

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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FEBRUARY 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Welcome to February!

January 2026 feels like it could have been a year-in-itself with everyone going on in the world... We spent last month introducing our theme of the year: Evangelism and Discipleship. We even spent some Sundays weaving in the theme to our Sunday Sermon.

The focus of last month was to introduce God's heart for the lost and describe evangelism *as participation in God's work*. We were invited to think small and start small. One example of *beginning evangelism* is to pray for (3) people in your community. Growing the Gospel can begin with prayer!

This month, we're going to ask a (seemingly) simple question: What is the Gospel? If we are to "share" the Gospel, I think it would be helpful for us to be clear, defined, and refined on what we are to share. The goal for this month is to develop an *elevator speech* so that you will know how to share the Gospel in as short a time as an elevator ride. The focus of this month will not be on *how-to-share* but rather, what-to-share.

Keep an eye out for fun fellowship events and come join us as we continue to grow not just our fellowship but also our friendship!

Have a great month everyone!

Pastor JP

THANK YOU TO:

- Those who continue to care for our church home – inside and out!
- All those attending the Annual Congregational Meeting!
- All Council and Committee members elected and serving in 2026 – you are appreciated!



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

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.**

ON LINE WORSHIP

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

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MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

There are several ways in which you can help our community. There are bins in the narthex for food donations which will be picked up regularly and delivered to the Snohomish food Bank. Clothing and personal products for Men's and Women's Everett Gospel mission can be bagged and marked 'men's' or 'women's'. Twin bedding (no Queen or King size) and personal products can be labeled 'Madison Family Shelter' and they will be delivered monthly. A book case for our lending library has been donated by Pat Pehling. You are encouraged to add to and borrow from the collection.

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dell Deierling, Chair

The Benevolent Committee is awaiting its funding from last year's Benevolence Fund investment earnings which should happen within the next two weeks. We will have over \$32,000 to serve the needs of the community and beyond over the course of the year.

Our first meeting of the year will be February 8th at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

The 2026 Committee members continuing their service are Tim Danner, Richard McCutchan, and Dell Deierling. Joining this year are Ken Hammond and Mary Nelson. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with any needs that you identify in the community.

MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson & Cheryl McCutchan

Thank you to Karla, Dean, Cindy, Cheryl, Pastor JP, Del, Marilyn and Al for providing the after service fellowship treats in January. And thank you to everyone who joined in the group effort during our annual meeting.

If you are able to help provide fellowship in February, please sign up in the notebook located under the mail slots in the Fellowship Hall. The first two Sundays in February are spoken for, but the last two are still available.

In January, the youth had a fun time bowling at Strawberry Lanes in Marysville, Fellowship on Tap enjoyed another get together at the Sound to Summit Brewery, and a bunch of daring souls braved 33-degree weather in a polar plunge at the Danner cabin on Lake Roesiger.

We hope you can join us for some fun in February. Starting off the month, there will be a viewing of Sabrina's video of the Joshua Tree Philharmonic Orchestra Medieval Christmas Performance on the big tv after fellowship on February 1.

Fellowship on Tap will meet at the Dairyland Brewery from 3-5pm on the 15th.

The Lunch Bunch will gather at the church on the 19th from 11:30-1:30 for a potluck.

Dust off your cowbell to watch a Silvertips hockey game on the 22nd. Tickets to this event have to be purchased in advance so let Dean know by Sunday the 1st if you are interested.

As always, please let Lisa or Cheryl know if you have ideas for new things to try or if there is an event we did in the past that you would like repeated. Would anyone be interested in having an Olympics Watch Party? Golf Event? Bunco Game Night? Stay tuned....

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - The women's bible study group will meet at Evelyn Agostinelli's home on February 13 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.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland/Cheryl McCutchan

THANK YOU

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!

Contribution Statements for 2025 were distributed at the Annual Meeting and any left were mailed on January 26th. If you have any questions, or haven't received your statement, please let me know.

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>

Just a reminder for those of you who are Thrivent members, Thrivent offers Thrivent Choice dollars they will donate at no cost to their members. This is money that you can designate to specific tax-deductible organizations, of which 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 non-profit organizations.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP & MUSIC – Karla Kloes

During February we continue with the season of Epiphany until February 18th which is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The service begins at 7:00 p.m. We will have Lenten services of Holden Evening Prayer starting Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m. after soup supper.

Pastor JP will be on vacation February 5th-7th and 13th-15th. Reverend Ron Nitz will be our Pulpit Supply for Sunday February 15th. If there are any pastoral needs during Pastor JP's time off, please notify Karla Kloes and I will direct your concerns to the appropriate person.

Elizabeth Moore will be our substitute pianist for Ash Wednesday service and the following Lenten services the pianist will be Gwen Hildenbrand

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Concert Recording following Worship Bible Study 6pm	2 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	3	4	5	6	7
8 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	9	10	11 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	12 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 6:30pm</i>	13 Women's Bible Study 10am Evelyn Agostinelli home	14
15 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm Fellowship on Tap Dairyland Brewery 3-5pm	16	17	18 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i> Ash Wednesday services 7pm after soup supper at 6pm	19 Lunch Bunch 11:30- 1:30 potluck. <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	20 Memorial Set up 2-5pm	21 Dave Pehling Memorial 1pm
22 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm Silvertips hockey game	23	24	25 Lenten services of 7pm after soup supper at 6pm	26	27 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	28 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>