



The Parish Door

February 2025

A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church

PO Box 27, Ellison Bay, WI. 54210 (920) 854-2988

Shepherdofthebay.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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New Organist

We're excited to share that Randy Manges joined us as the new Shepherd of the Bay Principal Organist and Bell Choir Director on Sunday, January 19th! Let's give him a warm welcome!



Lent Begins Wednesday, March 5th

Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday. Please join with us at 6:15pm on March 5, 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 Wednesday Lenten services

Beginning with Wed. 12th, Wednesdays in Lent will find us worshipping in Fellowship Hall around the same tables where we enjoy our dinner fellowship. In some ways, this is a return to the way the early church worshiped.

For our Wednesday midweek services, we will gather at 5:30pm each week to have a meal together. After a brief time of clearing our tables of food, we will move directly into a time of worship — singing, reflection, praying, sharing our faith with each other. The services will be informal, yet I'm sure will be powerfully impactful. You will want to make sure to join us for this adventure in worship and community. A free will offering will be collected each week for a different mission group of the church.

Invite your friends! All are Welcome!

Annual Congregational Meeting

On January 26, 2025, Shepherd of the Bay held its Annual Congregational Meeting. The minutes from the meeting will be in the March 2025 newsletter. You can read the Annual Report & watch a video of the meeting at shepherdofthebay.org/newsletter. You can request a copy of the Annual Report by contacting the church office.

A friend who lives in Minnesota tells the story of canoeing with his father-in-law, an expert and life-long canoeist. They were in the Boundary Waters area of Minnesota heading for some mild rapids in a stream between two lakes. The father-in-law had given him instructions as they ate their shoreside lunch: "You've got to relax. Don't work too hard at it or you'll ruin it. Point the front of your boat toward the fast water, keep your oar in the water to help steer, and let the water take you through." Dean and his wife made it through the rapids just fine; the advice had been good. However, his father-in-law was so worried about Dean and his wife making it through the rapids that he lost focus on his own craft, headed into the rapids sideways, and ended up in the water.

It's so easy for us to lose focus. When we get anxious or fearful or nervous, we easily turn our attention from the important things to the peripheral matters that become falsely urgent.

When we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we ask the candidate, "Do you renounce the devil and all the forces of evil that defy God?" We live in a culture full of forces that defy God. Advertisements tell us we will be happy if we buy the newest and the best. Entertainment is full of images that tell us sexual unfaithfulness brings great excitement and pleasure. Our spirit of American individualism teaches us to believe that what we have is ours and its ours to do with what we want. Why should we be surprised that we are shaped by these forces?

On the Sunday of our annual meeting, the lessons encouraged us to dwell in the Word, to listen together, prayerfully discerning God's guidance for our life together? Do you realize how counter-cultural that is? Do you realize how antithetical that is to nearly every voice we hear around us?

So, we come to church every Sunday, and act that is in itself counter-cultural. We enter into the liturgy that has a baptismal shape and seeks to reshape us and reorient us according to our baptism. We need to get reshaped. We need to be reminded that the One who has created us has reclaimed us for life. We need to be reminded that worship and church – indeed all of life is not about us, it's about God.

When we undergo our weekly reshaping and reorientation, then we will realize we have work to do. The world around us is caught in the throes of death: communities, structures, systems, families, even the earth itself has been corrupted by sin and the evil that defies God. But God has not given up. God has redeemed humanity through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and God has staked God's claim on creation. God now calls us – the church, the body of Christ – to get God's work done in the world. All our talk about budgets and programs and giving is just one more way to express the work that we have to do, extending ourselves and our blessings to the world, for God's sake.

Here's to working together in 2025. God's peace and joy to all!

Pr. Jim Honig

Thriving Congregations

The Thriving Congregations team met in January to review the recommendations of the Senior Care Research Action team, and to discuss the current round of one on one meetings that are underway. The following week the results were shared with the Church Council. In the next few weeks specific proposals will be put together to be discussed at the February Church Council meeting. The church council expressed their appreciation of the work that has been done.

Also in February one last trip to Montreat Conference Center will be made by a subset of the Thriving Congregation team. Details are currently being worked out. The various churches will share the work they have done, help and encourage each other, and establish ways to help each other as work continues.

We are at the time that some decisions will be made. Please pray for the Thriving Congregation team and the Church Council to discern the will of God as we move forward.

Vicki Amundson for the Thriving Congregation team.

WELCOME, Y'ALL!

The month of February occupies the shortest span in our yearly calendar: a mere 28 days, leaping to 29 days every 4 years. It is a month set aside to celebrate certain notable events and traditions, among which are:

February 2 - GROUNDHOG DAY

February 9 - SUPER BOWL

February 12 - ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

February 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY

February 15 - SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S BIRTHDAY (also National Flag of Canada Day)

February 17 - PRESIDENTS' DAY (celebrating George Washington's birthday)

February 22 - GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ACTUAL BIRTHDAY

February 28 - RAMADAN (the 9th month of the Islamic calendar)

The whole month of February - AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

There are dates in February set aside on the calendar for love, for celebrations, for remembrances, for solemn recognitions in this shortest month of the year - there is something of significance for everyone in February! How do we mark these occasions? Do we quietly acknowledge the date, privately remember the importance of a particular event, keep secret our responses to a memory attached to a day on the calendar? Or do we join together in joyful celebration ... or solemnly remember a past event together as a community? Do we attend a noisy parade or spend a quiet evening with friends or share a meal with delicious food and nourishing conversation?

Family and friends, neighbors and fellow church members, we live in community, in communion with each other, with common goals and occasionally some vigorous disagreements. But one thing is certain: we are united by our strong family ties. The fact that we are brothers and sisters together, with a common Heavenly Father, who was introduced to us in a perfect way by our Lord Jesus, is a family bond that can never be broken. We are constantly learning how to truly love one another, to more perfectly embrace each other as siblings (of birth or of choice), regarding our neighbor as a valued member of our own family. At Shepherd of the Bay we take seriously our position of welcome, of friendship, of belonging to a community gathered in love. We become one family, with plenty of room for everyone to feel welcome at our table!

ALL ARE WELCOME

Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found, in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us;

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger;

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Amen. Let it be so at Shepherd of the Bay. All are welcome in this place.

Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist



**I will sing of
the Lord's great
love forever.**

PSALM 89:1



Youth and Family Ministry News

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

God is
LOVE.
1 JOHN 4:16



Just a few "Valentines" from God! Are you ready? Here goes...

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Romans 8:35 John 3:16

1 John 4:7a

1 John 3:1

1 John 5:1

1 John 4:19

Jude 1:21

Deuteronomy 6:5

Romans 8:28

Sunday Celebration/Sunday School

Every Sunday following Children's message, for children's ages 4- grade 6.

2/2 Jeremiah, Jeremiah 1:4-10

2/9 The Disciples, Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3

2/16 Pancakes and Praise Family Sunday School, following Communion today!

2/23 Joseph Feeds His Family, Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Little Lambs

Every Thursday from 9:30-10:45 a.m. for infants, toddlers, prek, and their parents or care providers.

2/6 Jesus Grew and I Grow!

2/13 God Loves Me Celebration Today!

2/20 Hebrews 13:16 Ava and the Skimpy Picnic

2/27 Psalm 147:3 Ava and the Big Ouch

Wonderful Wednesdays

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, children in grades K-6 ride the SOTB van from Gibraltar School, for a time of Bible stories, snacks, games, arts and crafts, and service to our neighbor.

2/5 Tempted Taste Buds

2/19 We are going on a service outing tonight!

It is time to register for BYG (Building Youth Group) for grades 3-6th at Imago Dei Camp, March 7-9th. Be on the look out for details!

Confirmation

Wed. 2/5 John the Baptist/Pastor Jim

Wed. 2/12 The Centurion/Lynda

Wed. 2/19 The Twelve Disciples/Pastor Jim

Friday, 2/21-Sunday, 2/23, Synod wide retreat, "Journey with Jesus" at Imago Dei! Be on the look out for final details: packing list, schedules.

High School Youth Group

Youth group meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Wed. 2/12th Created to be Disruptive, a conversation on Social Justice within the context of Faith.

Friday, 2/21-Sunday, 2/23, Synod wide retreat, "Journey with Jesus" at Imago Dei! Be on the look out for final details: packing list, schedules.



Some of our youth proudly present the "Dorothy Peterson Pencil award" to Ronnie Robinson, for her dedication and commitment to the children of our parish.



Love is patient,
Love is kind.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4



Above: Synod Youth sledding day!
Left: Little Lambs bringing the snow inside.

WELCA Book Selections

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 20

Klune, T.J. **The House in the Cerulean Sea.** 2020. The Door County Read book for 2025. This is a feel-good story set in a fantastical world. It follows Linus Baker, a solitary case worker at the Department in Charge of Magical Youth who's on a mission to the Maryas Island Orphanage. His goal is to observe six children and their caretaker and determine whether the children will bring on the end of days.

The author will be answering community questions about this book: Jan. 18, 1-4:30 pm, in the auditorium of Sturgeon Bay High School, 1230 Michigan St. Jerod Santek of Write, On Door County will lead the discussion and ask your questions.

March 20

Quinn, Kate. **The Rose Code.** "Joining the elite Bletchley Park codebreaking team during World War II, three women from very different walks of life uncover a spy's dangerous agenda years later against the backdrop of the royal wedding of Elizabeth and Philip."

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.

Quilters

Join the WELCA Quilters on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:30 in the fellowship hall for a time talking, coffee & treats and occasionally a few quilts get put together. No experience necessary. The only skill you need is the ability to tie your shoes.



Klaud's Pantry

Thanks to all who continue to support the Food Pantry. The most common question we get is "What does the pantry need?" The best way to answer that question is "Whatever you need from the store." Next time you go to the store, just buy one extra item on your list to donate to the pantry. Do you need a loaf of bread? Milk? Apples? Buy one extra for the pantry.

Our continuing requests include:

Refrigerator items - cheese, yogurt, lunchmeat, fruits, veggies, juice, milk, juice

Freezer items - pizza, small packages of ground beef and chicken, pot pies/dinners, veggies, juice

Shelf stable items - low sodium veggies (corn, green beans, carrots), low sugar fruit, pasta and rice sides, crackers, jam & jelly, ketchup, snack bars, coffee

Thank you again for your tremendous support! Blessings!

World Marketplace

Need a Valentine's Day gift? How about our organic Chocolate bars, Coffee, and Tea. All item are fair trade from around the world. All Jewelry is on Sale 50% off! Come and find us in the corner of the Fellowship Hall.

We still have a few bottles of Extra Peaceful Olive Oil produced by Arab farmers in Israel in conjunction with Palestinian and Israeli Women. From South Africa we have Balsamic Vinegar (Honey & Rooibos and Sun-dried Fig) and a selection of spice grinders including Garlic Pepper, Tomato Pepper, Chili & Ginger Pepper and Pepper & Herbs.



How can Stephen Ministry provide support and assistance in MY life?

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Empathy by Morgan Harper Nichols

Let me hold the door for you.
I may have never walked in your shoes,
but I can see your soles are worn,
your strength is torn
under the weight of a story
I have never lived before.
Let me hold the door for you.
After all you have walked through,
It is the least I can do.

Whatever challenges you're facing, know that Stephen Ministers are ready to listen and walk alongside you on your journey. You don't have to carry your burdens alone—let us help support you! Contact Carol at sotboffice@yahoo.com for more information.

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& Android

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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.

Winter Social 6/7+

Winter Social 6/7+ is being organized for February, March, and April, and we would love for you to join us! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others at Shepherd of the Bay in a friendly and casual environment.

We'll be forming small groups of 6, 7, or 8 people (both couples and singles) by randomly selecting from the sign-up sheets. Once the groups are formed, members can reach out to one another to plan a meal or activity that everyone can enjoy together. The choice of what to do is completely up to each group!

If you're interested in participating, please fill out a sign-up sheet available in the narthex at the church, or feel free to call Carolyn Hitzeman at 920-854-5052. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

Council Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2025

Present – Vicki Amundson, Cheryl Becht, Jane Burress, Scott Henry, Adam Johnson, Julia Keepper, Lynda Pietruszka, Grace Rossman, Micky Swanson, Tara Torkelson

Absent – Pr. Jim Honig, Trish Pierson

Guests – Mark Beecher and Jeff Johnson

Introduction of New Council Candidates – Mark Beecher, Jeff Johnson, and Jane Mohit. Outgoing Council members are Vicki Amundson, Trish Pierson, and Micky Swanson.

Call to Order – President Cheryl Becht @7:05pm

Opening Devotion – Cheryl Becht

Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2024

Motion to approve by Tara Torkelson, 2nd by Grace Rossman. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Addition of new business item #4 Request for Facility Usage

Motion to approve, as amended, by Grace Rossman, 2nd by Scott Henry. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report - Grace Rossman

Treasurer's summary –

“We end 2024 with a loss of about \$9,000, a much more favorable amount than my November projections reflected. We fell short of our budgeted income amount by \$30,000 but also spent about the same amount less than budgeted. Many members made an extra contribution at year end which made the difference. Thank you to everyone who contributed a little extra in response to my letter. The 2025 budget has been presented to the council and will be part of the annual meeting agenda on the 26th.”

Motion to approve by Scott Henry, 2nd by Adam Johnson. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Pastor's Report

Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Lynda Pietruszka

Thriving Congregation Team – Tara Torkelson

Building and Grounds – Tom Tuttle

Security system estimates were submitted. Council will further consult with Tom for clarification.

Motion to approve committee reports by Vicki Amundson, 2nd by Tara Torkelson. Motion carried.

Old Business

1. **AV Desk** – Mike Mittermann Jr. has been observing the past few weeks and has agreed to accept the position.

2. **February Potluck** – Arrangements were made for the Potluck on February 9th.

New Business

1. **Joint Advertising Opportunity** – Council discussed an opportunity to share weekly Pulse advertising expenses with other area ELCA churches by consolidating individual ads into one larger ad. Motion to approve pending follow-up with other churches, by Tara Torkelson, 2nd by Scott Henry. Motion carried.

2. **Welcome Reception for Organist** – Plans were made for a welcome reception for Randy Manges, the new organist, on January 19 during coffee fellowship. A formal installation will be held January 26th.

3. **Committee Nominations** – Council discussed filling vital committee vacancies including audit committee, scholarship committee, delegates to synod assembly, and endowment fund committee. Grace will follow up.

4. **Request for Facility Usage** – Jane Burress inquired about allowing facility usage for a prospective social group that emphasizes socializing without alcohol. Group must work with Carol Omernick for usage contract and dates. Council agreed it would be an appropriate use of facilities.

Lord's Prayer

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm by Cheryl Becht

Next Council Meeting is February 17, 2025 @ 7PM

Respectfully submitted by Micky Swanson

Lessons for February

February 2 : Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Introduction to the readings: The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed

February 9 : The 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 16 : The 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 to" 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 23 : The 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.

Altar Guild :

February - Marcia Eckdahl

March - Sharon Pluff

Readers :

Feb. 2 Cathy Henry
Feb. 9 Sue Daubner
Feb. 16 Marcia Eischen
Feb. 23 Jennifer Gades

Mar. 2 Scott Henry
Mar. 5 OPEN
Mar. 9 Dick Burress
Mar. 16 Dale Johnson
Mar. 23 Carolyn Hitzeman
Mar. 30 Werner Krause

Ushers :

Feb. 2 Glen & Grace Rossman
Feb. 9 Amy & Jacob Mueller
Feb. 16 Dan & Gretchen Farwell
Feb. 23 Dan & Gretchen Farwell

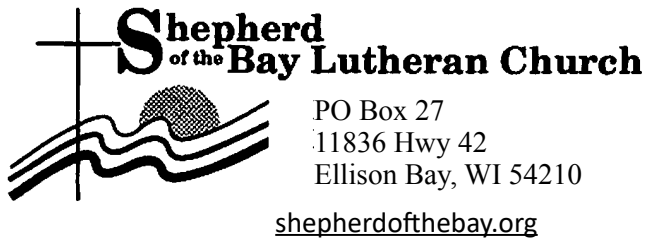
Mar. 2 OPEN
Mar. 5 OPEN
Mar. 9 OPEN
Mar. 16 OPEN
Mar. 23 OPEN
Mar. 30 OPEN

Communion Helpers :

Sue Daubner is looking for someone to help schedule communion helpers. If you can help Sue out, don't hesitate to contact her at sue@profrealtydc.com. Your help would mean a lot to her, and she would truly appreciate your kindness. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference!

Altar Flowers

The 2025 Flower chart is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. The Cost is \$25.00 per arrangement. Fill in your name, if it is in memory or honor of someone and if you want one or two arrangements. You can take the flowers home after the Service. Please sign up to donate Altar Flowers.



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