Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

The Shepherd's Voice – November 2026

Meet Your Vacancy Pastor

Pastor Tesch and his wife Barb were called into ministry in a dual parish, St. Peter's in rural Marshfield and Emmanuel in rural Stratford, WI in 1986. After serving there for 10 years they were called to Peace, Hartford for 5 years. In 2001 they were called to Trinity, Marinette where they served until 2022, when Pastor Tesch retired. After retirement, he served the vacancy at Shepherd of the Hills, Inver Grove Heights from 2022-2024, and the vacancy at St. Peter's, Hamburg, and St. Peter's, Chaseburg, from 2024-2025. They are now happily serving our Lord as members of St. Paul's, Onalaska. God has blessed them with 7 children and 6 grandchildren, all of whom live in the La Crosse and Cottage Grove, MN areas. We look forward to serving our Lord among his people at Good Shepherd and we pray that the Chief Shepherd will provide a permanent pastor soon.

Pastor Tesch contact information:

Email: pastor@gsholmen.org
Phone: 715-587-8521

Opportunity to Help Good Shepherd Support Pastor Pope

As previously announced, Good Shepherd will be providing Pastor Pope with transition compensation and assisting with his health insurance costs for a couple months. We believe this is an appropriate way to recognize his years of service to our congregation and to provide support during what will be a difficult period of transition

Members who would like to contribute toward these expenses may designate their gifts to Special Projects on Vanco and to **Special Projects - Pastor Pope** if contributing by envelope/check.

Call Extended to Pastor David Barkow

During our call meeting on Sunday, October 25, our congregation extended a divine call to Pastor David Barkow to serve as our next pastor.

Pastor Barkow currently serves at Christ the Lord Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, Minnesota. He and his wife, Rachel, have three children, ages 15, 13, and 10.

Please keep Pastor Barkow and his family in your prayers as he prayerfully considers where the Lord would have him serve. We trust that God will guide his decision according to His will.

Monday Night Services Suspended beginning November 9

Beginning Monday, November 9, we will be suspending Monday evening worship services until we are blessed with a full-time pastor.

This decision was made to help reduce the workload and responsibilities of our vacancy pastor, Pastor Jon Tesch. By making this adjustment, we hope to ease the demands on Pastor Tesch and allow him to continue serving our congregation in this role for as long as he is able.

We recognize that this change will be inconvenient, particularly for those who regularly attend Monday evening services. We sincerely appreciate your understanding and encourage you to join us for Sunday morning worship whenever possible.
For those who need a weekday worship option, we encourage you to consider services at other nearby WELS congregations. The following churches currently offer Monday evening services:

- **Christ Lutheran Church** – West Salem, WI
- **Bethel Lutheran Church** – Arcadia, WI

We are grateful for Pastor Tesch's willingness to serve Good Shepherd during this time of vacancy and for the continued patience, support, and prayers of our congregation.
May God continue to bless and guide Good Shepherd as we move forward together in faith.

Newsletter Items

The newsletter will be sent out during the first week of each month. If you have information that you would like included, it needs to be submitted by the 25th of the previous month. These items may be emailed to office@gsholmen.org. Please note in the subject of the email that it is for the newsletter. Thank you.

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

Trunk or Treat was held on Saturday, October 24th. We had nine cars sign up to decorate trunks and hand out treats, four of which were preschool families. We also had games, snacks, and craft activities inside for the families to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success once again, it is very much appreciated!

The Sunday School and preschool children will be singing Sunday, November 8th. They have been working on two songs, one of which is the Lord's Prayer. They will be singing it in place of the regular Lord's Prayer in the service. We look forward to hearing the voices of children praising God in our worship service.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12th. This is when we will have the Christmas for Kids event. In a few weeks a sign-up will go up for helpers for this event. Also watch the Weekly Voice for registration to begin. Children 3 years old - 4th grade are welcome. Fifth graders on up are welcome to sign up to help in any of the areas needed. If you have any questions about Christmas for Kids, please feel free to contact me.

November Book Club

Hello Readers we will be reading Cape Refuge by Terri Blackstone. We will meet Tuesday, November 10th at Features in Holmen at 6:00pm. This book is a Christian mystery book which is a little different than we have read. Hope you consider joining us!

Parsonage Work Needed

With the departure of Pastor Pope, we are taking this opportunity to do work in the parsonage. The work includes replacing flooring, repairing wood trim, replacement of interior doors, wall patching, painting and other necessary repairs.
We are trying to decide if this work can be done by the congregation or if it is necessary to bring in a contractor. This decision needs to be made in the next 2 weeks.

If you are able to assist, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church. If you have questions you can contact Chad Wacker, the head of buildings and grounds, at 608-769-2471

The estimated cost of the repairs is currently $7000-10000. If you would like to make a financial donation for the work, please note “Parsonage Work” on your envelope.

Help us welcome our community at Jinglefest!

We’re looking for volunteers to help at our church booth inside the American Legion on Saturday, December 5. Volunteers will help children play Plinko, hand out prizes, and share information about our church and preschool with visitors.

We plan to have two volunteers per shift, with most shifts lasting two hours. Shifts start at 10AM and will go to approximately 5pm. A sign-up sheet will be available at the back of church soon. Please contact Steven Blankenship with questions or to volunteer. We’d love to have you join us!

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONTHLY MEMBER UPDATE

October 2026

This monthly update is intended to give the members of Good Shepherd an overview of the ministry that we have joined together to carry out under God’s blessing. Every member of our congregation is a vital part of our gospel ministry. We praise the Lord for you and each of our fellow Christians who have chosen to make Good Shepherd their church home.

WORSHIP

Weekly worship is a vital part of our Christian lives. We make every effort to gather in God’s house to honor our God, to hear his Spirit-filled Word, to receive the strengthening of the Lord’s Supper, celebrate the blessings of Baptism and be encouraged in our Christian lives.

October Attendance	October 4/5	October 11/12	October 18/19	October 25/26
In-Person Worship	110/19	98	140	110

YouTube Views	8	8	5	14

Bible Study

Sunday Bible Study	Oct. 4	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	
Attendance	11	Misson Fest	No Bible Study	Voter Meeting	

Women's Bible Study	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	
Attendance	4	5	6		

Offerings to the Lord

The Lord invites us to gratefully and regularly return to him a portion of what he has graciously given to each of us. The budget/goal amount is what we foresee as necessary to carry out the ministry that we have decided to do together. ***Continue to bring your offerings to the Lord as he continues to bless us! Here are different ways you can give your offerings in support of the ongoing gospel ministry of Good Shepherd.***

- **Mail** your offering to: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – 1500 Sand Lake Road – Holmen, WI 54636
- Download **Give Plus Church** App on either Apple or Android device. Set up one-time or reoccurring offering. Credit card transactions have a 3% processing fee deducted from the offering while only 1% is deducted from an ACH bank transaction.
- Give **online** by going to www.gsholmen.org and click on "Online Giving"

Note: Good Shepherd's Fiscal Year runs from 7/1/26 through 6/30/27

Good Shepherd General Fund			
	Offerings Received	Goal/Budgeted	Over / (Short)
Sep-26	$17,806	$22,070	($4,264)
Fiscal Year-to-Date	$56,490	$71,725	($15,235)

***Additional** offerings given to specific funds **above** budgeted amounts*			
Luther High School			
	Sep-26	Fiscal YTD	Fund Balance

Received	$0	$20	$0
WELS Missions (Congregational Mission Offering)			
	Sep-26	Fiscal YTD	Fund Balance
Received	$0	$50	$0
Debt Reduction / Future Ministry			
	Sep-26	Fiscal YTD	Fund Balance
Received	$0	$20	$0
Benevolence			
	Sep-26	Fiscal YTD	Fund Balance
Received	$0	$100	$3,550
Youth Ministry			
	Sep-26	Fiscal YTD	Fund Balance
Received	$0	$0	$724
Tuition Assistance			
	Sep-26	Fiscal YTD	Fund Balance
Received	$0	$0	$2,784
Special Projects			
	Sep-26	Fiscal YTD	Fund Balance
Received	$875	$6,671	$9,653

Congregational Debt			
Mortgage	$0	Line of Credit	$0
Congregational Savings			
Future Ministry		$226,608	

November Schedule

Sunday, November 1st		Week of November 1st to November 7th	
9:00am Ushers	**Greeters**	**Counters & Cleaners**	
Alan Ross	Odetta Ross	**Counters:**	**Cleaners:**
Mark Ross	Nicole Ross	Aaron & Sarah Larson	Newman
Sunday, November 8th		**Week of November 8th to November 14th**	
9:00am Ushers	**Greeters**	**Counters & Cleaners**	
Erik Sjolander	Amy Sjolander	**Counters:**	**Cleaners:**
Karsen/Dawson Sjolander		Al Herbers	Gamoke

Richard Brockway		Carl Newman	
Sunday, November 15th		**Week of November 16th to November 21st**	
9:00am Ushers	**Greeters**	**Counters & Cleaners**	
Mark Bateman	Ann Everson	**Counters:**	**Cleaners:**
Dan Peterson		Chad & Whitney Wacker	Proksch
Sunday, November 22nd		**Week of November 22nd to November 28th**	
9:00am Ushers	**Greeters**	**Counters & Cleaners**	
Aaron Larson	Heather McCarty	**Counters:**	**Cleaners:**
John McDonald		Mark Bateman	Mark Ross
		Howard Burmester	
Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25th			
6:30pm Ushers	**Greeters**		
Jim Rupprecht	Sheryl Rupprecht		
Howard Burmester			

Sunday, November 29th		**Week of November 29th to December 5th**		
9:00am Ushers	**Greeters**	**Counters & Cleaners**		
Dylan Huiss	**Cassie Huiss**	**Counters:**	**Cleaners:**	
Kyle Sime	**Ashley Sime**	Sylvia McDonald	McDonald	*Sanctuary*
		Jacquelyn Kinsey		
Church Wall Dusting-- Herbers				

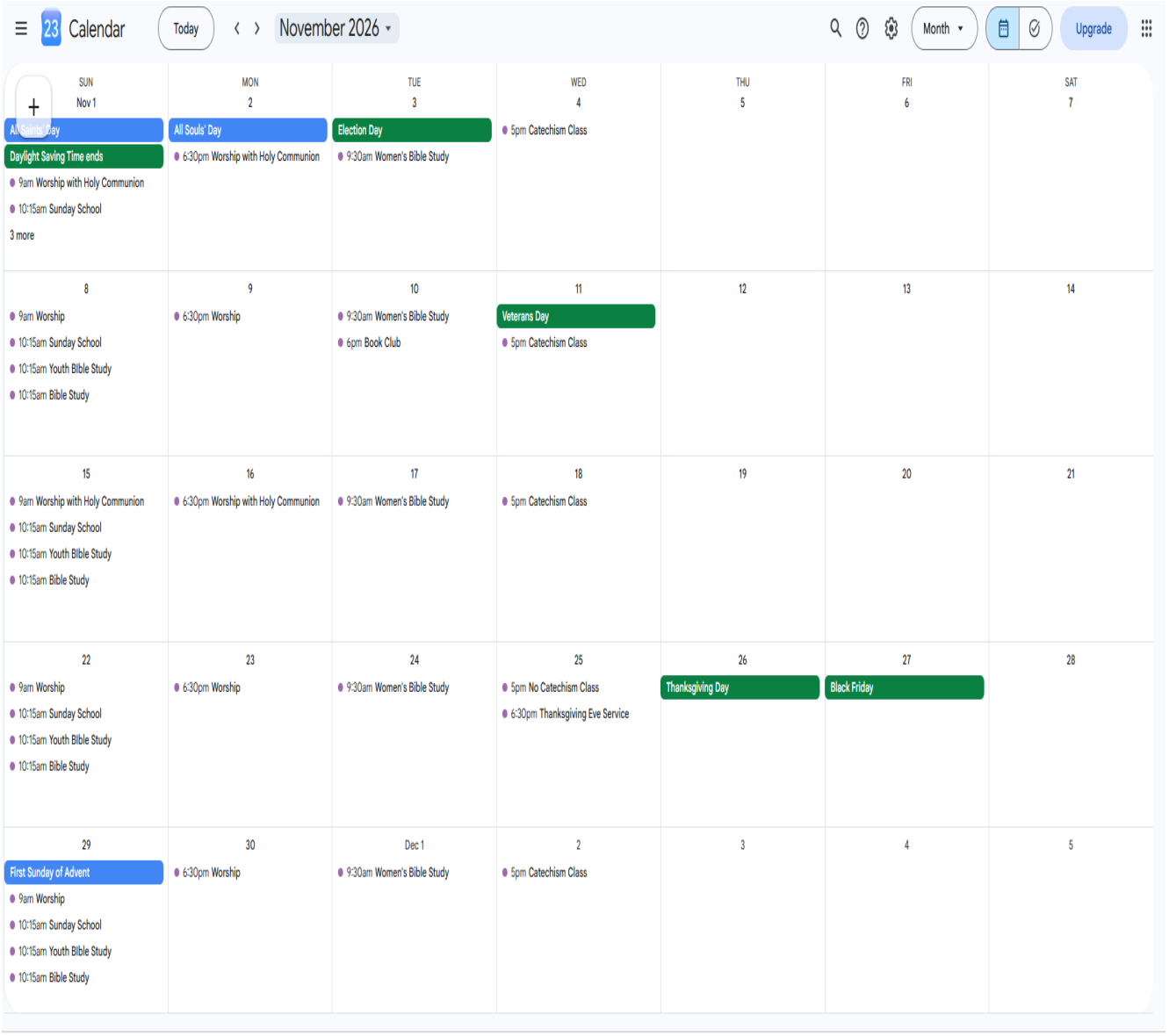
November Birthdays

Carey	Babe	11/1
Jim	Pagel	11/1
Emily	Schmidt	11/3
Bill	Bader	11/4
Audra	Newman	11/4
Madeline	Kendhammer	11/6
Gavin	Huiss	11/8
Kim	Olson	11/9
Kali	Sand	11/9
Katie	Westlund	11/12
Mike	Klein	11/17
Josh	Cramer	11/23
Alex	Menden	11/23
Rick	Blankenship	11/24
Abram	Carlson	11/26
Cassie	Huiss	11/26
Paisley	Wacker	11/26
Richard	Bakalars	11/27
Blake	Finn	11/27
Adalynn	Cramer	11/29
Anna	Hauser	11/30

December Birthdays

Jesse Klein	12/2
Violet Peterson	12/2
Doug Stallman	12/3
Cindy Rockwell	12/4
Christina Porath	12/11
Steven Blankenship	12/13
Jonathan Carlson	12/13
Odetta Ross	12/13
Tim Beckendorf	12/16
Doug Stellick	12/17
Benjamin Sill	12/18
Howie Burmester	12/19
Phyllis Asmus	12/20
Kaitlyn Cramer	12/22
Levi Huiss	12/24
Carlie Adamson	12/25
Dawn Radsek	12/25
Nacy Herbers	12/28
Liam Sobkowiak	12/28
Dawson Sjolander	12/29
Adam Sting	12/29
Lainey Wacker	12/31

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.


Calendar
Today
November 2026
Month
Upgrade
SUN
Nov 1
All Saints' Day
Daylight Saving Time ends
9am Worship with Holy Communion
10:15am Sunday School
3 more
MON
2
All Souls' Day
6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion
TUE
3
Election Day
9:30am Women's Bible Study
WED
4
5pm Catechism Class
THU
5
FRI
6
SAT
7
8
9am Worship
10:15am Sunday School
10:15am Youth Bible Study
10:15am Bible Study
9
6:30pm Worship
10
9:30am Women's Bible Study
6pm Book Club
11
Veterans Day
5pm Catechism Class
12
13
14
15
9am Worship with Holy Communion
10:15am Sunday School
10:15am Youth Bible Study
10:15am Bible Study
16
6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion
17
9:30am Women's Bible Study
18
5pm Catechism Class
19
20
21
22
9am Worship
10:15am Sunday School
10:15am Youth Bible Study
10:15am Bible Study
23
6:30pm Worship
24
9:30am Women's Bible Study
25
5pm No Catechism Class
6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service
26
Thanksgiving Day
27
Black Friday
28
29
First Sunday of Advent
9am Worship
10:15am Sunday School
10:15am Youth Bible Study
10:15am Bible Study
30
6:30pm Worship
Dec 1
9:30am Women's Bible Study
2
5pm Catechism Class
3
4
5