

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

swanstrail@outlook.com

www.swanstrail.org

Rev. Dr. Joseph Paxton

thecaffeinatedpastor@gmail.com 480-600-3727

5511 64th Street SE, Snohomish WA 98290

Church Phone 425-334-1220

MARCH 2024

Dear friends, peace and joy be with you!

I'm really excited for this coming Sunday (Lent 3), where we'll be working with the Ten Commandments. We're probably all familiar with the Ten Commandments but something we may not have considered is why God gives the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were social and ethical; they were meant to teach God's people how to live in community. Now, more than ever, I think our church, our world, and our society could use a refresher on how to be together and how to live together.

It's an exciting time at the church. Your (new and current) council members are hard at work collaborating on a number of fronts. Most notably, we recently held our first planning collaborative to discern "Next Steps" for our future as a church. In our first meeting, ideas were shared and energy burgeoned as we accomplished 5 things: 1) We (re)introduced the mission statement, 2) We reviewed past progress, 3) We discussed what we liked and did not like about the former mission statement, 4) We developed a list of key words that describe who we are, what we value, what we want to be about, and what we want others to experience when they worship with us, and 5) We discerned next steps and planned the next meeting!

Things are happening here and it is clear that God is moving in our midst! This excitement comes with an invitation as well as a precaution. First, the invitation. We invite you all to be a part and play a part. As we, the council, discern who we are, what we value, and what we want to be about, we invite you to do the same thing! Consider where you're gifted and areas of ministry that God may be inviting you to serve whether it's arriving early to help set up, host a coffee hour, or support us financially or with prayer. Regardless of what you give, where you serve, or how you help, just remember: you can't outgive God! In giving, you WILL receive, and God will bless you beyond what your eyes could see, heart could perceive, or mind could imagine. But maybe you're just in a season where you need to receive, and you need to be served— by God and us, sink into this season and drink deeply from grace that God has for you; and when you're ready come join us as we seek to serve and be a part of God's amazing plan!

As always, the offer to meet is open. The easiest way to get ahold of me is via cell phone or email to set up a time to meet. Let's continue to have fun, enjoy this next and new season, and keep our eyes, ears, heart, and mind open to what God is up to and how God might be inviting us to not just be a part but play a part!

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:**

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

The Kloes Family 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,

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.**

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Remember that Daylight Savings time begins on March 10 so set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on March 9

THANK YOU TO

- The crew spreading the gravel – Ron Walther with his tractor, Chad Masche, Doug Garland, Al Errey, Dell Deierling, and Pat Pehling.
- Terry Danner for his faithful assistance with our acolytes!
- All those who are bringing soup, bread and desserts prior to the weekly Lenten Holden Evening Prayer Service

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dell Deierling, Chair

The Benevolent Committee had its first meeting on February 25. The following distributions were approved:

Snohomish Community Food Bank \$500

Maltby Food Bank \$500

Marysville Community Food Bank \$500

Everett Recovery Cafe \$500

Interfaith Assoc. of NW WA \$500

\$1,400 to assist a community family with rent and groceries.

Our beginning balance available to the committee totaled \$17,850 for 2024. After the distributions listed above, there is a balance of \$13,950.

This year's Committee members are Joanie Gilbert, 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.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN LEARNING –Dean Kloes

On Easter Sunday (3/31) there will be no Sunday School, but all youth are encouraged to participate in an Easter egg hunt at 10:45 AM in the church basement.

The Women's bible study will be held on Friday, March 15th at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The Women's bible study group is currently studying 1 Corinthians.

Also, 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 COMMUNITY SERVICE – Pat Veale

There are bins in the narthex which are continually in need of food donations for the Snohomish Food Bank. The Snohomish Food Bank has new Director. Her Name is Ashleigh Cruze. I met her today as I was dropping off 4 BAGS of food items. She gave me a list of food items the Food Bank needs.

Items needed
Pasta Noodles and Sauces,
Mac and Cheese
Peanut Butter
Boxed Dinners (hamburger helpers)
Diapers (size 6 children) and Wipes

Please help those in need by bringing items to help people in our surrounding community.

Thank you for everything you all do to help support people in our community, there are many who benefit from these donations

Just got this report: Final Report for the 2023 Snohomish CROP Walk - the Grand total is \$13,365.28 Yippee!

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.

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 didn't get yours, please let me know.

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

Are you a Thrivent member? Did you know that there are Thrivent dollars available to be donated to a non-profit of your choice (I didn't), and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is one? No matter where you designate those dollars to go, please do not let them expire unused. They can be a blessing to many non-profits that do good works.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH & ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson & Cheryl McCutchan

Lenten Soup Suppers will continue at 6:00 pm each Wednesday until Easter week when we move to Thursday (Maundy Thursday). There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for bread and dessert. Bring a soup to share if you are able, but there is always plenty.

There will be an Easter Brunch Potluck at 10:30 am, following the Easter Service on March 31st. Please bring a dish to share.

Thank you to those signed up for Fellowship Hosts in March:

Cheryl & Rich McCutchan (3/3)

Pat Pehling (3/10)

Karen Goodnight (3/17)

Joni Siewert (3/24)

Also Thank you to everyone who provided treats in January and February:

Marilyn & Al Errey, Pat Veale, Joni Siewert, Karla & Dean Kloes, Evelyn Agostinelli, Elizabeth & Chad Masche, and Nancy & Howard Negaard.

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Doug Garland

Projects:

Completed:

Three more truckloads of gravel were added to the west parking lot to make it safer and better access for the Academy and the congregation.

The battery for the AED in the Narthex was replaced.

Batteries for the security cameras were changed.

The lighted cross at the back of the church has been fixed, upgraded and improved.

Air filters in the furnaces have been changed.

The motion detector light switch in the men's bathroom has been replaced so it doesn't stay on all the time.

In Progress:

We have three quotes to replace the roof on the church. A decision should be reached at the congressional meeting scheduled for March 10th.

Work Parties:

Spring Clean Up: Saturday March 16th, 9:00 – 4:00

We will have a list of chores for every skill and talent level. Gardening to washing windows and everything in between. Any time you can contribute will be appreciated, an hour or a full day, whatever works into your schedule.

Monthly work parties will start in April, day of the month is still to be determined.

Projects are continuously being recognized, planned and completed. If you see something in need of repair, a safety issue or have an idea for improvements in and around the church, please let me know so they can be addressed.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP - Karla Kloes

Greetings! This month we continue through the season of Lent culminating with Easter on Sunday, March 31st. Maundy Thursday Service is Thursday March 28, at 7pm (with a Soup and Bread Dinner at 6pm) and Good Friday Service is on March 29th at 7pm. Thank you to all who have attended the Wednesday evening services with Holden Evening Prayer. It is one of my favorite services.

Special thank you to Donna Garland and Joy Vaughn for helping out while I was gone for two weekends. I appreciate you so much.

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!)

BIRTHDAYS

March 1 Pat Davis
2 Marge Griffiths
4 Ashley Holten
9 Ron Walther
12 Jane Melnyk
13 Cormac Fox, Aiden Flynn
16 Chris Reed
17 Jenny Toutonghi, Brian Melnyk
18 Cathy Karlsen
20 Jeff Day
21 Eli Fox
22 Mark Martina
29 Leif Flynn

ANNIVERSARIES

18 - Paul & Jenny Toutonghi
22 - J.P. & Bri Paxton
29 - Brian & Jane Melnyk
29 - Alton & Nancy Moen

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 April Newsletter

Donated by _____

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	4 4-H Club Meeting 6-9pm	5	6 Soup/Bread Dinner 6pm Lenten Service 7pm	7	8	9
10 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	11	12	13 Soup/Bread Dinner 6pm Lenten Service 7pm	14 Pilchuck Camera Club	15 Women's Monthly Bible Study 10am	16 Spring Clean-Up 9am-4pm
17 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	18	19	20 Soup/Bread Dinner 6pm Lenten Service 7pm	21 4-H Meeting 6-9pm	22	23
24 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Palm Sunday Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	25	26	27	28 Soup/Bread Dinner 6pm Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	29 Good Friday Service 7pm	30
31 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am 10:30 Easter Brunch Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 10:45am						