

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

“A Community Celebrating God's Grace”

“Grace – Service – Love - Compassion”

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APRIL 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

What's up Church!

Grace and peace to you as we enter the month of April.

As you know, this year we are focusing on **evangelism and discipleship**—growing as people who not only follow Jesus, but also help others come to know and follow Him. Each month, we are exploring a different aspect of what that life looks like in practice.

For April, our focus is simple, but deeply challenging:

Learning to love like Jesus.

This is at the very heart of both evangelism and discipleship. Before we speak, invite, or teach, we are called to love. Not in an abstract way, but in concrete, everyday relationships. Jesus tells His disciples, “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” That kind of love is what makes the gospel visible.

But loving like Jesus doesn't come naturally. It's something we grow into—slowly, intentionally, and often uncomfortably.

This month, we'll focus on four specific ways we can grow:

1. Seeing People the Way Jesus Sees Them

We often move through life quickly, making assumptions or overlooking people altogether. Jesus, however, truly *saw* people—the overlooked, the hurting, the outsider.

In the first week, we'll practice slowing down and asking: *Who is right in front of me? What might they be carrying?*

2. Practicing Presence Over Productivity

Our culture values efficiency, but love often looks like interruption. Jesus was willing to stop, listen, and be present.

Here, we'll explore what it means to give people our attention—not as a task, but as a gift.

3. Choosing Humility in Relationships

Love requires humility—the willingness to set aside our need to be right, to be recognized, or to be in control.

We'll reflect on how humility shapes our interactions at home, at work, and even within the church.

4. Taking Small, Concrete Steps of Love

Love is not just a feeling; it's something we do. Often, it shows up in small, ordinary actions—reaching out, helping, forgiving, including.

We'll challenge ourselves to take simple, intentional steps each day to embody Christ's love. As we move through this month, my prayer is that we don't just talk about love, but that we begin to **practice it in ways that are visible and tangible**. This is how people encounter the heart of Jesus—not only through our words, but through our lives.

You may be surprised how powerful even small acts of love can be.

Let's ask God to shape us into a community where people don't just hear about Jesus—but experience His love through us.

Peace and joy,
Pastor JP



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

U.S. Navy pilot Jake Hammond and his team aboard the USS John Finn supporting U.S. forces in the Arabian Sea.

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.**

THANK YOU TO:

- Those who continue to care for our church home – inside and out!
- Lori Pehling for providing a beautiful riser for the Piano bench!
- All those providing soup, bread and desserts for Lenten Service meals
- Doug Garland for arranging for repair of the Fellowship Hall rug and cleaning of the carpets
- Everyone helping prepare the church and grounds for Easter
- Terry and Pat for leading Holden Evening Prayer for Lenten Services.

ON LINE WORSHIP

Please remember and share with your friends and family that our weekly worship service continues to be recorded and posted on YouTube 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>

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

With April showers comes SPRING CLEANING!!!

It's time to look through your closets, cupboard and cubbyholes and collect all those clothing items that either don't fit, not your style, wrong color, not trendy enough, too trendy, and DONATE them. The Everett Gospel Mission (Both men's and women's shelter) gladly accepts clothing, including accessories (shoes, jewelry, belts, scarves, hats, gloves, socks, underwear and personal hygiene items.) Don't forget children's and baby clothes, toys and books. They will appreciate your new or gently worn items.

Put the items in plastic bags, mark them EGM (Everett Gospel Mission) and designate whether they're MEN'S, WOMEN'S or CHILDREN'S. If you don't have time to sort them, just mark the bag 'NOT SORTED' and I will do that. Place the bags in the Narthex (where the Food Bank bags are) and I will deliver them to the mission.

Madison Family Shelter in Everett always appreciates any twin bedding (sheets, blankets, quilts).

If the Narthex area becomes too crowded, place bags where the choir robes are kept.

Keep up the good work on donating to the Snohomish Food Bank. Donations of all types are regularly taken to the Food Bank for distribution.

Thank you, Chris Homme

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. On Easter Sunday, 4/5 at 10:45 AM, there will be an Easter Egg hunt at the church instead of regularly scheduled Sunday School

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - The women's bible study group will meet in the Anderson Chapel on Friday, April 24, 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. Check the calendar for scheduling changes.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

A weekly bible study will be led by Pastor JP in the fellowship hall each Sunday during Lent from 8:30 AM to 9:15 AM.

MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson & Cheryl McCutchan

Thank you to the providers of Fellowship treats in March: Chris & Rick, Karla & Dean, Pastor JP, Dell Fox, Suzanne, Cheryl & Rich, Marilyn & Al, and Cindy. April is pretty open, so if you are able to help out in this, please sign up in the notebook by the mail slots.

In March, there was a double-day of Fellowship on Tap, taking advantage of the Smash and Dash event hosted by multiple local breweries, as well as a Bunco game night with pizza and prizes. Also thank you to everyone who joined in the Lenten soup suppers. There is one more opportunity to sample some great soups before the Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd at 6pm.

Easter is not too far away. We will be having an Easter breakfast potluck before the service at 8:30am on April 5th. Sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy leftovers following the service while Dean puts on an Easter egg hunt for the kids.

There will be a Fellowship on Tap hosted by Margie and Rick on April 19th from 3-5pm. Event is BYOB. Watch for an email with more details.

Looking ahead, plan on joining in on a Fellowship Potluck after service on May 3rd to say farewell to Evelyn Agostinelli before her move to California.

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Doug Garland

Saturday, March 28, starting at 10 am is a last-minute work party to get the church ready for Easter! Thanks to everyone who have already helped - Dean for helping with the carpet repair and cleaning, Chad for pressure washing the sidewalks and Terry for cleaning up the fountain.

Moving into summer, we will have a number of work parties to be determined starting in May for gardening and other outside work including cutting the shrubs down, replacing shrubs to fill in some gaps and getting the irrigation system into good working condition.

Another priority is to replace the thermostats with more intuitive and possibly programable ones that will be easier for us to use. Another idea is to put up some real gates to the parking lots, replacing the cable systems we have in place now.

As always, if you have an idea to benefit God's House let me know.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland/Cheryl McCutchan

THANK YOU to all who are faithful in your offerings and support of Good Shepherd. Your generosity of time, talents, and offerings are very much appreciated!

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

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP & MUSIC – Karla Kloes

Welcome spring and the anticipation of Holy week and Easter. We decided against the change for Holy week but might try something different next year. We have our Maundy Thursday service on Thursday April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. and Good Friday service on Friday April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Please come and join us. Our Easter Sunday service is on April 5th at 9:30 a.m. Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Lilies are a wonderful reminder of the Risen Christ and you are invited to help provide them if you would like. Included is a form to fill out and leave in the offering plate on March 29.

Cindy has an idea of taking requests from the congregation for music to be played during prelude and communion. So please email Cindy at cinnikegoetz@gmail.com if you have any requests. I am looking forward to hearing your ideas.

Pastor JP and his family will be out of town April 6th through the 16th so Pastor Ron Nitz will be our pulpit supply for Sunday April 12th. Please let me know if you have any Pastoral concerns or needs during this time.

EASTER LILIES FOR THE SANCTUARY

I will donate _____ Lilies at \$10 each to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please put in Offering Plates or mail form and check for \$10 each to
5511 64th ST SE, Snohomish WA 98290

Notice of donations will be in the May Newsletter

Donated by _____

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Soup & Bread 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm	3 Good Friday Service 7pm	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY Choir Rehearsal 8:30am EASTER BREAKFAST 8:30am Worship 9:30am Youth Egg Hunt 10:45am	6	7 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	8	9 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	10 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	11 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
12 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	13 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	14	15	16 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	17	18
19 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Fellowship on Tap 3-5pm	20	21	22 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	23	24 Women's Bible Study 10am Anderson Chapel	25 <i>4-H 9am-4pm</i>
26 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am	27	28	29	30		