

November 2026



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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When we hear the word “**vocation**,” our minds often drift toward the pastors or the mission field. We tend to see a wall between the “sacred” work of the Church and the “secular” work of the office, the classroom, or the home. However, as we reflect on the teachings of Scripture, it affirms a radically different and deeply comforting reality. **Vocation is not merely a job; it is the mask of God.**

St. Paul writes, *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ"* (Colossians 3:23–24). Notice that **Paul does not restrict this to preaching or missionary work**. He speaks to slaves, masters, parents, and children. Ordinary people in ordinary stations. Every task done in faith is service to Christ Himself.

Scripture insists that we do not choose our callings, God places us in them: *"Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him"* (1 Corinthians 7:17). This flips our modern obsession with "finding our purpose" on its head. We are not tasked with frantically searching for a hidden, secret plan for our lives. Rather, we are called to be faithful where **God has placed us as spouses, parents, children, friends, and workers**. In these ordinary relationships, we are given the privilege of loving and serving our neighbor.

This doctrine brings immense freedom. It liberates us from the tyranny of comparing our "impact" to others. The quiet, unnoticed labor of a caregiver is just as God-pleasing as the public proclamation of a pastor. Why? Because our standing before God does not rest on the greatness of our tasks, but solely on the finished work of Christ. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast"* (Ephesians 2:8–9). We are first called to Christ in Baptism; only then do we live out our callings in the world. **Our identity is secure**, so our work becomes a joyful response, not a frantic attempt to earn favor.

Even the smallest acts of service carry eternal weight. Jesus said, *"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward"* (Matthew 10:42). The mundane moments of faithfulness; changing a tire, teaching a child, or listening to a friend are not invisible to God. *"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God"* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

This week, consider the people God has placed in your life—the family member, the co-worker, the neighbor. Your calling is to serve them faithfully. Whether you are changing a tire, teaching a child, or listening to a friend, you are wearing the mask of God. **Your labor is not in vain.**

*In Christ,
Caleb Krueger*

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE AND OFFICIAL ACTS

	5 am	9 am	Total
Sept 5-6	22	72	94
Sept 12-13	29	125	154
Sept 19-20	34	78	112
Sept 26-27	36	112	148
Communion			272



Newsorthy Notes

Beacon of Hope

Meal will be served on Thursday, November 5th at 5 pm. If you would like to help prepare the meal, meet in the kitchen here at 1:30pm.



Transfers/Releases: Crystal Austin (Brayden, Colton, Jordan and Christopher) to Prairie Lakes Church

Official Acts: None

Burials: Peggy Anderson, Ron Naeve (No Service)

LWML NOTES

The LWML Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 3rd at 6:30 pm.



Mary's Circle will meet Thursday, November 5th at 10am

Dorcas Circle will meet Thursday, November 12th at 3:00 pm

Hannah's Circle will meet Tuesday, November 10th at 6:45 pm

JOY Group

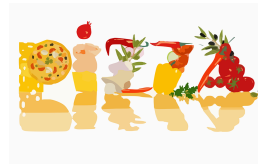
11:30 am, Tuesday, November 17th.
This month will be a served meal! So, please be sure to sign up in the Narthex.

Sisters of the King

Thursday, November 5th at 6:40pm
Meeting at Ardys Mae

PIZZA AND GAME NIGHT

Friday, November 13th at 5:30pm



Voter's Meeting will be held Sunday, November 1st following SS/Adult Bible Study at 11:30am.

C.I.A. Meeting at Good Shepherd
November 1st @ 11:30am

TEXT ALERTS

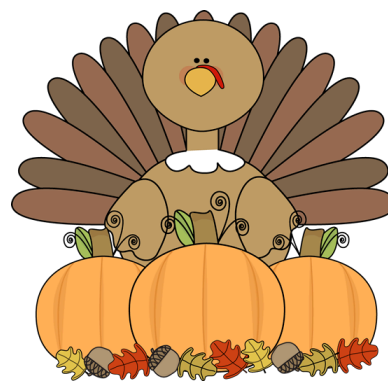
Please make sure you are signed up to get alerts from the church.

To sign up text the word **JOIN** to **515-417-3174**.

You will get a link texted back to you. Click that link to enter your information to get signed up.

Pastor uses this to communicate to everyone often.

Please get signed up so you don't miss out on important church related information/cancellations/etc.



Please join us for our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** with Holy Communion on Wednesday, November 27 at 7 pm

PERSONNEL: We are actively recruiting for our 2027 Summer Staff! Please encourage youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us. The NLOMA Joint Recruitment will be open on October 15 at 8 am. Those interested in serving at Camp Okoboji, or any LCMS camp in 2026 should complete a NLOMA profile. That is the first step in being considered for a summer position.

Thank You!

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- We are grateful for Dale Kimball and Steve Frank for taking on an important project – rebuilding (and expanding) the back deck for cabin Marflow. We are thankful for their work and support of the project.



We loved having the IDW Senior High Youth Gathering this year! What a great group!

NEEDS/WANTS LIST: Sharing opportunities to assist Camp with specific items:

- Brooms
- Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap
- Queen size mattress pads
- New commercial grade vacuums

Thrivent Action Team Cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects; [712-337-3325](tel:712-337-3325))



The LWML is still accepting donations of fake flowers, greenery, accessories and ribbons which will be used for the Ladies Night Out Craft Project in March.

Please put donations in the tote on the bench by the mailboxes in the narthex.

Egg Bake Fundraiser

Gather with us at church to support Little Lambs Preschool

Date: Sunday, November 8th after service

The Kids will be singing during breakfast.

We are looking to add members to our Preschool Board. Please contact Jameson Kastendieck if interested.

Freewill Donation

Online giving means one less check to write and one less thing to remember.

Scan the barcode below with your phone and it will take you to the Vanco online giving app to Download. Use Invite code **FNUVVB** to take you to Good Shepherd. You can also search for us by zipcode. You will need to Sign up and create a password.

Choose a one-time payment or set up a recurring payment. Be sure to turn **OFF** the recurring payment option (the default) if you only want to choose a one-time payment.

We can only accept ACH payments from your bank account. You will need your bank account information. (Routing number and Account number)

The LCEF is supporting us by paying our ACH transaction fees. So, there is zero cost to the church for using this service. It actually saves us money on our regular Banking Fees. The bank only allows us so many transactions per month. Each online donation is one less physical check to deposit at the bank every week or every month and that saves us when it comes to bank fees.

Will you be out of town for the holidays? Special offerings are now available. Choose your service and payment choice by clicking the down arrow where you see General Offering. Scroll down to see all of the special services available.



Register now to participate in “**A Journey Through Parkinson’s Disease**” an educational three-part series from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offered virtually, beginning November 4, 2026. The educational series consists of three, 1-hour sessions held once a week. Iowa State Extension Specialists Cathy Drost and Kimberly Cavalier, health and human sciences educators, will teach the series, which includes interactive lessons, discussions, and activities. The virtual sessions will be held on November 4, November 11, and November 18 from 1:00 -2:00 PM. Register for the virtual three-part series at <https://go.iastate.edu/CAZF9P>. Thanks to support from the Herb Howell Excellence in Extension Grant, this program is offered at no cost to participants.



Lord’s Cupboard - Has a need for cereal, canned soups, chili beans, baked beans, tuna, instant mashed potatoes, macaroni & cheese, toothpaste, bar soap, shampoo, dish soap, deodorant, and plastic grocery sacks. Please put items in the basket in the main entrance and they will be delivered.

They are also looking ahead to the holidays. They would like ingredients to bake pies, cakes, and cookies. **Please put items in the box in the entryway and we will make sure they get delivered.**



“Families love holiday treats so thank you in advance.”



November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9 am-Divine wor- ship/HC 10:30 am-SS Adult Bible Study 11:30-Voter's Meeting	2 12 pm-LL Preschool	3 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 6 pm-Bd. Of Ed 6:30pm- LWML Board Meeting	4 12 pm-LL Preschool	5 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am-LL Preschool 10 am-Mary's Circle 12 pm-LL Preschool 5pm-Beacon of Hope 6:40pm-Sisters of the King at Ardys Mae	6 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00am-Bible Study at Ardys Mae 12 pm-LL Preschool	7 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
8 9 am-Divine wor- ship/HC Little Lambs Egg Bake Fundraiser following service 10:30 am-SS Adult Bible Study	9 12 pm-LL Preschool	10 8:15 am- LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 1:30 pm-Fr. Haven Comm. 6:30pm-Kingsmen 6:45 pm –Han- nah's Circle	11 12 pm-LL Preschool 4 pm-Swaddling Clothes 5pm-Christian Outreach 5:15 pm- Anchored	12 7 am-Men's Bible Study No Preschool 3:00 pm-Dorcas Circle 5:00 pm Christian Management	13 8:15 am-LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool 5:30pm Pizza & Game Night	14 10am-12pm Swaddling Clothes Distri- bution Day 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
15 9 am-Divine wor- ship/HC 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	16 12 pm-LL Preschool	17 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 11:30 am-JOY Group 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 Trustees 7:00 Council	18 10:30 Lamp- lighters 12 pm-LL Preschool 4 pm-Swaddling Clothes 5:15 pm- Anchored	19 7 am-Men's Bible Study 8:15 am- LL Preschool 12 pm-LL Preschool	20 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9:00am-Bible Study at Ardys Mae 12 pm-LL Preschool	21 5 pm-Divine Worship/HC
22 9 am-Divine wor- ship 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study	23 12 pm-LL Preschool	24 8:15 am-LL Preschool 9 am-Sewing 12 pm-LL Preschool 6:30 pm—Elders	25 No Preschool 5:15 pm- Anchored 7pm- Thanksgiving Eve Service w/HC	26 No Preschool Office Closed <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	27 Office Closed No Preschool	28 5 pm-Divine Worship
29 9 am-Divine wor- ship 10:30 am-SS/Adult Bible Study 11:30 Church Dec- orating	30 12 pm-LL Preschool					
			December 2 First Advent Mid-Week ser- vice 12:30pm and 7:00pm			*Times and dates are subject to change

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We're on the web
www.goodshepfortdodge.org
Check us out on Facebook
Good Shepherd Fort Dodge



LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!
Originally Published November 2023

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received *from God to Him*, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.