

The Parish Door

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

AUGUST 2026



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

(920) 854-2988

Shepherdofthebay.org

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Summer Visual Art Gallery

Creativity abounds at Shepherd of the Bay—from the choir loft to the classrooms, through the voices, instruments, hands, hearts, and tools. Calling all visual artists (painters, jewelry makers, textile artists, sculptors, carvers, creators) in our church community to share your talents in a gallery show beginning July 29 in our fellowship hall at Shepherd of the Bay.

If you are interested, please call/text Sue Daubner at 920-421-0004 or Cindy Schaulis at 920-737-4722. We would like you to include:

Your name, Media, and a Brief statement about you and your art:

We are suggesting 1-3 pieces per artist. Please identify each piece—perhaps title, media, materials, etc. If you are interested in selling an item, please include a price. (Minimum of 20% to be given to the church program of your choice.) Please bring all art to church by Sat., July 25. Set-up will be Sunday, July 26, at 2.



Ken & Shari Ebert

Ken and Shari would like to become Associate members at Shepherd of the Bay. They live in Kankakee, IL.

Ken is a member of Gabriel's Callers/Project Compassion in their church. He visits and calls seniors and shut-in members of the church 2-4 times a week. Ken's other activities include yard work, reading, and golfing with family (unfortunately, too infrequent!).

Shari is a retired RN. She began violin studies at age 31, eventually leading to a musical career as an orchestral musician. They have 3 adult children and 5 grandchildren. Shari is an avid reader/collector of cookbooks. They have been visiting Door County for many years and love it!

NEW MEMBERS



Kelley Vercauteren

Kelley is a nurse at the clinic in Sister Bay. She moved to Door County 4 years ago with her husband. She has two kids and a great dog.



Tony Gonzales

Tony grew up in Ellison Bay and his first job was at the Viking Restaurant. He has lived in Door County his whole life except for 4 years spent in the U.S. Air Force and two years in Colorado working and skiing. He likes to camp, hike, fish, ice fish, cookout, bike, and travel.

Tony lives on 40 acres in Sister Bay. He is a painter/carpenter, contractor, and Property Manager.

"I love my family: Britta, Erik, and my three dogs, Willow, Juniper, and Zeus. I am always moving, fixing something or building in my free time."

What does the church do?

I'm really curious to hear how you would answer this question. I bet the answers would be all over the place.

No matter what your first response and first impulse might be, one answer we could all agree on is that the church worships. Worship is the very center of our life as church; it's the spring of living water that is the source of everything the church is and everything the church does.

Though worship is the very heartbeat of the church, I'm not sure we have a clear understanding of what worship is, why we do it, and especially, why the parts of our Sunday morning liturgy are so important to the life of the church. Over the next several months, I'm going to use this column in our monthly newsletter for a series of brief reflections on our worship life and our Lutheran liturgy.

I want to start big. Not big in the number of words or the length of this column. Big, as in the big picture. The view from 30,000 feet. Not the picture with the telephoto lens where we ask why we sing the Sanctus or where we get the Words of Institution from. Here I'm asking a more fundamental question. What is worship and why do we do it?

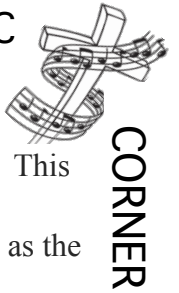
At its heart, worship is a communal encounter with the living God into which God graciously invites us. This is how it works:

God speaks, and we listen. God's word gives what it says. It is a dynamic (think dynamite!!) word, not a static word. A static word is when I might describe something I see. You hear it, but nothing happens. When God speaks, God's voice enacts what it says. So, when God says, "I love you," God is loving you through those words. When God says, "Faith comes through hearing God's word," it's not just a description of what happens; God is actually giving the gift of faith through the proclamation of those words. Faith is born from what is heard, and that very same faith given by God and received by our hearts acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. Music is drawn into this thankfulness and praise, enlarging and elevating the adoration of our gracious giver God.

Saying back to God what God says to us, we repeat what is most true and sure. Most true and sure is the name of God, the name inscribed on our hearts at our baptism, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." We belong to this God. At the beginning of worship, we acknowledge this with the same words, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Where God's name is, God is there. We acknowledge our condition before God and ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness is given and we, freed and forgiven, acclaim God as our great and gracious God as we now apply ourselves to the words God has used to make Godself known to us.

That's the rhythm of our worship. All starts with God. The rhythm of worship is from God to us and then from us back to God. God gives gifts; we receive them, and we say and sing the praises of God. We build each other up as we speak to one another, singing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." (Colossians 3:16) The Lord Jesus Christ gives us his body to eat and his blood to drink. Finally, God blesses us and sends us out into the world, each of us with a calling to love God and love our neighbor. This is how God's gifts bear fruit in the world. How best to live out the calling each of us has been given is what we learn from the Word each week.

This, in a nutshell, is worship. Over the next months, we'll unpack this in more detail.



MUSIC IS MEDICINE

I recently had an encounter with a friend after a Sunday morning worship service had concluded. This person approached me and showed me his worship bulletin, upon which he had written: MUSIC IS THE MEDICINE OF SORROW. I asked him to elaborate on this statement and he attributed Baruch Spinoza as the source of this philosophy, where music can be a valuable tool for emotional healing.

Do you know how it feels to have a musical “ear worm” stuck in your head for days? A tune that you heard in the morning and now it accompanies your every waking moment? “Music is the medicine of sorrow” became my constant ear worm, both a troubling and comforting thought, and I needed to find out more. So I asked Google!

While the sentiment resonates perfectly with Dutch philosopher **Baruch Spinoza's** holistic view of the mind and body, the exact quote *"Music is the medicine of the soul"* is traditionally attributed to **Plato**. Spinoza actually analyzed music's power in his masterpiece *Ethics*, noting that while harmony is good for a melancholy person, it could be a nuisance to someone who is actively mourning. To him, music was a unique medicine because it affected the entire body and soul all at once, creating a sense of unity and cheerfulness. Ah! now we're getting somewhere that my brain can comprehend. I have always known the effects of music on my mood and how a beautiful symphony can lift my spirits and provide a release from sadness or anger or frustration or (I also know that I must not have music playing in the car when I am driving, due to the fact that my brain quickly follows the music I am hearing and overcomes the responsibility I have to pay attention to the road!) But I digress!

I got a kick out of reading (Google!) that "harmony could be a nuisance to someone who is actively mourning." And yet there have been times in my life when music has been an unwelcome guest! Sometimes one needs silence, a sense of solitude, a quiet walk in nature and allow God's music to accompany us ... the sounds of rustling leaves, singing birds, a babbling brook, our footsteps on the ground. God's music, with all its complexity, often provides the best and most complete healing of all! God is the master healer, providing holy medicine through holy sights and soothing sounds.

So the next time I am in need of consolation or to lift my spirits out of sadness, I possibly will seek out Mahler's 2nd Symphony ("Resurrection") or the "Goldberg Variations" of J.S. Bach or listen to some jazz by the amazing pianist Dave Grusin ... or take a quiet walk and listen to God's rich musical masterpiece ... and be healed.

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

Marty Haugen, text and music

*Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.
You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. **Refrain**
In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
Give us all your vision, God of love. **Refrain**
Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. **Retrain**
You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. **Refrain***

May we all continue to live in hope, joy, comfort and peace, accompanied at all times by God's love and the healing powers of God's music.

Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist

Youth and Family Ministry News

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

Let's keep connected throughout the summer!!

Join your church family in celebrating the **first Holy Communion of Gabriella DeMarinis and Luca Torcivia on Sunday, August 9th!** Please join us for a cake reception to follow in fellowship hall.

Sunday School

will meet each Sunday, following the Children's message. For children ages 4 through grade 6.

This summer, we are learning the Fruits of the Spirit and where we identify them in the current Gospel lesson! Love, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Joy, and Self-Control.

Summer Wonderful Wednesdays

For children ages 4 through grade 6.

A 9:00 to 4:00 p.m day filled with faith formation activities!

This summer, we meet at "Camp Three in One" Just two Wednesdays left, but not too late to register! **August 5, and 12!** See Lynda to register, and if you would like more information!

Intergenerational Mission Trip to the Mississippi Delta

Shepherd of the Bay is teaming up with Peace Lutheran in Green Bay, for a trek to Mississippi through the Fuller Center for Housing. The team will be working on housing projects within their physical and gifted abilities, learning about the systemic problems behind the ongoing poverty in the poorest county, in the poorest state in our nation. "Washing Hands and Feet!" The team heads out **Saturday, August 15th, and returns, Saturday, August 22nd.** Keep them in your prayers!

If you would like to support the team, there will be a box in the narthex where you can place nonperishable breakfast and lunch snacks and beverages for the road trip, gas cards, wet wipes, mosquito repellent, and sunscreen.



Xavier Gaddes joking around at Imago Dei Camp.

School Supplies

With back to school sales starting in July, please think about purchasing some of the following items to donate. We will be collecting for different organizations in Door County and Nationally.

- notebooks; no loose leaf paper
- pencil sharpener
- blunt scissors
- unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- black or blue ballpoint pens
- 16 or 24 crayons
- pink all purpose erasers
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Wet Hand Wipes
- Backpacks



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.

Do Good Door County at SOTB

Cynthia Germain of Do Good Door County shared on Sunday, July 19, how Door County is building a community where people can age with independence and purpose. The presentation highlighted Senior Advocacy for Independent Living (SAIL), a volunteer-powered program that helps older adults remain in their own homes by providing practical assistance and social connection. Cynthia is planning the following programs at Shepherd of the Bay Church Fellowship Hall that support aging in place and share ways individuals can become part of this growing community effort.

Future presentations are scheduled:

AARP Downsizing & Decluttering Presentation

Wednesday, August 26 | 10:30 a.m. in Shepherd of the Bay Fellowship Hall

Ready to simplify your home and your life? Join us for this free AARP presentation to discover practical, easy-to-follow tips for downsizing and decluttering. Learn why letting go can be difficult, where to begin, and simple strategies to make the process manageable and rewarding.

AARP HomeFit Presentation

Tuesday, September 22 | 10:30 a.m. in Shepherd of the Bay Fellowship Hall

Most of us hope to remain in our homes as we grow older. Join us for this free AARP HomeFit presentation to learn simple, affordable ways to make your home safer, more comfortable, and better suited for living independently. Discover room-by-room tips that can help you enjoy your home for years to come.

Guatemala Mission Trip

The dates for the Mission Trip are Monday, February 22 to Tuesday, March 2, 2027.

If you would like to join us or just get more information on the trip, please contact Carol Omernick in the church office or Nora Zacek.

Please pray for those going on the mission and the people we will serve. Help us to be the Hands of Jesus.

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."

Garden Club

Weather permitting, the Garden Club will meet on Thursdays from 8:30 to 10:30am. And of course, there will be snacks and coffee.

We have a variety of jobs, from mowing to trimming and weeding. You don't need to work for the full two or commit to every week. You could also work at another time that works for you.

All mowing and landscaping is done through volunteers. Your time is greatly needed and appreciated. Being part of the Garden Club is a nice way for permanent and seasonal members to connect. If you have questions, call Scott Thies at (920) 854-9816.

Thriving Congregations

Over the past several years, Shepherd of the Bay, in conjunction with the Black Mountain School of Theology and Practice, has engaged in a robust planning process called Thriving Congregations. We ended with specific outcomes to strengthen our ability to care for one another and to focus our outreach into the community. We have reaped a harvest of other intangible blessings as we have strengthened the relational fabric of our congregation and thinned the walls between church and community.

The Thriving Congregations process is an ongoing conversation that continually seeks God's guidance on our identity and mission. We are now ready to begin a new phase, starting with individual relational meetings, followed by listening sessions. We will analyze the insights gained from these sessions to identify key themes and form action teams to develop strategies for implementation.

We are seeking new team members to guide us through this multi-year journey. Candidates should commit to monthly meetings and individual discussions. Ideal candidates will have a love for Christ, an openness to new ideas, curiosity, and a willingness to learn.

If you feel called to participate in this ministry or have any questions, please email Pr. Jim at sotbpastor@gmail.com.

Klaud's Pantry Postings

Dear Community Members,

The Door County Food Coalition has received a significant grant from the Wisconsin Hunger Task Force through the "Connecting Farms to Families" initiative. This funding will be used to provide essential protein items to our pantries. We have already received 40 pounds of cheese, and we will soon receive chicken, ground pork, and ground beef. We are incredibly grateful for this support, as protein items are always in high demand.

As the need for food in our community continues to grow each week, we invite you to visit our Tree of Need in the narthex. There, you can choose an item to support on a weekly or monthly basis. Every donation makes a difference.

In addition to the grant items, we are always in need of:

- Peanut butter
- Canned chicken and tuna
- Milk and eggs
- Cleaning supplies
- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Personal care items
- Gift cards, which help us purchase needed items directly.

Thank you for your continued support!
Barb Zage

Altar Flowers Committee Forming

Do you enjoy beautiful blooms & have a knack for creating eye-catching arrangements? Then consider joining the newly-formed Flowers Committee to help continue the tradition of lovely seasonal bouquets adorning our altar. Reach out to Jane Mohit at 510.384.5036 or Mrs.jane.mohit@gmail.com to learn how you can help.

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.

August 20

Dugoni, Robert. **The World Played Chess**. 2021.

Novel about a man who has just graduated from high school and is going on to college. He gets a job alongside two Vietnam veterans and is profoundly affected by this experience.

September 17

Evans, Virginia. **The Correspondent**. 2025. Novel of a woman who writes letters everyday including some she never sends. When she is forced to reread these letters, she must confront the most painful period of her life and make decisions.

Men's Faith and Fellowship Group

Our group's next meeting is Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 pm in the church parlor.

Look forward to seeing you there!

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.

Church Council Meeting - June 15, 6:30pm

1. Call to order: Jeff called to order at 6:34pm. Excused absences: Adam and MJ, guests: Dick B and Judy J
Approval of Minutes from last meeting

(the minutes will follow the agenda; however, the order of the meeting was different due to guests)

1. President's Report (discussion) - Jeff Johnson

- a. Outreach reports and activities
- b. Care coordinator vacancy
- c. AED classes—additional familiarization class? 3 possible certification dates, 6/29, 7/27, 8/24 fee of \$40 4 hour classes
- a. Discussion of facility usage forms, updates and retention
- b. 7/4 potluck volunteers
- c. Mike Mittermann has requested being able to park his school bus overnight for several weeks—it would cut down on trips and travel for him. Unanimous consent by council

1. Pastors Report- Jim Honig

Discussion of visioning thru 2030

Exit interview with Amy scheduled 6/22—encourage attendance by council

Announcements—recommend that if they are posted which would be beneficial to congregation, should be in the Narthex-to maintain the integrity of the worship space (sanctuary)

Scheduling of summer annual meeting at church

July meeting at Cheryl's business and social time

1. Treasurer's report-Grace Rossman

- a. Discussion of Bruce and Jan Mielke estate annuity claim form requiring Grace and Jeff to sign. Motion carried unanimously

Grace reviewed statements—discussion regarding better clarity and definition of maintenance funds/line items

1. Committee Reports

- a. Lynda (Youth and Family Ministry)

Discussion regarding decisions made regarding SOTB youth not receiving scholarships. Looking for clarity on decision-making process.

- b. Dick Burress (Building and Grounds)

-Discussion regarding Mike Mittermann's spending limits and task priorities—

-Also B & G's limits. Provide them clarification. Council is very appreciative with the work Mike is doing.

-Discussion of hours of locking and unlocking of doors and communicating to congregation and public

-Discussion of carpet cleaning areas of priority for July

-Discussion of parking lot repairs/resurfacing. Currently 1 bid from UP NORTH for Seal coating, line striping, and crack fill. Considering certain areas only of parking lot, Council asked B & G to secure 2 more bids from other companies and options within to make a decision.

-Additional freezer where to place—most likely in conference room

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer at 8:25pm

Next meeting 7/20

Submitted by Mark Beecher

Altar Flowers Committee Forming

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Lessons for August

August 2 : Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-5

Second Lesson: Romans 9:1-5

Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Introduction: In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

August 9 : Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Second Lesson: Romans 10:5-15

Holy Gospel : Matthew 14:22-33

Introduction: Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

August 16 : Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

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

Holy Gospel: Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

Introduction: In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

August 23 : Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 51:1-6

Second Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Introduction: In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

August 30 : Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Second Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Introduction: The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Readers:

August 2	David Olson
August 9	Sue Daubner
August 16	Jeanne Aurelius
August 23	Gretchen Farwell
August 30	Nancy Megan

Ushers :

August 2	OPEN
August 9	OPEN
August 16	OPEN
August 23	OPEN
August 30	OPEN

Altar Guild:

August: Debbie Casperson
September: Cathy Mangan &
Jill Lhost

Communion Helpers :

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

Altar Flowers

The 2026 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.





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Shepherd of the Bay youth enjoying a campfire with new friends at Imago Dei Camp.

