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

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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## This My Church Shall Be

I'm writing this on the day after our congregational celebration at the Retirement of Debt. I'm basking in the afterglow of such a great celebration of ministry. You all made it such a great day -- you showed up for worship, you stayed for the brief congregational meeting, you went out to the outdoor worship space, you filled fellowship hall for our congregational potluck, and most of all you brought your spirit and enthusiasm that made it truly a memorable day.

Thank you to so many people -- to the council and other leaders for the vision and imagination to have this party, to those who set up for the potluck, to all those who made worship so special, to those who prepared our outdoor worship space, to those who spoke, to those whose shoulders we stand on, to those who brought food, to those who engaged in conversation around the banquet tables -- thank you to all of you.

And thank you to all of you whose faithful giving over the past many years has brought us to this point. Thank you for your commitment to continue this ministry into the future, now building on the legacy of the past to walk boldly into the future God is inviting us into.

And most of all, thanks be to God, for God's faithfulness, goodness, guidance, and promises. *Soli Deo gloria!!*



Left to right: Treasurer Grace Rossman with the mortgage! Brent Hitzeman throwing the mortgage into the fire. Erv Hitzeman, chairman of the building committee with wife, Carolyn.

Below: The fellowship hall full as we celebrate with a pot luck lunch.



## OUR DEBTS ARE PAID – NOW WHAT???

As I sit here at my computer, I continue to bask in the remarkable accomplishment that our church has achieved. Our enormous debts have been paid, the ledger is clean ... we have celebrated together, burned the mortgage in our outdoor worship space, had a festive feast after a beautiful worship and rededication service ... the organ played, the choir sang, the congregation participated fully in song, with joyful hearts and thanksgiving.

NOW WHAT? Is this all there is? Are we finished with our work together, both inside our walls and out in the community? I TRULY HOPE NOT! This is a time of reimagining our presence in the world, being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and beyond.

Two Irish hymns come to mind in my attempt to envision our journey going forward together. The first, “We Sing to You, O God” is also known as LOVE UNKNOWN ... but we know the source of this love, don’t we?

### WE SING TO YOU, O GOD Gracia Grindal, text - John Ireland, music

*We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth,  
Let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.  
To you, O God, let songs be raised,  
In joyful hymns, our feast of praise.*

*We wandered far from home out in a desert land,  
You shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.  
You kept us safe within your arms  
And sheltered us against the storm.*

*You bear us through the world, an eagle to its young;  
You rise up on your wings and bear us toward the sun.  
We ride the vaults of light and air  
And trust in your unfailing care.*

*O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,  
The everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.  
Your word is true, your way is just,  
You are the God in whom we trust.*

Is our work together finished, now that we have accomplished our very formidable financial goal? Have the people of Shepherd of the Bay crossed the finish line and can now rest on the success of our journey together? Permit me to explore a thought: *Now that this door has been closed on our long-standing obligations, we see a window of opportunity opening and shining brightly before us.* How will we respond to the opportunities of the future now presented to us?

### BE THOU MY VISION Irish, 8<sup>th</sup> century, Mary E. Byrne, text Irish traditional, SLANE

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
Thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower,  
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Light of my soul, after victory won,  
May I reach heaven’s joys, O heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

Let us ever follow Jesus, mindful of his leadership and the expectations he has for us. I suppose we now find ourselves at a crossroads: is it a finish line, or do we stand at the beginning of the race, ready to run forward with effort and joy? Together we can continue to do mighty things in our community, trusting that God will lead the way. How will we proceed? How can we say "no"?

**Light of my soul, after victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Blessings to you all!

Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist

## 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 community programs.



Thanks to everyone who helped hand out Freezie Pops at the Door County Triathlon. We made \$500 for the Guatemala Mission.

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**Cut Up Club** will meet Monday, August 28th, at 9:00 a.m.! We will begin preparing supplies for our Children, and Youth participating in fall programs!

Come for a light breakfast, fellowship, and prep!

Cut Up Club, the original name came from a small group of friends who got together around a kitchen table and spent the morning "cutting" out shapes and letters for our children and youth programs. Then it evolved into organizing supplies, filling treat bags, doing small, administrative tasks, writing cards, or making phone calls. We've even been known to deliver the task to your home if you are not able to get to the church building! There are tasks for all levels of physical ability! You might even make some new friends, and enjoy hearing all about what our children and youth are up to!

**RSVP to Lynda and invite a friend!**

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is looking for a few people who can help out anytime during the months of October and November. This is mainly setting up and cleaning up communion on Sundays.

If you would like more information, call Sharon Pluff at 920-421-2113.

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## CONFIDENTIAL!

*Stephen Ministry is confidential! Why?*

Because trust is vital for a caring relationship. We all experience situations that may leave us feeling vulnerable. When we discuss our feelings and open up to others, we must trust the other person. This trust is based on feeling confident that the information is not going to be shared.

Stephen Ministers take a vow of confidentiality! They do not share vital information about the relationship. They walk with the care receiver, not talk about the care receiver. The identity of care receivers is not shared.

Confidentiality is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry!

If you want to talk to someone about Stephen Ministry or having a care giver, talk to Pastor Jim, George Cobb at 920-421-2702 or call Carol in the church office, 930-854-2988.

## Building and Grounds Committee

**Garden Club** – Still looking for volunteers to adopt a flower bed. If you could spend some time weeding a flower bed your help would be greatly appreciated. You do not have to commit to every week. Come when you can or when your flower bed needs attention. Talk to Scott Theis or Tom Tuttle. We can set you up to do what you like, whenever it is convenient for you.

**Solar Power for the Church** – The Committee has asked the Council to consider at their July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, what parameters (% reduction in electricity usage or monthly cost, what total cost, what return on investment, etc) should be used by the Committee while they are investigating. The Committee has received responses from all 4 suppliers that were initially contacted. One supplier declined to quote due to the size of the system needed. A second supplier has provided a budgetary quote for a 48kW system (sized based on our past 24 months usage). After incentives and rebates the approximate cost of this system would be \$90,000 with a return on investment calculated at 16-17 years. The system would produce approximately 58% of our annual electricity usage. It would be a ground based fixed array of 120 panels located NE of the Bus Barn. A meeting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> supplier is scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>. Several phone conversations have been had with the 4<sup>th</sup> supplier with his quote due by July 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Council requested B&G to investigate the potential for a solar electric installation at the church. B&Gs investigated this 5 years ago and the investment payback was not very attractive at that time. Since then a number of things have changed and it is worth revisiting it again. The electric usage has been reduced over the last several years which has helped us stay ahead of inflation, however our electric utility bill is still a significant amount. The annual usage has been compiled for the last 24 months and provided to several companies. They are in the process of putting their proposals together with their quotes.

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, Dick Burrell, 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). 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.

## Thriving Congregations



July was a busy month for the Thriving Congregation team. Our instructors, Tim Conder and Dan Rhodes, from the Black Mountain School of Theology and Community visited the for their site visit. They visit each church that participates in the Thriving Congregation program. They were here on July 23 for our Debt Retirement, also known as Mortgage Burning, Celebration and Picnic. After the picnic the team met with them to review our progress, then Pastor Jim drove us on the church bus to Northport, through The Clearing, to Baileys Harbor, over to Egg Harbor, then back to our church to show them the most of our communities. Tim, Dan and his wife were graciously hosted by Les and Julia Keeper during their visit.

Our next big activity for Thriving Congregation will be the house meetings. In July we finalized who the house leaders will be. Tara developed a training program for the leaders and that training was conducted on July 24 and 25. We will also conduct training in for a couple of youth so that they will lead some youth sessions. We are excited to get their input.

In early August we will announce the dates and times and sign up procedures for the house meetings. Some of them will be in people's homes and some will be at church. We will have day and evening sessions to accommodate people's schedules and preferences. They will be 60-90 minutes long and will provide an opportunity for 8-12 people to get to know each other better and to share some hopes and dreams with each other. The information for all of the meetings will be reviewed to help determine next steps in this program. We hope that many of you will attend.

As always we thank you for your interest and participation, and especially your prayers, as we continue our efforts to thicken the relationships within our church and thin the walls between our church and the communities we serve. With our major debt behind us we are positioned to reimagine the future and how we will use our time and resources to address our internal needs and the needs of our communities.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact any team member, or me at 920-839-5013 or amundsonv@aol.com. Vicki Amundson



## Youth and Family Ministry News

from Lynda Pietruszka

720-227-4079 or [sotb.lynda@gmail.com](mailto:sotb.lynda@gmail.com)

A big shout out and thank you to all the volunteers who were able to spend time with our kids at Summer Wonderful Wednesdays! As I write this, we still have three Wednesdays to go!! August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>!

Come join in on the fun!



## Presenting ... Third Sundays, "Pancakes and Praise"!!!

Mark your Calendars! For a very special back to school day, **Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**!

Bring your school Back Packs for a special Blessing at Children's moment! Then, after Communion, Families!! follow Miss Lynda and Miss Kristi upstairs for "Pancakes and Praise", followed by a very special presentation by Debbie Clement, Author of "Mighty Wings" and other Children's Stories!

Miss Debbie will be presenting her music, stories, and joy filled activities all centering around God's Creation, the Monarch Butterfly!!



**If you can answer yes to any of the following questions, perhaps you are being called to nurture the faith walk of a small child, or youth in our congregation!**

1. Can you prepare a snack for a variety of age children?
2. Are you able to greet school children as they arrive on the bus from Gibraltar School to SOTB for Wonderful Wednesdays?
3. Can you sit in a chair and be a second pair of eyes?
4. Would you like to be part of the "Cut Up Club" prepping items for children's programs, either with a small group at church, or the comfort of your own home, on your own time?
5. Can you lead music? Play the guitar, or piano, and teach our children songs for the Christmas program and other special occasions?
6. Can you help coordinate costumes and scenery with Lynda for the Children's Christmas program?
7. Are you comfortable making phone calls to families to remind them of upcoming events?
8. Would you like to assist Lynda with Wonderful Wednesdays?
9. Do you enjoy reading to children?
10. Do you enjoy drama, or leading a puppet show?
11. Would you like to chaperone outings to service project and other events with our high school youth?
12. Would you like to serve on a subcommittee for our youth? For example, the Faith Filled Fast, or the trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, summer of 2024?
13. Do you like to clean and organize? Classrooms, craft and other supply closets.
14. Would you like to assist in delivering/ mailing the cards from our card ministry?
15. Would you like to play with and help preschool age children?
16. Do you have a special talent or skill to share with our children?
17. Would you like to be our pancake maker for "Praise and Pancakes" 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month?
18. Would you like to shop for supplies in Sturgeon Bay, once per month?
19. Are you able to help make no-sew blankets for our graduation seniors?
20. Can you be a prayer warrior for the ministry?

# **August Concert Opportunities**

## *Showcasing Two Wonderfully Talented Young Artists*



Tuesday, August 22 at 7:00 pm, **Laura Bottei** will present an evening of organ music here at Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church. Laura is a native of Green Bay who recently graduated with her master's degree in organ performance from Indiana University. We will enjoy an eclectic program of German baroque music well-suited for SOTB's Dobson organ, but also several more modern works, including those by American composers Brenda Portman and Leo Sowerby..



Wednesday, August 30 at 7:00 pm, **Jonathan Bass** will return to Shepherd of the Bay to perform a solo piano concert. Jonathan is a native to Washington Island, WI and is currently a senior at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, where he was named a winner of the concerto competition. A recipient of the Marjory Irvin Prize and the Margaret Gary Daniels Keyboard Performance Award, Jonathan holds a Lawrence University Accompanying Fellowship, and is active as both a soloist and collaborative pianist. He is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy as well as a winner of the Wisconsin MTNA competition, Jonathan is also an alumnus of numerous summer music festivals, including Birch Creek, Rocky Ridge, Brevard, and the Decoda Chamber Music Festival, for which he was awarded a full-tuition fellowship. Jonathan will present an inspiring program of music by such masters as J. S. Bach, Cécile Chaminade, and Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Both concert are offered free to the public. A free-will offering will be received in support of our two young artists. There will be an opportunity to meet each of these two very gifted young people following their programs.

Please be sure to join us on **Tuesday, August 22 and Wednesday, August 30 at 7:00 p.m.** for two delightful evenings of music here at Shepherd of the Bay. Make sure to spread the word to your friends and family.

## **Cycling Without Age**

Cycling Without Age will be offering short trishaw rides around the parking lot on Sunday, August 27, following the 9:30 a.m. church service. There will be two trishaws, so 4 people can ride at a time. If you are interested in going for a ride, sign up for a time with Jane Burrress by calling or e-mailing her at 920-854-4808 or [jgburrress@charter.net](mailto:jgburrress@charter.net) or let her know on a Sunday morning prior to the 27<sup>th</sup>.

While you are waiting for your time slot, you can enjoy coffee and conversation in the fellowship hall. There will be 10-minute time slots and when it's your turn, someone will come and find you in the fellowship hall. Liability release forms will also be available to sign prior to the ride. If you have any questions, contact Jane.

### **SHEPHERD OF THE BAY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

No Council Meeting was held in July

## **Klaud's Food Pantry**

There continues to be an increase in Pantry use, so any and all donations are gratefully received. Suggested items are:

- Canned meats & Peanut butter
- Jams or jellies
- Mac and cheese
- Boxed cereal
- Any canned veggies or fruit
- All types of beans
- Pasta/Rice and sauce
- Jarred relishes & pickles
- Snack bars
- Coffee

We can always use refrigerator and freezer items, plus hygiene, cleaning supplies and dog or cat food.

Thank you for your continued support.

God' Blessings!

# Lessons for August

## August 6: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31

Second Lesson: Romans 9:1-5

Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

**Prayer of the Day:** Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## August 13 : Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 37:1-4;12-28

Second Lesson: Romans 10:5-15

Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

**Prayer of the Day:** O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## August 20 :Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15

Second Lesson: Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21-28

**Prayer of the Day:** God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## August 27 : Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Exodus 1:8- - 2:10

Second Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

**Prayer of the Day:** O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Sanctuary Altar Flowers

The 2023 Flower chart is on the bulletin board in the hallway to the fellowship hall. 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. Please sign up to donate Altar Flowers.



Grace Rossman - President of SOTB  
Unit Women of the ELCA

### 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](mailto: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.**

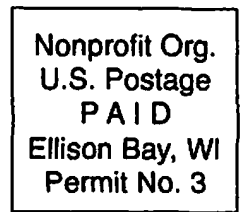
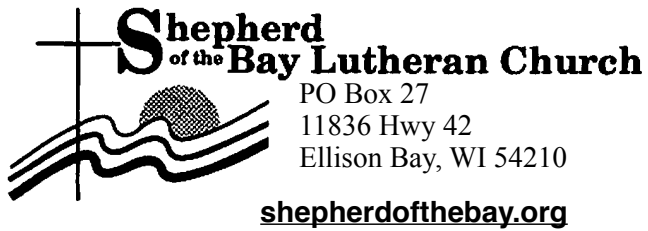
If you want to be included as a recipient of the Prayer Chain, and pray for those in need, contact Cheri Boock at 920-854-5493 or cell 920-421-1210 or the above email.

### 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.

#### August 20

- Ng, Celeste. **Our Missing Hearts**. 2022. Novel of 12-year old boy whose Chinese mother disappeared when he was 9, leaving him with his linguist father who is shelving books at Harvard University. Story is set in a future authoritarian society that is banning books and discriminating against non-white people. He sets out on a quest to find out what happened to his mother.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### Be Like John

John Skogsbakken likes volunteering with the Wonderful Wednesdays kids. Playing with them keeps John young. Do you want to stay young? Be like John and volunteer to play with the kids. Contact Lynda for more information.