



Welcome to Worship!

September 27, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Rev. Anna Gordon 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 that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends; God's love is strong and it never ends.
(repeat 2 more times)

GREETING

c: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

ELW 174

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.
- 3 Grant, we pray, to all your faithful
all the gifts they ask to gain;
what they gain from you forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.
- 4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,

praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Hear us, O God. **c: Your mercy is great.**

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **c: And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN *God Bless to Us Our Bread*

God bless to us our bread, and give bread to all those who are hungry, and hunger for justice to those who are fed. God bless to us our bread.

OFFERING PRAYER **c: Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS

Now We Offer

Refrain

Now we offer you, our Father,
with the bread and with the wine
all our joys and all our sorrows,
all our struggles and our time.

1 As the fields of wheat now growing
will become a holy sign,
so shall we reveal you, Jesus,
that in us you now may shine. *Refrain*

2 Like the grape put in the cellar,

there to change into the wine,
all the poor on earth who suffer
shed their sorrows in this sign. *Refrain*

3 In these gifts we see our oneness
throughout city and the field,
and we find a life of solace
where the scars of strife are healed. *Refrain*

4 All your people who are yearning
for the freedom still ahead
offer fruits of your creation
in these gifts of wine and bread. *Refrain*

5 We sing glory to the Father
and to Christ who lives above,
and we praise the Holy Spirit
for the gift to us of love. *Refrain*

Text: Misa popular nicaragüense, tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921-2001
Tr. © 1989 Lutheran World Federation

Welcome Table

- 1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
I'm goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
some of these days.
- 2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,

I'm goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
some of these days.

3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
some of these days.

Text: African American spiritual

POST COMMUNION BLESSING
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
BLESSING

c: Amen.

c: Amen.

c: Amen (after each prayer)

SENDING SONG:

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW 538

DISMISSAL

c: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Birthdays this week: Aaron Balow, Jason Ruhbusch, Jess Cook, Josh Kinsman, Maverick Ruhbusch, Nash Ulrich, Julia Yanke, Steven Johnson, Leanne Erdman

During September our Noisy Offering will support suicide awareness and prevention! Last weekend we collected \$94.41 for a total of \$165.22 so far! Thank you for making some noise!

HCLC 170th Anniversary Celebration – Sunday, October 11 at 10 AM. We'll have worship, a special message from Hannah Scholze, and catered lunch. Please join the fun and RSVP in the gathering space by October 4th!

Sunday School families we'll meet again on Sunday, October 4th at 9 AM. All kids pre-K through 5th grade are welcome to attend. Invite your friends, too!

Confirmation classes will begin on Wednesday, October 7th at 6 PM. We had a great attendance at our parent/student meeting. There is still time to register. Forms are at church and on our website under the confirmation tab. All students, grades 6 and up, who have not been confirmed are invited to register!

Anyone interested in attending the **Youth Gathering in July needs to contact the office to register before October 1st!** For more information you can contact the office and attend the next team meeting scheduled this afternoon, September 27th at 1 PM at Holmen Lutheran.

Scrap & Craft Event October 16 & 17 – Shari and Jodi are hosting a crafting event at HCLC on Friday October 16 and 17 from 9 AM – 9 PM each day. The cost is \$30. Bring your own crafts to work on. You can come and go as you please. RSVP to Shari no later than October 14th! Thank you.

HCLC Annual Trunk or Treat is Saturday, October 24 from 1-3 PM. We are looking for volunteers to help that day along with people who want to join the fun with their decorated trunks and hand out candy. This event always has a great turn out with 100-150 kids stopping by to trick or treat! Sign up today in the gathering space and spread the word!

Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 8:00am; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 21 North Hill Street, La Crescent 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.

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 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



170th Anniversary Celebration

You are invited to Halfway Creek Lutheran
Church as we celebrate 170 years with
worship, a special message from Hannah
Scholze, and a catered meal!

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Worship at 10 AM

Meal catered by L & M following service.

Please **RSVP by October 4th** at church or
call: 608-526-3701

email: assistant@halfwaycreek.org.

www.halfwaycreek.org



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, Wed and Thu: 9 AM – 3 PM

Worship: Sundays at 10 AM

Sunday School: see schedule on website

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.

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

Administrative Assistant: Shari Ireland
assistant@halfwaycreek.org

Financial Assistant: Jodi Anderson
jodi.anderson@halfwaycreek.org

Music Ministry: Lynn Wegner
lwegner2005@yahoo.com

HCLC Vision Board Members:

President, Bette Pedretti

Vice President, Nicole Stumlin

Secretary, Michelle Olson; Treasurer, Carrie Payne

Members: Nancy Holley, Wayne Atchley, Kent Kramer