ways to improve our safety and security. Target group: VB, SS and confirmation teachers, staff, others who frequently use building and anyone in the congregation interested.
 - Michelle also reported that in followup to the meeting of the La Crosse Area Security Network with other churches, there is a lot of information and resources available to us as we develop policies.
 - During the synod assembly in June 2025, a resolution was presented and passed regarding our synod exploring becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) synod. RIC is a designation ELCA churches and ministry settings may adopt, after undergoing a discernment process. RIC emphasizes the importance of welcoming and affirming all marginalized groups, including but not limited to people of every race, nationality, age, political affiliation, marital status, gender identity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, mental and physical abilities. RIC designation also intentionally declares commitment to full inclusion and justice for all marginalized groups. More info available at: <http://lacrossesynod.org/ric-resources>. Our discussion focused on what does that mean for us and our mission of "Reaching Out to Share Christ with ALL." Next steps: Follow the synod's progress and take advantage of any education offered.

New Business

- Model Constitution Amendments - Amy reviewed the amendments prepared by the Office of the Secretary of ELCA in followup to Church-wide Assembly of the ELCA this past summer. Motion made and seconded to accept the changes into the HCLC Constitution. Discussion: Next step is approval by a majority vote at the February 1, 2026 annual meeting. Motion approved. The posting of these minutes in the newsletter will be notification prior to the annual meeting. Please refer to addendum attached to these minutes.
- Time to start thinking about members of the congregation who would be good candidates to serve on the Vision Board in 2026. Both Andrea and Amy will be finishing their 4 year terms.
- Annual meeting: February 1, 2026. Shari has a request out for team updates to be included in the annual report.
- Versiti blood drive dates in 2026 are April 10, July 31 and November 20. The last blood drive here was very successful.

Closing Prayer

Adjournment: 7:30 PM

Next meeting(s): VB on Thursday, January 8, 2026 6pm

January agenda:

- Review of church policies: Andrea/Patti
- Prepare for annual meeting
- Weather closing communication

Constitution Changes approved by HCLC VB on November 13, 2025

Chapter 9. ROSTERED MINISTER: ADD

C9.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, conduct of Synod Authorized Ministers will be held accountable to the [Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline of Rostered Ministers](#).

A. Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs) are trained lay members that are called to word and sacrament ministry in this congregation under the blessing and authority of the Bishop. The Synod Authorized Minister may:

1. Preach and teach the word of God;
2. Preside at worship and administer the sacraments;
3. provide pastoral care and counseling to the members of the parish as needed;
4. Provide pastoral leadership for the meetings, activities, and organization of the congregation;
5. Encourage the congregation to support the total ministry of the ELCA;
6. Refrain from involvement in the call process unless requested by the Bishop;
7. Regularly attend meetings and participate in continuing education opportunities of the synod and conference.
8. For the purpose of being in relationship and ministry together in Jesus Christ, a synod authorized minister will spend an agreed upon number of hours per week in contact hours with people for worship services, visitation, new members, emergencies, visitation of the hospitalized and shut-ins, parish meetings, confirmation, funeral and their preparations, and their preparations, administration, correspondence and other communication, counseling, office hours, preparation for meetings, travel between meetings and visitation, text study, monthly conference meetings, required synod meetings, and certain community functions), plus another day in preparation for sermons, classes, etc., either at home or at the church. Specifics of these expectations will be documented prior to authorization.

C9.33. The specific duties of Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs), compensation, and other matters pertaining to the service of the SAM shall be included in a contract, which shall be attested by the Bishop of the synod.

C10.02. A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the [senior] pastor, the Congregation Council, or the president¹ of this congregation, and shall be called by the president of this congregation upon the written request of ~~10 percent~~ **quorum** of the voting members. The president of the Congregation Council shall call a special meeting upon request of the synod bishop. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held, and no other business shall be transacted. **Reference: C10.04. 5 percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.**

C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays or by mail to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient. **To extent permitted by state law, the posting of such notice alternatively be provided electronically.** ~~be done via electronic notice.~~ **Note: Matches language of C10.08 and C12.1.**

C12.01. The voting membership of this congregation Council, also known as the Vision Board, shall consist of the pastor(s) [and deacon(s)], **synod authorized minister** and seven to nine members of this congregation including the following officers: president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. The pastor(s), **deacon and/or synod authorized minister (SAM)** shall serve as an ex officio member of the council. ~~She shall have voice, but no vote.~~ Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office.

Reference: C10.09. "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited. This was an update to to 2022 model constitution and approved by the congregation.

Also updated in C12.11., C13.06., and C13.08

C12.05 The Vision board shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

C. Vision Board may enter into contracts of up to \$ ~~5,000~~ **\$10,000** for items not included in the budget.

D. Vision Board shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$~~2,000~~ **\$5000** in excess of the approved budget only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. **If the issue is urgent or catastrophic, then approval will be by majority vote of the Vision Board and then communicated to the congregation.**

~~G. The Vision Board will appoint the Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary is not a member of the Vision Board. The financial secretary shall track financial contributions made by members of this congregation, assure that recording and reporting of such contributions are done according to laws governing charitable contributions, issue regular reports of contributions to all members of this congregation, and provide members of this congregation with offering envelopes and/or other contribution tools.~~
Note: Replaced with the financial assistant staff role.

C12.07. The Vision Board shall provide for ~~an annual~~ **every three year** review of the membership roster.

Chapter 13. CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

C13.01. The President and Vice President of this congregation and the pastor, deacon or synod authorized minister shall constitute the **Executive Committee and may also include any other Vision Board members deemed necessary.**

~~**C13.02.** The **Nominating Committee** shall consist of the vice president, and a minimum of two others. The two others serving on this committee shall be voting members of this congregation and shall be appointed by the Vision Board. The Vice President shall convene the Nominating Committee. The pastor serves as an advisor to this committee.~~

C13.03. An **Audit Committee** ~~of three voting members shall be appointed by the Vision Board. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Vision Board. Terms shall be three years, with one member appointed each year. Members shall be eligible for reappointment.~~ **shall consist of the financial assistant and the treasurer along with one member of the congregation appointed by the president to audit all financial records of the congregation. Results of the audit are presented at the annual meeting.**

~~**C13.04.** **Mutual Ministry Committee(s)** (in the absence of a mutual ministry committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president [vice president²] and the rostered minister. Term of office shall be two years, with three members to be appointed each successive year.~~

Add: C13.09. A Property Team shall be appointed by the Vision Board. Members shall include the Head Custodian and members of the congregation. The Property Team shall serve in an advisory role as binding decisions are made by the pastor, deacon or synod authorized minister and/or the Vision Board .

Add: C13.010. A Music and Liturgy Team shall be appointed by the Vision Board. The committee should be lead by the Director of Music Ministry and shall include the pastor, deacon and/or synod authorized minister along with members of the congregation.

Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations
Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of ELCA - August 2025

C1.02. For the purpose of this constitution and the accompanying bylaws, **and continuing resolutions** this congregation of Halfway Creek Lutheran Church is hereinafter designated as "this congregation."

Rationale: Insertion for comprehensiveness

***C5.04.** This congregation **or the Congregational Council** shall elect from among ~~its~~ **the** voting members **of the congregation** laypersons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be ~~elected by this congregation~~ and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by the La Crosse Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Rationale: If not elected at the annual meeting can be elected by council.

***C7.03.** If the voting members of this congregation present at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation vote to **relate transfer** to another Lutheran church body, title to property shall continue to reside in this congregation, provided the process for termination of relationship in *C6.05. has been followed. Before this congregation takes action to **relate transfer** to another Lutheran church body, it shall consult with representatives of the La Crosse Area Synod.

Rationale: consistent with 9.71.d. of the ELCA constitution.

***C9.02. This congregation may call as a pastor only:**

- a. member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop. ~~may be called as a pastor of this congregation.~~

***C9.22. This congregation may call as a deacon only;**

- a. a member of the roster of Ministers of Word and Service of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or
- b. a candidate for the roster of Ministers of Word and Service who has been recommended for this congregation by the synod bishop. ~~may be called as a deacon of this congregation.~~

Rationale: Reformatted

***C9.03.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, **proclaiming God's love for the world**, advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

***C9.23.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, **proclaiming God's love for the world**,

advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Rationale: Restores a phrase that was omitted in 2019 Assembly

- *C9.06.** At a time of pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor ~~shall~~ **may** be appointed by the bishop of the synod with the consent of this congregation or this congregation Council.

Rationale: It is not always possible to assign an interim.

- *C9.15.** Under special circumstances, subject to the approval of the synod bishop and the concurrence of this congregation, minister of Word and Sacrament of a church body with which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially has established a relationship of full communion may serve temporarily as pastor of this congregation under a contract between this congregation and the minister of Word and Sacrament in a form proposed by the synod bishop and approved by this congregation.

Rationale: *Changed to required provision of the constitution.

- *C15.01.** Denial of the Christian faith as described in this constitution, conduct grossly unbecoming a member of the Church of Christ, or persistent trouble-making in this congregation are sufficient cause for discipline of a member. Prior to disciplinary action, reconciliation will be attempted following Matthew 18:15-17, proceeding through these successive steps, **as necessary:**
- private **council and** admonition by the pastor,
 - Censure and** admonition by the pastor in the presence of two or three witnesses,
 - citation to appear before **written referral of the matter by the Congregation council to the vice president of the synod, who will refer it to a consultation panel draw for the Consultation Committee of the synod, and .**
 - Written referral of the matter by the consultation panel to the Committee on Discipline of the synod.**
 - If for any reason, the pastor is unable to administer the admonitions required by a. and b. hereof, those steps may be performed by another pastor chosen by the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council. the president (if not the pastor) or vice president shall administer such admonitions.**

Rationale: Formatting correction and consistency of constitutional language.

- *C15.11.** When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president [vice president] of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in ~~†S14.18.d.~~ ***9.05.d.** In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Rationale: Makes more sense to cross reference Model constitution than synod constitution.

- *C16.02.** An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01. shall:
- be approved at any legally called meeting of the congregation according to this constitution by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; and
 - be ratified **unchanged** ~~without change~~ at the next regular meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

Rationale: Consistency of constitutional language.

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

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 AM – 3 PM
Wednesday – 9 AM – 3 PM
Thursday – 9 AM – 3 PM
Friday – closed
Saturday – closed
Sunday – worship

Pastoral Care

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

Social Media

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and our website.

@halfwaycreeklutheranchurchholmen
#halfwaycreeklutheranchurch
#reachoutsharechristwithall

