The Shepherd's Word
710 Ethan Allen Drive
Howards Grove, WI 53083

The Shepherd's Word **November 2026**
Our Shepherd UCC **Pastor Nathan Athorp**
710 Ethan Allen Drive **Howards Grove, WI 53083**
920-565-3376 **ourshepherducc.com**

Send newsletter articles to: OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com
Pastor's Cell Number: 920-946-3585
Pastor's e-mail: nathorp70@gmail.com



Our congregation is fully LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming. While some members of our congregation may hold different views, we as a community hold that being LBGTQ+ is fully compatible with being a Christian and is not sinful. LGBTQ+ people are welcome to participate fully in our community and sacraments and take on leadership positions within our community.

Prayer Concerns…

Please keep those who are shut-in or ill in your prayers

Jane Kesting – 909 Ethan Allen Dr
Howards Grove, WI 53083
Fritz Grunewald - 749 Audubon
Howards Grove, WI 53083
Roy Gadicke – 403 South Wisconsin Drive
Howards Grove, WI 53083

Sunday	Monday	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
November 2026 At this time, we are recording worship and posting it to both our YouTube Channel and our Facebook page after our worship service has concluded.	**Pantry Item** **Canned Meat**					
1st **8:30 - 9:45 Church School** **8:30 Praiseworthy** **10:00 a.m. Worship/Sacraments** **6:30 Book Study** **Greeters: Simon Family**	2 11:00 Yoga	*3* *Meal Prep for Salvation Army @ 12:00* *7:00 Dartball*	4 5:30 Confirmation @ Our Shepherd	5	6	7
8 8:30 Consistory Meeting **8:30 - 9:45 Church School** **10:00 a.m. Worship** **Greeters: Roy & JoAnn Gadicke**	9 11:00 Yoga	10 *7:00 Dartball*	11 *Coffee Break* *9:00 a.m.* 5:30 Confirmation @ Our Shepherd	12	13	14
15 **8:30 - 9:45 Church School** **8:30 Praiseworthy** **10:00 a.m. Worship** Raiseright Orders Due **6:30 Book Study** **Greeters: Rich & Ann Van Wyk**	16 11:00 Yoga	17 *Meal Prep for Salvation Army @ 12:00* *7:00 Dartball*	18 5:30 Confirmation @ Our Shepherd	19 Collaborative O & A Meeting @ OS	20	21
22 **8:30 - 9:45 Church School** **10:00 a.m. Worship** Newsletter Articles Due **Greeters: Bill & Jane Kesting**	23 11:00 Yoga	24	25 *Coffee Break* *9:00 a.m.*	26 **Happy Thanksgiving** 	27	28
29 **8:30 - 9:45 Church School** **10:00 a.m. Worship** **6:30 Book Study** **Greeters: Dave & Audrey Aardappel**	30 11:00 Yoga	*7:00 Dartball*	6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Bethel			



Newsletter via E-mail?
Simply let Pastor Nathan or Shari know if you would like to receive our newsletter via e-mail instead of having it sent in the mail.

Vanco Giving

Currently about 30% of our giving flows in via Vanco.
As you make your travel plans maybe you would like to consider utilizing Vanco for your giving practices.
See Pastor Nathan for details.





Coffee Break
Our Shepherd UCC
710 Ethan Allen Drive

2nd and 4th Wednesday of Each Month
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Howards Grove

Our Shepherd will be hosting a Coffee Break on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Please join us for a time of open conversation along with a cup of coffee and, perhaps, a cookie or two.

Bring your ideas, friends and neighbors! ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Fall/Winter Worship – September -April
Church School – 8:30 – 9:45
Worship service time 10:00 a.m.



Worship Livestream update

We have changed our worship videoing process. We have found the Facebook Livestream option to be too unstable. At this time, we are recording worship and posting it to both our YouTube Channel and our Facebook page after our worship service has concluded.

Consistory

Rich Van Wyk – President
Lloyd Athorp
Lee Henschel
Carol Mae Milbrath
Stephanie Wallace
Alicia Thede

Pastoral Relations

Nicole Twohig – Sec.
Carol Mae Milbrath
Ann VanWyk
Sandy Vollbrecht

Officers

Mandi Grube – Treasurer
Carla Hemb – Church Secretary and Financial Secretary

The Falls Food Pantry serves the needs of Howards Grove, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo. All donations are very much appreciated.
As you do your grocery shopping, consider purchasing a couple extra items for our food pantry donation

God's Blessings on your Birthday – November

4 Avery Wiegand	8 Hoyt Heinemann
10 Helen Harms	11 Heidi Widder
13 Carla Hemb	20 Corey Munger



Dates to Remember in November

Sunday, November 1	**10:00 a.m.** Worship/Sacraments
Sunday, November 8, 15, 22, 29	**10:00 a.m.** Worship
Sunday, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	**8:30** Church School
Sunday, November 1, 15, 29	6:30 Book Study
Sunday, November 8	8:30 a.m. Consistory meeting
Wednesday, November4, 11, 18	5:30 Confirmation @ Our Shepherd
Monday, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	11:00 Yoga
Tuesday, November 3, 17	12:00 Meal prep for Salvation Army
Wednesday, November 11, 25	9-11:00 a.m. Coffee Break
Sunday, November 15	Raiseright Order
Thursday, November 19	7:00 Collaborative O & A meeting @ OS
Sunday, November 22	Newsletter Articles Due
Wednesday, November 25	6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Bethel
Sunday, November 29	Heart–to–Heart gifts due back at church

DECEMBER GREETERS

December 6, 2026 - Lloyd & Maureen Athorp
December 13, 2026 - Ruth Hering & Jelane Gosse
December 20, 2026 (Children's Program) - Todd & Tami Stoffregen Family
Thursday, December 24, 2026 (Christmas Eve) - Karl & Mandi Grube & Family
Sunday, December 27, 2026 - Lavonne Athorp & Kathleen Athorp

Wisconsin Conference Newsletter - see what is happening around the state at: https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/Wisconsin+Conferen/FMfcgzQhWxWVqTMsZcqJTWmkLMzQWSfl

Consistory Meeting – October 11

Next meeting: November 8 @ 8:30

Pastors Report:

Pastor suggested that the Budget, Pastoral Relations committees need to meet.

Pastor would like to get a $100.00 gift card for Chuck Grubisek for helping with our new computer and training staff how to use it.

Pastor also mentioned that the consistory should start talking to people about joining consistory.

Building and Grounds: Blinds are being looked at for the office windows. The tree situation is being put on hold.

Christian Education: Sunday School started today. (Sunday, October 11, 2026)

Finance Committee: Is looking to set a meeting.

Scholarship Committee: Char and her family donated $175.00 for the use of the church to the Scholarship Fund.

New Business: Chili supper Wednesday, October 21, 2026. Sign up is going well.

Surplus Furniture: Alicia has listed the conference table on Facebook Market Place. The consistory suggested that we ask $100.00 dollars for it or best offer. Also 3 coat racks and one rack of folding chairs are also for sale. The consistory suggested that we ask $25.00 dollars each for the coat racks or best offer, and $100.00 for the chairs or best offer.

See the bulletin board for full meeting minutes

Raiseright Program - UPDATE

Members can order gift cards in church through Shari every 3rd Sunday or order online. Physical cards would be available when church order is placed, redeemable cards and e-cards would be applied when you order. **Here is how you can enroll:**

https://www.raiseright.com

Click - Sign up (in upper right corner)

Click - join existing program

Put in code AD9FFE9F32736

Click continue

Then create your own account

This should then apply your purchases to the Our Shepherd account





We earned $38.13 for the month of October

Christmas is coming soon. You can order your cards in November and December and still get them in time for gift-giving.

YOGA



Yoga has resumed for the 2026/27 year. The group meets Mondays, at 11:00 a.m. in the church worship area. **The cost if you pay for the five Mondays of November is $35. If you can only make it once and a while the drop-in fee of $10 per week** may work for you. This program is open to men and women, and need not be a member of Our Shepherd. For more information contact Renae at 920-565-2785

SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathies to the family of Jackie Grunewald. Jackie entered life eternal on October 1, 2026. Services were held at Our Shepherd on Saturday October 10 2026.



Church School Teacher and Staff Installation

The church School staff was installed on Sunday, October 18. Pictured are Nicloe Twohig, Jaimie Simon, Sarah Breher, Kay Sheahan and Renae Wunsch Not pictured Darlene Meyers, Lindsey Stoffregen, Heidi Widder, Tracy Sommer and Shari Ver Straate.

Rural Church Collaborative Committee Representatives are:

Immanuel – Pastor Sean Cornell, Rodney Thieleke, Kristy Pahl
St. John's – Diane Weiland, Ross Bender, Kathy Aulik
Bethel – Pastor Diane Cayemberg, Lisa Grubisic
Our Shepherd – Pastor Nathan Athorp, Jaimie Simon, Shari Ver Straate

1. The committee met at Bethel UCC to review and to start preparing for our mission project of Clean Up Buckets for Church World Service. These buckets will be put together after our joint summer outdoor worship service. Shari Ver Straate is working on collecting buckets, while Lisa Grubisic will update the spreadsheet of prices of other needed items for the buckets.
2. St. Marks/St. James UCC churches would like to attend some of the joint Lenten worship services while they are looking for a new pastor next spring. They will be more than welcome to join us.
3. Thanksgiving Eve service will take place at Bethel on November 25, 2026 at 6:30. Members from Bethel will be providing music by their bell choir and pies following the service.
4. Bethlehem UCC will not be providing a Blue Christmas this December. Our Shepherd will put together a Blue Christmas service for December 20 at 6:30.
5. We have had some feedback from congregations and consistories about what we have been doing the past two years. It seems that our missions and gatherings are working well. We would still like more feedback from the congregations, so that we can evaluate what we will continue to do moving forward and what we could change or add to our agenda.
6. Next meeting, January 6 @ 6:00 at Immanuel UCC

The Heart-to-Heart Christmas Tree



Tags will be available soon. There will be two tags per item to be purchased. Sign your name on one tag and place it in the basket. The second tag is for you to take with the information you will need for shopping. **The items need to be returned by November 29th.** The Salvation Army does have a few requests.

1. Label each gift with the recipient's name and family number. (You can put on the tag you took for shopping)
2. Please do not wrap so parents can see gifts purchased, and know what they may still want to buy. You may include wrapping supplies.
3. Please do not include food items.

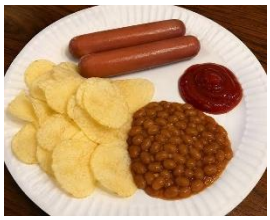
Meals for Salvation Army

We are in need of gift cards from Walmart, Piggly Wiggly and Aldi

Anyone who is interested in helping to prepare these meals is welcome.
We meet at church, every other Tuesday, at 12:00, to prepare the meals.

A huge thank you to everyone who has helped by contributing food or gift cards to make these meals possible; your support is greatly appreciated.

WE ARE IN NEED OF BANQUET SIZE FOIL PANS (18in x10in)



November 3 - Baked Beans, Scalloped potatoes, and Hot Dogs
Items needed: 15# potatoes 6 large onions 2 bottle ketchup
1 bottle mustard 1-48 oz container sour cream 1 qt. Half and Half
2 boxes of Dry French onion soup 4 # dry navy beans 3# bacon
We need a dessert for 40 for this meal



November 17 - Vegetable Soup with Sloppy Joes.
Items needed: 1 each red, yellow, and orange pepper
6 onions 1 bunch celery 2 heads cabbage 5# potatoes
2# carrots 2 - 28 oz diced tomatoes 1 large can of tomato paste
2 - 28 oz cans of tomato sauce 3 bags frozen cut green beans
We need a dessert for 40 for this meal

Thanks for all of your donations from your gardens we have everything needed for these meals

The Salvation Army volunteers look forward to serving our meals. Anyone can volunteer to prepare a meal to donate at any time by contacting Carryejo Cony at 920-694-1271 or going to their website: http://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/sheboygan/el-vo

USED FURNITURE FOR SALE

Our Shepherd has some surplus furniture for sale. All prices are suggestions.
Please talk to a consistory member or Pastor Nathan if you are interested.
Conference Table 8 feet long - $100.00 OBO
3 free standing Coat Racks - $25.00 each
Metal Folding Chairs on portable rack - $100.00 OBO



Church Recycling

One of the ways in which Our Shepherd cares for creation is through our multiple recycling/reusing efforts.

Can tabs – Ronald McDonald House
Egg cartons - to be used for food pantries
Plastic bottle caps
Prescription bottles – to be reused for veterinary medication
Used American flags, ready for disposal
Plastic bags - to be used to make benches

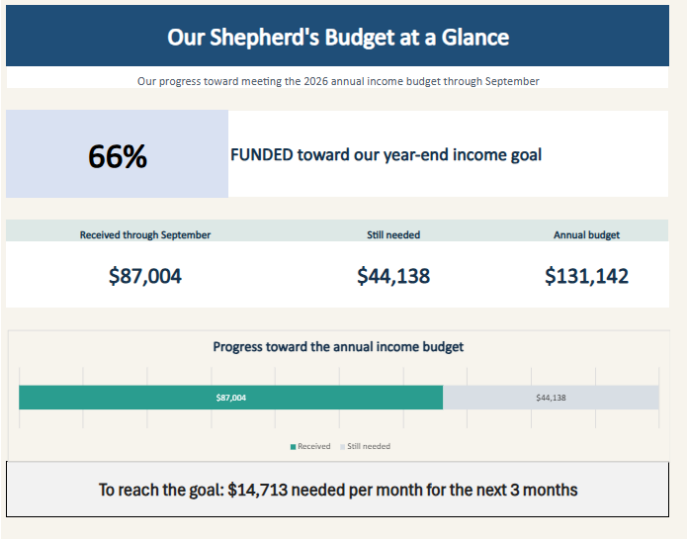


All items MUST be clean, dry and empty. Please leave items in the church office.

Plastic bags can be placed in the container in the choir room. Thank you.

Some of these items are being saved for other church communities that are doing their part for God's creation. If you are collecting any items, please let us know.

To date our continued collection of plastic has saved 1, 225.75 pounds from being put in landfills. Your efforts to be stewards of the earth are commendable.



Financial Report

We've updated our financial report to provide a more focused view of our shared progress. The new "Budget at a Glance" highlights how much income we've received, what remains to meet our annual goal, and the progress we are making together. We hope this format keeps everyone informed and connected to the ministry we support at Our Shepherd.

Chili Supper 2026

Thanks to all who helped make our Chili supper another great success. Extra torte and chili were taken to the Salvation Army and leftover bread and crackers will be used for future meals.







Church School News



Items for the Food Pantry: November - Canned Meat

Donations may be placed in the basket, located in the church entryway

Beverage Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House

Birthday Bags - The sign-up sheet for birthday bags is in the binder. Help brighten birthdays for those facing food challenges at this time. To complete a bag, you would donate: a cake mix, a small bottle of oil, frosting, and candles. Eggs are provided by the food pantry. There are large Ziplock bags located in the office for the cake supplies.





Church school is offered to children age 3 to confirmation. Confirmation students are support for our younger members. The program runs from **8:30 to 9:45**
Caretakers is the theme of the stories the church school children heard about in the month of October. Taking care of God's creation, using our resources to help others and taking care of ourselves. The Bible verse was Psalm 8:6 "You've let them rule over your handiwork putting everything under their feet."

Sundays, October 25th, November 1st and 8th the congregation is invited to help with donating **Thanksgiving food items** for the local food banks. Please consider helping those that are facing food insecurity at this time.





The church school is preparing songs and parts for **December 20th when the children will be sharing the Christmas story.** Please let Renae know if your children will be attending the practices and program so parts may be planned for each child.

On October 18th, **Lucy Lightle and Millie Stowers,** as 3rd graders, received their Bibles from the Church School

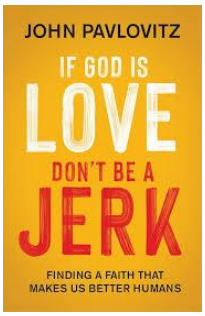


Children's Room



Please consider taking a Sunday to cover the children's room. There is a sign-up sheet in the binder. This room is for children that can independently be with another adult up to first grade. When an adult is available the room is covered from after children's time until the end of the service.

BOOK STUDY



Book Study will be meeting on Sunday November 1st, 15th and 29th at 6:30. We will begin a new dive into John Pavlovitz's book, '*If God is Love Don't be a Jerk, Finding a Faith that Makes Us Better Humans'* Feel free to invite others who you think might enjoy our time together.

CONFIRMATION

November confirmation classes will meet at **Our Shepherd on Wednesdays at 5:30. EXCEPT for November 25th,** on that Wednesday the students are expected to be present for our joint Thanksgiving Eve worship service @ Bethel at 6:30.

CROP Walk









67 walkers and volunteers from Immanuel, St. Peter's, Bethel, Bethlehem, Our Shepherd, St. James, Saron and St. John's *participated in the CROP Walk on October 11 in Kiel, starting at St. Peter's UCC. The walkers covered a little over 1.8 miles in an average of about 40 minutes.*

$9819.47 was raised to support our comuunity.

S'mores and hot dogs were enjoyed after the walk.



FITF









THANK YOU!



A HUGE thank you for everyone's helping hands, generous hearts, and willingness to jump in wherever needed to make our Faith in the Fall 2026 Music Festival a success! Also, a very special thank you to Praiseworthy for sharing your time and talents before, during and after our event. We couldn't have done it without you, or enjoyed the day more, without each and every one of you!!!





Faith in the Fall Basket Winners

Superior Flags & Gift Card	*Emily Lensmier*
Santa Embroidery	*Sue Riesterer*
Wooden Pumpkins	*Heidi Widder*
Lego/ Diamond Stickers	*Pam Knuth*
Dinosaurs	*Kathy Roehl*
Olive Garden $25.00	*Kaye Rader*
Baking Basket	*Neal Henschel*
Family Sign/$100.00 Cards	*Henry Grube*
Restoration Gardens	*Dena Hendrikse*
Halloween Pillow & Books	*Roger & Kay Sheahan*
Shopping $25.00	*Debby Henschel*
Llama Pillow & Books	*Emily Lensmire*
Nerf Guns	*Caylon Thede*
Starbucks $20/ Sharpies & Quilt	*Kara Thiel*
Necklace	*Zoey Gube*
Diamond Art/Fuzz Ball	*Ruthie Hering*
Shopping $25.00	*Caylon Thede*
Italian Dinner	*Terry Thiel*
Diapers/ Baby Blanket	*Kathy Roehl*
Hand Turned Pen	*Kristin Kazer*
$25.00 Buffalo/$25.00 Texas	*Kathy Roehl*
Cleaning Basket	*Diane Sabrowsky*
Hatchimal/Bluey/Fuzz Ball	*Charlotte Lensmire*
Miesfeld's Summer Sausage $25.00	*Louie Bowe*
Nativity	*Daryl Gabsch*
Food Basket	*Hoyt Heinemann*
Hello Fall Decor	*Nancy Henschel*
$30.00 River Park $25.00 Olive Garden	*Karl Grube*
Ceramic Pumpkins	*Debby Henschel*
Bag of Snacks	*Terry Thiel*
Wisc. Puzzle/ $25.00 Henning/$25 Culvers	*Charlie Simon*
$30 Butch & Anne's/ $25.00 Texas	*Daryl Gabsch*
Packer Basket	*Pam Knuth*
$25 Schwarz's/ $30 Northwestern	*Diane Sabrowsky*
Fall Decorations	*Dana Rouse*
$50 Exxon Mobil	*Tara Rossey*
Civil War Pen	*Shelly Bonde*
Everything Halloween	*Daryl Gabsch*
$25 Olive Garden	*Jeff Wunsch*
Bee Pillow & Blanket	*Steph Stowers*
Locomotive Pen	*Julianna Kuzulka*
$25 Henning Home Cutting Board	*Sandy Kracht*
Puzzle	*Debby Henschel*
$100 Miesfeld's Gift Card	*Nancy Thomas*
Fire Blanket/ Candle	*Steph Stowers*
Fire Blanket/Mug/Candle	*Patty Wieland*
Quilt	*Michelle Mauk*
Fall Leaves Stake	*Kathy Goetsch*
Decorative Chair	*Heidi Widder*
Adirondack Chair	*Karl Grube*
Packer/ Cancer Basket	*Neal Henschel*
Gardening Basket	*Stephanie Wallace*
For the Birds	*Shelly Bonde*
Ice Cream Bowls	*Tanya Mantsch*
Mini Golf Gift Cards	*Tara Rossey*
Cedar Planter	*Lee Henschel*

50/50 Winner - Karl Grube - $141.50





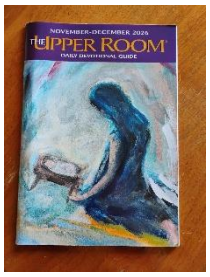








The Upper Room" devotional for November/December is located in the Literature Rack





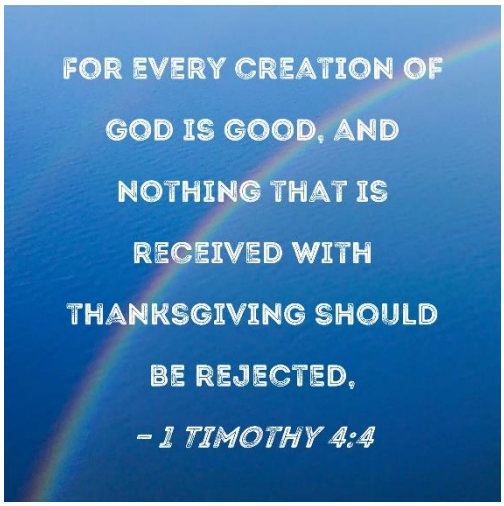
Don't forget to order your pointsettia by December 1. The sign-up is in the blue binder.

Praiseworthy Practice and worship singing

Sunday, November 1 & 15

8:30 Practice, 10:00 worship

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



As we enter November, I am wondering if major election cycles put us into more of a mindset of everything being wrong with our society. If you think about most campaign platforms, they are really statements of what is currently wrong with our communities and how the other candidate is going to make it worse. With that constant barrage, it can be hard to notice what is going well, what we do have to be thankful for. As we approach Thanksgiving perhaps it would be a good idea to acknowledge some of the challenges, but then to also acknowledge what we can be thankful for.

Don't get me wrong, there is plenty of room for improvement. In broad strokes, the standard of living for the vast majority of individuals is struggling to improve or even maintain its status quo. Earnings are not keeping up with expenses and that stress is manifested in countless ways. There are fundamental shifts occurring globally and honestly, I am not convinced the vast majority of us know what to make of it. Some are desperately trying to take things back to the way they used to be. (Honestly, I don't see how that can work. That would be like saying because we have fatal car accidents we are going to go back to horses and buggies.) There are others who are able to see the world isn't the same as it used to be and we can't go backwards; we can only move forward. Unfortunately, there is no clear path forward. Just like in the past, we have to figure it out as we go. In the midst of all of that, it can be hard to see what we do indeed have to be thankful for.

With that in mind, let me offer a couple of things I am thankful for. I am living in a house that is dry and warm and when it gets dark, I can turn on the lights and when I need water, (hot or cold) I can open a faucet. In that house I also have a full pantry and when I am hungry, I do not have to worry about filling that need. I am also able to get out of bed every morning and face the new day, my health allows me to do that. All of those things are easy to gloss over when we look at the headlines, but they are not insignificant. I am also living in a community where folks are able to see that not everyone has those same resources and we are striving to remedy that reality. I am living within a faith community that recognizes we are called in partnership by our Creator to care for all of Creation and for that I am truly grateful. If you pause your day, maybe over morning coffee, or later in the evening, and look around you, what are you grateful for?

-In Christ's Love, *Pastor Nathan*