



Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship!

First Sunday of Christmas, December 28, 2025—10:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Ralph Kuespert Accompanist: Lynn Wegner

Order of Worship

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Reconciling God,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✙ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! Amen.

Gathering Song

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

ELW 275

Greeting

c: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

"Angels We Have Heard on High" v 1

ELW 289

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading	Isaiah 63:7-9	
Gospel Acclamation	“Alleluia”	setting 8
Gospel	Matthew 2:13-23	
Sermon		
Hymn of the Day	“What Child Is This” v. 1-2	ELW 296
Apostles’ Creed		page 105
Prayers of Intercession	Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.	
Peace	c: And also with you.	
Offertory Song	“What Child Is This” v. 3	ELW 296
Offering Prayer	c: Amen.	
Great Thanksgiving (sung)		

Oh, may the good Lord be with you. **And may the Lord be with you too.**

Lift your hearts to Him in praise. **To the Lord our hearts we raise.**

Let us offer praises true. **It is fitting so to do. Gratefully we sing, to the Lord our King!**

Holy, Holy (sung)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of hosts, by all adored: Heaven and earth cannot contain, All the glory of your name! With the heav’nly host we sing, Highest praises to our King: Hail! Hosanna! Endless fame, be to him who, in God’s name, Now draws nigh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hail, Hosanna! Praises be to the Lord Eternally!

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer (sung)

**Our father, Lord on heav’n’s high throne, Most holy be your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done On earth—in heav’n the same**

**Give us this day the food we need; Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do not lead; From evil set us free.**

**Yours is the kingdom; unto You In grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.**

**The glory Yours; Your praise be sung By angel hosts and men
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue Forevermore! Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God (sung)

**Lamb of God, the world's Redeemer, Mercy to your people give.
Lamb of God, the world's Redeemer, May we in your mercy live.
Lamb of God, we all implore, Grant us peace forevermore.**

Communion Hymn	"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"	ELW 276
	"The Bells of Christmas"	ELW 298
	"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	ELW 279

Post Communion Blessing **c: Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle (sung)

**Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure; And steadfast love fore'er endure!
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard, And we have tasted of His word.
As His own servants we depart; With His salvation in our heart.
His saving power He has made known: His love through all the earth is shown.
Lord, let us show the world Your light; Let us declare Your glory bright,
Proclaim Your death until You come; To take Your ransomed servants home.
Glory to God, the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure; And steadfast love fore'er endure!**

Prayer after Communion **c: Amen.**

Blessing **c: Amen.**

Sending Song "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" ELW 288

Dismissal

**Glory to God in the highest! And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Announcements

Birthdays this week: Tilly Kinsman, Jacob Thornton, Tuck Kinsman, Ryder Sherry

Noisy Offering: Our December Noisy offering will be donated to ELCA Good Gifts.

2025 Financial Contributions: Year-end offerings and donations are due by noon on December 31, 2025, to be counted for the year. Happy New Year and thank you!

Join us January 4 at 9:15 AM for Pancakes and Pjs. We'll have pancakes, sausages, milk and juice. The whole congregation is invited! Worship will follow at 10 AM with Patti Happel presiding.

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 Feb. 1. After the meeting we'll enjoy a congregation wide Potluck! We'll have a sign up in the gathering space throughout January.

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

If you purchased a poinsettia, please feel free to take one home after worship today.

**Halfway Creek Lutheran Church ELCA
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Website: halfwaycreek.org

Office Hours:

Tues, Wed, Thu: 9 AM – 3 PM

Worship: Sundays at 10 AM

Synod Authorized Minister: Patti Happel
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