

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

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

November 2025
Pastor Nathan Athorp
Howards Grove, WI 53083
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 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*

*Judy Walkenhorst – 614 Arbor Drive
Elkhart Lake, WI 53020*

*Jackie Grunewald - 749 Audubon
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

Sunday	Monday	Tue	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat
November 2025 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					1 "Holy Roar" Concert @ OSUCC 6:30 Turn your clocks back 1 hour
2 8:30 Praiseworthy Practice 🎵 8:30 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship/Sacraments Greeters: Eisentraut Family	3 11:00 Chair Yoga	4 <i>Meal Prep for Salvation Army@ 12:00</i> <i>7:00 Dartball @ Saron</i>	5 5:30-7:00 Confirmation @ OS	6	7	8
9 8:30 Consistory Meeting 9:00 Praiseworthy Practice 🎵 8:30 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship 6:30 <i>Book Study</i> Greeters: Horneck Family	10 11:00 Chair Yoga	11 7:00 Dartball Salem@ OS	12 <i>Coffee Break</i> 9:00 a.m. 5:30-7:00 Confirmation @ OS	13 6:00 RCCC meeting @ Bethel	14	15
16 8:30 Praiseworthy Practice 🎵 8:30 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Raiseright Orders Due 6:30 Book Study Greeters: Koehler Family	17 11:00 Chair Yoga	18 <i>Meal Prep for Salvation Army@ 12:00</i>	19 5:30-7:00 Confirmation @ OS	20	21	22
23 Newsletter Articles Due 8:30 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Greeters: Lightle Family	24 11:00 Chair Yoga	25	26 <i>Coffee Break</i> 9:00 a.m. Confirmation @ 6:30 Thanksgiving Pie Service @ Bethel	27	28	29
30 9:00 Praiseworthy Practice 🎵 8:30 Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship 6:30 Book Study Greeters: Hass, Munger Family						



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 27% 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 and Church School September-May

Church School will be held at **8:30 a.m.**
Worship service time **10:00 a.m.**



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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

Jaimie Simon – President
Lloyd Athorp
David Mair
Lee Henschel
Rich Van Wyk
Carol Mae Milbrath

Pastoral Relations

Nicole Twohig – Sec.
Nancy Henschel
Ann VanWyk

Officers

Mandi Grube –
Treasurer
Carla Hemb –
Church 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



Rural Church Collaborative Committee (RCCC)

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

6:30 P.M. November 26th

Bethel UCC W4225 County Line Road

A service of Thanksgiving, Fellowship, and Pie.

You are invited to Thank God for all that He has done for us.

We will have chance to share what we are thankful for in our lives and share a time of fellowship with family and friends.

Pie will be served, as well as beverages.

This is a family friendly event.

If you are able to donate a pie to share it would be greatly appreciated.

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, Jim Raquet, Chuck Grubisic

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

We are also planning Christmas caroling at several local senior care/health facilities in December. Watch for future updates.

God's Blessings on your Birthday - November

4 Austin Eisentraut
8 Hoyt Heinemann
11 Heidi Widder
17 Sawyer Horneck
25 Chase Munger

4 Avery Wiegand
10 Helen Harms
13 Carla Hemb
20 Corey Munger



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.

Children's Room



The sound of children in a church is a wonderful sound. It indicates a thriving church with a bright future. With that in mind we offer a children's room from after the children's time during worship until the end of the service, when someone has indicated they will cover the room for the given Sunday. This room is for youth that can independently be with an adult up to those presently in first grade. Please consider taking a Sunday to cover the children's room. There is a sign-up sheet in the binder.

CROP Walk



Our CROP Walk raised \$8746.90. Part of the money will be used to support our local area. Our Shepherd collected \$312. A total of 61 participants walked, 2 from Our Shepherd.



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.

November 4 - Chicken Rice Soup.

Items needed: We have all the items we need for this meal

Dessert for 40 people – Still needed



November 18 - Vegetable Soup

Items needed: We have all the items we need for this meal

Dessert for 40 people – Still needed



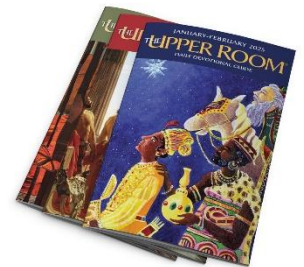
If you are able to make dessert for either meal, please let June or Char know.

Thanks to all the wonderful donations we have money to cover these meals.

Thank you for your generosity in helping to prepare these meals. 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>

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



WISCONSIN CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Check out what is going on across our

Conference! <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Wisconsin-Conference-this-Week-for-October-13.html?soid=1102675987700&aid=dOnc24fRuwg>

Consistory Meeting – October 12, 2025

- * Sacraments will be November 2
 - * Confirmation classes are up and running
 - * Custom Built Inc will be looking at the front of church memorial project
 - * Nov 1 – Holly Roar concert @ OS, 6:30
 - * Rural Church Collaborative Committee is planning a Thanksgiving Eve Service at Bethel
- Next meeting: November 9 @ 8:30**

PRAISEWORTHY'S SCHEDULE (November & December 2025)



Sunday Mornings

- November 2 @ 8:30 AM - Practice with Drea/Singing for Worship
November 9 @ 9:00 AM - Christmas Music Practice
November 16 @ 8:30 AM - Practice with Stephanie/Singing for Worship
November 30 @ 9:00 AM - Christmas Music Practice
December 7 @ 8:30 AM - Practice with Stephanie/Singing for Worship
December 21 - Children's Christmas Program
*Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 p.m.
More December Christmas Practices to be determined



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation class will be meeting at Our Shepherd for the month of November, EXCEPT for Wednesday November 26th. On that day we will all gather at Bethel for the 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve worship service.

There are a few activities planned for the future with our youth. The Senior High youth are planning a Friends Giving party to take place on November 23 from 4-6 @ St. Peter's UCC in Kiel. It is a planned time of playing board games. Participants can bring snacks or a dish to share and invite friends.

The youth are also hoping to have a sledding party in Plymouth this winter at Nutt Hill.

Poinsettias for Christmas



It is that time of the Year to help decorate our church for Christmas. The sign-up sheet is in the binder for Poinsettias. We will be ordering by December 1. Help us to fill our sanctuary with the beauty of Poinsettias.

Church School News

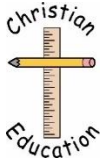


Items for the Food Pantry: November donations may be placed in the basket, located in the church entry way: **Canned Meat**

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. Watch for an opportunity to supply items at the beginning of 2026



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 children are support for our younger members. The program runs from **8:30 to 9:45**.

The church school youth continue to learn about families. Naomi/Ruth, Mary/Martha, and Hannah/Samuel/Eli were the lessons explored during the month of October.

November has many exciting things being offered during the church school time. Tracy will be leading our fall project on November 23rd. If you think you are hearing Christmas songs you are correct. The youth have begun to learn new songs and review a few favorites that they will share at the **Christmas Program at the 10:00 church service on December 21st**. This year's program is "Not So Silent Night." Join the youth as they retell this ageless story, which may include a few smiles.



November will be the church schools first mission project. During the month of November, we will be **collecting food** that may be found on a Thanksgiving table to present to the local food bank. **Sundays November 2, 9, and 16** bring your donations to church and we will collect them at the front of the church to give thanks over the bounty collected. **Suggestions are canned vegetables, potatoes, canned meats, stuffing, or any nonperishable items.**



The Heart-to-Heart Christmas Tree: The tree will be set up in the back of church by November 9. 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 30.** 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.

Tabs For Ronald Mc Donald's House

Thanks to everyone that has saved soda tabs. Our group turned in a total of 150 gallons of tabs. Along with the other groups we had a total of 564 gallons, with a total of 824 gallons for 2025. In the 25 years of collecting tabs, we collected 19,248 gallons of tabs to help support families in their time of need to stay at the Ronald McDonald house while their family member is in the hospital. One tab at a time and it makes a huge difference in the lives of families in need. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!



Scholarship Committee

We will again be highlighting providing scholarships during the month of November. Last year we were able to award three scholarships. We hope to be able to continue giving scholarships to our deserving youth for many more years to come.

The Women's fellowship donated \$1000 towards **the Scholarship Fund from proceeds from the Bake Sale.**

The Rural Church Fellowship is planning their Sheephead Tournament @ Bethlehem UCC on Sunday, February 15, 2026. More information will be coming in the near future.

Chili Supper

Thanks to everyone that donated time and talents to having another successful Chili Supper. We made \$1495.



Yoga



565-2785.

The 11:00 am chair yoga has resumed on Mondays. Remember this opportunity is for women and men, and they do not need to be members of Our Shepherd. Start sharing this wonderful opportunity with family and friends. For more information contact Renae at 920-

Raiseright Program

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

To order online, go to [http://www. Raiseright.com/enroll](http://www.Raiseright.com/enroll)

Set up your account and enter our enrollment code:

92164F3732736 to have your purchase apply to Our Shepherd UCC



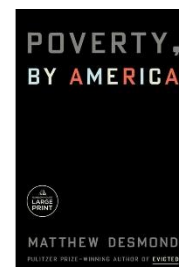
The holidays are right around the corner. Purchase your grocery and gift-giving cards in November to stay ahead of the game. We will be ordering cards on **November 16 and December 14** to ensure all cards are available for you.



We earned **\$124.31** for the month of October. Thank you for your Support.

BOOK STUDY

We will be continuing our look at 'Poverty, by America' written by Matthew Desmond. We will be meeting at 6:30, November 9, 16th, and 30th.



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.

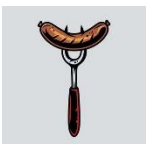
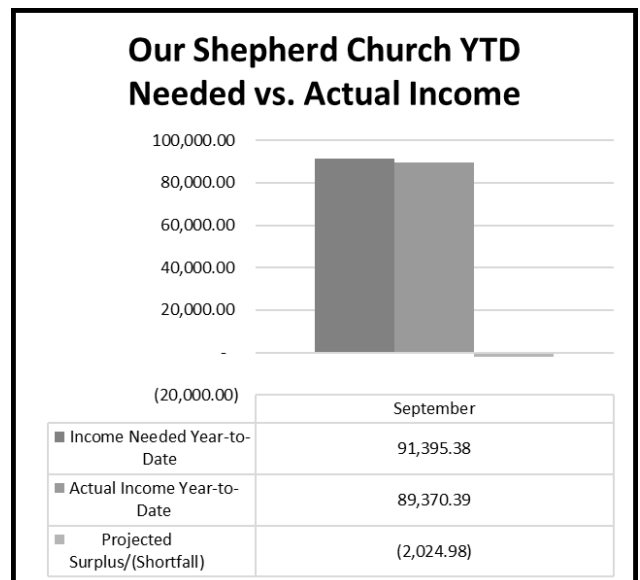
Some of these items are being saved for other church communities that are doing their part for God's creation. If you are collecting any items, please let us know.



Keeping the Earth Green

875.30 pounds of plastic bags has been collected and saved from landfills.

We will include a financial chart each month to keep the congregation better informed of our financial status. These numbers reflect our income and expenses through the month of September.



Thanks to all who helped with the Brat Fry and Bake Sale at the end of October. We made \$1517.96 on the fry and \$800 on the Bake Sale



Dates to Remember in November

Saturday, November 1	6:30 “Holy Roar” Concert at OS
Sunday, November 2	10:00 Worship Service/Sacraments
Sunday, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	8:30 Church School and 10:00 Worship Service
Sunday, November 2, 16	8:30 Praiseworthy practice and sing during worship
Wednesday, November 5, 12, 19	5:30 – 7:00 Confirmation at OS (26th @ Bethel)
Sunday, November 9	8:30 a.m. Consistory Meeting
Sunday, November 9, 30	9:00 Praiseworthy Christmas music practice
Sunday, November 9, 16	6:30 Book Study
Tuesday, November 4, 18	12:00 Meal prep for Salvation Army
Monday, November 3, 10, 17, 24	11:00 Chair Yoga
Wednesday, November 13, 26	9-11:00 a.m. Coffee Break
Sunday, November 16	Raiseright Order Due
Wednesday, November 26	6:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Bethel
	With Pie and Beverages
Sunday, November 23	Newsletter articles due

Happy Thanksgiving

Prayers of thanks and special thanksgiving ceremonies are common among most religions after harvests and at other times of the year. The Thanksgiving holiday's history in North America is rooted in English traditions dating from the Protestant Reformation. It also has aspects of a harvest festival, even though the harvest in New England occurs well before the late-November date on which the modern Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated.

TRIVIA

- What is the main dish served at Thanksgiving?
- What is a baby turkey called?
- What are the primary ingredients in a basic pie crust?
- What's the name of the cooking method where you soak a turkey in a saltwater solution?
- Which U.S. state produces the most cranberries?
- What is a traditional Thanksgiving dessert made from a gourd?
- Which side dish is famously topped with crispy fried onions?
- What do you call a horn shaped basket filled with fruits and vegetables associated with Thanksgiving?
- How long did the first Thanksgiving feast last?
- Who served as an interpreter between the Pilgrims and Native Americans?
- What is the "food coma" phenomenon commonly felt after Thanksgiving?
- Approximately how many turkeys are consumed in the U.S. on Thanksgiving?

1. Turkey 2. Poult 3. Flour, water, shortening or butter, and salt 4. Brining 5. Wisconsin 6. Pumpkin pie 7. Green bean casserole 8. Cornucopia 9. Three days 10. Squanto 11. Feeling sleepy after overeating 12. About 45–46 million

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

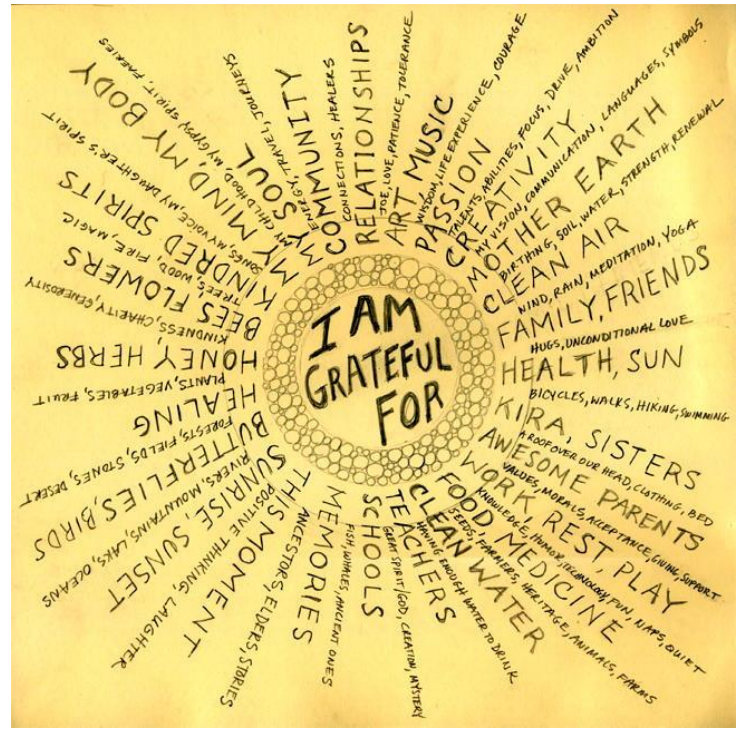
As I am writing this, the weather forecast is calling for our first substantial frost overnight. Considering we are about a week away from November, that seems a little late in the year to me. This has felt like a particularly dry and warm fall, which has been really nice, but it is also fooling me into thinking we are still a long way away from the holidays. In case you are in the same place as I am, I need to tell you we are less than five weeks from Thanksgiving and less than nine weeks from Christmas. If you are in a position in life where you do not need to plan ahead, then maybe that doesn't matter much, but if you are like me and need to be looking ahead, the holidays can sneak up on you really quick.

I don't know about you, but when things sneak up on me, I tend to be much more reactionary and less intentional. In the rush and chaos, it is easy for me to miss the little things of abundance and beauty in our world. These are the same things we should be intentionally thankful for as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday. The origins of Thanksgiving have its roots in being intentionally thankful during challenging times. Looking back in history, the first official proclamation of Thanksgiving was by Abraham Lincoln on October 3rd, 1863. It should be noted this was just a couple months after the Battle of Gettysburg, a time of deep national divide, and clearly a challenging time for countless. In response to these conditions, Lincoln believed there was value in intentionally reflecting on what the nation had to be grateful for. Lincoln was able to see hope and reason for perseverance even in the most trying of times and anchored those beliefs in a spirit of thankfulness.

In our world today I believe there are also reasons to be grateful and there is value to be intentional about it. A person doesn't always need to find grandiose, or earth-shattering things, sometimes I think it is maybe more valuable to find something each and every day. I am grateful for the wide palette colors in our trees this time of year. I am grateful for cool nights and crisp mornings. I am grateful for a warm house and full kitchen cupboards. I am grateful for being part of a congregation striving to authentically live into their faith. What are you thankful for?

Go ahead, try it, what are you thankful for today? And when you can do that for multiple days, how about finding something every time you sit down for a meal, or whatever else you find yourself doing multiple times a day. An attitude of thankfulness can do amazing things for the human spirit!

-Peace, Pastor Nathan



Our Shepherd Raiseright Form

Cash or make checks payable to

Our Shepherd Scrip Save

%	Business Name	Qty.	Total
6	Ace Hardware \$25, 20, 250 P		
1.5	Amazon \$10, 25, 50, 100,250 P, E		
8	Arby's \$10, 25 P, R		
12	Bath & Body Works \$10, 25 P, E, R		
4	Best Buy \$25, 100, 250 P, E		
7	Biggby Coffee \$25 P, E		
2.5	BP \$50, 100, 250 P, R		
8	Buffalo Wild Wings \$10, 25, 50 P		
8	Burlington \$25 P		
10	Chili's Bar & Grill \$25, 50 P, E		
9	Cousins \$10 P		
7	CVS \$25, 100		
6.5	Dairy Queen \$10, 25 P		
8	Dominoes \$10, 25 P		
3	Festival Foods \$25, 50 P		
3	Festival Foods \$100 P		
2.5	Five Below P		
3.5	Fleet Farm \$25, 100 P, E		
4	Home Depot \$25, 100, 500, 1000 P, E, R		
8	Jimmy Johns \$25 P		
6	KFC \$10, 25 P		
7	Kohl's \$25, 100 P, E		
4	Kwik Trip \$25 P, R		
4	Kwik Trip \$50 P, R		
4	Kwik Trip \$100 P, R		
10	Kwik Trip Grocery \$25 P, R		
8	Marcus Theater \$25, 100 P, E, R		
3	McDonald's \$10, 25 P		
3	Meijer \$25, 50, 100 P, E, R		
3	Menard's \$25, 100, 500 P		
7.5	Michaels \$25 P		
1.5	Mobil \$50, 250 P, R		
8	Olive Garden \$25, 100 P, E, R		
8	Panera Bread \$10, 25, 50 P, E, R		
8	Papa Johns \$10 P, E, R		
8	Papa Murphy's \$10. 25 P		
4	Pick & Save \$25, 50 P, E, R		
4	Pick & Save \$100 P, E, R		
3	Piggly Wiggly \$25 P		
3	Piggly Wiggly \$50 P		
3	Piggly Wiggly \$100 P		
8	Pizza Ranch \$25 P, E		
4.5	Starbucks \$10, 50 P, E, R		
6	Subway \$10, 50 P, E, R		
2.5	Target \$10, 25, 50, 100, 500 P, E, R		
6	T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, Home Goods \$10, 25, 100 P, E		
8	Texas Roadhouse \$25, 100 P, E		
5	Walgreens \$25, 100 P, E		
2.5	Walmart \$10, 25 P, E, R		
2.5	Walmart \$50, 100, 250, 500 P, E, R		

%	LOCAL BUSINESSES	Qty.	Total
5	Culver's - Any Amount P		
5	Log Cabin - Any Amount P		
7	Miesfelds - \$25, 50 P		
P = Physical Card E= E-Card R=Reloadable Card E-cards and Reloadable cards must be ordered through a personal account.			
If you would like to start an account and order online, go to Raiseright.com and fill out the necessary information. The enrollment code for Our Shepherd UCC is: 92164F3732736 Orders are placed the 3 rd Sunday of each month and physical cards will arrive within the next week. There are instruction sheets on each clipboard if you would like to take one home to set up your account.			
If you can't find the item you are looking for on this list, check the master list on the clipboard or online and add them below.			
Paid			
Total			

Name _____

Date Ordered _____ Amount _____