Halfway Creek LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship

October 18, 2026, 10:00 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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **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.**

GATHERING SONG	*Shout to the Lord*	ELW 821
GREETING	**c: And also with you.**	

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING	Isaiah 45:1-7	
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*	ELW 172
GOSPEL	Matthew 22:15-22	
SERMON		
HYMN OF THE DAY	*Take My Life That I May Be*	ELW 583
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.**	
OFFERING HYMN	*We Give Thee But Thine Own v.1&2*	ELW 686
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		ELW 473
WORDS OF INSTITUTION		
LORD'S PRAYER		
INVITATION TO COMMUNION		
COMMUNION SONGS	*As the Grains of Wheat*	ELW 465
	Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup	ELW 482
POST COMMUNION BLESSING	**c: Amen.**	
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION	**c: Amen.**	
BLESSING	**c: Amen (after each prayer)**	
SENDING SONG:	*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*	ELW 547
DISMISSAL	**c: Thanks be to God.**	
POSTLUDE		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays this week: Mary Crocker, Julie Hemp, Mike Yeiter, Shari Ireland, Rubianne Kinsman

The October Noisy offering will go towards the St. Clare Health Mission. Last weekend we collected $103.90 for a total of $133.49 so far. Keep making some noise!

Confirmation will be attending ConFest at Journey Lutheran on Wednesday, October 21st at 530 PM. Please make sure you talk with your confirmation leaders for more details about this event.

Scrap & Craft Event Thank You! We are so grateful for the beautiful space to host our crafting retreat. Thank you to Rich & Dan for setting up the space for us. – Jodi & Shari

SAVE the DATE: Our blood drive is Friday, November 20 from 930 AM – 2 PM. You can sign up in the gathering space.

As part of our ongoing fall and winter Outreach, we are collecting clothing items for local non-profit organizations. As you clean out your closets or shop in the coming weeks, please consider picking up or donating the items needed. We have a donation tote on the lower level as you enter church. You can place items there, and we'll distribute them. Thank you for always supporting our outreach ministries with your prayers and generosity!

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

Our Prayers

We pray for friends and family of those who have recently passed*: Larry Anderson,* 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 Les Kolbo, 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

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.

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.

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

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