



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

The Shepherd's Voice – July 2026

Lean on the LORD

We are awaiting the decision. We don't know if Benjamin Mahnke will accept our divine call as staff minister or remain in his divine call at Abiding Love Lutheran Church in Cape Coral, Florida. The Holy Spirit has given him and his family this choice – between good and good.

In this case, we as a congregation are in uncertainty. Any time I have counseled members in situations of uncertainty, one Bible reading especially comes to mind. Proverbs 3:5-6:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

We think of Proverbs as nuggets of wisdom, each verse being its own wise saying. That is true of chapters 10-31. But Proverbs 1-9 introduces these wise sayings, with a discourse on wisdom. Proverbs 3:5-6 is a key part of the introduction, showing us how to rely on the LORD in situations where we have no idea what to do. To remember this verse reference, think *three*. The only wise God is *three* in one, triune. Proverbs *three*. *Three* times two is *six*. So Proverbs 3:5-6.

"Trust in the LORD" means put your confidence in him. Variations of this verb evoke falling on your face. Turn to the LORD so entirely for help, it's as if you're face to the ground pleading with him. You may be. Because we're told here not to lean on our own understanding. When we have no understanding of a situation, no idea what to do, this is good reason to fall on our face pleading to the LORD. This word *lean on* is also found in Isaiah 10:20 where God urges Israel not to lean on the one who struck them down. Israel and their King Ahaz had leaned on the King of Assyria to help them against their enemies. Now, Assyria was threatening Israel.

We're tempted to lean on "crutches" in life. A crutch is an earthly source of help that we rely on, that only offers temporary help and then becomes a hindrance, even a source of destruction to us.

Our only ultimate source of help is the LORD God who made us and knows what we need. So we're told in Proverbs *Three* verse *Six*:

"In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." I somewhat take exception to the NIV 2011 translation choice here with the word, "submit". The NIV 1984 had translated it: "In all your ways acknowledge him." The Bible translations EHV, ESV, NASB, and KJV all use the word "acknowledge" in this verse because that's what the original Hebrew word means. The idea is: In all your ways, learn to know the LORD—acknowledge him—and he will make your paths straight. We learn to know the LORD by pondering his Word, at church and at home. If we learn the LORD's ways and agree that they are right, we are "submitting to him."

To acknowledge the LORD is to know Jesus. God has already made our paths straight by giving us his only Son, to redeem us from our sins, save us from everlasting death, and redeem us for everlasting life with him in paradise. Until the day of heaven, let's obey Proverbs 3:5-6 as King Jehoshaphat did. His nation of Judah was vastly outnumbered and being attacked by the Moabites and Ammonites. He pleaded with the LORD: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" 2 Chronicles 20:12b. The LORD answered. He caused these enemy armies to destroy each other. He gave Jehoshaphat and his people rest on every side. They then rejoiced in the faithful LORD they had relied on.

Pastor Gregory Pope

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

It is time to start thinking about Sunday School as well. The Sunday School sign-up for 2026-2027 is ready to go. You can use this link <https://vbspro.events/p/ef4512> to sign up for your child and to sign up as a teacher/volunteer/sub. Children three years old - 5th grade can sign up. Children 6th - 12th grade can sign up to attend our Youth Bible Study being held at the same time as the Sunday School is going on. We encourage parents to prayerfully consider signing your children up for these programs. It is a wonderful way for them to stay in the Word and meet other Christian girls and boys. This isn't just for our church members. Your children are welcome to bring friends as well. The teachers look forward to seeing many of you back and serving our congregation in this way. We are also in need of teachers, assistants, and subs. If you would be willing to do any of these, you can let me know or sign up using the link provided. Your willingness to serve in this way would be greatly appreciated!



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

The month of June has been a busy month. I have blocked planned all our units and planned out all our field trips. I have also blocked planned all our Bible lessons for the year and prepped up until January. I have started to print new units from our curriculum and get those ready to use as well.

A very generous preschool family donated a large gift for us to use to purchase items on our wish list. Heather and I met and we purchased items for both classrooms.

We thought we would share our wish list with you. There are always new items that teach different skills or toys that just wear out. If you would like to donate an item, that would be greatly appreciated.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/27200NTHMNTY0?ref=wl_share

We are also looking for a doll bathtub or a Barbie bathtub. If you happen to see one at a garage sale or at a second hand store, we can reimburse the cost.

Thank you for your continued support with your prayers and gifts to the preschool.

In the month of July, I will be taking a trip to visit our son's family in England. I will be back to participate in Vacation Bible School.

God's Blessings, Lisa Carlson

Administrative Assistant Position

A big thank you to Jennifer Pope for her faithful service as Good Shepherd's Administrative Assistant. As Jennifer begins looking for full-time employment elsewhere, Good Shepherd is beginning the process of filling this part-time position.

The Administrative Assistant supports the ministry of Good Shepherd and Little Lamb Preschool through office, clerical, communication, and receptionist responsibilities. The position is expected to be about 15–20 hours per week, with flexible scheduling and weekday morning hours preferred. You can find the full job description on [our website here](#).

Those interested in learning more may contact Jacob Werre at jacobj_4@hotmail.com or 608-606-4426.

Introducing At Home Bible Studies this Fall!

Good Shepherd will be beginning a new opportunity called At Home Bible Studies this fall.

These small groups will meet in members' homes during the week for a short Bible study series. Each group will spend time in Scripture, discuss practical questions, and encourage one another in faith.

The goal is simple: to grow in God's Word and grow closer to fellow members of our church family.

At Home Bible Studies are designed to be welcoming and conversational. You do not need to be a Bible expert. You do not need to have all the answers. Just come ready to listen, learn, and be encouraged by God's Word together with fellow Christians.

The first session will be a short commitment, likely four weeks. Groups will meet at different times and locations, so you can choose the option that works best for your schedule.

At Home Bible Study is a great opportunity to:

- Spend more time in God's Word.
- Meet and encourage fellow members.
- Build stronger Christian friendships.
- Reflect more deeply on Scripture.
- Grow together as a church family.

Signup sheets will be available beginning in August. Please review the available groups and choose the day, time, and location that works best for you.

Questions? Contact Jacob Werre at jacobj_4@hotmail.com or 608-606-4426.

2026/27 Budget

Closing out our current fiscal period we can reflect back on very encouraging year. Our ministry plan allowed us to support our preschool, help 4 families through our Benevolence, finalize our playground, seal and stripe the parking lot. We will send a youth delegation to the WELS spring rally as well as maintaining and in some cases exceeding our obligations to CMO, support to Luther High and St. Paul LES. And, still able to grow our future Ministry Fund.

2026/27 budget brought before our voting members revealed total estimated expenses of \$407,921 to achieve this year's ministry plan. In order to support this the voters approved an increase of our general income budget of 5% over last year, or approximately \$15,000. This sounds like an aggressive goal, but when you break it down, this would equate to an additional \$1.00 per every \$20.00 given last year.

Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord. Psalm 4:5.

Coulee Region Owls Meeting

The Coulee Region OWLS will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at First Ev. Lutheran Church, 400 West Ave., South, La Crosse at 12:00 noon with a potluck luncheon. 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 Bill Wojahn giving us insights into the American Civil War. Please come for a visit, enjoy the friends you meet, a good lunch and an interesting program. There will be a free will offering.

Eau Claire Women's Retreat - Register today!

Join us for a special weekend at Cornerstone Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI on July 24 and 25, 2026! We will take a transformative journey that will walk through being refined and purified by grace and being ready to SHINE through Christ!

Questions? Or would you like to help the retreat committee plan for this special event? Contact Jeannie Miller jmiller1@ecasd.us 715-379-5023 (call or text).

Booth at La Crosse County Fair

Good Shepherd is excited to be joining other local WELS Synod Churches and hosting a booth at the La Crosse Interstate Fair in West Salem July 15-19. Good Shepherd will manage the booth on Thursday, July 16 (11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.). The booth will feature a prize wheel for children to win school supplies and adults can fill out an entry form for a chance to win a gift card.

How can you help?

- Volunteer - Sign up to staff the booth at the fairgrounds. Some shifts will be covered by other congregations.
- Donate School Supplies - These are the prizes awarded to children when they spin the prize wheel. We are looking for these specific supplies: Backpacks, #2 Ticonderoga Pencils, colored pencils, pens, crayons, glue, notebooks, loose leaf paper, markers, folders, glue sticks, and rulers.

Please drop off donations in the back of the church by July 12th.

- Financial Donation - Please consider a financial offering to purchase school supplies. Good Shepherd is responsible for two \$50 gift cards to be awarded as adult prizes and \$50 to cover booth expenses and future improvements to the booth.

Questions?

Contact Erik Sjolander - 608.780.7537 or erik.d.sjolander@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School

Registration for VBS is now open. VBS will take place July 27th-30th from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Children age 3 - 5th grade are welcome to attend VBS. Anyone 6th grade on up can volunteer to help. Volunteers are needed to serve snacks, help with crafts, teach the songs, tell the Bible stories, run the games, and lead groups of children around to the various activities. If you have any questions about volunteering, please reach out to Tammy Melott at tmelott@gsholmen.org. Use the QR code to register your child and yourself if you would like to volunteer. Many volunteers are what makes our VBS so successful!



I have posted a list of snack items and other supplies needed for VBS on the wall by the TV in the entryway. If you are willing and able to donate any of the items, please put your name next to them. I would like all snack foods dropped off by Sunday, July 26th because VBS starts on Monday the 27th. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help our VBS program in this way. It is always very much appreciated!

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

August Birthdays

Amy	Sjolander	8/1
Renee	Skaer	8/3
Tammy	Melott	8/4
Tracie	Bateman	8/5
Mark	Olson	8/5
Dan	Peterson	8/5
Missy	Klein	8/9
Steve	McCoy	8/11
Duane	Meyer Sr.	8/12
Chris	Trocinski	8/12
Tanner	Underberg	8/12
Benjamin	Menden	8/13
Landon	Sobkowiak	8/14
Blakely	Boisen	8/15
Taylor	Hauser	8/15
Alexis	Sill	8/15
David	Carlson	8/17
Don	Bautch	8/18
Acacia	Bateman	8/19
Hannah	McClellan	8/20
Dylan	Huiss	8/21
Braylon	Boisen	8/22
Ann	Everson	8/23
Heather	Burke	8/25
Davian	Daily	8/28
Katelyn	Patten	8/29

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

July Schedule

Sunday, July 5th		Week of July 5th to July 11th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Aaron Larson	Sarah Larson	Counters:	Cleaners:	
John McDonald	Sylvia McDonald	Sylvia McDonald	Proksch	Sanctuary
		Jacquelyn Kinsey		
Sunday, July 12th		Week of July 12th to July 18th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Jacob Werre	Kathy Werre	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Michael Tubbs		Dave Karbula	Mark Ross	Sanctuary
		Erik Sjolander		
Sunday, July 19th		Week of July 19th to July 25th		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Tim Beckendorf	Kim Beckendorf	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Dan Peterson	Julie Peterson	Cassie Huiss	Bateman	Sanctuary
		Jacob Werre		
Sunday, July 26th		Week of July 26th to August 1st		
9:00am Ushers	Greeters	Counters & Cleaners		
Kyle Sime	Ashley Sime	Counters:	Cleaners:	
Mark Bateman		Aaron & Sarah Larson	Melott	Sanctuary
Church Wall Dusting-- Herbers				

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study	29 6:30pm - Worship	30	1	2	3 Independence Day (Substitute)	4 Independence Day
5 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study	6 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	7	8	9 5:30pm - Sowers of Good	10	11
12 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study	13 6:30pm - Worship	14 6pm - Church Council Meeting	15	16 La Crosse County Fair Booth	17	18
19 9am - Worship with Holy 10:15am - Family Bible Study	20 6:30pm - Worship with Holy	21	22	23	24	25
26 9am - Worship 10:15am - Family Bible Study	27 No Monday Night Worship 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School	28 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School	29 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School	30 5:30pm - Vacation Bible School	31	1