March 2020

The Parish Door

A Stephen Ministry Congregation
shepherdofthebay.org

A publication of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church
11836 Hwy 42, Ellison Bay, WI. 54210 (920) 854-2988

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Open Our Lives, Lord

At the heart of our Christian faith is a call to be open – to God, to one another, to the needs of our neighbor, to the care of creation. In short, we are called to be open to the life that God promises and that God intends.

We will reflect on that invitation to open ourselves to God. ***Open Our Lives, Lord***, will invite us to see several ways in which God calls us to be open. These will include opening our eyes, our hands, our ears, our hearts, and our lives.

Each service will begin at 6:15pm and will last approx. 45 minutes. 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 10 and younger eating for free!

There will be a different menu every Wednesday night. Meals will include Empanadas, Lasagna, Baked Potato Bar and Sloppy Joes. All meals include beverage and dessert. Invite your friends and neighbors.

The proceeds from each meal will help fund Youth Camps, Guatemala missions and other activities of the church.

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

Guatemala Mission Trip 2020!!!

The time is here!! From March 25- April 2, the Shepherd of the Bay Mission Team will head to Guatemala for their annual mission trip. Please keep the team in your prayers: John & Nora Zacek, Karen & Patrick Egan, Vincent Fagin, Edee Madsen, Sue Meredith, and Carol Omernick. Also pray for the widows and their families we will be serving plus our 3 sponsor families we will be visiting. Pray that the people of Guatemala see the love of God thru us.

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."

Pastor's Post

Pr. Jim Honig

One of the ministries at Shepherd of the Bay that I think we do particularly well is the ministry of funerals. The services that we help families plan are carefully thought out and faithfully carried out. The music speaks to the family and other mourners in ways that words cannot. The lessons and the sermon speak a word of hope and resurrection in the midst of grief. Our ministry of hospitality provides an opportunity for family and other mourners to break bread together as they offer mutual comfort and tell the stories that define the life of the deceased.

Off and on through the years, I've had the chance to sit down with people before their death and plan their funerals. It gives folks a chance to think about what they want the spirit and character of the service to be. It also provides an opportunity to record other more practical details that need attention at the time of death, details of visitation, obituary, memorials, and the list goes on and on.

To assist with that difficult but important process, I've put together a questionnaire that can help people think through the important matters surrounding death and release their family from the burden of planning a service without really knowing what their loved one desired. A hard-copy of the form is available from the church office; you can also download a copy from the Shepherd of the Bay website. And if you'd like to schedule a time to talk through the form, let me know. I'd be happy to have that conversation. You might be surprised at what a positive conversation that can be.

On another topic: some have asked the reason for my wearing, on occasion, a black cassock on Sunday mornings, rather than the white alb. In the past several years of my pastoral ministry, I have made a commitment to awareness and action to dismantle racism, and especially to engage that work in the church. And I am always learning and growing. This summer, I read a book written by an African-descent pastor in the ELCA. The book, *Dear Church*, has as the sub-title, "*A Love letter to the Whitest Denomination in America.*" That's us. The ELCA.

One of the things I learned is how we have instinctively and without much reflection made whiteness a symbol of holiness and purity, and blackness a symbol of sin and evil. That extends even to the symbols in our worship, including our vestments. I was taught that pastors wear vestments to hide their individuality and personality, and to mark them as one who is the representative of Christ to the congregation. The pastor speaks a word to the congregation from God. The pastor is called to baptize and to share the eucharist as representative of Christ. White vestments are a symbol of that holiness and purity. So, if white is the symbol of purity and holiness, by contrast, black has been the symbol of sin and evil. I can only imagine what centuries of that binary has done to our siblings with darker skin. So, I'm wearing black in solidarity and as a way for us to begin change that bias.

I write this article as we stand at the brink of Ash Wednesday and our 40-day journey through Lent to Easter. I prayerfully wish you a Lenten season that brings reflection, repentance, and renewal, all with the hope of a deeper and more full relationship with God and a sharpened sense of your ministry in the world. Blessings to you.

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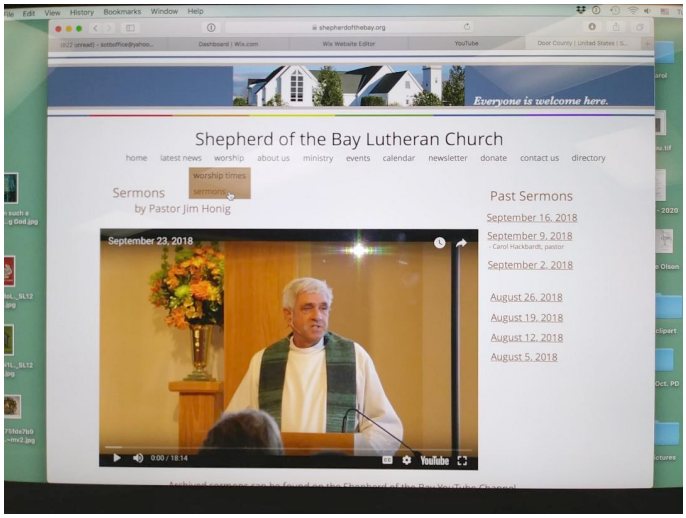


Go to shepherdofthebay.org to:

- See the latest **sermons.**
- Weekly Photo updates of the **Siding Project.**
- Find the current and the last few issues of the **Parish Door Newsletter.**
  - Read the **2019 Annual Report & watch a recording of the Annual Meeting**
- Send a **prayer request**.
- See the **Calendar**.
- Sign up and **manage your online giving.**
- Access the updated **Directory** of current members and friends of SOTB.

See lots of photos of what is happening!

Youth and Family Ministry News

from Lynda Pietruszka
920-854-2988 or sotb.lynda@gmail.com

March Events with Children, Youth, and Families

Some our littlest church family learning and growing in Christ!

Sunday School

***Our Sunday School mission project for the Lenten season is to collect snack items to share with the children in Guatemala. We will be collecting granola bars, etc. A team from SOTB will be heading there March 25th!**

3-1-20 The First Sunday in Lent - The First Sin, Genesis 3:1-27
3-8-20 The Second Sunday in Lent - Abram's Call, Genesis 12:1-4a
3-15-20 The Third Sunday in Lent - Woman at the Well, John 4:5-42
3-22-20 The Fourth Sunday in Lent - Pool of Siloam, John 9:1-41
3-29-20 The Fifth Sunday in Lent - Lazarus, John 11:1-45

Little Lambs

Little Lambs will meet from 10-11:00 a.m. each Wednesday in the month of March, except 3/25 we won't meet because of Spring Break. The theme for the month is "Jesus loves to help people!" and so do we!

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wednesday, March 4th, we will complete our painting art work from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, and celebrate the Trinity, and the history of St. Patrick (and maybe a little "Shenanigans"!

Wednesday, March 18th, we will be in service to our church by making blankets for our graduating Seniors, and soap bubbling our nursery! God's LOVE for you "bubbles" over!

Confirmation

Deadline to receive a group discount on registration for Confirmation camp is March 13th. Please watch for emails from Lynda for information on how to register, and about our first fundraiser for camp, March 11th Lenten meal. We will need help preparing ahead of time, set-up and clean up. Camp this year is at Imago Dei, June 21st-26th.

Confirmation will meet after school on March 4, 11, and 18th. March 4-April 8th, Youth will be involved with the Lenten services, with the exception of March 25, due to Spring Break. Be on the look out for a sign up/email.

A BIG shout out to Cindi and Jeremy for showing our Confirmation students the love of Christ over JYG!!!

High School Youth Group

Wednesday, March 4, "Our call to Care" a follow up to the 30 Hour Famine, come even if you were not able to participate in the famine. We will also make our Spring and Summer plans!

Wednesday, March 18, is our turn to serve the Lenten meal. This is an important fundraiser for our youth group! We will be creating a "Baked Potato Bar" and cooking chili, and making dessert bars! We need every one to help in preparing, set up, and clean up. See incoming emails for more information!

A Big Shout out and a Thank you to all who made our youth feel so loved and supported through out the month of February!! I can name a few names, but it was evident that our entire church family supported our youth through their prayers, financial backing, and encouragement! You are ALL the hands and feet of Jesus and our youth can see it!
Kristi Appel, Kit Butz, Kristen DeMarinis, Lynne Buchner, Sarah B., Eloise Lindem, Cindi and Jeremy Schwab, Linda Glasser, choir members who sang Singing Valentines with us, Christy Reisen, and Shirley Hansen, Kendall Koehler and others who made meals for us at the end of the 30 Hour famine, Dick Burress for making sure our van was safe as we transported kids to JYG, Sue Daubner, for teaching our kids to paint at Wonderful Wednesdays, and our parents and grandparents who bring their kids, bring snack, and bring their love! Thank you so much! -Lynda #janethewindbeneathmywingslol

PRAYER CHAIN

The WELCA *Prayer Chain* continues to serve all the members of Shepherd of the Bay for Prayer Requests.

The *Prayer Requests* are being sent by email only. No phone calls are made.

To send a *Prayer Request*:

1. **Send an email to Cheri Boock at - wildflowerway50@charter.net**
2. **State the request with the wording that you want for the request.. Make sure that you have received permission from the person in need of the request.**
3. **The *Prayer Request* will be sent as soon as Cheri receives the request.**

If you want to be included as a recipient of the *Prayer Chain*, please contact Cheri Boock at 920-854-5493 (cell) 920-421-1210 or email at wildflowerway50@charter.net,

The Quilters meet on Thursdays in the fellowship hall. They would love to have you join them. Call Barb Tuttle (920) 883-7011) for more information.

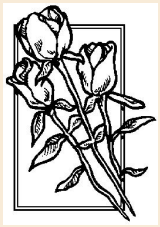
Don't forget to use the **CHANGE BUCKET**- you can make a change in someone's life by putting a donation in the CHANGE BUCKET on Sunday during the Fellowship Hour. Your donation is being used to buy gift cards for the Piggly Wiggly to give to those in need. Almost $700 was collected in 2019. Thank you to all who donated. That spare change really adds up.

BOOK CLUB selection for March 19th is **Where the Crawdads Sing, by Delia Owens 2018.** First novel from a scientist who writes about wildlife. Set in North Carolina's coastal marsh area is this coming of age story about a girl who has raised herself and then looks for connections with others. Call Gretchen Farwell (920) 854-6203 for more information.

MARCH EVENTS

5, 12, 29, 26 **Quilting Group** - 9:15 - 2:00 – Fellowship Hall

19 - **Book Group** - 9:30am Parlor



Two of our members will be receiving a rose this month:
Phyllis Turner (90) on 3/6
and
Virginia Johnson (95) on 3/18 .

Happy Birthday and congratulations!!!

MEAL MINISTRY contact for **March** is **Alicia Kropuenske 839-2559 or 421-0528**

Marilyn Johnson (608) 322-8047 is the new Meal Ministry Chairman for 2020. Please let her know of someone in our church family who needs a meal. If you would like to be added to the list of those who would be willing to prepare a meal, please call Marilyn.

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.

Projects

- **Roof** – Roofing will not be starting work until Spring or at least until the weather improves.
- **Siding** – **Note**: *Checkout the church website "What's New" for more photos.* Work has continued as weather has permitted. There have been 4 full days lost due to the cold and 3 shortened days due to snow and drizzle since the beginning of the year. A total of 1983 man-hrs. have gone into the insulating and siding as of February 20. Several weeks of work during the end of December and into January, went into straightening the masonry firewall by the rear entrance and installing the new siding. The block was not plumb and leaned out about 1-1/2 inches at the top. Now the wall looks straight, the way walls are supposed to be! When the roof is finished it will really look great. Work shifted from the back of the building to the front in late December. Insulation, Tyvek and new siding have been installed from the rear entrance all along the front of the church and all around the Fellowship Hall. 3 rotten windows (Church office, Nursery and dormer above Nursery) were found on the front of the church. New windows have been ordered and will be installed when they are available. When the siding was stripped off the dormer above the Nursery, we found only bare plywood. There was no tar paper or house wrap of any kind. When the siding was off by the Conference Room and around Fellowship Hall, the gable end walls (above the inside ceilings) were opened to inspect the insulation on the ceilings. We found 8in of fiberglass in good condition in all areas. When we removed the siding from the sides of the breezeway, we discovered a little surprise. The concrete block walls were furred out with wood 2x4s. Everywhere else on the building the furring strips were "U-shaped" steel channel. The fact that wood was used is not bad, just different. As long as we had the old siding off, we decided to insulate the breezeway walls, even though that area is not heated. If we add another set of doors at the open end of the breezeway at some future date the insulated walls will help retain some heat that comes out of the building when the inside doors are opened. The biggest hole found thus far was in the wall next to the corner stone. The cornerstone filled about half of the opening left in the masonry wall. Just the old aluminum siding covered the hole. The good news is that it did not adjoin a heated area and now has been insulated and covered properly. At the time of this writing work has progressed around the Fellowship Hall and the crew is now working outside the kitchen and stained-glass window area.

11Jan20 South End of Firewall Finiished and Straight!

17Jan20 Carol's Office Wall Complete.

15Jan20 - Siding removed from around the Corner Stone. Found big uninsulated hole to the left and behind the Corner Stone. Filled with fiberglass and then covered with rigid foam insulation.

3Feb20 Front Dormer over Nursery. When old siding was removed this is what was found. Only plywood, no tar paper or anything covering the plywood.

Building Maintenance

•**Kitchen Large Coffee Marker** – DC Coffee has donated the large and small machines to us. We are no longer obligated to purchase coffee from them. Dennis Voight has been investigating the problem with the Decaf side and has narrowed the issue down to 2 possibilities. The overflow problem remains unresolved at this time.

•**Well** – New motor controls were installed after the motor resets tripped a couple of times in December.

•**Fellowship Hall Painted** – Thank you to Karl Omernick, Scott Thies and Tim West for painting.

•**Library** – Thank you to Sharon and George Cobb for boxing up the books so that the bookcases could be moved for painting. The library has since been down sized. Books not taken by members were donated to the Sister Bay Library. The few books that were retained have been relocated into a single bookcase in the Parlor.

•**WELCA Supply Cabinet** – Thank you to Grace Rossman, Cathy Mangan, Carol Omernick, Pat Skogsbakken, and Barb Tuttle for cleaning out the white supply cabinet that was in the corner of the Fellowship Hall and closets in the Conference Room and 2nd floor. WELCA's kitchen related items are now located in the kitchen Pantry closet. All of their other items have been moved to the 2nd floor closet near the west stair well.

•**Pastor's Office** – Thank you Karl Omernick for your help in moving in the Pastor's new office furniture.

•**Children & Youth Ministry Office** - The office recently occupied by the World Market is now the new home for the Director of Children & Youth Ministry. Thank you, Scott Thies for painting and Glen Rossman for your help with the furniture. The carpet was steam cleaned before Lynda moved in.

•**Ladies Narthex Restroom** – The room was painted and, rearranged to hopefully improve the usability of this tiny space. The diaper changing station was relocated into the ADA stall to allow the rest of the room to be used when changing a baby. A new recessed folded paper towel dispenser was installed to provide move space when standing at the sink. A recessed Kleenex dispenser and recessed waste bin were added to the wall alongside the full-length mirror. There will be a couple more, little improvements over the next few weeks.

•**Fire Alarm** – New backup batteries have been installed.

•**Large Antique Mirror** – Was relocated from the Conference Room closet to the wall above the bench in the alcove outside the rear entrance restrooms.

Please contact me or any of the other members, if you would like to serve on the Committee.

Thomas Tuttle - Chair Buildings and Grounds

Ushers :

March 1	Stan & Jane Whiteman
March 8	Scott & Marcia Eckdahl
March 15	Bob & Sharon Pluff
March 22	David Daubner & Tom MacDonald
March 29	**OPEN**

Altar Flowers

The 2020 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. Please sign up to donate Altar Flowers.

Readers :

March 1	Carolyn Hitzeman
March 8	Jan Mielke
March 15	Doris Loss
March 22	Connie Glowacki
March 29	Anthony Casanas

We are Lutherans! We sing liturgy!

As we enter the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, our musical choices change in the church. *Alleluia* disappears until its reemergence on Easter Sunday, when *God be praised* will be joined with *He is risen!* and our season of longing and waiting will be completed with joy and celebration.

In the meantime, our Lenten journey will begin on February 26, Ash Wednesday, with a meal and a service of reflection, recognition of sin, imposition of ashes and confession. The music that we and the choir will sing is more somber and introspective, inviting us to begin the season with serious personal examination. What an opportunity for growth in our church community!

So what about the liturgy? How does this contribute to our Lenten journey? Is it really necessary to change the music for this solemn season?

Liturgy is the spine around which the Lutheran church organizes itself to bring a sense of order and continuity to our worship experience. We begin with the **Kyrie**, where the choir sings *In peace, let us pray to the Lord* and the assembly responds *Lord, have mercy.* The dialogue continues between choir and congregation, affirming a connection with each other and the church at large. The **Canticle of Praise** *Glory to God in the highest* follows immediately after the Kyrie is sung. During Lent, we choose a **Gospel Acclamation** setting without the appearance of *Alleluia*, using the text *Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord. Save us as you promised; we will trust your word,* a further reflection of the yearning of this season in the church experience.

In **The Great Thanksgiving**, *Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest* is our answer to the pastor's concluding statement: *we praise your name and join their unending hymn*. ALL OF US JOINING TOGETHER to sing this hymn! What a wonderful thought! We are joined with each other in our Shepherd of the Bay assembly and church-wide to sing our *Hosannas* to God. Communion is now ready and we are all invited to the table, singing *Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us*.

So why are we talking about the liturgy today? Let me explain. In our ELW hymnal there are eleven musical settings of the liturgy, listed under the topic of **HOLY COMMUNION** and three musical settings listed under **DAILY PRAYER**. There are so many choices to make, with such a diversity of musical styles available. The common factor is the **spine** of the words, uniting our worship with familiar text. The music in these settings may represent a different language for the words, but **THE WORD** unites us all in worship.

So we will embark on this Season of Lent by singing a new liturgy at Shepherd: Setting Six. Its musical nature is based in the fabric of Gospel, Jazz and Blues, with expansive American sounds embracing familiar words. Perhaps you will find some deeper meaning in how you express the words of worship in the language of a new setting. We might more fully accept this new musical opportunity for worship (change!) by remembering Jesus' words from Luke 12:32, which are reflected in a familiar hymn, found in our Cranberry Hymnal:

***Have no fear**, little flock, for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom!*
***Have good cheer**, little flock, for the Father will keep you in his love forever!*
***Praise the Lord** high above, for he stoops down to heal you!*
***Thankful hearts** raise to God, for he stays close beside!*
HAVE NO FEAR, LITTLE FLOCK!

Let us walk through this Season of Lent together, with hope and assurance in the God who loves and sustains us in all things.
See you in church!
Judith Jackson
Principal Pianist and Sanctuary Choir Director

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church
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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.

Lessons for March

March 1 : 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.

March 8 : Second Sunday in Lent
First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a
Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
Holy Gospel:John 3:1-17

Introduction to the readings: During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

March 15 : Third Sunday in Lent
First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7
Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11
Holy Gospel: John 4:5-42

Introduction to the readings: In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

March 22 : Fourth Sunday in Lent
First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14
Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

Introduction to the readings: Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

March 29: Fifth Sunday in Lent
First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11
Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45

Introduction to the readings: In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

March Coffee Hour Group

Co-Chair:	
Suzi Hass	421-1379
Julia & Les Keepper	989-560-1184
Cheryl Becht	563-940-7868
Carol Champeau	421-0112
Tony & Amy Gorham	421-2885
Jim & Jesse Grasse	854-0131
Brent & Camila Hitzeman	854-9251
Lorraine Hoyt	421-3399
Carl & Judy Jackson	854-4239
Don & Donna Koepsel	854-9489
Eloise Lindem	854-4458
Jan Mielke	421-5308
Jay & Vicki Olson	421-2161
Gordon & Judy Reeves	(920) 495-7372
Sherry Wilson	421-0431
Ron & Janet Stromen	421-4427

April Coffee Hour Group

Co-chair: Lon & Ruth Kopitzke	854-2469
Stan & Jane Whiteman	868-2997
Jim & Kristi Appel	421-0377
Steve & Julia Chomeau	854-9543
Scott & Marcia Eckdahl	309-824-9382
Lynn Hanson	839-9601
Virginia Henz	854-2164
Jan Mielke	854-5308
Sandra Olson & Tim Nelson	421-1657
Judy Nelson	854-2507
Steve & Lynn Pluff	421-2205
Glen & Grace Rossman	854-5574
Jeni Tveten	854-5740
Christy Riesen	421-3323
Tim & Carrie Mulrain	920-606-2786
Kim Shumway	854-4937