

November

1 – 9:00 AM Sunday School; 10:00 AM
Worship with Patti; Baptisms

4 – 6:00 PM Confirmation

8 – 10:00 AM Worship – Blessing of the
Quilts; Welcome Rev. Ralph Kuespert

11 – Veterans Day

6:00 PM Confirmation

12 – 6:00 PM Vision Board

14 – Wedding at Halfway Creek

15 – 9:00 AM Sunday School; 10:00 AM
Worship - Blessing of the Hunters.
Welcome Rev. Ralph Kuespert

18 – 6:00 PM Confirmation

19 – 9:30 AM Bible Study

20 – 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM Blood Drive

22 – 10:00 AM worship with Pr. Tara
Shilts. 6:00 PM Gratitude and Giving
worship at Journey Lutheran for all
Holmen Area ELCA churches.

26 – Happy Thanksgiving. Office is
closed.

29 – 9:00 AM Hanging of the Greens;
10:00 AM worship with Rev. Anna
Gordon; 3:00 PM La Crosse County 4H
Goat Project Meeting

Dear Halfway Creek Family & Friends,

As November arrives, we enter a season filled with opportunities to give thanks, share our blessings, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In the life of the church, this month invites us to reflect on God's abundant grace, celebrate the gifts we have been given, and find meaningful ways to serve our neighbors. As the days grow shorter and the holiday season approaches, may we continue to be a light to one another and to our community.

There are many wonderful things to look forward to this November! On November 8, we will celebrate Blessing of the Quilts, giving thanks for the warmth, comfort, and care stitched into each quilt and for the hands and hearts that make this ministry possible. On November 15, we will gather for the Blessing of the Hunters, asking God's protection for those heading into the outdoors and giving thanks for the beauty of creation.

On November 20, we will have the opportunity to share the gift of life through our Versiti Blood Drive. Thank you to everyone who gives of their time and generosity to help others in such a meaningful way. Then, on November 22, we will celebrate our Gratitude and Giving Service (which will be held at Journey Lutheran this year), a special time to reflect on God's many blessings and consider how we are called to share those gifts with others.

VISION BOARD

President

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608-526-3241

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Synod Authorized Minister
Patti Happel
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VISION BOARD MINUTES

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 8, 2026

MEMBERS: Patti Happel, Bette Pedretti, Nancy Holley, Michelle Olson, Kent Kramer.

Guests: Jodi Anderson

Absent: Wayne Atchley, Nicole Stumlin, Carrie Payne

Call to Order

- 6:02pm

Approval of Agenda/Timekeeper

- Motion PH, Second NH, All in favor
- PH Timekeeper

Devotion/Prayer:

- Kent
- Nov-Wayne

Actions since last meeting:

- Approved 9/21/26 VB minutes via email

Financial Report:

- Reviewed September Financial Report
- Thrivent meeting updates
- Noisy Offering:
 - October-Gratitude and Giving
 - November-Holmen's Hope Weekend Backpack Program
 - December-ELCA Good Gifts

Ministry/Office Update:

- SAMs report sent and reviewed via email

Music and Liturgy:

- Planning for full services at 2pm and 4pm Christmas Eve

Old Business:

- Team updates as needed
 - Property
 - Krause's work with front window seems to be holding
 - Water heater went out in parsonage this last week
- Visioning
 - Discussed Holy Conversations booklet and Congregational Sustainability Assessment

New Business:

- Patti (SAM) and Mentor meeting with Bishop Felix
- Discussed Patti's Yearly Review in preparation for meeting with the bishop

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

- 7:43pm

Next meeting(s):

- Meeting with Bishop, Monday October 26, 6pm
- Budget Meeting Nov 7, 9 am
- VB, Thursday, November 12, 2026; 6pm

Finally, on November 29, we begin the season of Advent with our Hanging of the Greens. Together, we will prepare our church and our hearts for the birth of Jesus, beginning a new season of anticipation, peace, joy, and hope.

As we journey through November, may we remember that gratitude is more than a feeling—it is a way of living out our faith. Whether through a quilt lovingly made, a prayer for safe travels, a life-saving blood donation, an act of generosity, or the simple joy of preparing for Advent together, we have countless ways to share God's love.

May God bless you and your families throughout this month. I look forward to worshipping, serving, and giving thanks with you as we continue to grow together in faith.

Blessings ~ Patti Happel, Synod Authorized Minister

ANNIVERSARY PARTY FOR HCLC

What a wonderful celebration we had on October 11th. We had over 80 people in attendance. Hannah Scholze gave a beautiful message about our history and mission. Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious meal catered by L&M! Thanks to everyone who helped organize this event and to those who attended. Our HCLC family ties are strong!

CARING CARDS MINISTRY UPDATE

Our Caring Cards ministry and outreach mailed over 40 cards. We also purchased items for 3 care packages for our college freshmen. Thanks to everyone who supports our mission with supplies and prayers! We'll meet again in January.

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 and on October 21st. We would like to continue this ministry on a monthly basis. 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. Watch for the donation list of needed food items for upcoming meals (monetary donation is also accepted to help in covering the costs of the meals.) Thanks so much for your support-the Salvation Army is very appreciative!

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 published in the weekly E-News. We plan to continue this program throughout the coming months. We have had a great response so far. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting our neighbors in need!

Holmen's Hope Weekend Backpack program: We will be collecting items in November to support this program. The backpack program was started in 2016, expanding to all elementary schools and the middle school in the Holmen School District. The goal is to ensure food security for students who may not have consistent access to meals outside of school. Every Friday food bags are delivered to schools for the

qualifying children to take home. They serve an average of 50-60 every week. Items needed: **Hormel Compleat meals, easy open canned ravioli, SpaghettiOs, soups and beef stew. Microwavable mac and cheese cups, cups of noodles and microwave popcorn. Cereal cups, oatmeal packets, granola &/or breakfast bars. Fruit or veggie cups. Crackers with cheese or crackers with peanut butter. Personal care items.**

There is a new opportunity to support this program- "Sponsor a Student" weekend backpack program. \$250 sponsors one student to receive weekend backpack food throughout the school year. See Holmenshope.org/backpackprogram for more information.

Caring Tree: We are excited to partner with Holmen Lutheran Church again this year for the Caring Tree, helping provide Christmas gifts for local children who might otherwise go without. Tags will be placed on the tree right after Thanksgiving. Because Thanksgiving falls late this year, we will have a shorter turnaround time for purchasing gifts.

We would love for you to participate! If you wish to help but are unable to shop, monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Simply mark an offering envelope for "Caring Tree," or reach out to Bette or the church office. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping make Christmas special for local families!

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

ALL SAINTS DAY

As we celebrate All Saints Day, we remember those who passed this year: Bob Cottrell, Glenn Schmidt, Amanda Lee Anderson, Paula Hammes, Jeanne Bornitz, Laurie Gillespie, Susie Johnson, Ken Pfaff, Larry Anderson, Penny Achterkirch. We also pray for those who were baptized in the faith: Baker Grey Burnikel, Ron Lebakken, Nelson Holley.

Dear Lord, May the memory of the faithful departed be a source of solace, and may the fellowship of the living saints be a source of strength, until we all, at last, stand together in your glorious presence. Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

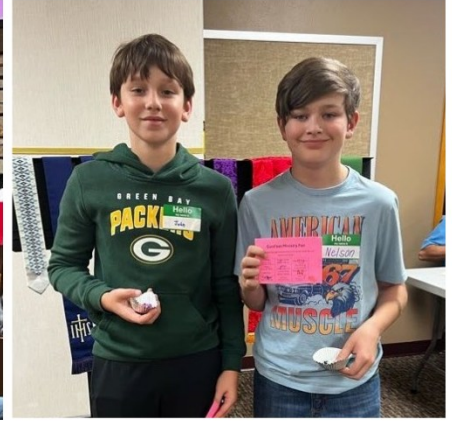


Sunday School has started off strong this year with creativity, adventure, and wonder. Our themes for this year are Adventure, Create, Serve, and Wonder. Our lessons have been a reminder that God made each of us different, unique and he is with us in every storm we face! As we head into November, we look forward to our service project and filling our hearts with gratitude! This month we'll have **class on November 1 and 15** from 9 – 9:45 AM. Hanging of the Greens is November 29th! Let's meet at church and help decorate for Advent and Christmas. Hope you will join us for Sunday School this year and invite your friends! Registration forms are available on our

[website](#) and at church.

CONFIRMATION

Thank you for a great month of Confirmation. We ended our third week of class at Journey Lutheran for ConFest! It was an amazing and fun event with Bishop Malpica! Confirmation at HCLC is open for anyone in 6th grade and above. If you or someone you know would still like to join the fun, you can get registration forms on our [website](#) or at church! We will meet on the first three Wednesdays of each month. Call the church office with any questions: 608-526-3701.



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
Sep	\$11,487.00	\$2,150.00	\$11,565.61	\$2,071.39
Totals	\$129,510.17	\$19,350.00	\$130,645.83	\$18,214.34

NOISY OFFERING

The November Noisy Offering will support Holmen's Hope Weekend Backpack Program. We'll also be collecting food items for the backpacks. See the list in the outreach section of this newsletter.

The October Noisy offering supported the St. Clare Health Mission. We collected a total of \$262.47!

Thank you! Keep making some noise!

HALFWAY CREEK CEMETERY NEWS

The seasons are changing, summer has moved into autumn. Just like nature prepares for the changes we can focus on a new journey of life. Be prepared for life changes, especially planning your final wishes with your loved ones. As you think about changes, visit the peace and love felt within the Halfway Creek Cemetery. Walk among the headstones, sit inside the little church, listen to the birds or see the creek nearby, look up at the flag. We are blessed knowing God's in charge.

We remember all Veterans and thank them for their service.

It's never too early to purchase your final resting place. 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:

Kent Kramer, 608-317-8699, Mark Witte, 608-317-0183, Hannah Scholze, 608-797-9388

Your cemetery needs your support Remember Halfway Creek Cemetery when you're making your charitable contributions — and please consider a donation to the cemetery.

CRAFTING EVENT SUCCESS

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual crafting event at HCLC! Thanks to our generous participants—each contributing \$30—we collected a total of \$390. As a token of our appreciation for his help in setting up and cleaning, a portion of the proceeds was given to Rich. The remaining funds were donated to the church to purchase items for the prayer tree. Be sure to watch for this new addition to our gathering space in the near future! Thank you again for allowing us to use the space! – Shari & Jodi

GRATITUDE & GIVING

Join us on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Sunday November 22, at 6pm at Journey Lutheran Church (2703 Sand Lake Road, Onalaska, WI 54650) for a service of Gratitude and Giving. We will give thanks to God for the many gifts we have received, and our offering collection will go toward St. Clare Health Mission, where we will learn more about their purpose and mission. After the service, we'll enjoy a time of fellowship. This is a joint service of Holmen Lutheran Church, Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, Journey Lutheran Church, and Mindoro & Lewis Valley Lutheran Churches. Friends and community members are welcome!

Gratitude and Giving Service at Journey Lutheran: a choir opportunity! If you love to sing choir anthems, Journey Lutheran is inviting you to sing in a mass choir for that evening. The song is Look at the World by John Rutter. The following dates are our rehearsals. **Monday Nov. 16 @ 6:30 -7:10 pm at Journey Lutheran; Sunday Nov. 22 @ 5:30, run through of song.**

This is a link to the You Tube video for Look at the World: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDa-Mab4SoU> (If you choose, this gives you a chance to practice while listening to the video.) Copies of the music are at Halfway Creek in the office!

TRUNK OR TREAT: A SPOOKTACULAR TURNOUT!

Our annual Trunk or Treat was a fantastic success, bringing together an estimated 100 to 120 parents and kids for a fun, festive afternoon!

Congratulations to our top trunk winner! The Popcorn/Movie Theater trunk captured the popular vote with 23 votes, earning the creator a beautiful, donated lap afghan.

As always, cookie decorating was a huge hit among the children. We also introduced a exciting new activity this year: the Mystery Box game! Brave trick-or-treaters reached inside to guess the spooky hidden items—ranging from "Witches' Fingers" (carrot sticks) and "Monster Ears" (dried pears) to "Vampire Teeth" (popcorn kernels), "Eyeballs" (peeled grapes), and "Monster Brains" (spaghetti noodles)!

A very huge THANK YOU to Olivia and Emma Nedoba, their friends, our wonderful church members who donated and volunteered and Jess Cook for organizing everything. This event ran smoothly and brought so much joy to our community because of your generosity and effort!

We were especially touched by the feedback from our families. Several attendees shared that they love our Trunk or Treat because it's low-key, relaxed, and packed with engaging activities. Two moms even mentioned that ours is their favorite Trunk or Treat to bring their kids to!

Thank you to everyone who participated and made it such a memorable tradition. We can't wait until next year! Check out our weekly E-News for more photos!



AN UPDATE FROM RON and KATHY

Grace and peace to the Lord's people at Halfway Creek Lutheran Church in Holmen, Wisconsin, and our Almighty God continue to bless His servant Patti Happel, SAM, as she continues to serve the Lord's people there with Christ-like love, mercy, joy and compassion. Amen.

Your visits, notes, phone calls, prayers, and most of all your Christ-like love for us has been the very thing that has kept us strong during some difficult time in our lives. We know it has only been perhaps nine months since we shared the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ with you, and yet during such a short time.... so many seasons of change; the need for 5 days hospital care and a partial foot amputation, followed by 5 months in a nursing home. During that time, Kathy nearly died in a 4-day hospital stay with a bad infection which was unwilling to be healed, and an erratic blood pressure that refused to be stabilized. By the grace of God, we were both healed and are well now.

On September 14th we moved to our assisted living home in Black River Falls (address available from the Church Office). It's ok here, but we miss HCLC, and our home area, Holmen. By the grace of God, in time, we will find our way back to our life with you! Meanwhile, God continue to love, keep, care for and protect you all. In our Lord Jesus Christ, Ron and Kathy Christensen.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WAYNE ATCHLEY



Our very own Wayne Atchley is a 2026 STARS OF LIFE award recipient. He and Jeanne will be attending the event in mid-November in DC! The American Ambulance Association's Stars of Life program celebrates the contributions of ambulance professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to their communities or the EMS profession. Stars of Life honors the contributions of these heroes while shining light on the critical role EMS plays in our healthcare infrastructure. Check out more:

<https://stars.ambulance.org/stars/wayne-atchley/>



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1 Les Kolbo
 2 Sue Bramwell, Noel Jandt, Jean Latham
 3 Brian Rosenow
 8 Carmon Jostad
 11 Angela Balow
 12 Kari Neumann
 14 Ema Nedoba, Olivia Nedoba
 16 River Jensen, Samuel Nedoba
 17 Elisa Moss
 18 Joe Fredrickson
 20 Connor Mihm
 21 Aspen Balow
 23 Kathy Johnson
 25 Marjorie Lee
 27 Steven Lee
 29 Coleton Lee
 30 Gavin Bramwell, Elizabeth Noel

SERVING AND WORSHIP

	WORSHIP TIME	SEXTON	ALTAR GUILD	OFFERING COUNTERS
Nov 1	10 AM Patti	Mike	Carrie Nicole	Rhonda Sonja
Nov 8	10 AM Rev. Ralph	Stan	Jess	Bette Susan
Nov 15	10 AM Rev. Ralph	Archie	Nancy	Jodi E Andrea
Nov 22	10 AM Pastor Tara Shilts	Joe	Bette	Mike
Nov 29	10 AM Rev. Anna Gordon	Archie	Kari	Mike

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for friends and family of those who have recently passed: Penny Achterkirch, 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 Jensen, Les Kolbo, 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

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 22

At Christmas, we decorate the church in celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you would like to present a poinsettia in honor, memory or celebration of a person or event, please fill out the order form at church or online: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/gaGNsiAgsT> All orders must be received by Sunday, November 22nd. The cost is \$22 per plant. All poinsettia donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS BY NOV. 22!

At Christmas, we decorate the church in celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you would like to present a poinsettia in honor, memory or celebration of a person or event, please fill out this form and place it in the offering plate. You may also send or deliver it to the church office.

All orders must be received by Sunday, November 22nd. The cost is \$22 each. All poinsettia donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.

Number of Poinsettias:

_____ Red
_____ White
_____ Total Cost (\$22 each)

Presented by: _____

Please note whether the poinsettia(s) are:

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, W6016 County Rd W,
Holmen, WI 54636. Thank you!



Items Needed for Backpack Program

- Hormel Complete meals
- Microwavable Mac and Cheese cups
- Cups of noodles
- Easy open canned ravioli, spaghetti O's, soup, beef stew
- Fruit/applesauce cups
- Veggie cups
- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Oatmeal packets
- Cereal cups
- Crackers w/ cheese
- Crackers w/ Peanut butter
- Microwavable popcorn
- Personal care items

Bring to HCLC during November!

Collection

We are collecting new or gently used items for Salvation Army, WINN, and the Warming Center.

Jackets Boots
Sweatshirts Shoes
Sweatpants New Underwear
Socks Hand Warmers
Gloves
Jeans

Please place items in tote
and we'll deliver them!
Thank you!

HOPE HAS A PULSE & IT BEATS IN YOU

Halfway Creek Lutheran Church Blood Drive

WHEN & WHERE

Fri, November 20
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Halfway Creek Lutheran
Church
W6016 County Road W
Holmen



PROMOTION

Show Your Big Ten Pride!
Donate blood and earn a
free Big Ten T-shirt of
your choice. The Big Ten
school with the most
blood donations wins a
\$1 million prize!
Ages 18+. While supplies
last.

Call 877.232.4376 to schedule.



Schedule your appointment
Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome!

versiti
Blood Center of Wisconsin

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

