

Welcome to Worship!



December 21, 2025—10:00 a.m. Worship Leader:

Pastor Carol Garman

Accompanist: Lynn Wegner

Order of Worship

(ELW-Evangelical Lutheran Worship-red hymnal; WOV - With One Voice-blue hymnal)

Prelude "The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth" John Daily, Ron Christensen

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Response to first reader: With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

Gathering Song

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ELW 247

Greeting

c: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

"Be Born in Me"

Hannah Wegner

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Gospel Acclamation

"Let Your Steadfast Love"

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. (repeat)

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Gospel Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" v.1,3,4,6 ELW 257

Affirming Our Faith

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.

True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ. **This is our faith. This is our hope.**

Prayers of Intercession God of grace, hear our prayer.

Peace c: And also with you.

Offering Anthem "Infant Holy"

Worship Team

Offertory Song "Blessed is the One"

Blessed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord. (repeat)

Offering Prayer c: Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer ELW pg 112

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn "He Came Down" ELW 253

"What Feast of Love" ELW 487
"All Earth is Hopeful" ELW 266

Post Communion Blessing c: Amen.
Prayer after Communion c: Amen.
Blessing c: Amen.

Sending Song "Soon and Very Soon"

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King (sing 3 times)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King

v2. We have seen the star, and we are goin' to see the King (sing 3 times)

Announcements

<u>Birthdays this week</u>: Kelly Anderson, Alayna Ruhbusch, David Erdman

Noisy Offering: Our December Noisy offering will be donated to ELCA Good Gifts. Last weekend we collected \$68.14 for a total of \$106.59 so far! ELCA Good Gifts ornaments are a great gift anytime! These ornaments represent livestock and food for those in need. Please place money in the envelope in the gathering space and feel free to take an ornament with you!

<u>2025 Financial Contributions</u>: Year-end offerings and donations are due by noon on December 31, 2025, to be counted for the year. Thank you!

Thank you to our <u>Sunday School students</u>, families, teachers and Lynn for blessing us with your music last weekend! As a reminder, there will be no class next weekend. We'll see you Jan 4 for Pancakes and Pjs. The whole congregation is invited!

<u>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services</u> are December 24 at 2 PM and 4 PM. Invite your friends and family to join us. All are welcome! Volunteers, please sign up in the gathering space.

HCLC Business: We are looking for a couple Vision Board members to begin in 2026. Nominations are open and forms may be found in the gathering space or through our online form (link in the E-News). Please have all nominations submitted by Jan. 4.

Our Annual Congregation Meeting and Halfway Creek Cemetery Meeting are on February 1st. Please save the date.

Thank You to everyone involved in our Music Ministry! We appreciate you! Lynn Wegner Patti Happel Kathi Hagel John Daily Ron Christensen Jon Strangstalien Hannah Wegner Samantha Bartnik Marjorie Lee Esther Smith Calvin Smith Jordan Anderson Blake Anderson

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, Thema Severson, Katie Wier, Phoebe & Bill Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Cary Heyer, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Coats family

With our deepest sympathy, we share that Bob Cottrell passed on Wednesday. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Welcome to Worship!

Thank you for being here today. We want you to feel at home when you are here at HCLC, so please remember:

As you participate: Bolded words on the screen are for you to speak. Even though the pastor indicates when to stand up or sit down, that is not mandatory. We do not judge when it's done differently. Move around as you need to and please worship as your body demands it.

Offering

The offering is our way of showing that when we come to the table we bring ourselves as well as all we have been given by God to be blessed for service in God's world.

The offering plate is passed around during the offering song.

The cake pan is for our Noisy Offering. Each month we choose a cause to support.

Offerings can also be made through our website or by using this QR code. Thank you for the many ways you support HCLC and our mission.



Holy Communion

All are welcome to the table today when communion is offered. It is not our table, but Jesus is the host. So, in this place **all** are welcome to Jesus' table.

Pre-packaged communion kits, **regular and gluten-free**, are available for communing in your seats or bringing them forward with you.

The ushers will have them in a basket.

Communion in the front aisle will be baked bread and both wine and juice (the wine is red, juice is clear).

Kids

We welcome kids to participate fully in any part of the service! You may pass the offering plate or noisy offering, and we have activity bags as you enter church.

An **AED** is available in case of an emergency. It is located just outside the sanctuary doors.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship each week after service. Guests and members please take a moment to fill out the Welcome Card in the pew. We want to know how we can best minister to you.

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church ELCA W6016 County Rd W, Holmen, WI 54636

Phone: 608-526-3701 Website: halfwaycreek.org

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thu: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m.

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President: Bette Pedretti

Vice President: Nicole Stumlin

Secretary: Amy Noel; Treasurer: Carrie Payne Members: Andrea Baxter, Nancy Holley, Michelle Olson, Wayne Atchley, Ema Nedoba, Oliva Nedoba

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