



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

The Shepherd's Voice – April 2026

Commit and Roll it to the LORD

It's one of my favorite Bible verses. It is short and packs a punch. Fitting is the message as we ponder our mission enhancement grant. It is Proverbs 16:3:

“Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”

That is an empowering promise. Driving us to pray persistently. We certainly have lots of church plans, but I'll focus on the most recent plan – to call for a staff minister soon, using the grant we received last week from our generous Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

We have a Special Voters Meeting that you're encouraged to attend next week Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm. Quoting our recent Weekly Voice announcement, at the meeting we plan to vote on “whether we should try to get a graduate from MLC assigned to us or extend a call to the field. The vote which will take place will be to decide between assignment or call from the field only. If we decide to call from the field, there would then be a separate call meeting.”

“Call from the field” means calling a staff minister who is currently serving at a different church or school. To seek a graduate means putting in a request for a Martin Luther College (MLC) graduate this May who hasn't yet served in a church or school. There are pros and cons to either plan. The church council is recommending to request a graduate from MLC, and you will hear the explanation at the voters meeting next Thursday.

Please pray for the LORD's wisdom and blessing upon us. The Proverbs 16 verse above says “commit” your plans to the LORD. The base meaning of this word “commit” is “roll”. The same word is used in Genesis 29:3 to describe how shepherds would roll away the large stone from the mouth of a well to feed their flocks. The Proverbs 16 promise came seven hundred years before Jesus was born. I can see, though, a hint of Easter wonder in Proverbs 16:3. The women planned to somehow roll away the large stone from Jesus' tomb. They were only hoping to anoint his dead body. Shocked beyond amazement they were to find how much higher God's plans were for them – the massive stone already rolled away by the angel and their dear Jesus no longer dead but alive.

Similarly may be the LORD's plans for our calling of a staff minister to focus on outreach. Maybe God will give us what we're hoping for, or better than what we're hoping for. Either way, let's commit/roll our work to God our Father and he will fix our plans firmly, like the sun in the midday sky. Like his Son, our Savior, sitting at God's right hand.

Pastor Gregory Pope

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

April 19-25 is national volunteer week. I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank everyone at Good Shepherd who volunteers their time and talents in the many areas of our ministry. There are many volunteers that are easily recognized, but also many volunteers who work behind the scenes. Because of all of you, our ministry here at Good Shepherd is thriving and growing. To God be all praise as we work together in his kingdom of believers!

We are still accepting registrations for our 2026-2027 school year. We have spots available in our T/W/TH afternoon class, and a couple left in our full-time class. Please continue to spread the word and help us fill these classes.

The council has approved a part-time assistant for the full-time class. The hours are 9AM-1PM Monday-Friday. If you are interested in this position, or you know someone who would be, please reach out to me, Tammy Melott, at tmelott@gsholmen.org. We hope to have this position filled by mid-July at the latest.

I would like to thank the Sunday School teachers and children for doing such a wonderful job on the Easter program. It was so heartwarming to hear the children share Jesus' passion story through word and song. The last day of Sunday School is May 17th. We plan on singing in that service as a way to end the year. Thank you to all the families that have participated in our Sunday School program this year. I pray it has been a blessing for your children to be a part of this ministry.

God bless you and your families this Easter season and always!



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

In our preschool room we will be diving into the deep blue sea and learning about ocean animals. We will be making a sea dramatic play area for children to explore. We also will be doing our end of the year pages to complete their memory books. Right at the beginning of May we will be taking a field trip on the LaCrosse Queen. I will also be doing the last 2 classes parent-teacher conferences.

Special Voters' Meeting - Thursday, April 9th at 7pm

Please save the date and join us for a special voters' meeting on Thursday, April 9th at 7pm. We will be discussing our Mission Enhancement and whether we should try to get a graduate from MLC assigned to us or extend a call to the field. The vote which will take place will be to decide between assignment or call from the field only. If we decide to call from the field, there would then be a separate call meeting.

This is also an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about Mission Enhancement and to provide input on the process. If any questions or concerns, please contact Church President Jacob Werre at jacobj_4@hotmail.com.

Youth Group Upcoming Events

Youth Ministry Bake Sale Fundraiser Rescheduled

- The bake sale has been rescheduled to after church services on Sunday 04/19 and Monday 04/20. Donate by bringing baked goods we can sell. Please drop off the baked goods at Church Friday 4/17 or Saturday 04/18 in the church kitchen. For a fun way to share recipes, consider attaching a recipe with the baked goods or have a printed copy at the sale table for others to snap a photo and try it themselves. Bring cash to buy baked goods. You can also participate by enjoying the treats! Bring cash for some delicious baked goods after church services this coming week. Please contact Kala McClellan at 612-978-3190 if you plan on bringing something.
- **Roller Skating** Good Shepherd church skate party/Christian Music at High Rollers Sunday 04/19 4:30-6:30pm.

Help Needed for Youth Group

- Kala McClellan is currently our youth leader here at Good Shepherd. We are looking for another person to help her with the youth ministry program. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, or you have any questions, please contact Tammy Melott at tmelott@gsholmen.org. Thank you in advance for considering to serve our youth in this way.

Book Club for April

We are hoping to do the next book club meeting on Tuesday, April 28th. We are going to read *The Last Twilight in Paris* by Pam Jenoff. This is a World War 2 historical fiction. There are 15 copies at the library. Hope we see you at this fun event! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lisa Carlson (608-797-5521).

Mark Your Calendars

For the Spring Vision Together Meeting and for the Voters' Meeting which will take place on May 17th and June 7th. If any questions, please contact Church President Jacob Werre at jacobj_4@hotmail.com.

LWMS Spring Rally - Save the Date!

Plan now to attend the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Spring Rally on Sat., April 18th at St. Paul's in Onalaska, WI. Rev. Jeff Mahnke will give a presentation on the WELS 100 Missions in 10 Years, highlighting missions in our district. Registration begins at 8 AM, meeting and presentation from 9-noon with luncheon following. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!

HR Ministry Team

HR Ministry Team is looking for some new members! Do you have HR, administration or policy making experience? If so, and if you're willing to serve, please contact Jacob Werre at jacobj_4@hotmail.com or 608-606-4426. The HR Ministry Team meets on a quarterly basis and also responds to as-needed requests/questions.

Holy Communion Schedule for April

Holy Communion will be scheduled to the 2nd and 4th Sundays for the month of April. So, it will be April 12th and April 26th. This is because Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for April 26th. Please update your calendar for this change. Thank you!

Recent New Members

Michael and Linda Tubbs were officially transferred to our congregation several months ago from Bethel Lutheran, Galesville. They regularly attend on Sundays. Also, recently, Rick Lenser officially transferred here from First Lutheran, La Crosse. He regularly attends on Monday nights. We welcome these new members to our congregation!

Mission Enhancement Application Approved!

We are thankful to share some encouraging news with you. Good Shepherd has been selected to receive a Mission Enhancement grant from WELS Board for Home Missions to support and strengthen our ministry of outreach.

This Mission Enhancement program is part of WELS' broader 100 Missions in 10 Years initiative, which aims from 2023-2033 to plant 100 new home mission churches and enhance 75 existing ministries that have growth potential. These grants are intended to help congregations expand ministry through additional called workers, especially in the areas of outreach and evangelism. The goal is that, by the fourth year, the congregation is able to sustain that expanded ministry on its own.

The grant approved for Good Shepherd is spread across three years at the following levels:

- Year 1: \$77,000
- Year 2: \$66,000
- Year 3: \$37,000

As many of you know, the original direction approved by the voters was to request support toward calling a second pastor. During the application process, however, it was recommended that we pivot that request to a staff minister position instead. We recognize that this is different from what the voters originally approved. At the same time, we were advised that making that adjustment was likely our only realistic opportunity to receive funding through this program. After prayerful consideration, that change was made in order to pursue this opportunity for ministry growth.

At this time, we believe a staff minister could be especially helpful in several areas, including expanding our door-to-door outreach, strengthening preschool connections, increasing community involvement, following up with prospects, and helping engage new members. This would also help share the load of ministry, as the demands of our current work stretch Pastor Pope across many responsibilities. We trust that the Lord can use the gifts and abilities of another called worker to support the ministry goals he has placed before us.

These funds are specifically meant to support the calling of a new worker for outreach-focused ministry. It is also important to remember that receiving these funds is dependent on Good Shepherd actually filling the called position. The funding becomes available beginning July 1, but the subsidy will not be sent from the synod until a staff minister accepts the call and arrives.

This is certainly exciting news, but it is also a reminder that the work of ministry does not rest only on our called workers. A strong outreach mindset and congregational buy-in remain essential, whether through elected positions, volunteer service, personal invitations, or everyday opportunities to speak about Christ. Please continue inviting friends, neighbors, family members, and others to church, and keep looking for ways to share your faith in your daily life.

This wonderful opportunity will require Good Shepherd to take a leap of faith. But that is not new for our congregation. The Lord has blessed such steps before, and we pray that he will do so again for the sake of his kingdom.

The council will be discussing next steps at its regular meeting on Thursday, including the question of an upcoming call meeting and whether to seek an assignment from Martin Luther College or to call from the field. After that meeting, more information will be shared with the congregation.

Please keep this opportunity, our congregation, and this potential call in your prayers. We thank the Lord for opening this door and pray that he would guide us in faith and wisdom as we move forward.

In Christ,
Good Shepherd Church Council

What are our Church's giving categories?

Our Church's ten major giving categories include, General fund, Benevolence fund, Missions (CMO) fund, Luther High fund, Future Ministry fund, Tuition Assistance fund, Youth Ministry fund, Special Project fund, Other Mission fund and Debt Reduction fund. Please contact Church Treasurer, Jim Pagel with any questions or concerns – email: jpapel1480@charter.net.

- Donations can be received via online/mobile through VancoFaith app on Apple or Android devices or at visiting www.gsholmen.org with credit/debit cards or bank transfer (ACH).
- Physical cash/checks through Sunday/Monday service offerings.
- In-Kind Donations as non-cash gifts of equipment or supplies.
- Planned giving of QCD's, Stocks, Securities or estate planning.

GENERAL FUND: Represents the funds available to meet our day to day operational and staffing needs. These funds directly influences our ability to operate efficiently and grow.

BENEVOLENCE FUND: Specifically for helping individuals in need within our congregation or local community. Current balance \$1800

MISSIONS (CMO) FUND: Congressional Mission Offerings to support our Synod's mission and ministry. Our ministry has budgeted monthly amount of \$1,541. Any offerings directed to this fund will be added to this monthly budgeted subscription.

LUTHER HIGH FUND: Support to our local Lutheran High School. Our monthly budgeted ministry offering is \$1,333. Any additional offerings to this fund will be added to this budgeted monthly amount.

FUTURE MINISTRY FUND: Fund created for seed to enhance our current ministries with the potential of growth. Our current ministry has budgeted \$1,167 monthly to be redirected to this fund. Any offerings given to this fund would be added to this amount. Current balance is \$213,565

TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND: This fund was created for scholarships or grants for our members attending Martin Luther College, students of our local Lutheran Elementary and/or Lutheran High Schools. Current balance \$2,784

YOUTH MINISTRY FUND: Fund to support our Youth Group (6th grade to 12th grade) ministries, camps and activities. Current balance \$1,084

SPECIAL PROJECT FUND: During the year special projects or unexpected needs can arise. This fund is used for offerings in this area. Currently we have funds for piano maintenance and HVAC needs. Current balance \$2,928

OTHER MISSION FUND: Normally runs a zero balance. This is a temporary fund designed to accumulate offerings for special collections of our ministries.

DEBIT REDUCTION FUND: We currently do not have any debt, so this fund is idle. Any offerings directed to this fund will be redirected to our FUTURE MINISTRY FUND.

April Birthdays

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|------|
| Henry | Collins | 4/1 |
| Oliver | Stegner | 4/1 |
| Urijah | Hauser | 4/3 |
| Trevor | Underberg | 4/3 |
| Brantley | Gartner | 4/4 |
| Clay | Helmreich | 4/6 |
| Makayla | Sill | 4/6 |
| Kristina | Behn | 4/8 |
| Sam | Klein | 4/13 |
| Brynlee | Cramer | 4/14 |
| Jeannette | Bautch | 4/15 |
| Kelly | Stuefen | 4/17 |
| Connie | Bader | 4/18 |
| Grace | Stegner | 4/18 |
| Peyton | Wolfe | 4/19 |
| Ava | Adamson | 4/20 |
| Lisa | Kessel | 4/21 |
| Reagan | Loken | 4/24 |
| Stella | Halderson | 4/25 |
| Katrina | Olson | 4/26 |
| Kaitlin | Sill | 4/27 |
| William | Collins | 4/28 |
| Samuel | Stegner | 4/28 |
| Karin | Stellick | 4/28 |
| Jacob | Blank | 4/29 |
| Laura | Stegner | 4/29 |
| Judy | Meyer-Ruppert | 4/30 |

May Birthdays

| | | |
|---------|------------|------|
| Stacey | Gartner | 5/1 |
| Julie | Menden | 5/1 |
| Aliyah | Adamson | 5/5 |
| Carter | Kendhammer | 5/5 |
| Melissa | Fixmer | 5/7 |
| Emma | Larson | 5/11 |
| Jacob | Evenson | 5/12 |
| Alicia | Gartner | 5/12 |
| Carl | Gerke | 5/12 |
| Jim | Rupprecht | 5/12 |
| Levi | Larson | 5/16 |
| Jacob | Werre | 5/18 |
| Noah | Carlson | 5/21 |
| Jonas | Finn | 5/22 |
| Kathy | Jorstad | 5/23 |
| Drake | Schams | 5/23 |
| Brent | Zank | 5/23 |
| Chad | Klein | 5/24 |
| Lisa | Newman | 5/25 |
| Amy | Olson | 5/26 |
| Karsen | Sjolander | 5/28 |
| Zachary | Babe | 5/31 |
| Joe | Radsek | 5/31 |

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 often. www.gsholmen.org.

Ushers, Greeters, Counters and Cleaners

April Schedule

| Easter Sunday, April 5th | | Clean Week of April 5th to April 11th | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------|
| 9:00am Ushers | Greeters | Counters & Cleaners | |
| Erik Sjolander | Amy Sjolander | Counters: | Clean Sanctuary: |
| Karsen/Dawson Sjolander | | Dave Karbula | Gamoke |
| | | Erik Sjolander | |
| Sunday, April 12th | | Clean Week of April 12th to April 18th | |
| 9:00am Ushers | Greeters | Counters & Cleaners | |
| Mike Melott | Tammy Melott | Counters: | Clean Sanctuary: |
| Mark Helmreich | Heather McCarty | Amy Sjolander | McDonald |
| | | Cassie Huiss | |
| Sunday April 19th | | Clean Week of April 19th to April 25th | |
| 9:00am Ushers | Greeters | Counters & Cleaners | |
| Gary Priem | Denise Priem | Counters: | Clean Sanctuary: |
| Dylan Huiss | Cassie Huiss | Aaron and Sarah Larson | Proksch |
| Sunday, April 26th | | Clean Week of April 26th to May 2nd | |
| 9:00am Ushers | Greeters | Counters & Cleaners | |
| Jacob Werre | Kathy Werre | Counters: | Clean Sanctuary: |
| John McDonald | Sylvia McDonald | Al Herbers | Mark Ross |
| | | Carl Newman | |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| <p>Palm Sunday 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Easter Sunday Easter Sunday 8am - Easter Breakfast 9am - Worship</p> | <p>Easter Monday Easter Monday NO Monday Worship Service</p> | <p>6pm - Bible Information Class 6pm - Book Club at Features</p> | <p>5pm - Catechism Class</p> | <p>Maundy Thursday 6:30pm - Holy Thursday Worship</p> | <p>Good Friday 6:30pm - Good Friday Worship</p> | <p>Holy Saturday</p> |
| <p>9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School</p> | <p>6:30pm - Worship with Holy</p> | <p>6pm - Bible Information Class</p> | <p>Tax Day 5pm - Catechism Class</p> | <p>5:30pm - Sowers of Good 7pm - Special Voters' Meeting -</p> | | <p>8am - LWMS Spring Rally @</p> |
| <p>9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School 10:15am - Youth Group Bake Sale 4:30pm - Youth Ministry Skate</p> | <p>6:30pm - Worship 7:30pm - Youth Group Bake Sale</p> | <p>6pm - Bible Information Class</p> | <p>5pm - Catechism Class</p> | | | <p>8am - WELS Women's Coulee</p> |
| <p>Confirmation Sunday 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School</p> | <p>6:30pm - Worship with Holy</p> | <p>6pm - Bible Information Class</p> | <p>5pm - Catechism Class</p> | <p>6pm - Church Council Meeting</p> | | |