The Shepherd's Word **April 2022**
Our Shepherd UCC **Pastor Nathan Athorp**
920-565-3376 **ourshepherducc.com**
Send newsletter articles to: OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor Contact information:

Pastor's Cell: 920-946-3585 Pastor's e-mail: nathorp70@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns…

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

Stella Miller – 326 Isabelle Court
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Cell: 920-889-8366

Kathleen Grube -Terrace Estates
1231 Eisner Ave
Sheboygan, WI 53083

Cleora Marx -110 S. Pershing Avenue
Howards Grove, WI 53083

Doris Hanke - The Waterford
2586 Valley Rd
Plymouth, WI 53073

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

Newsletter via E-mail?

An easy way to help save Our Shepherd a little money and reduce some clutter in your house is to have your email address added to our newsletter emailing list. This will save the cost of postage and printing. Simply let Pastor Nathan or Shari know if you would like to receive our newsletter view email instead of having it sent in the mail.

What Price a Sermon?

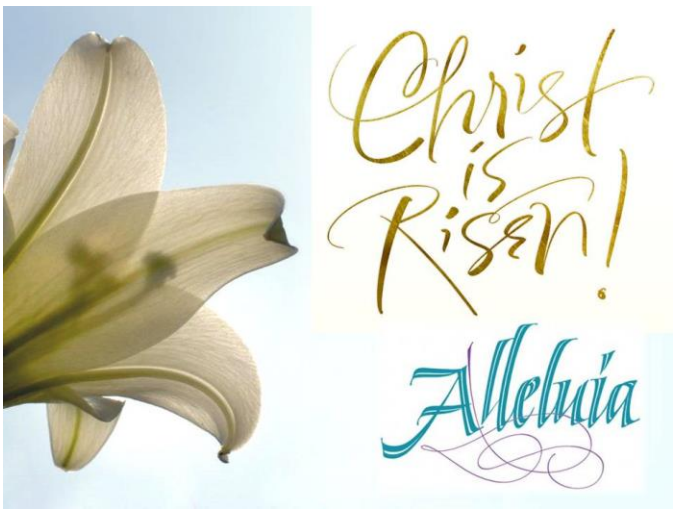
One Easter Sunday Pastor Nathan announced to his congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons..... A $100 sermon that lasts five minutes A $50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes and a $20 sermon that lasts a full hour.

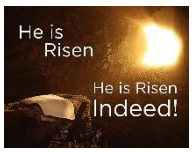
Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.'

Options, Options, Options

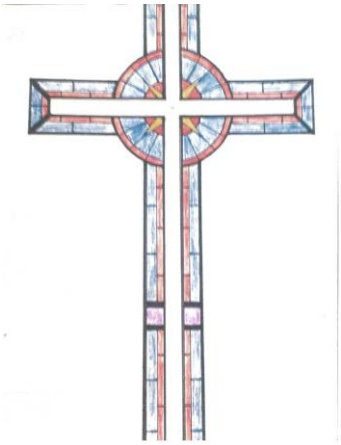
Our congregation is making a real difference in the world and you have the ability to be a part of this! We are feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, gee that is the kind of stuff Jesus was calling for! All of this ministry does indeed require financial support, ministry does require funding in our world. The good news is there are multiple ways you can be part of this ministry.

- We offer a space during our worship services where you can physically deposit your contribution, or
-You can use your bank's online bill paying service to automatically mail a check to Our Shepherd, or
-You can go to our website and follow the link in order to establish automated giving or use the following link: https://secure.myvanco.com/YHE5/home



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Food Pantry Items Meal in a Box 					1	2
3 8:30-9:45 Church School 10:00 Confirmation - Worship/Sacraments – In person and on Facebook	4 11:00 Chair Yoga	5 Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30	6	7	8	9 Brat Fry @ Miesfeld's
10 8:30-9:45 Church School Consistory Meeting 8:30 10:00 Worship – In person and on Facebook **Church School donations Due**	11 11:00 Chair Yoga	12	13	14 **6:30 p.m.** Maundy Thursday Sacraments	15 Good Friday 	16
17 **8:00 Worship** – In person and on Facebook with Breakfast  **Easter Sunday -** Sacraments **Newsletter Articles Due** **Scrip Orders Due**	18 11:00 Chair Yoga	19 Meal Prep for Salvation Army @12:30	20	21	22 Earth Day 	23 Dartball Banquet @ Eagles Club in Chilton
24 8:30-9:45 Church School 10:00 Worship – In person and on Facebook	25 11:00 Chair Yoga	26	27	28	29	30

We will continue to gather inside our church building for worship services. Face masks are optional. The Congregation is invited to sing all songs.



September - May

Worship Service will be held at

10:00 a.m.

Consistory	Pastoral Relations	Officers
Roger Sheahan –President	Neal Henschel	
JoAnn Gadicke- Secretary	Nicole Twohig-Sec	Mandi Grube-
Nancy Cherney	Nancy Henschel	Treasurer
Kyle Stowers	Ann VanWyk	
Audrey Aardappel		Carla Hemb-
Dale Cherney		Church & Financial
		Secretary

The Falls Food Pantry serves the needy of Howards Grove, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo. All donations are very much appreciated.

SHOP WITH SCRIP Continuing in 2022, card orders will be due the 3rd Sunday of every month. Don't worry; we will have a stockpile of the cards purchased most often that you can buy any Sunday. It's best to get that order in on a monthly basis so you can plan for it in your budget.

Any questions, talk to Shari Ver Straate, Renae Wunsch, Nancy Cherney or Char Gumm.
Thanks for supporting this program.

The Upper Room

The March/April issue of the daily devotional "The Upper Room" is available in the Literature Rack.

YOGA

Monday 11:00 chair yoga is in session. Our instructor requires attendees to be vaccinated and masks are optional. We will be running shorter sessions, should we need to cancel because of COVID. New sessions begin the first Monday of the month. For updated information contact Renae. The evening session is not meeting at this time.

Questions, please contact Renae at 565-2785 or rwunsch@hgsd.k12.wi.us.

Church School News

Items for the Food Pantry

The month of **April** donations may be placed in the basket, located in the office area:

Meal in a box

Change for Change Jar – Money used to purchase items for food pantry
Prayer Shawl/Blankets – For those in our prayers, items can be found in the office area. If you know of someone in need of a shawl/blanket, please select an item to present to them.
Beverage Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
Birthday Bags - Thank you to those that continue to provide birthday bags. If you would like to donate for a bag, bring: a box of cake mix, small bottle of oil, can of frosting, candles – the eggs supplied by food pantry. The bags to place the items in are located in the church office.

Watch for a sign-up sheet in the near future

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. The program runs from 8:30 to 9:45 weekly, followed by church services at 10:00.

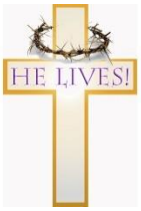
The church school children's theme for the month of March was Communities Live Together. The scripture verse for the lessons was 1 Corinthians 13:13 "Now faith, hope, and love remain – these three things—and the greatest of these is love."

Lent and Easter are fast approaching and the church school will be providing baskets of Easter joy to the six families staying at the Bridgeway House. There are several ways for you to participate in the project.

1: Thank you to the families that have committed to assembling the blankets.

2: We will take a collection of money for the families to prepare an Easter dinner on Sundays April 3rd and 10th. Watch for the Easter basket.

3: We will be collecting items for the six baskets. Suggested items snack foods, small games (cards), fun Easter things, sidewalk chalk, nail polish, craft items, gift cards, etc. When considering your donations keep in mind there are 6 mothers and 13 children ranging in age 1 to 17, (8 girls and 5 boys) and one new arrival in May. **Please have your generous donations to church by April 10th**. There will be baskets labeled Bridgeway House located in church.



No church school Easter Sunday, April 17th.

God's Blessings on your Birthday - April

7 Mark Schueler
12 Renae Wunsch
16 Dana Wunsch
18 Sue Gabsch
27 Colby Munger
7 Lavonne Athorp
13 Todd Hemb
16 Kayla Wunsch
19 Michael Henschel
30 Haley Simon

Church School Christmas Offering Put to Good Use

Offering money collected from the last two Children's Christmas programs was used to buy products for the **Food Pantry**. Each church school family was given a $50 gift card to purchase boxed and canned goods, along with health and hygiene products. Here is what the children were able to buy.

Births, Baptisms, New Members, Deaths

On April 3, 2022 Victoria Eisentraut will join Our Shepherd as a new member through Confirmation. Welcome!

Rural Church Mission Fund Raiser

Thanks to all who supported this fund raiser for a mission trip to Tennessee this spring. They had many different soups for everyone to try, Our Shepherd Women's Fellowship made a Cheesy Potato and Ham Soup and took 3rd place in the Compotation. A good time was had by all.

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." — Native American Proverb

Meals for Salvation Army

The Women's Fellowship will be making meals for Salvation Army **on April 5 & 19.** We are asking for help in providing supplies for these meals. Below is a list of items that we will need. We will be serving **30 people**. If you are able to make a dessert for one of the days, we would appreciate that. Thank you.

For April 5 - Seven Layer Casserole and a dessert
This is the list of items that we will need:

10# potatoes	**4 large onions**	**2# carrots**
1 Bag rice	**4 package frozen peas**	**2 green peppers**
1 stalk celery	**4 cans tomato soup**	**Dessert**

For April 19 - Taco Pie
This is the list of items that we will need:

4 cans sliced olives	**4 tubes crescent rolls**	**2 bags corn chips**
2-16 oz containers sour cream	**2-8 cups packages shredded cheese**	
2 heads lettuce	**8 Roma tomatoes**	**1 large jar salsa**
Dessert		

If anyone is interested in making a meal on their own or donating to the Salvation Army https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/sheboygan/el-volunteer-calendar or you can contact CarryeJo Cony at 920-694-1271

Consistory Meeting – March 13, 2022

- Sacraments – Maundy Thursday (6:30 Service) and Easter Sunday (8:00 service and breakfast)
- Good Friday Virtual reflection
- Watch for Covid Precaution as they could change weekly – Passing binder, etc. A suggestion for Visitor cards to request prayers or pastor visits
- Some one has come forward and would like to start a "Coffee Break" , 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month – watch for details
- Discussions will be had as to how to incorporate giving opportunities to Online and Facebook viewers
- Next Meeting: April 10, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

On March 12th, Nancy Henschel and Shari Ver Straate joined Barb & Kerry Henning, Shelly Bonde, Kathy Bowe and Kaye Radder from Bethlehem UCC to pack meal bags for FMSC (Feed My Starving Children). Along with 70-80 other volunteers, in 1 ½ hours, we packed enough meals to feed 76 children for a year. These meals will be shipped to Poland and Ukraine. There are many other destinations for meals packed by FMSC. For more information on this group go to FMSC.org.

UPDATE ON COVID PRECAUTIONS: In light of adjusted community spread measurements, we believe it is safe to take additional steps in relaxing some of our precautions. We are now singing all the songs as a congregation during worship! A special thanks goes out to Stephanie, who has carried the bulk of our music for a very long time! While masking has never been required during worship, it remains a good way to demonstrate your love and care for those who might be around you with compromised immune systems. And of course, if you are not feeling well, please choose to participate in our on-line worship option vs sharing your germs with those in our sanctuary.

CONFIRMATION: We will be celebrating the confirmation of Victoria Eisentraut on Sunday April 3rd during our regular 10:00am worship. Please help us celebrate this milestone with Victoria and her family!

MAUNDY THURSDAY: We will be observing Maundy Thursday worship with communion on Thursday, April 14th at 6:30 pm. We will not have a formal worship service on Good Friday; however, Pastor Nathan will be available for prayers in our sanctuary on Friday April 15th from noon until 4pm.

EASTER BREAKFAST: Easter will be celebrated this year with a breakfast/worship combination event. We will be weaving the elements of worship, including communion, into our breakfast celebration. Please consider joining us at **8:00 am on Sunday April 17th** for this event. **We will not be holding services at 10:00am** and there **will not be Sunday School that morning.**

Easter Breakfast Menu includes:

Ham & Egg Bake	Sausage & Egg Bake	Colored Easter Eggs	Raspberry French Toast
Banana Bread	Fresh Fruit	Juice	Milk & Coffee

Please sign up for Easter Breakfast by calling the Church Office at 920-565-3676 or sign the book at a church service. We would like a count so we know how much food to prepare. Thanks, Women's Fellowship

BRAT FRY: We will be holding a brat fry on Saturday April 9th at Miesfeld's. There is a sign up to help with this endeavor at church. The more the merrier, you do not need to be available all day in order to make a meaningful contribution.

COFFEE BREAK
OUR SHEPHERD, UCC
710 Ethan Allen Drive
Howards Grove

2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
STARTING IN MAY 9:00 a.m. - 11:00a.m.

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

We will meet in the church common area. Bring your ideas, bring a friend, bring a neighbor! Those attending do not need to be a member of Our Shepherd , UCC. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Hope in Love

I have spent a significant amount of time since February 24th following what has been occurring in Ukraine. One of the downfalls of our technology these days is our own inability at times to walk away and give ourselves a break. When we have a 24-hour news cycle and the ability to follow events literally as they are happening, they can become all-consuming and it can become too much. On the other hand, I believe one of the positive aspects of the internet and social media is that when something like the Ukrainian invasion occurs, the world knows about it instantly and there are many eyes and ears watching what is occurring. There are witnesses to the tragedy and horrific violence in almost all corners of the world. This is a hard witness to perform, and yet I believe it is also vital if these wrongdoings are going to be halted.

In some ways it has been especially powerful for all of that to be occurring as we begin our journey through the season of Lent. We traditionally make our journey through Lent knowing indeed we need to witness what occurs in the Garden on Maundy Thursday after the Last Supper and Christ's execution on Good Friday. We know we need to endure those hard events, but we also know that those events are followed by Easter! We know Christ's execution is defeated by his resurrection. It is Christ's resurrection that allows us to witness his execution and still maintain our hope in Christ's reign.

This reality, our journey through Lent while the Ukrainians are actively and violently fighting a physical invasion, has me wondering where we might be able to find hope in the midst of their horrific days. I do not believe I can speak for the Ukrainians as to where they are finding hope, but I can try to find hope for myself in the face of what is occurring. During a time in which the Ukrainian army is vastly outnumbered and over powered by the Russians and when the leadership in Russia does not seem to have a moral compass, it can be really difficult to find and maintain a sense of hope. And then I stumbled upon a minute long video of a young Ukrainian gentleman playing a violin in a bomb shelter. He was performing a Ukrainian folk song; the English translation of its title is *The Willow Board*. This is an old folk song that speaks of a longing for a love to return. When the world saw this video, they responded using our current technology by having almost 100 other violinists join this Ukrainian in his song. You can see a piece of this at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD5nSgNHKpY.

I do not believe a simple Ukrainian folk song will end the pain and suffering of the Ukrainian people, but I do believe it points to a hope based in our young people across the globe who recognize we really all have things in common, especially when we speak of love, possibly even more so when that love is transformed in song.

I do not have a simple solution for the Ukrainians, I do not believe there is a simple solution. I also believe that we cannot shy away from what is occurring. We must acknowledge the wrong that is occurring and then we need to identify an alternative to those events. Easter morning will occur! I pray the Ukrainians are able to experience the hope of this Easter morning.

Pastor Nathan

COLLECTION FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

During the month of April, we will be collecting a special offering for the Ukrainian people. The Wisconsin Conference has established a fund that will go directly to aiding those displaced by the violence. We will have a clearly marked collection box available during worship in April and will be consolidating our contributions into one before passing it on to the Wisconsin Conference.