Halfway Creek LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Worship

November 8, 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, 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	*My Lord, What a Morning*	ELW 438
GREETING	**c:** And also with you.	
PRAYER OF THE DAY		

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING	Amos 5:18-24	
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	*Open Your Ears O Faithful People*	ELW 519
GOSPEL	Matthew 25:1-13	
SERMON		
HYMN OF THE DAY	*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*	see insert

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: *Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God*
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. (repeat)
Cast me not away from your presence, O Lord, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and renew a right spirit within me.

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 *Canticle of the Turning* ELW 723
Blessed Assurance ELW 638
POST COMMUNION BLESSING **c:** Amen.
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION **c:** Amen.
BLESSING OF THE QUILTS **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 *It Is Well* see insert
DISMISSAL Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**
POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Birthdays this week: Carmon Jostad, Angela Balow, Kari Neumann, Ema Nedoba, Olivia Nedoba

The November Noisy Offering will support Holmen's Hope Weekend Backpack Program. Last weekend we collected $89.80. 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.

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

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HCLC Vision Board Members:
President, Bette Pedretti
Vice President, Nicole Stumlin
Secretary, Michelle Olson; Treasurer, Carrie Payne
Members: Nancy Holley, Wayne Atchley, Kent Kramer

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

1
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done. Refrain

Refrain
Children, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
for this work's almost done.

2
Darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
for this work's almost done. Refrain

3
Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
lo, the morning soon is breaking,
lo, the morning soon is breaking,
for this work's almost done. Refrain

4
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for this work's almost done. Refrain

Text: African American spiritual

It Is Well

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot,
thou has taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul

Chorus
It is well, it is well,
through the storm I am held It is well,
it is well with my soul
It is well, it is well,
God has won, Christ prevailed
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord oh my soul
Chorus

And Lord haste the day
when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound
and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul Chorus

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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!