

The Shepherd's Word
Our Shepherd UCC
920-565-3376

May 2021
Pastor Nathan Athorp
ourshepherducc.com

Send newsletter articles to: OurShepherdNewsletter@gmail.com



Consistory

Neal Henschel –President
Roger Sheahan - Secretary
Nancy Cherney
JoAnn Gadicke
Kyle Stowers
Ruth Hering

Pastoral Relations

Hoyt Heinemann-Chair
Nicole Twohig-Sec
Nancy Henschel
Kyle Stowers

Officers

Mandi Grube-
Treasurer

Carla Hemb-
Church & Financial Sec

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

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*

*Darwin Meyer 2005 Appletree Road Room 4
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

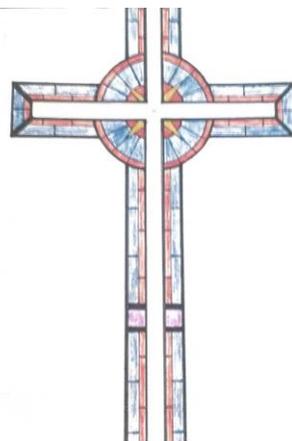
*Cleora Marx 110 S. Pershing Avenue
Howards Grove, WI 53083*

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

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|---|--|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <p>Food Pantry Items Baby Items: food, formula, diapers</p>  | | | | | | 1 |
| <p>2 10:00 Worship – In church or parking lot and on Facebook</p> | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| <p>9 9:00 Sunday School Lesson Consistory Meeting 10:00 Worship – In church or parking lot and on Facebook Mother's Day</p>  | 10 | 11 Meal Prep for Salvation Army | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| <p>16 10:00 Worship – In church or parking lot and on Facebook Scrip Orders Due</p> | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| <p>23 Sunday School Lesson 10:00 Worship – In church or parking lot and on Facebook Newsletter Articles Due</p> | 24 | 25 Meal Prep for Salvation Army | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| <p>30 10:00 Worship – In church or parking lot and on Facebook</p> | <p>31 Memorial Day</p>  | | | | | |

May

Services will now be held in our church building or outside in the parking lot (weather permitting)



Indoor worship will have some precautions:

1. Everyone will wear masks
2. 6 ft. distancing with members not from your household
3. No congregational singing
4. Refrain from hugging or hand shaking
5. An offering plate will be available at a central location
6. If you are not feeling well, please stay home
7. Sunday School will continue on-line format for the remainder of the school year
8. **On-line services will continue to be available each week**

Please check the Our Shepherd Facebook page or Website (ourshepherducc.com) to get updates

You can get messages to and from
Pastor Nathan Athorp through
phone call or email

Contact information:

Cell: 920-946-3585

Church: 920-565-3376

e-mail: nathorp70@gmail.com

Pastor's Musings

Happy Easter! I really wish we would use that greeting a whole lot more than we currently do. It is interesting that we wish people a Merry Christmas for five or six weeks, (from Thanksgiving to Christmas) and yet it

seems like Easter is only celebrated for one day. As Christians, Christmas is certainly important, after all the birth of Christ is where Jesus' story begins, but it is really just the beginning. Easter, the resurrection of Christ, is what makes us distinct as Christians. The other Abrahamic Traditions, (Judaism and Islam) both feature our Old Testament heritage and recognize Jesus as an important prophetic figure, but they stop short of recognizing Jesus' resurrection. Christ, the resurrected Son of God is what is central to our identity as Christians. Easter, the event celebrating this resurrection is far more than just one day. Easter is a season stretching from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday; therefore, it seems really appropriate for us to wish one another a Happy Easter at least until May 23rd, which is Pentecost this year.

When the Romans tried to use fear and oppression to silence Jesus and his movement, God clearly demonstrated the ability to overcome this evil through the resurrection. In the days after the crucifixion the disciples were hiding in fear until they were able to experience the Risen Christ. All too often fear, oppression, and violence continue to be used today in an attempt to control people. By working towards a peace obtained through understanding and universal love we have the ability to share the profound hope of Easter not just on a single holiday, but every day of the year, thereby overcoming the fear. As Christians we have the ability and task of countering evil with Jesus' teachings of love and peace. There is an awful lot of fear in our world today, sharing the Resurrected Christ in our lives will help the world overcome that fear. If indeed we intentionally celebrated Easter for an extended period of time, then the hope embedded within Easter will carry us through the year.

Easter is so much more than a Spring day filled with bunnies, eggs, and treasures. Easter is a real tangible hope that violence and oppression does not need to win. Violence and oppression are overcome and defeated by practicing the radical love and ideas of peace taught by Christ. This hope is what we need to be promoting each and every day, not just the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21.

-Pastor Nathan

Attention Diggers!

A plan has been made around what should be done with the landscaping around our church sign. Jenn Aschenbach and Helen Harms are taking the lead on this project. Active weed control is already in place and will be continued.



If anyone is interested in helping dig out a stump in the church sign flowerbed, please contact Jenn Aschenbach at 565-3359 or 917-5586.

Church School News

Items for the Food Pantry

The month of **May** donations may be placed in the basket, located in the office area: **Baby Items (food, Formula, Diapers)**



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 — Consider bringing in a birthday bag and add it to the basket in the office. (In a bag: box of cake mix, small bottle of oil, can of frosting, candles – eggs supplied by food pantry) Thank you to those that continue to supply items for birthday bags.

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 church school is planning to hold google meet activities with the children on the following dates at 9:00 a.m. We will tape the activities so those that cannot attend, can watch at their convenience, or if you need to leave to attend in church worship. Watch for the link on the date of the meet. If you do not receive it, please contact Renae rwunsch@hgsd.k12.wi.us.



Future Church school dates: April 25th – Earth Day, May 9th – Festival of the Christian Home

Thank you to the staff for helping plan and support the lessons: Sarah Breher, Darlene Meyers, Heidi Widder, Nicole Twohig, Victoria Eisentraut, Amanda Eisentraut, Jeff Wunsch, Kay Sheahan, Tracy Sommer, Pastor Nathan, and the many Grandparents that relayed items to the church school families. Your willingness to make this a successful church school year is greatly appreciated.

Newsletter via E-mail?

Interested in receiving this newsletter via email instead of in the mail? We can easily do this! Send Pastor Nathan an email at nathorp70@gmail.com indicating so and we will make it happen. We are also able to send it to multiple emails within a family if that is desired, or if you know someone who isn't on our mailing list that would benefit from our newsletter, we would be happy to add them to our emailing list. Foregoing the printed email will save the church postage, paper, and printer ink. Of course, if you prefer to continue receiving it on paper, we will continue to do so.





The Upper Room



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

SHOP WITH SCRIP

Continuing in 2021, 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.



Until further notice Yoga is postponed honoring no group larger than 10 to gather in one place. An email will be sent to participants when we will resume. If you or someone you know would like this notification please contact Renae at the number/email listed below.

We are always looking for new friends to join our program. Questions, please contact Renae at 565-2785 or rwunsch@hgsd.k12.wi.us

The Falls Food Pantry serves the needy of Howards Grove, Kohler, Sheboygan Falls and Waldo.

All donations are very much appreciated.



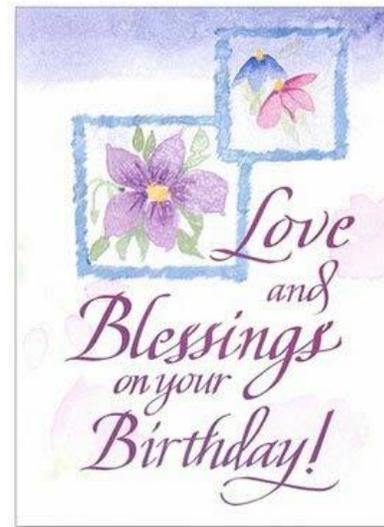
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
September-May



God's Blessings on your Birthday - May

3 Jamie Eisentraut
19 Zoey Grube
24 Henry Grube
26 Richard VanWyk

12 Beth Lightle
21 Seth Wesener
26 Lucille Lightle



Facebook

A really simple and easy way to promote our church is through Facebook. When you are watching our service on Facebook it is really easy to first of all Like and comment on the post, but it is even better if you could share the service on your personal Facebook page. What an easy way to share with your Facebook friends what is happening in your church. The most effective way to have a church grow is for people to extend a personal invitation to others. Facebook is a really simple way to invite all of your friends to check out what your church is doing.



We are looking for individuals who would be willing to help out with technology during worship. Jeff Wunsch is doing an awesome job, but Jeff can't always be here. We have figured out how to make everything work, so there isn't a lot of detective work involved, but we always need someone to "push the right buttons". If you would be willing to help out from time to time please let us know and we can give you some really simple training.

Three ways to send your offering

Our Shepherd has three options for providing your offering:

1. Sending a check via postal mail to the church
2. Using your bank's online bill pay to send a check to church
3. Online giving – see article in this newsletter for instructions

Mail all checks/bill pay out to:

**Our Shepherd UCC
710 Ethan Allen Drive
Howards Grove, WI 53083**

As more and more elements of our lives pick back up to speed our attention is going to be pulled in more directions. We have an opportunity to simplify some things in our lives. Our Shepherd now offers a very simple way for you to take your church giving off of your list of worries. On our website, under the Members section, there is an option to choose On-line Giving. This choice will take you to Our Shepherd's page on the Vanco website. This is a page customized for us. In a few simple steps you can set up a giving plan that works specifically for your family. Once it is set up you will be able to check church giving off your to-do list. Until you are ready to adjust your giving, it can take care of itself.

A big thank you for supporting the Sunday School's Blanket and Basket Easter Project

Four families at the Bridgeway House received baskets filled with a tied blanket and goodies for each member of the family. They also received Piggly Wiggly gift cards to purchase groceries to prepare meals at the shelter.

Thank you for your generosity towards others.



Meals for Salvation Army

The Women's Fellowship will be making meals for Salvation Army on May 11 and 25. 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 May 11 we are making BBQ pulled pork sandwiches and a pasta salad.

4 dozen Buns - still need

Dessert - Pam Knuth has volunteered to make the dessert

Pasta Salad - June Wiegand

Char Gumm is making the BBQ Pork with donations that have been received. Thank you to everyone for your support



For May 25 we will be making Jeff Wunsch's famous Brat Casserole.

We will need the following items:

1 bunch celery

8 cans cream of celery soup

10# potatoes

8 cans of green beans.

We also would like someone to make a dessert.

The brats we have from Old Wisconsin. **Please let Char Gumm know what you are able to donate to this meal by Sunday May 23, her number is 467-6670** . Thank you for your help.

The Salvation Army Volunteers look forward to our meals. Anyone can also volunteer to make a meal and donate it. Every month they provide a calendar with a list of people or organizations that volunteer food for the homeless.

If anyone is interested their website is:

<https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/sheboygan/el-volunteer-calendar> or you can contact CarryJo Cony at 920-694-1271

Consistory Meeting
April 11, 2021 @ 8:30 a.m.

*Money from the Bake Sale will go to the Women's Fellowship; Money from the Brat Fry will go to the General fund

*Pastoral Relations is looking for new members, please contact Neal if interested

*Worship service in the building will begin April 18, with guidelines

*A sign-up sheet was created to clean church, please consider signing up to clean a room

* Next meeting: May 16

Thank You Thank You Thank You

The Monday after our Spring Brat Fry, there was still some bakery left at church, so I took the last of these baked goods to one of the apartment buildings behind the HG Piggly Wiggly. Pastor Nathan made a sign that indicated that the members of Our Shepherd made these treats. A woman that I know lives there and let me spread all these goodies onto a table in their commons area. Within approximately 2 hours all the items were gone. A few days later, I received a gracious phone call from this woman thanking me, Pastor Nathan, and the rest of Our Shepherd for the tasty goodies. Many, many thanks were given. She knows the importance of God, a great church leader, and how generous the people of Our Shepherd are. She is in her mid-nineties so she no longer bakes and seldom receives yummy treats. So, pat yourselves on the back for a job well done! We are extending our hospitality within our community and putting a smile on Jesus' face

Darlene Meyers

A Mother's Love

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in West Virginia in 1912. Mothers were to be recognized as an important part of our culture and lives. The heart of a mother is like a rare jewel. They love their children during the worst and best of times.

Yet all mothers are not the same. Author and speaker Patsy Clairmont says, "Normal is just a setting on your clothes dryer." We are all different. She shared that as women we may "struggle, fail, start over, and celebrate." But we are mothers who can love unlike any other person.

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:1-4 NIV)

Mothers make up a crucial part of our lives. So, whether it is a Hallmark card, dinner out, hug, or a kiss on the cheek, we should show we care. It is so important to give our love to these dedicated women in our lives and don't take them for granted.

Excerpts from Martha Noebel



Memorial Day: The Importance of a Church Remembering

Sacrifice. Many churches will make the connection between a soldier's sacrifice and Christ's *ultimate* sacrifice on Memorial Day weekend. It's almost cliché, but there is truth in it. While churches could be a little more creative in making this connection, the core teaching is important. In our entitlement-driven culture, we give lip-service to sacrifice. In our preference-driven churches, sacrifice means parking in the back lot. Memorial Day reminds us of true sacrifice—a willingness to lay down one's life.

Honor. Biblically, the concept of honor means to esteem or show great respect. We're to honor our parents, church leaders, people in authority, and, of course, God. Unfortunately, our culture tends to place honor mainly on those with wealth, celebrity, or political clout. Memorial Day is a time to honor those who deserve it. This day of remembrance is a chance for us to give the next generation a picture of true honor.

Liberty. Christ frees us from sin, and our country gives us the liberty to express this freedom to others. Part of remembering is sharing history with the next generation. Take time today to tell your children or grandchildren about why we remember on Memorial Day. We live in a country where religious liberty exists. Our soldiers need to know our churches are behind them. The next generation needs to know religious liberty is worth our lives. The next generation needs to know freedom comes with a cost. War is always complex. Views on wars change as decades and centuries pass. Christians should ask, Is war just? It's not an easy answer, and a conclusion about any specific war is not the purpose of this post. **My point is simple: We must be careful what we memorialize. The memories we highlight influence our actions today. Memorial Day is worth remembering, for the causes of sacrifice, honor, and liberty.**



Taken from an article written by Sam Rainer



If I could thank a fallen soldier, this is what I would say...

Signed: _____

How would you thank a fallen soldier?