



# The Parish Door

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

February 2026

(920) 854-2988

Shepherdofthebay.org  
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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## Annual Meeting

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

## Lent Begins Wednesday, Feb. 18th

Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday. Please join with us at 6:15pm on February 18, for a traditional Ash Wednesday Service including wonderful music, choir anthem, The Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

## Ash Wednesday Service Preceded by a Soup and Bread Buffet

Come and join us at 5:30pm in the fellowship hall and enjoy a good hot meal in the middle of winter which you don't have to cook. We will serve soup, bread, and dessert. A free will offering will be collected for the Guatemala Mission Trip.

## 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!**

## Guatemala Mission Trip Feb. 23- March 3, 2026

A team of 8 members of Shepherd of the Bay will be traveling to Guatemala for a short term mission trip and **we need your help!**

We are collecting donations for the following projects:

- 2 Bathroom @\$750 each (\$1500)
- 2 Cooking Stoves @ \$210 each (\$420)
- 3 Laminating Machines @ \$37 each (\$111)
- 1 Printer @ \$200
- Various school supplies

Please stop by the table in the Narthex to see specific items we will be taking or call the church office for more information.  
Thank you!

***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."*

## Going Bananas!!

Sunday, February 1st, following the Annual Meeting, Youth are once again, "Going Bananas", as we offer our delicious banana breads in three varieties: banana, banana with chocolate chip, and banana with chocolate chips and nuts!!

Help us with our fundraising to offset the cost of our participation in both Synod events and going to camp! Just to name a few, "Jr. High Blast", "BYG, aka "Beginning Youth Group", "Journey with Jesus", Confirmation camp, and our High School summer mission trip!

And then join us on Feb. 4th at 5:30 p.m. as we play "Banana Grams" at the pizza and board game celebration!



As you get this newsletter, it will be less than a month before I begin a sabbatical, a time to step away for rest and renewal. I wanted to say a little about what a sabbatical is and isn't and how it might be beneficial not only for me and my family, but also for the congregation at Shepherd of the Bay.

First, it's important to understand that a sabbatical is not a long vacation. Vacations are important and they have their place, but a sabbatical is not a vacation. Nor is it a time to catch up on projects that have been neglected or do long-range planning for the congregation.

The spirit of a sabbatical is to rest. God set the pattern for sabbath in the very act of creation, setting aside the 7th day as a day of rest. In that spirit, a true sabbatical is a time for prolonged rest. It's like stringing together a number of Sabbath days. It's an extended time in which no specific work is done, nor is any project undertaken with the goal of finishing before the sabbatical is finished. It's a time when pastors do no pastoring, no leading, no ministering, no visioning the future of the church, no sermon planning. Ideally, a sabbatical is not intended to accomplish anything big.

Pastors take sabbaticals for vital renewal, preventing burnout from the intense emotional demands, constant availability, and spiritual pressures of ministry, allowing for deep rest, uninterrupted study, reconnecting with God, strengthening family bonds, and developing new perspectives, ultimately benefiting both the pastor and the congregation by fostering long-term health, leadership growth, and renewed vision for service. Sabbaticals serve as a biblical model for spiritual recharge, similar to Jesus's time in the wilderness, reminding clergy and congregations that God, not individuals, builds the church, and that extended breaks foster spiritual and vocational longevity.

In the ELCA, pastors are encouraged to take a sabbatical of three months every 7 years (although the East Central Synod of Wisconsin encourages a sabbatical every 5 years.). The policy is an affirmation of the need for a time of renewal, allowing pastors to step away from congregational responsibilities for personal and professional growth. In June, I'll observe the 39th anniversary of my ordination. I'm a little embarrassed to say that in those 39 years, this is only the second sabbatical I have taken. The last one was in 2013, 13 years ago. This summer, I celebrated my 65th birthday and as long as my health allows, I plan to stay in active ministry until I'm at least 70. One of the purposes of this sabbatical is to rest, refresh, and recharge for this last half decade of pastoring.

Here are some of what I hope the benefits of sabbatical will be for me:

- **Burnout Prevention:** Sabbatical ideally will offer deep rest for the body and nervous system from constant adrenaline and the inevitable emotional highs/lows of congregational ministry.
- **Spiritual Reconnection:** Sabbatical will provide undisturbed time for prayer, scripture study, and encountering God. Often my study of scripture is preparation for weekly bible study or sermon preparation. This will provide an opportunity to spend time with the bible that has no purpose other than to listen to God's voice.
- **Mental & Emotional Health:** Pastoral ministry can be challenging. Pastors are constantly called on to exercise compassion and to stand with people in some of the most difficult circumstances that life offers. In addition, pastors often carry the burden of the sin and evil in the world, knowing that God intends better. Sabbatical provides a time to recover from compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, and personal struggles in a safe space.
- **Family Renewal:** Sabbatical allows quality time with family, strengthening family relationships often strained by ministry demands.
- **Clarified Calling & Humility:** Sabbatical will help to remind me that God builds the church, not me, reducing anxiety and fostering trust.

There will undoubtedly also be benefits for the Shepherd of the Bay congregation:

- **Leadership Development:** During a sabbatical, new leaders often emerge as others step up to fill roles, empowering the congregation.
- **Church Strength:** Teaches the church that its foundation is Christ, not one person, making it more resilient.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Encourages lay leaders and members to take ownership and grow in their spiritual gifts.

Sabbatical is a spiritual practice deeply embedded in the Scriptures. Jesus often took time away in the wilderness. Moses and Elijah both took time away from their responsibilities to spend time in God's presence. All of these examples model the value of extended time away for solitude and renewal.

A handful of you have asked about specific plans for sabbatical. I have no grand plans for extended travel or time spent at retreat centers or other destinations. As indicated above, I plan to spend much time in quiet, reflective prayer and scripture study. Walking is, for me, not only a form of exercise, but a spiritual practice. Because we live in such a beautiful area, I don't need to travel to find renewing places for walking. I plan to do a lot of that right here in my own back yard. Both reading and writing are activities that I enjoy and find renewing. One of my hobbies that I find very renewing is woodworking. With my full schedule, I don't get nearly as much time in my shop as I'd like. So, I expect that I will spend significant time working with my hands, shaping and creating and building with wood. Finally, while I have no specific big trips planned, it's likely that I will take a few short trips to visit family or spend time in the outdoors.

I'm grateful for this time of renewal. As I approach the threshold of stepping away for a time, I can feel in my body, mind, and spirit how much I need this. My prayer, and I hope yours as well, is that this will be a time of blessing for me and my family, and for the congregation. God promises that; we can count on it.

Pr. Jim Honig

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## 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.

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### 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 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 19

- Davies, Carys. **Clear**. 2024. "John, an impoverished Scottish minister, has accepted a job evicting the lone remaining occupant of an island north of Scotland--Ivar, who has been living alone for decades, with only the animals and the sea for company"





## LOVE IS IN THE AIR!

February is the shortest month of the calendar year, and yet its twenty-eight days (twenty-nine if you take the four-year leap!) make such a huge impact on many of us. Among many named holidays, February is the month of Valentine's Day, summoning up visions of hearts, flowers, kindness, sincere promises ... LOVE!

In these current times, where conversations are often centered around discord, dissent, dissatisfaction, disappointment, disasters, we as Christians have another path to travel ... LOVE! Love of neighbor, love for family, love for community, love for nature ... LOVE! Our voices and our actions can shout out the LOVE OF JESUS everywhere we go, quietly bringing hope and justice, love and peace, understanding and joy, overshadowing the raised voices of discontent and discouragement. Perhaps our purpose as Christians is not to raise our voices in anger and frustration regarding the wrongs and injustice we encounter, but attempt to model Jesus' life of forgiveness, understanding, quietly but firmly speaking on behalf of the downtrodden, the "other". There can be no OTHER in a Christian's life ... only NEIGHBOR, FRIEND, BROTHER, SISTER, FAMILY. WE ARE ALL ONE FAMILY! THE FAMILY OF GOD.

How do I know this? The Bible tells me so! The words of this old hymn echo the theme of LOVE that has permeated our Christian lives. LOVE is what sets us apart from the hate and distrust all around us. LOVE needs to be our message to the world.

John 13:35 Jesus said: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

## THEY WILL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE

Peter Scholtes, ST. BRENDAN'S

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:  
**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,**  
**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,**  
**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride:  
**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,**  
**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,**  
**And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,**  
**And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:**  
**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,**  
**Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone. I wonder how we will express our love for one another this year. With flowers and hearts and candy and hugs to a significant person? Or will we look beyond our familiar circle of friends and acquaintances and see those who truly need our support, generosity, attention ... LOVE? May we act boldly when we encounter the needs of the world ... right here in our own neighborhood. **They will know we are Christians by our love. Yes! They will know!**

With love,  
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](mailto:sotbcare@gmail.com) or by calling the church office at 920-854-2988 (Option #2).

We are well into the frigid winter of 2026, but at least the days are beginning to grow longer and we have had some wonderful auroras already in our northern skies. It's at times like these that connecting with one another and finding a sense of support, belonging, and warmth matters most!

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has taken the time to submit surveys or share feedback about our congregation's needs, both formally and informally. Please know that I will be reaching out this month to additional congregation members who have offered to share more information or have requested a follow-up conversation.

Over the past few months, I have been carefully reviewing these surveys, along with feedback from previous years. A few consistent themes continue to rise to the forefront of our congregation's needs: a desire for more social events and activities that bring us together, and an increased need for resources and support for those who are experiencing loss or navigating grief. I am working with the wonderful Shepherd of the Bay staff team, parishioners, and local resources to coordinate social activities, work on getting transportation to more social events, finding support for those in most need, and exploring different ways we can support and comfort those who are grieving. Coming up in February, we have a few activities planned to get the blood flowing and help foster that warm glow of togetherness. Further down are some beginning resources for those who are grieving and can use some immediate support. Again, additional resources will be explored to continue to further meet this need.



## Game Night and Pizza on Wed, Feb. 4th, from 5:30–7:30 p.m!

Join us for a fun **Game Night and Pizza!** Play one of the games available that evening or bring your favorite game from home. We'll have everything from **Monopoly and Mexican Train to playing cards**, so there's something for everyone.

Come enjoy a relaxed evening with church family and friend. **All ages are welcome!** A special 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 and generously donating the pizza for us! Beverages and salad will also be provided.

**Wonderful Wednesday and Confirmation Kids and Families:** feel free to come straight to the Fellowship area when you're done and join us—no need to worry about dinner that night!

## Groceries and Grace

Wed, Feb. 11th @ 5:00 p.m.

We will kick 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. This



session will include information about the various food/grocery resources in Door County, a tour of our own Klaud's Pantry, and will wrap up with some cost effective grocery shopping tips and recipes. There will also be a packaged meal gift with recipe for you to try at home! All are welcome to attend, so please join us for an informative and supportive conversation on how to help you make your groceries go farther, and also to learn more about the food resources and ways to help your fellow neighbors in Door County! All are welcome to attend!

## Local Resources Spotlight – Grief Resources:

- **Stephen Ministers – Here at Shepherd of the Bay** - Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you -- or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives -- and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed. **For more information:** <https://www.shepherdofthebay.org/stephen-ministry>
- **Senior Life Solutions (Door County Medical Center)** – Provide individual and group support and counseling on a variety of issues for those 65 and better, including grief support and counseling. **For more information:** <https://www.dcmmedical.org/medical-services/senior-life-solutions>
- **Hope Through Healing Grief Workshop: Life After the Loss of a Spouse – Bay View Lutheran Church – Sturgeon Bay** - This is a multi-week support grief support group facilitated by a licensed social worker on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at 10:00am. **For more information:** LouAnn Brown, RN, at 920-743-4705.

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

# Partners in Ministry

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

## Volunteers/Resources Needed!

If you are interested in getting involved in other ways in church, look no further as we have many volunteer needs based on congregation feedback via survey, email, and coffee chats. Please email me at [sotbcare@gmail.com](mailto:sotbcare@gmail.com) to reach out if you feel called or able to help!

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

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

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



## Does your home need repairs you can not afford?

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

Contact Door County Habitat, Lori Allen at 920 743 2869 x101 or [admin@doorhabitat.org](mailto:admin@doorhabitat.org) more details.

## Klaud's Pantry Postings

Catching up from Christmas, we would like to share that the Christmas Dinner food bags, stockings and knitted hats were very well received. Our neighbors in need were very grateful and surprised at the thoughtfulness shown them.

As always, we are so thrilled and thankful for the generosity shown to the Food Pantry in so many ways. Our biggest needs right now are fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, meat and personal care products.

We are working with Amy to do a presentation to the community about Klaud's Food Pantry. It has come to our attention that many people in Northern Door County are not aware of our food pantry and how it can help them.

To get the word out, we will be hosting a meeting entitled, "Groceries and Grace" at Shepherd of the Bay on February 11, at 5:00 pm. At this presentation we will share information about how we can help our neighbors. We will feature the offerings of the food pantry, recipes for meals with the food we offer and how to obtain assistance getting food to those who struggle to get out.

If you would like to help, please contact Amy Hennings (Our Congregation Care Coordinator) at [sotbcare@gmail.com](mailto:sotbcare@gmail.com) or call the Church office at 920-854-2988 or Barbara Zage at [barbarazage@gmail.com](mailto:barbarazage@gmail.com) or 773-426-0452.

# Youth and Family Ministry News

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

There is something really special about February, with the accent on LOVE as Valentine's day approaches. Our children and youth will experience LOVE through the multitude of times the word LOVE is mentioned in the Bible, through acts of service to others, and as they love themselves, as their neighbors, as God would have it. Come join us, and get to know our wonderful kids, here at Shepherd of the Bay!

## 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.**

**2/4** Jesus Calms the Storms

**2/11** God Loves Me

**2/18** God Loves my family

**2/25** Little Lambs will not meet today, as Miss Lynda will be on a mission trip to Guatemala!

## 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!

**2/4 God Loves me Partay!** Time to register for the BYG at Imago Dei! And stay for dinner at Pick Up time! ZaZa's pizza and board games to follow! A time for families to be together!

**2/18** God Loves my neighbor. Tonight we will be in service and outreach!

## High School Youth Group

For Grades 9th-12th!

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

**Sunday, 2/1** "Going Bananas" our youth fundraiser, taking place, following worship and the church annual meeting. Stay for Pot luck lunch with your family to follow!

**Wednesday, 2/4** at 5:30 p.m. come for ZsaZsa's pizza and board games with your church family!

**Wednesday, 2/11** Card Ministry Project, Summer planning, Dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, 2/18** Ash Wednesday soup supper and service to follow.

**Friday, February 20-22nd** Synod Youth Event, "Journey with Jesus"

**Wednesday, 2/25**, join your church family for a Lenten meal, and devotion 5:30 p.m.

## 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!

**2/1** The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12

**2/8** Salt and Light, Matthew 5:13-20 **Pancakes and Praise today!**  
Families meet upstairs following Communion for good food, friendships, and faith formation!

**2/15** The Transfiguration, Matthew 17:1-13

**2/22** The First Sin, Genesis 3:1-24 Today, Miss Kristin will be subbing for Miss Lynda, while she is out at the Synod youth event, "Journey with Jesus".

## 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.

**Sunday, February 1st**, please be present as we are "Going Bananas" fundraising after worship today!

**2/4** Please plan to stay after for a night of ZaZa's pizza and board games! A time for families and church family to be together!

**2/11** It is time to register for Confirmation Camp!

**2/18** Please plan to stay after for a soup supper meal, followed by an Ash Wednesday service to begin the Lenten season.

**Friday, February 20-22nd** Synod Youth Event, "Journey with Jesus"

**2/25** Please plan to spend time after class, enjoying a Lenten meal, and devotion before you head home!

## Going Bananas!!!

Sunday, February 1st, following the Annual Meeting, Youth are once again, "Going Bananas", as we offer our delicious banana breads in three varieties: banana, banana with chocolate chip, and banana with choco chips and nuts!! Help us with our fundraising to off set the cost of our participation in both Synod events and going to camp! Just to name a few, "Jr. High Blast", "BYG, aka "Beginning Youth Group", "Journey with Jesus", Confirmation camp, and our High School summer mission trip! And then join us on Feb. 4th at 5:30 p.m. as we play "Banana Grams" at our first annual pizza and board game celebration!





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The Parish Door monthly newsletter can be found in full color on our website, [shepherdofthebay.org/newsletters](http://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](mailto:sotboffice@yahoo.com).



# Lessons for February

## February 1: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

**Introduction:** Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

## February 8 : Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-12

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Holy Gospel : Matthew 5:13-20

**Introduction:** Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

## February 15 : Transfiguration of Our Lord

First Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

**Introduction:** Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

## February 22 : The First Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Second Lesson: Romans 5:12-19

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

**Introduction:** Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.



## Readers:

Feb. 1	Dan Farwell
Feb. 8	Nancy Barnowsky
Feb. 15	Werner Krause
Feb. 22	Marcia Eckdahl

## Ushers :

Feb. 1	OPEN
Feb. 8	OPEN
Feb. 15	OPEN
Feb. 22	OPEN

## Altar Guild:

Feb.	Marcia Eckdahl
March	Sharon Pluff

## Communion Helpers :

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

