

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

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What's up Church!

We've begun to think about church growth. In a recent congregational email, I articulated my purpose and why you have called me to journey with you in this next season of ministry. A primary goal and focus will be to grow the church and consider growth in terms of a possible reboot or redevelopment (Pastor Erik's terms).

If we think about growth, I'm intrigued by a recent parable (the mustard seed) that we discussed in the 4th Sunday after Pentecost. A *point* of the parable is that the mustard seed grows apart from any work. There's no gardener, there's no tending or tilling or toiling. In fact, the parable highlights the mysteriousness of it all, like it mysteriously grows. I think church growth could be like that where we won't (necessarily) do anything, but it will be God whose Kingdom comes (to Good Shepherd). I think that is worthwhile to pray for, "Lord, let us see Your glory!"

Another intriguing way to think about church growth is in terms of simply following God. Yes, we could pour all of our time, energy, and effort into growing the church. But I think about the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8:26-40 (way back to 5th Sunday of Easter). The Spirit of God appears randomly, seemingly out of nowhere. And the Spirit of God says to Philip, "Go!" So, he goes. And it is *along the way* that the story unfolds. I wonder if *along-the-way* our story will continue to unfold as well, and perhaps church growth won't happen by focusing on "church growth". Instead, we stay the course. We keep seeking, we keep praying, we keep asking, or, as Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek first the Kingdom...and all these things will be added unto you."

Last, when it comes to church growth, I think it's important to acknowledge that there isn't a magic "bean". For example, we might think, "If we just do this, then the church will grow." This (or that) could be, but if I'm going to be real, I don't know (exactly) what to do or try. I have ideas. I have hunches. But it's going to take all of us, together, thinking together, talking together, praying together. We are the Priesthood of ALL Believers. No one person will likely have (all) the answers. Instead, if we think about church growth and moving forward in terms of 1 Corinthians 1:28 and 1 Peter 4:10, we all have a piece to the puzzle. We all have a mark and a sign and a gift to bring and to share.

So, keep showing up. Let's be intentional to talk about who we are, what we're about, why we're how, what God is putting on our hearts, share things we're thinking about, and piece together how we can grow. And let's be intentional. Let's show up on purpose, with a purpose and I believe we'll figure it out and find our way forward.

And most importantly, let's continue to have fun. We have been given the joy of salvation, so let's be joyful and joy-filled.

Peace and joy to you all,
Pastor JP

Prayer Requests

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

Sharon and Bogdan as they await the arrival of a baby girl in October

The Moen Family on the loss of Al's sister, Elaine Moen Heichel

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

The Kloes Family on the loss of Donna Kloes

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

For health concerns:

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

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 should be submitted to Pat Pehling (pehling@frontier.com) In an effort to keep the Prayer List timely, names will be included for six months unless a request for removal or continuation is made.

THANK YOU TO:

- Those who help keep the lawns mown and the gardens looking good.
- All those who are helping provide the live stream of our Worship Service!
- Cheryl McCutchan for her behind-the-scenes work as our treasurer to collect the mail and pay our bills!
- Lisa and Cheryl for organizing the potluck BBQ and to Terry, Jim and Tim for being our grill cooks!
- To all the great cooks providing such a wonderful Breakfast at our first Breakfast Church!

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson/Cheryl McCutchan

We are so thankful for Karla Kloes, Al & Marilyn Errey, and Joanie Siewert for providing the delicious fellowship treats in June, and to everyone that brought items to share at the end of the year Sunday school BBQ. Also a BIG thank you to Terry Danner and Jim Flynn for grilling the burgers and hot dogs for us.

The last Sunday in June, Good Shepherd tried something new! We had breakfast church that was a delightful blend of nourishment for the body and spirit. Hope you were able to participate. There was an enthusiastic first response so we'll do it again this summer on July 28.

If you are able to provide fellowship refreshments in July, there are two weeks available (the 14th and 21st). We greatly appreciate the Kloes' for taking on the 7th.

There are also plans in the work for some special summertime events, so stay tuned for details. And if you have any suggestions, please reach out..

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 are currently running ahead of budget so far this year. If your summer plans take you away from GSLC please consider the following options for supporting your church during your travels.

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>

IN THE WORKS

At the March 10th congregational meeting, \$75,000 was approved/allocated to replace the entire roof and purchase a second laptop to be used in the Pastor's office and for live streaming Sunday services. At the special congregational meeting on May 26th, an additional \$12,000 was authorized for additional roofing expenses. To date, two laptops and a printer have been purchased and we have updated the church's financial software. Also, we have paid approximately \$18,500 for the part of the roof that is over the fellowship hall, while the replacement of the remaining roof is scheduled to begin July 10th.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study at the Barstad's home is working through a study titled *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* by David L. Lose.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE– Pat Veale

The Snohomish Community Food Bank, along with food items, will happily accept: Baby Diapers and wipes; Adult Diapers; Personal Hygiene Items; Household Cleaning Products; Homemade or purchased masks; Disinfectant; Paper and Plastic Grocery Bags; Produce Bags; Canvas or Nylon Bags; Pet food; and fresh grown produce from your gardens.

Blood Banks are continuously in need of donations. If you are able, please consider this possible life-saving action.

If you are aware of any other community service needs, please let me know

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE- Doug Garland

Thank you to those who participated in the June work party. Our next work party will be Tuesday July 16th, hope you will be able to participate.

Roofing starts on July 10th. They are requesting that we keep the front and east area parking free for their use. Please be accommodating and respectful to their needs. I'm very optimistic that this will resolve a number of our issues and be a very good long-term solution for the problems with the roof. I very much appreciate your confidence and generosity in supporting our effort to get this resolved.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC – Karla Kloes

Dear Family at Good Shepherd, we are in summer now and will be missing the choir for the season. Please let Bonnie or me know if you would like to share your special musical talent over the summer.

We experimented with Breakfast Church the last Sunday in June and I am anxious to hear how everyone liked it. Early feedback encouraged us to schedule another Breakfast Church on July 28.

During this time of Pentecost let's take time to meditate on how the Holy Spirit is working in our lives and our church. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions about worship, let me know.

Thank you to Mary Nelson for helping out so much with communion. You are appreciated.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:

(Check with Pat Pehling to be sure your family's special dates – Birthdays and anniversaries - are included in the appropriate month!)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 5 - Skyberg Thoreson, Jason Flynn
July 6 - Fran Walkley
July 8 - Hans Thoreson
July 9 - Dave Nilson
July 12 - Doug Garland, Lukas Blair
July 13- Renee Deierling
July 14 - Donna Garland
July 15 - Matt Homme
July 16 – Kailen and Makena Olson
July 18 – Brad Lachapelle, Al Errey
July 19 – Jennifer Lachapelle, Kelly Delfel
July 20- Trevor Grillo
July 23 - Diane Barnes
July 24 - Lucas Robinson
July 27 – Kelly Flynn
July 28 - Krysti Lachapelle

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 7--Howard & Nancy Negaard
July 7--Kevin & Jennifer Ess, Mike and Pat Davis
July 9--Richard & Cheryl McCutchan,
July 10--Chris & Jillian Nofziger
July 14--Rick & Chris Homme
July 16--Jeff & Elizabeth Thoreson
July 17--Keith & Karen Goodnight

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	8 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	9	10 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	11 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	12	13
14 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	15	16 Church Work party 4pm	17	18 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	19	20
21 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	22	23	24 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	25 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	26 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	27 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
28 Breakfast Church 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	29	30	31			

