

# CURRENTS

Reach Out, Share Christ with All

[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org)

## April

Office is closed Apr 2-6 and Apr 15.

- 2 – 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday worship
- 3 – 6:30 PM Good Friday worship
- 5 – 10:00 AM Easter Sunday worship; Easter Egg Hunt will follow worship!
- 8 – 6:00 PM Confirmation
- 9 – 6:00 PM Vision Board Meeting
- 10 – 10:00 – 2:30 PM Blood Drive
- 12 – 10:00 AM Worship; Installation of Vision Board; First Aid & AED Refresher after worship
- 15 – 11:00 AM Card Writing Outreach (off campus – call for more information and to rsvp). No office hours.
- 15 - 6:00 PM Confirmation
- 16 – 9:30 AM Bible Study
- 19 – 10:00 Worship with Pastor Garman
- 22 – 6:00 PM 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation only
- 26 – 9:00 AM Sunday School last day; 10:00 AM Worship with Pastor Wayne; Blessing of the Bikes! 3:00 PM La Crosse County Goats Meeting
- 29 – 6:00 PM 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation only

### **Dearest Halfway Creek Family and Friends,**

April arrives with a quiet kind of hope. The earth begins to soften, light lingers a little longer each evening, and signs of new life appear where winter once held firm. In the church, we find ourselves walking the sacred path from Lent toward the promise of Easter—a journey marked by reflection, repentance, and, ultimately, resurrection.

This season invites us to hold both honesty and hope together. We name the brokenness in our world and in our own lives, while also trusting in God's enduring grace. As a community of faith, we are reminded that resurrection is not only a future promise, but something God is already bringing about among us—in acts of kindness, in renewed relationships, and in the ways we reach out to serve our neighbors.

Throughout this month, we gather for worship, prayer, and fellowship, grounding ourselves in the story that shapes us. Whether through Holy Week services, shared meals, or outreach ministries, each moment becomes an opportunity to encounter Christ anew.

May this April be a time when you notice signs of resurrection all around you—and within you. God is always at work, bringing life out of death, hope out of despair, and light into every shadow.

*Blessings ~*

Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister

## VISION BOARD

### President

Bette Pedretti  
[bettepedretti@yahoo.com](mailto:bettepedretti@yahoo.com)  
608-526-3241

### Vice President

Nicole Stumlin  
[bigfarmer053@yahoo.com](mailto:bigfarmer053@yahoo.com)  
608-769-3642

### Secretary

Michelle Olson  
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### Treasurer

Carrie Payne  
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608-790-4401

Wayne Atchley

[atchleyw@charter.net](mailto:atchleyw@charter.net)  
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Nancy Holley

[5445nanh@gmail.com](mailto:5445nanh@gmail.com)  
608-792-6310

Kent Kramer

[kentkramer7@gmail.com](mailto:kentkramer7@gmail.com)  
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### Synod Authorized Minister

Patti Happel  
[pastor@halfwaycreek.org](mailto:pastor@halfwaycreek.org)  
608-317-9525

## HOLY WEEK (Apr 2-5)

### Maundy Thursday &

### Good Friday:

Services will be held at 6:30 PM.

### Easter Sunday:

Worship at 10:00 AM

## HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

### VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2026

**ATTENDEES:** Patti Happel, Carrie Payne, Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley, Nicole Stumlin, Michelle Olson, Wayne Atchley

**DISMISSED:** Kent Kramer

**GUEST:** Jodi Anderson

### Call to Order

- 6:02 pm

### Approval of Agenda/Timekeeper

- Agenda approved by NH and second by WA
- Timekeeper NS

### Devotion/Prayer:

- Wayne
- April-Michelle

### Actions since last meeting:

- Approved VB minutes via email 2/19/26

### Financial Report:

- Report presented by Jodi and reviewed by Vision Board members
- Jodi to investigate the cost of a full-time pastor with benefits per congregation interest following annual meeting
- Jodi noted we have a good amount of money in our checking account that we may want to consider if we want to invest some of that or seek other accounts that may be accessible, but accrues interest
- Noisy Offering
  - March-HCLC Outreach
  - April-HCLC gardeners
  - May- Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch Program
  - Request for potential noisy offering to go toward Trunk or Treat
  - Suggestion that we look at historical record of Summer noisy offerings as we do not have designations in place yet
    - Jodi proposed Roman's Wraps (October)

### Ministry/Office Update:

- SAMs report

- Patti shared her Ministry Report

### **Music and Liturgy:**

- Lynn got a quote on the keyboard and cordless microphones
  - Patti advised Lynn to use the money raised to purchase the keyboard
  - Cordless microphones are quite expensive and will be put on hold for now (will leave the money to consider purchasing later)
- Ongoing discussion regarding purchase a new receiver / microphone set
- Ongoing discussion to purchase a wireless headset

### **Old Business:**

- Update on VB members
  - Olivia and Emma have opted to no longer be on Vision Board, but are too busy to continue currently
- Follow up:
  - Sound system (see above)
  - Safety
    - MO read through insurance policy and no specifics regarding emergency plan or other requirements for coverage to hold
    - MO to reach out to insurance company to determine if they have a template that would be aligned with our insurance or for worship organizations in general
    - MO and CP to meet again to determine equipment and signage needs
  - Blood Drive signs
    - Work in progress
  - Any other updates from Teams
    - Rewiring of kitchen stoves needed
      - move to approve PH, NH second, all in favor
    - Renters planning to break ground in June (likely moving out near end of year)
- Reminder Council Retreat: Saturday, March 14; 9am-12pm at Journey
  - Carrie, Bette, and Nicole to attend
- Synod Assembly: Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 8am-5pm at Stoney Creek
- Pending weather advisory
  - Reviewed procedure for announcing cancellation
- Free Community Health Screening at UWL
  - MO to share a flyer with Shari and to place flyers out on the table as well

### **New Business:**

- Date for VB members installation
  - April 12<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>

### **New Members:**

- Rick and Patti Johnson
- Kay Jensen and children

### **Closing Prayer**

**Adjournment 6:58pm**

**Next meeting(s): Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 6 pm**

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!**

We are excited to welcome our newest members, Rick and Patty Johnson and Kay Jensen and her children Iris, River and Todd! We hope you find HCLC to be a place where you can grow spiritually and use your gifts to serve, while becoming a part of our church family. We are so blessed that you are here!

When you see them on a Sunday, please take a moment to introduce yourself, say hello and make them feel at home.

## **A SPECIAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE**

We want to share a heartfelt thank you to everyone who stepped up and helped keep our church clean and welcoming while Rich and Bette were away on vacation this past month.

Managing the upkeep of our space is a true community effort, and your willingness to jump in was very much appreciated! We would like to give a special shout-out to Wayne, Amy, and Mike, along with everyone else who lent a hand during this time.

Your hard work and dedication to our church home did not go unnoticed. Thank you for your service!

## **NOISY OFFERING**

Throughout March the Noisy Offering supported our HCLC Outreach Ministries as of this printing we had collected \$358.94! The April Noisy Offering will help our Gardeners Group! Spring planting is just a month away!! Keep making some noise!

## **MONTHLY OFFERING SUMMARY**

| 2026   | Total Offering | Rent Income | Expenditures | Difference  |
|--------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Jan    | \$10,127.95    | \$2,150.00  | \$19,875.68  | -\$7,597.73 |
| Feb    | \$11,569.00    | \$2,150.00  | \$12,512.22  | \$1,206.78  |
| Totals | \$21,696.95    | \$4,300.00  | \$32,387.90  | -\$6,390.95 |

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY**

### **Care Packages for our 1st year College Students**

We are sending care packages this spring to our college students. We had very positive feedback from those who received them last fall. It is important for our students to feel supported during this transition year into the next chapter of their life. We want them to know that they are important, we are proud of them and that we continue to pray for them.

**We are asking for donations of Easter Candy, Pretzels, Trail Mix, Goldfish crackers, Cheez Its, protein bars, gum, gift cards (Starbucks, Target, Kwik Trip, Culvers).**

Please have all donations to church by Sunday, April 12th as we will be assembling and mailing these around April 15th.

### **Card Ministry**

We will be meeting on Wednesday, April 15. Our time and location have changed, please contact the [office](#) if you would like to join us this month as we take our ministry off campus. There will be no office hours on April 15. Join us for this time of fellowship as we write out cards of well-wishes and prayerful thoughts to those on our prayer list, befrienders list and others in the congregation/community. We have prompts for writing and provide all the supplies.

### **Free Cookies on Campus**

LuMin Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse hosts "Free Cookie Wednesday" every week during the academic year, typically from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM at the UWL clocktower. They hand out around 500 homemade cookies, often with therapy dogs present, to provide a study break for students. Halfway Creek is making cookies for this ministry to be handed out on April 15! Please sign-up and bring your homemade cookies in a non-returnable container to church by April 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**Save the Date: May 7th** We're heading to **Andy's Main Street Auto** in Holmen for a **Chicken Q and Bake Sale** to support our youth! A huge thank you to Andy for providing such a great space for this event. Tickets are \$12 presale or \$14 for walk ups! Stop by the office to purchase tickets or to get a few to sell!!

### **HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS**

I remember many Easter Sunday mornings at worship with the choir singing a song composed in 1874, by Robert Lowry, "Up from the Grave He Arose." He is also well known for the song, *Shall We Gather at the River*.

*Low in the grave He lay  
Jesus my Savior!  
Waiting the coming day  
Jesus my Lord!*

*Up from the grave He arose  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign  
He arose! (He arose)  
He arose! (He arose)  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

It's a wonderful song celebrating Christ's victory. Please listen to the whole song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdOmQwvbc4Q>

Celebrate Easter, life everlasting!

Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery Association is ready to help families make decisions for peaceful rest. If you have questions about lots, family locations, headstones please ask any of the trustees. 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:

Mark Witte, 608-317-0183 - Hannah Scholze, 608-797-9388 - Kent Kramer, 608-317-8644

## **BLESSING OF THE BIKES APRIL 26**

Ready, Set, Roll! 🚲 Blessing of Bicycles and other Wheeled Things

Spring is in the air, and it's time to get our wheels on the road! Whether you zip around on two wheels, cruise on three, or utilize a wheelchair to navigate the world, you are invited to our Blessing of the Bicycles and Other Wheeled Things.

Join us on Sunday, April 26 at 10 am worship for special prayers celebrating safe travels and the joy of creation. We will offer prayers for protection for all cyclists, skaters, and riders, followed by a special blessing for your equipment that is used during biking, motorcycle riding, or other wheeled activities: bike helmets, motorcycle helmets, water bottles, toe clips, bike locks, reflective clothing, knee or elbow pads, etc.

Children, families, and community members are all welcome. Let's pray for sunny days, safe paths, and fun adventures ahead!

Bring your bike helmet, motorcycle helmet, or other equipment used in wheeled activities and your spirit of adventure!

## **PROCESS FOR CANCELLATION OF CHURCH SERVICE/EVENTS**

We implemented a new process to notify members of cancellation of church services or events in case of inclement weather or other circumstances out of our control.

The vision board will make the determination of cancellation. The cancellation will be communicated in a variety of ways: Notification via our Facebook page, website and/or email will be sent.

Notification will appear on the cancellation list on TV via Channel WXOW 19 and Fox 25/48.

The cancellation for Sunday service will appear no later than 7 AM the day of service.

For other events during the week, such as Lent services, a decision will be posted via the same methods as above at least 3 hours prior to the start time of the event. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to one of our vision board members. Thank you!

## **LIVESTREAM IS AVAILABLE WHEN YOU CANNOT WORSHIP IN PERSON**

We have worked hard to maintain and enhance our livestream and YouTube replay of our weekly worship. While you may need to increase the volume on your device a little more than normal, the playback has routinely been of good quality. If you haven't listened to our livestream or taped worship in a while, give it a try again! The link is always shared in your weekly E-news, on our website and social media, or you can go directly to our YouTube channel:

<https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCP9mq3uSroLj3rJ9vfZQ6fw/videos/live?filter=%5B%5D&sort=%7B%22columnType%22%3A%22date%22%2C%22sortOrder%22%3A%22DESCENDING%22%7D>

## **GENERAL FIRST AID REFRESHER APRIL 12**



**RESCHEDULED!**  
**After Worship on  
Sunday, April 12**

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**GENERAL**  
**First Aid & AED Refresher**

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**Lead by  
Wayne Atchley  
Tri-State  
Ambulance**

We have rescheduled our General First Aid and AED Refresher for April 12<sup>th</sup> after worship. (You are already at church – no need to come back a different time!) Vision Board members, Office Staff, Building and Ground, Sunday School and Confirmation teachers, everyone is welcome. Please plan on attending, you may save a life!!!

Hosted by our own Tri-State Ambulance member Wayne Atchley.

## **BLOOD DRIVE COMING TO HCLC!**

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.

**Save the Date! You're invited to donate and become a hero at our upcoming blood drive.**

Blood Drive Details:

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

**April 10, 2026; 10:00 AM - 02:30 PM**

Schedule Appointments: [https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/11634014](https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11634014)

Give local, stay local. We look forward to seeing you there!

## CONFIRMATION

We have several important dates for our Confirmation students and their families to keep in mind this spring. Our time together at **Halfway Creek** has been filled with growth, and we are excited to see these students enter the final stretch of their confirmation sessions.

### Upcoming April Schedule

All Confirmation students will meet at **6:00 PM** at Halfway Creek on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, April 1**
- **Wednesday, April 8**
- **Wednesday, April 15**

To provide dedicated time for our 8th graders as they prepare for their next steps in faith, we will hold two specialized workshops focused on drafting and refining **Faith Statements**.

- **April 22 & April 29:** 8th Graders only.

We invite the entire community to join us in celebrating our confirmands during **Confirmation Sunday**.

- **Sunday, May 3 at 10:00 AM**

An enormous thank you goes out to our **dedicated leaders**, Kari, Nicole and Rich! Your commitment to mentoring these young people, leading discussions, and showing up every week is what makes this program possible. We are so grateful that you share your time with our youth!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be **no regular Sunday School classes** on **Easter Sunday, April 5**, so that families may worship together. However, the fun doesn't stop after the service!

We invite all of our students to stay and enjoy our **Easter Egg Hunt**, which will take place immediately following the Easter Sunday worship. It's always a highlight of the spring, and we can't wait to see the kids in action.

### Last Day of Sunday School: April 12

Our final session of the season will be a special one! We are wrapping up the year on **Sunday, April 12**, with a dual celebration including a planting day and year-end party! We'll celebrate all the friendships made and lessons learned this year!

### A Huge Thank You to Our Leaders

Programs like this simply don't happen without the heart and soul of our **Sunday School leaders**. Thank you for showing up every week with patience, creativity, and a passion for guiding our youngest members. We are so grateful for the energy you've poured into this year!



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3** Gregory Temp
- 4** Rachael Hauser, Trinity Horstman
- 6** Rhonda Britton, Doug Gordon,  
Cassie Tremain-Tolvstad
- 8** Melody Bartnik, Jeff Moss
- 12** Kennedy Strangstalien
- 16** Erica Daily
- 17** Marcella McDonald
- 18** Andrea Baxter
- 21** Kathleen Hagel, Chantel Temp
- 22** Gabriel Hansen, Allison Oines, Ethan Oines,  
Calvin Smith
- 23** Savannah Edwards, Philip Johnson,  
Joanne Mihm
- 27** Rebecca Hauser
- 28** Ryan Olson, Cartyr Stumlin
- 29** Audrey Bringe, Lars Oines



## SERVING AND WORSHIP

|                     | WORSHIP TIME           | SEXTON | ALTAR GUILD      | OFFERING COUNTERS |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>APR 5 EASTER</b> | 10:00<br>Patti         | Mike   | Carrie<br>Nicole | Rhonda<br>Sonja   |
|                     |                        |        |                  |                   |
| <b>APR 12</b>       | 10:00<br>Ron, Patti    | Stan   | Jess<br>Cook     | Bette<br>Susan    |
|                     |                        |        |                  |                   |
| <b>APR 19</b>       | 10:00<br>Pr.<br>Garman | Archie | Nancy            | Jodi E            |
|                     |                        |        |                  |                   |
| <b>APR 26</b>       | 10:00<br>Pr. Wayne     | Joe    | Bette            | Mike              |

## IN OUR PRAYERS

*We pray for* friends and family of those who have recently passed: Laurie Gillespie, Phoebe Kitzke, 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, 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, Bill Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Cary Heyer, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, the Coats family.

Congratulations to Kyle & Paige Burnikel and family on the Baptism of Baker Grey on March 22<sup>nd</sup>! *Thank God for the gift of baptism, which affirms our faith, washes us clean with God's love and forgiveness, welcomes us to the vast community of siblings in Christ and grants us a new life of service and sharing the gospel wherever we go.*

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church - We welcome ALL!

Join us for

# HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

6:30 PM April 2 | Maundy Thursday

6:30 PM April 3 | Good Friday

10:00 AM April 5 | Easter Sunday

[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org)

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR AN

# EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 5, 2026 - 11 AM

Kids are welcome to collect some filled eggs after our 10 AM Easter Sunday Worship! Bring your basket or bag!

[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

La Crosse Area Synod

# 2026 ASSEMBLY

Saturday, June 6, 2026  
Stoney Creek Hotel, Onalaska, WI  
Caucus Meeting: Sunday, April 19, 2026

[www.LaCrosseAreaSynod.org](http://www.LaCrosseAreaSynod.org)

SYNOD WIDE

# WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, JUNE 7  
10:00 AM

PICNIC FOLLOWING

RIVERSIDE PARK - LA CROSSE, WI

April is National Donate Life Month

[DonateLife.net](http://DonateLife.net)

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Blood Drive April 10!

Every lap tells a story.  
Every step honors a hero.

March to the Cross is a community fundraising challenge, hosted by the Holmen Knights of Columbus, created to honor our local veterans and raise funds for Freedom Honor Flight.

**ALL FUNDS RAISED GO TO FREEDOM HONOR FLIGHT**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 18**  
10 A.M.-1 P.M. WALK • HOLMEN MIDDLE SCHOOL  
1:30 BAGS TOURNAMENT & BASKET RAFFLE • FEATURES HOLMEN

**MARCH TO THE CROSS**

BENEFIT FOR FREEDOM HONOR FLIGHT

Freedom Honor Flight provides veterans with the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. at no cost to them, so they can visit the memorials built in their honor. Visit [www.freedomhonorflight.org](http://www.freedomhonorflight.org) for more information.

Knights of Columbus  
Father John Rossiter  
Council 9385

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

**Halfway Creek Lutheran Church**

**608-526-3701**

**[www.halfwaycreek.org](http://www.halfwaycreek.org)**

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### **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

