



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

## The Shepherd's Voice – June 2026

### The Help of the Word in the Trenches

I think that one of the best things our nation does on the local level is Memorial Day ceremonies. When I lived in Manitowoc I was impressed with their ceremony. Last year I attended Holmen's and was quite impressed. This year I attended Onalaska's event. Once again, tremendously well done.

This year in Onalaska, each of the speakers was eloquent and noble in remembering our nation's soldiers who died to preserve our freedoms. Lieutenant Colonel Deenie Laskey, a retired Army Reserve nurse who lives in the La Crosse area, gave a poignant speech about one day during her service in the Iraq War years ago, where a young U.S. soldier was run over by a tank. The medical workers tried to save him, but he died. And left behind a wife and children. This was her way of making Memorial Day's pain tangible. She also has written a book, published in 2020, entitled: *Journal from Iraq: A Nurse's Story*. It is based on her journals that she wrote while serving as a nurse in combat zones. She is highly decorated for her bravery and heroic service.

I have been reading another book that I received from our recent Lutheran military workshop that chronicles the history of PTSD from ancient wars to the present. It notes interesting facts, such as the Greek philosopher Socrates being a war veteran and sufferer of PTSD. Also, that the Second Wisconsin Infantry suffered the highest percentage of casualties of any Union unit in the Civil War. It was part of the famous Iron Brigade. The following wasn't mentioned in the book, but take a visit to some of the oldest churches in our synod that have their own cemeteries, and you will see graves of soldiers who died in the Civil War. Some of the very old graves in these cemeteries bear the German words, "Im Himmel" (In heaven) and above the words a hand with index finger pointing up.

War veterans and the weight they carry of remembering the incredible strain of battle, seeing death and injury and experiencing mortal danger again and again, and the effect this psychological strain has even on their children and children's children, is a burden that our society is only beginning to understand. Clinical counseling can be a wonderful help. And the chief help for all sufferers – the Word of God. Those bearing military-related or other trauma, here are choice Scriptures:

"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain" Isaiah 53:3. (A prophecy of Jesus, that he knows our pain, prays for us, guards us and has redeemed us.)

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." (I Corinthians 10:13)

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:26)

And if possible, come to our Voters Meeting after church Sunday, to support our call of a staff minister, to help us all battle the devil and the forces of evil in the trenches of daily life. To receive the reinforcements of another called worker will aid our fight to save souls in Jesus.

*Pastor Gregory Pope*

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

Summer vacation has begun, and with that, so have preparations for VBS. This year's VBS will take place July 27th-30th from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Registration is now open for children 3 years old-5th grade. This is open to friends and relatives as well. Anyone 6<sup>th</sup> grade on up can volunteer to help in various areas which include running the games, teaching the VBS songs, running the crafts, serving the snacks, telling the Bible stories, and leading groups of children to the various activities. With VBS averaging 70+ children, many volunteers are needed for everything to run smoothly. You can register your children and sign up as a volunteer using the QR code provided. If you have any questions, please reach out to me either in church or at [tmelott@gsholmen.org](mailto:tmelott@gsholmen.org).



We still have a few spots available in our preschool rooms for the next school year. Currently there are 10 spots available in the T/W/TH afternoon class and 3 in the full-time class. As you attend activities with your children this summer, please keep your ears open for anyone needing a preschool for next year and let them know about Little Lamb. We get most of our families by word of mouth, so your help in this way is very much appreciated.



### **Yes, You: An Evangelism Model For Anyone, Anywhere**

The Evangelism Ministry Team will be holding an annual training session June 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to Noon with, Aaron Wakeman, Executive Director of Friends Network.

In this interactive training session, Aaron will share the evangelism model that he has used to train hundreds of evangelists - average lay people like you and me. He will offer encouragement and practical tools to help us remove the stigma, guilt, and fear around the topic of evangelism. And by God's grace, you will leave the session ready to be good news tellers in your lives and communities.

### **Summer Concert Invite**

Faith Lutheran Church of Black River Falls and Cataract, Wisconsin would like to invite you to a Christian concert by WELS Christian musician – Mike Westendorf. This will be a part of Black River Falls' concerts in the park series at the Lunda Community Park (1400 Tyler St, Black River Falls, WI 54615).

It is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, at 7 pm. There is no cost. With 15 years of radio broadcast experience, 13 years of worship leading and 15 years as a national recording and touring artist, God has blessed Mike with an exceptional ability to connect, encourage and motivate people of all ages. Check him out at his website – [mikewestendorf.com](http://mikewestendorf.com) – and then join us at Lunda Park on Tuesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. For more information on the concert, go to [faithwels.com](http://faithwels.com) and click on the events page.

In addition to sponsoring the band, Faith will provide free popcorn and lemonade. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. In case of stormy weather tune to WWIS Radio (99.7) to hear if the concert will be moved to the church building.

### **Looking for Creative People to start a Craft Club**

Are you creative? Do you like to do crafts? Quilting, sewing, knitting, cross stitch, crochet, scrapbooking, etc.... Or have you always wanted to learn? We are looking for people that would like to get together and craft (and maybe eat snacks). Any type of creative activity would be welcome, and we could share ideas, help each other, teach others how to do the activity, and just spend time together. We are looking at meeting once a month in the Fellowship Hall with the day and time to be decided by the people that are interested. You could bring a friend, a family member, children, everyone is welcome. If there is interest, craft packets for children would be provided so they have their own activity. Please reach out to Tracie Bateman at [batemantracie@yahoo.com](mailto:batemantracie@yahoo.com) or 608-799-8926 if interested.

### **Groundskeeping Crewmember**

Luther High School is looking for a Groundskeeping Crewmember for the summer. Responsibilities are assisting the Maintenance Custodian in general maintenance and repair of buildings, grounds and equipment. Secondary duties include assisting in athletic field preparations as required.

### **Ammo Can Collection**

We collected over \$200 in May's Ammo Can Collection for Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG). Thank you! These twice-a-year Ammo Can collections fund veterans and first responders workshops, such as the one we held at our church a few months ago. The Ammo Can collections also fund the yearly retreats that LMSG hosts, so that veterans and their spouses can attend the retreat without cost.

If you would like to make future donations, mail funds to:

Lutheran Military Support Group

PO Box 483

New Ulm, MN 56073

### **Martin Luther College is accepting applications**

Full-time Executive Director of Mission Advancement. This role helps connect donor support to the preparation of future pastors, teachers, and staff ministers.

Part-time Assistant Volleyball Coach. In this role, you can help promote excellence in competition while supporting the formation of student-athletes for lives of Christian service

Interested individuals should apply online at [mlc-wels.edu/hr/](http://mlc-wels.edu/hr/).

### **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, June 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!

### **June Birthdays**

Shaw	McCoy	6/1
Calysta	Bautch	6/2
Lynne	Proksch	6/2
Kitzi	Sobkowiak	6/6
Gary	Priem	6/7
Sam	Brinks	6/8
Hannah	Lipps	6/9
Sheridan	Tenney	6/9
Desmond	Wehrs	6/11
Jason	Boisen	6/13
Heather	Karow	6/14
Maddie	Rockwell	6/14
Rochelle	Gamoke	6/19
Nicole	Ross	6/22
Ayden	Adamson	6/23
Kent	Stephan	6/23
James	Gerke	6/25
Emily	King	6/25
Lucas	Porath	6/25
Hertz	Skaer	6/26
Mark	Helmreich	6/28
Marvin	Rockwell	6/28
Kim	Beckendorf	6/29
Brooks	Boisen	6/30
Gene	McCurdy	6/30
Kylee	Schams	6/30

### **July Birthdays**

Dan	Sting	7/2
Mike	Melott	7/5
Griffin	Sime	7/5
Noah	Karow	7/6
Parker	Menden	7/6
Jeff	Patten	7/6
Jonathan	Herbers	7/7
Brody	Halderson	7/9
Ashley	Sime	7/11
Rudi	Carlson	7/13
Levi	Carlson	7/14
Tom	Gamoke	7/14
Clarissa	Erickson	7/15
Anne	Hagel	7/15
Alex	Keller	7/15
Brenna	Sime	7/15
Micheline	Bakalars	7/16
Samuel	Lipps	7/16
Doris	Mueller	7/17
Ann	Wolfe	7/17
Jim	Gegenfurtner	7/18
Mark	Bateman	7/21
Calvin	Schams	7/22
Grace	Schams	7/22
Jeff	Skaer	7/24
Heather	McCarty	7/25
Jameson	Gerke	7/27
Sheryl	Rupprecht	7/28

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

## June Schedule

Sunday, June 7th		Week of June 7th to June 13th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Joseph Behn	Kristina Behn	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Jim Rupprecht	Sheryl Rupprecht	Aaron & Sarah Larson	Patten	<i>Sanctuary</i>
Sunday, June 14th		Week of June 14th to June 20th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Mike Melott	Tammy Melott	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Aaron Larson	Sarah Larson	Al Herbers	Newman	<i>Sanctuary</i>
		Carl Newman		
Sunday, June 21st		Week of June 21st to June 27th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Mark Helmreich	Heather McCarty	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Gary Priem	Denise Priem	Chad & Whitney Wacker	Gamoke	<i>Sanctuary</i>
Sunday, June 28th		Week of June 28th to July 4th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Jacob Werre	Kathy Werre	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Tim Beckendorf	Kim Beckendorf	Mark Bateman	McDonald	<i>Sanctuary</i>
		Howard Burmester		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>31</p> <p>Trinity Sunday</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Highway Clean Up</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Corpus Christi</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am - Outreach Workshop</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Annual Voters' Meeting</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30pm - Sowers of Good</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30am - Private Baptism</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Flag Day</p> <p>9am - Worship with Holy</p> <p>10:15am - Family Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6pm - Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Juneteenth</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Father's Day</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>10:15am - Family Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9am - Worship with Holy</p> <p>10:15am - Family Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30pm - Worship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Independence Day (Substitute)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p>