



Welcome to Worship!

August 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Pastor Tara Shilts Accompanist: Lynn Wegner

Order of Worship

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. Amen. Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Gathering Song

“God Welcomes All” (sing three times)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends.

Greeting

c: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Romans 12:1-8

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

setting 8

Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon

Hymn of the Day	“Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand”	see insert
Apostles’ Creed		
Prayers Of Intercession	Merciful God, receive our prayer.	
Peace	c: And also with you.	
Offertory Hymn	“I Am Thanking Jesus”	
I am thanking Jesus, I am thanking Jesus, I am thanking Jesus from my heart.		
<i>(Repeat)</i>		
Offering Prayer	c: Amen	
Words of Institution		
Lord’s Prayer		
Invitation to Communion		
Communion Songs	“By Our Love”	see insert
	“One Bread, One Body”	ELW 496
Post Communion Blessing	c: Amen	
Prayer After Communion	c: Amen	
Blessing	c: Amen	
Sending Song	“We Are the Church”	see insert
Dismissal	c: Thanks be to God.	
Postlude		

Announcements

Birthdays this week: Kayla Severson, Karla Johnson, Declan Mihm, Carol Bringe, Dominic Rosenow, Jenessa Hill, Abigail Bramwell, Mary Dokkebaken, Violet Chase, Kaila Casberg, Miriam Heyer, Samantha Olson

Our **August Noisy Offering** supports **God’s work. Our hands.** Last weekend we collected \$19.88 for a total of \$134.31 so far this month. *Thank you for making some noise!*

God’s work. Our hands. a day of service! We will be gathering on Sunday, September 13 at Halfway Creek Bandshell at 10:30 AM for worship followed by a service project and lunch (bring your lawn chair). This year we’ll collect items for WINN (What I Need Now). This program is spearheaded by Sue Graf and supports the un-housed in the La Crosse area. If you can donate any of the listed items, please bring them to

worship that day or to HCLC by September 10. **Needed:** Men's short and long sleeve t-shirts (Size Large), 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 for supporting this service project!*

Salvation Army Meal: HCLC will provide a pasta, bread and dessert meal for the Salvation Army to serve on Monday, August 31. Thank you to those who signed up to donate pasta and cookies/bars. We are looking for a couple more bakers to help supply treats. Sign up in the gathering space and please bring items to church by the 30th.

We pray for all the students, families, teachers, and administrators as they begin a new school year. Here at HCLC, we're looking forward to starting our education programs with **Sunday School** kick-off on September 20th at 9:00 AM and our **Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting** on September 23rd at 6:00 PM. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming dates!

Gracious and Loving God, We hold up all students, families, teachers, and staff as a new academic year begins. Grant our students curiosity and courage as they learn and grow. Fill our educators and administrators with wisdom, patience, and energy for the work ahead. Surround our families with your peace during times of transition, and remind us all that wherever we go, your grace goes before us. Hold us all in your safe keeping. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*

In Our Prayers:

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

We pray for Kay Schroeder, 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

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 and Thu: 9 AM – 3 PM and Wed from 9 AM to Noon.
Summer Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m.

Synod Authorized Minister: Patti Happel
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Subscribe to our weekly E-news by contacting
Shari in the office.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram:
[@halfwaycreeklutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/halfwaycreeklutheranchurch)

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.

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HCLC Vision Board Members:

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