

CURRENTS

Reach Out, Share Christ with All

www.halfwaycreek.org

August

- 2 – 9:00 AM Worship; Patti
- 9 – 9:00 AM Worship; Patti; 1015 AM
ELCA Youth Gathering meeting at
Holmen Lutheran
- 13 – 6:00 PM Vision Board Meeting
- 16 – 9:00 AM Worship; Pastor Carol
Garman
- 21 – 6 - 10 PM Confirmation Party for
past confirmands and the current class!!
Enjoy Pizza and games and some great
time together!
- 23 – 9:00 AM Worship; Pastor Tara
Shilts
- 30 – 9:00 AM Worship; Rev. Ralph
Kuespert

September

Fall Programming Quick Look:

Worship on September 20 will be at 10 AM!

Sunday School (PreK – 5th grade)

Begins at 9 AM on September 20

Confirmation (6th – 8th grade)

Begins October 7; 6 – 730 PM and will meet the first 3 Wednesdays of each month.

Dearest Halfway Creek Family & Friends,

It seems like just yesterday we were looking ahead to summer, and now August has arrived. While there are still a few weeks left to enjoy the beauty of the season, we can already sense the transition that lies ahead. Before long, school buses will be rolling, backpacks will be packed, and our church will once again be filled with the energy and excitement of Sunday School and Confirmation.

One of my favorite sights each fall is watching our youth return with their bright smiles and cheerful dispositions. Their questions, laughter, curiosity, and growing faith remind us that the church is always looking toward the future while remaining grounded in the love of Christ. Faith formation isn't just for our youngest members—it is something we all continue throughout our lives as we worship, learn, serve, and encourage one another.

As we begin this new ministry year, I invite each of us to ask ourselves; “Where Is God Calling Me to Grow This Year?” Perhaps it's through regular worship, joining a Bible study, serving in a new way, getting involved in one of our many outreach programs, welcoming someone new, or simply making time each day to listen for God's voice. Whatever the invitation may be, we don't walk this journey alone. We are a community of faith, learning and growing together.

Thank you to everyone who gives so generously of your time and talents to make our youth ministries possible. Your faithfulness plants seeds that will continue to bear fruit for years to come.

As we savor these last days of summer, may we also look ahead with hope and anticipation. God has wonderful things in store for us, and I am grateful that we get to share this journey together.

Grace and peace,

Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister

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OUTREACH

The La Crosse Salvation Army is struggling some right now, due to increased cost of food and decreased outside financial support. I have received seed money through the Thrivent Action Team program to prepare two meals (hopefully) for the residents there. The money will be used for buying food items to utilize to prepare the meals. It would be a great help if anyone is interested in donating some food items or money toward food items so we have enough to provide two good meals for them. Also, if there is anyone interested in helping prepare food or donating desserts like cookies or bars, that would be wonderful!

Rich and I have taken donations of food down to the Salvation Army for a few years now and they are always thankful for what they receive. There are 64 residents currently and they serve 200-250 meals daily to residents and others in the un-housed community. If you are able and willing to support this outreach it would be greatly appreciated.

Also, if you have any gatherings and have extra food that you don't know what to do with, we are always happy to come get the food and take it to the Salvation Army. As long as it has been stored appropriately, they are willing to receive the food, even open packages are not an issue. We have done this after different events at the church.

The Hunger Task Force in La Crosse also takes donations of packaged or canned foods that are "expired" as long as the containers are not open. So, if you are cleaning out your pantry and find some things that are past the date or that you know you are not going to use, please consider bringing them to church and we will see that they get delivered to the Hunger Task Force. They also take paper and plastic bags that are in good shape. Thank you!

ANNIVERSARY PARTY FOR HCLC

Save the date for our 170th Anniversary celebration on **October 11**, during and after worship. We're excited to welcome Hannah Scholze, who will share a look back at HCLC's history. Afterward, stick around for a shared meal and time for fellowship. You won't want to miss this incredible milestone in our church's history! Anyone wishing to help are welcome to reach out to Bette! Thank you!

FALL OFFICE HOURS AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning September 8th, the HCLC Office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 AM – 3 PM. We will also resume our Fall

Worship Schedule – Sundays at 10 AM. Please note that we will **NOT** have worship on Sunday, September 13. Instead, please join us for God's work. Our hands. worship service at 1030 AM at the Halfway Creek Bandshell. Bring your lawn chair and spirit of service!

UPCOMING YOUTH & CONFIRMATION EVENTS

As we head into the new school year, we've got some exciting events and milestones coming up for our youth! Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for these key dates:

- **Mid-August | Registration Opens:** Keep an eye on our [website](#) starting mid-August! You'll find registration forms and the full Confirmation schedule ready to download.
- **August 21 (6:00 – 10:00 PM) | Youth Reunion & Welcome Back Party:** All past and current Confirmation students are invited to kick off the new year with pizza, games, and great company! Feel free to bring a friend along for the fun.
- **September 23 at 6:00 PM | Parent & Student Meeting:** Join us for an informational gathering as we get ready for the upcoming Confirmation year. Both parents and students should attend!
- **October 7 (6:00 – 7:30 PM) | Confirmation Classes Begin:** Classes officially launch on October 7 and will meet on the first three Wednesdays of each month. We can't wait to get started!

ELCA Youth Gathering – first meeting August 9 at Holmen Lutheran

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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school will be taking on a theme of Adventure this Fall! All children in PreK-5th grade are welcome to register and attend Sunday School. Our first class is on Sunday, September 20th from 9 – 9:45 AM. Hope you will join us and invite your friends!

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>

NOISY OFFERING

Our **August Noisy Offering supports God's work. Our hands.** and our service project with WINN (What I Need Now) that supports the un-housed in the La Crosse Area! More information on page 6.

In July, we collected \$258.33 for our outreach with Children's Palace! Thank you!

FINANCIALS

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
June	\$20,037.00	\$2,150.00	\$11,676.07	\$10,510.93
Totals	\$93,520.17	\$12,900.00	\$92,912.07	\$13,508.10

GARDEN OF PLENTY



Our HCLC garden has been flourishing! A huge thank you to everyone tending the garden and taking produce to those in need! In this photo, Alice, Nancy and Archie were just wrapping up some weeding and collecting the last of the radishes – they're thrilled with how well everything is growing!

We are looking for garden enthusiasts to keep this wonderful ministry going next year, as our current faithful team is considering a well-deserved break. If you have a green thumb (or just love being outdoors!), please reach out to the office or talk to any of our current gardeners!! *May God's bounty bless you!*

SPREADING HOPE AND CONNECTION: CARING CARDS MINISTRY UPDATE

This past July, our Caring Cards Ministry gathered to spend time in prayer, fellowship, and intentional connection. Together, we prayed over each card sent out, asking for encouragement and comfort for everyone receiving them, and enjoyed a wonderful lunch afterward. Thank you Sonja for hosting!

We are thrilled to share that **50 cards** were sent out this past month alone! It's a joy to reach out to our community, and we hope each recipient feels remembered, cared for, and lifted up in prayer.

Want to be part of this ministry?

We would love to have you join us! We meet quarterly, and our next gathering is set for **October 7th**. Along with writing and praying over cards, we'll also be putting together special care packages to encourage our college freshmen as they settle into their fall semester.

Whether you love writing notes, packing care packages, or simply sharing in prayer and fellowship, there's a place for you here. Mark your calendars for October 7th—we hope to see you there!

HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS



“I love borders. August is the border between summer and autumn; it is the most beautiful month I know.” – Tove Jansson

A powerful quote that makes you appreciate the last month of summer. Time for family gatherings, lemonade, watermelon, sunflowers, firepits, and cooler evenings. Enjoy this month as you get ready for fall!

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 at 608-317-0183, Hannah Scholze at 608-797-9388 or Kent Kramer at 608-317-8699.

BLOOD DRIVE THANK YOU & UPCOMING DATES

A huge thank you to Nicole and all those who volunteered to help host our Versiti Blood Drive on July 31!

At the time of print, we had 18 of our 25 appointments filled and were anticipating even more donors through walk-ins. Summer is always a critical time when blood reserves drop to dangerously low levels, making your willingness to step up and give especially timely and impactful. Every donation truly makes a life-saving difference!

Mark Your Calendars for the Next Drive: If you missed this one or are ready for your next donation, our fall blood drive is scheduled for **Friday, November 20th**. Keep an eye out closer to the date for sign-up details!

A BIG THANK YOU TO RICH AND HIS CREW!



While summer might bring a slower pace for some of the staff at Halfway Creek, Rich is always on the go!

We are so grateful for his tireless hard work in keeping our church gleaming week after week. A special thank you to Dan, Mike, Blake, and Jordan for lending a helping hand this past month. As the saying goes, many hands make light work!

Be sure to give Rich and his awesome crew a quick "thank you" the next time you see them around the building.



God's work.
Our hands.



September 13, 2026

Halfway Creek Bandshell

Worship at 10:30 AM

followed by service project (WINN) and lunch

Bring your lawn chair!



Donation Drive For WINN (What I Need Now)



WINN

- Men's large short and long sleeve t-shirts
- Individual drink mix packets for bottled water
- Bar soap
- Shampoo
- Bus tokens (Can be purchased in packs of 40 from MTU)
- \$10 Kwik Trip gift card
- \$15 McDonald's gift card

THANK you!

Donations can be dropped off at church or brought to worship!

**Holmen Area
ELCA Churches**

**For More
Information
about WINN**





AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



2 Tyson Gates
 3 Simon Nedoba, Christine Sherry
 5 Thelma Severson
 6 Rhonda Tremain-Yeiter
 7 Pat Martin, Andy Mueller, Amy Noel
 9 David Anderson, Jenna Happel, Ronnie Lebakken
 14 Iris Jensen
 16 Mary Ann Hadl
 18 David Gates, Jennifer Stasiak, Rori Tolvstad
 19 Sally Johnson
 20 Dana Casberg
 22 Jane Halverson
 23 Kayla Severson
 24 Karla Johnson, Declan Mihm
 25 Carol Bringe, Dominic Rosenow
 26 Jenessa Hill
 27 Abigail Bramwell, Mary Dokkebaken
 28 Violet Chase
 29 Kaila Casberg, Miriam Heyer, Samantha Olson
 31 Marna Holley

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
2-Aug	9 AM Patti	Mike	Bette	Sonja Jodi E
9-Aug	9 AM Patti	Stan	Jess	Bette Susan
16-Aug	9 AM Pr. Garman	Archie	Nancy	Rhonda Andrea
23-Aug	9 AM Pr Tara Shilts	Joe	Bette	Mike
30-Aug	9 AM Rev. Ralph Kuespert	Archie	Kari W	Mike

...and Happy Birthday to Rick Johnson this month!

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

We pray for Anne Romskog, Alice Jackson, Heather Boardman, Wayne Atchley, Alice Fonfara, Ron Christensen, Bill Baxter, Jackson Ammerman (grandson of Les and Susan Kolbo), 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 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

Worship on Sundays

9:00 AM through September 6

10:30 AM September 13 at the Halfway Creek Bandshell for God's work. Our hands.

10:00 AM September 20, 2026 – May 30, 2027

Education

9 AM **Sunday School** begins September 20

6 PM **Wednesday Confirmation** (first three weeks beginning in October)

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.

Office Hours

Sunday – worship

Monday - closed

Tuesday – 9 AM – 3 PM

Wednesday – 9 AM – NOON

Thursday – 9 AM – 3 PM

Friday – Saturday closed

