

# CURRENTS

Reach Out, Share Christ with All

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

## May

**3** – 10:00 AM **Confirmation Sunday** worship & reception

**7** – 11 AM – 6 PM HCLC Youth Fundraiser:  
**Chicken Q at Andy's Main Street Auto,**  
Holmen

**10** – 10:00 AM Sunday worship; Happy  
Mother's Day

**13** – 4:30 – 7:00 PM **Pick up** for Falls Meat  
Spring Fundraiser at HCLC

**14** – 6:00 PM Vision Board Meeting

**17** – 10:00 AM Worship; **Graduating Seniors  
Recognition**

**21** – 9:30 AM Bible Study

**24** – 10:00 AM Worship

**25** - Memorial Day

**31** – **9:00 AM Worship – Summer Schedule  
Begins**

## June

**6** – Synod Assembly at Stoney Creek

**7** – 10:00 AM Synod wide worship at Riverside  
Park, La Crosse. **NO worship at HCLC.**

Happy Spring to our dearest Halfway Creek Family,

In every season of our life together as the church, we are reminded that ministry does not happen through one person alone—it happens through the many hands and hearts God gathers. I consider Halfway Creek to be especially blessed by the generosity of our volunteers, whose quiet acts of service reflect Christ's love in powerful and meaningful ways.

From preparing meals or treats, or serving coffee, to teaching, visiting, organizing, praying, and showing up wherever there is a need.... you are the body of Christ in action. Your willingness to give of your time and gifts strengthens our community and helps us live out our calling to love and serve our neighbors.

In the spirit of gratitude, we give thanks to God for each of you. Your faithfulness is a reminder that the Spirit is alive and moving among us, working through ordinary moments to bring about extraordinary grace.

Thank you for all that you do!!

You are a blessing to this congregation and beyond!!

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  
[michelle@abeeinc.com](mailto:michelle@abeeinc.com)  
608-780-9802

### Treasurer

Carrie Payne  
[payne.carrie@hotmail.com](mailto:payne.carrie@hotmail.com)  
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(608)317-8699

### Synod Authorized Minister

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

## HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 9, 2026

**ATTENDEES:** Patti Happel, Carrie Payne, Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley, Michelle Olson, Kent Kramer  
Guests: Jodi Anderson  
Absent: Nicole Stumlin, Wayne Atchley

### Call to Order

- 6:06pm

### Approval of Agenda/Timekeeper

- Patti – Timekeeper
- Motion KK; second CP; all in favor

### Devotion/Prayer

- Michelle
- May-Bette

### Actions since last meeting:

- Approved VB minutes via email on 3/24/26

### Financial Report:

- Review of Financial Report
  - We had a very generous general offering this month
- Property Team needs discussed (see Old Business)
- Noisy Offering:
  - April: HCLC Gardeners
  - May: Holmen's Hope Summer Lunch Program
  - June / July: combine funds from these months for area food pantries

### Ministry/Office Update:

- SAMs report
  - Shared via email
  - No questions

### Music and Liturgy:

- Lynn would like to consider having some alternative service formats (like Lenten services) that would engage the congregation more
  - Lynn to reach out to congregants to see what they liked or did not like

### Old Business:

- Team Updates as needed
  - Youth





- Breakout
- Fellowship
- Activity / Reflection on baggage and core values
- Review of church mission / vision
- Endowment activity

**Closing Prayer**

**Adjournment**

- 7:11pm

**Next meeting(s): Thursday, May 14, 2026 6 pm**

**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!**

We are excited to welcome our newest members, Kenneth and Harriet Pfaff and Roger and Elaine Humm. 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.

**NOISY OFFERING**

Our noisy offering in May will support the **Holmen’s Hope Summer Lunch Program!** We will also be collecting food items for this program during May. We have been supporting this program for a few years now by collecting food, noisy offering and volunteering during the summer months to pack up and deliver noon lunches. This program serves families in Holmen and on Brice Prairie. The children that benefit from the lunches are always happy to receive their lunch and thankful for what is given. So please consider picking up an item or two when you are out shopping. We are looking for **creamy peanut butter, jelly, microwavable containers of mac and cheese and juice boxes/pouches.** Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

**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
Mar	\$23,088.22	\$2,150.00	\$13,334.57	\$11,903.65
Totals	\$44,785.17	\$6,450.00	\$45,722.47	\$5,512.70

**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning May 31 our worship time will be Sundays at 9 AM.



## **OUTREACH MINISTRY**

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

Care packages for our college freshmen were sent on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We've heard back from a few of the recipients. They are so appreciative and genuinely thankful! Here are some comments: "Please tell everyone I loved it, and I am very grateful!"

### **Card Ministry**

We met at Sonja's for card writing and lunch on April 15<sup>th</sup>. We prayed for all those receiving cards while enjoying our time together. If you would like to join this ministry, please reach out to Shari in the office and we'll get you on our email reminder. Our next gathering will be in July.

### **Free Cookies on Campus**

Thank you for donating cookies for LuMin's Free Cookies on Campus! We received a wonderful message from LuMin thanking us and letting us know how much the students appreciated the cookies!

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY – Collection**

We are collecting new packages of socks and underwear for our Synod Assembly worship service on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at Riverside Park. Please bring donations to church by May 31<sup>st</sup>. We'll get them delivered if you cannot attend the worship that morning. Please note we will not have worship at HCLC on June 7<sup>th</sup>! Thank you!

## **BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS!**

We collected 12 units of whole blood, 4 units of double red cells, and 1 unit of plasma. That's a total of 17 units of blood, supporting as many as 51 local patients! Your next drive is scheduled for July 31.

## **YOUTH FUNDRAISER**

**On May 7<sup>th</sup>** 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. Walk ups are welcome until the meals are sold out and are priced at \$14.

## **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Beginning May 31 our worship time will be Sundays at 9 AM.

## **CONFIRMATION**

We invite the entire community to join us in celebrating our confirmands, Alexa, Graham and Reid 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!

## Help Our Community Shine: Sunday Volunteers Needed!

Our Sunday mornings thrive because of people like you. We are currently looking for volunteers to fill several key roles:

- **Financial Counters:** A second counter is needed for the **4th and 5th Sundays** of each month.
- **Altar Guild:** A dedicated helper for the **4th Sunday** of the month.
- **Coffee Hour Overseer:** Help us keep the treats flowing! This role involves ordering supplies, stocking coffee/water, and mentoring our weekly coffee hour volunteers.

**Interested?** For more details or to sign up, please contact **Bette** or **Patti**.

## Calling All Creative Minds: Youth Activity Planner

Are you passionate about creating fun experiences for our younger generation? We are looking for a **Youth Activity Planner** to help spark joy and connection!

This is a low-pressure, high-impact volunteer role involving only **1–2 activities per year** (or as needed). Whether it's a seasonal outing or a special craft, your ideas can make a lasting memory.

**Want to help?** Reach out to **Bette** or **Patti** to share your ideas!

## SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Congratulations graduates! We are looking forward to celebrating with you at worship on Sunday, May 17 at 10 AM. Please RSVP with a senior photo to Shari, <mailto:assistant@halfwaycreek.org>.

## HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS



This photo was taken about 1910-1912, the road to the Halfway Creek Lutheran Church and cemetery. George Schaller is the young man on the fence who is a relative to the Hagel family. National Preservation Month in May is the time of the year when numerous historical societies, the government, and preservation groups join forces to promote the importance of preserving historical places. We want to remember our heritage and the memory of all loved ones at the Halfway Creek Lutheran Cemetery.

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, 608-317-8699

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1** Abigail Fredrickson, Lise Graham
- 2** Melissa Strauss
- 3** Tate Burnikel, Tina Mueller
- 4** Nancy Holley
- 5** Paul Anderson
- 8** Rhette Ulrich
- 10** Samantha Bartnik
- 11** Mary Severson
- 13** Jenny Lee
- 15** Paul Eide, Kermit Jostad
- 16** William Achterkirch
- 17** Roger Casberg
- 19** Susan Chase
- 20** Zachary Arendt, Dylan Severson
- 24** Barbara Hale, James Noel
- 25** Penny Achterkirch, Jon Strangstalien, Olivia Temp
- 27** Susan Anderson, Miles Bartnik, Jeffery Severson
- 31** Pamela Gran



## SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
<b>MAY 3</b>	10:00 Patti	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
<b>MAY 10</b>	10:00 Rev. Ralph Kuespert	Stan	Bette	Bette Susan
<b>MAY 17</b>	10:00 Pastor Lisa Shank	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E Andrea
<b>MAY 24</b>	10:00 Pastor Wayne	Joe	Jess	Mike
<b>MAY 31</b>	9:00 Pastor Garman	Archie	Kari	Mike

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

We pray for Alice Fonfara, Ron Christensen, Bill Baxter, Jackson Ammerman (grandson of Les and Susan Kolbo), Gayle "Susie" Johnson, Diane Jostad, Betty Bender, Stacey Fredricks, Robin Ruhbusch, Laurie Noelke, Megan Sacia Ulrich, Marjorie Lee, Jean Latham, Thema Severson, Katie Wier, Bill Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Cary Heyer, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebaken, Karla Johnson, Coats family

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church  
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Holmen, WI 54636

**Halfway Creek Lutheran Church**

**608-526-3701**

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

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### **Worship & Education**

10:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Worship (**May 31** – Sep 6)

### **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



HELP COLLECT  
**SOCKS & UNDERWEAR**  
FOR AN OFFERING  
AT RIVERSIDE PARK WORSHIP SERVICE

