



The Parish Door

March 2023

A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Shepherdofthebay.org

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Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays during Lent, we will again be celebrating with services preparing us for Easter. Each service will begin at 6:15pm will last approx. 45 minutes. Services will include music, readings, and communion. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us. Invite your friends. All are welcome!

All Services Proceeded by a Warm Meal

Come and enjoy a good hot meal in the middle of winter which you don't have to cook. Cost is \$5.00 per person with children 7 and younger eating for free!

There will be a different menu every Wednesday night starting with a soup and bread buffet with cheesecake for dessert on March 1st. Other meals will include Empanadas, Baked Potato Bar, and much more. All meals include beverage and dessert. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Registration is not required but it helps us plan how much food to prepare. You can sign up in the narthex at church or on our website, shepherdofthebay.org

The proceeds from each meal will help fund Youth Camps, Guatemala missions, Klaud's Pantry, and other activities of the church.

**All Meals Start at 5:30PM
and Services at 6:15PM**

Synod Youth Gathering

Middle and High School youth had a great time at Imago Dei Village for the Synod Youth Gathering on Feb. 17-19th. Read more in the Youth and Family Report on page 7.

Front row: Lynda Pietruszka, Abby Nelson, Zoe Armbruster, Carena Reisen.

Back row: Bobby Oppen, Xavier Gaddes, Cooper Gaddes.



Everyone is given the same amount of time. No matter how young or old you are, there are the same number of seconds in a minute, the same number of minutes in an hour, and the same number of hours in a day.

Yet we talk about time as if it's a variable commodity. "I don't have enough time," we say, yet we have the same amount of time in a day that we've always had. Or we might conversely say, "He just has too much time on his hands," even though we know logically that he has the same amount of time as everyone else.

Even though time is a fixed commodity, we experience it in different ways. Given a long stretch of moments in which there is little to do, you are bored, or restricted in the kinds of activities you can do, time may seem to pass very slowly. An hour can seem like an eternity. Or go off on a vacation that you have been anticipating for years, that rare vacation when everything goes just right, and it will seem like 10 days has passed in the blink of an eye.

Time really is a strange, yet wonderful part of the human experience.

Have you ever thought much about the stewardship of time? If time is a gift, if it is a gift that comes to us in a fixed amount — we can neither gain more time, nor give up any time — then it follows that we are called to make the best use of the time we have.

I want to assure you that the rest of this article is not going to be a series of "should's" about how you should be using your time. But I do aim to give you a few things to think about as you consider being a good steward of your time.

One of the truisms of the modern world is that there are a thousand things clamoring for our time. And many of them are mere distractions that constantly pick at us to spend our time. We have our gadgets and devices — phones and tablets, computers and smartwatches. Many of us have the notifications on and we respond to the alerts as Pavlov's dogs responded to the bell. Which means that even when it's nothing all that important, we stop to look at the device that has just called out to us.

So, part of being good stewards of time is to be mindful of the number of devices and distractions there are around us. And if they are stealing too much of your time, make some changes. Put them in a space where you can't see them or hear them. Carve out blocks of time when you will not look and or use devices or technology.

Another truism of the modern world is that we are busy. We try to cram a lot of stuff into the limited amount of time that we have been given. But I'm convinced that God did not create us to be on the move and on the go all the time. Even when God was creating the world, God set aside a specific period of time for rest, a time when God could take a break from work. So, also, I think it's part of good stewardship of time to rest, to take space for quiet, for silence, for worship, and for prayer. For me, that's how I start my day. I get up early, and I sit in the dark with my first cup of coffee for a time of quiet, slow reflection and prayer. I also carve out space for journaling and writing, for meditation. And I try to end each day in the same way, with space for quiet, for reflection and prayer, for giving thanks. And I am convinced that the weekly time for worship is a need that God built into us. A time to remember that we are creatures called to worship our Creator, and to be in community that reminds us how much we need each other.

Finally, I think that part of being good stewards of time is to be intentional about how we use the limited amount of time we are given. Most of you who are reading these words are at the stage of life where statistically speaking, you have more of your life behind you than in front of you. We come to a stark realization that life is limited, that when all is said and one, the span of life is pretty short, and we are not going to live forever. Which is a good reason to engage in a little self-reflection. If I know that the amount of time I have left is limited, how do I want to spend it? Or maybe more pointedly, how is God calling me to use my time? Am I using my time in such a way that my gifts are being used for the sake of God, my neighbor, and God's intentions for the world? Are there things that are taking up time in my life that are best let go of and leave behind? Are there ways that I want to make better use of the limited time that I have?

I pray for you God's blessings as you consider your call to be a good steward of your time. If you have your own tips for how to be a good steward of your time, I'd love to hear about them. If your reflection about your own stewardship of time leads to some insights or even some changes, I'd love to hear about that, too. And in the meantime (pun intended), continue to delight in the gift of time that God has given.

Remembering Bruce & Jan

Thank you so much for this opportunity to share with you a little bit of our time shared with Bruce and Jan Mielke. They were our neighbors for over 30 years, and we are deeply saddened by their untimely passing. They were both avid walkers, and because of this, we would see them as often as twice daily walking past our home, Bruce with his red jacket on in the winter, and, in the summer, wearing his trademark white shirt and white wide-brimmed hat. As soon as he would see us, he would call out a friendly hello and give a big wave, even calling across our yard if we were in the back. It was during these daily walks that we got to know them, and we became even closer through our shared talks. Bruce seemed to know something about everything! It could be about the birds, upcoming weather, astronomy, politics, even the return of the frog peepers in the spring! He also had a vast collection of jazz records, which we found out about when he told us he sold part of his collection to a buyer in England. His depth and breadth of knowledge over such a wide variety of topics was simply amazing, and sometimes we would talk so long that soon the wind would be battering us, or the sun beating down, but Bruce's friendly demeanor, and zest for life and conversation never wavered. Bruce and Jan also came to know our whole family as each of our children were born, and they witnessed their growth and often came to our family birthday celebrations (Bruce and our son, Jack, shared the same birthday, St. Patrick's Day), and later graduations. A few times Jan even dressed up as a friendly garden fairy for Halloween and invited the small and close-knit group of neighborhood children over to their home for trick or treating!



Bruce and Jan were known throughout our entire neighborhood for their friendly and outgoing nature, and if you happened to drive down Europe Bay Road, chances are you would often see a car slowed and stopped, and there'd be Bruce and Jan, with their Australian Shepherd dogs in tow, deep in conversation with the motorists. They could talk about anything and everything, even what they'd be making for dinner, and with Jan, it'd usually be something French and very culinary artistic! They also always showed interest in what our family was doing, and often sent birthday cards to our children when they were young.

Throughout our many roadside talks and conversations, we learned that they were both only children raised in Milwaukee. They found out years later that they grew up mere blocks from each other! We learned of their times teaching out east, and then at the UW- Green Bay. We heard of their many trips to France, which they absolutely loved! (I think the last time that I visited with Jan, she had mentioned that it was 17 times!) Jan was also so creative and artistic. Once when I was over at their home, she shared with me one of the many beautiful journals she made yearly that included some of these trips, as well as all the positive highlights she experienced that year. Her "happy books", she would say with a smile!

Both Bruce and Jan truly loved nature and the outdoors, and knew so much about the trees and plants in the area. They worked hard in their gardens and even made their own pond to attract the songbirds and frogs.

Sometimes, during walks down the road in the summertime, Jan could be seen with a handful of wild asparagus that she found along the way, with plans now for an impromptu dinner of fresh asparagus! Jan also liked to pick the little wild strawberries from our shared fields path and made the best strawberry muffins, often delivering them to our back door- a real labor of love, considering she had to bend over and pick these tiny berries, in the heat of late June, and it took a lot of effort to pick a couple cups!! She was so gracious and generous to share these with us, and we felt very blessed indeed! Jan was also funny with a great and sharp wit. She was also very strong, persevering through so much with health issues, and later with Bruce's beginning onset of dementia, but you would never know it, as she would often laugh through very painful situations. She was so strong in her faith and she accepted these hardships in her life without complaints. This was evident even when Bruce was in the hospital, and she was dealing with having to go on her own to face her own time in the hospital, and she wouldn't be able to be with him, she was still so amazingly strong, and would brush aside her pain, saying that they'd get through this together!

Bruce and Jan were generous and the very kindest of neighbors, and we are fortunate to have lived near them for three decades. If you happen to drive down Europe Bay Road this summer and see sweet peas growing alongside the road, that will be because of Jan. Over the many years she and Bruce walked down the road, she scattered the seeds of this beautiful purple flower with curling tendrils. I joked and told her she was Jan Sweet pea- just like Johnny Appleseed! And now, whenever I see them grow, I am thankful for her and Bruce, and the time they shared their life together with us.

This is only just a small window into Bruce and Jan Mielke's life together, one seen from our perspective. Even though our relationship is one that started out as neighbors, it grew into something so much more... and oh, how greatly they are missed!!

Most sincerely, Camilla and Brent Hitzeman



Two Seasons, Two Texts, A Single Melody

We have recently walked through the Season of Epiphany, with its emphasis on light, from the Star of Bethlehem leading the magi to the Christchild, the manifestation of Jesus being the Son of God, the revelation from Jesus that we too are the children of God and as such, we are to become beacons in the world, revealing the true light of God to our friends and neighbors.

Wait! There's a hymn that tells this story of the Season of Epiphany, sung to the melody of a 15th century English ballad, set to text from the 15th century (Sarum) and translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866). The tune is identified as DEO GRACIAS (Thanks be to God).

Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair

*Oh, wondrous image, vision fair, of glory that the church may share,
Which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!*

*With Moses and Elijah nigh the incarnate Lord holds converse high,
And from the cloud, the Holy One says, "This is my beloved Son."*

*With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest today
What glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.*

*And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great vision's mystery;
For which in joyful song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.*

*O Father, with the eternal Son, and Holy Spirit ever one,
We pray you, bring us by your grace to see your glory face to face.*

The seven Sundays after Epiphany culminated with Transfiguration Sunday, where Jesus was revealed to be God's own Son, radiantly meeting with Elijah and Moses on the mountaintop in the presence of Peter, James and John. And then, after all of this abundant light, we abruptly turned the page to Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent, a time of introspection, denial, fasting and repentance. Light gives over to darkness.

Did I mention that there is another hymn text, written on the same melody as the 15th century English ballad, "Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair"? This text, however, now tells the story of the Lenten experience of the church year. The author of the text is Thomas a Kempis (1380-1471), as translated by Benjamin Webb (1819-1885).

Oh, Love, How Deep

Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake!

God sent no angel to our race, of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.

For us baptized, **for us** he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp he knew; **for us** the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed; **for us** he taught; **for us** his daily works he wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus still seeking not himself, but **us**.

For us by wickedness betrayed, **for us**, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death; **for us** he gave his dying breath.

For us he rose from death again; **for us** he went on high to reign;
For us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

In the forty days of Lent, we are given a reprieve from the sorrow, the sacrifice, the solemnity of our journey through the darkness. Even though the Alleluia's are taken away from us in this season, God gave us six Sundays to worship, rejoice, to tell the stories, to renew our faith, to lift each other up in hope and in relationship with one another. May we find solace in the companionship we share in our mutual journey through this Season of Lent. **Jesus came for us!**

DEO GRACIAS

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

Thriving Congregations

We are entering the sixth month of the Thriving Congregation program. Our team members are continuing to do one on one relational meetings with people within the church and community, and are enjoying getting to know people better. In addition to the 30-45 minute discussions they have reported more informal discussions with people they don't know. At our February meeting we reviewed the discussions we have had so far to see if any patterns are emerging. I am sure you will not be surprised to hear that the music program was a big draw as people selected Shepherd of the Bay as their church or that people originally came to our church by an invitation of a member. You may be surprised to learn that a lot of the people we talked with originally moved to Door County for a job opportunity for themselves or a loved one, as opposed to being born here or retiring here.

When we go to our second training session from March 20-22 we will have met with about 50 people and will learn more about the next steps. Please keep us in your prayers as we do our work of prayerfully paying attention to God and each other in the church and as we observe how life is lived in our church and in our community.

During this Lenten season there will be more opportunities for all of us to gather together for worship and fellowship. Please let us know if you have any questions- I would love to talk with you, as would any member of the team. Vicki Amundson 920-839-5013.

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



Tuesday Bible Studies

Join us on Tuesdays for 2 different Bible Studies.

At 9:00am in the fellowship hall, Pastor Jim will teach a study on the lessons for the upcoming Sunday Service. See listing on page 10 for weekly scriptures.

Join us at 2:00pm in the parlor as we continue our Lenten Study with the book Reliving the Passion: Meditations on the Suffering, Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus as Recorded in Mark by Walter Wangerin Jr.

Contact the church office if you would like to join us.



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.

Winter Work – A group of men met February 20th to sand and refinish the window casings in the Fellowship Hall and sanctuary. The finish on the windows was worn off from the sun and condensation over the years. Work will continue on Monday February 27th, March 6th and March 13th from 9am-noon.

2nd Floor AC – Three quotes ranging between \$8300-9000 were received for replacing the AC for the 2nd floor. The Youth and Family programing has been meeting outside in the bus barn when the weather is nice and really doesn't use the 2nd floor much during the summer. When they are inside, they generally use the Fellowship Hall. Knowing this, the Committee recommended NOT replacing the AC and perhaps using that money to add attic insulation to reduce heating costs.

Sanctuary Humidifier – Greg Beam has contacted the organ maker Dobson, to get their recommendations on how to maintain the humidity in and around the organ. Waiting for their response.

Portico Breezeway Doors – A quote for temporary canvas and steel framed doors (Like Al Johnson's winter door) was received for \$4600 without automatic door openers. Alternatives have also been pursued. If we did the work ourselves; 1) Heavy duty Anderson, Marvin, Pella full glass storm doors with automatic closers would be the least expensive at \$2500. 2) Commercial glass storefront doors with automatic closers would cost approximately \$4500. The committee felt that it would be a good idea, but the cost/benefit did not justify the expense.

Office Cold Air Returns – The material has been purchased to install floor level cold air returns in both the Church and Pastor's offices to de-stratify the air and get the cold air off the floor.

Garden Club – Both the Toro riding mower and the John Deere tractor have been serviced and are ready for the mowing season.

Kitchen Range – The range is in bad shape. Some of the burners can't boil water in large soup kettles. Lynda reported that the banana bread that the Youth baked a few weeks ago took much longer to bake than normal. The ovens maintain a high temperature of 450 degrees, but whether that is true for all temperatures is not known. Appliance Doctor will be in on March 9th to look at the range. Dave Daubner has agreed to investigate used restaurant appliances to determine what a replacement would cost.

AV System – As of January 30th all the system problems were finally resolved. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

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

Klaud's Food Pantry

We are grateful for the many donations this past month, as the need seems particularly great recently.

As always, fridge and freezer items are the most popular, and can be put directly in the unit. Please place all other donations in the shopping cart, keeping in mind the expiration date.

Shelf-stable requests include:

Boxed cereal	Oatmeal	Coffee
Canned corn	Canned black beans or baked beans	
Soup, but not vegetable or chicken noodle	Canned fruit	
Flour	Sugar	
Condiments	Relishes	Salad Dressings and sauces
Hygiene and cleaning products		



Youth and Family Ministry News

from Lynda Pietruszka

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

For a weekend in February, our Synod Bishop, Anne Edison Albright and her staff, Pastors Asher O'Callghan, Dara Clifford, and Jenn Pockat, gathered with fifteen east central church youth groups for a "Journey with Jesus" at Imago Dei Camp. It was a weekend of diving into faith, participating in large and small group bonding activities, outdoor games, night hikes, and a campfire labyrinth walk! Not to mention the really good food, Worship, and enormous amounts of laughter! It was such a joy to witness our Bishop and her staff caring so much for our youth through their own participation, and lending so much of their time to answer questions and just "be" and "listen" to our kids! The Synod has a youth board, and they are always seeking volunteers to assist with weekends like this, and to be the eyes and ears for the concerns of our youth. If you have questions or want to know more about this opportunity to serve, give me a shout! Let's talk! Thank you to our congregation for all your support to our youth; with your prayers, volunteering, and financial resources! Be Blessed through our youth!

Milestone Ministry

On Sunday, February 26th, Avery Burress and Anthony Torcivia both received their first Holy Communion!!

Sunday School

Let's head upstairs together, for Sunday School, following Children's message!

Sun., Mar. 5th The First Sin Genesis 3:1-24

Sun., Mar. 12th Woman at the Well John 4:5-42

Sun., Mar. 19th Pool of Siloam John 9:1-41

Sun., Mar. 26th Lazarus John 11:1-45

Little Lambs

Little Lambs gather every Wednesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m at SOTB! All parents, care providers, and their little ones (infants through PreK) are Welcome! Each hour includes free play, Bible story, music, snack, and art to take home! If you are visiting or new to Little Lambs, please see Lynda for a registration form. Invite a friend!

Wed., Mar. 1st We're going on a Bear Hunt!

Wed., Mar. 8th **No Little Lambs**, Lynda on a Mission!

Wed., Mar. 15th- Lenten season for Littles Part One

Wed., Mar. 22nd- Lenten season for Littles Part Two

Wed. Mar. 29th- Lenten season for Littles Part Three

Wonderful Wednesdays "Building God's Kingdom"

For school children grades 1-6, ride the Gibraltar School bus, each first and third Wednesday of the month! Parents be sure to check for updated registration, and to sign your child out each night at 5:30! Join your church family at 5:30 pick up time for a Lenten meal, and worship to follow at 6:15!

Wed., March 1st- "Building Friends" A Habitat for Humanity Book, by Ronald Kidd. Let's Build Friendships, as we build the Kingdom, and build furniture for our house!

Wed., Mar. 15th - Lent, Holy Week, Easter Journey.

Confirmation

Wed., Mar. 1st Simon Peter

Wed., Mar. 8th, Parent Drivers to SOTB after school for preparing, serving at 5:30 p.m, and cleaning up after! Lenten meal fundraiser for the Youth fund, followed by worship at 6:15! A good opportunity to learn what "Service under God" means. Watch email/text for details!

Wed., Mar. 15th Sadducees and Pharisees

Wed., Mar. 22nd Mary and Martha

Wed., Mar. 29th Pontius Pilate. Let's prepare for Holy Week

High School Youth

It is time to register for the summer, Youth Works Mission trip to rural Niagara Falls! See details in your email/text messages! July 8th-15th.

March 8th, Please join the Confirmation students in the kitchen, to prepare, serve, and clean up dinner at 5:30 p.m. and worship at 6:15.

March 22nd, a repeat of March 8th, only, just the high school youth! And we'll go home with a packet of information for the "**Faith Filled Fast**"! Mark your calendars for Training, April 12th, and to attend the event, April 28th and 29th!

Cut Up Club! Meets Monday, March 27th at 9:00 a.m. beginning with a light breakfast!

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!



Need your blood pressure checked?

Tuesday, March 21st, a health care volunteer will be at Shepherd of the Bay in room J (the former Parish Nurse Office) to check blood pressures from 1:30p.m. to 2:15p.m. In March, blood pressure checks will be available following the church service on the **first Sunday of each month from 10:30a.m. to 11:15a.m.** and the third Tuesday of the month, from 1:30p.m. to 2:15p.m.

There will be a trial period of three months and if no one uses the service, it will be discontinued.

Please contact Jane Burress if you are interested in volunteering to take blood pressures a few times a year.



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**
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.

Guatemala Mission Trip

After a 3 year absence, Lynda Pietruszka and Carol Omernick will join Peace Lutheran Church (Antigo, WI) on a mission trip to Guatemala to serve alongside Manos de Jesus/Pray America. The proceeds from the March 1st and March 29th Lenten meals will go towards helping to support this mission now and in the future.

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

Think about it..... Pray about it..... Join us in 2024.....

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."

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.

March 16, 2023

Kadish, Rachel. **The Weight of Ink.** 2017. Two stories intertwined – one set in pre-Plague London (1665-66) where a woman from Amsterdam is transcribing papers for a blind Jewish rabbi and also a contemporary story set in Boston where a young woman student is summoned to help with the cache of 17th-century papers discovered in her friend's home. “

Shepherd of the Bay Council Meeting

February 20, 2023 6:30PM

PRESENT: Pastor Jim, Dick Burress, Sue Daubner, Cheryl Becht, Micky Swanson, Scott Henry, Tara Torkelson, Vicki Amundsen, Linda Pietruszka, Grace Rossman. No Guests present.

Trish Pierson on Zoom

ABSENT: Julia Keepper

CALL TO ORDER – President Dick Burress

OPENING DEVOTION – Pastor Jim Honig

Pastor Jim read from Mark, explaining how Jesus sent out his disciples, 2 X 2 and not alone, taking only the basics, and they were taught to expect both success and disappointments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – Cheryl Becht; Vice President – Dick Burress; Secretary - Micky Swanson

TREASURERS REPORT – Grace Rossman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastors Report – Steve Pressly has agreed to preach and preside over the Table at the March 20 service while Pastor Jim will be attending Thrivent Congregations retreat.

Property and Grounds – Tom Tuttle

1. Council accepted recommendation of Building and Grounds Team to forgo replacement of second floor A/C units this summer.

Education and Youth – Lynda Pietruszka

1. Forward to March meeting agenda program information gained from participation in recent youth workshops

OLD BUSINESS

1. Thriving Congregation Report - Feedback on 1-on-1 conversations. Music and food pantry cited most frequently. Nonmembers tended to stress community needs. Adding Ruth Hjelle and Pat Skogsbakken to the team.

2. Update on committee organization and assignment of council members to all committees. A final draft of SOTB Team Structure was presented and a council member was assigned to each committee to serve as council liaison.

3. Discussion of Lenten Dinners. 2 spots still open for Wednesday Lenten dinners. Council to organize one and Sue D will discuss with Choir about sponsoring the other one.

4. Follow up on memorial gifts record keeping book. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Lynda's workload while in school. The council agreed to support Lynda in her educational journey which begins in September 2023, and recognized the importance of pastoral development.

2. Report on benevolence gift to HELP of Door County to assist a client in need of housing support. Council approved

3. Report on gift to Ron Hupe.

4. Scott Henry requests use of church van to transport Northern Door participants to Peninsula Singers practice in Sturgeon Bay one time per week for 10 weeks. Motion to approve by Dick Burress with the understanding that the use of the van by the youth programs is always paramount. 2nd by Tara Torkelson. Carried.

5. Discussed inviting Katie Graf and EMT's to present a program on Advance Directives at church. Dick Burress to follow up with Katie to schedule date and time.

Our next Council meeting will be on March 27 at 7:00 PM. (Note time change)

Lord's Prayer & Adjourn

Respectfully submitted, Micky Swanson

Lessons for March

March 5 : 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 to the readings: 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 12 : Third Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11

Holy Gospel: John 4:5-42

Introduction to the readings: 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 19 : Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-3

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

Introduction to the readings: 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 26: Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11

Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45

Introduction to the readings: 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 unfailing promise in our baptism.

Service Volunteers Needed for 2023

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.

Sign up early for the best spots!

BUTTON PUSHERS NEED!

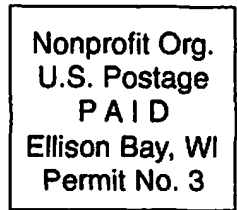
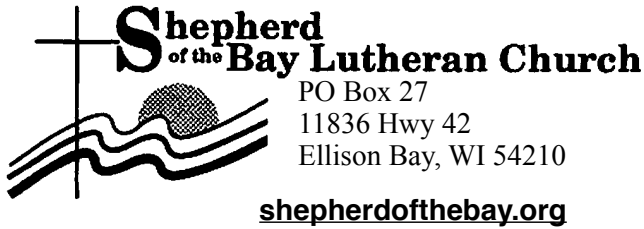
Can you push a button? Can you sit (in your home or at church), watch a screen for about one hour, then push the same button again?

Ok, that may be a slight oversimplification of the live-streaming process of the church service each Sunday. But if this intrigues you, come and talk to Carol Omernick in the church office. I could really use your help.

Guatemalan Coffee is Coming!!!

We will be bringing back a limited supply of fresh ground Guatemalan coffee from the mission trip. Get it while it is fresh!

Available mid-March in your local fellowship hall!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays, Thru March 29, 2023

5:30pm Meal & 6:15pm Service

All are Welcome!

Holy Week Services

Sun., Apr. 2nd	9:30am	Palm Sunday Service
Fri., Apr. 6th	7:00pm	Good Friday Service
Sun., Apr. 9th	9:30am	Easter Sunday Service

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.