



The Parish Door

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

April 2026

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

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Easter Service

Please join us on Sunday, April 5 at 9:30 a.m. to celebrate our risen Lord during the Easter Service. A Pot Luck Brunch and activities for the kids will follow the service. Invite your friends and neighbors! Everybody is Welcome.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry serves in an informal setting. We meet one-on-one with individuals to listen, talk, and offer encouragement.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remains private. The Stephen Minister takes on the role of "prayer giver" however, God, is the "cure giver". The Stephen Minister is not a therapist, but an active listener, and can provide resources for those experiencing grief after the loss of a loved one, coping with illness, serving as a caregiver, or facing other challenging life situations.

Please contact Carol Omernick at 920-854-2998 for more information or to get you connected with a Stephen Minister.



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

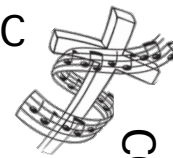
As we head into spring, may the large snowfall be behind us and we can focus on increased daylight, birds singing, and April flowers beginning to bloom. With that in mind, we hope to host our next Shepherd of the Bay speaker series focusing on our very own Community Garden. We have a tentative date of Wednesday, May 6th at 5:30pm, so come join us at church to hear more about the Community Garden we have, gardening tips, and who some of the beautiful food we grow also helps support Klaud's Pantry. If you have been thinking about joining the Community Garden at Shepherd of the Bay, now is a great time to come and learn more!



Lenten Meals

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Lenten Meal and Devotion series. Together, we shared not only good food but also inspiring conversations around the table. Until we meet again in February 2027!





A RECIPE FOR WORSHIP

As I write this article, our church is approaching the season of Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday 2026. This year we are attempting to create meaningful worship services in the absence of our Pastor, who is experiencing a well-deserved Sabbatical Season away from us. (The lighted candle on the font reminds us that we are also serving a sabbatical season alongside him, giving us all a greater sense of focus, each taking a personal ownership for the success of Shepherd of the Bay, now and always.) For those of us in positions of leadership, seen or relatively unseen, we are challenged to collaborate dynamically with each other in a coordinated manner, anticipating the needs of any given worship service, making certain that all “the small stuff” is taken care of in a timely fashion. This time of Sabbatical is teaching many of us to coordinate, cooperate and collectively create meaningful worship together. This Sabbatical Season is teaching great lessons to many of us - especially the lesson of gratitude, as we are made aware of the many ways our Pastor has confidently steered our Shepherd of the Bay ship through charted and uncharted waters in the past. These are wonderful lessons to learn as a team of church leaders and parishioners alike, both humbling and empowering, as we move forward together as THE CHURCH, finding our voices of cooperation and collaboration every single day. WE ARE THE CHURCH!

As THE CHURCH, there are certain responsibilities that fall on our shoulders. Like a good chef (so I am told), in order to create a beautiful meal one must follow a recipe carefully and completely. At Shepherd, our recipe for a successful worship service includes many steps, which should be handled in an orderly fashion. One should not skip a step, or attend to some of the many ingredients out of order or, heaven forbid, leave an important ingredient out. Attention to detail is the key to success. This seems to be a good life lesson for us all! So what is the recipe for meaningful worship in our church?

A suggested RECIPE FOR WORSHIP in Northern Door:

BEGIN WITH PRAYER! Our focus should be on being good stewards of the faith, following God’s leading and being careful to observe the basic ingredients of worship in our church: The Kyrie, The Gospel Acclamation, The Creed, The Prayers, The Great Thanksgiving, Lamb of God, The Communion service, The Benediction, The Dismissal. Those are the basics of our service, but this RECIPE FOR WORSHIP is not basic at all! It is dynamic and purposeful, providing a format and clear focus every time we worship together.

INGREDIENTS: There are hymns to be sung, choir anthems to be presented, special music and musicians chosen to enhance moments of the service, preludes and postludes and offertories to be played, spoken and sung responses to the liturgy offered. All of these elements of the service are based on the specific scriptures chosen for each Sunday, which serve to center the thematic worship for each individual service. THERE ARE SO MANY PARTS TO THIS COMPLEX WORSHIP EXPERIENCE! WE NEED TO BE ATTENTIVE TO THE INTRICASIES OF THIS TIME-HONORED RECIPE FOR WORSHIP.

TIMING: Everything should be balanced in terms of time and temperament. An ideal worship experience should never be so long as to wear out the worshipers! One should feel that the experience follows a certain scriptural theme, augmented by responsive musical selections and a sermon that speaks to the issues prompted by the scripture readings. An of course, communion! WHAT A RESPONSIBILITY!

Being part of a worship team is a very humbling experience. As we all work together to create thoughtful, meaningful worship for our church in this Sabbatical Season, we are all learning some very valuable life lessons: to lean on each other for help and grace; to listen to each other’s point of view and learn from each person’s experiences; to offer moments of creativity and bold ideas; to realize that we are helping to create something special as a group of interested individuals, with diverse gifts and backgrounds. However, WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT! Because we are centered in The Word and dedicated to the wellbeing of Our Church, our work is dynamic and fulfilling. But it remains a true test of our humility, to recognize the many gifted people all around us and to learn from them! THIS RECIPE MUST NOT FAIL!

LORD, SPEAK TO US, THAT WE MAY SPEAK

Text: Frances R. Havergal Music: Robert Schumann

*Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let us seek your straying children, lost and lone.*

*Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the wandering and the wav’ring feet;
Oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed your hung’ring ones with manna sweet.*

*Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the precious truths which you impart;
And wing our words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, until our very hearts o’erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.*



May we continue to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, leaning on Him, listening to Him, serving Him. May we continue to embrace our friends in the church as true siblings, members of the same family of God, joining together with a single purpose of love and service.

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT (ST. BRENDAN'S)
Peter Scholtes

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Blessings to you in this season of hope and renewal ... AND LOVE!
Judith Jackson, Sanctuary Choir Director and Principal Pianist

Greetings from Your Congregation Care Coordinator
- Amy Hennings

Congregation Care Coordinator Hours – **MOVING TO TUESDAYS IN APRIL - 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)**.

As we finish our Lenten journey and celebrate Easter this month, we can reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins and on his resurrection bringing light and hope to us all. May his light shine upon us and bring us the renewal and redemption we have all been seeking.

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

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 tentative date of Wednesday, May 6th at 5:30pm, so come join us at church to hear more about the Community Garden we have, gardening tips, and who some of the beautiful food we grow also helps support Klaud's Pantry. If you have been thinking about joining the Community Garden at Shepherd of the Bay, now is a great time to come and learn more!

Local Resources Spotlight – Door County Medical – Memory Clinic and Support Groups

Did you know that Door County Medical offers Pre Dementia and Early Dementia services and support groups to both people living with Dementia and also support groups for their caregivers and loved one?

The Pre or Early Dementia Group/Services Offers:

- Screenings
- Early dementia group
- Support groups for caregivers and early dementia members – 1x a month
- Memory Clinic on Wednesdays – Door County Medical – Team that meets with caregiver and patient
- MIND workshop – free of charge – 1x per week for 6 weeks
- Memory Café'

For more information:

www.dcmmedical.org/medical-services/memory-care OR call Door County Memory Clinic at [\(920\) 746-3504](tel:9207463504)

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.

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

With Care and Gratitude,

Amy Hennings

Youth and Family Ministry News

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

Thank you for supporting our youth as you give them the blessing and opportunity, to attend a retreat specifically designed for their age, and faith journey! A weekend at camp with other students across the Synod, is a rich experience for a young person seeking to gain knowledge, and a heart for Jesus. This summer, we hope to take our Confirmation students for a full week of camp, our High School students for both a week at camp, and on a mission trip, and to enjoy five full Wednesdays of Summer Wonderful Wednesdays with our younger children! Come join us!

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.**

4/1 Holy Week, Little Lambs does not meet today

4/15 Let's Go Fishing!

4/22 The Fruits of the Spirit, part one

4/29 The Fruits of the Spirit, part two

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!

Because of Holy Week, we will only meet on Wednesday, April 15th! Get ready to register for Summer Wonderful Wednesdays!

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!

4/5 The Empty Tomb, Matthew 28:1-10 **Join us after worship, in Fellowship Hall for a Potluck Easter Brunch and activities for children!**

4/12 Doubting Thomas, John 20:19-31

4/19 The Road to Emmaus, Luke 24:13-35 **Join us upstairs following Communion, for "Pancakes and Praise", family Sunday School. Home by 11:15!**

4/26 Early Believers, Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37

Confirmation

Confirmation students will meet **Wednesday evening, April 8th**, pick up time is at 5:30 p.m. We will finalize our plans for Confirmation camp this summer at Imago Dei!

High School Youth Group

For Grades 9th-12th!

High School will meet **4/8 and 4/22 at 6:00p.m.** We will be chasing a sunset in the van, honoring "Earth Day" in service, and planning for the 30 hour famine, and summer outings!

WELCA Prayer Chain

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

To send a Prayer Request:

1. Send an email to Cheri Boock at cheriboock@gmail.com

2. State the request with wording that you want for the request. Make sure you have received permission from the person in need of the request.

3. The request will be sent when received by Cheri.

4. The Prayer Chain members always are glad to receive a report of how the person is doing as they are sending out their prayers, so if you request a prayer for someone, please let us know how that person is doing.

If you want to be included as a recipient of the Prayer Chain, and pray for those in need, contact Cheri Boock at 920-854-5493 or cell 920-421-1210 or the above email.

WELCA Monthly Book Group

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

April 16

Harvey, Samantha. **Orbital**. 2024. Novel of six astronauts from several countries circling the earth – 16 times every 24 hours. The book is a meditation on earth as seen from space with insights into the lives of astronauts who undertake such missions.

Council Minutes January 22, 2026

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

Present: Tara Torkelson, Pr. Jim Honig, Grace Rossman, Mark Beecher, Jeff Johnson, Adam Johnson, Lynda Pietruszka, Cheryl Becht, Scott Henry Guests: Judy Jackson, Dick Burress
Absent: Jane Burress, Jane Mohit, Julia Keeper

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM in the conference room by President Torkelson.
2. . Dick Burress reported on the funeral plans for Chris Hecht. Significant logistics are involved to accommodate the hundreds of people expected to attend. Volunteers are needed.

The treasurer's report included a review of the draft budget for 2026 and the end of year 2025. Updating the outdated fixed asset list is a project for 2026. The end of year 2025 was reviewed showing various accounts over and under budget. The 2026 budget reflects an increase. A motion to approve the end of year 2025 report carried. A motion was made to approve the 2026 budget with the suggestions discussed was carried.

Old business:

1. A reminder to all that the annual meeting is February 1, 2026. The Nominating Committee has identified Jim Grasse and M J Brukart to present to the congregation for election to the council. Motion carried.
2. AED and CPR training schedule will be organized by Amy Hennings.

New Business:

1. A motion was made to approve, recommending to the congregation, approval of the 2025 church wide assembly amendment to the ELCA model constitutional by Mark Beecher, seconded by Scott Henry, carried.
2. Council will help with the Lenten meal, Wednesday, February 25, 2026.
3. The use of a financial gift to align with the intention of the giver and other needs as reviewed by the council was discussed. Music ministry and a septic system upgrade were discussed as possible uses.
4. Church fellowship hall use is requested by 32 women members of the Who's New in Madison Group for 2 nights in September 2026. Motion to approve the use was made by Cheryl Becht, seconded by President Tara Torkelson, carried.
5. An outline of the Pastor's sabbatical was passed out. The dates are March 1st to May 31st.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeffery L. Johnson, Council Secretary

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:

Oatmeal & Cereal

Cooking Oil

Canned Vegetables

Fresh Vegetables & Fruit

Milk

Canned Meat (Tuna, Chicken, Beef)

Rice and Pasta Side Dishes

Juice

Shampoo & Conditioner

Dish Soap

Deodorant

Lessons for April

April 5 : Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday

First Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

Introduction: This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.

April 12 : Second Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Holy Gospel : John 20:19-31

Introduction: In today’s gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

April 19 : Third Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 2:41a, 36-41

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Introduction: Today’s gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord’s day.

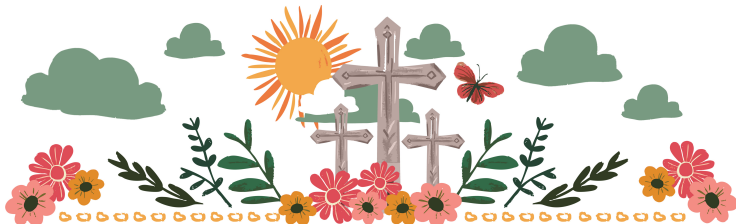
April 26 : Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10

Introduction: Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.



Readers:

April 5	Bob Loss
April 12	Kristen Demarinis
April 19	Tara Torkelson
April 26	Carolyn Hitzeman

Ushers :

April 5	Joel & Gidget Schauske
April 12	OPEN
April 19	OPEN
April 26	OPEN

Altar Guild:

April	OPEN
May	Kristin Demarinis

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.





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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.

