

The Parish Door

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

A Stephen Ministry Congregation (920) 854-2988 Shepherdofthebay.org

What's INSIDE

pg. 2 - Pastor's Post
- Stephen Ministry
Pg. 3 - From the Music Corner
pg. 4 - Youth & Family News
- Partners in Ministry
pg. 5 - Council Minutes
- Thank You Notes
pg. 6 - Lessons for September
- WELCA Book Group
pg. 7 - Calendar
Back Cover - Klaud's Pantry

Greetings from Your Congregational Care Coordinator - Vicki Amundson-

The Thriving Congregation program encouraged us to prayerfully pay attention to strengthening the fabric of relationships within the congregation and to thin the walls between the church and our communities. This position was one of the outcomes of that process. The team that recommended this position wanted a point person to coordinate activities like visiting those who weren't able to easily get to church, providing transportation when needed, providing additional fellowship and social activities, and providing information about social services available within the county. I hope to build on the strong foundation laid by Amy Hennings.

My first couple of weeks involved reviewing records and materials, and starting to talk to those people who have been helping Amy with various activities. I want to thank those who have patiently answered my questions and those who have contacted me to offer suggestions for things to offer in the fall and winter or to offer help wherever it was needed.

Next month I will share some thoughts on what I think it means to "care" for each other and some ideas for fall activities.

If you or someone you know could use some additional support, would like a call or visit, or simply a friendly ear do not hesitate to contact me by email at sotb.care@gmail.com or by phone at 920-854-2988, extension 3, or stop by my office on Tuesdays from 10-4 or most Thursdays 1-4.

New Phone System

If you have called the church (920-854-2988) in the past few months, you will have noticed that we have a new phone system. It is Wi-Fi-based, so we will have access to our voicemail even when we are not in the office. So please leave a message when you call.

Church Office (Carol), extension 0, Office Hours: Tues.- Thurs. 9-noon & 1-5:00
Pastor Jim, extension 1, Office Hours vary week to week

Youth & Family (Lynda), extension 2, Office Hours: Thursday 10-4

Congregational Care Coordinator (Vicki), ext. 3, Office Hours: Tuesday 10-4

Ladies Bible Study Hike

Join us on Mondays at 2:00 pm for a hike and devotion. Each week we will walk at a different park in Northern Door and take turns leading a devotion.

You can call Carol at (920)854-2988 ext. 0 for more information or to find out where we will be walking that week. We would love to have you join us! Everybody is welcome!

Men's Faith and Fellowship

Our group's next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7:00 pm in the church parlor. We look forward to seeing you there!

Guatemala Mission Trip

It is not too late to join our team for the Guatemala Mission trip. The dates are Monday, February 22 to Tuesday, March 2, 2027. So far, we have the following people going: Jeanne Aurelius; Carolyn Hitzeman; Tara Torkelson; Lynda Pietruszka; Kim St. Aubin-Clark; Jill Lhost; Rae Jungwirth; Jeff Johnson; Les, Julia, & Jamison Keepper; Carol & Jed Omernick; Nora and Laney Zacek. There is still room for you!

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."

A childhood version of my faith would have gone something like this: Jesus died on the cross to save me from my sins. When I asked him into my heart, that was all it took. I was saved. No need for church, no need for the bible, no need for anything or anyone else.

What my childhood faith failed to take into account was the communal nature of the Christian faith. My individualistic understanding of the faith diminished the magnitude, grandeur, and power of what Christ did on the cross. He not only made it possible for me to have life with God (and you, too, by the way!!), he created a community that crosses the boundaries of time and space. It's not so hard to think about the church spanning the boundaries of space. We know that there are Christians in Germany and Norway, India and China, Japan and Korea, Egypt and Palestine, Tanzania and South Africa. It's maybe hard to think about the church as spanning time. We are part of living body that includes all who have ever been brought into God's divine family and confessed the name of Christ, no matter when they lived.

Which means that we do not generate our own faith. We are not the first ones who have believed and it is neither necessary nor wise to think that we get to make up what we want to believe. We are part of a long parade through time that has constantly sought to better understand what God has done for us in Christ and how to live as a follower of Jesus.

There's a paradox here. For each of us, the Christian faith is very personal and subjective. When I talk to faithful people about the hard times they have experienced, they inevitably talk about how important their faith was to get them through the struggle. At the same time, the faith we believe is corporate and outside of us. It is the faith into which we are received at our baptism, the faith of the communion of saints over time, the faith that supports and sustains us and has been passed down to us. It is a big house that none of us built, and its steadfastness and sturdiness does not depend on me, even when, maybe especially when my own faith is wobbly, waxing, and waning.

This is one of the reasons why I think its so important to show up for worship each Sunday. There are times when I am not feeling it, maybe even I don't want to be there, times when I am weak and wounded, tired and maybe feeling overwhelmed by all that is happening in the world. Those are the times when each of us can rely on the faith of those around us. We stand and say the creed together, and we hear those around us confessing that they believe. And we say that creed knowing that our brothers and sisters in Christ struggled to articulate what they believed thousands of years ago, and still, we believe. Often I pray prayers I did not write. We sing hymns that we did not write or compose. The prayers and they hymns have been wrought in faith and doubt, pain and tears, over time, and these words teach us how to pray. None of this relies on our own sometimes exhausted spirits to figure out how and what to pray. We are invited to find ourselves in the words of others who have prayed before us; and maybe some of the words that we use to pray and articulate the faith will someday become the prayers of others. We pray with each other across time, and this braces and strengthens our own faith; it holds us up when we do not have the strength to stand.

So, with that in mind, see you in Church.

Peace,
Pr. Jim Honig

CONFIDENTIAL!

Stephen Ministry is confidential!

Trust is essential for a caring relationship. We all encounter situations that may leave us feeling vulnerable. When we share our feelings and open up to others, it's crucial that we can trust the person we are confiding in. This trust comes from our confidence that the information we share will not be disclosed to others.

Stephen Ministers take a vow of confidentiality. They do not share names or sensitive information about their relationships. They walk alongside the care receiver and do not talk about them to anyone else. Only the Stephen Minister, the Stephen Leader, and the pastor know who is receiving visits and care through the Stephen Ministry.

Confidentiality is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. If you would like to speak to someone about having a caregiver, please get in touch with Carol in the church office at 920-854-2988 ext. 0.



LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

The author and illustrator Charles Schultz gave us many helpful insights through his Peanuts characters. One particular example burns brightly for me today: Charlie Brown has a dark cloud over his head, and that cloud is releasing its rain all over our hapless hero. But true to his optimistic nature, Charlie will not remain under the discomfort of the falling rain or the gloom of the cloud overhead. No! He knows there is sunshine and blue sky ahead. Never fear! As the song says: "Put on a happy face."

The happy face that we wear today is not based solely on hopes and dreams, but on the true certainty of God's goodness and grace in our lives. No matter the journey path that we walk, whether smooth and easy or complicated and jagged, we can walk with confidence, knowing that we walk with Jesus by our side, guiding us, supporting our every step, righting us when we stumble, lifting us up when we fall, lighting the way. What a comfort! What a confidence builder! We are never alone because God is always with us!

Psalm 16:7-11
*I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
 In the night also my heart instructs me.
 I keep the LORD always before me;
 Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
 My body also rests secure.
 For you do not give me up to Sheol,
 Or let your faithful one see the Pit.
 You show me the path of life.
 In your presence there is fullness of joy;
 In your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME
 Doris Akers (1922-1995)

*Lead me, guide me, along the way;
 For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
 Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me. (refrain)*

*I am weak and I need thy strength and power
 To help me over my weakest hour.
 Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain.*

*Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
 Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
 I am putting all my trust in thee.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain.*

*I am lost if you take your hand from me,
 I am blind without thy light to see.
 Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.*

MAY WE EVER WALK WITH JESUS, TRUSTING HIM TO GUIDE OUR WAY.
 Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist

Sunday School

For children ages 4- grade 6. Let's meet Sunday morning, following the Children's message, inside worship! We will experience the children's version of understanding today's Gospel message, and return for Communion and/or a Blessing! Parents, please meet your children in the classroom on the lower level at the end of Worship.

Sunday, September 6: Today, we wrap up the Summer Series on the Fruits of the Spirit.

Sunday, September 13: Joseph helps his Family Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

Sunday, September 20: Today is a very special day! As we **celebrate heading back to school**, bring your backpack for a blessing and a special gift. Following Communion, families head upstairs for "**Pancakes and Praise**", family Sunday School, while sharing a delicious breakfast. We wrap up by 11:15.

Sunday, September 27: The Chief Priests Matthew 21: 23-32

Mark your Calendars for the Fall Faith Formation Line Up!

Wonderful Wednesdays begins Wednesday, October 7th

Register now for Children entering Kindergarten through grade Six! After school, catch the Shepherd of the Bay van (or overflow, the Gibraltar Bus!) and gather for a delicious snack, Bible Stories, music, art, games, faith formation through service, outreach, and more! Pick up time/Sign out time is at 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation begins Wednesday, October 7th for grades 7th and 8th

Meeting the first three Wednesdays of each month, after school until 5:30 p.m. Introducing the Confirmation class for the school year 2026-2027: Kinsley Buchner, Avery Burrell, Lila Canard, Gabriella DeMarinis, Rel Luedtke, Ethan Olson, and Anthony Torcivia.

High School Youth Group begins Wednesday, October 14th

For grades 9-12, we meet every second and fourth Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. for a bible study, check-ins, and planning our outings in service/outreach, Synod youth gatherings, and more! Dinner served! Bring a friend!

Little Lambs Bible Story Time begins Wednesday, October 7th

We gather in the church nursery at 9:30 a.m. and head upstairs for a Bible Story, Music, Hands on Art, games, and more! For infants, toddlers, PreK kiddos, and their parents and/or care providers. Invite your friends with littles! We wrap up around 10:45 and from time to time, enjoy an outing together!

Partners in Ministry

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 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.

COME CELEBRATE MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS ON POTLUCK SUNDAYS!

Shepherd of the Bay has introduced birthday celebrations as part of our Fellowship Potluck Sundays. Please join us for a Potluck Brunch after Sunday Service on the first Sunday of each month. We will celebrate all the birthdays of congregation members that month with delicious birthday cake!



Church Council Meeting - July 20, 6:30pm

Call to order: 7:14pm after dinner so graciously hosted at Cheryl Becht's home.

Attendance: Jeff Johnson, Scott Henry, Mark Beecher, Julia Keepper, MJ Burkhardt, Adam Johnson, Cheryl Becht, Jane Mohit, Grace Rossman, Jim Honig Excused absences: Jim Grasse and Lynda Pietruszka

Opening prayer: provided by Grace Rossman

Approval of June Minutes:

Approval of Agenda: with additions, pastor report, and discussion regarding announcements broadcast on Sunday.

Treasurer's Report: Grace Rossman

1. Discussion of students' scholarships including providing more definition and timing of requirements, clarity, and communication to students and parents prior to process each year.
Motion by Scott Henry to approve the following funds, \$3000 to David Olson. \$2000 from current scholarship grants available and another \$1000 from SOTB general funds. Abstain: Grace-related to David Olson. Motion carried.
2. Midyear income to expenses is close to budget. Unplanned issues include the addition of a staff person (Mike Mittermann) for building and grounds, unexpected maintenance expenses, and heavy Snow removal and fuel usage.

Building and Grounds

Parking lot - B & G secured additional bids and recommends focusing primarily on the crack repair bid by J & T. , Council moves to accept bid and use funds from major maintenance fund.

Pastor's Report

1. Pastor spoke at length with Vicki Amundson regarding the opening for Congregational Care Coordinator. Position requires about 10 hours a week. This position is a coordinator of services and not a care provider. Motion to hire carried.
2. The town of Ellison Bay has contacted our church about the possibility of helping to host the Christmas tree lighting ceremony which is moving this year from across from Blue Bear in Ellison Bay. That space was no longer sufficient. They will move it to the Historical Society across from Shepherd of the Bay. We can provide parking and monitor safe crossing to the event. We will check our liability issues and advise them that we would be happy to help with the event. Because of the move, chili would no longer be provided by the Mink River Basin, so we will advise them that our church could provide this for the event. Pending the approval of paperwork, we move to contact them and advise them of our participation. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Jeff Johnson went over the Annual Church Meeting agenda and preparation.
2. Reminder for volunteers for setup and cleanup for 8/2 potluck fellowship brunch.
3. Future topics for review:
 - a. How to streamline time of meetings
 - b. Looking for a more permanent dedicated space for council meetings
 - c. We will look to consider putting some powerpoint and interactive devices in the Narthex to provide better communication regarding events and resources and support of the congregation.

Next meeting August 17, 6:30 pm

Submitted by Mark Beecher

Thank You Notes

Dear Pastor Honig and "Fellow Members" of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church:

Shari and I send our heartfelt THANK YOUs for the very warm welcome into "Associate Membership" with ALL of you at Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran church. It was a service we will always remember with the Affirmation of Baptism, Farewell and Godspeed to departing members, as well as the Receiving of New Members. Additionally, the music was phenomenal, including your two special guest artists.

It did not end there. We were invited to join your congregants at a delicious buffet lunch, where we had the opportunity to get to know your members. Further, one of your members, whose name I regretfully did not remember, gave us a Scandinavian Almond cake, which we are enjoying immensely.

While we are not there frequently, know that you are in our prayers and that we always look forward to worshipping with you.

God's blessings,

Kenneth A. Ebert

Klaud's Pantry Postings

Dear Congregation,

August has been a very busy month, with our number of visits increasing each week. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and help our neighbors.

The ELCA is hosting its annual "God's Work. Our Hands." day of service on September 13th, inviting congregations to join together in community projects, acts of service, and outreach. This year, the project for Shepherd of the Bay will benefit Klaud's Pantry.

We ask that you consider contributing food items, gift cards, or financial donations. During the service, the Pastor will invite everyone to bring their donations to the altar for a special blessing. We will share a list of specific items needed soon, but as always, any donation is greatly appreciated and will directly support our pantry and community.

Thank you for helping to make this project a success. More information will follow soon.

Barbara Zage



God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!

FREE App for iPhone, iPad
& Android



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory*  and download the FREE app to begin.

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.




Joyful Hearts

Lessons for September

September 6 : Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Second Lesson: Romans 13:8-14

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Introduction: Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

September 13 : Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

Holy Gospel : Matthew 18:21-35

Introduction: In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

September 20 : Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jonah 3:10-4:11

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Introduction: Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

September 17 : Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Introduction: Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Readers:

September 6

Dan Farwell

September 13

Sandy Reisenauer

September 20

Jennifer Gaddes

September 27

George Cobb

Altar Guild:

September: Cathy Mangan & Jill Lhost

October : Ronnie Robinson

Communion Helpers :

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

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.

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.

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.

October 15

- Quinn, Kate. **The Diamond Eye**. 2022. A "bookish history student" from Ukraine becomes an expert sniper pursuing Nazis in World War II and ends up in Washington, DC for some terrors of her own.