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## Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays during Lent, we will again be celebrating with services preparing us for Easter. Each service will begin at 6:15pm and excluding Ash Wednesday, will last approx. 45 minutes. Services will include music, readings, and communion. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us. Invite your friends. All are welcome!

## All Services Proceeded by a Warm Meal

Come and enjoy a good hot meal in the middle of winter which you don't have to cook. Cost is \$5.00 per person with children 7 and younger eating for free!



There will be a different menu every Wednesday night starting with a soup and bread buffet with cheesecake for dessert on Ash Wednesday (2/22). Other meals will include Empanadas, Baked Potato Bar, and much more. All meals include beverage and dessert. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Registration is not required but it helps us plan how much food to prepare. You can sign up in the narthex at church or on our website, [shepherdofthebay.org](http://shepherdofthebay.org)

## Ash Wednesday Soup

We are looking for donations of soup for the 2/22 Soup Buffet. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office if you would like to bring a crockpot of soup to share.

## All Meals Start at 5:30PM and Services at 6:15PM

## Guatemala Mission Trip

After a 3 year absence, Lynda Pietruszka and Carol Omernick will join Peace Lutheran Church (Antigo, WI) on a mission trip to Guatemala to serve alongside Manos de Jesus/Pray America. The proceeds from the Ash Wednesday and 3/1 Lenten meals will go towards helping to support this mission now and in the future.

*Please pray about how you can participate in this mission activity....*

*Think about it..... Pray about it..... Join us in 2024.....*

*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."*

January is properly and traditionally the time to begin. When we turn the calendar to a new year, we look forward to what we hope to accomplish in the new year, what new habits we want to begin, and what old habits we want to leave behind.

But I find that in congregational life, January is often a time when we spend more time looking back on the past year, trying to make sense of what has happened and the implications for the coming year. We look at the giving and expenses of the past year, seeing how close we have come to making those two numbers match. We look back statistically on pastoral acts, attendance numbers, new members, participation, and a whole host of other matters that are important to know as we move in the the coming year. Our looking back and its accompanying meaning-making culminates in the annual meeting when the congregational leadership reports to the membership on such matters. By the time you read this newsletter, the annual meeting will have taken place, and collectively we'll be doing much more looking forward than looking backward.

So, maybe February isn't such a bad time to think about new beginnings. Our sacred texts offer some guidance in making beginnings. Both the book of Genesis in the Hebrew Scriptures and the book of John in the New Testament have creation stories, stories of beginnings. In these stories, slowly but surely, things come together. What we expect will slowly but surely come together in the year to come is our ongoing mission of seeking to change lives in the name of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we accomplish that mission is by careful attention to stewardship.

My hunch is that as soon as you read that word, you immediately had thoughts of the church asking for money. After all, isn't that what stewardship is? Well, yes and no.

Jesus told quite a few parables that took place in the home or on the property of a rich landowner. In the stories, Jesus usually had a central figure who was employed by that landowner to care for and manage the property on behalf of the owner. That person was called a steward. The steward took care of every aspect of the operation of the estate in the interest of the landowner.

In telling those stories, Jesus was telling us a fundamental truth about our lives as the baptized children of God. We are stewards. We are given our lives, our family, our church, our world and are called to be stewards of those gifts. In this case, the landowner is God. So, see? We're called to care for and manage the gifts we've been given for God's sake, and for the sake of God's kingdom.

Back to the question. Yes, stewardship is about money. And it's about so much more. It's about our time, our health, our relationships, our possessions, our world, our congregation, our communities. So, as we begin this time of looking forward into the coming year, I'm going to use this space in our monthly newsletter to highlight a different aspect of stewardship and invite, even challenge you, to a greater care of your gifts for God's sake and for the sake of God's kingdom.

Mary Oliver famously ended her poem, *The Summer Day*, with this line:

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
With your one wild and precious life?*

With apologies to Mary Oliver, I might say it this way:

*Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
With your one wild and precious life, for God's sake?*

That's stewardship. And that's what we'll focus on each month in this space. Until next month, may you keep on discovering and discerning all the amazing ways God is calling you to use your one wild and precious life to further God's kingdom so that indeed it is "on earth as it is in heaven."

Pr. Jim Honig

In light and darkness, hope and heartache, illumination and yearning, the season of Epiphany once again turns the corner toward Lent through the single event of Ash Wednesday. We experience darkness in a new way, as the absence of light, dulling vibrant colors, the numbing of a soul. It is in this new season of Lent that we are once again called to examine ourselves, search for insights, reach for the truth, stand repentant in front of our God. Our common prayer might be: Lord, let my heart be good soil.

***Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil***

*Handt Hanson, words and music*

***Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your word.***

***Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.***

***When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.***

***Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.***



I love knowing that the Season of Lent is Forty-six days long! Forty Days of Darkness are interspersed with Six Sundays of Light, an interesting juxtaposition of the star that announced Jesus' birth and the cross that so horribly concluded his ministry on earth ... and the magnificence of the rolled-away stone at the mouth of the tomb on Easter morning. How fortunate we are to retell the many stories that illuminate our faith each year. May our hearts continue to be good soil.

***Breathe on Me, Breath of God***

*Edwin Hatch and Robert Jackson*

***Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.***

***Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will,  
To do and to endure.***

***Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with Thy fire divine.***

***Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.***



Rather than commit to deprivations during the Lenten season, giving up things that would normally give us pleasure (candy, cookies, alcohol, coffee), may I suggest that we might use this time to embrace the opportunities for reading, learning, hearing the rich stories of our faith, establishing a season of contemplation and self-examination? Perhaps this choice might result in a most remarkable Lenten journey for us all. I pray that it will be for me.

Blessings to you all in this Season of Lent. May we all help each other find our way through the darkness into the light.

# Thriving Congregations

By Gretchen Farwell

What is a thriving church? Late in the summer a flyer was included in our church bulletin telling us about a program Shepherd of the Bay was going to join. Congregations around the country are having difficulty regaining their balance after the pandemic, separation from friends and other pressures. I thought back to where Shepherd of the Bay has been and where is it headed?

Dan started building our home here in June 1999. I commuted from Madison until retiring in early July 2001. Our across-the road-neighbor, Jerry Babel was instrumental in **connecting us** to Shepherd of the Bay. He invited Dan to Lenten suppers while he was alone working on the house. As members we became involved in many of the church activities and made friends. My years as a Stephen Minister were especially vital in **connecting me** to the church's history. I visited first with Dorothy Anderson Peterson and then for many years with Annette Nelson Wickman, true church ladies in the 20<sup>th</sup> century history of this place.

So when I attended the first meeting of the Thriving Congregations project in Montreat, North Carolina, I was excited about the tools we were learning to connect us together and how we could foster deeper relationships with those we see on Sundays.

One of our first exercises will explain something we are doing. There were 80 of us delegates sitting around the periphery of a large room. Our task was to walk across that space and find someone to talk to. Everyone moved at once and I found myself **connected** with a young woman pastor from Williamsburg, Virginia who is a campus pastor there. We were given 10 minutes to introduce ourselves to each other and have a significant conversation. I was amazed at how we both plunged in – back and forth – talking and then listening. By the time our ten minutes was up we had exchanged an amazing amount of information about our lives, our challenges, and why we were there.

Then we started on a second round – This time I was seated not far from the woman I met. She was also a pastor from Virginia (remote SW corner of the state) but more my age. Within seconds we discovered commonality and again shared deep experience while getting to know someone we had never seen before.

When our own group met later to discuss what had happened, we were all excited about how this practice of furthering one to one relationships can deepen and enrich a church community. As you have heard over the past months, we as committee members, are meeting with as many of you as we can. We also want to encourage all of you to hold conversations with people you see regularly but may not really know. The coffee hour after the service is an excellent place for these conversations to occur. **We invite you to join us there for fellowship and deepening connections.**

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## ***Tuesday Bible Studies***

Join us on Tuesdays for 2 different Bible Studies.

At 9:00am in the fellowship hall, Pastor Jim will teach a study on the lessons for the upcoming Sunday Service. See listing to the left for weekly scriptures.

Join us at 2:00pm in the parlor beginning Feb. 21st as we begin our Lenten Study with the book Reliving the Passion: Meditations on the Suffering, Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus as Recorded in Mark by Walter Wangerin Jr.

Contact the church office if you would like to join us.

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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.

Available on the App Store | Get it on Google play

# 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.

**Portico** – Please “**Slow Down**” when you drive through the portico. The new signs have been installed, the 4 traffic cones have been received and are being used.



**Winter Work** – There are a number of small and medium size projects that need to be done inside the church, and I am looking for volunteers to help get these items off the list. You may work alone whenever you want or join a group. There are some new items included this month;

- Sanctuary Pews & Chairs – Vac upholstery & clean/polish wood
- Chancel Furniture – Clean/polish wood
- Narthex Furniture – Vacuum chairs, clean & polish wood
- Fellowship Hall Chairs – Clean seats and backs
- Parlor – Vacuum upholstery & clean/polish wood
- Refinish tops of plant stands and Baptismal Font – take home project
- Install slide bolt on door at the top of the Bell Tower
- Clean closets in front of sanctuary
- Replace broken front door stop
- West Stairway Door – Plane off bottom to clear carpet

- |                                  |                          |                                     |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Move choir loft cabinet          | Refinish window sills    | Replace front door stop             |
| Repair tables                    | Repair rocking chair     | Install robe hook in Lynda’s office |
| Repair Lynda’s office door knob  | Weather strip fire doors | Kitchen DW faucet leak              |
| Kitchen Cabinet laminate re-glue | DW table leveling        | Sacristy cabinet edging reglue      |
| Clean kitchen cabinets           | Fix pew ends             | Cold Air returns in office          |

Contact me if you are interested in any of the above.

**AV System** – Thank you for your patience. The system has not been working as it did previously to a mid-Nov service call, when the Service Technician pushed the “factory reset” button on the video switcher at the AV desk. That wiped out all the programming from both the factory and Camera Corner’s initial installation. Most of the functionality was restored, but I still cannot isolate the video between what is seen by the congregation and what is seen on the Livestream. Hopefully the service call scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> will get this matter finally resolved.

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.

## Klaud’s Food Pantry

***Thanks for your support around the holidays. Your generosity is inspiring!***

Our greatest need continues to be fridge and freezer items - pizza, pot pies, waffles, frozen fruit and veggies, dairy, bagels, deli meats, etc. Often that food is gone within 24 hours.

Shelf-stable food needs include jam/jelly, black beans, canned chicken and fish, crackers, coffee, juices, condiments, salad dressing, flour, sugar, chicken noodle soup and tomato soup.

We are always in need of hygiene and cleaning items also - toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and cream rinse, liquid soap, deodorant, dish soap, laundry soap and multi-purpose cleaners.

One last request! We DO NOT need canned green beans or dried pasta!  
Thank you so much!



## Youth and Family Ministry News

from Lynda Pietruszka

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

In our Bible, God shares HIS great LOVE by sharing the word LOVE, many, many times! Here are just a few we will be exploring with all our children and youth through out the month of February! AND! Mark your calendars for Ash Wednesday supper at 5:30, Worship at 6:15 p.m.!

*1 John 4:19 We love because HE first loved us.*

*Romans 8:28 In all things God works for the good of those who love HIM.*

*Deuteronomy 6:5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart.*



And the 2023 “Pencil” Award goes to Lynne Buchner for all her contributions to the youth of our parish and others! Congratulations! Love and blessings to you! Dorothy Peterson would be proud... Pictured: Lynne and her daughters, Reaghan and Kinsley. Photo by Suzi Hass

### Introducing the 2023 Faith Formation Team!

Our team met for the first time this past January, to hear about our programs for children, youth, and families! We created a “to-do” list for each area, and learned about each child and their families so that we can communicate with, and pray for them. We had a brief safety training, and got to know each other a little bit more! If you are interested in spending time, sharing your faith formation, or sharing a craft, or a snack, a game, your favorite Bible story, get in touch with Lynda anytime!

Sunday School- Kristi Appel

Little Lambs- Kendall Koehler

Wonderful Wednesdays- Cricket DeMarinis

Confirmation- Pastor Jim, Lynda Pietruszka

High School Youth- Julia Keeper

Prayground - Ruth Ann Hjelle

### Cut Up Club

Cut Up Club!! We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month in fellowship hall! Come for a light breakfast, devotion, and fellowship, followed by a time of preparing items for our children and youth programs! Invite a friend, all are welcome!! R.S.V.P.

### Wonderful Wednesdays “Building God’s Kingdom”

For school children grades 1-6, ride the Gibraltar School bus, each first and third Wednesday of the month! Parents be sure to check for updated registration, and to sign your child out each night at 5:30 pick up!

**February 1st “Doorway to the World” by Rondal Kidd, a Habitat for Humanity Book! Let’s explore some of God’s “Doorways”! We will build our doors and finish our roof tonight!**

**February 15th A Valentine for God, AND a special Guest from Habitat for Humanity will be visiting us tonight!**



Working on the Roof!



### Sunday School

Let's meet at the Children's Message within Sunday Worship, and head upstairs to Sunday School from there! We wrap up at the end of Worship time. Parents, please sign out your children, and be sure to register with Lynda if you are visiting or new.

Feb. 5th Salt and Light, Matthew 5:13-20  
Feb. 12th Jesus Teaches about Anger, Matthew 5:21-37  
Feb. 19th The Transfiguration, Matthew 17:1-19  
Feb. 26th The First Sin, Genesis 3:1-24 We will also celebrate those who will be receiving First Communion today!

### Confirmation

Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. unless noted.

Feb. 1st- The Centurion  
Feb. 8th- The 12 Disciples  
Feb. 15th- The Sheep

#### February 17th-19th- Synod Youth Gathering at Imago Dei Camp!

February 22nd- Class from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday, please plan to join us for the meal at 5:30, followed by worship in the Sanctuary at 6:15, each Wednesday through March 29th.

### High School Youth

**Wed., February 8th- 6:30 p.m.** Dinner and Glass designing! Be sure to register for Youthworks, Niagara Falls!

**Friday-Sunday, February 17-19th- Synod Youth Gathering at Imago Dei! Watch your email for details!**

**Wed., February 22nd-** Ash Wednesday meal at 5:30 p.m. worship at 6:15 p.m., marking the beginning of the Lenten season. Please invite friends and family!

### Little Lambs

Little Lambs gather every Wednesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m at SOTB! All parents, care providers, and their little ones (infants through preK) are Welcome! Each hour includes free play, Bible story, music, snack, and art to take home! If you are visiting or new to Little Lambs, please see Lynda for a registration form. Invite a friend!

Feb. 1st I can Pray like Daniel  
Feb. 8th. I can be Kind & Gentle like the Good Samaritan  
Feb. 15th A Valentine for Jesus  
Feb. 22nd We're going on a Bear Hunt!



*Grace Rossman - President of SOTB  
Unit Women of the ELCA*

### 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.

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 Book Selections for Monthly 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.

#### February 16, 2023

The Door County Read book, **Raft of Stars**, by Andrew J. Graff. Some of you may have picked up a free copy at one of the Door County libraries. It is an adventurous coming-of-age tale that takes place in the Wisconsin Northwoods.

# Shepherd of the Bay Council Meeting

January 16, 2023 7:00PM

Present, Pastor Jim Honig, Dick Burress, Lynda Pietruszka, Vicky Amundson, Micky Swanson, Edee Madsen, Ron Hupe, Sue Daubner, Tara Torkelson, attending on Zoom George Cobb and Trish Pierson. Absent: Les Keeper . Guests: Grace Rossman

## 7:00 PM **CALL TO ORDER**

Devotion: Lynda Pietruszka – Learn how to fall in God’s grace and get up again.

Pastor Jim read excerpts from Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

## **TREASURERS REPORT – Ron Hupe**

Setting up accounts, switching over to Quickbooks Online, offering live feeds from bank accounts and credit cards.

Dick Burress discussed the upcoming internal audit. Scott Schultz has volunteered to lead the Audit Team.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### PASTORS REPORT

Good Christmas season, both Christmas services well attended. Some changes for Epiphany worship, recommended by a planning committee of laypeople.

Midsummer Music requested the use of SOTB for a concert July 14, 2023

Madison Suzuki Music was wonderful

### PROPERTY AND GROUNDS – Tom Tuttle

4 new 36” tall cones have been purchased to be used in the driving lanes.

Updates on sanctuary humidifiers, portico breezeway doors, winter projects, office cold air returns, interior lighting changes and the AV system

### EDUCATION AND YOUTH – Lynda Pietruszka

A big THANK YOU for the safety cones and signs!

Lynda on path for Wartburg Seminary for the Fall

Lynda will be leading Faith Formation/Education committee meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Sunday January 22, Lynne Buchner will be receiving the Pencil award for the 2023 school year

Sunday January 29, 2023, Youth and Confirmation students will hold a “Going Bananas” sale of Banana bread

Attended online seminar for directors of youth ministries on Gen Z.

#### February Highlights

Lynda will be attending National Youth Leaders conference Feb 3 – 5 on Zoom.

February 10- 19 Lynda will be at Imago Dei for Synod Youth Gathering

Saturday, Feb 25, first communion workshop, celebration of first Holy Communion Feb 26

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Thriving Congregation Update – Next trip in March, Temple Talks continue. The team continues to conduct one on one relational meetings with members of the congregation, and to conduct observations in the congregation and community.

2. Status of church finances review – upcoming internal audit.
3. Update on transfer of Treasurers responsibilities. Ron Hupe will be working with Grace Rossman to assist her in the transfer.
4. Discussed church committees and handed out organizational charts. Suggested we pass out “Time and Talent” sheets at Annual Meeting.
5. Follow up on Employee Retention Credit, a Federal program which includes a refund of FICA payments we have already made. Grace Rossman has volunteered to complete the IRS forms.
6. Follow up on safety signage through the porte-cochere. See B & G report by Tom Tuttle

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion of Annual Meeting. Looking ahead to apply for permission to change our constitution to allow our on-line community to vote. We will add a Congregational Meeting date to July to present revisions to the constitution. There will be a Report from the Council presented by Dick Burress at the Annual Meeting
2. There will be a motion to support and forward to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, a slate of council members to include Cheryl Becht, Scott Henry and Julia Keepper.
3. The SOTB van has resumed transporting residents from Scandia Village.
4. Discussed ceasing distribution of sacraments in the porte-cochere
5. Lenten dinners - in person 5:30, worship at 6:15. Carol Omernick (Guatemala Mission) has first 2 weeks, Lynda P. the 8<sup>th</sup> (Confirmation) and 22<sup>nd</sup>. (HS Youth Group). The weeks of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> still available.
6. Discussed recording memorial gifts in a Memorial Book. Council agreed that all permanent gifts should be recorded.
7. Edee Madsen brought to the council a document from the ELCA regarding making a Land Acknowledgement statement to acknowledge that we are living on the land of indigenous peoples.

From Dick Burress, President of the Council, kudos and many thanks to Ron Hupe for his 22 years of service as Treasurer for Shepherd of the Bay.

Also sincerest thanks to George Cobb, Edee Madsen and Les Keepper for their work on the Council for the past 4 years and for all they do in serving Christ at our church.

The next meeting will be on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Adjourn at 7:45

Respectfully submitted, Sue Daubner, Secretary



**Need your blood pressure checked?**

Tuesday, February 21st, a health care volunteer will be at Shepherd of the Bay in room J (the former Parish Nurse Office) to check blood pressures from 1:30p.m. to 2:15p.m. In February, blood pressure checks will be available following the church service on the first Sunday of each month from 10:30a.m. to 11:15a.m. and the third Tuesday of the month, from 1:30p.m. to 2:15p.m.

There will be a trial period of three months and if no one uses the service, it will be discontinued.

Please contact Jane Burress if you are interested in volunteering to take blood pressures a few times a year.

## Lessons for February

### Feb. 5 : Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

**Introduction to the readings:** Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

### Feb. 12 : Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

**Introduction to the readings:** In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

### Feb. 19 : Transfiguration of Our Lord

First Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18

Second Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

**Introduction to the readings:** Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

### Feb. 22 :Ash Wednesday

First Lesson : Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b - - 6:10

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Introduction to the readings:** On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

### Feb. 26: First Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Second Lesson: Romans 5:12-19

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

**Introduction to the readings:** Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

## Service Volunteers Needed for 2023

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).

## BUTTON PUSHERS NEED!

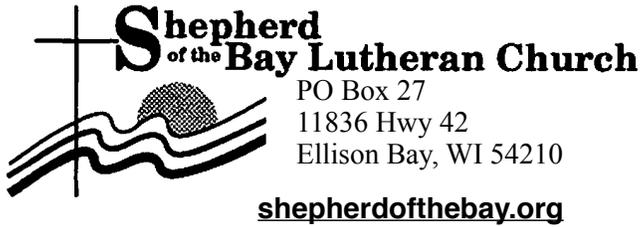
Can you push a button? Can you sit (in your home or at church), watch a screen for about one hour, then push the same button again?

Ok, that may be a slight over simplification of the live-streaming process of the church service each Sunday. But if this intrigues you, come and talk to Carol Omernick in the church office. I could really use your help.

## Fair Trade Chocolate is Back!!!

Need a sweet gift for Valentine's Day? We have a fresh batch of Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and Chocolate Bars from Serrv. We also have some great bags made recycled saris from India. You can support small farmers and crafts women and enjoy some of the best coffee and chocolate from around the world.

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## Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesdays, Feb. 22 - March 29, 2023

5:30pm Meal & 6:15pm Service  
*All are Welcome!*

The Parish Door monthly newsletter can be found in full color on our website, [shepherdofthebay.org/newsletters](http://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](mailto:sotboffice@yahoo.com).