

# The Parish Door

January 2022

A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church

PO Box 27, Ellison Bay, WI. 54210

[Shepherdofthebay.org](http://Shepherdofthebay.org)

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

(920) 854-2988

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## Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022 immediately following the worship service.

2021 Annual Reports will be available on our website and at church after the service on Jan. 23rd.

## Sunday Morning Worship & Fellowship

Join us for Sunday Morning Worship at 9:30am in the sanctuary, parking lot, or in your own home. We will have coffee and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

We will continue live streaming our Sunday morning Worship Service on [shepherdofthebay.org/services](http://shepherdofthebay.org/services) beginning at 9:25am. We will post a recorded version of the live streamed service on our website for viewing later.

As a third option, you can continue to listen on your radio in your car from the parking lot. Communion will be available.

## Women's Bible Study

**Tuesday evenings 6:45pm-7:45pm  
beginning on Jan. 11th.**

After attending the WELCA Retreat on Nov. 9th, a group of women were inspired to continue learning together in the Bible. We are planning to have a 1 hour Study with optional fellowship afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

We will begin with the devotional book, "One Minute after Every Mile: Running the Race" by local author, Jo Anna Rieger. Contact the church office for a book or for more info.

## We're Going Bananas!

We are going "bananas" over all the support we receive from our church family for Youth Ministry!! Purchase a homemade banana bread, prepared by our high school youth to raise money for the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Pick one up Sunday, January 16th after the church service. Choose from banana, chocolate banana, or chocolate banana with nuts! \$10.00 starting donation! If we run out, we'll make more!!



I grew up in the land of big sky, the plains of western Nebraska. I could go out my back door and the sky was full of stars. Since that time, I have mostly lived in suburbia where light pollution would lead one to believe that stars had all but disappeared. It was one of the things I loved about my annual backpacking trip — I'd get to see a sky full of stars again. And it's one of the things I love about living in the woods in Door County. I often walk out my front door before I go to bed and just stand there and take it all in.

Good thing there wasn't light pollution in ancient Israel. It would have made it hard for the Magi to follow that star that led them to Bethlehem. It led them to Jesus, the light of the world. And to thwart the plans of the violent tyrant Herod, the Magi returned home by a different route, allowing Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus the time needed to escape to Egypt as refugees.

Our journeys also, whether by day or by night, also have detours. We've experienced many of them over the past 22 months. As I pen this little epistle a few days before Christmas, the public health experts and the media seem to be going back to crisis mode as the Omicron variant of the coronavirus is spreading rapidly. Who knows what detours that will require in the new year.

And still, the star leads to Christ, Christ who is our bright Morning Star. Matthew's gospel begins with "God with us," the one who is called Emmanuel. The promise is for all people for all time. The same gospel that begins with Emmanuel, ends with the promise, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." So, as we cross the thresh-hold into a new year, regardless of what uncertainties and detours lie before us, it's certain that the Guiding Light who is Jesus will lead us.

And this, too, is true: the Epiphany story of the Magi proclaims the expansive nature of God's mission and God's kingdom. Epiphany celebrates the good news that seeks and welcomes people from every language and nation and people. Like the myriad stars in the sky, so also is the grace of God — immeasurable and beyond our comprehension. To look at the stars in the sky is to join our ancestor Abraham and trust that the promise of the covenant is for us and for all the peoples of the world. To see the stars in the sky is to grasp not only the vastness of the universe and our small place in it, but also to appreciate the nearness of God's presence made known in Christ the Lord, who comes to us again and again and again.

Happy New Year!

Pr. Jim Honig



## Interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or a Stephen Minister Leader as we move into 2022?

There is a need for new Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers at SOTB. The Stephen Leader Team of SOTB is beginning to reevaluate our mission and outreach for the coming years. We want you to help with this project.

If you would like a Stephen Minister to contact you regarding a need for a care giver - contact: George Cobb (920-421-2702) Carol Omernick (920-421-1965) or the Church office (920-854-2988)



**Light** is a very interesting concept. We experienced the shortest day of the year (the darkest) on December 21, at the very time that we were busy illuminating Christmas trees and decorating our homes with festive twinkling lights. From that time forward, each day gives us a little longer period of daylight and will continue until June, when the longest day (the most light) will be upon us.

“The feast of Epiphany (manifestation) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the **light of the star** that guided the magi to Jesus, the **light of Christ** reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be **beacons of the light of Christ**, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.” (Sundays and Seasons 2022: Guide to Worship Planning)

### *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

*words and music by Graham Kendrick*

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;*

*Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

*Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;*

*Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.*

*Shine on me, shine on me:*

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;*

*Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,*

*Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.*

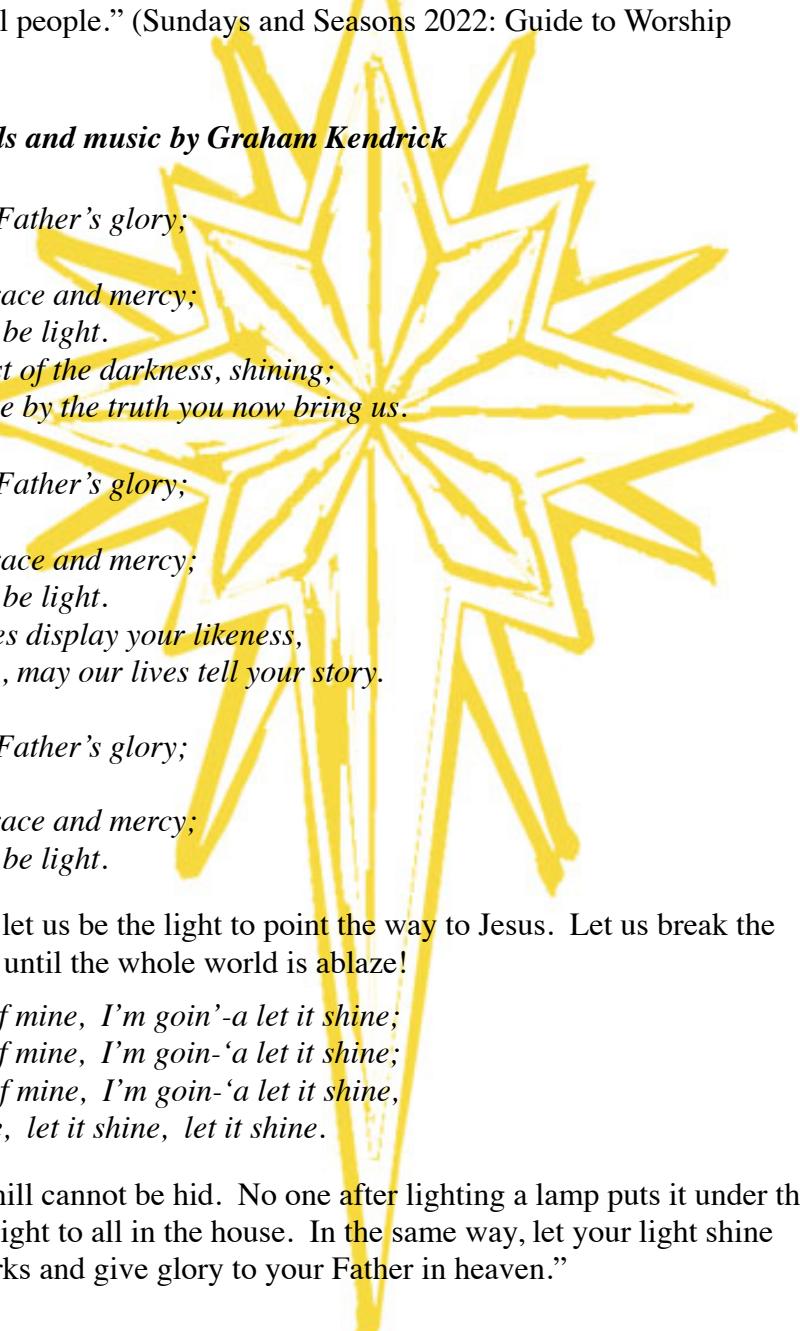
*Shine on me, shine on me:*

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory;*

*Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;*

*Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*



Like the words of the African American spiritual, let us be the light to point the way to Jesus. Let us break the bonds of darkness with our simple candle of faith until the whole world is ablaze!

*This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;*

*This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine;*

*This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine,*

*Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5: 14-16

May we continue to provide beacons of light to each other in these dark days, pointing the way to the Father.

Blessings to you in this new year – a new beginning for us all,  
Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist



## Youth and Family Ministry News

from Lynda Pietruszka

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

**Wishing you and your family, a very safe, healthy, and joy filled New Year! There are a lot of wonderful things planned for our children, youth, and families in the coming months!**

Thanks to the congregation for the donation of 125 boxes of cereal to make our cereal box challenge a great success for the DC food coalition!



### MILE STONE MINISTRY!!

This month's Milestone Ministry will honor our early readers with a book to take home; as they continue to grow in their ability to read, and develop the love of reading!! Join us during the children's message on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>!!

### Little Lambs Bible Story Time

For infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their care providers

Meets every Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. For the most part, we are bundling up and playing outside. Inside days, masks required. Please call ahead if you are new to the group. Sometimes we go off schedule and take a spontaneous field trip!!

Wed. 1/5 – God Created Winter, and Snow!!

Wed. 1/12 - Let's meet Joseph!

Wed. 1/19 - Let's go on a Bear Hunt! Bring your backpack and your favorite stuffed animal!

Wed. 1/26 - No Little Lambs today.

### Sunday School

Sunday School gathers during the children's message at our 9:30 worship service. Children process upstairs to Sunday School. Dismissal at the end of worship. Please meet your child upstairs and sign him/her out. We continue to wear masks and safe distance.

Sunday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>- Jesus the Word, John 1:10-18

Sunday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>- Jesus' Baptism, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>- Wedding at Cana, John 2:1-11

Sunday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>- Jesus Goes to Nazareth, Luke 4:14-30

Sunday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>- Jeremiah, Jeremiah 1:4-10

### Wonderful Wednesdays "Journey Together"

For school children **grades 1-6**, **preregister to ride the Gibraltar School Bus** to Shepherd of the Bay, after school each **first and third Wednesday** of the month for a special time of being together, learning and growing in faith; and having a blast all at the same time! Music, snacks, arts and crafts, stories, service to the community, games and more!

Wed. 1/5 Discover the Disciples, their gifts and ours!!

Wed. 1/19 Church Scavenger Hunt and Fun with Winter!

### Confirmation

**Students in grades 7 and 8**

The SOTB Van will be outside Gibraltar after school to pick Confirmation students up on Wed. Jan. 5, 12, & 19<sup>th</sup>. No Confirmation on 1/26 (Gibraltar, no school). Topic: The Creed.

Students who signed up for service in January: Communion: David Olson 1/9, Kuper Tesnow, 1/23. Ushering: Bobby Opper, 1/2, Xavier Gaddes and Bobby Opper. 1/9.

## **High School Youth Group**

### **Students in grades 9-12**

We will meet the **2nd and 4th Wednesday** of the month. Stay tuned to your email, text messages, SOTB newsletter and our SOTB Youth face book page for updated information!

Wed. 1/12 - Meet at church! We are going "bananas"!! Cooking school 101, making banana bread for youth fundraiser AND one to take home! Add some chocolate chips and "Bananagrams!" God' Boundless Creation, a short lesson to support our youth heading to the Mpls. Youth gathering this summer! 6:30-8:30 p.m. tonight!

Wed. 1/26 - Sign up to go to Green Bay Title Town via the SOTB van for some Winter Fun!! Time and registration info coming soon! No school today, so we will head out mid-afternoon!

## **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.

**Custodian** – Several inquiries have been sent out through members who knew of someone that might be interested, but no responses have been received to date. A help wanted advertisement was also posted at Gibraltar high school outside the Counselor's office. In the meantime, a small group of volunteers have been cleaning the building since the end of November. Thank you to Ruth Ann Hjelle, Grace and Glen Rossman, Scott Thies and Jane Burress. The next step will be contact cleaning services and placing an advertisement in the Pulse. The position is part-time (8-10hrs/wk.) involves the interior cleaning of the building and has flexible hours. If you would like to join our group of volunteers or know someone who might be interested in our job opening, please contact Tom Tuttle.

### **Building Maintenance**

**Church Office stationery closet** – The motion detector light switch was replaced.

**Holding Tank Filling** – The holding tank was on a 3wk pumping schedule. It was pumped on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> with 5000 gallons removed. Then again it was pumped on Dec 27<sup>th</sup> with another 5000 gallons removed. All the toilets were checked and not leaking. All the flapper valves in the toilets were replaced Wednesday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. After the tank was pumped on Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, dye was put into the toilet tank water to determine whether any of the toilets were leaking. They were not. Over a 7-day period it would only take a flow of 2gal/min to fill the tank. A call to Culligan about the softener water usage revealed that the softener uses approximately 75gal/regeneration cycle and regenerates after 2000gal usage. After talking with Joel and Eagle Mechanical I learned that the 2 steamers run continuously with the air circulating blowers during the winter. They have a small 2-gallon tank where the water is heated and refilled as the water is turned to steam. There is not supposed to be any water overflow from the tank. Once every 24hrs the tank is emptied and then flushed to remove any debris. That cycle uses approximately 6gal of water. Joel found that the steamer serving the Fellowship Hall had overflow going down the drain. A drain flow of 1/2gal/min would fill the 5000gal tank in 7 days without any toilets being flushed. Eagle was notified to service the steamer.

**AV Desk** – Thank you Ron Hupe, for helping share the responsibilities and for operating the desk for the Christmas Eve service. Unfortunately, we are still on the learning curve for our live streaming and experienced a problem connecting to You Tube which prevented us from live streaming the service on December 26<sup>th</sup>. The service was recorded and is available on the church website. Anyone interested in learning how to operate the system for services is encouraged to contact Tom Tuttle.

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 the message holder on the custodian's closet door in the narthex (the door between the 2 restrooms). Thank you.

## Lessons for January

### January 2 : Second Sunday of Christmas

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Holy Gospel: John 1:10-18

**Introduction to the readings:** Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

### January 9 : Baptism of Our Lord

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

Second Lesson: Acts 8:14-17

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Introduction to the readings:** Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

### January 16 : Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Holy Gospel : John 2:1-11

**Introduction to the readings:** The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

### January 23 : Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

**Introduction to the readings:** God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

### January 30 : 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.

## Service Volunteers Needed for 2022

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](mailto:scott@henry.org).

If you would like to be an **usher**, contact Cheryl Becht at [clbecht1248@gmail.com](mailto:clbecht1248@gmail.com).

If you would like to help with **communion**, contact Sue Daubner at [sue@profrealtydc.com](mailto:sue@profrealtydc.com).

If you would like to be on the **Altar Guild**, contact Sharon Pluff at [bspluff@frontier.com](mailto:bspluff@frontier.com).

## WELCA Prayer Chain

The WELCA Prayer Chain continues to serve all the members and friends of SOTB for prayer requests.

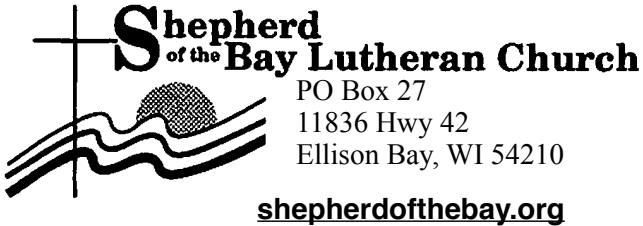
To send a Prayer Request:

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.



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## Klaud's Food Pantry

We are so grateful for all the donations and financial support this past year. Klaud's is very well-stocked with non-perishable food at this point, but we can always use refrigerator items such as cheese, butter, yogurt, milk, juice, produce, deli meats, etc. Pizza and frozen dinners are always appreciated!

Household cleaning supplies and personal care items are also needed. Items include Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash/Soap and Dish Soap.

## **Book Selections for Shepherd of the Bay Book Group**

All meetings will begin at 9:30am, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Please contact Gretchen Farwell if you have any questions regarding the Book Group and its meetings.

**January 20, 2022**

Larson, Erik. **The Splendid and the Vile**: a saga of Churchill, family, and defiance during the Blitz. Exciting and devastating account of Great Britain's suffering for a year in 1940-41 when the country was bombed by the German air force almost nightly.

**February 17**

Door County's Big Read for 2022 – Michael Perry's **Population 485**; Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a time (2002) **AND** his **Truck**; a love story (2007). Wisconsin author who writes about his local area around New Auburn – considered an excellent observer of rural WI communities and their inhabitants.