

# The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail  
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**FEBRUARY 2024**

Dear friends, peace and joy be with you.

Greeting, affirmation, reminder/reflection, encouragement, invitation:.

Can you believe January is already over?! It feels like the month has flown by and we are already headlong into the New Year.

This past month I had the opportunity to meet and connect with more of you over lunch, a cup of coffee, or an office visit. It has been a joy to get to know you and spend time with you. In addition, I have really enjoyed the opportunity to see, hear, and learn where God has gifted you, how God has/is using you, and what you feel God has called you to (do).

As we continue to discern God's voice and respond to God's call, I have two encouragements. The first is a reminder that God is the maker of Heaven and earth. The second is to wait. If we look at Psalm 146, verse 6 proclaims, "God is the maker of Heaven and earth." How I think this speaks to, reminds, and encourages us is in two ways: 1) *keep things in perspective*, and 2) *let God do God so you can do you*.

What does it mean that God is the maker of Heaven and earth? First, I think it means God is big. If we think about the Heavens and the earth, we are invited to think about their respective size. Then, we are invited to think about their size compared to one another. If God created the Heavens and the earth, it means God is the Lord of all. This gives us and can renew our perspective. Specifically, I think it can speak to our anxieties, worries, stress, or mess and remind us that God is Lord over whatever we're facing and God is God regardless of what we're going through. And I think this should fill us with hope and encourage us to turn to and put our trust in God because 1) God is a big God and 2) God is Lord over all. So, we need to keep things within a God-perspective.

Second, the distinction between Heaven and earth reminds us of the distinction between God and humanity. God is in Heaven and we are on earth. What that means is we have not only different locations but because of that, different roles. It can be easy to forget that God is God (and that we are human), and in the midst of our stress, duress, or mess, or whatever we might be going through, we can try to overfunction and do things that God is in charge of or responsible for. Psalm 131:1 encourages us by saying, "My heart is not proud and my eyes are not haughty and I do not concern myself with things too great for me, but like a weaned child am I with you." What this means: God is the maker of Heaven and earth so *let God be God so*

*that you can be you.* It's important to say this: the only responsibility you have right now is to (just) be human. So, let God be God.

Last, the Hebrew Bible has 25 different words for the word "wait". It seems to be an important theme and phenomenon if there are 25 different ways to talk about it. We are in a time of waiting, specifically as we wait, watch, and see what God might do, could do, and wants to do in us, with us, and through us in this next season. If we look at Isaiah 40:30-31, it says, "Those who *wait* on the Lord will renew their strength." *Qavah*, here, means to wait and hope. So, in this next season, I think it is really important that we wait with hope, and "take heart" (as Psalm 27:17) says, and "wait for the Lord" because God is maker of Heaven and earth. God has called us, God has a purpose, and we get to discern God's voice, respond to God's call, and participate in God's plan.

Let's continue to have fun, put prayer first, and ask/seek/knock so that we can discern, see, and respond with more clarity to what God has called us. I look forward to more meet ups, connections, and collaborations.

God's peace and joy be with you,  
Pastor JP

### ***Prayer Requests***



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

*The Amberson family on the loss of Bob Amberson*

*The Robinson family on the loss of Lisa's husband, Weston, and her mother, Barbara*

*Al and Nancy Moen and Family on the loss of their son, Steve*

*Friends and family on the loss of Bo Henderson*

*Dell and Renee Deierling on the loss of Renee's mother, Flo Craven*

*Pat Veale on the loss of her brother*

*The Kloes Family the loss of Donna Kloes*

*The McCutchan family on the loss of Cheryl's mother, Mur Jensen*

*For health concerns:*

*Marilyn Sheppard as she recovers from a broken hip*

*Cathy Karlsen and her son, Rob, who has a serious infection*

*Al Moen*

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

*Richard McCutchan's sister*

*Heidi Ferria, Pat Heifort's daughter*

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

*For peace all around the world,*

*For Pastor J.P. and 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.**

*Prayer Requests or changes should be submitted to*

*Pat Pehling [pehling@frontier.com](mailto:pehling@frontier.com)*

**CHURCH WEBSITE** is at [www.swanstrail.org](http://www.swanstrail.org) . Take a look when you get the chance. It has some good links to other church related websites that might be helpful to you. It also has the Sunday readings for those who like to look ahead. Suggestions of what to include in the site are most welcome.

**THANK YOU TO**

- All the Council Officers and Ministry chairs who served in 2023. Your contributions to the ministry at Good Shepherd were outstanding and greatly appreciated.
- All the new and continuing Council Officers and Ministry Chairs taking responsibilities for 2024

**COUNCIL NEWS**

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, February 25, following Worship. Please send any agenda items to Pat Pehling by February 24.

**WELCOME**

Welcome and thank you to our new 2024 Church Council. Please give them all the support you can! On the last page is a listing of all the Officers and Committee Chairs. You might want to save it for your future use!

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –Dean Kloes**

Sunday School continues to meet each Sunday at 10:45 AM.

Also, the Women's bible study will be held on Friday, February 2nd at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The Women's bible study group is currently studying 1 Corinthians.

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study at the Barstad's home is working through the book titled *Help Is Here* by Max Lucado.

**MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

Please consider hosting fellowship after worship- maybe combining efforts with someone else! It is so nice to have treats and time to visit! There are plenty of folks available to help you learn the ropes! Sign up is in the Fellowship Hall.

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Marilyn Errey**

There are bins in the narthex which are continually in need of food donations for the Snohomish Food Bank. Please help those in need by bringing items to help people in our surrounding community.

If there are additional ways in which Good Shepherd can help build community throughout the year, please reach out to our new Chair of Community Service, Pat Veale.

Thank you for everything you all do to help support people in our community. The picture below is a 2023 recap from the Snohomish Food Bank. As you can see, there are many who benefit from these donations!

# THANK YOU SUPPORTERS!

SNOHOMISH COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

2023 YEAR END RECAP



## PROGRAM



SCFB provided food to individuals 32,076 times

## CLIENTS

Infants: 1,323  
Children: 8,423  
Adults: 13,801  
Seniors: 8,529  
Unhoused: 395



## DONATIONS

SCFB received over \$407,600 in monetary donations from individual & corporate partners



## VOLUNTEERS

SCFB had 232 volunteers assist in operations for a total of 17,220 volunteer hours



## FOOD

Over 5,547,084 lbs (2,774 tons) of food was donated to SCFB



**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS  
FOR MAKING 2023 A GREAT SUCCESS!**

**MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland**

**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!

Contribution Statements for 2023 were distributed at the Annual Meeting and those left were mailed on January 30. If you have any questions, please let me know.

As approved at the annual meeting, we have a budget to support the church's ministries for the year. The details below reflect this budget.

**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>

**LOOKING AHEAD**

We are fortunate to have a satisfactory cash balance as God's House team is currently evaluating the replacement of part, or possibly all, of the Sanctuary roof and possibly upgrading the gutter system in the near future. This is to fix several leaks that have become visible during this very rainy winter.

**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes**

Greetings! I am your new Worship Committee chair. I have never held this position before, so please bear with me. I have some big shoes to fill. Thank you, Donna Garland!

It's an exciting time with a lot of changes. I look forward to the year ahead and all that God has in store for us.

On February 14th we will start with Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. and it will be preceded with soup supper at 6:00pm. We will continue the Wednesday Lent services and soup supper through March 20th. We plan on using the Holden Evening service. Please sign up to help bring bread or dessert and anyone can bring soup. Then we will have Holy week and Easter.

Thank you to the new bulletin crew members, the "liturgical angels" - Joni Siewert, Dean Kloes and Dell Deierling. Special thanks to Marilyn Errey who has been doing it for so long. We thank Bonnie and Pastor JP for their continued input and work.

Please consider signing up to read the lessons. There is a sign-up sheet in the book in the fellowship hall. If you have questions, comments, suggestions or want to help please let me know. Thank you and God's peace be with you all.

**CAMP LUTHERWOOD - Exploring and experiencing Grace in Creation...**

We received an email with Camp Lutherwood updates and it included a lovely YouTube video, which you can enjoy at: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/893145615609838>

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**SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:**  
*(If we don't have your family's special dates, please write them down and*

*pass it along to Pat Pehling - we'd like to include everyone!)*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

|          |    |                                    |
|----------|----|------------------------------------|
| February | 8  | Karen Goodnight                    |
|          | 9  | Rachel Homme                       |
|          | 14 | Evelyn Agostinelli                 |
|          | 15 | Terry Danner, Joann Wilson Barstad |
|          | 22 | Jillian Nofziger                   |
|          | 27 | Tyler Reed                         |
|          | 28 | McKenna Kloes                      |

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Les and Joanie Gilbert – February 12

Jeremy and Randi Lee Young-February 29

## February 2024

◀ Jan 2024

Mar 2024 ▶

| Sun                                                                                                                                 | Mon                                                                       | Tue       | Wed                                                                                       | Thu                                               | Fri                                         | Sat                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                     |                                                                           |           |                                                                                           | <b>1</b><br><i>The Academy</i><br>11am-1:30pm     | <b>2</b><br>Women's Bible Study 10am Chapel | <b>3</b>                                    |
| <b>4</b><br>Choir Rehearsal 8:30am<br>Worship 9:30am<br>Sunday School 10:45am<br>Bible Study-Barstad's 6pm                          | <b>5</b><br><i>The Academy</i><br>11am-1:30pm<br><br>4-H Meeting<br>6-9pm | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>                                                                                  | <b>8</b><br><i>Pilchuck Camera Club</i><br>7-9pm  | <b>9</b>                                    | <b>10</b>                                   |
| <b>11</b><br>Choir Rehearsal 8:30am<br>Worship 9:30am<br>Sunday School 10:45am<br>Bible Study-Barstad's 6pm                         | <b>12</b>                                                                 | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>Soup/Bread Dinner 6pm<br>Ash Wednesday Service 7pm                           | <b>15</b><br><i>Busy Bee Quilters</i><br>11am-9pm | <b>16</b>                                   | <b>17</b>                                   |
| <b>18</b><br>Choir Rehearsal 8:30am<br>Worship 9:30am<br>Sunday School 10:45am<br>Bible Study-Barstad's 6pm                         | <b>19</b>                                                                 | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br><i>Project Linus 10-3</i><br><br>Soup/Bread Dinner 6pm<br>Lenten Service 7pm | <b>25</b><br><i>Busy Bee Quilters</i><br>10am-4pm | <b>23</b><br><i>Project Linus 10am-10pm</i> | <b>24</b><br><i>Project Linus 10am-10pm</i> |
| <b>25</b><br>Choir Rehearsal 8:30am<br>Worship 9:30am<br>Sunday School 10:45am<br>Council Meeting 11am<br>Bible Study-Barstad's 6pm | <b>26</b>                                                                 | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>Soup/Bread Dinner 6pm<br>Lenten Service 7pm                                  | <b>29</b>                                         |                                             |                                             |

