



Welcome to Worship!

February 22, 2026 —10:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Ron Christensen, Patti Happel Accompanist: Lynn Wegner

Order of Worship

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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Song of Confession Naked/Broken (by Steve Eulberg, Owl Mountain Music)

**When my mask is stripped away
And my smile falls to the ground
You can see into my heart,
All my hiding has been found.**

Refrain
**Tell me how can I be loved,
If then this is what God sees?
Feeling naked incomplete
Makes me fall down on my knees.**

**I can only be myself
Standing stripped before your gaze,
And the fear of who I am
Makes me turn my eyes away.**

Refrain

Forgiveness
Greeting

**Have mercy on me, God
And cleanse me from my sin
From the guilt that all can see
And what's hiding deep within. *Refrain***

**Create in me, O God
A clean, unbroken heart.
Let your Holy Spirit guide me
In a brand new start.**

Final refrain
**So then this is how God loves!
O Lord, open my mouth
And I joyfully will sing
Your praises North and South!**

**c: Amen.
c: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading
Gospel Acclamation

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
“Our Eyes Are Turned”

**Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ,
Our eyes are turned to the Lord God, our Savior.**

Gospel
Sermon
Hymn of the Day

Matthew 4:1-11
“When We Are Tested”

**When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.**

**When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

**When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.**

**When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Peace
Offering Song

c: And also with you.
“Now Is the Time of Grace”

**Now is the time of grace, now is the day of salvation.
Turn now, and seek God's face, now behold God's invitation.**

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

ELW p 112

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymns

“Thy Holy Wings” ELW 613

“Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song” ELW 808

Post Communion Blessing

c: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

c: Amen.

Blessing

c: Amen.

Sending Song

“The Lord Is My Light”

lyrics below

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Lord is my light and my salvation, the Lord is my light and my salvation, the Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

Refrain

Whom shall I fear,
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life;
whom shall I fear?

In the time of trouble, he shall hide me;
in the time of trouble, he shall hide me;
in the time of trouble, he shall hide me;
whom shall I fear?

Wait on the Lord and be of good courage,
oh, wait on the Lord and be of good courage,
wait on the Lord and be of good courage;
he shall strengthen thy heart.

Refrain

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.



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.

Synod Authorized Minister: Patti Happel
pastor@halfwaycreek.org, 608-317-9525
Administrative Assistant: Shari Ireland
assistant@halfwaycreek.org

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.

Financial Assistant: Jodi Anderson
jodi.anderson@halfwaycreek.org

Music Ministry: Lynn Wegner
lwegner2005@yahoo.com

HCLC Vision Board Members:
President Bette Pedretti,
Vice President Nicole Stumlin,
Secretary Michelle Olson, Treasurer Carrie Payne
Members: Nancy Holley, Wayne Atchley, Kent Kramer

Subscribe to our weekly E-news by contacting Shari in the office.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram: @halfwaycreeklutheranchurch

Announcements

Birthdays this week: Maison Payne, Bambi Daily, Josie Happel

Our **February Noisy Offering** supports LuMin Campus Ministry. Thanks to your generosity, we collected \$40.54 last week for a total of \$184.08 so far! Thank you for your continued support!

This year, our Lenten worship series, **Teach Us to Pray**, will focus on the spiritual practice of prayer. Each week, our 30-minute service will include an interactive experience exploring different forms of prayer and different ways to pray. Services will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Lenten Meals will begin February 25 at 545 PM. Themes and sign-ups are in the gathering space. We hope you will join us!

Easter flower orders are due March 3rd. Online order form may be found in the weekly E-News or on the back page of these announcements.

We welcome **Bishop Malpica** to worship on March 8th! Please join us!

Looking for people who enjoy **knitting and crocheting** for a new ministry at Halfway Creek! Contact Patti for more information! 608-317-9525 or email: pastor@halfwaycreek.org.

As we journey through the heart of the Lenten season, we invite you to gather for reflection, worship, and celebration. **Maundy Thursday & Good Friday:** Services will be held at 6:30 PM. On **Easter Sunday** we'll celebrate the Resurrection at 10:00 AM, with Patti Happel presiding.

In Our Prayers:

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

We pray for Ron Christensen, Bill Baxter, 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

Easter Flowers

At Easter, we decorate the church in celebration of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. If you would like to present an Easter flower in honor, memory or celebration of a person or event, please fill out this form and place it, with payment, in the offering plate or mail to HCLC. **All orders & payment must be received in the office by Tuesday, March 3, 2026.**

Plant	How Many?	Price/each	Total Cost
Easter Lily		20	
Easter Lily Double		45	
Tulips		20	
Daffodils		20	
Hyacinth		20	
Grand Total			

Name _____ Phone: _____

Please circle occasion and complete the rest of the information for acknowledgement in the worship bulletin:

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

IN CELEBRATION OF:

From _____