



Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship!

October 4, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: Patti Happel, SAM 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 creates the heavens and the earth, who sustains every living thing, and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Sovereign Creator of all, **we confess that we have grown estranged from you, from one another, and from the earth you have entrusted to our care. Like demanding masters rather than humble servants, we have exploited creation's gifts and ignored the suffering of our global neighbors. We have allowed discord to replace community, and greed to overpower simplicity. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to be instruments of your peace. Forgive us, renew us, and transform us into agents of reconciliation, that we may walk in the gentle footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of God's promise to remember our sins no more and offer eternal healing. In God's mercy, Jesus Christ was given for us, and through his authority, I declare the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

- 1 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
- 2 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
- 3 O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.
- 4 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Text: Sebastian Temple
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GREETING

c: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Listen to the Word

Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

SERMON & GUEST SPEAKER**HYMN OF THE DAY***There in God's Garden*

ELW 342

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***We Come Now to Your Table*

We come now to your table, Lord, you are the Living Bread.

We come now to your table, Lord, let ev'ry soul be fed.

You are the Living Bread, let ev'ry soul be fed:
and now may ev'ry soul be fed with Living Bread.

All Creatures Worship God Most High ELW 835**POST COMMUNION BLESSING****c: Amen.****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION****c: Amen.****BLESSING****c: Amen (after each prayer)****SENDING SONG:***Thine be the Amen*

ELW 826

DISMISSAL**c: Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE**

Thank you, Jackson Braasch, for visiting us at Halfway Creek and sharing information about Versiti and the impact blood drives have on our community.

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

Announcements

Birthdays this week: Ronald Johnson, Christopher Baxter, Jason Pralle, Archie Achterkirch, Joe Lepsch, Shawn Wegner, William Achterkirch, Kendra Bringe, Cary Heyer, Daniel Ulrich

During September our Noisy Offering supported suicide awareness and prevention with a total of \$211.98 donated to Will P Project and the La Crosse Area Suicide Prevention Initiative! The October Noisy offering will go towards the St. Clare Health Mission.

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 today!

Sunday School families we'll meet again on Sunday, October 18th 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!

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 turnout 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.

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



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!**

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 any times there, and we'll distribute them.

Thank you for always supporting our outreach ministries with your prayers and generosity!

