



The Parish Door

February 2022



A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church

PO Box 27, Ellison Bay, WI. 54210

Shepherdofthebay.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

(920) 854-2988

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Sunday Morning Worship

Join us for Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30am in the sanctuary, parking lot, or in your own home.

We are encouraging everyone in the sanctuary to wear a mask. The east side (opposite the organ) will be the family section. We will be taking communion in the pews so you may pick up the bread and wine as you enter the sanctuary.

We will continue live streaming our Sunday morning Worship Service on shepherdofthebay.org/services beginning at 9:25am. We will post a recorded version of the live streamed service on our website for viewing later.

As a third option, you can continue to listen on your radio in your car from the parking lot. Communion will be available.

Lent Begins on March 2nd with Ash Wednesday

The staff and Congregation Council have had extensive conversations since November about whether we will hold in person Lenten services and meals this year. The consensus is that we would like to be able to do both. Tentatively, we are moving forward with that assumption. However, the current situation with Covid still leaves many questions unanswered and how best to provide for these important gatherings in our life together. We will need to finalize those plans before the March newsletter is published, so watch the weekly email or call the church office for updated plans about Lenten services and meals.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for January 30, 2022 has been postponed to Sunday, February, 27, 2022 immediately following the 9:30am church service.



Women's Bible Study

**Tuesday afternoons 2:00pm-3:00pm
beginning on February 1st.**

We are planning to have a 1 hour Study with optional fellowship afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

We will begin with the devotional book, "One Minute after Every Mile: Running the Race" by local author, Jo Anna Rieger. Contact the church office for a book or for more info.

One thing, thankfully, that most of us don't become experts at is knowing what should happen or how things should get done when someone dies and we prepare for the funeral. Often, people are confronted with those tasks suddenly; in other situations, those plans come after a long time of caring for someone who dies slowly.

As a pastor, I often hear words from a grieving family, "We just want to have a celebration of life." And I say, "Of course!" Celebrating is, in fact, what a funeral is all about. As Christians, we have much to celebrate in the context of death. We celebrate all at once the love we have for the one who has died and the love of God in Christ who holds our departed love one and also holds us in mercy, especially when we are grieving and lost.

Centuries ago, Martin Luther, who was a pastor as well as a theologian and reformer, reminded his parishioners that the funeral has two chief goals: to comfort those who mourn and to commend our beloved into God's care. Comfort and commendation are not solely about mourning. Comfort offers not just recognition of pain; it offers joy as well. In a funeral commendation, we are saying, "We want You, Holy One, to embrace this beloved one throughout eternity."

The funeral, in the Christian tradition is an important ritual event that has the capacity to carry our emotions and give us the peace that arises when we have marked a serious and important occasion. Someone who has been a part of our lives will be missed, and we need to name the words and deeds that live on in those who are mourning. Emotions never come one at a time. We are complicated. And when we are faced with a monumental change in our lives because someone we have relied on for decades or welcomed into our lives for only a short time has died, we want to express our love. We cry and laugh at the same time when we remember our loved one.

We learn from experts in sociology and psychology that grief is not something we shut out of our lives; grief is an essential response to love. Grief is love. A funeral is the occasion for giving over to God all the feelings that arise.

A critical aspect of ritual (and a funeral, like all worship, is a ritual event) is the fact that it has an ending. The funeral begins and, at the end, the moment comes when we leave the gravesite. Or maybe we don't go to the gravesite and we go into the fellowship hall for a meal. A curtain has been lifted and then lowered. Life goes on. We do not forget the one we yearn for and will continue to miss in the future, but we have given that relationship a ritual ending. Our grief is not over. It will come and go over the year or maybe forever, but holding a funeral puts a boundary around the conclusion of a life.

In our tradition, the funeral (or memorial service) begins with the promises of baptism: "When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. . ." And then with prayer, song, scripture readings, preaching, holy communion, and commendation, we surround ourselves with God's word that says we are not alone, we are not abandoned. At a time when hearts most need consolation, the funeral offers it.

One of the things that all of us can do that will offer particular help and comfort to our families is to do some thinking and planning about the kind of funeral we'd like to have when our loved ones remember us, celebrate our life, and commend us to God's care. I have put together a worksheet that can help you think about and plan for your own funeral service. Often, I sit with families as they struggle to remember the scripture passages that their loved one would have wanted read, or which hymns they wanted to be sung. Who should read the lessons? Who will give the eulogy, or would my loved one even have wanted a eulogy? The funeral planning guide will give you a chance to think about those things and offer indispensable guidance for your loved ones after your death.

As you complete the worksheet or after you have finished it, I would also encourage you to make an appointment with me so that we can talk through your hopes and address any questions you might have. The worksheet can be downloaded from our website and printed or you can contact the church office and we'd be happy to mail one to you.

In the face of death, we rejoice in the immense healing power of the gospel of Jesus. Remembering and experiencing that gospel is a vivid reminder that God's immeasurable love surrounds us at all times, in life, through death, and forever.

Have you ever noticed the Latin inscription found at the end of important musical compositions by Johann Sebastian Bach and George Friedrich Handel? *Soli Deo Gloria* appears at the end of every sacred work composed by Bach and many of his secular compositions, as well. Handel added this inscription to many of his oratorios, as did a lesser known (to us) composer Christoph Graupner. So what's this all about?

Translated into English, the Latin phrase means *To God Alone Is the Glory* or *Glory to God Alone*. When someone affixes this phrase to a composition or a work of art or to the end (or beginning) of a conversation, the understanding is that whatever has been created or spoken is meant for the glory of God, not for ourselves.

In this age of self-glorification, our society continues the age-old tendency to celebrate the celebrity, whether s/he is a famous solo musician or talented novelist or a valued musical composer. We tend to applaud the performers and overlook the majesty of the original work of art. Bach and Handel shined a different light on their life's works, however, pointing to God in all things, giving glory and attribution to One who is beyond all human endeavors. God, the source of all creation, was the focal point of every effort, the inspiration for everything that had beauty, meaning and purpose.

This concept of attributing all good and creative things to God was perhaps the inspiration for Fanny Jane Crosby's words, set to music by William Howard Doane in 1875. The marriage of music and text remains familiar to our ears a century and a half later. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

*To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!*

*Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!*

I hope to see you in church, where we can gather together to glorify God in our singing, in our praying and in our fellowship. What a family of believers we have become! May we continue to find God in every corner of our lives and give God the glory!

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Soli Deo Gloria!

Blessings to you all,
Judith Jackson
Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist



Building and Grounds Committee

The Building and Grounds Committee is looking for a new member, ladies you are welcome. New perspectives are always welcome. Contact Tom Tuttle if you are interested.

Church Cleaning – No responses from personal contacts or the high school job posting have been received to date. Two cleaning companies have been contacted with only one returning quote. A help wanted advertisement has also been placed in the Pulse. In the meantime, a small group of volunteers have been cleaning the building since the end of November. Thank you to Ruth Ann Hjelle and Erik Olson, Grace and Glen Rossman, Scott Thies, Jane and Dick Burress.

Building Maintenance

Rear Entrance Ladies Restroom – The fan in the space heater started making a lot of noise recently. The problem was a worn bearing on the fan motor which was allowing the fan blade to hit the grill on the front of the heater. The motor bearing was not serviceable, so the heater was replaced with an energy efficient electric radiator. The new unit has been working for just over 1 week now and seems to be doing a good job keeping the room warm during our recent cold spell.



Holding Tank Filling – In the December newsletter, I reported an issue with the holding tank filling prematurely. As it turns out, we were filling the 5000gal tank every 2 weeks. The tank was emptied 3 times from early December to January 2nd and each time 5000 gallons was removed. Two problems were found. The first, was that one of the steamers used to humidify the air inside the building was using more water than necessary, so excess water was running down the drain. Eagle Mechanical came in early January to repair the unit and it is now working properly. The toilets were checked to make sure they were not leaking, and all the flapper valves were replaced as a precaution. One toilet in the Men's Room also had a bad fill valve and was replaced. The holding tank was pumped again on January 19th and only 2000 gallons were removed.

Nativity – The nativity will be taken down sometime in the next week or so when the weather gets warmer.

AV Desk – There have been a couple technical issues recently that have caused us to miss live streaming Sunday morning. Unfortunately, when it happens there is no way for us to communicate that problem to those of you who may already be online waiting for the service to begin. We do apologize. Carol has researched it, and we have fixed the problem. If it happens again, we should be prepared. No guarantees though as there always seems to be another curve ball waiting to be thrown. Drop us a line every now and then to let us know how we are doing and if there is something that we could do to help improve your online experience.

Thomas Tuttle - Chair Buildings and Grounds

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding the building or grounds, please feel free to mention them to any of the Building and Grounds committee members, Eloise Lindem, Karl Omernick, Joel Thomas, Scott Thies or me. If none of us are around, send me an email or drop a note in the message holder on the custodian's closet door in the narthex (the door between the 2 restrooms). Thank you.

Interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or a Stephen Minister Leader as we move into 2022?

There is a need for new Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers at SOTB. The Stephen Leader Team of SOTB is beginning to reevaluate our mission and outreach for the coming years. We want you to help with this project.

If you would like a Stephen Minister to contact you regarding a need for a care giver - contact: George Cobb (920-421-2702) Carol Omernick (920-421-1965) or the Church office (920-854-2988)



Youth and Family Ministry News

from Lynda Pietruszka

720-227-4079 or sotb.lynda@gmail.com

Here are just a few “Valentines” from Jesus. 1 John 4:19, 1 John 4:7, 1 John 4:12, Proverbs 3:5, Deuteronomy 6:5, and 1 Corinthians 13:13. Be joyfilled!!

MILE STONE MINISTRY!!

Come to worship, **Sunday, February 6th** at 9:30 a.m. as we **bleed our new drivers** with your prayers for continued safety !!

Little Lambs Bible Story Time

For infants, toddlers, preschoolers,
and their care providers

Meets **every Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** For the most part, we are bundling up and playing outside. Inside days, masks required. **Please call ahead if you are new to the group.** Sometimes we go off schedule and take a spontaneous field trip!!

Wed. 2/2- God Created People, Friends and Family!

Wed. 2/9- A Valentine from Jesus! The Good Samaritan!

Wed. 2/16- God loves Diversity!

Wed. 2/23- Zacchaeus

Wonderful Wednesdays “Journey Together”

For school children **grades 1-6**, preregister to **ride the Gibraltar School Bus** to Shepherd of the Bay, after school each **first and third Wednesday** of the month for a special time of being together, learning and growing in faith; and having a blast all at the same time! Music, snacks, arts and crafts, stories, service to the community, games and more!

Wed. 2/2 **God Loves Me!** A Valentine party celebration and a church scavenger hunt!

Wed. 2/16 **Followers of Jesus can pray in all kinds of ways** using words, movements, and their senses! We will do a **service project** for the community tonight too!

Sunday School

Sunday School gathers during the children’s message at our 9:30 worship service. Children process upstairs to Sunday School. Dismissal at the end of worship. Please meet your child upstairs and sign him/her out. We continue to wear masks.

Feb. 6th- The Disciples Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3

Feb. 13th- The Beatitudes Luke 6:17-26

Feb. 20th- Joseph Feeds His Family Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Feb. 27th- The Transfiguration Luke 9:28-36

Confirmation

Students in grades 7 and 8

The SOTB van will be outside Gibraltar after school to pick Confirmation students up on **Wed. Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23rd**. The Topic for the month is “**Discipleship**”. We will also take on a fund raising and outreach project!

High School Youth Group

Students in grades 9-12

We will meet the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of the month. Stay tuned to your email, text messages, newsletter & our SOTB Youth face book page for updated information!

Wed. 2/9 - **Special meeting** for students heading to the **National Youth Gathering at 6pm**. Remaining Students, please join us at 6:30 p.m. for “**Gods Boundless Love for Us**”! Pink Paint Valentines!!

Wed. 2/23- All out Service Project! Time to Wash some...feet?

Thank you for the wonderful response to my request for volunteers this year! Now it is time to bring back a strong Youth Council!! I am prayerfully seeking youth loving adults who might serve as a representative and “partner in crime” with Lynda, in planning, decision making, and implementing specific programs within the ministry. We would meet quarterly for planning, and “check in” when decisions are needed. You would also be encouraged to volunteer your time to be the much needed, extra adult Lynda needs each time we run a program (along with other volunteers!). Training and background checks, and opportunities to either lead or follow, a plus! Be in prayer. God might be calling your name to be a part of the ministry!

The Council Reps needed are as follows:

High School Youth (Both adult and HS Youth), Confirmation, Sunday School, Little Lambs, Wonderful Wednesdays, Summer Wonderful Wednesdays, Nursery, Pray Ground, Milestone Ministry, Family Ministry, and Intergenerational Ministry

Cooper Gaddes proudly shows his banana bread he made in Cooking 101, with youth group! Thank you to all who were able to purchase banana bread from our fundraiser!



WELCA Book Selections for 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.

February 17

Door County’s Big Read for 2022 – Michael Perry’s **Population 485**; Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a time (2002) **AND** his **Truck**; a love story (2007). Wisconsin author who writes about his local area around New Auburn – considered an excellent observer of rural WI communities and their inhabitants.

March 18

Bennett, Brit. **The Vanishing Half**. 2020. Black twins who run away from their southern black community. One of them “passes” into the white world and doesn’t disclose her heritage to her husband; she raises her black daughter in the area she ran away from. The award-winning novel explores the ramifications of the choices they made.

Klaud’s Food Pantry

We are so grateful for all the donations and financial support this past year.

In February, we can use:

- Canned meat: Tuna, Chicken, etc.
- Juice: Bottled and Frozen
- Soup: Canned or mixes
- Frozen Fruit and Vegetables
- Frozen Pizzas
- Frozen Dinners
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Feminine Products

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad & Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to **CREATE A LOGIN** the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, **OR** if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



Donate your Old Cell Phones

Did you get a new cell phone for Christmas? We are collecting old cell phones for HELP of Door County. They recycle them and get credit towards new phones that can be given to domestic violence victims who need them. There is a basket in the narthex for the donated phones.

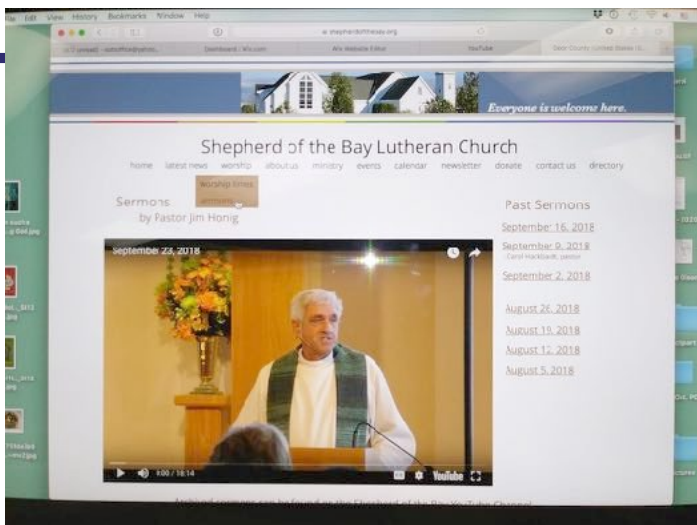


AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that Amazon has a donation program called Amazon Smile? Just make sure to go to smile.amazon.com each time you shop through Amazon and choose Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, Ellison Bay, WI as your charity, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to us. Easy with no additional cost to you!

If you prefer using the Amazon App, update to the newest version and you can shop Amazon Smile through the app without having to go on the website.

shepherdofthebay.org



Go to shepherdofthebay.org to:

- See the **live stream** of the Sunday Service.
- Find the current issue of the **Parish Door Newsletter** and archive of the last 2 years.
- Read the **2020 Annual Report & watch a recording of the Annual Meeting**
- Send a **prayer request**.
- See the **Calendar**.
- Sign up and **manage your online giving**.
- Access the updated **Directory** of current members and friends of SOTB.

See lots of photos of what is happening!



One Baptism

The "one" theme of Ephesians 4:4-6 assures us that we need to be baptized only once. Yet a relationship with God involves approaching him with a humble heart each day.

Directions: Inside the 1, fill in words using the spaces as a guide. Then unscramble the circled and boxed letters to reveal John's message about baptism in Mark 1:4.

hope
Spirit
body
baptism
Lord
Father
God

---y
i
n_nce
r
v_n

Answers: body, Spirit hope, Lord, baptism, God, Father, repentance, forgiveness



A NEW CREATION

The apostle Paul says everyone who believes in Jesus becomes brand new.

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.

THIEROEFQORXEIDFAMNYAON
SEILSITNCVHRKISDTTBHEWNE
QWCDREYATMIOC�HFASWCOR
MEGTHWEOFLDXHASSGZONL
ETJHEWNEQWIDSHREROE

----- | 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Bible Quiz

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

- A. 200-300
- B. 400-500
- C. 600-700
- D. 800-900

Shepherd of the Bay Council Zoom Minutes

Jan. 17, 2022

Present: Pastor Jim Honig, Richard Burress, Ron Hupe, Vicki Amundson, Tricia Pierson, George Cobb, Micky Swanson, Scott Eckdahl, Edee Madsen, Les Keepper, Lynda Pietruszka, Sue Daubner, George Cobb

7:00 PM President Dick Burress called the meeting to order

Devotional/Prayer by Scott Eckdahl

Approval of December 13, 2021 minutes

Minutes of Budget Meeting regarding Building and Grounds. Correction of the Building and Grounds report. Recommends \$10,000 for the major maintenance fund for 2022, line 7450.

Treasurers Report – Ron Hupe

Corrections noted on calculations for Pastors salary.

1. Pastor Jims report -

Outlined opportunity to assist in the settlement of Afghan refugees in Green Bay
Explained and discussed required Boundaries Training for ELCA clergy

2. B & G – Planning brush burning. Folks are welcome to join in!
Found and repaired pipe leakage that resulted in higher pump schedule.

3. Youth Ministry – Lynda Pietruszka
Update on Covid Protocols
Good results on banana bread sales
Milestone Ministry honoring early readers with a book to take home
Explained different goals and projects currently in the works

Motion to approve reports – George Cobb

Old Business

Discussed Annual Meeting. Motion approved to postpone the Annual Meeting to February 27

Discussed re-opening the Church for in-person service starting January 23. Also, meetings and organizations can also use the church with adherence to Covid protocols.

New Business

The HOA of Norrland Condominiums has again requested to meet at SOTB for their annual owners meeting on May 28.

Alcohol Anonymous has requested the use of the choir room for their monthly meetings.

Motion to accept by Dick Burress and second by Les Keepper. Motion Passed.

Next Council Meeting, February 14, 2022

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Daubner, Secretary

Lessons for February

February 6 : Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Introduction to the readings: The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

February 13 : Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Holy Gospel : Luke 6:17-26

Introduction to the readings: Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

February 20 : Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Introduction to the readings: Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

February 27 : Transfiguration of Our Lord

First Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:12 - - 4:2

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Introduction to the readings: Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

Service Volunteers Needed for 2022

We need Readers, Ushers, Altar Guild, & Communion Helpers for the entire calendar year of 2022.

If you would like to **read**, contact Scott Henry at scott@henry.org.

If you would like to be an **usher**, contact Cheryl Becht at clbecht1248@gmail.com.

If you would like to help with **communion**, contact Sue Daubner at sue@profrealtydc.com.

If you would like to be on the **Altar Guild**, contact Sharon Pluff at bspluff@frontier.com.

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

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