



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

November Newsletter 2025

A Time For Everything

Sunday I walked into a store and saw the Holiday Schedule posted near the sliding doors. I turned on the radio and a station had Christmas music planning. November has come. Turn the page. The book of Ecclesiastes talks about this, the relentless cycle of human activities. Here is the start of it:

“There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,

a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal,

a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh,

a time to mourn and a time to dance . . .” (Ecc 3:1-4)

Churches and church bodies also follow familiar cycles. History is more interesting than we give it credit for. I really encourage you to attend our Sunday Bible Class on our synod’s 175th anniversary in later November. Professor Paul Koelpin in his history talk after the Reformation Service at Luther High School last Sunday mentioned how historic dates are not that hard to remember. That’s because many big events happen as an intentional anniversary of something else. For example, Doctor Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN opened its doors on November 10, 1884, the 401st anniversary of Martin Luther’s birth. (The building project started the year earlier, on the 400th anniversary.) Also, the Wisconsin Synod, along with the Minnesota, Michigan, and Nebraska Synods, merged in 1917 to form the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. This was also intentional, to mark the 400th anniversary of Martin Luther’s nailing of the 95 Theses on the Castle Church door of Wittenberg, seen as the official start of the Reformation. This trend continues, as our synod’s new edition of the Small Catechism was published in 2017, to mark the 500th anniversary. This is the catechism we use for sixth to eighth grade catechism class.

Finally, our church is doing something similar. I leave it to you to decide whether this is intentional, or maybe the Holy Spirit working his providence through our subconscious. This Sunday, after church, we present to you the Mission Enhancement Plan for voter approval. This is to apply to our synod for a grant that would give us funding for adding a called worker, whether a second pastor or staff minister. If approved Sunday, we would find out in spring of 2026 whether WELS approves our grant application. So this is possibly an unintentional way to celebrate Good Shepherd, Holmen’s 50th anniversary, as our congregation was founded in 1976. Praise be to God for his unsearchable working in Jesus our Savior! May his plans prevail, as he has promised they will, because he knows what is best for us.

Pastor Gregory Pope

Preschool News from Tammy Melott, Early Childhood Coordinator / Preschool Director

The Sunday School children and preschool children sang on Sunday, October 26th. We had 18 preschool children sing, and many of the families stayed to worship with us as well. This is yet another opportunity for our church members to welcome and connect with the preschool families as we work to partner with the preschool in this way.

The Sunday School Christmas program has been selected, and the children are already working on the songs and the speaking parts. The program will take place on Sunday, December 14th. Please mark your calendars and come to enjoy the children sharing the beloved Christmas story through word and song.

The preschool classes have been making some neat fall projects that are displayed in the preschool hallway. Make sure to walk down there and check out what they have been doing. Mrs. Carlson and Mrs. Sime do a great job with the children in their care, and it shows in all that they do every day!



3K and 4K Half-Day Classroom News from Mrs. Lisa Carlson

In Mrs. Carlson's room our students are learning about fire safety. We are covering the stories of Moses talking to the king of Egypt and how God lead his people out of Egypt and provided for them. We are also discussing how God provides for us and how that is why we celebrate Thanksgiving. I am finishing my last 16 parent teacher conferences during the month.

4K Full-Day Classroom News from Mrs. Ashley Sime

October was such a busy and exciting month!

We practiced fire drills, enjoyed a special visit from the Holmen Fire Department, baked muffins with Mrs. Carlson's class, went on fun field trips, and wrapped up our pumpkin theme with a fantastic Halloween festival. Time is flying by, and it's such a blessing to watch the children grow in both learning and faith each day!

As we move into November, we'll be focusing on learning more about ourselves and our emotions, remembering that God wonderfully made each of us unique and special. We'll talk about how God helps us understand our feelings and how we can show His love through kindness and compassion toward others. We will also continue learning new letters, numbers, and math skills as we build on all the wonderful progress the children have made so far this year.

We'll be doing fun Thanksgiving activities and projects throughout the month as we talk about gratitude and God's many blessings. Feel free to stop by the preschool hall and check out some of the beautiful work the kids have been doing!

Mission Enhancement Application Voters' Meeting on November 9th

All are welcome to attend an upcoming Voters' Meeting where we will share our Mission Enhancement Application plan and vote to move forward with it. As a reminder, Mission Enhancement is part of a 10-year initiative (2023–2033) to plant 100 new churches and enhance 75 existing ministries within the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). The enhancement grants provide financial support to help existing congregations expand their reach. Please contact Jacob Werre with any questions, jacobj_4@hotmail.com.

Updated Council Member Listing

- Jacob Werre: President & HR team
- Jim Pagel: Treasurer
- Ryan Radloff: Secretary, Worship and Inreach/Spiritual Care
- Dan Schams: Education
- Chad Wacker: Building & Grounds & Technology
- Chad Klein: Fellowship and Evangelism

New Online Reimbursement Form

We now have an electronic expense reimbursement form that you can fill out online if you purchase anything for the church. The link to it is now on the contact page of the Good Shepherd website. If you have any questions, contact our treasurer Jim Pagel at jpapel1480@charter.net.

A GOD-LIVED LIFE: A life lived shrewdly

While stewardship of our finances isn't the only part of stewardship, it is a part of it. God's Word encourages us to use all of the financial gifts God has given us with an eye on our purpose.

Our challenge card starting on November 9th of this month will focus on living shrewdly with the blessings and treasures that God has given us. But what did Jesus mean when he encouraged us to be shrewd? Who is someone you know that is a positive example of shrewdness? In what ways are you already shrewd? In what ways are you not shrewd? How can you honor God by managing with intention the gifts he has given you?

How will we commit to the challenges? As individual members, we are going to fill out a different challenge card each month. This will help to involve our entire family of faith in the challenges and help us encourage each other in the challenges.

May God bless us and strengthen us as we live a God-lived life—a life lived shrewdly!

Upcoming Luther High School Events

- Service to Our Nation – Veteran's Day at Luther High School – November 11th from 10-11:10 am in the Luther High School Chapel Auditorium. A continental breakfast will be served from 8:30-9:45 am for Veterans and their families.
- Please also note that they are posters in the church entryway with more information about upcoming events. Please check the bulletin board periodically for updates.

LIVE NATIVITY SET-UP at Riverside Park will be November 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. 9am-5pm. Rotary provides lunch. Many hands make light work! Please come for any amount of time you can spare on any of those Saturdays. Questions? Call George Italiano (608-317-0271).

★ Also, there is a NEW WEBSITE that should be up and running! All signup links are already located there www.nativitydiorama.com. Good Shepherd's weekend will be Saturday and Sunday, December 13th and 14th. Information is available on the table in the back of church with more details about signing up.

Coulee Chorale is Back!

Join us as the Coulee Chorale is back again for a 2025 Christmas Concert in December! Any WELS member at one of the Luther High School Association churches can join. Rehearsals are held at Luther High School on November 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:00-8:00 pm and on December 6 from 9:00-11:00 am. This year's concert is on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 2:00 pm. You can sign up today at <https://forms.gle/zYUVdjvNiYhzacxz5>. Questions? Contact Paul Adickes at adicpaul@luther.k12.wi.us or 608-783-5435, ext. 1340.

Offering Envelopes 2026

Over the past few years, we have monitored the number of offering envelopes that go unused and considered the cost of purchasing them each calendar year. Several members of our congregation give online regularly, and with that, we see an opportunity to reduce both waste and expenses.

With this in mind, we are asking every member of Good Shepherd to **opt in** if you wish to receive offering envelopes for the 2026 calendar year. If you would like to receive them, please reply to this email confirming your request. If you are responding on behalf of more than one person in your household, please include a confirmation for each individual.

Please note: A limited number of extra offering envelope booklets will be ordered each year for new members.

We kindly ask that all responses be submitted **by November 12, 2025**.

Please contact Church President, Jacob Werre with any questions or concerns, jacobi_4@hotmail.com.

After School Care to be Offered Next Year

After much discussion, the council and preschool leadership have decided to offer after school care for our preschool in the 2026-2027 school year. With the addition of the full-time classroom, there is a much stronger need for this and we know that we lost several families who wanted to attend our full-time preschool, but weren't able to make it work without after school care. We will be able to cover these additional hours of care with our current staffing. Details are still being ironed out, but if you have any questions please attend the November 9th Voters' Meeting where we will discuss this update along with the main topic of the Mission Enhancement Application. You can also reach out to Jacob Werre at 608-606-4426 or jacobi_4@hotmail.com.

Recovery in Christ has a New Time

Recovery in Christ meets every Wednesday in the Meditation Room at 1:15 pm at Coulee Recovery Center (933 Ferry St. 608-784-4177) La Crosse, Wisconsin. RIC is a Bible support group for those in addiction. Contact Pastor Andrew Franz, Grace Lutheran Church, La Crosse, Wisconsin to learn more information or to check if the group is meeting (715-574-6602). Tim Gray has podcast entitled "Recovery Under the Cross." Enter "Recovery Under the Cross" in your browser.



OH GIVE THANKS
TO THE LORD, FOR
HE IS GOOD, FOR
HIS STEADFAST
LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER!
PSALM 107:1 ESV

Trunk or Treat Recap

Trunk or Treat 2025 took place on Saturday, October 25th. We moved the time up to the morning this year, from 10AM-12PM, due to the large amount of trunk or treat activities taking place in the afternoon the same day. This time seemed to work out very well, so we will continue it in the future.

I am thankful for the Pickle Patch which donated about 60 pumpkins and two crates of gourds for our event. The children enjoyed decorating them with foam face pieces and various Halloween stickers. We also had Christian themed crafts, games, a tattoo table, and snacks and beverages for the guests and children to enjoy.

We had 15 cars participating, 6 of which were preschool families for which we were very thankful. This is a great way to make deeper connections with our preschool families and church members. There were about 133 children that attended, and many parents and grandparents as well. We handed out cards with church and preschool information, and also the date for our Christmas for Kids event.

God certainly blessed our event, and to him we give all glory for such a wonderful turnout!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS – November 2025 Youth Ministry Events

Good Shepherd Holmen Youth Ministry is designed to continue faith building and fellowship for our youth at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

- FOOD DRIVE Donations drop off and eat out together, Monday 11/24/2025 5:00-7:00pm.

Introducing Youth Bible Study

- Sunday mornings at 10:15 every week (same time as adult bible study and Sunday school classes) – Meet in Conference Room
- Topics relevant to mental health and well-being from the Bible
- Video lesson series from our national WELS resources used
- Available for students in 6th to 12th grade

Monthly Fellowship activities

- Volunteer opportunities as a youth group
- Small group outings: Pickleball, bowling, gaming, etc.
- Host large group church outings: ski trip, roller skating night, bonfire
- Opportunities to fundraise and attend the WELS International Youth Rally in the summer of 2026 – in Bowling Green, Ohio
- Suggestions welcome for new activities!

Monthly outings or events will be planned throughout the year – see church calendar. All students, 6th through 12th grade invited and friends are welcome to join any of the activities.

Please contact Kala McClellan for further information, suggestions for activities, or any questions at kalamcclellan27@gmail.com or text/call at 612-978-3190.

Jinglefest

Jinglefest 2025 will be held in Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM in downtown Holmen. Good Shepherd is planning to have a booth at the event once again this year. If we move forward with a booth, it will be outside Holmen Village Hall, the Holmen Library, or the Holmen American Legion. We would need at least two volunteers per shift. There are three shifts: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM (includes set up time), 11:30 AM-2:00 PM and 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM (includes tear down time). We will have information on Good Shepherd, a game for children to win prizes, and a drawing for adults to win a gift card.

The deadline to sign up for volunteer shift is Sunday, November 9 to meet the booth registration deadline of Monday, November 10.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church if you are interested in helping with this event.

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

November Birthdays

Carey	Babe	11/1
Jim	Pagel	11/1
Rick	Brandau	11/2
Emily	Schmidt	11/3
Bill	Bader	11/4
Audra	Newman	11/4
Madeline	Kendhammer	11/6
Gavin	Huiss	11/8
Kali	Olson	11/9
Kim	Olson	11/9
Katie	Westlund	11/12
Todd	Landers	11/14
Mike	Klein	11/17
Dennis	Habeck	11/18
Josh	Cramer	11/23
Alex	Menden	11/23
Rick	Blankenship	11/24
Gary	Horstman	11/25
Abram	Carlson	11/26
Cassie	Huiss	11/26
Paisley	Wacker	11/26
Richard	Bakalars	11/27
Blake	Finn	11/27
Adalynn	Cramer	11/29
Anna	Hauser	11/30

December Birthdays

Andrew	Stegner	12/1
Jesse	Klein	12/2
Violet	Peterson	12/2
Doug	Stallman	12/3
Cindy	Rockwell	12/4
Christina	Porath	12/11
Steven	Blankenship	12/13
Jonathan	Carlson	12/13
Odetta	Ross	12/13
Tim	Beckendorf	12/16
Doug	Stellick	12/17
Benjamin	Sill	12/18
Howie	Burmester	12/19
Phyllis	Asmus	12/20
Kaitlyn	Cramer	12/22
Levi	Huiss	12/24
Carlie	Adamson	12/25
Dawn	Radsek	12/25
Nancy	Herbers	12/28
Liam	Sobkowiak	12/28
Dawson	Sjolander	12/29
Adam	Sting	12/29
Lainey	Wacker	12/31

- 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.
- Please note that the church calendar is subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar, please check our church website as the calendar changes throughout the month. www.gsholmen.org

November Schedule

November Schedule				
Sunday, November 2nd		Week of November 2nd to November 8th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Alan Ross	Odetta Ross	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Gary Priem	Denise Priem	Aaron & Sarah Larson	Werre	
Sunday, November 9th		Week of November 9th to November 15th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Erik Sjolander	Amy Sjolander	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Karsen/Dawson Sjolander		Al Herbers	Patten	
Richard Brockway		Carl Newman		
Sunday, November 16th		Week of November 16th to November 22nd		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Mark Bateman	Ann Everson	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Dan Peterson		Chad & Whitney Wacker	Newman	
Sunday, November 23rd		Week of November 23rd to November 29th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Aaron Larson	Heather McCarty	Counters:	Cleaners:	
John McDonald		Mark Bateman	Gamoke	
		Howard Burmester		
Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 26th				
6:30pm Ushers	Greeters			
Tim Beckendorf	Kim Beckendorf			
Jim Rupprecht	Sheryl Rupprecht			
Sunday, November 30th		Week of November 30th to December 6th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Dylan Huiss	Cassie Huiss	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Kyle Sime	Ashley Sime	Sylvia McDonald	McDonald	Sanctuary
		Jacquelyn Kinsey		
Church Wall Dusting-- Herbers				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Bam - Choir Rehearsal 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School 2pm - Fall Concert at Luther High	27 6:30pm - Worship	28	29 No Preschool Classes 5pm - Confirmation Class	30	31 Halloween Reformation Day	1 All Saints' Day
2 All Souls' Day Daylight Saving Time ends Bam - Choir Rehearsal 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School 2pm - Joint Reformation Service 4pm - Youth Group Bowling	3 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	4 Election Day	5 5pm - Confirmation Class	6	7	8
9 Bam - Choir Rehearsal 9am - Worship 10:15am - Mission Enhancement 10:15am - Sunday School	10 6:30pm - Worship	11 Veterans Day 10am - Veterans Day Event at	12 5pm - Confirmation Class	13 5:30pm - Sowers of Good	14	15
16 Bam - Choir Rehearsal 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	17 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	18	19 5pm - Confirmation Class	20 6pm - Church Council Meeting	21	22
23 Bam - Choir Rehearsal 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	24 5pm - Youth Group Food Drive 6:30pm - Worship	25	26 5pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Thanksgiving Eve Service	27 Thanksgiving Day	28 Black Friday	29
30 First Sunday of Advent 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	1 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	2	3 5pm - Confirmation Class	4	5	6 Jinglefest