

CURRENTS

Reach Out, Share Christ with All

170th Anniversary

www.halfwaycreek.org

October

4 – 9:00 AM Sunday School; 10:00 AM Worship with Patti and message from Versiti

7 – 10:30 AM Card Ministry

7 - Confirmation (6th – 8th grade)

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

11 – HCLC Anniversary Celebration!

10:00 AM Worship: Message by Hannah Scholze; catered lunch following worship! RSVP by Oct. 4.

15 – 9:30 AM Bible Study

16, 17 – Scrap and Craft Retreat; RSVP to Shari in the office!

18 – 9:00 AM Sunday School; 10:00 AM Worship welcome Rev. Kuespert

21 – 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM ConFest at Journey Lutheran for Confirmation

24 – 1:00 – 3:00 PM Trunk or Treat

25 – 10:00 AM Worship welcome Pastor Tara Shilts

31 – Trunk or Treat so others can eat! Happy Halloween!

Dearest Halfway Creek Family & Friends,

A Season of Gratitude

There is something special about October. The changing leaves, the crispness in the morning air, and the beautiful colors around us remind us that we are entering a season of change. Fall invites us to slow down, notice the beauty around us, and give thanks for the blessings God continues to place in our lives.

As I think about this season of gratitude, I am especially thankful for our congregation and the many ways you live out our calling to serve others. Our recent **“God’s Work, Our Hands”** community worship service was a wonderful example of that spirit. It was meaningful to worship together with our community and then put our faith into action through a service project supporting **WINN (What I Need Now)**.

Your generosity was truly heartwarming. The donations you brought will help stock the WINN van with items that are needed by people in our community. What may seem like a simple donation can be a very tangible reminder to someone that they are seen, valued, and not alone.

And this generosity is not limited to one Sunday or one project. Time and again, you respond when there is a need. You give your time, your talents, your resources, and—perhaps most importantly—your hearts. From WINN to our other outreach and service projects, I continue to be humbled and grateful for the ways you embrace the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

As the leaves change and fall gently to the ground, may we be reminded that every season brings its own opportunities to grow,

Continued page 2

VISION BOARD

President

Bette Pedretti
bettepedretti@yahoo.com
608-526-3241

Vice President

Nicole Stumlin
bigfarmer053@yahoo.com
608-769-3642

Secretary

Michelle Olson
michelle@abeeinc.com
608-780-9802

Treasurer

Carrie Payne
payne.carrie@hotmail.com
608-790-4401

Wayne Atchley
atchleyw@charter.net
608-317-1638

Nancy Holley
5445nanh@gmail.com
608-792-6310

Kent Kramer
kentkramer7@gmail.com
(608)317-8699

Synod Authorized Minister
Patti Happel
pastor@halfwaycreek.org
608-317-9525

to give, and to serve. Thank you for all the ways you help make God's love visible to those around us.

I am grateful to be part of this congregation and to witness God's work through your hands. May this beautiful autumn season be filled with gratitude, generosity, and the warmth of God's love.

**"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."
1 John 3:18**

With gratitude and blessings,
Patti Happel - Synod Authorized Minister

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 catered by L&M and time for fellowship. You won't want to miss this incredible milestone in our church's history! Please RSVP to assistant@halfwaycreek.org or call the office at 608-526-3701 by October 4th. Thank you!

CARING CARDS MINISTRY UPDATE

Our next gathering is set for **October 7th**. Please RSVP to Shari in the office if you would like to help write out cards or simply join us for prayer, lunch and fellowship. We would love to have you join us!!

OUTREACH

Our Outreach Ministry continues to be very active at Halfway Creek! We are currently supporting the Salvation Army in providing meals for over 60 people. Following our well-received pasta meal in late August, we provided another meal on September 29th. Our goal is to coordinate at least one more meal date this month. If you would like to help prepare food, donate items, or serve in any other way, please reach out to Bette or the church office.

Keep an eye out for the clothing collection tote in the gathering space! We are collecting new and gently used clothing for the Salvation Army, WINN (What I Need Now), and the Warming Center. A list of requested items is located near the tote and will be published in the weekly E-News. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting our neighbors in need!

In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise."

Luke 3:11

VISION BOARD MINUTES

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

MEMBERS: Patti Happel, Bette Pedretti, Nicole Stumlin, Michelle Olson, Kent Kramer

Call to Order

- 6:00pm

Approval of Agenda/Timekeeper

- Move to approve PH; second KK; all in favor
- Timekeeper NS

Devotion/Prayer:

- Michelle
- October - Kent

Actions since last meeting:

- Approved 8/20/26 VB minutes via email

Financial Report:

- Review of Financial Report
- Noisy Offering:
 - September-Suicide Prevention
 - Will P Project
 - October-Gratitude and Giving (St. Clare's Mission)
 - Consider matching our noisy offering to provide donation to St. Clare's in November
 - November- Holmen's Hope Weekend Backpack Program
 - December-ELCA Good Gifts

Ministry/Office Update:

- SAMs report reviewed

Music and Liturgy:

- None

Old Business:

- Team updates as needed
 - Building Team
 - Krause caulked cracks in window
 - Kish did some re-wiring by the computer system in the parish
 - God's Work our Hands
 - Able to give several gift cards and items to cause
 - Outreach
 - Discussed collecting clothing on a regular basis and keeping seasonal totes to deliver to the Salvation Army as needed
- Review of draft of Emergency Operations Plan
 - Michelle to complete draft and review at future meeting
 - Reviewed suggestions from informal fire inspection
- Updates as needed on any upcoming events: 170th Anniversary Celebration

New Business:

- Proposed front window work

- Will wait to see how patches work before seeking replacement quote
- Visioning
 - Patti meeting with Bishop end of month
- Parking Lot project
 - Discussion ongoing
- Date for budget meeting
 - Saturday, November 7th at 9am

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

- 7:09pm

Next meeting(s): Thursday, October 8, 2026; 6pm

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY



**God's work. Our hands. Sunday
Worship, service and fellowship -
what a beautiful morning to spend
together! See you again next year!**



Thanks to everyone who made "God's work. Our hands." Sunday such a huge success! We enjoyed a beautiful morning of worship with music led by Holmen Lutheran and a thought-provoking message from Bishop Malpica following his return from sabbatical.

Our Halfway Creek volunteers served up a fabulous sack lunch featuring sandwiches from L&M Catering, fresh produce, chips, and delicious homemade cookies provided by our own HCLC bakers.

Thanks to your generosity, our offering raised \$469 for WINN (What I Need Now). Sue and Brian shared inspiring details about their mission supporting the unhoused, and we were glad to send them on their way with lunch meat, cheese, and buns to help feed those they serve. Thank you all for helping make this wonderful day of service and fellowship possible! See you again next year!

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. This month we'll have **class on October 4 and 18** from 9 – 9:45 AM. Hope you will join us and invite your friends! Forms are available on our [website](#) and at church.

CONFIRMATION

We had a fantastic parent and student meeting last month and are excited to welcome the eight students who have already registered for confirmation! This year, we are thrilled to introduce a brand-new curriculum alongside several hands-on service projects throughout the year. If you or someone you know would still like to join the fun, you can get registration forms on our [website](#) or at church! Confirmation classes officially begin on **Wednesday, October 7, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM**, and will meet on the first three Wednesdays of each month. We can't wait to get started!

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
July	\$12,371.00	\$2,150.00	\$17,084.92	-\$2,563.92
Aug	\$12,132.00	\$2,150.00	\$9,083.23	\$5,198.77
Totals	\$118,023.17	\$17,200.00	\$119,080.22	\$16,142.95

MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts given in honor of loved ones who have passed are a meaningful, lasting tribute to their memory. We are truly grateful to be the recipients of these thoughtful gifts at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, and we extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all who have contributed.

Memorials in memory and honor of

Bob Cotrell \$50,740
Paula Hammes \$40
Kenneth Pfaff \$2,515

Donations to the Sunday School fund in memory and honor of

Susie Johnson \$4,890

ANOTHER GIVING OPTION

If you are aged 70 or older, have an IRA, and are writing checks to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church for your weekly, monthly, annual offering – STOP! Instead, you can make a direct contribution to Halfway Creek Lutheran Church through your IRA without tax implications. Contact Jodi Anderson at the church office for more information.

NOISY OFFERING

Our **September Noisy Offering** supported suicide awareness and prevention, and we collected a total of \$211.98 that will be donated to the Will P Project and La Crosse Area Suicide Prevention Initiative! Throughout October we'll collect for our Gratitude and Giving recipient: St. Clare Health Mission. Thank you for making a difference with your contributions & prayers!

HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

This is the 170th anniversary of our birth as a congregation. On October 14, 1856, Rev. H. A. Stub helped organize four Norwegian Lutheran congregations in La Crosse County—Lewis Valley in the Town of Farmington, La Crosse Valley in the Town of Hamilton, Bostwick Valley in the Town of Barre, and Halfway Creek in the Town of Onalaska. Of these congregations, Halfway Creek was the largest and served as a strong example for the others to follow.



The photo above is probably from 1890 where the original church sat within the cemetery. The little church in the cemetery today marks the location. Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Cemetery celebrates this milestone with all your loved ones.

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.

PROPERTY TEAM

Here is a quick look at some recent repairs and updates around our church property and parsonage.

Following a recent fire inspection, we added a new electrical outlet to the worship AV-Tech area to eliminate the use of power strips and extension cords. For safety reasons, we also upgraded the doors with outside access to include a release system so you just push on the lever to exit, and the door will close behind you. Additionally, an automatic door closer system was added to the east door, so it no longer needs to be pulled shut.

Krause Construction came out to re-caulk the large window facing the road that was leaking. We also changed pest control companies from Orkin to On Target, which is less expensive and has offered better service so far. Finally, an update at the parsonage: the hot water heater developed a leak and had to be replaced.

Thank you for your support as we keep our facilities updated and running smoothly!



Our Property Team is always working hard, from weeding and mowing to making sure the church building is cared for and safe inside and out!
Thank you to Mike & Rich for leading this team and for everyone else involved - Kent, Dan, Wayne, Rick!



Annual Trunk or Treat at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church!

Mark your calendars for our Annual Trunk or Treat at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church! Join us on Saturday, October 24, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM in the HCLC parking lot and Heritage Hall for an afternoon full of autumn fun. Put on your favorite costume and enjoy trick-or-treating, festive games, and cookie decorating with cookies and frosting. This event is packed with activities for all ages, making it a wonderful afternoon of community and celebration for the whole family!

To make this event a success, we are calling on our wonderful church family for support. We are currently looking for volunteers to host decorated car trunks, run activity stations, and help facilitate games. Additionally, donations of candy, cookies, and frosting are greatly appreciated. If you are able to lend a hand or donate supplies, please sign up in the Gathering Space or contact the church office today. We look forward to seeing everyone there for a spooktacular afternoon!



Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 17, 2026

8:00am

at

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

21 North Hill Street, La Crosse MN 55947

*\$20 payable to La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA
on the day, at registration sign-in.*

*Call Mona Van Riper at 608-857-3474 to register
by Friday, 10/09/2026, so the Prince of Peace
women will have a count to prepare for the
luncheon.*



Help Feed Our Neighbors This Halloween!

Holmen's annual "Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat" needs your help! With our community growing, we need volunteers more than ever to collect non-perishable food, personal care items, paper products, and cleaning supplies for local families in the Holmen School District.

How to Get Involved:

1. **Spread the Word:** Start talking with friends, family, and neighbors about joining the team.
2. **Get Registered:** Email tricktreatholmen@gmail.com ASAP to join our volunteer list.
3. **Take Action:**
 - Deliver door hangers in the weeks before Halloween.
 - Collect donations on October 31st—a fun, unique way to celebrate Halloween while making a real difference!

Bonus: See our posts on social media? Please Like and Share to spread the word!

Hosted by the HLC Service Ministry Team





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



2 Steven Johnson
 3 Leanne Erdman
 4 Ronald Johnson
 5 Christopher Baxter
 6 Jason Pralle
 8 Archie Achterkirch, Joe Lepsch,
 Shawn Wegner
 9 William Achterkirch, Kendra Bringe,
 Cary Heyer
 10 Daniel Ulrich
 11 Jimmie Ann Gates, Aiztdon Stumlin
 13 Ezekiel Finnell
 14 Sue Kolbo
 16 Micah Hill
 18 Mary Crocker
 20 Julie Hemp, Mike Yeiter
 21 Shari Ireland
 24 Rubianne Kinsman
 25 Jen Strangsalien
 28 Lori Anderson
 29 Nicole Stumlin
 30 Mark Witte

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
Oct 4	10 AM Patti	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
Oct 11	10 AM Patti	Stan	Jess	Bette Susan
Oct 18	10 AM Rev Kuespert	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E Andrea
Oct 25	10 AM Pastor Tara Shilts	Joe	Bette	Mike

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

We pray for Penny Achterkirch, Kay Schroeder, Anne Romskog, Alice Jackson, Heather Boardman, Alice Fonfara, Ron Christensen, Bill Baxter, Diane Jostad, Stacey Fredricks, 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, Massman family

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
W6016 County Road W
Holmen, WI 54636

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church

608-526-3701

www.halfwaycreek.org

Worship is on Sundays at 10 AM

Education

9 AM **Sunday School** (every other Sunday – see calendar on our website)
6 PM **Wednesday Confirmation** (first three weeks of the month 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 – 3 PM
Thursday – 9 AM – 3 PM
Friday & Saturday - closed

