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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NOVEMBER 2026

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Happy November, Church!

October has reminded us that serving is far more than volunteering or completing a task. Every act of kindness becomes a witness to the love we've first received from Christ.

Whether you visited someone, encouraged a friend, helped a neighbor, or quietly served behind the scenes, thank you. These ordinary expressions of love *are how the Church reflects Jesus in the world.* As we enter November, our attention naturally turns toward gratitude
.
The Thanksgiving season invites us to pause and recognize the blessings we've received, but as Christians our gratitude always points beyond the gifts **to the Giver**. We don't simply count our blessings—we remember the One from whom every good gift comes.

That's why our theme this month is **Gratitude that Points to Christ.**
Gratitude has a remarkable way of shaping our witness. People notice hopeful people. They notice contentment in a culture that constantly wants more. They notice joy that remains even when life is difficult. When we openly thank God for God's faithfulness, we gently remind others that our hope rests in Someone greater than ourselves.

My prayer is that this month we would become people whose thanksgiving naturally leads others to wonder about the God we worship. May our conversations around dinner tables, with coworkers, and among family members overflow with reminders of God's goodness.

May every "thank you" ultimately become an opportunity to say, "Thanks be to God."

Peace and joy, Pastor JP

THANK YOU TO

- Thank you to all who helped with Pastor JP's surprise birthday party and the baptism last Sunday, 10/25/2026. Bringing pies were: Jolynn and Joel Garrison, Chrissy Homme, Cheryl McCutchan, Pat Pehling, Marge Griffiths, Joy Vaughn and Donna Garland. Big thanks to Doug Garland and Pat Pehling who worked through the service to decorate and Donna for organizing it all!
- All those who are preparing bulletins and helping provide the live stream of our Worship Service!
- The Sunday Supervisors, Readers, Cantors, Worship Assistants and Fellowship Hosts
- Marilyn Errey for updating the weekly reading and monthly newsletter on our website and setting up the weekly live stream on YouTube.
- Cindy Goetz for her two years of providing our accompaniment for worship and choir!

Prayer Requests



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

Sharon and Bogdan as they experience pregnancy for a second child
U.S. Navy pilot Jake Hammond and his team deployed to support U.S. forces overseas
For health concerns:
Richard McCutchan's cousin, David,
Nancy Moen, who is recovering at home from a stroke
Tyler Blair as he faces surgery
Chris Homme's sister, Julie, as she faces breast cancer
Lucas Taylor, Joy Vaughn's cousin's grandson, as he battles a form of lymphoma
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

Message from Evelyn Agostineli

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for sending me the new Church Directory. I can see all of your smiling faces! Peace, Love, Joy - Evelyn

From Riverview Elementary School

Thank you so much for your generous donations to our school supply outreach. Our program continues with donations like yours. We appreciate you and all you do for the students of Riverview! Sincerely, Carla Dewing, Coordinator of School Supply Outreach

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dell Deierling, Chair

Since the last Benevolent Newsletter report, the Benevolent Committee has supported 11 nonprofit organizations with a total of $5,500 and five community members with a total of $3,108.56 in assistance with basic needs.

This year's Committee members are Tim Danner, Ken Hammond, Richard McCutchan, Mary Nelson, and Dell Deierling. Please feel free to reach out to us with any needs that you identify in the community. Our next meeting is November 15th.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study group at the Barstad's home is working through a study titled *Hebrews The Unshakable Faith* by James Kiely.

Weekly, Sunday School for the youth continues each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

The Friday women's study group will meet in the Anderson Chapel on Friday, November 20th at 10:00 AM.

Also, the Sunday women's study group is working through the book titled *Having a Mary Heart in A Martha World*. They will be meeting on Sunday, November 8th at 10:45 AM in Pastor JP's office.

During the Advent season, each Sunday from 8:30 AM- 9:00 AM or 9:15 AM, Pastor JP will be hosting an Advent book study.

Finally, the Sunday School youth will be performing a Christmas skit during church service on December 6th.

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

Thank you to Cindy, Pat P, Cheryl, Pastor JP and Donna for providing fellowship throughout October and to everyone who joined in on the potluck to welcome new members.

There is a breakfast church potluck scheduled for Sunday, November 1st. You are invited to bring a dish to share.

All other Sunday's in November are unclaimed, so if you feel called to serve in this area, please sign up in the notebook located on the pedestal in the Narthex.

Coffee Club will continue to meet every Tuesday at 10am with special thanks to Suzanne for hosting this event.

Fellowship on Tap is slated for the 15th from 3-5 pm at Sound to Summit.

The Advent Faire will be on the 22nd from 3-5 pm. Join in on kid-friendly crafts, make a festive swag, and enjoy homemade lefsa and krumkake.

Following the Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 pm, everyone is invited to a pie social. Bring a pie to share if you are able.

Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent/Christmas is on Saturday, November 28, at 4:30 and generally lasts a little over an hour. All are welcome!!!

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE- Doug Garland

Next up is getting thermostats replaced, doors fixed, Pastors office remodeled and getting the irrigation system winterized. Your participation and ideas are always greatly appreciated.

FYI, my term as God's House council member expires this year, please consider taking on this ministry to support our church. We have a great team supporting the maintenance of the church - you won't be doing this on your own.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland with 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! Thanks to your generosity we are looking to end the year 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

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE– Chrissy Homme

Riverview Elementary sent a heartfelt thank you for the supplies and support we donated to them. Your generosity helped provide many necessary school supplies to children in need.

Fall has officially arrived, which means the HOLIDAYS are around the corner. We are asking for donations for the HOLIDAY BASKETS for Thanksgiving. We are supporting four families from Riverview Elementary School. We are asking for non-perishable items that need to be delivered to Good Shepherd no later than Sunday NOV. 15. Another option is writing a check made out to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as designated for "holiday baskets."

Suggestions/Requests (Non-perishable items only)

Stuffing	Mashed Potatoes (boxes)	Gravy Packages	Ready to eat meals
Canned Soup	Pasta	Canned Fruit	Applesauce
Peanut butter, Jam	Seasoned Canned Veggies	Canned Cranberries	Crackers, Pretzels
Cooking oil	Protein Bars, trail-mix	Dried Fruit/nuts	Spam/Ham/canned meat
Napkins,plates,cups	Cutlery	Scented candles	

In December we will also be donating Christmas gifts for children of eligible families at Riverview Elementary School. A list will be posted once the requested gifts are known. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Fellowship Hall.

And of course, donations to the Everett Gospel Mission and Snohomish Food Bank are always needed and welcome.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP– Karla Kloes

We are looking forward to having another breakfast church on Sunday November 1st which is All Saints' Day. November 22nd will be the last Sunday of Pentecost/Christ the King Sunday which ends the liturgical year. Advent begins on Sunday November 29th. If you would like to provide a poinsettia to enhance our worship space, there is a form below to indicate in memory or in honor of someone!

Thank you to all who help with setting up, serving and cleaning up communion. I appreciate you. Special thanks for October are Mary, JoLynn, Donna, Joy, Terry and Chris. Thank you to all who serve during worship and sign up in the book. Thank you to those who cantor, acolyte, read, record worship and provide the bulletin.

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 $12 for each Poinsettia
Or
___I will deliver to church by December 1

Name_____

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Breakfast Church 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	**2** *4-H 6-9pm*	**3** Coffee Club 10am	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Book Study 10:45 Bible Study 6pm	**9**	**10** Coffee Club 10am	**11** *Project Linus 10-3*	**12** *Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm*	**13** *Project Linus 10-10*	**14** *Project Linus 10-10*
15 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Fellowship on Tap 3pm Bible Study 6pm	**16**	**17** Coffee Club 10am	**18** *Project Linus 10-3*	**19** *4-H 6-9pm*	**20** Women's Bible Study 10am	**21**
22 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am ADVENT FAIRE 3-5pm Bible Study 6pm	**23**	**24** Coffee Club 10am (Location TBD) *Little School Feast 9-3:30*	**25** Thanksgiving Eve Service 7pm & Pie Fellowship following Little School Feast 9-12	**26** THANKSGIVING	**27**	**28** Decorate Sanctuary for Advent/Christmas 4:30pm
29 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	**30**					