

The Shepherd's Staff
Monthly Newsletter of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
"A Community Celebrating God's Grace"
"Grace – Compassion – Service"
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5511 64th Street SE, Snohomish WA 98290

JANUARY 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year Church Family,

Welcome to January!! As we look ahead to the coming year, we are excited to share a guiding theme that will shape our teaching, our practices, and our life together as a church: Evangelism and Discipleship.

This year, we want to be intentional about not only *sharing our faith*, but truly *knowing* the faith we are sharing. Evangelism is more than having the right words in the moment—it flows from a deep, growing understanding of who God is, what God has done, and why the Gospel matters. Together, we will dig into the foundations of our faith so that we can speak clearly, confidently, and faithfully about the hope we have in Christ.

Alongside this, our focus on discipleship will call us to develop deep spiritual roots. Just as strong roots lead to healthy, fruitful trees, a grounded life in Christ leads to spiritual fruit in our everyday lives—our character, our relationships, and our witness to the world around us. We will learn what it means to walk daily with Jesus, allowing His truth to shape how we live, love, and serve.

Our prayer is that this year will be one of growth—growth in knowledge, growth in faith, and growth in faithfulness. As we learn together, we trust that God will use us to make God's love known both within our church and beyond it.

Looking forward to walking this journey with you to discover and uncover what God has for us!

In Christ, Pastor JP

THANK YOU TO:

- Those who continue to care for our church home – inside and out, especially Doug, who fixed a leak in the kitchen and is working with a company to comply with Fire Marshall regulations!
- Cindy for donation of the beautiful Christmas Quilt, on display in the Sanctuary
- Cindy, Terry and Sabrina for their special music
- Project Linus for donating quilts for our sponsored families!
- All the generous donations of funds and gifts for our sponsored families



PRAYER REQUESTS

**Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus
and for all people according to their needs:**

The McCutchan family on the loss of Rich's sister

The Pehling family on the loss of Dave Pehling, Pat's brother and Lori's husband

The Martina family on the loss of Bruce Martina

Tom Dillard's family and friends upon his passing

The Deierling and Siewert families on the loss of Dell and Joni's father, Dale

Jane and Jack Melynk and family on the loss of Jane's father, Jack Gleeson

Suzanne Walters and family on the loss of her mother, Helen

The Fox family on the loss of Mead's father

The Moen family on the loss of Al Moen

For health concerns:

Joy Vaughn's friend, Jeff, for healing

Chris Homme's sister, Julie, as she faces breast cancer

Jon Tollefson, undergoing cancer treatment, cousin of Cheryl McCutchan and Chad Masche

John Veale as he recovers from heart surgery

Lucas Taylor, Joy Vaughn's cousin's grandson, as he battles a form of lymphoma,

Lisa Robinson's Sister-in-law, Debbie, as she continues to recover from an auto accident

For all others who are in need of healing and wholeness,

For peace all around the world,

For Pastor J.P., our Congregational Leaders and for all people according to their needs.

**Into your hands, Oh, Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

ON LINE WORSHIP

Please remember and share with your friends and family that our weekly worship service continues to be recorded and posted on our Website and Facebook. This is a way to stay connected if you are unable for various reasons to attend. Just go to www.swanstrail.org

The NW Synod website has much information that may be of interest, especially the resources page, which can be found at: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/resources>

FROM THE COUNCIL

The Council will be meeting on January 18 to prepare our 2026 budget, which will be proposed to the Congregation at our 2026 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25.

The NW Synod website has much information that may be of interest, especially the resources page, which can be found at: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/resources>

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dell Deierling, Chair

The Committee entered December with a reserve to handle emergency situations. We were able to support flood victims through a donation of \$1,000 to a school fund set up to serve families of students impacted by the local flooding. We also assisted a family that was behind in their rent with \$800, helping them to stay in their home.

One of the families supported by the congregation for both Thanksgiving and Christmas (with gifts) were a family that the Committee had assisted with utility payments in November. On Christmas Day, I received this message from the mom of the family: “My family was so overwhelmed with joy and happiness this morning opening up all of the gifts!!! And, I just realized the amount of money on all of the gift cards!!!! Thank you so much!!! Your church blessed our family!!! My family is so grateful. THANK YOU and Merry Christmas.”

The 2025 Committee members were Tim Danner, Karen Goodnight, Ron Walther, Richard McCutchan, and Dell Deierling. Please feel free to reach out to us with any needs that you identify in the community. A special thanks to Karen and Ron who have completed their three-year terms.

MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson & Cheryl McCutchan

Happy New Year Everyone! We sure had an eventful 2025, and December just added to the fun. Thank you to Cindy, Debbie, Pastor JP, Joni, Lisa, and Cheryl for providing after-service treats. Also thank you to the Garlands for hosting fellowship on tap on the 14th, to Pastor JP and Briana for overseeing the gingerbread house decorating on the 21st, and to everyone who joined in on the cookie extravaganza on the 28th.

If you are able to provide fellowship treats in January, please sign up in the notebook under the mail slots in the fellowship hall.

The youth will be bowling at Strawberry Lanes in Marysville on January 4th. Let Dean know if you want to join in.

January Fellowship on Tap will be at Woodinville Whiskey on the 11th from 3-5pm.

On Saturday January 24th, at 11am, Join in on a Polar Plunge at the Danner cabin on Lake Roesiger.

If you enjoyed the activities of the past year or have ideas for new things, let Lisa or Cheryl know.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

CHRISTIAN LEARNING -

Weekly, Sunday School for the youth is held each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - The women's bible study group will meet in the Anderson Chapel on January 16th at 10:00 AM.

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY -

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study group at the Barstad's home is working through the study titled *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller. .

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

Thank you for your generosity! Your Christmas gifts were delivered to three Riverview Elementary School families and the Benevolence Committee led by Dell Deierling supported another family (a total of 15 children). Each child received gifts as well as gift cards for the family. Project Linus Quilters led by Diane Campbell made and donated 15 beautiful quilts and a Christmas stocking for every child. Food was collected for The Reverse Advent Calendar (spearheaded by Donna Garland) and delivered to the Snohomish Food Bank.

Your giving has kept me busy! During December, your donations were delivered to Riverview Elementary School, the Gospel Men's and Women's Missions, Madison Family Shelter and the Snohomish Food Bank. Thank you for labeling bags to designate to which charity you want them delivered.

Please continue to remember the Food Bank, as it is a vital resource for many in our community. Donations of money or non-perishable items including not only pantry staples but also paper products, baby diapers and wipes, adult diapers, personal hygiene items, household cleaning products, disinfectant, paper and plastic grocery bags, canvas or nylon produce bags and pet food are always needed.

People at the Gospel Men's and Women's Missions are so grateful when they receive donations of clothing and household products.

As we begin 2026, please feel free to make suggestions in ways that Good Shepherd can help the community throughout the year.

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Doug Garland

Happy New Year everyone! A big thank you to the congregation for everything you have done to keep our church in good working order. Some of the highlights for 2025 were getting the parking lots paved, new water heaters, and a new wireless mesh system for the church and guests.

Thank you to those who participated in the work parties, kept the grass mowed and were available on short notice for plumbing issues and other time critical needs with the church and the preschool.

Going forward we need to figure out some kind of monitoring service for the fire alarm system and getting some new thermostats for the heating system.

The mower deck on our riding lawn mower has rusted out and is in need of being replaced. We are currently looking for a newer used riding lawn mower to replace the existing one. If you know of anyone looking to sell or donate a used riding lawn mower to the church let Dean or me know.

As always, if you have suggestions for improvements or see a possible safety issue, please let me know, I am always open to new ideas.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland/Cheryl McCutchan

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have been faithful in your offerings and support of Good Shepherd. Your generosity of time, talents, and offerings are very much appreciated! As a result of your generosity, we have finished the year in a very favorable financial position as well as having exceeded our income budget. Again, many, many thanks to you all.

GIVING OPTIONS

- Contributing during our weekly service
- Mailing checks to: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5511 64th Street S.E., Snohomish, WA 98290
- Utilizing your bank's bill pay option (Check with your bank or your on-line banking website)
- Using Tithe.ly donate link on our website, <https://www.swanstrail.org>

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP & MUSIC – Karla Kloes

Happy New Year 2026!!! It's a time of new beginnings and makes me think of a couple of Bible verses:

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"

Isaiah 43:18-19 "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

We are still in the season of Christmas until January 6th the Epiphany of Our Lord. Epiphany runs through February 8th, and Ash Wednesday is February 18th.

Thank you to Mary and Donna for helping with communion. Thank you to Cindy and the choir for the meaningful contribution to our service.

Remember there is a new signup sheet in the fellowship hall that added communion assistant, so if you would like to serve in that way please sign up. Consider trying something new this year.

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Youth Bowling Bible Study 6pm	5 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	6	7	8 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 6:30pm</i>	9	10
11 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Fellowship on Tap Bible Study 6pm	12	13	14 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	15 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	16 Women's Bible Study 10am Anderson Chapel	17
18 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	19	20	21 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	22	23 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	24 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i> Polar Plunge at Lake Roesiger
25 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	26	27	28	29	30	31