



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

## The Shepherd's Voice – February 2026

### Seeking Balance in Our Lord

TL; DR is an internet acronym, meaning Too Long; Didn't Read. It's used derisively toward posts or articles that seem too long. To hopefully avoid TL; DR with this article, I'll start by asking you something in the next paragraph, so that you can respond to me with your answer.

Wiser, elderly, repentant King Solomon is understood to have written the Bible book Ecclesiastes. In Ecclesiastes 2:24 he writes: "A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink . . . ." I'll stop there for now. His point is that it's good to enjoy earthly gifts from our heavenly Father, like food and drink. Since my wife Jennifer and I have been here, we've compiled an Attractions List of things to do in the wider La Crosse area. Here's what I was referring to earlier. Please let me know if you've been to any of these places. I've selected one attraction to our north, east, south, and west, which we haven't been to yet, but we hope to visit, before too long. North – Castlerock Museum in Alma. It has extensive collections of Roman era, Viking, and Medieval armor and arms. East – the Driftless Café. Luke Zahm, the host of the TV show *Wisconsin Foodie*, owns this restaurant in Viroqua, and is the head chef. South – Great River Roadhouse in De Soto. It is on the Mississippi. I was told their pizza is great. West – Commonweal Theater in Lanesboro, MN. I've been told this theater company puts on high quality productions. Again, tell me if you've been to any of these attractions.

There's more to that Ecclesiastes verse. This is the full verse: "A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God."

This is the balance we can all strive for, and commit to the Lord. To enjoy leisure and godly physical pleasures on the one hand. Also, to work hard and enjoy the satisfaction of good work well done, on the other hand. I don't just mean your day job.

I pray that especially our newer church members and younger church members will continue to step forward when we ask them to serve on a ministry team or a short-term task at church. I know 21st century schedules are busy. But I hope you don't mind us church leaders asking, because eventually the timing of the event/task will work with your schedule. And there is special satisfaction to work together with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ for a gospel-related, soul-strengthening task. We look at the Time and Talents database that you church members have filled out, as one basis for asking. And if we don't get around to asking you soon, please come up to one of us and say, "I'd like to serve in some way. What can I do?" That would be wonderful.

It is by grace we have been saved. Jesus singlehandedly saved our souls by his life, cross, and rising. The Holy Spirit singlehandedly brought us to faith by Word and Sacrament. We get to thank the triune God with service – at home, the community, and at church. And eat and drink good things too. Let's do so to his glory.

*Pastor Gregory Pope*

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

Registration has begun for the 2026-2027 school year. We are currently only accepting registrations from current and past families and church members. If you plan on registering your child, I encourage you to do so before our Open House on February 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure that you have a spot. If you have any questions, please let me know. There are still plenty of spots available in all the classes, so feel free to spread the word about Little Lamb Preschool. We are competing with free 4K being offered in Holmen and La Crosse. What makes us stand out is that we are a Christian preschool with smaller class sizes. We also use specific curriculums in our classes. It is not just a daycare. The teachers work diligently to get the kids ready for kindergarten. That is what we would like to promote when talking about what we offer. Thank you for your help in spreading the word about Little Lamb Preschool.

The Sunday School and Preschool children will be singing on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. On that Sunday they will present hearts to Jesus to show how we give our lives and love to Jesus every day, and how thankful we are that he died and rose again to give us eternal life in heaven. We hope to see many of the Sunday School children there. This also gives the congregation another opportunity to connect with some of our preschool families and make them feel welcome at Good Shepherd.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> for Easter for Kids. Watch the weekly news for more information and for when registration opens for this event. Many volunteers are needed, so please start thinking about how you can help. Your volunteer time would be very much appreciated.



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

In Mrs. Carlson's room we have been looking at the theme Winter Fun. We have made many projects and have tried to incorporate some Science and Math concepts into our art. We will be displaying those projects in the narthex for our Math and Science night and be leaving them up for our upcoming open house.

In February we will be looking at Friendship and Valentine's Day. On February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> we will have a Valentine party where we exchange Valentine cards for one another.

In our Bible lessons we are studying Jesus earthly ministry and learning the song God Loves Me Dearly to sing in church with the Sunday School.

Hard to believe we are well into our 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year!

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

This month we wrapped up our gingerbread unit and have moved on to our bear unit, which the children are really enjoying! We've also been learning positional words such as inside, outside, over, and under. These skills will be incorporated into our math and science projects that will be displayed on Thursday for Preschool Math & Science Night. The projects will remain up afterward, so you'll have time to take a look.

Our class is also excited to be making a volcano for Thursday night! Along with all our learning, we have been practicing a song that we will sing during church service on February 15<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Carlson's class and the Sunday School class. We are so thankful for God's blessings as we learn, grow, and share our time together.

### **Lenten Meal Sign Up**

Please consider signing up for a Lenten meal which will start on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The meal will be at 5:30pm with the midweek Lenten service at 6:30pm. The sign-up sheet is in the church entryway. Any questions, please contact Tammy Melott at [tmelott@gsholmen.org](mailto:tmelott@gsholmen.org). Thank you to those who are willing to volunteer!

### **Mystery Dinner Event**

Our third annual mystery dinner is fast approaching on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know church members on a more personal level. Individuals, couples, and families are all welcome! If you aren't comfortable driving in the evening but would like to attend, we will happily coordinate a ride for you- just make note of that on your sheet. Sign-up sheets are in the church entryway. Please have the forms filled out by Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> so we can put together the groups and notify which restaurant to go to.

### **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, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

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!

### **Book Club**

Hello fellow readers, with the weather turning colder, there is nothing better than curling up with a good book. The book that has been chosen for February is Peace Like A River by Leif Enger. There are 23 at the library. We will meet Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 at Features in Holmen. There will be a sign up out the beginning of February. Happy Reading 😊

### **Scrip For February**

February is a great month to stock up on Kwik Trip scrip cards! Kwik Trip normally gives us 5% rebate, but during the month of February it's 10%. Kwik trip also offers grocery only cards. These cards can be used for anything in the store besides fuel, tobacco, alcohol, gift cards, lotto, or stamps. Kwik Trip gives us a 15% rebate, but during February it is 20%. During this sale month we ask that you prepay for the cards (especially if you are ordering large quantities). We should have the cards to you by the following week. If you are new to the scrip program and would like to learn more about it or have any questions please contact Rachel Sting at 605-212-2671 or [rmh804@hotmail.com](mailto:rmh804@hotmail.com).

### **Bible Information Class**

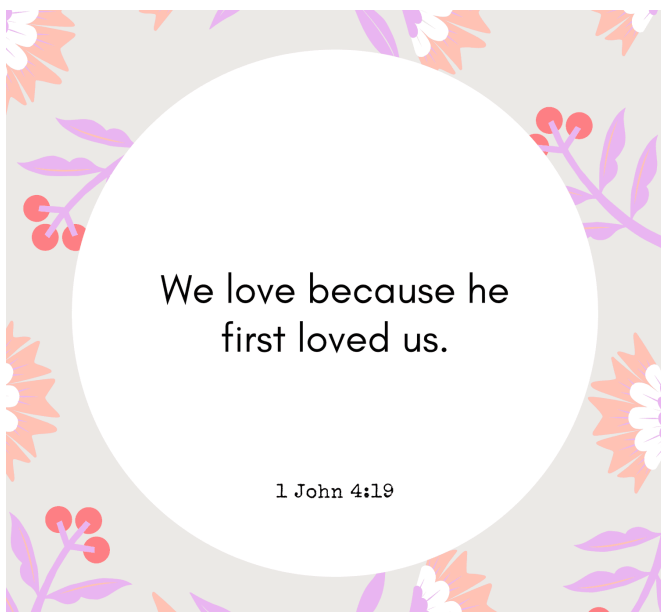
Our next Bible Information Class, another name for adult catechism class, is set to begin on Tuesday, March 24. It will go for around ten weeks, likely consecutive Tuesdays starting at 6 pm. The time can be adjusted based on the schedules of participants. Please let Pastor Pope know of prospects for this class, whether it be your relative, friend, neighbor, etc. It is open to non-members who are interested in membership, as this is the class toward church membership and receiving the Lord's Supper with us. This class is also open to church members who'd like to refresh on the Bible's overall teachings.

## **February Birthdays**

Katelyn	Carlson	2/2
Hannah	Larson	2/3
Gloria	Burmester	2/5
Janet	Nelson	2/5
Mia	Gerke	2/6
Eden	Blankenship	2/7
William	Peterson	2/7
Butch	Weinberger	2/9
Sarah	Larson	2/10
Callie	Horstman	2/12
Andrew	Appold	2/13
Deb	Horstman	2/14
Noah	Radloff	2/17
Joan	Stephan	2/18
Matthew	Raabe	2/19
Amber	Collins	2/20
Sue	Stallman	2/21
Jean	Stengel	2/21
Kathy	Brenengen	2/22
Rebecca	Rosenbrook	2/22
Naomi	Thompson	2/24
Dolores	Yanzer	2/24
Rebecca	Karwoski	2/25
Greg	Peterson	2/25
Jo	Brinks	2/28

## **March Birthdays**

Ryleigh	Pesik	3/1
Tim	Snyder	3/1
Jacqueline	Herbers	3/2
Brenna	Babe	3/3
Carolyn	Fixmer	3/3
Mary	Vizecky	3/4
Harrison	Snyder	3/5
Bev	Olson	3/7
Michelle	Raabe	3/9
Karen	Murray	3/10
Ethan	Sting	3/10
Aaron	Larson	3/11
Anna	Sting	3/11
Al	Herbers	3/12
Natalei	McCarty	3/12
Carl	Newman	3/12
Thea	Halderson	3/13
Dave	Karbula	3/14
Michael	Herbers	3/16
Dylan	Keller	3/16
Erik	Sjolander	3/16
Mike	Stengel	3/17
Nicole	Wolfe	3/17
Carter	Douglas	3/18
Stacey	Klein	3/18
Lori	Raabe	3/20
Rachel	Sting	3/20
Kami Jo	Lipps	3/21
Nehemiah	Thompson	3/21
Shay	McCarty	3/23
Gregory	Pope	3/23
Owen	Radloff	3/25
Deidre	Wehrs	3/25
Brynn	Boisen	3/26
Kala	McClellan	3/27
Jacquelyn	Kinsey	3/30
Denise	Priem	3/31



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](mailto: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](http://www.gsholmen.org).

**Playground Fully Paid Off!**

The cost to build our new playground has now been officially paid off. Thank you to all who have donated - including those who kept donating the past few months! While we paid for the playground several months ago, we had borrowed the shortfall from the Future Ministry Fund. We'll now be able to replenish those funds and can say that we raised 100% of the costs of the playground due to the generosity of our members. Thank you!

**You are an influencer! – WELS Women’s Ministry Webinar**

Thursday, February 19, 7-8 p.m. (Central)

We will watch together as a group in the fellowship hall, please meet at 6:45pm if you are interested. There is a signup sheet if you would like to attend. Any questions, please contact the church office at [office@gsholmen.org](mailto:office@gsholmen.org). Thank you.

Discover how God designed you to make an impact—right where you are.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

We tend to think of influencers as people on social media whose goal is to convince you that you either need something or need to believe something. They want you to buy it or buy into their way of thinking. Their followers listen to them because they trust and admire them despite never personally meeting them.

God has called us to be influencers too, but of a different kind! God uniquely equips his people to shape hearts, support the mission of the church, and reflect Christ in everyday moments. Our end goal isn’t monetary profit but a gain for God’s kingdom by pointing others to Christ!

<b>Ushers, Greeters, Counters and Cleaners</b>				
<b>February Schedule</b>				
<b>Sunday, February 1st</b>		<b>Clean Week of February 1st to February 7th</b>		
<b>9:00am Ushers</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Counters &amp; Cleaners</b>		
Jim Rupprecht	Sheryl Rupprecht	<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Cleaners:</b>	
Richard Brockway		Chad and Whitney Wacker	Proksch	<i>Sanctuary</i>
<b>Sunday, February 8th</b>		<b>Clean Week of February 8th to February 14th</b>		
<b>9:00am Ushers</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Counters &amp; Cleaners</b>		
Mark Ross	Nicole Ross	<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Cleaners:</b>	
Jacob Werre	Kathy Werre	Mark Bateman	Mark Ross	<i>Sanctuary</i>
		Howard Burmester		
<b>Sunday, February 15th</b>		<b>Clean Week of February 15th to February 21st</b>		
<b>9:00am Ushers</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Counters &amp; Cleaners</b>		
Dylan Huiss	Cassie Huiss	<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Cleaners:</b>	
Mark Bateman		Sylvia McDonald	Aaron & Sarah Larson	<i>Sanctuary</i>
		Jacquelyn Kinsey		
<b>Sunday, February 22nd</b>		<b>Clean Week of February 22nd to February 28th</b>		
<b>9:00am Ushers</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Counters &amp; Cleaners</b>		
Mike Melott	Tammy Melott	<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Cleaners:</b>	
Mark Helmreich	Heather McCarty	Dave Karbula	Bateman	<i>Sanctuary</i>
		Erik Sjolander		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship with Holy</p>		<p>3</p> <p>5pm - Catechism Class</p>			
<p>8</p> <p>9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship</p>		<p>10</p> <p>5pm - Catechism Class</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm - Sowers of Good</p>		<p>12</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School 3:30pm - Preschool Registration</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Presidents' Day 6:30pm - Worship with Holy</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras</p>	<p>18</p> <p>ASH Wednesday 4pm - Catechism Class 5:30pm - Lenten Meal 6:30pm - Midweek Lenten Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6pm - Church Council Meeting 7pm - Women's Ministry Webinar</p>		
<p>22</p> <p>9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study 10:15am - Sunday School</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship</p>		<p>24</p> <p>4pm - Catechism Class 5:30pm - Lenten Meal 6:30pm - Midweek Lenten Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:15pm - Book Club @ Features @</p>		
					<p>26</p>	
					<p>27</p>	
						<p>28</p> <p>5:30pm - Mystery Dinner Event</p>