



The Parish Door

A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church
PO Box 27, Ellison Bay, WI, 54210

January 2026

(920) 854-2988

Shepherdofthebay.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

What's INSIDE

- pg. 2 - Pastor's Post
- pg. 3 - From the Music Corner
- pg. 4 - Congregational Care
- pg. 5 - Partners in Ministry
- pg. 6 - December Activities
- pg. 7 - Youth and Family
- pg. 8 & 9- Council Minutes
- Pg. 10 - January Readings
- WELCA Prayer Chain
- Pg. 11- Calendar



Dorothy Peterson Pencil Award



Some of you may have known Dorothy Peterson. She was a wonderful lady who loved kids! She cared deeply for their faith formation, and was very active in the ministry of teaching children about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, right here at Shepherd of the Bay. She was known for keeping a stash of fun, sharpened pencils in her purse. Wherever she went out in the community, and she saw children (like at a restaurant), she would reach into her purse and share a pencil. After church, the children would flock around Dorothy in the Fellowship Hall to get a pencil. It is with that spirit that each year, Shepherd of the Bay recognizes those individuals in our community/congregation who have played a major role in the faith formation of our children and youth. Come to church, Sunday, January 11th, to find out who our Dorothy Peterson Pencil Award recipient will be for 2025!

WELCA Monthly Book Group

January 15 - Verghese, Alexander. **The Covenant of Water**. 2023.

A novel by the author of the best-seller, **Cutting for Stone**. This is a story of a family who live in southern India and are haunted by a generational tragedy of drownings by water.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with Gretchen Farwell if you have any questions regarding the Book Group and its meetings.

Join SOTB's Men's Group

The Men's Group will continue to meet this winter meeting next on Tuesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. at Don Howard's home, 2536 Fieldcrest Lane, Sister Bay. A new book will soon be available at the church office. *Sacred Self-Care* (2023) offers daily practices for nurturing our whole selves. Each reading begins with scripture and ends with suggested spiritual health practice.

All men are welcome. Need information or a ride? Call Mike Eischen, 920-857-8049.

Ladies Bible Study

You are invited to join the Ladies Bible Study on Mondays at 2:00pm in the church parlor.

On Monday, January 5th we will begin "The Message of Jesus, Words that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton. It explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today.

We have extra books available in the office or just join us on Mondays.

Call Carol for more information 920-854-2988.

Annual Meeting

Please join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, **February 1**, at 10:30am (after the 9:30am service. The Fellowship Pot Luck Brunch will be held after the meeting.) The Annual Report for 2025, which includes reports from the committees of the Church, will be available on Sunday, Jan. 25th, for you to look over before the meeting.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2026 have been arranged alphabetically in the narthex. Please take yours home!

If you don't see envelopes for your household but would like some, please call the church office. Likewise, if we prepared envelopes for you and you don't want them, let us know. Thank you! -Grace Rossman, Treasurer

There's the general. And there's the particular. I can talk to you about dogs in general, even poodles in general. But I'm more likely to talk about the two dogs who have shared our home for now more than 15 years.

The Epiphany story is a wonderful blending of both the general and the particular. At Epiphany, the church celebrates the good news that God reaches out beyond the time and space of 1st century Palestine to embrace all peoples of the world. At the same time, we confess that God is doing so through the scandalous election of one particular people, the children of Abraham and Sarah, of Jacob, Rachael, and Leah.

There's also the matter of the very particular travelers to the Christ-child. The Magi were dabblers in astronomy, astrology, and any nugget of wisdom they could get their hands on and their minds around. They make it all the way to Jerusalem, a mere stone's throw from Jesus' birth town. A detailed illumination of what they seek, however, is not yet theirs. Only through the Hebrew Scriptures will they find what they are really seeking.

It is not enough for us to know that the Magi seek a great king, a divine savior. The Hebrew Scriptures reveal they are seeking a promised king. When they tell Herod they are looking for the "king of the Jews", they are using loaded language, whether they know it or not. Herod understands its significance immediately, and starts inquiring "where the Messiah was to be born."

Throughout his Gospel, Matthew is at pains to show Jesus to be the Hebrew Messiah, the Christ long promised by the Scriptures of old. Jesus' appearance represents the fulfillment of God's long-established prophecies given to the Israelites. His appearance to a particular people at a particular time was for the sake of bringing God's particular love to the universal humankind, people of all times and all places. God's work in history is not random. It is fully goal oriented.

And so is our faith. But like the working of God in history, our orientation and concern is ultimately above the immediate challenges of today and the perceived anxieties of the short-term future. We are bound to a promised future as followers of Jesus, one that is springing up out of the commitment that God makes to the peoples of the world, a commitment deeply rooted in both the Old and New Testaments of our Scriptures. To align ourselves with these commitments is to find fulfillment as we go about God's work.

God's particular work entails the patient nurturing of a covenant community that God has strategically chosen. That's us at Shepherd of the Bay Church. Since the days of Abraham and Sarah, God has been electing, redeeming, and making holy a people of God's own mysterious choosing. They bear the promise of their Redeemer and Lord. It is into this peculiar community that God now welcomes the world's peoples.

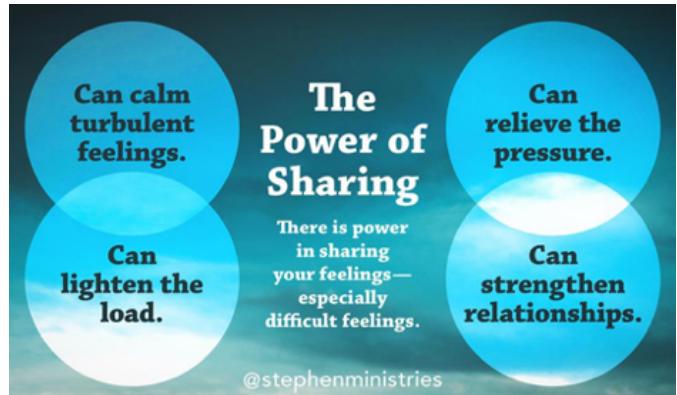
We do not accept the invitation lightly. Attaching oneself to God's community is as hugely special as any deep commitment one can imagine. God is intimately present to God's people, Matthew insists. The congregation is more like a close-knit community than a loose gathering of religious people. In this community we have a calling and we have a mission: to reach out to each other and to the world with love of God in Christ.

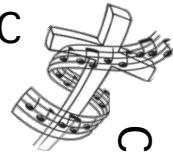
As we enter this new year, we will be intent on continuing our laser sharp focus on that mission, to listen to the scriptures together prayerfully, to listen to each other, to listen to members of the community, as we seek to thicken the relational fabric of our congregation and thin the walls between church and community. We pray God's blessings on our work together in the new year.

Pr. Jim Honig

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Some years are hard. Maybe you've lost someone dear, maybe you're in the middle of an illness or injury, or maybe things just aren't going well right now. If that's you—or someone you know—let our trained team of Stephen Ministers help. We are here to listen. All care is confidential. Please contact Carol Omernick at 920-854-2998 to get you connected with a Stephen Minister.





NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS, NEW YEAR'S NEW BEGINNINGS

CORNER

Here we are at the beginning of a new year, contemplating the opportunity to create some new habits for our lives. How shall we proceed? What shall we consider, as we examine this past year's accomplishments and (perhaps) a few disappointments? A time to make a few resolutions is upon us.

Resolutions is an interesting word. To resolve, according to the Oxford Dictionary, is:

- 1.) to settle or find a solution to a problem, dispute, or contentious matter
- 2.) to decide firmly on a course of action

Many of us might have reason "to find a solution to a problem" or two as we contemplate this brand new slate 2026. I could name a few in my own life! But the major challenge I see before many of us in this new year is to make a commitment to a new "course of action", write it down and then create a plan to incorporate this new behavior into our daily lives. For most of us, this is easier said than done!

Allow me to make a suggestion as we enter this new year. Perhaps you have contemplated becoming more involved with the musical life of Shepherd of the Bay. Many of you sang in your high school and/or college choirs or played an instrument in the band and/or orchestra. I imagine these are pleasant memories, bringing a smile to your face as you recall the camaraderie and satisfaction, the joy of making music with your friends.

Well, folks, we have opportunities for you to sing and play with new friends right here in the sanctuary choir loft! We are a friendly group that loves to "create a joyful noise to the Lord" every time we get together. We are a welcoming group that declares that "everybody, everybody, everybody is welcome to join our song." There are no auditions, come as you are! We have music, a robe and a place for you in our choir family. We would love to include your musical voices and instrumental talents in our efforts to create meaningful worship experiences on Sunday mornings for our church community. Step right up! Don't be shy! Your friends are waiting for you with a warm welcome!

Here are "the particulars" to get you started:

Rehearsals for the Sanctuary Choir are Thursday afternoons, from 4:00 until 5:30

A warm-up Rehearsal is Sunday morning, from 8:45 until the service begins at 9:30

You can contact me (Judy Jackson) for more information at: jajackson46@outlook.com

The commitment you make (your resolution) can be for a week, a month, a season, a year or FOREVER! This might be one of the easiest decisions you make because you can "test the waters" for awhile and find out if this is a resolution that brings you satisfaction and happiness. If so, you have found a place in your new musical family. As the old song goes: "All God's Children Gotta Place in the Choir"!

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

Latin hymn, 11th century, John Goss (1800-1880)

Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;

Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high;

In the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.



Alleluia you are sounding, true Jerusalem and free;

Alleluia, joyful mother, bring us to your jubilee;

Here by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles still are we.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;

Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forgo;

For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin shall flow.

In our hymns we pray with longing: Grant us, blessed Trinity,

At the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high;

There to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.

May we continue to lift our voices in song, in praise, in prayer for this new year, with its immense possibilities for our community, our world. The Sanctuary Choir Family would welcome you joyfully to our midst. Come and give us a try! Join us! You might be surprised how much fun you will find with this group of singers!

Blessings to you in this new year of choices and resolutions,
Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist

Greetings from Your Congregation Care Coordinator

- Amy Hennings

Happy New Year! As we begin a new year, many of us set fresh goals, look ahead with hope, and welcome a new start. Winter can be a season of reflection and quiet in our otherwise busy lives.

For Shepherd of the Bay Church, this season calls us to reach out to connect with church members we haven't seen in a while, checking in on friends and neighbors, and finding ways to lift one another up during challenging times. As we move into the New Year with a focus on mental, physical, and spiritual well-being, please watch for upcoming opportunities at Shepherd of the Bay, to volunteer to help others, to learn more through guest speakers, and participate in more social activities for all.

Also, if you know of someone who could use additional support, a church visit, or simply a friendly ear, please don't hesitate to reach out to me in my role as Congregation Care Coordinator.

Congregation Care Coordinator Hours - Wednesdays, 10:00am–5:00pm

You can also reach me anytime at sotbcare@gmail.com or by calling the church at **920-854-2988 (Option #2)**.

Local Resources: Do You or Someone You Know Need Help With Heating, or Utility Bills? Door County Secret Santa, and WHEAP Can Help!

Door Count Secret Santa

The mission of Door County Secret Santa is to raise money to anonymously pay heating bills for Door County families in need. People will need a referral or nomination to receive the assistance, but as your Congregation Care Coordinator, I can be that referral for you. So if you or anyone you know could use some heating/utility assistance, please feel free to contact me at sotbcare@gmail.com, drop by on a Wednesday in my office, or call 920.854-2988 (Option #2)

WHEAP

Regular Energy Assistance is a one-time payment during the heating season (October 1-May15). The funding pays a portion of energy costs. The payment is not intended to cover the entire annual energy costs of a residence. The amount of the energy assistance payment varies depending on a variety of factors, including the household's size, income, and energy costs. <https://energybenefit.wi.gov/OnlineApps/OnlineApp/Default#>! Please reach out if you need help locating additional resources or applying for sources of heating help, I'd be glad to assist!

Mental, Physical, & Spiritual Wellness – Blue Zones Series at DCA – FREE SERIES!

1/10, 1/24, 1/31, & 2/7 – 10:00am every date <https://www.dcauditorium.org/tickets>

Looking for a way to kick start or inspire your New Year's Resolutions? Look no further than the Blue Zone series offered for free at the Door County Auditorium. The 2026 Door County Talks Series, Sponsored by Cynthia and Tom LaConte, will explore the concept of Blue Zones, a term coined and trademarked by Author Dan Buettner. Blue Zones refers to regions in the world where people live to or beyond the age of 100 without the prevalence of degenerative aging diseases prevalent in many parts of the world. The series, which will comprise four separate speaker events, with donations gladly accepted. Attendees are encouraged to watch the Netflix series, *Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones*, before attending the events.

Dietician Jennifer Sherman received a Master's Degree in Human Nutrition from the University of Illinois at Chicago after working as an engineer for over 20 years will kick off this series. Changing her diet changed her life, and she now helps clients do the same. Jennifer's unique background and passion for good nutrition are put to use helping others navigate the often overwhelming number of food-related decisions we make each day.

Amy Hennings - Congregation Care Coordinator

Partners in Ministry

Are you looking for an opportunity to help out at Shepherd of the Bay or in our community? Here are a few ways you can help and support Shepherd of the Bay and community programs.

Volunteers/Resources Needed!

Based on congregation feedback via survey, email, and coffee chats we are looking for people to help with in the following areas:

- Driveway plowing and shoveling – we have a few church members who could use some help with having their driveways plowed or sidewalks shoveled.
- Meal preps/deliveries – Did you know in Northern Door, Meals on Wheels does not reach all homes, nor do they offer meals with specialized diets?
- Drivers! We are in need of volunteers to drive some of our church members and/or drivers for the van to church related events. You can reach out to Dick Burress for van driving volunteering or me directly for offering any types of rides.
- Quilters! Our wonderful Thursday group of quilters are always looking for more to join in the fun. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn and help!
- How to support those who are grieving – feel free to share recommendations or suggestions with me on ways we can support those experiencing grief.

If you can help with any of the above activities or if you have another idea, please let me know.

Amy Hennings

Congregation Care Coordinator office Hours
Wednesdays, 10:00am–5:00pm

You can reach me anytime at
sotbcare@gmail.com or by calling the church at
920-854-2988 (Option #2).

Klaud's Pantry Postings

The Pantry Committee has been very busy this last month. We have purchased and installed new shelving in the pantry which has given us more storage area and the ability to organize it more efficiently.

Donations have been very generous and our outreach into the community has grown as well.

One of the most special things we have been able to do is to help a number of students at Gibraltar School. Many students there often struggle to afford their lunches and the debt owed had grown to over \$7,000. With the generous donations and support that we have received we have been able to pay off that debt so that all the students will start the New Year with a clean slate. The ability to provide this type of community help is only possible because of the generous support that Klaud's Food Pantry has received.

In addition, the pantry was able to provide a Christmas dinner to a number of local families. We packed bags full of Christmas dinner foods, and they were also able to receive a free ham or deli chicken from the Pig. The generosity of the folks at the Pig has been great and we encourage you all to support them as well.

Door County also helped all the food pantries by encouraging hunters to fill their deer tickets and the venison was then distributed throughout the county. We received over 50 pounds of venison to distribute.

January is always a time of need in Door County and our need for fresh fruits and vegetables; meat of any kind and dairy products continues to be a large need.

Thank you all for your support, donations and prayers. We strive to help others in need and make sure that we reach as many people as possible.

Does your home need repairs you can not afford?

Help is available from DC Habitat for homeowners who need home repairs, hand rails, grab bars, safe entrance to their homes, or a wheelchair ramp. DC Habitat will install an aluminum ramp for rent for short term needs. If a ramp is needed for long term needs then a wooden ramp will be constructed at cost. Home Repairs are done at cost. Financial aid is available if needed.

Contact Door County Habitat, Lori Allen at 920 743 2869 x101 or admin@doorhabitat.org more details.

December Activities



Celebrating breaking a record of over 160 boxes collected in the Great Cereal Box Challenge



Confirmation students create and deliver a special gift to their families.



Celebrating "A Christmas Star" Christmas Program written and produced by Lynda Pietruszka and the Children & Youth of SOTB.

Cookie Making and Holiday Caroling A Success!

Thanks to all who helped out and attended our cookie making and caroling in December! Everyone had a great time and holiday cheer was soaring. All extra cookies were shared while caroling at Scandia Village and at a few individual homes in December. A special thanks to cookie makers/organizers: Barbara Zage, Lynda Pietruszka, Carol Omernick, Lauri Smith, Cathy Henry, Vicki Amundson, Jane Burress, Roberta Kutlik, Kendall Koehler, Greg & Dillon Canard, and ALL OUR CAROLERS young and young at heart!



Our Sewing Angel!

We knew Linda Anderson was an Angel and this proves it. Linda has been sewing our WELCA quilts together for 20 years.

You can earn your wings by coming to Quilting on Thursday mornings at 9:30 and tying knots, having coffee, snacks, and fellowship. We will give you your wings right away. You don't have to wait 20 years!

Youth and Family Ministry News

from Lynda Pietruszka 720-227-4079 or sotb.lynda@gmail.com

Welcome to the New Year! May the new year bring you joy within the context of your faith, ever moving forward, sometimes tripping along the way, but always getting back up, as God would have it! Each day brings us an opportunity to strengthen our faith formation, whether we are a Little Lamb, or in Elderhood. Please join the Children, Youth, and Families in 2026, as we grow in faith together!

Little Lambs

For infants, toddlers, PreK, and their parents or care providers. Each hour we will enjoy a Bible story, creative play, music, games, and art to take home! **Wednesdays, from 9:30 am to 10:45 a.m.**

Jan. 7 Happy New Year for Littles!

Jan. 14 The Good Shepherd and 21st Psalm

Jan. 21 Jesus' 12 Helpers

Jan. 28 Jesus taught us how to pray

Sunday School

For Children ages four through grade six. We gather at Children's message within worship, and head to the classroom. We return for Communion. Parents please pick up your children in the classroom after worship. Join us after in fellowship hall as we gather with our church family for good conversation and treats!

Jan. 4 Jesus the Word John 1:10-18

Jan. 11 Jesus' Baptism Matthew 3:13-17. **Pancakes and Praise** meets the second Sunday this month, as 1/18 is a three day weekend for Gibraltar schools. Families head upstairs following Communion, for a delicious breakfast, family Sunday School, and fellowship!

Jan. 18 The Lamb of God John 1:29-42

Jan. 25 The Disciples Matthew 4:12-23, 9:9-13, 10:1-4

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays will take place **every 1st and 3rd Wednesday after school** until pick up time at 5:30 p.m. The Shepherd of the Bay Van will arrive at Gibraltar School for pick up. Watch your email for transportation communication! We will have a delicious snack, followed by games, art, Bible stories, service, outreach, and more!

January 7th and 21st The Light of the World, The King of All Kings! Be on the look out! It is time to register for the BYG weekend at Imago Dei for children in grades 3-6! March 6-8th.

High School Youth Group

For Grades 9th-12th!

What is happening in January? Winter Campfires?, Gathering in our upstairs youth room; check in, Bible study, summer mission trip planning.

Mark your calendars!

- ※ Sat. Jan. 17, Synod Youth, **Snow Tubing** at Kewaunee Winter Park!
- ※ **Going Bananas** Fund Raiser bake off, Sat., Jan. 31st!
- ※ **Journey with Jesus**, Green Lake Resort & Conference Center, February 20-22nd. Watch for registration information!



Confirmation

The first three Wednesdays of each month, the church van will pick students up after school and head over to Shepherd of the Bay! We'll enjoy a snack, highs and lows, and a multitude of faith formation conversations, preparing students for Confirmation. Pick-up is at 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation will meet Wednesday, Jan. 7, 14, and 21.

Be on the look out!

- ※ It is time to register for **Journey with Jesus** for grades 7-12, February 20-22nd.
- ※ **"Going Bananas"** fundraiser and banana bread baking, Saturday, January 31st.
- ※ Join in on the fun with our Synod Youth outing to Kewaunee Winter Park, **Snow Tubing**, Saturday, January 17th!
- ※ And it is time to nail down our dates for Summer **Confirmation camp**!

Some of you may have known Dorothy Peterson. She was a wonderful lady who loved kids! She cared deeply for their faith formation, and was very active in the ministry of teaching children about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, right here at Shepherd of the Bay. She was known for keeping a stash of fun, sharpened pencils in her purse, and wherever she would go out in the community, if she saw children (like at a restaurant), she would reach into her purse and share a pencil! It is with that spirit, that each year, Shepherd of the Bay recognizes those individuals in our community/congregation who have played a major role in the faith formation of our children and youth. Come to church, Sunday, January 11th to find out who our Dorothy Peterson Pencil Award recipient will be for 2025!

Shepherd Of The Bay Council Meeting Minutes

Oct 20, 2025

Present: Tara Torkelson, Pr. Jim Honig, Grace Rossman, Mark Beecher, Jane Burress, Jeff Johnson, Adam Johnson, Lynda Pietruszka, Cheryl Becht, Scott Henry, Jane Mohit, Julia Keeper. Guest: M.J. Brukardt

Meeting was called to order at 6:58PM by President Torkelson

Motion to approve minutes of the September 15, 2025

New Business a). Two recommendations of the Community Outreach Research Action Team were presented by M.J. Brukardt. 1. Assistance with landscaping for the Door County Housing Partnership. 2. Participation by our congregation in the Thriving in Door County Initiative developed by the United Way of Door County. The recommendations will be reflected in the 2026 and 2027 budgets.

Treasurer's Report: We are behind in budgeted income with high expenses. We have had approximately \$335,000.00 income with \$403,000.00 in expenses resulting in a deficit of \$68,000.00 year to date. Jane Mohit described the economic advantage of Lakeshore CAP helping with Klaud's Pantry.

Committee Reports: Written and oral reports from each committee were presented and discussed. Tom Tuttle is stepping down from the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Our congregation has been blessed with Tom's fastidious and meticulous effort in the care of property. The Council wishes to express sincere gratitude to Tom Tuttle for his wonderful work.

Mark Beecher reported that work and setup of the video security system is progressing. Jeff Johnson will be assisting Mark.

Pastor Sabbatical: Arrangements are being made for March, April, and May when Pastor Honig will be taking a sabbatical. Housing for the supply pastor was discussed.

Bridges: Multiple aspects of the Bridges program were discussed and reviewed to determine future support and participation by our congregation. To Be discussed further at a future meeting,

A motion was approved for the facility request from Midsummer Music the week of January 19, 2026. The specific dates TBD. The performance relates to the benefit of music to people struggling with dementia.

Celebration Sunday preliminary results will be discussed at a future meeting.

A letter from the Bishops of ELCA was shared. The letter identified, welcoming newcomers, meeting their immediate needs, helping the vulnerable, and advocating for justice, as social guidance for the ELCA. The link for the Letter from Bishops of ELCA to the Church: <https://www.ecsw.org/news/a-letter-from-bishops-of-the-elca-to-the-church>

Nov 2, 2025 will be the date of the monthly Potluck

A motion to continue Co-op advertising in the Pulse with other ELCA churches in Door County was made and Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37PM and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is November 17, 2025 at 7PM

Submitted by Jeffery L. Johnson, Council Secretary

Shepherd of the Bay Council Meeting Minutes

Approved Draft of November 17, 2025

Present: Tara Torkelson, Pr. Jim Honig, Grace Rossman, Mark Beecher, Jane Burress, Jeff Johnson, Adam Johnson, Lynda Pietruszka, Cheryl Becht, Scott Henry, Jane Mohit, Julia Keeper

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM by President Torkelson.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business including Pastor sabbatical update and the security system update, were discussed.

Establishing a sub-committee to address pulpit supply was discussed

The structure of the Buildings and Grounds committee, without Tom Tuttle as the chairman, was discussed. All the committee reports were approved

New Business

- A. Facility use on September 5, 2026 by the Europe Lake Land Owners Association was approved.
- B. Annual congregational meeting date was set for February 1, 2026 preceding the monthly potluck.
- C. Celebration Sunday has produced 71 pledge cards so far for approximately \$266,000.00.
- D. Dec 7, 2025 will be the next potluck.
- E. 2 new council members are needed. Scott Henry, Cheryl Becht, and Jeff Johnson will participate in the nominating committee with Pr. Honig.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM and closed with The Lord's Prayer.
Next meeting is December 15, 2025 at 7PM

Submitted by Jeffery L. Johnson, Council Secretary

**Shepherd of the Bay Council Meeting Minutes
Unapproved Draft of December 15, 2025,
subject to change at the following Council Meeting.**

Present: Tara Torkelson, Pr. Jim Honig, Grace Rossman, Mark Beecher, Jane Burress, Jeff Johnson, Adam Johnson, Lynda Pietruszka, Cheryl Becht, Scott Henry, Jane Mohit, Julia Keepper

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall by President Torkelson.
Minutes of the Nov 17, 2025 meeting approved.

The Treasurer's report included financial statements and discussion of the draft 2026 budget to be finalized in January. The date of the January meeting to finalize the budget needs to be changed. The new meeting date will be identified in the near future. The finance committee recommended to the council to consider recognition of special contributions of time by 2 people to thank them for their efforts. The annual audit is scheduled for December 17, 2025. Giving envelopes are available in the Narthex. Various inactive accounts will be reviewed for consolidation or elimination. approved.

President Torkelson restated the role of council members to report back to their committees the council actions affecting those committees.

After an explanation and discussion, a motion to use some of the Klaud's Pantry budget to support a specific need in the Gibraltar School Lunch Program was approved.

Old business discussed included ongoing work with the security system, the need for a point person for technology, and Pastor sabbatical planning is continuing. A reminder to all that the annual congregation meeting is scheduled for Feb 1, 2025 before the potluck.

New business: The nominating committee will review candidates with Pastor Jim.

President Torkelson recommended that the council continue to pursue making AED/CPR training available. Celebration Sunday Pledging resulted in 78 pledges, 22 short of the goal of 100. Total dollars pledged is down.

The volunteer staff for the monthly potluck was discussed. More volunteers would be helpful, especially a dishwasher for Feb 1, 2025.

The office copier was purchased out of the lease after reviewing the related costs by Carol and Grace.

Meeting adjourned

The usual 3rd monday date for the January council meeting is likely to be rescheduled later, to be determined by a followup email.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:23 PM.

Submitted by Jeffery L. Johnson, Council Secretary

Lessons for January

January 4: Epiphany of Our Lord

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

Introduction: The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

January 11 : Baptism of Our Lord

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

Holy Gospel : Matthew 3:13-17

Introduction: In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God’s beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God’s healing.

January 18 : The Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42

Introduction: Today’s gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus’ baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

January 25 : The Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Introduction: Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.



Readers:

Jan 4	Carolyn Hitzeman
Jan 11	Myrma Howard
Jan 18	Kristen Demarinis
Jan 25	George Cobb

Ushers :

Jan 4	OPEN
Jan 11	OPEN
Jan 18	OPEN
Jan 25	OPEN

Altar Guild:

Jan.	Jane Burress
Feb.	Marcia Eckdahl

Communion Helpers :

Please talk to Pastor Honig if you can help with communion.

WELCA Prayer Chain

The WELCA Prayer Chain continues to serve all the members and friends of SOTB for prayer requests.

To send a Prayer Request:

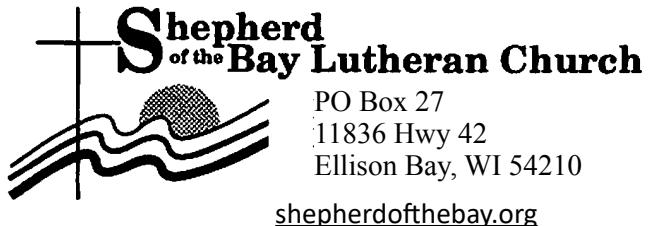
1. Send an email to **Cheri Boock** at cheriboock@gmail.com

2. State the request with wording that you want for the request. Make sure you have received permission from the person in need of the request.

3. The request will be sent when received by Cheri.

4. The Prayer Chain members always are glad to receive a report of how the person is doing as they are sending out their prayers, so if you request a prayer for someone, please let us know how that person is doing.

If you want to be included as a recipient of the Prayer Chain, and pray for those in need, contact Cheri Boock at 920-854-5493 or cell 920-421-1210 or the above email.



PO Box 27
11836 Hwy 42
Ellison Bay, WI 54210

shepherdofthebay.org

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ellison Bay, WI
Permit No. 3

The Parish Door monthly newsletter can be found in full color on our website, shepherdofthebay.org/newsletters. If you would like to be added to the monthly email list, contact the church office at 920-854-2988 or sotoffice@yahoo.com.

