Halfway Creek LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship

November 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Worship Leader: *Rev. Ralph Kuespert* ***Accompanist:*** *Laurie Noelke*

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, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

GATHERING SONG	*We Praise You, O God*	ELW 870
GREETING	**c:** And also with you.	
PRAYER OF THE DAY		

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	*Celtic Alleluia*	ELW 174
GOSPEL	Matthew 25:14-30	
SERMON		
HYMN OF THE DAY	*Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*	ELW 707

APOSTLES' CREED
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
OFFERTORY HYMN: *Praise & Thanksgiving v 1 & 4* ELW 689
OFFERING PRAYER
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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, Holy ELW 762
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
LORD'S PRAYER
INVITATION TO COMMUNION
COMMUNION *Let Us Break Bread Together* ELW 471
O Living Bread from Heaven ELW 542
POST COMMUNION BLESSING **c:** Amen.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION **c:** Amen.
BLESSING OF THE HUNTERS **c:** Amen.
BLESSING
The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* ELW 674
DISMISSAL Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**
POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Birthdays this week: River Jensen, Samuel Nedoba, Elisa Moss, Joe Fredrickson, Connor Mihm, Aspen Balow

The November Noisy Offering will support Holmen's Hope Weekend Backpack Program. Last weekend we collected $42.57 for a total of $132.37 so far. Thank

you!! We'll also be collecting food items for the backpacks – the list is in the gathering space. Keep making some noise!

Sign up today: Our blood drive is Friday, November 20 from 930 AM – 2 PM. You can sign up in the gathering space or online (link in our weekly E-News).

As part of our ongoing fall and winter Outreach, we are collecting clothing items for local non-profit organizations. 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!

Join us on Sunday, November 22, at 6pm at Journey Lutheran Church 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. 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! If you are interested in singing with the choir that night, please contact the office for more information and a copy of the music.

Poinsettia for Christmas will be ordered the week of Thanksgiving. Please have your order in by Sunday, November 22nd. Red or white poinsettias are available at $22 each. Order forms are in the gathering space or there is an online link in your E-News.

Our Prayers

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

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

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