



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



Newsletter 2025

The LORD's Plans Prevail

Proverbs 16 is an interesting Bible chapter on the balance between human planning and God's will. Proverbs 16:3 is one of my favorite verses: "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." But to keep us humble and content with God's superior plans for us, there is Proverbs 16:9: "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps."

Let's thank the Trinity that he blessed our plans just as we drew them up, in letting us build the new playground and having it mostly funded. Thank you to all who helped this plan in every way!

Ezekiel is a fascinating Bible book, depicting the glory of the LORD with fantastical descriptions. Ezekiel 40-48 fascinates in an architectural way. Bible commentaries note that this detailed blueprint for the restored temple in Jerusalem was never constructed as a building, despite Ezekiel receiving these plans from the Holy Spirit in the same century that the second temple was built. It's clear from the blueprint that this plan was meant to be a future, or idealized structure. Hints as to the symbolic nature of the blueprint include the following. The lengths and widths of the building are provided, but not the heights. No description of a roof over the temple. Vast scale – the temple complex measures 5,000 ft on each side, and wouldn't fit within the confines of Jerusalem. Supernatural river – the end of Ezekiel describes a river starting as a trickle east of Jerusalem and developing into a permanent river, flowing into the Dead Sea, and making its salt water become fresh. None of these are realities in our current world. So this may be the Holy Spirit's way of pointing us to God's eternal plans for us – the new heavens and the new earth, and the holy city we'll live in, with pleasures in Christ that go beyond our current understanding.

On the subject of plans, I took part in the Holmen Business Association (HBA) bus tour of Holmen last month. Incidentally, our church was chosen as the HBA business/organization of the month, for October. You can see the banner and the flower arrangement their board kindly gave us, in our church entrance. Holmen Administrator (Village CEO) Scott Heinig led the bus tour and explained what is happening and expected, as the bus took us from sight to sight. Here are highlights:

- Waldenberger Development, northern part of Holmen will have 270 lots, all single family
- 90 more lots nearby
- A Dominos and a Midway Deli coming soon to the area north of town near the new Kwik Trip
- A \$7 million project is expected for Main Street in 2027. Much greater capacity will be added to the sewer system, to account for all the growth to the north, which hasn't yet been built in. All utilities will be replaced. There will be phases, parts of the street shut down at different times.
- County Road D and V will receive traffic lights
- Holmen population is projected to be 13,500 in 2030

Let's pray that God bless Holmen's plans and continue to make this community prosper. As the hymn says, "What God ordains is always good." May he continue to bless our congregation by his Word. To learn about our church's upcoming plans, please attend our Fall Vision Together Meeting on Sunday, October 19 after worship.

Pastor Gregory Pope

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

The 2025-2026 school year has gotten off to a great start! It has been wonderful seeing all the smiling faces every day and hearing the joy and laughter in the classrooms once again. Mrs. Carlson, Mrs. Sime, and Mrs. Heather are truly a blessing to our preschool, and I wish them God's richest blessings as they teach God's precious lambs for another year.

The highlight for the students has been the new playground. They especially enjoy the sandbox, and we thank the Olson family (daughter is in the full-time class) for donating the great sand. Something new this year also is a playhouse/kitchen area which the children are enjoying as well. On behalf of the preschool staff, we would like to thank everyone involved in making this happen. Thank you for all the donations and hard physical labor put into getting it ready in a timely manner, we appreciate everyone so very much!

Sunday School and Youth Bible Study is also off to a good start. We have an average of 21 students attending Sunday School in Pre-K through 5th and 4 attending the Youth Bible Study. We have some returning teachers and some new ones this year. I would like to thank everyone for giving of their time to help with this important program here at Good Shepherd.

Our Trunk or Treat event this year will take place on Saturday, October 25th, 10AM-12PM. We would like at least 10-12 decorated trunks for this event. For anyone not familiar with this, you would just decorate the trunk of your car and hand out treats to the children as they come by. Some families even have simple games the kids can play. You would supply the treats. We also have games, craft activities, and snacks set up inside for the families/children to enjoy. Volunteers are needed at each of those stations as well. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to decorate a trunk or volunteer at one of the stations. If you have any questions, please either talk to me after church or email me at tmelott@gsholmen.org. Thank you so much!



Preschool News from Head Teacher Lisa Carlson

Mrs. Carlson's Preschool News: September has flown by. We had beautiful weather for taking a nature hike at 7 Bridges last week. Now we shift to learning about pumpkins. We will be taking a field trip to Schwertel's in Centerville. Then we will bake some pumpkin muffins the following week. We end the month with Halloween parties and State Teacher's conference. We will be learning about the life of Moses in our Christ Light time. I will also be starting to do parent teacher's conferences.

Mrs. Sime's 4K Classroom news:

First, I would like to say how much of a blessing this calling is and how much I enjoy the students and their families. I also would like to thank our wonderful preschool staff for helping me feel so welcome and for all their help this first month.

We've had an exciting start to the year! Our class is busy learning through play, exploring new friendships, and diving into fun themes. We're discovering new things every day, and we know that all of it is part of God's amazing creation. In September we have been working on letters, exploring God's world through our Apple theme, and enjoying the beauty of creation on our first hiking field trip.

Each day we are reminded that God made the world and everything in it --- including us! What a joy it is to learn, play and celebrate his goodness together.

Playground Update

Thank you to everyone who has donated already and perhaps continues to give for our new playground! We are still roughly \$5,000 short of our goal, but some offerings keep coming in and we borrowed from the Future Ministry Fund for the payments. Any additional offerings for the playground will help re-fill the Future Ministry Fund.

A huge thanks to all who helped with the preparation, installation and clean up after for the playground! David and Lisa Carlson put in a lot of work with their Bobcat and Chad Wacker and many others also contributed hours of labor. Thank you to all who helped!

A GOD-LIVED LIFE: A life lived for others

This month, the particular focus of the God-lived life is a *life lived for others*, a life of generosity. God allows us the opportunity to serve and love one another, especially those who are part of our communities.

Our challenge card this month will focus on being a good neighbor. What makes someone a good neighbor? How can you show God's love to others by being a good neighbor? How can our church be a good neighbor to our community? How can we be present for others?

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 as we live a God-lived life, serving others!

Fall Vision Together Meeting - Sunday, October 19

Please join us on Sunday October 19 for our Fall Vision Together Meeting where we will provide an update on our ministry at Good Shepherd, on our Mission Enhancement application, and more.

Mark your calendars for Trunk or Treat!

Our Trunk or Treat event this year will take place on Saturday, October 25th, 10AM-12PM. We would like at least 10-12 decorated trunks for this event. For anyone not familiar with this, you would just decorate the trunk of your car and hand out treats to the children as they come by. Some families even have simple games the kids can play. You would supply the treats. We also have games, craft activities, and snacks set up inside for the families/children to enjoy. Volunteers are needed at each of those stations as well. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to decorate a trunk or volunteer at one of the stations. If you have any questions, please either talk to me (Tammy Melott) after church or email me at tmelott@gsholmen.org. Thank you so much!

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

Winona Circuit LWMS Fall Rally

The event is on Saturday, October 18th at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Winona, MN.

It begins with registration and refreshments from 8:00 to 9:00 am, followed by a devotion, business meeting, and a presentation by guest speaker, Gwen Schroeder, Director of Member Care for Friends Network. Lunch will be served at noon.

We look forward to gathering with you there to learn more about Networking for Jesus. If you plan to attend and if anyone needs a ride or could drive and take others, there is a signup sheet by the poster in the lobby. Everyone is invited!

Recovery in Christ has a New Time

Recovery in Christ meets every Wednesday in the Meditation Room at 4:15 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.

Luther High School Children's Theatre

Children's Theatre is soon approaching, and the students are looking forward to sharing this year's show with you! Would you be willing to help promote it to your members by putting an announcement in your bulletins? I have one written below that you can use, or you can edit it to fit your needs.

Luther High School is excited to present *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing* as this year's Children's Theater production! Get ready for an adventure where imagination leads the way! When three sisters are left in the forest, they set off on separate journeys filled with Vikings, enchanted lands, and heartwarming reunions. Told through lively storyteller theatre, this magical tale celebrates play, courage, and the power of dreaming big. Buy your tickets today at <https://www.ticketsource.us/lutherhighschool>! Questions? Contact Emily Schmidt at schmemil@luther.k12.wi.us or (608) 783-5435 ex. 1322. We hope to see you there!

MLC College Choir @ First Lutheran Oct. 26th at 7 p.m.

Brothers and sisters, First Lutheran is privileged to host the MLC College Choir on Sunday Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. You are all invited to attend the concert. Please mark your calendars -- we hope you can join us.

Coulee Region OWLS October 2025 Meeting

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Avenue South, La Crosse at 12:00 Noon for a 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 "Campus Ministry" given by Pastor Garrett Alford from Winona State University. Quinn Bilitz, Campus Minister from Luther High School, will be our guest. Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch, and an excellent program. There will be a free will offering. This will be our last meeting until April 2026.

October Birthdays

Debi	Blankenship	10/1
Joanna	Grochowski	10/1
Olivia	Landers	10/2
Aspen	Blankenship	10/3
Mike	Fixmer	10/3
Xander	McCarty	10/6
Sylvia	McDonald	10/10
McKenzie	Mico	10/10
Michael	Evenson	10/11
Kyle	Gamoke	10/11
Lou Anne	Farley	10/13
Chad	Herbers	10/13
Fred	Heuer	10/13
Chad	Wacker	10/14
Bruce	Jorstad	10/15
Darlene	Evenson	10/17
Layne	Helmreich	10/17
Mike	Raabe	10/19
Pat	Ring	10/19
Larry	Rockwell	10/19
Susan	Peterson	10/20
Maggie	Lusk	10/22
Jennifer	Gerke	10/23
Jayne	Karbula	10/23
Kathy	Ring	10/23
Gwen	Schams	10/23
Evelyn	Sting	10/24
Zachary	Menden	10/29
Stacie	Boisen	10/31
Seth	Gartner	10/31

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

- 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 in the newsletter is what is currently there on the day it was saved. For the most up-to-date calendar, please check our church website as the calendar changes throughout the month. www.gsholmen.org

October Schedule					
Sunday, October 5th		Week of October 5th to October 11th			
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners			
Erik Sjolander	Amy Sjolander	Counters:	Cleaners:		
Karsen/Dawson Sjolander		Al Herbers	Aaron and Sarah Larson	Sanctuary	
Richard Brockway		Carl Newman			
Sunday, October 12th		Week of October 12th to October 18th			
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners			
Alan Ross	Odetta Ross	Counters:	Cleaners:		
Mark Ross	Nicole Ross	Chad & Whitney Wacker	Bateman	Sanctuary	
Sunday, October 19th		Week of October 19th to October 25th			
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners			
Dan Peterson	Julie Peterson	Counters:	Cleaners:		
Gary Priem	Denise Priem	Mark Bateman	Melott	Sanctuary	
		Howard Burmester			
Sunday, October 26th		Week of October 26th to November 1st			
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners			
John McDonald	Sylvia McDonald	Counters:	Cleaners:		
Mike Melott	Tammy Melott	Sylvia McDonald	Sjolander	Sanctuary	
		Jacquelyn Kinsey			



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	29 6:30pm - Worship	30	1 5pm - Confirmation Class	2 5:30pm - Sowers of Good	3	4
5 8am - Choir Rehearsal 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	6 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	7	8 5pm - Confirmation Class	9 5:30pm - Sowers of Good	10	11
12 8am - Choir Rehearsal 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	13 Columbus Day 6:30pm - Worship	14	15 5pm - Confirmation Class	16	17	18
19 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Fall Vision Together 10:15am - Sunday School	20 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	21 6pm - Evangelism Meeting	22 5pm - Confirmation Class	23 6pm - Church Council Meeting	24 10am - Trunk or Treat	25
26 8am - Choir Rehearsal 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	27 6:30pm - Worship	28	29 No Preschool Classes 5pm - Confirmation Class	30	31 Halloween	1