

# The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail [swanstrail@outlook.com](mailto:swanstrail@outlook.com)

[www.swanstrail.org](http://www.swanstrail.org)

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## ***NOVEMBER 2023***

As the leaves change and frost comes;

As the days grow shorter and darker;

As we find ourselves in stereotypically nostalgic and slower times this month of November, take heed.

As you finish your communal and collective transition from Pr Tom to Pr JP, do yourselves a favor and relax into the newness of what is, the memory of what was, and the hope for what might be.

As you have been reminded time and time again, by ministers, by Scripture, and by one another, God is with you. As you settle into the thankfulness of this season, listen to the still, small voice of God in your midst. In your gut. In your heart.

Breathe deeply, beloveds. For you have done GOOD, HARD and HOLY work. Be thankful. And remember,

The work is not over. Take time for Sabbath. Take time for restoration. Take time for relationship. And know that more transition is to come as you journey together into the newness that is Pr JP at your side.

I have been blessed beyond measure to be your care minister over these past 13 months. You have done hard things. You have surprised me. You have welcomed my LGBTQIA+ children with warmth and respect. You have accepted my leadership as a Deacon. You have trusted and reflected on the consistent message of God's way of mutuality and battled with the ideas and ramifications of systems and culture of domination. You have been changed. I have been changed. All because of the gifts of trust and intentionality in the relationship we were able to have. I will be forever grateful for the time I was permitted to stand alongside you all at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swans Trail. You are beloved.

Peace and all good,  
Deacon Liz

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Dcn. Liz will check emails on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with Mondays and Fridays off (except for emergencies, call or text at any time)

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

*Deacon Liz as she ends her Care Pastor ministry with us and as she travels in November*

*Pastor JP as he begins his ministry with Good Shepherd*

*The Robinson family on the loss of Lisa's husband, Weston, and her mother*

*Al and Nancy Moen and Family on the loss of their son, Steve*

*Friends and family on the loss of Bo Henderson*

*The Martina Family on the loss of Joanne Martina*

*Dell and Renee Deierling on the loss of Renee's mother, Flo Craven*

*Pat Veale on the loss of her brother*

*The Kloes Family the loss of Donna Kloes*

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

*health concerns:*

*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 Bob*

*Amberson*

*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 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.**

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**THANK YOU TO:**

- Those who continue to care for our church home – inside and out
- Cheryl McCutchan for all her ongoing quiet behind the scenes efforts as our Treasurer for many years!
- All those who contributed to making Oktoberfest so wonderful – Karla Kloes for organizing, Bonnie Thoreson for the jokes and music along with Terry Danner on his harmonica, Terry, Jim and Bogdan for the grilling service and who brought great food to share...and to Dean, Karla, Lori and Pat for the final clean-up!
- Chad and Dean for helping with graveling our parking lot and to Ron Walther for bringing his tractor to spread it out so nicely!
- Al Errey for replacing the lock on the office. It is keyed the same as the front door for those needing access.
- Thank you to all those who were part of providing the new counter in the Fellowship Hall! The inspiration was Pat Veale's, materials were donated by Fox Construction, it was designed and installed by Cormac Fox and Eli Fox assisted in the installation, Lori Fox facilitated the project and Doug Garland assisted with the electrical needs

**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. This is a way to stay connected if you are unable for various reasons to attend. Just go to [www.swanstrail.org](http://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>

**To say goodbye**

Deacon Liz has been with us for over a year and we are so appreciative of her ministry with Good Shepherd through our transition period! A potluck luncheon in her honor on her last day as our Care Pastor will be held on Sunday, November 12, following Worship. Please plan to attend and bring something to share if you are able. **THANK YOU, DEACON LIZ!!!**

**From the President – Pat Pehling**

It gives me great joy to announce that the Congregation has voted unanimously to extend a pastoral call to Pastor Joseph Paxton! The plan is for Pastor JP to begin his ministry at Good Shepherd on November 20 and his first service will be Thanksgiving Eve. Come for worship at 7pm and then Pie Fellowship! An installation date will be announced as soon as planned.

A huge THANK YOU to the Transition Team (Chairs Pat Davis and Donna Garland, Rick Homme, Pat Veale, Bonnie Thoreson, Karla Kloes ) and the Call Committee (Chair Rick Homme, Substitute Chair Donna Garland, Tim Danner, Karla Kloes, Lori Fox and Terry Danner)

**FROM THE COUNCIL**

The Council will be meeting after worship of Sunday, November 19. All are welcome!

The nominating committee is seeking nominees to serve in 2024. Please consider where you might be able to use your talents to serve your congregation.

**ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Rick Homme, Chair**

The Benevolent Committee met on October 8th and decided on the following distributions:

Marysville Food Bank		\$500
Maltby Food Bank	500	
Snohomish Food Bank		500
Community Kitchen McDonald's Gift Cards	750	
Shop with a Cop (through the Snohomish Boy's and Girl's Club		500
Monroe Women's Gospel Mission		500
	\$3,250	

At the beginning of this year there was \$24,909 available to the Committee. After the distributions listed above, there is \$3,616 remaining to use if there are any requests before the end of the year. If there are no further distributions, the \$3,616 balance will be rolled forward into 2024 and combined with what is given to the Committee for use next year.

This year's Committee members are Rick Homme, Doug Garland (replaced Pat Davis), Joanie Gilbert, Karen Goodnight, and Cheryl McCutchan.

**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP & MUSIC – Donna Garland**

I'm happy to announce with the rest of the council and call committee that the unanimous vote on Sunday was to call Pastor Joseph Paxton. But before he starts, we will be celebrating our past year together with Deacon Liz and wishing her well in the future. November 12th will be her last day with us. She has been a true blessing during this time of transition.

Also you will see in the newsletter the form for donation poinsettias. Let's fill the sanctuary for Advent

### **MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Marilyn Errey**

The shortened days and leaf color changes indicate fall has arrived and it is rally time for the good people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to donate food to local families who are struggling to make good holiday meals. Please prayerfully consider bringing non-perishable holiday food items to church between now and Sunday, November 19. Deliveries will be made to the families on November 21. Or, if you prefer, please feel free to donate funds to buy perishable foods by making your check payable to: **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** and make sure it is clearly marked **holiday baskets**. Thank you everyone for your generosity to those in need!

### **Looking Forward To Christmas**

Christmas gift sponsorship for children of families in need will follow right on the heels of Thanksgiving Baskets. A list will be sent as soon as the information is available.

An easel board will also be placed in the Narthex for people to sign up. Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need!

### **MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Karla Kloes**

#### ***BOWLING!***

Our next opportunity for fellowship is church bowling on Sunday, November 5th. Please contact Dean Kloes if you are interested in bowling.

**POTLUCK LUNCHEON** – Please plan to attend worship on November 12, which is Deacon Liz's final service as our Care Pastor. Following the service, there will be a potluck luncheon – please bring something to share if you are able!

**OKTOBERFEST** Thank you so much to everyone who attended the Oktoberfest celebration. Thank you for bringing wonderful food to share. It was a great time of fellowship. Special thanks to Bonnie for being MC and coordinating music for the day and the jokes, Dean and Noah for getting the sound system set up and ready to go, Dean for getting the root beer, Noah for the background music, Terry for the amazing homemade sausage, grilling and playing the harmonica, Jim, Bogdan, and Noah for helping Terry, and Pat P. and Lori Pehling for clean-up. Thank you to Pat P., Marilyn and Al Errey for moving the tables after church. You are all appreciated! (Sorry if I missed thanking any of the behind-the-scenes people).

**PIE FELLOWSHIP** All are invited to a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Thursday, November 22, at 7pm. It will be followed by a sharing of pies! Bring a pie to share if you are able or just come and enjoy!

#### ***DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS!***

Come on Saturday, December 2, 5:30-7:30pm, to help decorate our Sanctuary Christmas Tree, make swags for the Sanctuary and make the Advent Wreath beautiful.

### ***ADVENT FAIRE***

Save the date on the first day of Advent, December 3, 3pm – 5pm, for Advent crafts, making your own swag and Advent Log. All are welcome - there will be crafts for all ages! Clippers and staple guns are useful for making Advent logs and swags!

***FELLOWSHIP HOSTS*** We are continuing to look for volunteers to help provide fellowship after church. Please consider taking a day or sharing with someone. Remember it does not have to be very much. Thank you to those of you have signed up. Many hands make light work.

If you have any questions about fellowship or ideas, please contact Karla Kloes.

### ***MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Lisa Robinson with Dean Kloes***

#### ***CHRISTIAN LEARNING -***

Sunday School continues to meet each Sunday at 10:45 AM and on December 10th, during worship service, the Sunday School will present a Christmas skit to the congregation.

Beginning in November, the Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study at the Barstad's home will begin a new study.

#### ***WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY***

The Women's Bible study is currently studying First Corinthians. Our next study will be Friday, November 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Anderson Chapel.

## **MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Dell Deierling**

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all who are faithful in their offerings and support of Good Shepherd in 2023. Your generosity of time, talents, and offerings are greatly needed and very much appreciated! As we march nearer to calling a pastor, contributions to support our church are even more important and necessary.

Note that our financial situation has benefited from the following:

- Pastoral salary spending much lower than budgeted as we are not yet paying for a called pastor.
- \$20,000 in income year-to-date with the leasing of our basement to The Academy School.
- \$2,013 from various groups using our facility so far this year.
- \$20,000 in one-time donations.

Thankfully, we were able to support two major recent expenses: fence replacement at \$18,725.92 and furnace replacement at \$15,792.

### **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 GOD'S HOUSE – Chad Masche**

Hello, there are **no more** Church Work parties scheduled for 2023. There will be a couple of Saturdays in the month of November in which several others and I will most likely be completing "fall-cleanup" duties. Look for email updates for those upcoming dates and times. As always, thanks to ALL those that donated their time and efforts at our work parties during 2023!

Any time you can contribute is so appreciated! No experience is necessary, your time and a good attitude is all that is required for any project.

### **Projects:**

- **Completed** – Recently a new lock was installed on the door to the downstairs office. This lock is a match with the front door entrance and Pastor’s office. This decreases the number of keys needed to access parts of the church for those that serve our congregation in certain leadership and administrative roles. We’d like to give a special thanks to **Al Errey** for completing this project.
- **Completed** – The West parking lot was recently upgraded with several new loads of rock. Given the new increase of traffic for the Academy’s drop-off and pick-up during the week. Adding the new rock has greatly added to the stability and look of the West parking lot. We’d like to give a special thanks to **Ron Walther** for his donation of time and the use of his tractor, it was a major help!
- **Completed** – The coffee and storage area in the fellowship hall has been completed since earlier in October. All of us can see what an upgrade this makes in our use of the fellowship hall, with a very clean, functional, and professional look it provides. We’d like to give a special thanks to **Pat Veale** and **Lori Fox** for leading and completing this project together.
- **In the works** – There is a window on the lower-level of the church, in one of the classrooms, that has a significant crack in it and will need to be replaced.
- Thanks to several devoted individuals for continuing to upkeep the grounds, whether it be the gardening, weeding, or the mowing. **THANK YOU!!**

**Just a couple of notes:**

Additional Projects are continuously being recognized, discussed, 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.

**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!)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

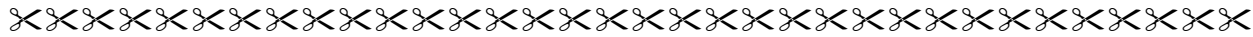
November	1	Kevin Ess
	5	Kathy Breece
	7	Kourtney Holton
	9	Meade Fox, Bruce Richards
	10	Brittany Reed Menday & Thomas McCutchan



- 11 Tim Danner
- 12 Billie Nilson
- 16 Nancy Moen
- 17 Brianne Robinson
- 21 Patrick Vaughn, Beth Morrison, Don Siewert,

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- November 3 Bruce & Debbie DeVault,
- 10 Fred and Kandi Eldridge



***Poinsettias for our Sanctuary***  
*(Put in Offering Plate or mail to church)*

I will donate \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$10 for each Poinsettia

Or

\_\_\_\_\_ I will deliver to church by December 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_



◀ Oct 2023							<b>November 2023</b>							Dec 2023 ▶						
Sun			Mon			Tue			Wed			Thu			Fri			Sat		
									1			2			3 Project Linus 10-10			4 Project Linus 10-10		

<b>5</b> Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bowling Event	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Project Linus	<b>9</b> Pilchuck Camera Club 7-9pm	<b>10</b> Womens Bible Study 10am Anderson Chapel Trauma Group 6pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Potluck Luncheon 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am	<b>13</b> 4-H Meeting 6-9pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4-H Meeting 6-9pm	<b>16</b> BZB Quilters 11am-8:30pm	<b>17</b> The Academy Training 1:30-4pm	<b>18</b> 4-H Family Night 4-9pm
<b>19</b> Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Church Council Mtg. 11am	<b>20</b> The Academy Preschool Thanksgiving 10am-2pm	<b>21</b> The Academy K-2 Thanksgiving 11am-1pm	<b>22</b> Thanksgiving Eve Service 7pm followed by Pie Fellowship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4-H Meeting 6-9pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		