

**The Shepherd's Word  
Our Shepherd UCC  
710 Ethan Allen Drive  
920-565-3376**

**June 2026  
Pastor Nathan Athorp  
Howards Grove, WI 53083  
ourshepherducc.com**

Send newsletter articles to: [OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com)

Pastor's Cell Number: 920-946-3585

Pastor's e-mail: [nathorp70@gmail.com](mailto: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 LGBTQ+ 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*

*Jim Milbrath - 421 Jefferson Circle*

*Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Jane Kesting – 909 Ethan Allen Dr*

*Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Fritz & Jackie Grunewald - 749 Audubon*

*Howards Grove, WI 53083*

*Roy Gadicke – 403 South Wisconsin Drive*

*Howards Grove, WI 53083*

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

Sunday	Monday	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>June 2026</b> 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.	1	2 <i>Meal Prep for Salvation Army@ 12:00</i>	3 4:15 Praiseworthy Practice	4	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. Worship/Sacraments  <b>Greeters: Alicia &amp; Caylon Thede</b>	8	9	10 <i>Coffee Break</i> 9:00 a.m.  2:00 Praiseworthy Practice	11	12	13
14 9:00 a.m. Worship  6:30 Book Study  Greeters: Koehler Family	15	16 <i>Meal Prep for Salvation Army@ 12:00</i>	17 2:00 Praiseworthy Practice  3:30 O & A meeting	18	19	20 <b>Pride Fest in Sheboygan</b>
21 8:00 a.m. Praiseworthy 9:00 a.m. Worship  <b>Happy Father's Day!!!!</b>  Raiseright Orders Due Newsletter Articles Due <b>Greeters: Wallace Family</b>	22	23	24 <i>Coffee Break</i> 9:00 a.m.  2:00 Praiseworthy Practice	25	26	27 <b>Kingdom Fest St. Nazianz</b> 
28 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:30 Book Study  <b>Greeters: Jacobs Family</b>	29	30		<b>Pantry Item:</b> Pudding Jell-O		



### 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**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of Each Month**  
**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Howards Grove**

Our Shepherd will be hosting a Coffee Break on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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!!!

### Praiseworthy Practice

Wednesday, June 10, 17, 24	2:00 p.m. Practice
Wednesday, June 3	4:15 Practice
Sunday, June 21	8:00 a.m. Practice
Saturday, June 27	10:45-12:00 Kingdom Fest in St. Nazianz



### Summer Worship - May - August

Worship service time 9:00 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 - June**

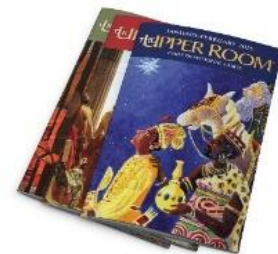
2 Pam Knuth	5 Deric Lightle	6 Katie Schueler
8 Kay Woodrich	8 David Mair	11 Steph Stowers
14 Araya Wallace	17 Ana Knuth	19 Kenneth Simon
21 Pastor Nathan	24 Randy Woodrich	24 Kara Thiel
26 June Wiegand	27 Joann Gadicke	27 Kristy Oxtoby
28 Tom Bentley		

There are Birthday Cards located in the rack in church.

**Consider giving a monetary donation to the Scholarship Fund in honor of someone's birthday.**

Your contribution will be applied to your annual giving.

**"The Upper Room" devotional for May/June is located in the Literature Rack**



**Rural Church Fellowship Upcoming Events - A high school and adult Mission Trip is planned for the Appalachia area from July 11 to July 18.** Pastor Nicole Herda from St. Peters U.C.C. is leading this trip. If you wish to participate or get more information you can contact her at [pastornicoleherda@gmail.com](mailto:pastornicoleherda@gmail.com).

## Consistory Meeting –May 10, 2026

\* Sacraments will be June 7

**Building & Grounds:** After discussion the committee's recommendation is to replace flooring in the sanctuary and windows in office. Minimal hail damage to roof; no action necessary.

**The O&A committee** is working in cooperation with the other O&A congregations of Sheboygan County to support the Sheboygan Pride Fest which is occurring June 27, 2026.

**Next Meeting:** July 12@ 6:30 Potluck for consistory and spouses

**Check the board in the front hall for a complete Consistory Report**



## YOGA

Yoga will resume in September. Consider joining us for the next session. For more information contact Renae at 920-565-2785.

## Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father figures



### Dates to Remember in June

Monday, June 1	1:00 View carpet samples from Dulmes Décor @ OS
Wednesday, June 3	4:15 Praiseworthy Practice
Sunday, June 7	<b>9:00 Worship/Sacraments</b>
Sunday, June 14, 21, 28	<b>9:00 Worship Service</b>
Sunday, June 14, 28	6:30 Book Study
Tuesday, June 2, 16	12:00 Meal prep for Salvation Army
Wednesday, June 10, 24	9-11:00 a.m. Coffee Break
Wednesday, June 10, 17	2:00 Praiseworthy Practice
Wednesday June 17	3:30 Open & Affirming meeting
Sunday, June 21	Raiseright Order & Newsletter Articles Due
Saturday, June 27	10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Kingdom Fest, St. Nazianz
Saturday, June 27	Pride Fest in Sheboygan
Sunday, July 12	6:30 consistory Meeting with potluck, spouses welcome
July 27 – 31	9:00 – 12:00 VBS

## 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.**



### **June 2- Sloppy Joes and a Pasta Salad**

**Items needed:** 4 onions 2 green peppers 1 large bottle ketchup 1 can tomato paste 3 # large shell pasta

10 packages soft hamburger buns 2 red onions 1 stalk celery

2 english cucumbers 6 roma tomatoes 2 cans sliced black olives

1 each red, yellow, orange peppers 2 bottles Zesty Italian dressing

**WE HAVE A DESSERT FOR THIS MEAL**

### **June 16 - Tater Tot Casserole and 7 Layer lettuce Salad**

**Items needed:** 4 onions 8 cans green beans

1 bottle Worcestershire sauce

8 cans cream of mushroom soup

16 cups cheese 3 large bags of tater tots 3 heads lettuce 1 doz eggs

2 quarts Mayo 2 bags frozen peas 2# bacon 4 c shredded cheese

2 red onions 1 stalk celery

**WE HAVE A DESSERT FOR THIS MEAL**



**Thank you to everyone that has donated time, money for food, or anything else to help make these meals happen.**

The Salvation Army volunteers look forward to serving our meals. Anyone can offer 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>

### **WISCONSIN CONFERENCE NEWLETTER**

Take a look at what is happening around the state. <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Wisconsin-Conference-this-Week.html?soid=1102675987700&aid=j7o9ALld-4k>



## Church School News

### Items for the Food Pantry: June - Pudding/Jell-O

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.



**B: Be with God L: Love God & neighbor U: Understand yourself as a child of God E: Explore the Bible**  
**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**



Church school will resume in the fall.



GREAT JOB by the church school youth sharing songs and skits during the church service on the last day of church school. Loved your enthusiasm to share the scripture with a

little bit of humor. The songs brightened the service with your glow stick movements and the addition of a ukulele to support your song. Thanks, also, to our band for sharing a number. Their many talents are a blessing to our church.



**Earth day** is a great day to reflect upon the many ways each one of us can be responsible stewards of the earth. The church school read a book reminding us of the many ways we can help with keeping our earth clean and why it is so important. To go with the theme, the children assembled bee motels to put in their yards. To continue with the theme, Pastor Nathan shared with the children during children's time another way to help is by planting trees. After the sermon, the youth went outside to plant a tree that they can watch mature over the years.

## 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.

## VBS 2026

July 27th to July 31st  
and Sunday August 2nd.

Please share this opportunity with family  
and friends!!

**Ollie has arrived in Howards Grove  
for a fun week of VBS.**

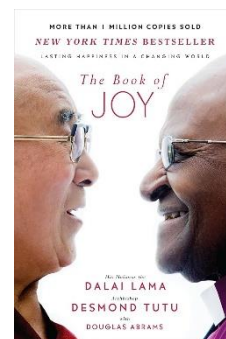
**Forms are available NOW.**

**Mission project:** Collecting new adult socks for the Sheboygan warming center.



## Book Study

Through the middle of July, we will continue to meet every other Sunday evening at 6:30 to explore 'The Book of Joy'. Come join us as the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu have a conversation on what might help us navigate our lives in a more joyful manner.

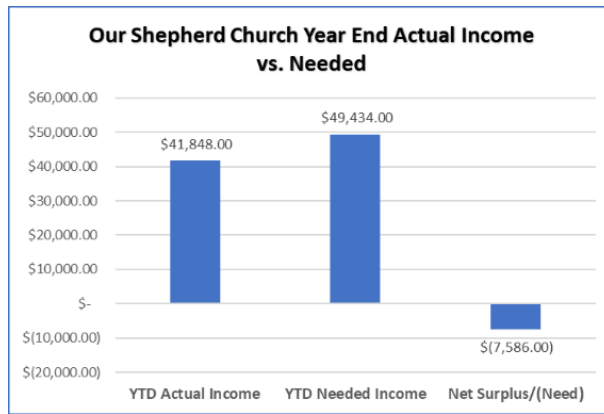


## Special Meeting – Carpet & Windows

A special congregational meeting was held after worship on May 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss and vote on new flooring for the church and new windows and flooring for the office area. The vote was 29 in favor and 5 opposed to replacing the windows and flooring in the office area and replacing the flooring in the sanctuary (including concrete repair) with carpet tiles.

**All members are welcome to Our Shepherd on Monday, June 1 @ 1:00. Dulmes Décor will bring multiple carpet samples to help decide what color looks best. After whittling down the choices, a congregational meeting and vote will be held (watch for date) to choose from 3 samples.**

Here you will find the financial update for January -April 2026



If you see a new face at the keyboard, please welcome **Piper Vetting**. She will be helping out with music this summer.

**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, Dennis Roethel, Lisa Grubisic

Our Shepherd – Pastor Nathan Athorp, Jaimie Simon, Shari Ver Straate

1. We met on May 6<sup>th</sup> to share feedback on our Lenten services. We will continue them next year. The 4 congregations collected \$3177.00 in loose offering to send to CWS.
2. Outdoor worship will be @ **Our Shepherd on July 12 @ 9:00 a.m.** Our mission project will be a themed food pantry event.
3. Immanuel will be hosting German guests for worship and a cookout on **October 18.**
4. Rev. Diane suggested a midweek Dinner Worship. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be @ St. John’s on Wednesday, **August 5, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**For our Joint Service mission project, we will be collecting kids lunch items.**

Kids are home for the summer and not receiving school lunches.

As our mission project for the outdoor service on July 12<sup>th</sup>, we would like to collect items that would be appropriate for kids’ summer lunches.

Some items could be, but are not limited to :

Canned SpaghettiOs, Mini Ravioli, etc.

Boxed mac-&-cheese

Canned chicken and stars, cartoon character, etc. soups

Peanut butter

Canned fruit, fruit cups, applesauce, etc.



# Raiseright Program

Members can order gift cards in church through Shari every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday or order online. E-cards and Reloadables are available for some of the cards, they are labeled on the Raiseright Order Form with and “E” or “R”. Physical cards would be available when church order is placed.

To order online, go to <http://www.Raiseright.com/enroll>

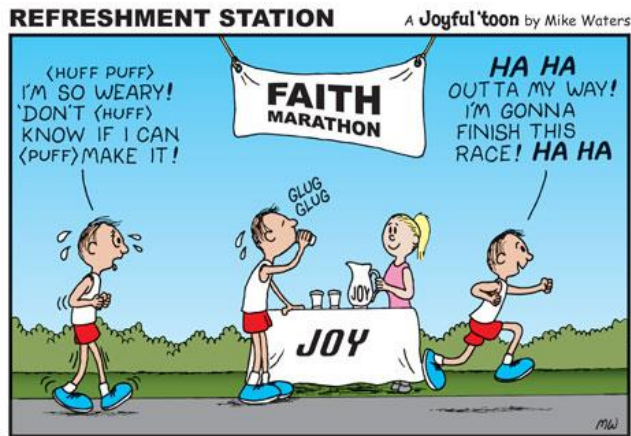
Set up your account and enter our enrollment code: 92164F3732736 to have your purchase apply to Our Shepherd UCC.



## We earned \$151.14 for the month of May.

Summer meals, quick meals, outdoor meals and potluck supplies. Pick up your grocery cards.

### Thank you for your Support!



That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed. – ROMANS 15:32 KJV

## 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.



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



Do you have a green thumb or appreciate how nice the front of our church and our sign look? We continue to look for volunteers who can help maintain our flower beds. Would you be willing to help run our recording camera one Sunday a month, or watch over our little

ones in the nursery, or operate our sound system? It is a lighter load if we all take a piece of it. Talk to Pastor Nathan or any of our current volunteers if you are even remotely interested and we will help you make it happen. If you are worried you won't know how - we can show you!



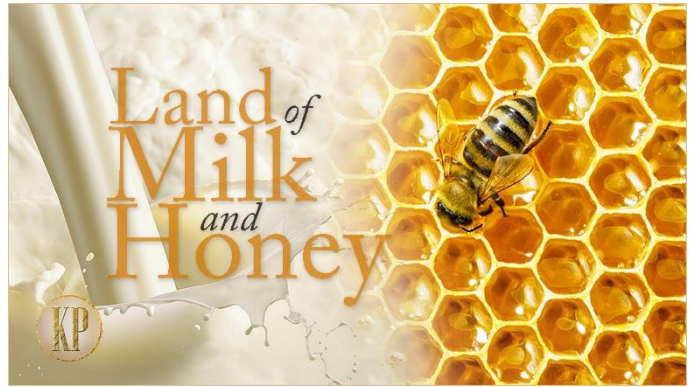
***Please Join Us  
Faith in the Fall Music Festival  
Sunday, September 27, 2026  
10:00 - 2:00 p.m. ~ Held Rain or Shine  
Our Shepherd UCC - Howards Grove***

***MUSIC GROUPS ALL DAY, 50/50 RAFFLE TO SUPPORT THE SHEBOYGAN COUNTY FOOD BANK, BASKET RAFFLES, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES & GAME AREA***

***PULLED PORK & TURKEY SANDWICHES, HOT DOGS, WALKING TACOS,  
HOMEMADE MAC & CHEESE, POTATO SALAD, BEANS AND TORTES***

***FOR MORE INFORMATION GO  
TO [www.ourshepherducc.com/events](http://www.ourshepherducc.com/events)***

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS



In the 3rd chapter of Exodus, God catches Moses' attention with a burning bush and then God shares the plan to have Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into a land flowing with milk and honey. God has recognized the suffering of the people and has a plan to exchange the suffering for abundance. We also know from our scripture, this plan was not easy for the people to carry out. Moses and the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years before arriving in the Promised Land. During that process the Israelites certainly learned a lot of things about themselves and grew in their relationship with God. But we also know that even after arrival in the Promised Land, the Israelites continued to struggle with experiencing the abundance that God envisioned. I suspect much of that struggle continues in our world today.

In the month of June, we celebrate a slightly different form of abundance here in Wisconsin. For as long as most of us can remember, June has been known as Dairy Month, and it is a big thing here in America's Dairyland. I did a little research, and it turns out June Dairy Month started as a grocery store marketing campaign in 1937. During that era, the dairy industry experienced a huge spike in production as the cows were able to return to pasture for the summer after being cooped up in the barn all winter long. In order to address that spike in production and inventory, the stores launched a marketing campaign in an attempt to increase summer consumption of dairy. By 1939 the governor of Wisconsin declared June to be Dairy Month, and we never looked back. Today it is celebrated with breakfast on the farm events in numerous different counties, and some businesses give away string cheese or ice cream. Our modern dairy operations no longer experience the seasonal production swings from winter to summer - in today's world, the faucet is wide open year-round. When this all started in 1937 our cows produced just over 11 billion pounds of milk; today we produce three times that amount of milk! That is a lot of milkshakes, a true condition of abundance in a land flowing with at least milk, if not milk and honey.

Unfortunately, despite this state of abundance, we also struggle in many ways, just like those ancient Israelites. Despite a dairy industry capable of producing record milk amounts, many of our farmers struggle financially, and not everyone has appropriate access to the abundance of dairy products that are produced. It makes me wonder if in some ways we remain wandering in the wilderness? What can we do to share the abundance we have when others are struggling? And when we are struggling, where can we look to find abundance in our lives? God envisioned abundance for us, but sometimes we have to get through the wilderness first.

-In Christ's Love, *Pastor Nathan*



Dear Family,

At “Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS”, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they find their strength in God. They will become Challengers and discover how with God, they can do all things.

After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, the Challengers make their way to several stations to learn more about the story. At the interactive Bible lessons the Lift Lesson will be revealed to equip your Challengers for an active life with God. Your Challengers will also discover our Mountain Motto (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith, long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they’ve discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God’s creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, Challengers will hear about our mission project as they respond to God’s call for action!

Join us as we discover how to find our strength in God at **Our Shepherd UCC, Howards Grove on July 27<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. daily.** You can also join us for the **9:00 am service on August 2<sup>nd</sup>** to celebrate our weekly adventure at “Snowball Mountain Challenge.” Ages 3 to 103 are invited to be part of the fun. To help defray cost there is a **\$15 per child commitment fee. Please make checks payable to Our Shepherd Sunday School.**

To register or find out more information about this VBS opportunity contact the church office at 920-565-3376, or contact Renae Wunsch at [rkwunsch711@gmail.com](mailto:rkwunsch711@gmail.com)

**PLEASE register by July 11<sup>th</sup>** to allow the staff adequate time to prepare for all the Challengers. Send forms and commitment fee to Renae Wunsch at 711 S. Wis. Dr. Howards Grove, Wi 53083

Sincerely,

Your Snowball Mountain VBS Team

**Mission Project:** Collecting Adult socks for the warming center.

*“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”  
(Philippians 4:13)*

## Student Registration Form

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Family/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of your child at this church \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contacts

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Photo Release:** \_\_\_\_\_ Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

----- (for church use only) -----

Assigned Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Are family members helping with VBS? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_