

The Parish Door

A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church

PO Box 27, Ellison Bay, WI. 54210

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

MAY 2026

(920) 854-2988

Shepherdofthebay.org

What's INSIDE

- pg. 2 - From the Music Corner
- Klaud's Pantry
- pg. 3 - Congregational Care
- pg. 4 - Youth & Family
- pg. 5 - Summer Wonderful Wed
- pg. 5 & 6 - Summer Mission Trip
- pg. 7 - Partners in Ministry
- pg. 8 & 9 - Council Minutes
- BRIDGES
- pg. 10 - Lessons for May
- pg. 11 - Calendar
- pg. 12 - Pentecost Geranium

Men's Faith and Fellowship Group

Our group's next meeting is Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00 pm in the church parlor.

We will continue our discussion from the book Sacred Self Care, Daily Practices for Nurturing our Whole Selves.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Speaker Series – SOTB Community Garden – Wednesday, May 6th 5:30pm

Join us at Shepherd of the Bay on **May 6, 4–6 PM** for a Community Food Gardening Event! Learn Northern Door gardening tips, composting, bucket gardening ideas, and explore our community garden and see how our produce supports Klaud's Pantry. Don't miss it! Compost buckets available for purchase. All are welcome!

Ladies Bible Study

Join us on Mondays at 2:00 pm in the parlor as we begin a new book, Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis. After spending the winter reading about Ruth, Philippines, and the message of Jesus, we decided to do something a little different.

Our meetings are casual and discussion-driven. There is no pressure to finish a chapter or book in a certain amount of time. If it is a nice day, we may even take a walk.

You can call Carol at (920)854-2988 to reserve a book or for more information. We would love to have you join us! Everybody is welcome!

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.

May 21

Robinson, Marilynne. **Gilead**. 2004.

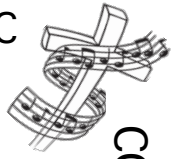
“In 1956, toward the end of Reverend John Ames's life, he begins a letter to his young son, an account of himself and his forebears. Ames is the son of an Iowan preacher and the grandson of a minister who, as a young man in Maine, saw a vision of Christ bound in chains and came west to Kansas to fight for abolition.

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.



WE ARE ALL EXPERIENCING A TIME OF SABBATICAL

Sabbatical: an extended, purposeful break from professional work - typically spanning several weeks to over a year - used for rest, travel, study or personal projects. Unlike a vacation, it is a structured leave, intended for rejuvenation or career development. The term's origin is derived from "Sabbath" (the seventh day of rest).

At Shepherd of the Bay, our pastor has been on a three-month sabbatical, well-earned, highly-deserved, much-needed. Some of the many ways Pastor Jim helped to prepare us for his absence was to arrange for pulpit supply each Sunday, leave detailed outlines for our visiting clergy, work with staff members to have a worship plan in place and many, many other details. As a staff member of this church community, I have some thoughts about this experience.

I have found this Sabbatical time beneficial for all of us! It has been a time of stepping forward when a project or a problem reveals itself, taking responsibility to attend to the occasional "surprises" without needing to wait for the Pastor to do something about it. We, as a church community, have made some timely decisions, big and small, when needed. It seems that we, as siblings of Christ, have begun to step forward BOLDLY as "issues" have presented themselves, empowered to accept these challenges not as obstacles, but as opportunities for service to our church and to each other. I believe our church is growing stronger as "the body" becomes more involved in the many responsibilities of the church.

WE ARE AN OFFERING
Dwight Liles, b. 1957

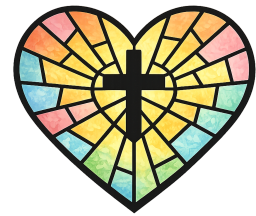


**We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering.**

**Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands.
Lord, use our lives, they are yours;
We are an offering.**

**All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be, we give to you,
We give to you.**

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.**



May we all continue our own Sabbatical journey with love, with purpose, with good works and open hearts, in service to our Shepherd of the Bay community and to our neighbors and friends. As we gather for worship and see the pastoral stole and the lighted sabbatical candle at the baptismal font, may we continue to be inspired to be fellow sojourners on this meaningful Sabbatical journey. May we all learn to be a "good offering" in our community.

Blessings to you in this Sabbatical Time,
Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist

Klaud's Pantry Postings

Thanks to everyone for continuing to support Klaud's Food Pantry with your donations of food and money. Items we currently need are:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Cereal | Shampoo & Conditioner | Cleaning Supplies |
| Cooking Oil | Dish Soap | Feminine Products |
| Juice | Deodorant | |
| Fresh Vegetables & Fruit | Yogurt | |
| Milk | Cheese | |
| Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken, Beef) | | |
| Rice and Pasta Side Dishes | | |

Greetings from Your Congregation Care Coordinator

- Amy Hennings

Congregation Care Coordinator Hours – **TUESDAYS IN MAY - 10:00am–5:00pm**

You can also reach me at sotbcare@gmail.com or by calling the church office at **920-854-2988 (Option #2)**.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

As spring begins to take hold, the world around us offers a quiet reminder that renewal is possible in our own lives too. The first green shoots don't rush; they simply begin. They stretch toward the light a little at a time, trusting that warmth will come.

Physical and mental wellness often work the same way. We don't need dramatic breakthroughs to move forward. Small acts of care towards ourselves and others, a walk outside, a deep breath, a moment of stillness, reaching out to someone we trust, can be enough to shift the day. Spring teaches us that growth is rarely loud. It's steady, patient, and often begins beneath the surface long before we see it.

As the days lengthen, may we give ourselves permission to grow at our own pace, to soften where we've been holding tension, and to welcome new beginnings with curiosity rather than pressure. Just as the earth wakes up slowly, we can too. Wishing all of you gentle awakenings and growth as we embrace the sunshine and promise that May brings.



COME CELEBRATE MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS ON POTLUCK SUNDAYS!

Shepherd of the Bay has decided to add birthday celebrations to our Potluck Sundays. So starting May 3rd, please join us for Potluck Sunday and to celebrate all May birthdays for those in our congregation with some birthday cake!



Speaker Series – SOTB Community Garden Wednesday, May 6th 4:00 – 6:00pm

As we head into spring, may the large snowfall be behind us and we can focus on increased daylight, birds singing, and April flowers beginning to bloom. With that in mind, we hope to host our next Shepherd of the Bay speaker series focusing on our very own Community Garden. We have a confirmed date of Wednesday, May 6th 4:00pm – 6:00pm, so come join us at church to hear more Northern Door gardening tips, composting, bucket gardening and information about the Shepherd of the Bay Community Garden and the beautiful food we grow also helps support Klaud's Pantry.

If you have been thinking about joining expanding your gardening knowledge or learning more about the Community Garden at Shepherd of the Bay, now is a great time to come and learn more!

Local Resources Spotlight

Door County Medical – Senior Life Solutions and Mental Health Support

Door County Medical Center's Senior Life Solutions is an intensive outpatient group therapy program designed to meet the unique needs of individuals typically 65 and older, experiencing depression or anxiety related to life changes that are often associated with aging.

If you or someone you know has experienced any of the following, this program might be right for you.

- Anxiety
- Changes in appetite
- Depression
- Difficulty sleeping
- Feelings of sadness or grief lasting more than two weeks
- Feelings of worthlessness or hopelessness
- Lost a spouse or close family member
- Loss of energy
- Loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities

For more information: Door County Senior Life Solutions at (920) 746-3778 or [Senior Life Solutions | DCMC](#)

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

With Care and Gratitude, Amy Hennings

Youth and Family Ministry News

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

In the month of May, we will be teaching our children and youth the significance of the Ascension and Pentecost. We will let the entire story unfold, from Christmas to Easter to the Ascension to Pentecost, as they all continue to grasp the "Three-in-One": God the father, creator of the universe, Jesus, his son, who taught us how to love, and the Holy Spirit, who is our helper, as we pray. We will be wrapping up our school year programs and diving into Summer!

Little Lambs

For infants, toddlers, PreK, and their parents or care providers. Each hour we will enjoy a Bible story, creative play, music, games, and art to take home! **Wednesdays, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.**

Friday, May 1 Our Little Lambs will be heading out on a field trip to the Murphy Park Story Trail in Egg Harbor! See Lynda for details for our meet up spot, and timing!

Wednesday, May 6 Our Little Lambs will be heading to Carolyn Hitzeman's home to enjoy time with her ponies, and picnic!

Wednesday, May 13th Today is our last day for Little Lambs of the season! We will have a picnic and play at the Ellison Bay Park today!

Sunday School

For Children ages four through grade six, our One Room School House, follows Children's message within worship. We head to the classroom on the same level, and we return for Communion. Parents please pick up your children in the classroom after worship. Join us after in fellowship hall as we gather with our church family for good conversation and treats!

May 3 God's House John 14:1-14

May 10 The Promise of the Holy Spirit
John 14:15-21

May 17 The Ascension Acts 1:6-14

May 24 The Holy Spirit, Pentecost Acts 2:1-21

May 31 Creation Trinity Sunday Genesis 1:11-2:4a

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wonderful Wednesdays will take place **every 1st and 3rd Wednesday after school** until pick up time at 5:30 p.m. The Shepherd of the Bay Van will arrive at Gibraltar School for pick up. Watch your email for transportation communication! We will have a delicious snack, followed by games, art, Bible stories, service, outreach, and more!

Wednesday, May 6th Tonight is our last WW for the season! We will be creating our summer garden PUMPKIN PATCH, and celebrating our time together! Join us at 5:30 at pick up time, for a "garden" supper, and meet up with our master gardeners!! Maybe your family would like to grow your own garden, right here at Shepherd of the Bay!

Confirmation

Families and students, watch for details for our final Saturday of Service, and fun outing to the Red Putter. AND!! Watch for the Sunday date this Summer, as we celebrate Erik Wolfe's Confirmation! AND! It is not too late to register for camp, if you would like to join your classmates at Imago Dei for a week of faith formation and fun, July 19-24th! See Lynda if you would like to go to camp!

High School Youth Group

For Grades 9th-12th!

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, June 14th** as we celebrate the **graduation of David Olson**, within worship, followed by a cake reception in fellowship hall!

The 30 Hour Famine will take place in partnership with Hephatha Lutheran church in Milwaukee! We will travel to Milwaukee, and spend the weekend fasting, as we continue to assist with their ministry to educate and prevent lead poisoning in Milwaukee communities. Date TBD

If you have not done so already, it is not too late to register for camp at Imago Dei this summer! We are heading out Sunday, July 19-24th. Overnight camp outs, Bible Study, canoeing and Kayaking, campfires and more, with friend from all over the Synod! See Lynda if you would like to go to camp!

See the flyer for the second annual intergenerational mission trip to the Mississippi Delta in August! Final date TBD

Do you need community service hours for graduation? Come spend some time at the Children's Activity tent, at Ellison Bay Day in the Park, Saturday, June 27th!

It is time to register for Summer Wonderful Wednesdays!!

“CAMP THREE-IN-ONE”

This summer, we will explore the very essence of our faith formation as each of our five Wednesdays unfolds! We will celebrate Creation, God’s Laws, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost! Once again, a day filled with faith formation and fun, Bible stories, music, arts and crafts, free play time, water splash fun, relaxing movies, games, and even a field trip or two! Mark your calendars for Wednesday 7/8, 7/15, 7/29, 8/5, and 8/12.



Registration forms will be available, beginning, May 1st. Hard copies will be available at church and through the U.S. mail, or you may register by email!

Do you have an hour? A half day, or a full day to share your time in a child’s faith formation this summer? Lynda is seeking out “the helpers” for Summer Wonderful Wednesdays! Watch for the Summer Wonderful Wednesday Schedule, and a detailed break down of all that is needed to hold a successful and safe camp for our kids, at our Summer Wonderful Wednesday table in the Narthex, beginning Sunday, May 3rd.

Intergenerational Mission trip to the Mississippi Delta

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

I am so excited about our upcoming trip to Clarksdale in the Mississippi Delta! Once again, we’ll be working alongside the Fuller Institute for Housing. We have registered a team for the trip, which will take place from Saturday, August 15, to Friday, August 21, 2026.

Please prayerfully consider joining us for this amazing intergenerational experience as we serve our Lord and “wash feet.” Let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend and feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.



Volunteer with CAFCH

The **Clarksdale Area Fuller Center for Housing (CAFCH)** is: a **non-profit organization** established 35+ years ago and located in **Clarksdale, Mississippi** an affiliate of the national Fuller Center for Housing (FCH) and formerly the Clarksdale Area Habitat for Humanity.

With the help of volunteers, CAFCH’s mission is to replace housing insecurity in Coahoma County, Mississippi, through building and rehabilitating homes. To address the challenges of substandard housing, CAFCH promotes local home ownership by providing homeowners with interest-free mortgages based on building expenses. Donated labor by volunteers helps keep homeowner loans affordable.

For decades, CAFCH has successfully partnered with local residents to make homeownership a reality. **Local volunteers and volunteer groups from all over the world help CAFCH build and repair homes in Coahoma County.**

The Delta and its Challenges

Clarksdale lies in the Mississippi Delta (more properly known as the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta, stretching from Memphis, Tennessee, to Vicksburg, Mississippi) and is a land of stark contrasts. The Delta contains some of the richest soil in the world, producing cotton profits that led Clarksdale to be called the “Golden Buckle on the Cotton Belt” 100 years ago, when Clarksdale had more millionaires per capita than any community in the country. **The Mississippi Delta is now, however, one of the poorest regions of the poorest state in America.**

Over 40% of Clarksdale's population lives below the poverty line (compared to the national average of 12.5%), with 56% of children living in poverty. The area has been recognized as one of “deep disadvantage”—a designation that factors in the lack of proper education, occupational opportunities, and access to healthy food, as well as the prevalence of poverty, crime, and the issue CAFCH addresses, substandard housing.

Historical Context

The cultural developments and stunning disparities in Clarksdale and Coahoma County have clear historical roots. The exploitative practice of sharecropping—the economic engine of Jim Crow discrimination—maintains its residual effect on many aspects of Delta life. Although sharecropping became obsolete when mechanized cotton farming emerged at the end of World War II, few opportunities were provided for sharecropping's displaced and undereducated workforce, which had a pervasive and negative impact on the area and its population.

The Delta's notorious history of creating and protecting race-based discrimination—like substandard housing—is marked by several well-documented events, including the Friars Point coup of 1875, the Elaine Massacre of 1919, the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927, and the murder of Emmett Till and its cover-up in 1955.

CAFCH recognizes Clarksdale's history and works to give back to the community.

Join us in building a better world, one house at a time.

Volunteer with CAFCH to build and repair houses in Coahoma County, Mississippi. Bring your group to Clarksdale for this life-changing service opportunity and help build a better world . . . one house at a time.

Over the past 30 years, 28 students from one Illinois high school have spent at least one year as adults volunteering in the Delta, and five have relocated to Clarksdale to support this community transformation.

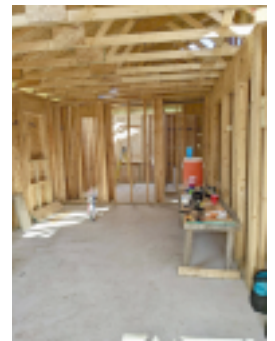
Local culture, history, and evening entertainment

Clarksdale is celebrated as the **Home of the Blues**, and people from all over the world visit Clarksdale for its music venues, restaurants, history, and culture. In addition to construction work, CAFCH's service trips provide opportunities for volunteers to experience: The **Emmett Till Interpretive Center** in Sumner, the **B.B. King Museum** in Indianola, the **Civil Rights Museum** in Memphis, the **Delta Blues Museum** in Clarksdale, the **Quapaw Canoe Company** in Clarksdale, and **the Mississippi River**;

A RECENT CAFCH BUILD

CAFCH has finished its 50th house. CAFCH looks forward to building the next 50 homes in Clarksdale.

CONSTRUCTION FROM START TO FINISH



Ask Lynda Pietruszka for a full brochure or [click here](#) for a full online brochure.

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.

Garden Club

Weather permitting, the Garden Club will resume work on Thursday, May 14, from 8:30 to 10:30am. We will have a list of tasks to accomplish in order to create a landscape to complement Shepherd of the Bay. 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 accomplished 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.

Meals for Habitat Builders

Shepherd of the Bay is taking the lead in organizing meals for Habitat for Humanity/Housing Partnership home build. If you would like to provide a meal or part of a meal for the workers, please contact Dick or Jane Burress. Thank you!
jgburress@charter.net

Spring Clean up Day at SOTB!

Join us on Thursday, May 28th, at 9:00 AM for a church workday. We'll be sprucing up both the inside and outside of our church, and there will be plenty of tasks to choose from. It's a great opportunity to spend time with friends and help our community, so come on out and enjoy a lovely morning of fellowship as we work together to brighten up our church! And of course, there will be coffee and snacks.

SOTB Highway Cleanup 2026



One of Shepherd of the Bay's community involvement projects is our annual commitment to the Adopt-A-Highway program. You may have noticed the signs on Highway 57 south of Sister Bay between County Q and Grove Road.

Once again we are looking for volunteers to help keep that little stretch of Door County beautiful. We will pick up cans, bottles and anything else that shouldn't be on the roadside.

The plan is to do this on **Saturday May 9 at 9:00 am** (May 16 rain date). We should be done in less than 2 hours, depending on the number of workers. The

activity can be fairly strenuous, as some of the ditches along the shoulder are steep or rocky and weed-covered.

Joel Thomas has a shop just north of the intersection of Hwy 57 and Q (Sister Bay / north end of Q) on the west side of 57. We can park in the big driveway/parking lot. John Skogsbakken (coordinator) will be there with a black Dodge SUV.

All equipment (signs, vests, garbage bags) will be provided. If you want to minimize bending over, bring a stick with a nail or screw on the end. Wear good shoes or boots, gloves and maybe sunscreen.

If you can participate, please confirm - call/text John at 920-421-3683,



A Safe Space to Be Heard

One of the most healing gifts we can receive is simply to be heard. A Stephen Minister offers a compassionate, nonjudgmental presence and someone who listens patiently and attentively. In a world that often rushes to fix problems or offer advice, this kind of presence is rare and deeply meaningful.

If you, or someone you know, needs to be heard, contact Carol at sotboffice@yahoo.com or 920-854-2988.

Summer Wonderful Wednesdays Volunteers Needed

Do you have an hour? A half day, or a full day to share your time in a child's faith formation this summer? Lynda Pietruszka is seeking out "the helpers" for Summer Wonderful Wednesdays! Watch for the Summer Wonderful Wednesday Schedule, and a detailed break down of all that is needed to hold a successful and safe camp for our kids, at our Summer Wonderful Wednesday table in the Narthex, beginning Sunday, May 3rd.

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 16, 2026

(The Minutes have been edited for space in the newsletter. For the full minutes, contact the church office at sotboffice@yahoo.com)

Present: Pr. Jim Honig, Grace Rossman, Mark Beecher, Jeff Johnson, Adam Johnson, Lynda Pietruszka, Cheryl Becht, Scott Henry, Julia Keeper, MJ Brukhardt, Jim Grasse Absent: Jane Mohit

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Pr. Honig

Motion to accept the agenda and add discussion about Bridges.

Welcome to MJ Brukhardt and Jim Grasse with introductions around the table. Council elected the slate of Jeff Johnson President, Scott Henry Vice President, Mark Beecher Secretary unanimously.

Mark Beecher continued the minutes from this point.

Treasurers Report: Grace Rossman spoke briefly regarding funds consolidations on reports and advised that Tara Torkelson would head up donations tracking and recording to separate that responsibility from the other financial transactions. Reviewed Statement of Financial Position and Budget vs. Actual.

Staff/Committee Reports:

Pastor's Report: Jim Honig reported regarding sabbatical preparations, service planning, and church responsibilities to be carried out in his absence.

Care Coordinator Report: Pastor Jim reported continued great work by Amy, including the very successful game night that provided intergenerational fun.

Received a grant of \$1500 from United Way for a grief recovery support group for the community—is not faith based (in line with United Way's requirements) It will be led by a licensed therapist and a \$25 registration fee will be charged to cover event costs.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry: Lynda Pietruszka highlighted the going bananas fundraiser, family night, Sacrament of Baptism and Holy Communion—six students. Synod Youth Gathering, Guatemala, and Imago Dei youth camp.

Old Business

Allocation of the Year-end Gift: Up to \$18,000 Music Ministry. (Piano Repair-8000, Harpsichord start funding 5000, Replenish fund 5000) \$10,000 to support Black Mountain Ministry—Thriving Congregations to help them support other congregations like they did to help us. Remainder to use in support of funding a possible septic system vs. a current limited-capacity holding tank.

A/E training—still working on setting this up.

New Business:

Set up for Potluck 3/1. Found volunteers to handle set up also for March 3 council sponsorship of Lenten service. Spaghetti.

Question: Do we postpone the Potluck in April because it falls on Easter. We decided to keep with our monthly schedule and serve ham and scalloped potatoes.

Council members signed up for Sunday hosts and Sunday announcements during the sabbatical period.

Council members volunteered for Good Friday Service helpers: Lynda, Grace, Scott, MJ, Cheryl, and Jeff.

May 17 lay-led service. Gospel: MJ, Lessons: Grace, welcome: Jeff, Prayers: Scott

Announcements should have a consistent message and be submitted weekly to the designated person.

Security door lock System: Carol will issue keys and or cards to those who want/need them and will maintain the key and card list for control. System administrators currently are Pastor Jim and Carol. Mark and Adam will be added as additional administrators.

Motion made by Grace to pay Karl and Jed Omernick \$250 for the additional work and time to install the insulation in the sanctuary ceiling.

Motion was made by Scott to approve all 3 request dates of performance this summer by Midsummer Music. Staff would then decide upon a date.

Discussion on continued association with the Bridges in Door County. SOTB reasons for associating with the Bridges have always been to provide social, sharing food, and networking opportunities for J1 students in Door County and a place they can feel they belong. We decided to meet with the leadership of Bridges once more to clarify our continued involvement moving forward. Pastor Jim will set up the meeting hopefully to find common ground upon which we can continue the partnership.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 with the LORD's Prayer.

Mark Beecher

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 23, 2026

(The Minutes have been edited for space in the newsletter. For the full minutes, contact the church office at sotboffice@yahoo.com)

Call to order—Jeff Johnson 7:00

Attendance: Approved absences: Pastor Jim (sabbatical), Jane Mohit

Approval of Minutes

Treasurers Report: Grace Rossman

Income ran below expenses—which is normal for February. Tara Torkelson has agreed to record online gifts in our Servant Keeper software. She will also produce Giving Reports for members. Grace is working with a member who has expertise in accounting to report our financial status in a clearer more concise way. With the help of the Finance Committee, Grace expects changes to be implemented this Spring.

Committee Reports

Lynda (**Children, Youth, and Family Ministry**): In addition to reporting, she wanted to highlight the wonderful work being done in a recent visit to Imago Dei camp.

Amy (**Congregational Care Coordinator**) report had 3 requests or sought consideration.

1. Requests to have birthday cakes on monthly potluck Sundays to recognize congregational members' birthdays. (Approved)(who would pick up)
 2. AED and CPR training. Could it be done after church on non-potluck Sundays. Yes, that would work as long as training providers are able to. How long would it take, what other days of week would work
 3. Monthly Pulse ads for special events. Action is tabled for more specific information. More details on the ads.
- There was some additional discussion regarding supporting/assisting Amy with congregational awareness of her role with SOTB.

Buildings and Grounds:

Need more clarity regarding organizational structure and responsibilities of building and grounds care and maintenance. Recommendation of executive committee to create a maintenance lead person. After interviewing him the executive committee would like to expand Mike Mittermann's current role (audio and visual) to also include these roles.

Old Business

1. Finish Lenten Meals—Guatemala team would be last group.
2. April 5th Potluck. Easter Ham and Scalloped potatoes
3. Review of Sabbatical Sunday morning hosts and announcements.
4. Security Door Lock Systems and keys and cards. Mark and Adam agree to be system administrators with Carol.
5. Update on BRIDGES/SOTB partnerships. After prayerful consideration by Pastor Jim and the council regarding SOTB's Christian mission, outreach, and the stated mission of BRIDGES, the council has decided to withdraw from being a site host for their events, because the requirements for participation no longer align with the mission of our church.

Motion to withdraw: Grace. Second: Julia. Motion carried unanimously

A letter would be drafted and sent to the director of BRIDGES to make him aware of the decision. Then a letter will be sent to the congregation subsequently.

6. Good Friday service and volunteers and review of service. Lynda reviewed the 8 stations for the service, the participants, and the procedures for the service.
7. May 17 review of lay leaders service. Lynda

New Business

2 lay leader volunteers are needed for Synod assembly, 6/4-6/6. Mark volunteered and we are looking for 1 more to go along with Pastor Jim.

Finished with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next meeting on 4/20 at 7:00 pm

Submitted by Mark Beecher

Council's decision to withdraw from BRIDGES

For almost 20 years, Shepherd of the Bay has been part of the BRIDGES program in Door County. A group of churches coordinates throughout the summer to provide social gatherings for the many young people from around the world who come to Door County each year to work.

We have been blessed as a congregation with this opportunity to share the love of Christ with J-1 students, who have enjoyed the picnics, games, and activities we offer. Over the years, we have been able to demonstrate our mission in action, as it states: "Leading with love, serving with heart, spreading hope through God's grace. Everybody, everybody, everybody is welcome here."

The BRIDGES organizers have expressed a growing expectation that all member churches of the program align closely with the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Statement of Faith and its interfaith evangelism approach. While we appreciate their perspective, we believe it's important for our church to engage with guests in a way that reflects our own values and mission. We remain committed to respecting the diverse faith backgrounds students bring to our community and to witnessing to them in a manner consistent with the integrity of our ministry.

And so, after much prayerful discussion, the Church Council, in consultation with Pastor Honig, has determined that, beginning this summer, Shepherd of the Bay will no longer participate in the BRIDGES program. We are grateful for the many years of ministry that we have been able to provide to hundreds of international students who enrich Door County.

We will continue to support opportunities for our congregation to reach out to our visitors and we encourage members of the congregation to serve as hosts or support them as you are inspired. If you have questions about this decision, feel free to contact Council President Jeff Johnson or any member of the Church Council.

Lessons for May

May 3 : Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 7:55-50
Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10
Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14

Introduction: As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

May 10 : Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 17:22-31
Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22
Holy Gospel : John 14:15-21

Introduction: Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

May 17 : Ascension of Our Lord

First Lesson: Acts 1:1-11
Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23
Holy Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

Introduction: In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

May 24 : Day of Pentecost

First Lesson: Acts 2:1-21
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
Holy Gospel: John 20:19-23

Introduction: Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

May 31 : Holy Trinity

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Introduction: Though the word trinity is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Readers:

May 3	John Skogsbakken
May 10	Myrma Howard
May 17	Cathy Henry
May 24	Marcia Eischen
May 31	Marcia Eckdahl

Ushers :

May 3	OPEN
May 10	OPEN
May 17	OPEN
May 24	OPEN
May 31	OPEN

Altar Guild:

May	Kristin Demarinis
June	Carol Williams

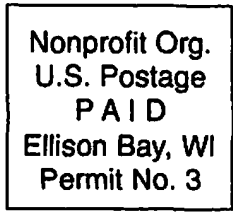
Communion Helpers :

*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.





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.

Geranium Order Form

It is time to order geranium plants for Pentecost decorations. They will be on the altar Sunday, May 24. If you order you may take your plant following the service.

The deadline to order is Sunday, May 10th.

The price this year will be **\$15.00** each. Please fill out the form below and send or bring it with you check attached to the church.



Thanks for helping decorate the church!

Please Print -

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory/Honor of (circle one) _____
