



Welcome to Worship!

August 30, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Ralph Kuespert 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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Romans 12:9-21

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 16:21-28

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song”

ELW 808

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.

(Repeat)

Offering Prayer

c: Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Songs

“Spirit Open My Heart”

see insert

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” ELW 659

Post Communion Blessing

c: Amen

Prayer After Communion

c: Amen

Blessing

c: Amen

Sending Song

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

ELW 798

Dismissal

c: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

Birthdays this week: Marna Holley, Rachael Temp, Adalyn Ruhbusch, Gregory Britton

Our **August Noisy Offering** supports **God's work. Our hands.** Last weekend we collected \$75.98 for a total of \$210.29 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!*

Cookie Bakers Needed for GWOH: Our portion of the God's work. Our hands. Sunday is lunch. We need 12 dozen cookies for that day. If you can help with that, please sign up in the gathering space! Thank you!

In Our Prayers

We pray for friends and family of those who have recently passed: Betty Bender, Kenneth Pfaff, Susie Johnson, Carol Nedoba, Paula Hammes, Laurie Gillespie, Phoebe Kitzke, Glenn Schmidt, Bob Cottrell

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

Our first Fall Worship is Sunday, September 20 at 10 AM; Sunday School at 9 AM.

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
pastor@halfwaycreek.org, 608-317-9525

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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