

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings dear friends,

This month, or potentially just in this letter, God wants to invite us, encourage us, and remind us to be patient and to wait on and trust in God.

Here's how this has worked in my life recently...

I tried writing the pastor's portion of the monthly newsletter on four different occasions, starting as far back as a week and a half ago. I begin with prayer and knock, seek, and ask to see what God has for us; what God wants to tell us. Then, I wait. I take an intentional approach to be open to whatever God might want to say, and position myself to simply receive. Well, nothing came to mind. The deadline for this newsletter had come and gone and it is now past-due as I write here.

What God wants to share with us are lessons embedded in this experience.

The first lesson: things don't go according to (your) plan. We have to remember who and what this is all about. We have our schedule and God has God's schedules and timeline. God will work on God's schedule and timeline and sometimes that won't align with your schedule and timeline. I wanted this to be written ahead of time, like a week and a half ago...Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many are the plans in a person's heart, yet it is the Lord's that will stand." Life, unfortunately, is not always or often about what we want and it doesn't always or often go the way we want, like, or think it should go. The Good News: it is the Lord's plans that will stand. God will always have the final say and provide The Way.

The second lesson: things don't operate on your timeline. Whether it is something little, like driving to a destination, or something big, like trying to complete a project at work, sometimes things don't operate on your (preferred) timeline. Things happen. Things come up. Things don't go according to plan (First Lesson). Therefore, things don't always work on your preferred timeline.

It's important to "name-and-claim" lessons 1 and 2 to develop spiritual wisdom and understanding about how our lives and the world works. It's rarely linear, easy, and "according-to-plan". Instead, it often is an adventure and a process. If we begin with this spiritual wisdom and understanding, we will save ourselves a lot of pain, frustration, and aggravation. Then, when things go wrong, don't go right, or don't go according to "the plan", we won't be so anxious, upset, uptight, or defeated. We'll be able to stop, remember who's in charge, whose schedule and timeline we're on, and simply keep moving forward with faith according to *God's plan*, not ours.

The third lesson: walking according to God’s timeline requires three ingredients: spiritual wisdom, patience, and trust. Spiritual wisdom gives us life-giving understanding about who this life is really about and whose schedule and timeline we’re really on. It is life-giving because when things don’t go according to plan, we won’t have a melt-down because we’ll remember who’s in charge and whose timeline we’re on. Spiritual wisdom can lead us to patience or a response of spiritual waiting on God.

Lao Tzu reminds us that it is better to do nothing than be busy doing nothing. The best-selling author James Clear says, “The most invisible form of wasted time is succeeding in an unimportant task.” When things don’t go according to plan, sometimes we just shift into overdrive and try harder or work harder or smarter. Psalm 127:1 reminds us that, “Unless the Lord builds it, those who labor, labor in vain; unless the Lord protects it, the watchperson stays awake at night for no reason.” When things aren’t going according to plan, a possible first step and best step, instead of just kicking it into overdrive, is to stop, wait, pray, and then watch (to see what God will do, not what you have to do). I’m reminded of the wisdom of Auguste Rodin who says, “Patience is a form of action.” Doing nothing *is* actually doing something.

Perhaps the most important thing we can do today, tomorrow, this weekend, and in this season is wait. But wait with Spiritual Wisdom and a posture of trust that God *will* provide, maybe not on our timeline or in the way we had imagined, but God will provide. And we have to trust that, like the Israelites in the wilderness, it will be life-giving and it will be more than enough!

Exodus 14:14 reminds us that it is “the Lord who will fight for you.” If it’s God plan, then it’s God’s responsibility how everything works and comes together, or doesn’t. There’s a relief here because it’s not on us and it’s not up to us. Our role is simply to be faithful and steward the faith and the grace and the resources God has given us and when or where we come up short, God’s grace will fill in the gaps and carry us through.

We’re in a season where we’re asking Big Questions like, “How are we going to grow the church?”, “How are we going to replace Bonnie, our music director?” What if the answer was something other than what we might be expecting? Instead of the locus of action and control being on us to “do something”, the posture that God wants is really just one of waiting and watching and trusting to see what God will do...?

THANK YOU TO

- * Bonnie Thoreson for all her many years of providing glorious music!
- * Those who help keep the lawns mown and the gardens looking good
- * All those who are providing bulletins and helping provide the live stream of our Worship Service!
- * The Sunday Supervisors, Readers and Fellowship Hosts
- * Doug Garland for his tireless efforts to get our roof and gutter project completed. It was a much more major project than any of us envisioned!
- * The Fellowship Committee for providing the fun Game Night last month!

COUNCIL MEETING

The Council will be meeting 10:45am after Worship on Sunday, September 15. All are welcome to attend

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Our own congregation as we search for a Music Director

Tom McCutchan as he serves in Argentina with the Young Adults in Global Mission

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

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

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 Pastor JP or Pat Pehling Please notify Pat if and when a prayer request should be removed

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

Thank you to the August providers of Fellowship treats, especially Sam and Briana for hosting Sharon & Bogdan's baby shower, and everyone who brought items for Bonnie's Farewell potluck.

We appreciate all the attendees of Tuesday 8/20 game night. Along with charades, bingo, pizza and prizes, there was cake to celebrate the birthdays of Chad and Marilyn.

There are open slots for fellowship providers in September. Please sign up if you are able. On the 8th, there will be a BBQ to herald the start of Sunday School. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided and there is a sign up sheet to round out the meal with salads, chips, and desserts.

Looking beyond September, make note on your calendar for Oktoberfest on Sunday 10/20 from 3-5pm. You don't want to miss out on the accordion music provided by Kristin and her sister, Kathy, which always pumps up the festive atmosphere!

The Advent Faire is set for Sunday, 11/24 before Thanksgiving this year and the traditional pie social will follow the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, 11/27.

We have discussed some possible future events including seminars on dealing with grief and/or anxiety, activity times for kiddos to allow parents time for date night, movie nights, and bonfire/s'mores. Let us know if any of these sound interesting to you

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE– Pat Veale

School Supplies Thank You for all the donations to the Back-to-School needs of Riverview School. Good Shepherd was able to buy and donate 20 Backpacks for 4th through 6th graders plus school supplies.

The month of September we will focus on the ELCA DAY OF GIVING. I have two bins in the Narthex, hoping we can fill them with items for the Faith Lutheran Shelter. There is a list of items needed and please use your imagination, what you think families need if they found themselves homeless. This is a shelter that will keep the whole family intact. Most shelters will send the Dad and any boys over the age of 14 to the men's missions. This shelter will keep the family together.

SHELTER NEEDS:

BODY LOTION, SUNSCREEN

TOOTHBRUSHES (PACKAGES OF 2-4 OR INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED)

TOOTHPASTE

HAIRBRUSHES, COMBS

SHAMPOO (12 oz) and/or CONDITIONER (12 oz)

DEODORANT

DISINFECTING WIPES

LIQUID HAND SOAP OR BARS OF SOAP

KLEENEX BOXES OR PACKS

COATS and/or WARM CLOTHES LIKE SWEAT SHIRTS, HATS

NEW UNDERWEAR AND NEW SOCKS

The Crop Walk is coming up in October 2024

Please consider supporting this fund raiser. Now more than ever the world's hungry and displaced need our help.

Money raised from the local CROP Hunger walks fund Church World Service (CWS) and our local Community Kitchen. Community Kitchen receives 25% of the funds raised.

Church World Service (CWS) was founded in 1946 and is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. The CWS mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice at the national and international level.

In Snohomish the money raised will provide meals to the needy through the all-volunteer Snohomish Community Kitchen. The Community Kitchen delivers and serves in-house approximately 95 meals each Monday and Thursday. Funds are needed to pay for delivery costs, rent and food to keep this important resource available to people in need of a meal.

Please donate, walk and support our Walk with your prayers.

For more information on any of these events, contact Pat Veale

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP– Karla Kloes

During another season of uncertainty, and wondering about our music director position, I was thinking of a couple of Bible verses to share:

Psalms 36:5 "Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies."

Lamentations 3:22-23 "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." May we be encouraged by our faithful God.

Thank you to all who donated to Bonnie's gift, the cards and participating in the potluck. It was a good time of fellowship celebrating her and her ministry with us.

The worship/music survey results conveyed that we would continue with our current traditional/blended worship service with mostly hymns and occasional contemporary songs. If you would like to view the results, they are available. Please contact me.

The update on our music director position is that we had an interview on Friday, August 30th. This is the only applicant so far, but we have one other person who verbalized interest. The job posting has been listed in several places and the committee has consulted with various contacts in our community. Please add this process to your prayer list. I will keep everyone updated during Sunday announcements. Joan Purswell will be our substitute for the month of September. Our committee includes Pat Pehling, Pat Veale, Sam Danner, Pastor JP and Dean and Karla Kloes. We also have two choir members joining the interview Kristin Flynn and Sabrina Adams. God's blessings and peace.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH & ADULT 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.

The monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on September 13th and on October 11th at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

Weekly youth Sunday School will begin on September 8th at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE- Doug Garland

The roof and gutters have been replaced and the additional cost of the moldy roof panels has been approved by the congregation, thank you all for your patience and understanding the issues that needed to be overcome to get this completed.

Unfortunately, the new gutters are preventing the fellowship doors from opening all the way onto the deck. Chinook will be out on September 11th to remove a section of the gutter above the doors and put water diverters on the roof above the doors to funnel the water into the gutters next to the door. They will also be installing a downspout to the southeast corner of the fellowship hall. This will be done with no additional cost to the church.

Thanks to those that helped with the work party on the 20th and the game night group that had pizza, salad, and BINGO for our entertainment. Our last work party will be on Tuesday the 17th of September starting about 4pm, hope you are able to help us out.

Also, the school downstairs will be going full time starting on Tuesday, September 3rd.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland with Cheryl McCutchan

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have been faithful this summer 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.

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>

A Note from Bonnie:

Thank you so much for the incredible financial gifts, Also, thank you for the beautiful bouquets of flowers and for the yellow duck lodged in one of the vases. I will treasure it always as a reminder of my final Easter Sunday with you and the joy that came from the surprising discovery of colorful objects floating in the fountain.

Please keep in touch.

Love,
Bonnie Thoreson

Special Occasions in our Congregation

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| September | 2 | Corene Anderson |
| | 3 | Amy Taylor |
| | 6 | Tara Mahoney |
| | 9 | Les Gilbert, Fred Eldridge |
| | 20 | Bob Amberson |
| | 22 | Pat Pehling, Dell Deierling, Lisa Robinson |
| | 23 | John Veale, Erik Flynn |
| | 26 | Tom Rohde, Makenzie Robinson |
| | 28 | Joni Siewert, Josh Hammond |
| | 30 | Joseph Melnyk |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---------------------|
| September | 9 | Tom & Jody Rohde |
| | 18 | Terry & Joy Vaughn |
| | 21 | Al & Marilyn Errey |
| | 24 | Jack & Fran Walkley |
| | 26 | Don & Joni Siewert |

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	2	3 <i>The Academy School year begins</i>	4	5	6	7
8 Worship 9:30am Potluck Bar-B-Q 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	9 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	10	11	12 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	13 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	14 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
15 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Council Meeting 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	16	17	18 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	19 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	20 Busy Bees 9am-9pm	21 Busy Bees 9am-9pm
22 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	30					