

The Parish Door

January 2021

A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation 11836 Hwy 42, Ellison Bay, WI. 54210 (920) 854-2988

What's INSIDE

- pg. 2 - Pastor's Post
- pg 3 - "Mary, did you know?"
Klaud's Pantry
- pg 4 & 5 -From the Music Corner
- pg. 5 - Finding Your Christian Roots
- pg. 6 - Youth & Family
- pg. 6 & 7 - Dorothy Peterson Pencil Award
- pg. 7 - WELCA
- pg. 8 - Building & Grounds
- pg. 9 - Council Minutes
- pg 10 - Lessons for January
- pg. 11 - Calendar
- Back cover - Online Prayer times

2021 Offering Envelopes

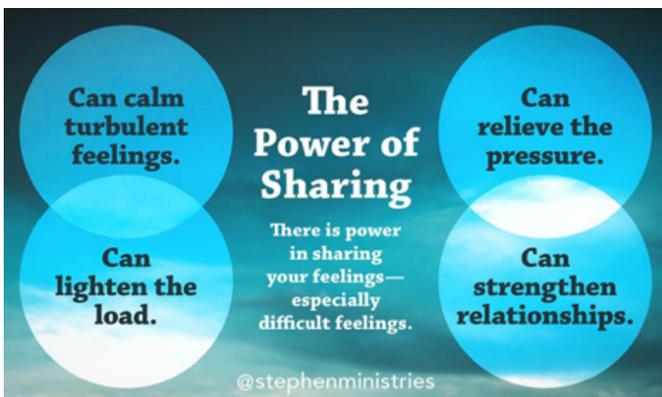
Envelopes are in the narthex and can be picked up at your convenience.

You can use your unused 2020 envelopes until you pickup and use your 2021 envelopes. We will not activate the 2021 numbers until you use them.

2021 envelopes were not prepared for member who are using Electronic giving.

To make the counters job easier please put your name on the envelopes.

Ron Hupe - Treasurer



Some years are hard. Maybe you've lost someone dear, maybe you're in the middle of an illness or injury, or maybe things just aren't going well right now. If that's you—or someone you know—let our trained team of Stephen Ministers help. All care is confidential. Please contact Stan Whiteman at 920-868-2997 or Pastor Jim at 920-854-2998 to get you connected with a Stephen Minister.



AMAZON SMILE

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that Amazon has a donation program called Amazon Smile? Just make sure to go to smile.amazon.com each time you shop through Amazon and choose Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, Ellison Bay, WI as your charity, and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to us. Easy with no additional cost to you!

If you prefer using the Amazon App, update to the newest version and you can shop Amazon Smile

Though winter has settled in here in the northland, there are always signs of new life. Our lilac bushes set their buds before winter arrives, and every time I walk by them, I picture the flowers in the spring. Our bird feeders are hubs of busy activity as the birds consume the calories needed to get through the cold nights. While the cedar trees have turned from their vibrant dark green to a muted olive green, they are still green and offer a striking contrast to the white snow settled into their branches.

The new year fosters a time of reflection as we think about our hopes and dreams for the year that stretches before us. This new year feels different for me after a year of such long-term disruption. When we closed the church last March, I wondered how many weeks it would last, and now it's been months on end. We also go into the new year with the promise of a vaccine that will allow a return to some semblance of normalcy. By the time you read this, residents of Scandia Village will likely have already received their first vaccination shots. While I know that I am well towards the end of the queue, it still gives me hope.

And of course, our hope ultimately is not in a vaccine or anything else that might happen in the new year. Our hope ultimately is in God. One of my favorite bible passages is from 2 Corinthians. Paul writes that "if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away; the new has come." Of course, that's true for each of us on an individual level. When we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we are joined to the life of God, given new life, full life, rich life, life that never ends. Our lives are given new purpose, new meaning, new direction. That's what the daily remembrance of our baptism is all about, that each morning, we let go of the old and start anew in the forgiveness that Christ has won for us. It's that life of God, that promise of God's presence, the daily forgiveness we receive that is the basis for our hope for the new year, indeed for every new day.

I'm thinking that maybe we can think of the new year in the same way. That as this new year begins, we can leave the burdens, failures, and brokenness of the old year behind, and look forward to the new thing that God is going to do in the new year. When we turn the calendar to 2021, we can say of this new year that it is a new year in Christ who makes all things new. It used to be the custom that the years since the birth of Christ were labelled A.D. (for the Latin *anno domini*, "the year of our Lord.") Maybe that's a good way for us to remember and sanctify this new year, that it is indeed a new year in Christ, the year of our Lord.

I also want to take this chance to address a matter that has been of concern to some in our congregation and community. It has to do with the reaction to a posting I made to my personal Facebook page a few days after the election, before we knew the outcome. I posted a personal lament about how little the issue of racial equity played in the election. As most of you know, anti-racism work is important to me. I became committed to that work before I came to Shepherd of the Bay, and its importance has only grown over the years. The two weekends before the election, I had engaged in intense anti-racism training through the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, so that matter was very much on my mind, and my post was in part, intended for friends and colleagues with whom I share that work. In my post, I used the term "white supremacy," and some heard that language as an accusation. In anti-racism work, white supremacy is not something that people are, it's the cultural context in which white culture dominates society so that whiteness becomes the norm for thinking, being, and behaving. As a result, other cultures and races are both overtly and subtly deemed to be inferior. So, my use of that language was not an accusation, but a lament. However, my intent is less important than the impact, namely that some were offended by my comments. I realize now that my comments were upsetting and hurtful to some people. So, to those who were offended, I'm sorry.

I also want to say that I have learned some lessons and that I will try to do better and be better. I have learned the importance of shared vocabulary. It's dangerous for me to use insider language and assume that others will understand what I mean.

I have learned that we are a very divided people. If I am to be the catalyst for overcoming division and fostering unity, I need to be aware of that division in the way I speak and act.

It has also reinforced for me how much work we need to do both in the church and in the larger society to work towards racial equality. It has reinforced for me the importance of the work and given me a new resolve. And part of that resolve is to find a way to do the work so that people are drawn into the conversation rather than repelled by it.

Here's to a new year, and a new beginning, all of it lived in Christ in whom we are made new.

“Mary, Did You Know?”

A Reflection by Linda Smith

In one of our Tuesday bible studies in December talked about the Virgin Mary and touched a little on Lutherans and the mother of Christ. We talked about the high regard Martin Luther had for Mary. She's always been near and dear to me, too. I'm also happy that a recent sermon was about her.

When I was about 6, my best friend, Paulette, who was Catholic, lived down the street. In the month of May, she set up a little altar to honor Mary. I always helped her. Paulette had a little cardboard box and put a pretty white embroidered cloth on the top. We'd go out and pick lilacs or daffodils to put in a small vase. She had a little statue that she put on the altar in addition to the flowers. I liked honoring Mary in that way.

I'd go home and make an altar, but because I was Lutheran, I was encouraged to make mine in honor of Jesus. Which I did.

Throughout my 73 years, I have felt close to Mary. I've often wondered about after Jesus was born, did she count his fingers and toes to make sure they were all there like most mothers do? Of course. Did she tickle his little belly to make him laugh? I think of all the times she was there for him...his birth, the years in between, and then to see her flesh and blood hanging on the cross.

At this time of year I love to read Mary's song of praise or how she kept remembering all she experienced and pondered it in her heart.

"Mary Did You Know" is one of my favorite songs...

Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day walk on water?

Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, The deaf will hear, The dead will live again, The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?

Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?

Mary did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect lamb?

This sleeping child your holding is The Great I Am.

(Lyrics by Mark Lowry and music by Buddy Green.)

A few years ago I was shopping at a thrift store. I saw this wonderful figurine of Mary holding the baby Jesus. It was so beautiful, I bought it and I keep it out all year as a reminder of Jesus's birth and life.



Klaud's Pantry

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of all who have donated food and money these past months. Thank you for your tremendous response!

At this time we have a very full back-stock canned goods, and should have enough for the holidays. We'll let you know when we can accept more non-perishable items. Refrigerator items are still needed-dairy, juice, veggies, fruit, lunch meat-if you wish to help keep the fridge supplied.

“God loves a cheerful giver.” 🙏



We Praise You, O God -- ELW 870

Text: Julia C. Cory (1882-1963)

Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

(Tune: We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing)

We made it! We are officially stepping away from the year 2020, with all of its challenges, limitations, dangers and disappointments, and moving confidently into 2021. Have all of our problems been solved and our fears relieved by the act of turning the page of a calendar? Not yet ... and still we are hopeful. We are people of faith, believing in a loving and caring God, who is leading us through the valleys of darkness and doubt into the meadows of light and life. And so we sing!

*We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.*

We sing with masks in place, maintaining responsible distances from our neighbors, foregoing hugs and other enthusiastic greetings as we lift our voices together in songs of hope, assurance and joy. We have learned that being in each other's presence gives us a deep sense of belonging to the family of God, whether we are only four masked singers in the choir loft creating recorded worship services for our church family, connecting with our brothers and sisters as we gather in front of our computers to worship electronically from our homes or parked next to each other on Sunday mornings at Drive-in Church, sharing Peace with one another through a smile, the sound of honking horns, singing and communing with each other side by side, physically separated from each other because we love each other enough to keep our brothers and sisters safe from sickness. Sing praise to God!

*We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

Help is on the way! Vaccines have been created, tested, examined and approved in record time, with an efficacy rate in the 90's! Hope is on the horizon for all of us. But we need to continue to be patient and to maintain all of the good habits and life lessons we have learned in these past ten months. The Promised Land is ahead, but our journey continues for a while longer. Together let us encourage one another, sharing the Good News that we all reside in the Family of God.

*With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

We dream of that beautiful, glorious day when we will once again gather in the sanctuary of Shepherd of the Bay on a Sunday morning, singing together and praising God that this long nightmare of isolation, deprivation and loneliness is finally over. We have learned important, life-giving lessons in the year 2020. Aside from the health choices that we have had to embrace for these many months, I believe a wonderful, restorative, invigorating lesson has been imparted to many of us and that lesson is this: The church is not a building. The church is the people who create community, who sustain their sisters and brothers through the challenges and difficulties of life, who demonstrate love for one another by offering words of encouragement to those who despair, providing food for the hungry, making phone calls and sending notes to people who are lonely, who encourage each other to look forward to what God is providing for God's people, rather than looking back to the things we have lost.

What will worship look like when we finally meet again in the sanctuary? I imagine it will look somewhat different than the familiar, comfortable patterns that we had embraced in our worship life before ... because we have grown as a community of believers and, out of necessity, created new, meaningful ways to worship together. God is preparing the way for a new awakening for all of us, as we continue to imagine what is in store for Shepherd of the Bay. In this time of pandemic, God has been doing marvelous work in us! We'll be ready for "the next steps" in God's plan. How exciting this will be!

The words of this Advent hymn seem appropriate, as we await God's plan for us in this new year:

*Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory comes in state;
the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings
his great salvation to the earth.*

*So raise a shout of holy mirth and praise our God and Lord,
Creator, Spirit, Word.*

Blessings to you all,
Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director, Principal Pianist
and Drive-in Church Musician!

Finding Your Christian Roots - An Adult Faith Formation Class

Members of Shepherd of the Bay have been invited to join a fabulous Adult Faith Formation opportunity beginning on Thursday, January 7 at 10:00. The class will meet for 6 successive Thursdays, suspend classes during Lent, and then resume after Easter for six more classes. The class will be held via Zoom. You may register by calling the church office or sending me an email to at sotbpastor@gmail.com The course description is printed below. While I haven't heard Dr. Camery-Hoggatt speak, several people have told me that he is the best teacher they have ever experienced.

Finding Your Christian Roots

The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there. — L. P. Hartley

For many of the celebrities of the TV series, *Finding Your Roots*, the discovery of their family histories opens up insights into their own character. Almost always they report that they feel more stable, more anchored, in the turbulent waters that comprise modern life.

Christians also have a family story, a history, with heroes and villains, rituals, even a special family language. ("Oh! *That's* where that word came from!) We've also had our share of crazy uncles and heroic aunts.

Join us for a six-week sweep of the Christian family story. We'll learn how the biblical writers saw the world, where the creeds came from, who the heretics were, and how the Church has navigated the turbulent waters of empire, the Crusades, the Scientific Revolution, and the Reformations (there were more than one). We'll look at the Great Awakenings and the birth of Evangelicalism. So buckle your seatbelts! We're off!

Jerry Camery-Hoggatt holds a Ph.D. in Early Christian Origins from Boston University. His publications fall into multiple genres — fiction, biblical exposition, theory of biblical interpretation, and social science approaches to religious texts.

Youth and Family Ministry News

from Lynda Pietruszka

920-854-2988 or sotb.lynda@gmail.com



Wishing your family a very healthy, spirit filled, joy filled New Year! Look for opportunities to enrich your faith formation, whether it be joining an online group with your children and youth, or reaching out in service to others, and/or worshipping from our parking lot worship or online! Be Blessed!

Sunday School for ages 3 through grade 6

Join us for Sunday School each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (recorded, so you can participate anytime!) on Face Book; Shepherd Of The Bay, Family and Friends.

January 3 rd	Jesus the Word	John 1:1-18
January 10 th	Jesus' Baptism	Mark 1:4-11
January 17 th	God Calls Samuel	1 Samuel 3:1-20
January 24 th	Jonah and the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4
January 31 st	Teaching and Healing	Mark 1:21-28

Little Lambs Story Time, Puppets and More! Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers

Until it is safe to meet in person, Little Lambs gather every Wednesday morning on the Face Book Shepherd of the Bay Family and Friends at 10:00 a.m., with the exception of the first Wednesday of the month meeting at 10:30 a.m., reserved for a Zoom parent and care provider check in! Please contact Lynda if you would like more information!

January 6 th	Parent and Care Provider Zoom today at 10:30 a.m.
January 13 th	Jesus and Church, and Me!
January 20 th	Jesus' First Friends!
January 27 th	Gather your camping gear and your backpack, and a favorite stuffed animal or doll! We'll make a tent out of chairs and blankets at home today!

Wonderful Wednesdays for Grade One through Six

WW will take place via Zoom at 4:00 p.m. every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Watch your email for an invite! If Zoom doesn't work into your schedule, you can watch on Face Book, SOTB Family and Friends after 5:00 p.m. same day, anytime!

January 6 th and 20 th	The Fifth Commandment: Honor your Father and Mother The Sixth Commandment: You Shall Not Kill.
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We'll also explore "We Forgive Each Other" and answer the questions, Who do you need to forgive? Who do you need to ask for forgiveness?

Confirmation

Pastor Jim will begin on-line Zoom on Wednesday, January 13th for both 7th and 8th grade students. Be on the look out for a Zoom email invitation and a letter in the U.S. mail, with an updated schedule and announcements!

High School Youth Group

Where is "Hal" our Youth Group Mascot hanging out these days?
January 13th and 27th the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, we will meet on Zoom at 4:00 p.m. and explore "In the Beginning" and "Human Nature" and put our heads together for creative ways to fund raise for our upcoming trips and events! Yes, it is time we look forward!!

The Dorothy Peterson "Pencil Award"

Each year, Shepherd of the Bay recognizes those individuals in our community/congregation who have played a major role in the faith formation of our children and youth. This year we have two recipients. This year's presentation took place at the outdoor worship service on Sunday, December 13th!

Recipients are Helen Fardig and Kristi Appel. Read all they have done over the years for our kids on the next page.

In Memory of Helen Fardig

Those of you who have been with SOTB for many moons, may recall a very dedicated and sweet woman named Helen Fardig. Helen loved children! She regularly taught Vacation Bible School, always wanting to run her own tent and play the role of the mother of the tribe of Asher!! She was also a substitute Sunday School teacher and taught preschool Sunday School for many years! Angela Johnson shared great memories of a Sunday School sledding party she hosted with her husband, serving hot chocolate and marshmallows, the children had great fun!!

Kristi Appel

Kristi is one who remains faithful and “called” to ensure our kids know that Jesus loves them, through her time, and loving attention she gives to them. Kristi does not do what she does for any recognition, but to see those “smiles”! Through the many years, Kristi has baked countless cookies, and brought snacks for our kids, volunteered to help with Wonderful Wednesdays, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and has assisted as a camp and conference event chaperone, and much more. Her dedication continues. Thank you Kristi! May you continue to be blessed by your ministry!



Grace Rossman - President of SOTB
Unit Women of the ELCA

Please note the change in Cheri's email for
the prayer chain.

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.

Book Selections for Shepherd of the Bay Book Group – 2021

All meetings for the fall and winter season will be via Zoom beginning at 9:30 am, the 3rd Thursday morning of the month. Marcia Eckdahl will handle the technical details for the meeting; Gretchen Farwell is the convener.

January 21, 2021

Cummins, Jeanine. **American Dirt**. 2019. Novel concerning an immigrant mother and son from Mexico who flee the cartels to find life in the United States.

February 18, 2021

Winn, Raynor. **The Salt Path**. 2019. “The true story of a couple who lost everything and embarked on a transformative journey walking the South West Coast Path in England.” 630 miles!

March 18, 2021

Jio, Sarah. **All the Flowers in Paris**. 2019. (If you liked Sarah's Key and Nightingale, you will like this one.) Two women are connected across time by the city of Paris, a mysterious stack of love letters, and shocking secrets sweeping from World War II to the present.

Building and Grounds Committee

If you have any 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 Theis or me. If none of us are around, drop a note in the message holder on the custodian's closet door in the narthex (the door between the 2 restrooms). Thank you for using the message holder and helping to identify things that need to be done.

Thank you, to all of you who have financed the projects that have been completed this past year. Without your financial support none of these major projects would have been possible. They should make a significant reduction in the building operating costs going forward. Thank you to the Garden Club who's weekly efforts from early Spring to late Fall keep the grounds beautiful. Thank you to the painters that gave the Fellowship Hall, Youth and Families Minister's office, ladies restroom and hallway a fresh new look. Thank you to the band of volunteers that helped replace all the 143 interior ceiling lighting fixtures outside the sanctuary. Thank you to all who participated in any of the items listed below, your contributions are appreciated.

The following is a brief summary of all the things that B&Gs touched this past year.

Roof and Siding	Siding finished in May and roof in July
Heating and AC	Maintained
Interior Cleaning	Maintained on reduced schedule
Well	Installed in motor controller
Pastor's Office	Installed new desk
Youth Ministry Office	Painted, steamed cleaned carpet, moved in Pastor's old desk and other furniture
Library	Downsized and moved to Parlor. Books given to Sister Bay library
Fellowship Hall	Painted
Ladies Restroom	Painted and redecorated
Sanctuary Lighting	Ran new wire from lighting control switch by stained glass over to the AV desk. Allows Master switch to be moved from Choir Loft to AV desk
Kitchen Pantry	Organized left side, stripped floor and applied 2 coats of new wax
Large Antique Mirror	Relocated from Conf Room closet to back restroom alcove
Fire Alarm	Backup batteries replaced in control boxes in Sound Closet
Outside Windows	3 windows replaced as part of the Siding/Roofing project. Church office, Nursery, and Dormer above Nursery
Fire Extinguishers	Annual check. 2 new extinguishers added in Bus Barn (1 in each bay)
Carpeting	Steam cleaned all 2 nd floor and center stairway
Kitchen Lights	Replaced with LED flat panels
Interior Ceiling Lights	Replaced all fluorescent lights with LED flat panels in all rooms on 1 st and 2 nd floor
Insulation	Insulated above kitchen, north side of Fellowship Hall. Insulated boxes put over recessed lights in sanctuary
Choir Rm	Floor stripped and 2 coats of wax
Hand Sanitizer Stands	6 stands and sanitizer solution for DC partnership
Sanitizing Sprayer	Electrostatic sprayer and 250 disinfectant tablets purchased
Klaud's Pantry	Moved small refrigerator from kitchen Pantry Closet to back hall. Installed bulletin board on wall
2nd Floor Restroom	Installed Baby Changing station
Youth Fire Pit	Mowed field and dug pit
Robotic Vac	Purchased to allow custodial labor to be used cleaning
Driveway & Parking Lot	Cracks filled
Stained-Glass	Circular window from Zion Church cleaned, repaired and lit
West Stairway Space Heater	Installed a new Envi Electric radiator
Drive-In Church	Put wheels and trailer tongue on old video riser. Enclosed on 3 sides with wood and glass available at church. Replaced make shift axle with the axle from the sign trailer and replaced tire
Entrance Door Locks	Replaced control circuit boards and electric striker plates
Dormer Window Church	Off Caulked aluminum cladding and replaced upper
Sanctuary Dimmers	Ordered parts and installation labor
Thermal Imaging	Boldt re-shot all the images that were taken previous to the new siding and roof installation at no charge
High Speed Internet	Spectrum high speed cable internet was installed. Two networks at speeds of 2G and 5G (secured).
AV System	Maintained and updated to facilitate headphones for operator
Brush Removal	Cutdown brush along highway
Christmas Decorations	Setup and lit nativity. Decorated Bell Tower trees.

Please contact me or any of the other members, if you have questions or would like to serve on the Committee.
 Thomas Tuttle - Chair Buildings and Grounds

Shepherd of the Bay Zoom Council Meeting

December 21, 2020

Present: Pastor Jim Honig, President Scott Eckdahl, Ron Hupe, Tim West, Cheryl Becht, Edee Madsen, Dick Burress, Sue Daubner, Les Keepper, Lori Pothast

7:00pm Call to Order - President Scott Eckdahl

Opening Prayer - Pastor Jim Honig

Approval of Minutes - Passed

Add items - Ron Hupe would like to discuss church offering envelopes for 2021
Les Keepper would like to discuss outreach programs

Treasurers Report - Ron Hupe

November brought in more than \$36,000 in offerings, leaving a net loss to date of \$9,000. The average December offering income is about \$50 to \$60,000. Ron Hupe has agreed to continue as treasurer for the time being.

Committee Reports

Property and Grounds

After discussion, the Council has unanimously agreed that it would be most prudent to invest in a new lawn tractor with a warranty rather than purchase a used tractor. Sue Daubner made the motion to look into the purchase of a new tractor, seconded by George Cobb. Further discussion was had as to how to raise money for the new tractor. It was decided to include the expenditure in the 2021 budget.

New Business

1. Update on the 2021 Budget - will be discussed and worked on for Jan 2021 Council Meeting.
2. Council Recruitment - Council will stay as is for the next 4 months, hoping to address this further as Covid spread ceases.
3. Public Internet Use - Now that we have faster internet due to Spectrum, we will allow members and families to avail themselves of that use after Covid.
4. Annual Meeting - Discussion was held regarding the ability to have a Zoom Annual Meeting. It was concluded that the Zoom app would not be appropriate for this type of meeting. A motion was made and accepted to postpone the annual meeting until the spring. The date of the Annual Meeting will be determined as we draw closer to the end of the 4 month period. The Annual Report will be published for that Annual Meeting. Moved to accept New Business Les Keepper, seconded by Tim West.

Old Business

Update on worship plans. We will continue as we are until the Covid is under control, looking at least until February 14, according to the guidance of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin (ELCA) and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Christmas Eve offers a 4PM and a 7PM drive-in service, with much outdoor decorations to celebrate the season.

A very sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU to Tom and Barb Tuttle for their work in making this unusual year work for us. And Tom especially, as Pastor Jim says, "for all thing technical". And also kudos to Lynda Pietruszka for your great work in making the Sunday school Christmas play so much fun!!

8:15pm Closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Daubner, Secretary

Donate your Old Cell Phones

Did you get a new cell phone for Christmas? We are collecting old cell phones for HELP of Door County. They recycle them and get credit towards new phones that can be given to domestic violence victims who need them. There is a basket in the narthex for the old phones.

Lessons for January

January 3 : Second Sunday of Christmas

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18

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

January 10 : Baptism of Our Lord

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

Second Lesson: Acts 19:1-7

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Introduction to the readings: Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

January 17 : Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Holy Gospel: John 1:43-51

Introduction to the readings: All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

January 24 : Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Introduction to the readings: As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

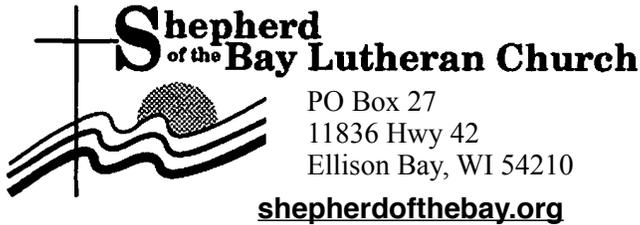
January 31 : Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Introduction to the readings: In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.



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Drive-in Church will continue.

Knowing that outdoor worship is safer than indoor, in person worship, we are continuing outdoor, drive-in worship service.

It will be a brief service with prayers, readings, and a sermon. We have also recently added hymns and communion to the service. The service will be broadcast to your FM radio at the 89.1 frequency. **We ask that you follow the guidelines listed on our website.**

Shepherd of the Bay Church FaceBook Page Live

Join Pastor Jim for a time of prayer and worship.

- **Tues. & Thurs. at Noon for Prayer**
- **Wed. at 7:00 PM for a Night Prayer**

ShepherdoftheBay.org

- **Sundays for Traditional Worship Service**

(The bulletin & Service video will be posted on shepherdofthebay.org Sunday morning.)

Bible Studies on Zoom

- **Sundays at 11:00am - Sunday Conversation**
- **Tuesdays at 9:00am - Pastor's Bible Study**

Links to the above online events along with other updates and news will be sent out weekly in Pastor Jim's **News and Notes emails** on Saturday. If you are not getting these emails and would like to receive them, send Jim an email at sotbpastor@gmail.com.

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.