



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

## The Shepherd's Voice – March 2026

### Good Soil

Our next Bible Information Class (adult catechism class) is less than three weeks away! It's crunch time. Looking at attendees/adult confirmed members of recent years, most have been preschool parents. Some have been friends or relatives of current members. One was someone I met and invited through door-to-door visits. We have four adults planning to take the class starting on Tuesday, March 24, tentatively at 6 pm. A few more are thinking about it. Please pray that they will all come and be built in faith by the Word. Please tell me of people interested in the class.

I also think of our recent eighth grade and adult confirmands. This Bible reading comes to mind:

**“[Jesus] told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear’” (Mt 13:1-9).**

Then, the Lord explained the parable. See how this relates to our child and adult confirmands?

**“Listen then to what the of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown” (Mt 13:18-23).**

It's sad to think of faith being sown in a person's heart, and then the devil quickly snatches it away. We can't read hearts. Some Christians who have stopped going to church may still be repenting of their sins and trusting in Jesus their Savior. Though the norm for a believer is to go to church, because hearing God's Word builds one's faith, and the Word encourages us to keep gathering together with fellow believers. To that end, let's pray for each other more and more, whether long-time members or new members, that we may all boldly put our faith into practice, hearing the Word, and receiving the Lord's Supper regularly. That's how the Holy Spirit makes us seed planted in good soil, and we bear fruits of love and faith to Jesus our Redeemer's glory.

*Pastor Gregory Pope*

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

On Sunday, February 15th, Little Lamb Preschool held their Open House for the public to begin registering for the 2026-2027 school year. We had about 14 families attend, and they all registered for a class. Currently the M/W/F morning class is full at 16, the T/TH morning class has two spots available, the T/W/TH afternoon class has 13 spots available, and the full-time class has 7 spots available. If you are able to help us advertise that we are now enrolling, it would be very much appreciated. Please also keep our preschool in your prayers and ask God to continue to send families our way.

Registration is now open for Easter for Kids. You can find the link on our Good Shepherd website. I have also posted a flyer on the window with a QR code you can scan. Easter for Kids is for children 3 years old - 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Anyone older than that is encouraged to sign up as a volunteer. The volunteer positions can be found on the registration page as well. Easter for Kids will take place on Saturday, March 28th, from 8:45AM-11:00AM. Many volunteers are needed, so thank you in advance for considering helping, it is very much appreciated.

Sunday School has begun practicing for the Easter program that will take place at the end of the church service on Palm Sunday, March 29th. The children will do a short skit and sing some songs to share the Easter message. It is so nice to see so many of the children in our congregation be a part of Sunday School. It not only strengthens their faith, but it also develops Christian friendships. We look forward to seeing them share the Easter message with our congregation.



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

In Mrs. Carlson's room we are starting a new unit for the month March. We are going to look at pets we all adore. We will be visiting Diggity Dog Daycare on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> . We are also learning about the events of Holy Week. I am also getting ready to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of parent-teacher conferences.

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

**Mrs. Sime's class** has been busy learning different ways to show numbers, practice writing numbers, and strengthen our counting skills! The children have been working hard and are doing a great job recognizing and representing numbers in a variety of ways.

We are also continuing to learn about **Jesus** and His love for us through our Bible stories and daily discussions. It is always so special to see the children grow both academically and spiritually.

They had so much fun at our Valentine's party—painting and stuffing big hearts, counting cups and knocking them over, and enjoying some fun outside!

As we head into March, we will begin our **spring unit** and end the month with a fun **pet unit**. We are excited for all the new learning ahead!

### **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, March 12th.

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!

### **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.

### **Youth Group Upcoming Events**

Outings/Events this month and coming up include:

- **Lenten Meal** youth serve meal, Wednesday 03/04/2026 5:00-6:30
- **Bake Sale Fundraiser** after church services Sunday 03/15/2026; Monday 03/16/2026 and Wednesday 3/18/2026
- **Roller Skating** Good Shepherd church skate party/Christian Music at High Rollers Sunday 04/19/2026 4:30-6:30pm.

### **Firewood Available for Free**

The electric utility performed tree removal along the parking lot to maintain proper clearance for the utility lines. The logs that were left behind are free for congregation members and family to take. Feel free to take as much as you would like! This will be a first come first serve with no holds. Please be courteous of the lawn when loading.

### **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 [jacobi\\_4@hotmail.com](mailto:jacobi_4@hotmail.com) or 608-606-4426. The HR Ministry Team meets on a quarterly basis and also responds to as-needed requests/questions.

### **A Lutheran Workshop for Veterans & 1st Responders**

We are excited to host a **Workshop for Veterans & First Responders on March 14th , 9am – 12pm, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holmen, WI**. Trauma and unresolved guilt can lead our Protectors to take their own lives. We will be addressing those concerns through two sessions, *Working as God's Servant's* , *Agents of Wrath*; and *Yes, But I Can't Forgive Myself*. The full schedule along with speaker bios and session summaries are available on our website – [www.lutheranmilitary.org](http://www.lutheranmilitary.org).

### Easter Breakfast Sign Up

There is a sign-up sheet in the church entryway for the Easter Breakfast coming up on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 8am, before church. Please consider signing up to make an egg bake or to bring something else for the breakfast. We also need volunteers to help serve and clean up after the breakfast. Thank you!

### Easter for Kids

Registration for Easter for Kids is now open. Children 3 years - 4<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend. It will take place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:45AM-11:00AM. Volunteers can also sign up. Volunteers can be 5<sup>th</sup> grade on up. The more help the better! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Tammy Melott at [tmelott@gsholmen.org](mailto:tmelott@gsholmen.org).



### Book Club for March

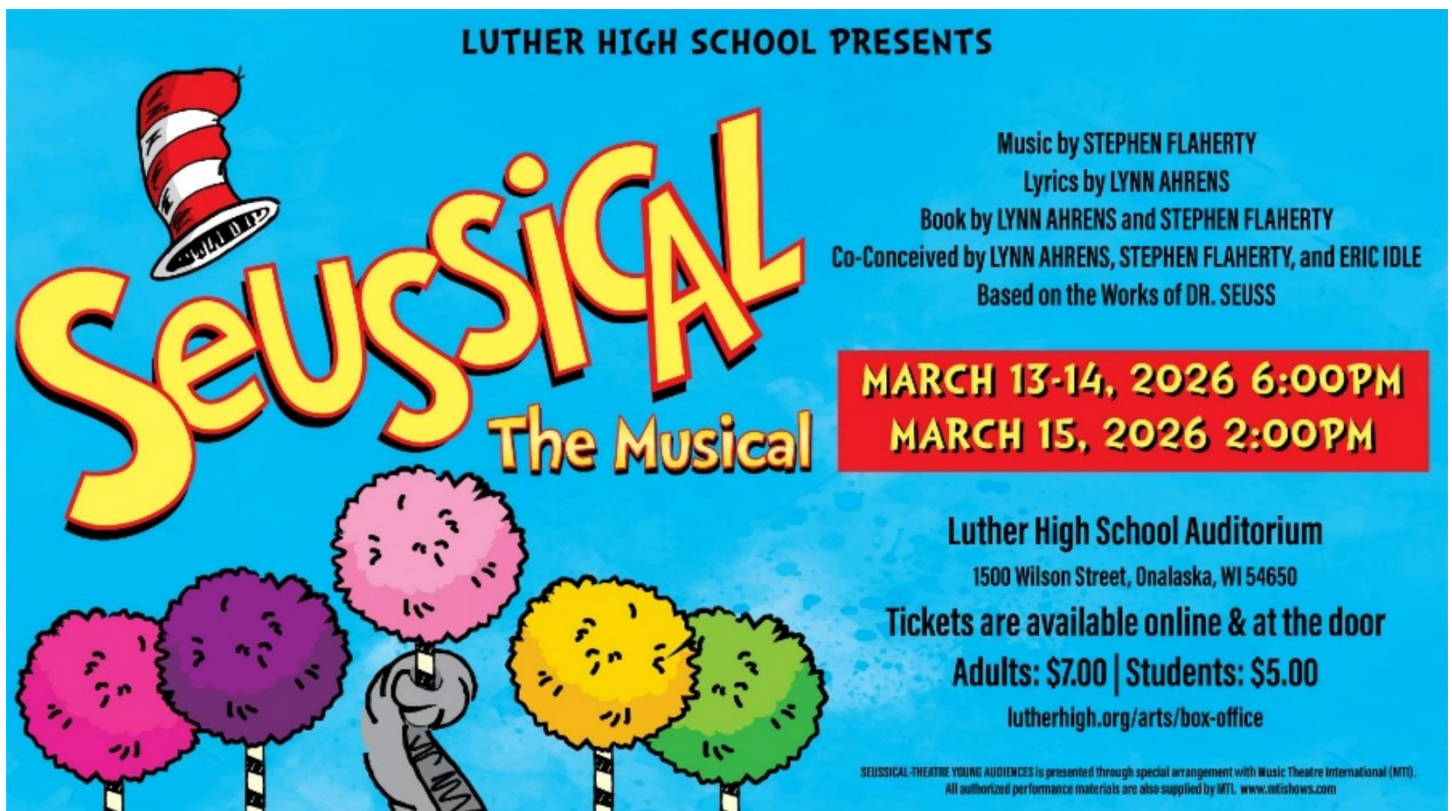
We are hoping to do the next book club meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. We are going to read The Waiting by Cathy LaGrow. There are 9 copies at the library and it is available on audiobook. Hope we see you at this fun event! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lisa Carlson (608-797-5521).

### Mark Your Calendars

For the Spring Vision Together Meeting and for the Voters' Meeting which will take place on May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>. If any questions, please contact Church President Jacob Werre at [jacobi\\_4@hotmail.com](mailto:jacobi_4@hotmail.com).

### Trivia Night

Join us for Trivia Night on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. We will be playing Kahoot an online platform where people can use their phones to "answer" questions. Questions will range from children to adult levels. We will provide pizza and drinks. There will also be prizes for the top 3 teams and some random round and mystery prizes. Come for a fun and enjoyable time!



**LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS**

**Seussical**  
The Musical

Music by STEPHEN FLAHERTY  
Lyrics by LYNN AHRENS  
Book by LYNN AHRENS and STEPHEN FLAHERTY  
Co-Conceived by LYNN AHRENS, STEPHEN FLAHERTY, and ERIC IDLE  
Based on the Works of DR. SEUSS

**MARCH 13-14, 2026 6:00PM**  
**MARCH 15, 2026 2:00PM**

Luther High School Auditorium  
1500 Wilson Street, Onalaska, WI 54650  
Tickets are available online & at the door  
Adults: \$7.00 | Students: \$5.00  
[lutherhigh.org/arts/box-office](http://lutherhigh.org/arts/box-office)

SEUSSICAL-THEATRE YOUNG AUDIENCES is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

### **March Birthdays**

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

### **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
Haley	Finn	4/26
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

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).

# Ushers, Greeters, Counters and Cleaners

## March Schedule

Sunday, March 1st		Clean Week of March 1st to March 7th	
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners	
Gary Priem	Denise Priem	Counters:	Clean Sanctuary:
Dan Peterson		Aaron and Sarah Larson	Melott
Sunday, March 8th		Clean Week of March 8th to March 14th	
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners	
Aaron Larson	Sarah Larson	Counters:	Clean Sanctuary:
Richard Brockway		Al Herbers	Sjolander
		Carl Newman	
Sunday, March 15th		Clean Week of March 15th to March 21st	
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners	
Erik Sjolander	Amy Sjolander	Counters:	Clean Sanctuary:
Karsen/Dawson Sjolander		Chad & Whitney Wacker	Werre
Sunday, March 22nd		Clean Week of March 22nd to March 28th	
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners	
Jim Rupprecht	Sheryl Rupprecht	Counters:	Clean Sanctuary:
Mark Bateman		Mark Bateman	Patten
		Howard Burmester	
Palm Sunday, March 29th		Clean Week of March 29th to April 4th	
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners	
Dylan Huiss	Cassie Huiss	Counters:	Clean Sanctuary:
Kyle Sime	Ashley Sime	Sylvia McDonald	Newman
		Jacquelyn Kinsey	
<b>Church Wall Dusting--Herbers</b>			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>St David's Day</b></p> <p>9am - Worship with Holy</p> <p>10:15am - Family Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p>	<p>6:30pm - Worship with Holy</p>		<p>4pm - Catechism Class</p> <p>5:30pm - Lenten Meal</p> <p>6:30pm - Midweek Lenten Service</p>			
<p><b>Daylight Saving Time starts</b></p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Family Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p>	<p>6:30pm - Worship</p>		<p>4pm - Catechism Class</p> <p>5:30pm - Lenten Meal</p> <p>6:30pm - Midweek Lenten Service</p>	<p>5:30pm - Sowers of Good</p>		<p>9am - Lutheran Military</p>
			<p><b>St. Patrick's Day</b></p> <p><b>St. Patrick's Day</b></p>			
<p>9am - Worship with Holy</p> <p>10:15am - Family Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:15am - Youth Group Bake Sale</p>	<p>6:30pm - Worship with Holy</p> <p>7:30pm - Youth Group Bake Sale</p>		<p>4pm - Catechism Class</p> <p>5:30pm - Lenten Meal</p> <p>6:30pm - Midweek Lenten Service</p> <p>7:30pm - Youth Group Bake Sale</p>		<p>6pm - Trivia Night at Church</p>	
<p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Family Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p>	<p>6:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>6pm - Bible Information Class</p>	<p>4pm - Catechism Class</p> <p>5:30pm - Lenten Meal</p> <p>6:30pm - Midweek Lenten Service</p>	<p>6pm - Church Council Meeting</p>		<p>8:45am - Easter for Kids</p>
<p><b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Family Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am - Sunday School</p>		<p>6pm - Bible Information Class</p>	<p>5pm - Catechism Class</p>	<p><b>Maundy Thursday</b></p> <p>6:30pm - Holy Thursday Worship</p>	<p><b>Good Friday</b></p> <p>6:30pm - Good Friday Worship</p>	<p><b>Holy Saturday</b></p>