



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



Newsletter 2025

The Treasure of Group Bible Study

It may be odd in an article about Bible Study to start with a Sunday where there is no Bible Study, but this coming Sunday is too important not to mention. September 7 is Kickoff Sunday, a Good Shepherd, Holmen tradition. It celebrates the “Kickoff” of the Sunday School, catechism and regular Bible class year. I’ve been told that it’s also a play on the NFL Kickoff. Those of you/us who are fans, remember that the Packer game is 3:25 pm and the Vikings game is Monday night. So there will be more than enough time to attend the Sunday morning service, with holy communion, and support our Sunday School teachers and also two elders who will be installed. After the service is our New Member Breakfast. No Bible Class that day, but there is Sunday School.

The following week is the start of our once-a-month *A God-lived Life* services. The following is a summary of this program, from our WELS planning guide, so that you understand:

It’s more than a Sunday stewardship series. It’s a whole-life challenge designed to throw down the gauntlet to God’s people to live the life to which he has called them. The hope is that being challenged in specific ways will urge them to put into practice a closer walk with God and a life of love toward others. That’s a God-lived life.

We had a great start with Sunday Bible Study attendance last September, and I pray it will be the same or even better this year. September 14 is a great way to dip your toes into Bible Class if you haven’t done it for a while. It will be an abbreviated class on “Discipleship”, as part of the God-lived Life series. I hope you’ll join us.

And finally, September 21 is the start of our seven-week series on our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod’s 175th anniversary, covering synod history from its infancy to the present. (I know I already gave this overview of upcoming Bible classes in the monthly update email, but I figure that repeating the plan will hopefully grab your attention and lead you to set aside time for it, with all that’s going on in our schedules.)

History is a neglected and underappreciated gift in our modern times. Technology is great, but it is no substitute for learning lessons from our Christian brothers and sisters of the past, so that with the Spirit’s help, we learn from their mistakes and imitate their godly successes and gospel-spreading zeal. I hope you’ll join us for all of our Bible classes, and be edified.

One more note: I plan to start a new Bible Information Class in late September on Tuesday nights, where we’ll invite preschool families and anyone you know who may be interested in membership or learning the Bible’s teachings. Please let me know.

Pastor Gregory Pope

News from Tammy Melott, Early Childhood Coordinator / Preschool Director

Preschool is back in session starting this week. We are so thankful that God has led 45 families to register their children at Little Lamb Preschool. Last week we held our parent orientation nights, and it was a joy to see all the happy smiles and excitement that preschool is starting soon. There were many familiar faces and some new ones too. I wish God's richest blessings to Lisa and Ashley as they begin this new school year. I am also excited to share that Heather McCarty has come back as our assistant. I wish her God's blessings as she continues to serve Little Lamb Preschool in this way.

We are getting close to the installation of our new playground. The children will be very excited to see it going in, I'm sure. I would like to especially thank David Carlson who brought his own equipment and got the site ready for the installation. I would also like to thank everyone who has supported this project financially. We will be having another Brat Barn fundraiser on September 14th to help with the remainder of the cost. If you would like to help, you can go to our website to sign up or email me and I can resend the link. There is also a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Many hands are needed throughout the day, so any help would be very much appreciated.

Sunday School will start with a parent meeting and meet the teacher on Kick-Off Sunday which is September 7th. I will meet with the parents briefly in the church at 10:15 to go over some of the details of Sunday School for the upcoming year. We will dismiss the children from their classrooms at 10:45 so that you can enjoy the picnic being held that Sunday as well. This will be especially fun to attend because someone on the council will be getting a pie in the face from our Coin fundraiser we have been doing for the playground. It looks like pastor was in the lead, so you won't want to miss it!

Book Club

Hello Readers, our next book club will be on Thursday, September 25th. We are going to meet at my house (W7798 Park Ave. Holmen) at 6:15. We are going to be reading the Dutch House by Ann Patchett.

Any questions please contact Lisa Carlson at 608-797-5521. I will put a signup sheet in the narthex. If you are able to come, please sign up or send me a text before September 22nd. Happy Reading!

Preschool News from Lisa Carlson

41 home visits in the books and everyone is ready to start school September 3rd for Mrs. Carlson's room. We are thankful that Mrs. Heather is returning for her 8th year here at the preschool. Our first unit is a mix of learning our new school routines and learning all about the smallest creatures God made: bugs. In our Bible time we will be focusing on how God created the world in which we live. At the end of the month we will do a nature hike to see God's wonderful creation. We also look forward to Mrs. Mary from First Expressions coming at the end of the month to take our school pictures. Looking forward to serving our congregation and our preschool families this year.

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 Meeting

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Ave., La Crosse with a Potluck Luncheon at 12:00 Noon. 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 “Outreach to China – 316 NOW”. This is an organization of WELS to reach missionaries in China. Please come to 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!



Brat Barn Fundraiser

On Sunday, September 14th, Good Shepherd Lutheran will be doing a fundraiser at the Brat Barn which is located at Festival Foods in Holmen. The money raised will go towards the new preschool playground. Many volunteers are needed to run this throughout the day. We will need one griller per shift. The shifts start at 8 AM and go until 7:30 PM. The 8AM to 10AM shift is set up for the day. And the 6PM to 7:30PM shift is clean up and take down. Volunteers can be anyone in 7th grade on up, and you can sign up for as many shifts as you would like. There will be a leader there throughout the day to help with questions etc. We will have the sign-up available until September 10th. Thank you in advance for helping Good Shepherd in this way, it is very much appreciated!



A God-Lived Life Stewardship Challenge

For the next four months at Good Shepherd Lutheran, God's Word will be challenging us, and we'll be challenging one another to live a God-lived life. And that encompasses everything. We will be talking about a life of being a disciple, a life lived for others, a life lived shrewdly, and a life of hospitality.

Each month, we will be introduced to a challenge that we then prayerfully commit to carrying out the rest of the month. These challenges ask us—people who are moved by the grace of God and Jesus' life and death in our place—to commit to acting on the encouragements to put the Word into practice.

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.

At the end of one of the worship services in each of the months of September through December, we'll hand out the challenge cards for that month and then allow confirmed members to fill out the card on the spot and bring it home. The service will be shortened to allow for this time at the end. May God bless us as we grow in his Word and in our lives of living it!

Sowers of Good Shepherd

Sowers of Good Shepherd is an offshoot of our Evangelism Team and is a monthly gathering on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm at church. It is open to the whole congregation. So you are invited to the next one — Thursday, September 11th.

The purpose of this group is to get the conversation going about how can "cast the seed" of God's Word with people we know and pray that faith will grow in their heart. In the last few months, participants have mentioned prospects to the faith in their neighborhood, workplace, etc., and we've discussed ways to invite these people to church or be a witness to them in the best way. We also pray about these opportunities. Please join us and give it a try!

Coulee Region Jesus Cares Ministry

Come join our Jesus Cares group for adapted worship services, Bible study, fellowship and fun! Jesus Cares is a ministry that provides Bible instruction and Christian friendship to people of all ages who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are kicking off the 2025-26 school year with our Welcome Back to Jesus Cares meal and fellowship on Monday, September 8th at 4:30pm. On Monday, September 15th we will begin our regularly scheduled adapted worship services and Bible classes. All Jesus Cares activities are held on Mondays from 4:30pm-5:45pm at First Lutheran Church, 400 West Ave S. in La Crosse. We are always welcoming new students, families, and volunteers! Please join us on September 8th or stop by on another Monday night to see what our group is all about. Feel free to contact us for more details by emailing couleeregionjesuscares@gmail.com or text/call Lisa Loersch at (920) 944-8759 or Kris Schwartz at (608) 797-5194 for more information and a 2025-26 school year schedule.

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>.

Winona Circuit LWMS Fall Rally

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

The day 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. Everyone is invited!

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

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

*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.

September Schedule				
Sunday, September 7th		Week of September 7th to September 13th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Jacob Werre	Kathy Werre	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Mark Helmreich		Al Herbers	Gamoke	Sanctuary
		Carl Newman		
Sunday, September 14th		Week of September 14th to September 20th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Mark Ross	Nicole Ross	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Mark Bateman		Chad & Whitney Wacker	McDonald	Sanctuary
Sunday, September 21st		Week of September 21st to September 27th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Tim Beckendorf	Kim Beckendorf	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Kyle Sime	Ashley Sime	Mark Bateman	Proksch	Sanctuary
		Howard Burmester		
Sunday, September 28th		Week of September 28th to October 4th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Aaron Larson	Sarah Larson	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Bennett King		Aaron & Sarah Larson	Mark Ross	Sanctuary
Church Wall Dusting-- Herbers				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9am - Worship	1 Labor Day No Monday Night Worship - Labor	2 Preschool First Days	3 5pm - Confirmation Class	4	5	6
7 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Kick Off Sunday 10:15am - Sunday School	8 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	9 5pm - Confirmation Class	10 5:30pm - Sowers of Good	11	12	13
14 9am - Worship 10am - Brat Barn Fundraiser 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	15 6:30pm - Worship	16 5pm - Confirmation Class	17 6pm - Church Council Meeting	18	19	20
21 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	22 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	23 5pm - Confirmation Class	24	25	26	27
28 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School	29 6:30pm - Worship	30 5pm - Confirmation Class	1	2	3	4