

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

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June 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

What's up, Church!

Welcome to the month of June! We have a fun summer schedule planned in terms of Christian Education and Formation. Over the summer we're going to undergo two major projects. The first will be preparation for a Fall launch of Spiritual Disciplines. Pastor JP will do reading and research to host seminars, beginning in the Fall, to explore ways we can grow in faith and grow our connection with God – through the Spiritual Disciplines! Second, we will continue our year-long theme of Rooted and for the month of June will explore the ways in which *Curiosity* help Root us in faith and our identity in Christ!

If we look back to last month's theme of *Boredom*, we recall the problem(s) with boredom. One of the primary problems with boredom is our response to bored. We seek to "fill-the-void" with things that don't satisfy. The prophet Jeremiah talks about this when he says, "They dig cisterns that don't hold water" (Jer 2:13). One way to respond to boredom is *Creativity*, the theme of May. Creativity, as we have discussed, is like a hat. It's a new or different way of thinking that helps us address problems, issues, and conundrums of life to lead us to and cultivate the Good Life that God has for us. Creativity, in other words, is the God-given tool to not only get "unstuck" but find and forge the path forward to fullness!

When we become bored, get stuck, and seek to find the way forward, *Creativity* can help us do that. *Curiosity*, and asking the right questions, is another way forward. Voltaire, a French philosopher, considered curiosity to be so important that he valued curiosity, and questions specifically, more than (really good) answers! He says, "I judge a person not by their answers but by their questions." Questions are how we get (life's most important) answers! Even Jesus encourages the disciples to be Curious. In Matthew 7:7-8, Jesus says, "Seek and you will find, knock and the door will be open to you, ask and it will be given to you". But what is it that will lead a person to ask/seek/knock? It's Curiosity! Curiosity is what F.H. Buckley says, will "Jar a person out of lethargy and look...".

The invitation for the month of June is to be Curious, and to allow God to use Curiosity to get you "off-the-couch", so to speak, and get you up, get you moving, and get you motivated to (not just) seek/ask/knock, but find, receive, and have doors opened in your life that will help you live more into the Good Life that God gives and continue to journey forward in your lives of faith!

We have some exciting things happening over the summer, and I am excited to journey with you! As we move towards Pentecost (June 8), celebrate with us by wearing RED or a Hawaiian Shirt! We also have the end-of-the-year BBQ. And if you still have the energy, after our BBQ, we're going to host our very first *Fellowship on Tap* and take the party to a local pub (location will be announced on Pentecost).

As always, the invitation to coffee, lunch, or dessert is open. Reach out to Pastor JP to schedule a time to fellowship, connect, and be encouraged!

Welcome to June! - 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 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
Tom McCutchan as he serves in Argentina with the Young Adults in Global Mission
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
For health concerns:
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,
Cathy Karlsen
Lisa Robinson's Sister-in-law, Debbie, as she continues to recover from an auto accident
Richard McCutchan's sister
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.**

***Prayer Requests or changes should be submitted to
Pastor J.P. thecaffeinatedpastor@gmail.com or Pat Pehling pehling@frontier.com***

CHURCH WEBSITE is at 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 on what to include on our website are most welcome. Contact Pastor JP.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting after Worship at 10:30am on Sunday, June 1, to consider repaving and repainting parking lines on our parking lots.

THANK YOU TO

- Terry, Tim and Sam Danner for attending the Synod Assembly with Pastor JP
- Cindy and the Choir for the choir anthems in May
- Marilyn Errey and Cindy Goetz for providing the worship live feed each Sunday and Pastor JP for providing the Facebook post
- Marilyn Errey and Pastor JP for keeping our Website active and up to date

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

The Snohomish Community Food Bank continues to be in need of food items (canned protein: chicken, tuna, salmon), peanut butter, beans, pasta, spices, cereals, baby diapers and wipes, adult diapers, personal hygiene items, household cleaning products, pet food, and fresh grown produce from your gardens.

The Men's and Women's Gospel Mission are in need of clothing, personal items, books, and games. Please place clothing items in bags marked with M (Men's) or W (Women's). I will collect and deliver items for both organizations.

We are collecting Books pertaining to Christian-themes that inspire and give hope. Please consider donating and growing our library. They are being collected in a box in the Narthex and are available to borrow.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

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

The monthly Friday Women's Bible Study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on June 20 at 10:00 am in the Anderson Chapel. The women's bible study group will take a break during July and August.

Also, youth Sunday School begins each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The last day of Sunday School for the school year will be 6/8.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP –

Cheryl McCutchan & Lisa Robinson

A big shout out to those who provided fellowship treats in May. Thank you to Cindy, Pastor JP, Karla, Joni S, and Chris H!

This month has two Sundays open: June 15th and June 22nd. Sign up in the book by the mailboxes if you are able to help out there.

Please join us after service on the 8th for the end of Sunday School BBQ. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall and is already teasing the tastebuds with fruit, macaroni salad, coleslaw salad, brownies, Caesar salad, cowboy caviar, and deviled eggs. Hamburgers, hot dogs, ketchup, mustard, mayo and relish will be provided.

Also in June, on the 29th at 2:00 pm, the youth will be bowling at Strawberry Lanes in Marysville. Let Dean Kloes know if you would like to join in the fun.

Coming up in July and August (dates TBD) watch for news on Pizza/Bingo night, Breakfast church, and mid-week potluck lunch. If you have any other ideas, call or text Lisa or Cheryl.

MINISTRY OF GODS HOUSE– Doug Garland

We will be having monthly work parties through the summer on the third Tuesday of the month from about 4 - 7 pm. They will include indoor as well as outdoor tasks. There is an opportunity waiting for anyone who would like to participate.

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! Thanks to your generosity we are currently ahead of budget so far this year.

A big thank you to those of you who designated Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for your Thrivent Choice dollars. GSLC received \$509.00 in the first quarter!

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>

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes

The new church season is Pentecost starting on Sunday, June 8th. Watch for the color change on the altar. This day commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles as described in the book of Acts. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. Let's all wear red to celebrate.

A special thank you to the choir and Cindy. We have been enjoying the singing.

Thank you to those who help cover communion when I am not there, especially Donna Garland this time. Thank you to Mary who faithfully cleans up after communion.

Thank you to all who donated Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday.

Maybe there is still time to schedule breakfast church this month.

For those of you who signed up for the prayer chain, I will have a handout available on Sunday describing the process and the contact names. Those of you who want to send a prayer to the prayer chain please contact Pastor JP or Karla Kloes and we will start the process. Thank you to all who signed up.

June 2025						
◀ May						July ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Congregational Meeting 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	2 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15 4-H 6-9pm	3	4	5	6 <i>PreSchool</i> <i>Graduation 9-12</i>	7
8 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am BBQ Potluck 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am Fellowship on Tap 11:30 Bible Study 6pm	9	10	11	12 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	13	14
15 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	16	17 Work Party 4-7pm	18	19 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	20 Women's Bible Study 10am Anderson Chapel	21
22 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	23	24	25	26 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	27 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	28 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
29 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bowling – 2pm Bible Study 6pm	30					