

Good Shepherd

LUTHERAN CHURCH

1500 Sand Lake Road | Holmen, WI 54636 | 608-526-4829 | gsholmen.org



Newsletter 2025

Encouragement for the Family of Believers

Our Inreach Team has been using the Peter Plan for over a year. This is the system our church adopted by which we make periodic contacts to encourage members to attend public worship. While the plan calls for removing a person from membership after a year of non-attendance, we have taken a bit longer due to steps getting stretched out. The last step involves a face-to-face talk with the inactive member, but sometimes that's been hard to accomplish, and so the 44 Week Visit sometimes becomes the 47 Week Visit, for example.

Some members have special circumstances, so we've put the steps of the Peter Plan on hold. There are other member families without special circumstances for whom we've completed all the steps of the Peter Plan but they've still not attended worship. They will likely be removed from membership in the next month or two, voted on by the church council, if they don't come.

This is not excommunication. We're not declaring them to be unbelievers. Instead, we're removing them from membership because they haven't shown willingness to be active in the congregation. Such removal does have a disciplinary purpose, to remove false comfort from any who think they are right with God simply by having their name on a church membership roster. No, a person is saved by faith. That's the only way. We are saved by trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus promised us in John 15 that he is the Vine and we are the branches and that if we remain in him, we will bear much fruit. On the other hand, James 2:26 warns: "Faith without deeds is dead."

We can't read people's hearts. Inreach Team members and I have talked to long-time inactive members who have told us at their door, "I trust in Jesus. I just haven't been going to church." It's encouraging for me to hear them say they trust in Jesus. I believe them. Still, I am concerned for them, because I haven't seen evidence of their faith, beyond these words. If they're not attending church to hear God's Word and receive the Lord's Supper, it has me concerned that they may not be hearing the Bible message at home either. If a person is not feeding their faith with God's Word, their faith in Jesus may eventually die.

My encouragement to you – please pray and pray for church members and others whom you know haven't attended for a while. It makes me so happy to see long-time inactive members return.

One more thing. Multiple times I've heard non-churchgoing people joke. "If I stepped into church, I'd be struck by lightning." I know it's a joke, but it makes me sad whenever I hear that. The truth is the opposite. God will not strike such a person with his wrath. God is greatly *pleased* when a person enters his house after a long absence. But that common joke is a reminder for you and me that people long absent from church may be fearing the "lightning strike" from you or me. In other words, they may fear our judgmental stares and insensitive comments. So let's be gracious and kind to every unfamiliar face we see in the Lord's house. Because only by God's grace do any of us stand. "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Pastor Gregory Pope

News from Tammy Melott, Early Childhood Coordinator / Preschool Director

This past week, we held our VBS program titled True North, Trusting God in a Wild World. The children learned that when we wonder, we feel alone, we need help, or we need hope, we can trust in Jesus. The children focused on these truths every day through Bible stories, crafts, music, and games. The older kids enjoyed doing experiments while talking about the truths every day. On the last day, the children sang some of the songs they learned for their parents, and then they enjoyed ice cream treats and a bounce house. God blessed us with 79 registered children, and an average of 60-65 attended every night.

This program would not be as successful as it is without the many volunteers that help every night. Thank you for giving your time this past week and helping bring God's Word to these children. Your service to Good Shepherd in this way is greatly appreciated!

Sunday School registration is now open and the QR code to register is on page 4 of this newsletter. We have made some changes this year. First, we will be using a new curriculum called Enduring Faith for children in Pre-K - 6th. We are also trying something new with the older kids in 7th-12th. We will be having a youth Bible study for them at the same time as our regular Sunday School program. This group will study topics related to the world they live in today. Sunday School starts on kick-off Sunday which is September 7th. It will take place every Sunday from 10:15 - 11:00 until May. This is not just for our church families. If you have friends or neighbors that would like to attend, please invite them to sign up as well.

We could use some subs for Sunday School. This is a big commitment for the teachers, and sometimes they cannot be here. If this is something you wouldn't mind helping with, please let me know. You can email me at tmelott@gsholmen.org.

Preschool classes will start the week after Labor Day. The teachers have been doing home visits and getting their rooms prepped for the new year. At the end of August, we will have Open Houses for all the classes. This gives the children a chance to meet their classmates as the teachers hold a brief meeting with their parents. Please keep the preschool program and our dedicated teachers in your prayers as we get ready for the new school year to begin.

Book Club

Hello Readers, our next book club will be on Thursday, August 21st at 6:30 p.m. We will meet at Features in Holmen, unless someone would like to host in their home. If you would like to host, please let me know. When coming to Features, some of the members just order a beverage, while some order an appetizer or a meal. Feel free to do what is best for you. We will try to sit out on the patio weather permitting.

The book is Under the Tulip Tree by Michelle Shocklee. I was able to listen to the audiobook through Hoopla the library's free app, but there are 6 copies at the library. I think this book will lend itself to a lot of discussion on a few different topics. I have gone on to listen and read several more books of hers. This is again Christian historical fiction.

Any questions please contact Lisa Carlson at 608-797-5521. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you are able to come, please sign up or send me a text before Aug 18th. Happy Reading!

Preschool News from Lisa Carlson

Home Visits are well under way as is the process of cleaning and reorganizing my classroom. As I have prepped my Christ Light curriculum, I have a few projects that could use some pieces to be cut out. If you are able to assist, (these are things you could take home and do at your convenience), please contact Lisa Carlson at 608-797-5521. I am looking forward to meeting our families and sharing our church and preschool with them. Lisa Carlson



COIN WAR FUNDRAISER



Help Us Build the New Playground!

The Challenge Is On!

Support your favorite **Councilman or Pastor** and help raise money for our new playground. The **team with the lowest score** gets a **pie in the face** on **Kick Off Sunday!**

How to Play:

✓ ADD Points with Coins ●:

Put coins in the container of the person **you want to win**:

- Penny = 1 point, Nickel = 5 points, Dime = 10 points, Quarter = 25 points

✗ SUBTRACT Points with Bills 💵:

Put bills in **other teams' containers** to bring their score down:

- \$1 bill = -100 points, \$5 bill = -500 points, \$10 bill = -1,000 points, \$20 bill = -2,000 points

(Yes, sabotage is allowed—it's a war!)

😞 The Consequence:

At the end of the fundraiser, the person with the **lowest total score** will receive a **pie in the face** during our **Kickoff Sunday celebration!**

All money raised goes directly to support the **new playground** for our Little Lamb Preschool and church families.

Every penny helps—and every bill stings!

Where to Donate:

Find the labeled containers in the church lobby—one for each **Councilman and Pastor**.

Let the Coin War begin! Bring your change. Bring your bills. Bring the fun!

Steven Bautista Concert – Thursday, August 21

WELS traveling musician Stephen Bautista and his family gave a concert for us last year. We're blessed to have them come again on Thursday, August 21 at 6 pm. This concert will be at Good Shepherd, on our church grounds. Here is more information about him and the concert:

Stephen and his family are WELS members who travel around the country for their full-time Christian music mission. Their goal is to "enlighten the lost and encourage the found" with Stephen's original, Christ-centered music. Along with his daughter Marissa, Stephen shares his music in a very compelling yet soothing style, while conveying a solid Gospel message.

Stephen, his wife, Christy, their nine "roadschooled" children, a dog, and two cats have a home-base in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, but are more often found visiting congregations around the country in their Chevy Express van with their 33-foot travel trailer in tow.

Stephen has five professionally produced CDs that are available for purchase at his concerts and worship services. His music is also available online at www.StephenBautistaMusic.com, iTunes, Amazon, and most other online outlets.

Please consider supporting Stephen's music mission by purchasing his CDs and/or contributing a freewill offering that will help him continue spreading the Gospel of Jesus with his music.

For more information about Stephen's music and upcoming events, visit www.StephenBautistaMusic.com.

Who Can You Invite to Church This Week?

Around us everywhere are people with whom Jesus wants us to share his message of love and salvation. Sometimes, we don't realize who we can invite to church or talk to about our faith with. That's why we are encouraging all our members to think about who they can invite to church this week. They could be:

- Friends
- Relatives
- Acquaintances (work colleagues, dentists/doctors, coaches, etc.)
- Neighbors

Take five minutes and think about these lost souls, pray for them and consider inviting them to church this week.

Coulee Region OWLS

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 12:00 noon at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Avenue South, La Crosse for a 12:00 Noon Potluck Luncheon. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee will be provided. All church members – men and women age 55 or older – are welcome. The program will be the Principal of Luther High School, Jon Beilke, telling us "What Is New at Luther High". Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch, and an excellent program. There will be a free will offering.

Registration for the 2025-2026 Sunday School year is open.

Sunday School is for children ages 3 years old - 6th grade. New this year is also a youth Bible Time for anyone in 7th - 12th grade. This will take place at the same time, 10:15AM - 11:00AM. This group will focus more on topics that kids at this age are faced with. If you have questions about this new group, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Please register your 7th-12th graders as well, thank you. You can use the QR code to register your children. Any questions can be directed to tmelott@gsholmen.org. We look forward to having your children attend Sunday School this year!



National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5, 2025, from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Halfway Creek Park - Holmen

Good Shepherd will once again have a booth at National Night Out hosted by the Holmen Police Department. We will have a Plinko board for children and adult prizes. We will also be handing out information on Good Shepherd and Little Lambs Preschool.

We are looking for 3-4 volunteers to help with the event. We will need people to arrive at the Church at 4:00 PM to load everything and then head to the park to set everything up. After the event everything will be loaded back up and taken back to Church.

Please contact Erik Sjolander with any questions, 608.780.7537 or erik.d.sjolander@gmail.com.

Holmen Kornfest Parade

Saturday, August 16, 2025 - Arrive by 10:30 AM / Parade is at 11:00 AM

Good Shepherd will be participating in the Holmen Kornfest Parade again this year. We are looking for 10 or more people to walk along the parade float and hand out information on Good Shepherd, Little Lambs Preschool.

Please contact Erik Sjolander with any questions, 608.780.7537 or erik.d.sjolander@gmail.com.

Luther Junior Knight Tackle Football

Are you ready for some football!

Registration for the 2025 Junior Knight football season remains open through August 17. The program is designed for boys in 7th and 8th grade in the 2025-2026 school year. The team practices twice per week and has a 6-game schedule. Visit <https://www.lutherjuniorknights.com/football> for more information on the program and a link to register your son for the upcoming season!

Parent/Player orientation is Monday, August 18 at 6:30 pm. The orientation will be held at Luther High School in the ACE Gym.

Immeasurably More: St. Paul's Women's Ministry Retreat 2025

Longing for more? Find purpose and fullness in Christ. Join us as we explore the storehouses of the King—where there's always immeasurably more.

Do you often feel like you're yearning for something more? Life can frequently leave us feeling unfulfilled, but God provides more: depth, a deeper relationship with Him, and greater purpose in our lives. Join Marilyn Sievert, Amber Albee Swenson, and Dr. Rhoda Wolle as they lead us to the king's storehouses, where there is always more, immeasurably more.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory..." Ephesians 3:20

- **Time & Location:** Sep 06, 2025, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1201 Main St, Onalaska
- **Pricing:** \$50 per person, or bring a friend and pay \$80 for both! Registration is limited to 200 participants.
- **What to Bring:** No need to bring anything. Just bring yourself!
- **What to Wear:** Casual attire is ideal. Come as you are and be comfortable.
- **Childcare:** Please be aware that childcare is not available.
- **Please click here or scan the QR code to register.** A link to register is also available on our website, stpaulsonalaska.org



August Birthdays

Amy	Sjolander	8/1
Renee	Skaer	8/3
Tammy	Melott	8/4
Tracie	Bateman	8/5
Mark	Olson	8/5
Dan	Peterson	8/5
Missy	Klein	8/9
Sandy	Lusk	8/10
Steve	McCoy	8/11
Duane	Meyer Sr.	8/12
Chris	Trocinski	8/12
Tanner	Underberg	8/12
Benjamin	Menden	8/13
Landon	Sobkowiak	8/14
Blakely	Boisen	8/15
Taylor	Hauser	8/15
Alexis	Sill	8/15
Tina	Pesik	8/16
David	Carlson	8/17
Don	Bautch	8/18
Acacia	Bateman	8/19
Mary	Humm	8/19
Luke	Horstman	8/20
Hannah	McClellan	8/20
Dylan	Huiss	8/21
Ann	Everson	8/23
Braylon	Boisen	8/22
Heather	Burke	8/25
Davian	Daily	8/28
Katelyn	Patten	8/29

September Birthdays

Whitney	Wacker	9/1
Jessica	Gamoke	9/3
Mason	Bateman	9/4
Alan	Ross	9/4
Zachary	Larson	9/5
Ray	Sandvick	9/5
Taylor	Sill	9/5
Dorian	Bautch	9/8
Jenaya	Larson	9/8
Graham	Sime	9/10
Haven	Blankenship	9/11
Carson	Karow	9/12
Kirsten	Olson	9/12
Samantha	Wolfe	9/12
Stefanie	McCoy	9/13
Jessica	Blankenship	9/14
Joshua	Lipps	9/14
Kyle	Sime	9/14
Daniel	Schams	9/18
Henry	Karow	9/26
Barb	Weinberger	9/26
Josh	Horstman	9/27
Mark	Ross	9/27
John	McDonald	9/29

*If your birthday isn't mentioned and you would like it to be or your birthday is incorrect, please let the church office know, office@gsholmen.org.

Camp Croix Fall Women's Retreat

We're thrilled to invite you to this year's Women's Retreat - Perfectly Placed: Embracing Your God-Given Strengths, happening October 3-5 at Camp Croix! Come away for a weekend of rest, renewal, and meaningful time with God and other women of faith. Together, we'll explore your unique, God-given gifts using the Clifton StrengthsFinder tool. Built-in partner work makes this retreat a great experience to share with a friend! Come as you are - real, authentic, messy, and perfectly imperfect - and leave refreshed, seen, and empowered in who God created you to be. Spots fill quickly, so don't wait! To find out more and to register, visit: <https://campcroix.org/womens-retreat> .

Ushers, Greeters, Counters and Cleaners

August Schedule

Sunday, August 3rd		Week of August 3rd to August 9th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Jim Rupprecht	Sheryl Rupprecht	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Aaron Larson	Sarah Larson	Al Herbers	Melott	Sanctuary
		Carl Newman		
Sunday, August 10th		Week of August 10th to August 16th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Erik Sjolander	Amy Sjolander	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Karsen/Dawson Sjolander		Chad & Whitney Wacker	Sjolander	Sanctuary
Richard Brockway				
Sunday, August 17th		Week of August 17th to August 23rd		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Dan Peterson	Julie Peterson	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Jacob Werre	Kathy Werre	Mark Bateman	Werre	Sanctuary
Bennett King		Howard Burmester		
Sunday, August 24th		Week of August 24th to August 30th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Mark Ross	Nicole Ross	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Alan Ross	Odetta Ross	Sylvia McDonald	Patten	Sanctuary
		Jacquelyn Kinsey		
Sunday, August 31st		Week of August 31st to September 6th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Mike Melott	Tammy Melott	Counters:	Cleaners:	
John McDonald		Aaron & Sarah Larson	Newman	Sanctuary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9am - Worship	No Monday Night Worship 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School	5:30pm - Vacation Bible School	5:30pm - Vacation Bible School			
9am - Worship with Holy	6:30pm - Worship with Holy	5pm - National Night Out	6:15pm - Sunday School Meeting			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9am - Worship	6:30pm - Worship		11am - God-lived Life Planning	5:30pm - Sowers of Good		11am - Kornfest Parade
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9am - Worship with Holy	6:30pm - Worship with Holy		6pm - Church Council Meeting	6:30pm - Book Club		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9am - Worship	6:30pm - Worship	5:30pm - Preschool Open House	5:30pm - Preschool Open House			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9am - Worship						
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labor Day No Monday Night Worship - Labor	Preschool First Days				