



JULY

- 4** – America’s 250th birthday – Happy 4th of July. Listen for the bells to toll 13 times at 150 PM Central Time.
- 5** – 9:00 AM Worship
- 12** - 9:00 AM Worship with Pr. Tara Shilts
- 19** - 9:00 AM Worship with Pastor Wayne
- 22** – 10:30 AM Card Ministry (contact the office to RSVP)
- 26** – 9:00 AM Worship
- 30** – Birthday gifts due for our “A Birthday Party for a Friends We Don’t Know” outreach collaboration.
- 31** – Blood Drive at HCLC (930 AM – 2 PM)

Dearest Halfway Creek Friends and Family,

As we enter the month of July, we give thanks for the many blessings God continues to pour out upon our congregation. Summer brings a different rhythm to our lives—family gatherings, vacations, community celebrations, and opportunities to enjoy God’s creation. Yet, even in the busyness of the season, Christ continues to call us together as a community of faith.

This month, may we take time to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy and remember the responsibility we share to love our neighbors, serve those in need, and be witnesses to God’s grace in the world. Whether you are traveling, spending time with loved ones, or enjoying quiet moments at home, know that you remain an important part of our church family.

As always, I look forward to gathering around God’s Word and sharing fellowship with one another—especially during our time together after worship. May this summer season refresh your spirit and deepen your faith.

God’s peace and blessings to you throughout July~

Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister

VISION BOARD

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HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2026

MEMBERS: Patti Happel, Carrie Payne, Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley, Nicole Stumlin, Michelle Olson, Wayne Atchley, Kent Kramer

Guests: Jodi Anderson

Call to Order

- 5:58pm

Approval of Agenda/Timekeeper

- Motion to approve agenda by CP; seconded by KK; all in favor
- NS timekeeper

Devotion/Prayer

- Nicole
- Patti (July)
- Nancy (August)
- Michelle (September)

Actions since last meeting:

- Approved VB minutes via email on 5/21/26

Financial Report:

- Reviewed Financial Report
- Noisy Offering:
 - June/July: Local Food Pantries and Salvation Army
 - August: God's Work, Our Hands
 - September: Lutheran World Relief Kits
 - October: Gathering and Gifts
 - November: Holmen's Hope Backpack Program
 - December: ELCA Good Gifts

Ministry/Office Update:

- Reviewed SAMs report

Music and Liturgy:

- No updates

Old Business:

- Team Updates as needed:
 - Property:
 - Further parking lot quotes / Fundraising
 - Reviewed previous quotes from North Central and Klaetsch
 - Reviewed advice and quote from Mathy
 - Agreed that we need to present to the congregation
 - Tentatively in September
 - Planning to change from using Orkin for pest control and working with another local company to improve service and consistency while reducing cost
 - Mike continues to try to reach Olympic Builders regarding leaking window
 - Quotes discussed for egress doors vs. replacing handles in the heritage building (related to fire safety)
 - Parsonage lease coming up; will have Mike check in with renters
 - Further discussion regarding Youth Account

New Business:

- Michelle/Carrie: Review draft of the emergency plan
 - VB members to review and return to next meeting with feedback

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

- 7:29pm

Next meeting(s): Thursday, August 13th at 6pm

NOISY OFFERING

Our noisy offering through July will support the **Local Food Pantries!** Thank you for 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
Mar	\$23,088.22	\$2,150.00	\$13,334.57	\$11,903.65
Apr	\$14,533.00	\$2,150.00	\$18,343.66	-\$1,660.66
May	\$14,165.00	\$2,150.00	\$17,169.87	-\$854.87
Totals	\$73,483.17	\$10,750.00	\$81,236.00	\$2,997.17

OUTREACH

Card Ministry will meet on July 22nd at 10:30 AM off-site. If you would like to join us for writing out cards and a luncheon, please RSVP to Shari in the office, and she'll get you all the details!

OUTREACH WITH CHILDREN'S PALACE

What started as a simple act of kindness has grown into a meaningful tradition. **"A Birthday Party for a Friend We Don't Know"** was born at Children's Palace and is now extending even further into our community.

Each year, our children are invited to imagine another child—one they may never meet—who might be experiencing homelessness, hardship, or a transition in care. Together, families choose a wrapped birthday gift for this child. This year, the kids wanted to do even more! Community organizations are being invited to help spread joy and birthday love by participating in this "Birthday Party."

How You Can Help

We are collecting items to help these children feel truly celebrated. You can choose to buy for any age group (**infant, toddler, preschool, school-age, or teen**).

We are collecting:

- **Birthday gifts**
- **Party supplies** (plates, napkins, cups)
- **Decorations** (balloons, banners, candles)
- **Monetary donations** (to fund a special birthday experience)

Important Details

Deadline: Please bring your donated items or monetary gifts to the church by **July 31**. We will deliver everything to Children's Palace for distribution to families throughout the area. A big thank you to **Kim Gorka** from Children's Palace for inviting us to participate in this wonderful outreach activity!

FELLOWSHIP

We have created a fellowship fund for our weekly coffee hour. This fund will help keep the coffee area supplied with all we need to have some meaningful fellowship time! If you would like to contribute, please mark your check or envelope with "fellowship fund"! Thank you!

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND OFFICE HOURS

Sundays at 9 AM. Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 9AM-3PM; Wednesday 9AM-Noon.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Thank you to Patti, Caroline, and Jess for attending the La Crosse Area Synod Assembly in June! We appreciate you representing Halfway Creek! Mark your calendars for the Assembly next June from the 11th through the 13th. It will be a fun, longer weekend since we'll be voting for our Bishop!

A STRONGER THRIVENT CHOICE® EXPERIENCE—BUILT FOR GREATER IMPACT

The Thrivent Choice program has been upgraded—making it even easier for members to direct meaningful support.

- More members can support Halfway Creek

Previously: Select Thrivent members received Choice Dollars®

Now: All 1.9M members receive Choice Dollars

What it means: More members → More Choice Dollars → More impact. \$1 granted by Thrivent for each Choice Dollar directed.

- Members can act sooner

Previously: Choice Dollars accrued over time

Now: Available in full at the start of the year

What it means: All 2026 Choice Dollars are available to direct now.

- Intuitive calendar year

Previously: Directions due by March 31

Now: Members can direct anytime through December 31

What it means: Members can support our mission anytime during a simple, intuitive calendar year.

Questions? Email: thriventchoice@thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” when prompted, Monday–Friday, 7am–6pm CT.

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.

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

CALLING ALL CREATIVE MINDS: YOUTH ACTIVITY PLANNER

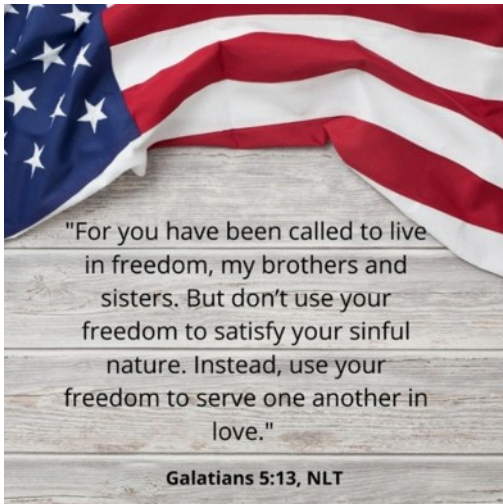
Are you passionate about creating fun experiences for our younger generation? We are looking for a **Youth Activity Planner** to help spark joy and connection! This is a low-pressure, high-impact volunteer role involving only **1–2 activities per year** (or as needed). Whether it’s a seasonal outing or a special craft, your ideas can make a lasting memory. **Want to help?** Reach out to **Bette** or **Patti** to share your ideas!

BLOOD DRIVE JULY 31

Halfway Creek will be paring with Versiti to host a blood drive on July 31 from 930 AM – 2 PM. Your help is needed to make this blood drive successful! Please take a moment to sign up for your time slot at:

https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11638354

HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS



As we celebrate freedom on the 4th of July, the last phrase in that verse keeps repeating in my mind and heart: Use your freedom to serve one another in love.

We have a lot of freedom in America. Freedom of speech. Freedom to worship. Freedom to do what we believe leads to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And those freedoms weren't won in a lottery. They were bought with the blood of soldiers. And the freedom Paul spoke of was bought with the blood of our Savior. So maybe today it's time to pause and remember the highest, best freedom, Love!

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. or more details, or to reserve your resting place, call one of the cemetery trustees: Mark Witte at 608-317-0183, Hannah Scholze at 608-797-9388 or Kent Kramer at 608-317-8699.

VACATION BIBLE STUDY – JOIN THE FUN

Holmen Lutheran Church is partnering with Sugar Creek Bible Camp for VBS this summer and all are invited! Kids in grades K–5 will enjoy all-day VBS on August 9 and 10 (9 AM – 4 PM) led by camp staff. Then, join us August 11 (5:30 PM – 7:30 PM) for a family celebration with dinner, a lesson, and visits to the Holmen Fire and Police Departments! Please register for this event at <https://forms.gle/ou46z5YzbnZSTkwP7>

ELCA Youth Gathering – June 28-July 2, 2027

Our youth will be meeting, Sunday August 9 at 1015 AM at Holmen Lutheran Youth Room to gather more information about this upcoming event! Parents are asked to join in for this first meeting. We'll plan meetings with our HCLC group this fall along with organizing fundraisers! Please take a moment to fill out the interest form that was emailed to you. Youth 8th -12th grade during the 2026-27 school year are invited to attend!

PROPERTY TEAM

The property team met with three contractors about repairing and replacing the parking lot due to several cracks, holes and inconsistencies on the surface. More information will be coming later this summer along with opportunities to discuss and support this project. Please reach out to Mike, Wayne, Rich or Bette for more information or to share your thoughts.



JULY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Braxtyn Jensen-Pralle
- 2 Jeanne Atchley, Ryan Happel
- 6 Ronald Christensen, Brianna Cook,
Daryl Holley, Ann Stasiak
- 8 Deandra Kolbo
- 9 Bette Pedretti
- 10 Nola Anderson
- 11 Heather Dokkebakken, Jacob Wegner
- 12 David Chase
- 13 Jerin Rink
- 14 Mike Bramwell, Joel Oines
- 16 Carolyn Bjerke
- 17 Gracie Holley
- 18 Roger Humm
- 19 Richard Gran, Adalynn Loken, Darren Nelson,
Alyssa Rink
- 21 Bryson Happel
- 23 Landry Hill, Addison Wille
- 24 Joanne Nichols
- 28 Erin Hale, Lane Hansen
- 30 Robyn Shisler
- 31 Kendall Yahnke

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
JULY 5	9:00 Rev. Emily Ronsberg	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
JULY 12	9:00 Pr. Tara Shilts	Stan	Jess	Bette Susan
JULY 19	9:00 Pr. Wayne	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E Andrea
JULY 26	9:00 Rev. Anna Gordon	Joe	Bette	Mike

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

We pray for Wayne Atchley, 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, Thelma Severson, Katie Wier, Bill Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Cary Heyer, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebakken, Karla Johnson, Coats family

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
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Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

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www.halfwaycreek.org

Worship & Education

9:00 AM Worship through Sep 6

Office Hours

Monday -closed

Tuesday – 9 AM – 3 PM

Wednesday – 9 AM – NOON

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

