

The Parish Door

March 2026

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

(920) 854-2988
Shepherdofthebay.org
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Midweek Lenten Meals & Devotions

Beginning Feb. 25th, for Wednesday midweek Lenten services, we will gather at 5:30pm to have a meal and devotion together. As we enjoy our warm meal we will have an informal and simple devotion that will spark conversation around the table. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbors. A free will offering will be collected each week for a different mission group of the church.

Invite your friends! All are Welcome!

Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 29 - 9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Service

(Arrive early to process in with palm branches)

Friday, April 3 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5 - 9:30 p.m.

Easter Service

(Pot Luck Brunch and activities for the kids following the service)

What did we do on the Guatemala Mission Trip? We played with kids!



And rode in the back of trucks!

And drank lots of coffee!



MY SONG IS LOVE UNKNOWN

In this Season of Lent, my thoughts turn toward the life lessons that Jesus taught us and the rich influence of His teachings in our lives. Here was the Son of God, wholly pure in spirit, fierce in truth and loyal to His earthly family, His brothers and His sisters. How He loved us, all of us, by accepting the ultimate sacrifice on the cross, taking our sins upon Himself so that we might know life, now and forever. I feel so unworthy of His love.

**My song is love unknown, My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown That they might lovely be.
O who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?**

**Christ came from heaven's throne Salvation to bestow,
But people scorned and none The longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend, My Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend!**

**Sometimes they strew His way, And His sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the way Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
And for His death They thirst and cry.**

**They rise, and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The Prince of life they slay.
Yet steadfast He To suffering goes,
That He His foes From thence might free.**

**Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine:
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days Could gladly spend.**

**Text: Samuel Crossman, 1664
Music: John Ireland, 1918**

This poem, written 254 years before John Ireland set it to music, is as poignant today when it was first sung in the early twentieth century. We still seem to be walking the same terrible path, making the same terrible choices, ignoring the amazing life's blessings we have been offered, if only we were to humble ourselves, atone for our sinful lives and turn our faces toward our Savior's life-giving love for us. Living a life that our Savior would want us to live is so difficult for us, mere mortals. As the hymn text suggests:

**Sometimes they strew His way, And His sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the way Hosanna's to their King.
THEN "CRUCIFY!" IS ALL THEIR BREATH,
AND FOR HIS DEATH THEY THIRST AND CRY.**

Perhaps this Season of Lent offers us the opportunity to stop for a moment, consider the choices that we continue to make and make an effort to choose a new path, focused on the face of Jesus.

**O LAMB OF GOD MOST HOLY!
Nikolaus Decius, c. 1541**

**O Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross did suffer,
And patient still and lowly, Yourself to scorn did offer;
Our sins by You were taken, Or hope had us forsaken:
Have mercy on us, Jesus!
Have mercy on us, Jesus!
Your peace be with us, Jesus!**

The Season of Lent is a timely and timeless event, an opportunity for change, for renewal, for hope. It is a season that points to the good news of Easter! May we be mindful of the rich life that has been offered to us.

Have mercy on us, Jesus! Have mercy on us, Jesus! Your peace be with us, Jesus!

Blessings from the Piano Bench,
Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist

Greetings from Your Congregation Care Coordinator

- Amy Hennings

Office Hours - Wednesdays, 10:00am–5:00pm

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

Spring is just around the corner, and our days are growing longer. You can almost smell the sunshine and hear the birds beginning to sing!

This past month, we enjoyed two wonderful events that brought fun and fellowship into our church through games and pizza and our first speaker event. We kicked off our speaker series with an educational evening highlighting the fantastic work of our very own Klaud's Pantry and the Door County Food Pantry Coalition. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported these meaningful gatherings. Please see below for more details on these events. We hope to host more like it in the near future!

As we begin our Lenten journey, it is a meaningful time for reflection. Lent does not have to be only about "giving up" something. It can also be about "moving toward" something we may have drifted away from during the busy fall and winter months. Consider using this season as a time to recalibrate and to return to habits that nourish you spiritually, emotionally, and physically. If you do choose to give something up, perhaps let it be something that no longer serves you well. In doing so, you create space for a fresh start as we move into the warmer months ahead.

In that spirit of renewal, I continue working with local partners and service organizations to identify helpful resources for our parishioners facing challenges. Below you will find information about several local services available within our community. In the coming months, watch for additional opportunities for connection and learning through game nights, guest speakers, and more.

I am also excited to highlight our Community Garden this spring, along with gardening tips and ideas for using fresh produce in healthy, seasonal meals. It's a wonderful way to nurture both body and spirit as we move into spring and summer.

As always, if you know 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. It is a privilege to walk alongside our church family in times of both joy and challenge.

With Care and Gratitude,
Amy Hennings

Groceries and Grace

Thank you!

Next Date TBA in spring!

We kicked off our Shepherd of the Bay speaker series with *Groceries and Grace*, featuring our own Klaud's Pantry and more information about the Door County Food Pantry Coalition featuring guest speakers Adam Peronto and our very own Barb Zage. This session included information about the various food/grocery resources in Door County, Door County community food needs, and wrapped up with some cost-effective grocery recipes. Over 50 bags of recipes and ingredients were put together by the fabulous Klaud's Food Pantry team. A special thanks to those who also cooked some of the dishes for taste testing. We hope to hold a similar event again in a few months and invite another guest speaker to share tips on healthy eating on a budget. Stay tuned for updates and announcements!

Local Resources Spotlight

Services for Aging in Place:

- **SAIL** - Senior Advocacy for Independent Living (SAIL) in Northern Door County (Liberty Grove, Sister Bay, Ephraim, Baileys Harbor) offers volunteer-driven support services to help older adults live independently at home. Services include grocery shopping, errands, social events, check-ins, and light housekeeping, with memberships available for \$125/year (\$165/household) and fee waivers for qualified residents.

For more information:

Call 920-333-1083, email info@ageinplacedoorcounty.org, or visit ageinplacedoorcounty.org

- **ADRC** – ADRC of Door County is a free, confidential, and unbiased service center in Sturgeon Bay, WI, providing information, resources, and support to individuals 60+, adults with disabilities (18+), and their caregivers. It focuses on enabling independent living through options counseling, benefit specialists, and services like home-delivered meals. Their monthly newsletter and website contain a lot of information on services and resources available. If you would like to get on their newsletter email list to keep up with all of the services offered, you can contact: adrc@co.door.wi.gov

For more information:

○ **Address:** 916 N. 14th Ave, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

○ **Phone:** (920) 746-2372 or (855) 828-2372.

○ **Email:** adrc@co.door.wi.gov

Game Night and Pizza - Thank you ZaZa's!

A thank you to the **Torcivia Family** and the new **ZaZa's Pizza** (a new takeout pizza place in Sister Bay - <https://zazasofdc.com/order>) for sponsoring this event last month and generously donating the pizza for us! We had 45 people attend our game night and enjoy the delicious salads and pizza. A thank you to everyone who attended, who brought games to play, and for your joy and enthusiasm. We hope to host future game nights for the whole congregation as a fun way to spend some quality time with your church family and friends!



Photos from the Guatemala Mission Trip

Here is a sample of the things we did in Guatemala. More pictures to come in the following months newsletters.



Team members: Jill Lhost, Julia Keeper, Carol Omernick, Jed Omernick, Lynda Pietruszka, Laney Zacek, Nora Zacek, and Les Keeper.

Below: Bathroom build. Before, during and after. We also gave the family a food bag, quilts made by SOTB quilters and a few toys for the kids.



Below: traditional Mayan stove with more efficient cooking stove on the right. We also gave the family quilts, coloring books and crayons and few toys for the kids.



Above: Helping in the prepa (preschool) classroom



Above: Snacks of a sandwich and nutrition drink was given to the kids after every education and soccer program activity.



Youth and Family Ministry News

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

As we travel further into the Lenten season this March, I have noticed how our children and youth are grasping what it means to have a "Spring Cleaning of the Soul". We compared it to cleaning out our bedrooms, or closets, and all the "junk" we might get rid of, as we anticipate a nice, clean space to return to. What is the "junk" we want to clean out of our hearts that will bring us even closer the God!

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.

3/4 The Trinity for Littles

3/11 St. Patrick for Littles

3/18 **Spring Break, We will not meet today**

3/25 The Lenten Journey for Littles

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!

Wonderful Wednesdays will meet Wednesday, **March 4th**, for the Lenten season/Holy Week Travels! **We will not meet March 18th because of Spring Break!**

High School Youth Group

For Grades 9th-12th!

Wednesday, March 11th, We will be preparing, serving, and cleaning up after, for our all church Lenten meal. This is not only a night of service, but a fundraiser as well. Check your email and text messages for more details!

Wednesday, March 25th, we meet tonight to register for our summer mission trip(s), check in highs and lows, and planning. We will meet upstairs in the youth room at 6:30 p.m.

First Communion Class: Anna Hockers, Charlee Reisen, Aubrey Weisgerber, Quinn Burress and Rel Luedcke. Not pictured: Gabriela Demarinis



Sunday School

For Children ages four through grade six, our One Room School House, follows Children's message within worship. We head to the classroom on the same level, and 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!

3/1 Abram's Call Genesis 12:1-9

3/8 Woman at the Well John 4:5-42

3/15 Pool of Siloam John 9:1-41 **We will not meet for Pancakes and Praise this month.**

3/22 Lazarus John 11:1-45

3/29 Palm Sunday! Please arrive early for the Palm processional! As we enter Holy Week, we will travel through Matthew 21:1-11, 26:14-27:66

Confirmation

Pastor Jim will be meeting with our students **each Wednesday in the month** of February. 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, followed by a multitude of faith formation conversations, preparing students for Confirmation. Pick up time is at 5:30 p.m.

As we wrapped up the school year with Pastor Jim, Students will be meeting with Lynda, once per month, March through May.

Wednesday, March 11th. Tonight is a special night. We will be preparing, serving, and cleaning up after, for our all church Lenten meal. This is not only a night of service, but a fundraiser as well. Check your email for more information.

The deadline to register for Summer Confirmation camp is March 15th.

Journey with Jesus, High School/Middle school Synod retreat, You are a child of God. YOU MATTER! February, 2026.



Back row: Xavier Gaddes, Bobby Opper, Dillon Canard, Lynda Pietruszka. Front row: Carena Reisen, Erik Wolf, Lilla Canard. Below: Leading Worship.



Guatemala Mission Trip

From February 23rd to March 3rd, eight members of Shepherd of the Bay traveled to Guatemala on a short term mission trip. Every morning before breakfast, we meet at 7:45am for a short devotion to begin our day. The following devotion was prepared by Laney Zacek.

Matthew 14:28-31

Peter says if it's really you Jesus, tell me to come. Jesus says "come". Peter took the leap to get out of the boat. He began to walk on water only until he was distracted, afraid, and doubtful and began to sink, crying out for the Lord to save him and Jesus did.

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) by Hillsong

*You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail
And there I find you in the mystery, in oceans deep my faith will stand
And I will call upon your name, and keep my eyes above the waves when oceans rise
My soul will rest in your embrace, for I am yours and you are mine
Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
let me walk upon the waters wherever you would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander,
In my faith I'll be made stronger
in the the presence of my Savior.*

We left our boat filled with comfort and routine at home. Jesus called out to us to be here in Guatemala and walk upon unknown waters. The different culture, different language, different lifestyle. These new waves can be distracting. We can question what to do, what to provide, and how to fix. With the idea of mutuality, we need to consider the idea that maybe God didn't send us here to change people and their lives, but that God sent us here to change *ourselves*, to change *our* perspective. Maybe we begin to let more people in as these people do with their homes and hardships. We allow ourselves to receive without guilt. I felt guilty about not going to the stove installations but received grace knowing that God wasn't any less present with that family when I couldn't show up. So let's give ourselves grace today with our experiences. We can be so particular in how we wish to help, but God will work his magic to ensure that Esme gets her perfect butterfly quilt and that we receive and perceive what we are supposed to, even when it's not what we plan. Let us step out of the boat without fear of these waves as we continue to be in the presence of God.

Dear God, Thank you for your grace, understanding, and presence as we walk alongside these families. Let us return home this week with more knowledge, as you call us here to change something within us. Bless those we encounter today, as every connection is a gift. Thank you Lord for another day. Amen.

Please pray about how you can participate in this mission activity....

Think about it..... Pray about it..... Join us in 2027.....

James 1:27 (NIV) "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry serves in an informal setting. We meet one-on-one with individuals to listen, talk, and offer encouragement.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remains private. The Stephen Minister takes on the role of "prayer giver" however, God, is the "cure giver". The Stephen Minister is not a therapist, but an active listener, and can provide resources for those experiencing grief after the loss of a loved one, coping with illness, serving as a caregiver, or facing other challenging life situations.

Please contact Carol Omernick at 920-854-2998 for more information or to get you connected with a Stephen Minister.

SOTB's Men's Group

The Men's Group meets next on Tuesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m. at the church. We are reading and discussing Sacred Self-Care: Daily Practices for Nurturing Our Whole Selves (2023), available in the church office. Our conversations include a wide range of subjects, and are fun and encouraging. Check it out.

For more information, call Mike Eischen at 920-857-8049.

WELCA Monthly Book Group

All meetings will begin at 9:30am, the 3rd Thursday of the month. Please contact Gretchen Farwell if you have any questions regarding the Book Group and its meetings.

March 19

- Falk, Janis. **Not Yet Lost. 2025.** "a novel about a Polish immigrant woman who fights against worker oppression in Depression-era Detroit despite opposition by many--even her own husband."

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.

Does your home need repairs you can't 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.



Deploy with the American Red Cross.

Travel to deliver shelter, supplies and support when it's needed most.



Disaster Sheltering Responder

Help provide clients with comfort and safety after disasters by supporting the day-to-day activities within a shelter. This may include working in reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information, or other areas within a shelter.



Disaster Shelter Resident Caseworker

Work with shelter residents to understand their resources and transition roadblocks to help households create an individualized action plan so that they can transition from the shelter to a more sustainable living solution.



Disaster Client Health Services

Licensed healthcare professionals needed to provide hands on care, health assessments, education and guidance to clients.



Disaster Shelter Logistics

Provide a vital link to mission delivery by ensuring needed shelter materials and supplies are procured in a timely and cost-efficient manner.



Feeding Responder

Ensure people in disaster impacted areas do not go hungry by safely preparing and/or serving meals to individuals, families and communities.



Disaster Client Mental Health Services

Licensed mental health professionals are needed to support individuals and families who have been impacted by disaster and provide support to other volunteers.

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.

Klaud's Pantry Postings

As we begin March, we have good news to report from the Door County Food Coalition. Waseda Farms donated over 200 dozen eggs to the coalition. Klaud's Pantry received over 30 dozen eggs which we are distributing to our patrons in the community.

During February we also did our first Community Talk called "Groceries and Grace." We were happy to have Adam (who oversees the Door County Food Coalition) speak as well as Amy and Barb from Shepherd of the Bay. Going forward we intend to do more community events to increase awareness of Klaud's Pantry and to increase our help to our neighbors in need.

Once again SNAP benefits are a concern which has caused an increase in the number of people using the pantry, and an increase in the volume of food being needed by our patrons. With that in mind we need donations of Cereal, canned fruit, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, yogurt, and milk. These are items which we see a great need for that go very quickly.

We are blessed to be a part of the Door County Food Coalition where we receive large amounts of food, as well as the many donations from our Family at Shepherd of the Bay. Thank you all for your support! We would not exist without you.

Yours truly, Barb Zage

Sign up to volunteer today!

redcross.org/volunteer



Lessons for March

March 1 : Second Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a

Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

Introduction: During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

March 8 : Third Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11

Holy Gospel : John 4:5-42

Introduction: In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

March 15 : Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

Introduction: Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

March 22 : Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11

Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45

Introduction: In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfulfilling promise in our baptism.

March 29 : Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms : Matthew 21:1-11

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

Introduction: Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

Readers:

March 1	Scott Henry
March 8	Sharon Bridges
March 15	Gloria Serkland
March 22	Marcia Eischen
March 29	Jane Mohit

Ushers :

March 1	Mike Eischen
March 8	Jim Grasse
March 15	Jim Grasse
March 22	OPEN
March 29	OPEN

Altar Guild:

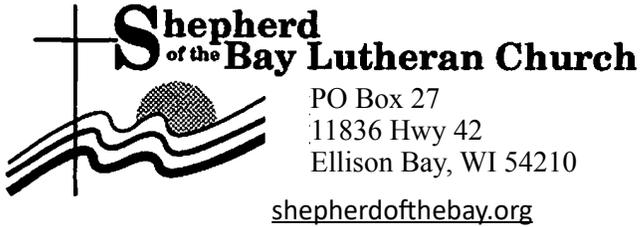
March	Sharon Pluff
April	OPEN

Communion Helpers :

*Please talk to Adam Johnson
if you can help with
communion.*

Altar Flowers

The 2026 Flower chart is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The Cost is \$25.00 per arrangement. Fill in your name, if it is in memory or honor of someone and if you want one or two arrangements. You can take the flowers home after the Service.



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 sotboffice@yahoo.com.

Easter Flowers Order Form

Back by popular demand, we are excited to offer a beautiful mixed-blooming bulb tray for the Easter altar. Each tray is available for \$15 and will add vibrant color and life to our Easter celebrations.

The Easter Flowers can be picked up after the service on Easter Sunday, April 5th. Please list your name, phone number and if the flowers are in memory or are in honor of someone.

Enclose your check with the form below and return it to the church office.

**The deadline for ordering plants will be
Thursday, March 26th**

Please Print -

NAME _____

PHONE _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____