

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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MAY 2026

From the Pastor's Desk - Welcome to May!

As we begin the month of May in our year-long journey of evangelism and discipleship, we turn to a theme that brings together both our inner life with God and our outward life in the world: **Integrity, Holiness, and Witness.**

Throughout the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that faith is never meant to remain private or abstract. In Matthew 5:13–16, he calls us the salt of the earth and the light of the world—lives that are meant to be seen, to make a difference, and to point beyond ourselves. Likewise, 1 Peter 2:12 reminds us that the way we live among others matters deeply, as our lives can either draw people toward God or obscure the witness we are called to bear. This month, we will explore what it means to live in such a way that our lives align with our message—not as perfection, but as **grace-fueled integrity**. We will consider how holiness is not about withdrawing from the world, but about being formed more fully in the way of Christ within it.

Over the next five weeks, you will receive a short reflection each week that builds on this theme. Together, we will walk through:

- **A Life That Speaks** – how our lives naturally witness to what we believe
- **Not Earning—Responding** – understanding grace-fueled obedience
- **Making Room for Change** – the ongoing practice of repentance
- **Walking Together in Integrity** – the role of accountability and community
- **A Witness That Points to Christ** – living as a visible reflection of God's grace

Alongside these reflections, I encourage you to engage in two simple practices this month:

- **Personal reflection and repentance**, asking where God is inviting alignment in your life
- **Accountability relationships**, finding at least one trusted person with whom you can share honestly and grow together

My prayer is that this month will not feel like striving for perfection, but rather deepening trust—trust that the God who calls us also forms us, and that our lives, shaped by grace, can become a faithful witness in the world. As always, I am grateful to walk this journey with you.

Peace and joy,
Pastor JP

Prayer Requests



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

U.S. Navy pilot Jake Hammond and his team deployed to support U.S. forces overseas.

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 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

The Fox family on the loss of Mead's father

The Moen family on the loss of Al Moen

For health concerns:

Pastor Ron Nitz wife, Jackie, who recently had a stroke

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.**

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.

COUNCIL MEETING – The next Church Council is meeting on June 28 following Worship. All are welcome to attend!

ANDERSON BENEVOLENCE FUND – Dell Deierling

Through recent individual requests for assistance, we were able to help four community members with basic needs, three with housing and one with groceries. The total assistance given amounted to \$2,950.

The committee's next meeting will be May 10th.

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.

THANK YOU TO

- All those who prepared the building and grounds for Easter Day
- Everyone who provided such wonderful food for the Easter Breakfast
- Dean Kloes for providing youth Sunday School and a fun Easter Day activity
- Marge and Rick for hosting Fellowship on Tap for April
- The Snohomish Men’s Chorus for their wonderful music the Sunday after Easter. Terry, Tim and Jim from Good Shepherd are part of this much appreciated annual event
- Terry Danner for his continued supervision of Acolytes
- All those hosting Fellowship time and the Sunday Supervisors making sure the church is open, lights and heat on and then closed properly afterward
- The “Bulletin Angels”, those providing on-line viewing of Worship and those maintaining our website – you are all very much appreciated!
- Those who donated Easter Lilies Given in Memory of:
Nola Deierling and Dale Deierling by Dell Deierling and Joni Siewert
Pat Strom by Lisa Robinson
Don & Pat Wheeler by Doug and Donna Garland
Louise Garland-Wheelen by Doug and Donna Garland
June & Cal VanAssche by Marge Griffiths
Loved ones by Al & Marilyn Errey
Irene & Stan McCutchan, Parents of Rich McCutchan, by Rich & Cheryl McCutchan
Mur & Bill Jensen, Parents of Cheryl McCutchan, by Rich & Cheryl McCutchan
Weston Robinson by Lisa Robinson
Barbara Keller by Lisa Robinson
Son, Robbie, by Pat Veale
My Family by Nancy Moen
Carol & Doc Pehling, Parents, by Pat Pehling
Dave Pehling by Lori & Pat Pehling

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

Continued contributions for the Snohomish Community Food Bank are appreciated. Canned protein (tuna and chicken), Mac and cheese, noodles, spaghetti, canned vegetables, p-nut butter, canned and packaged soup, soup mixes, crackers, dried milk), baby products, baby wipes and diapers, adult diapers, personal hygiene items, household items, and pet food. Plastic, canvas and nylon bags are also needed.

Please consider donating men’s, women’s and children’s clothing for the Everett Gospel Mission. Don’t forget toiletries, shoes and toys.

Twin bedding can be donated to the Madison Shelter in Everett.

Put clothing items in bags marked for Everett Gospel Mission, food items in bags or boxes, and designate twin bedding for Madison Shelter. Place all in Narthex where they will be delivered.

Thank you!

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 *The Reason for God* by Timothy Keller.

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

A weekly book study is being planned and will be led by Pastor JP in the fellowship hall each Sunday from 8:30 AM to 9:15 AM. More information will be provided when available.

The women's bible study group will meet in the Anderson Chapel on May 22th at 10:00 AM.

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

Thank you to everyone who joined in on the Easter Breakfast Potluck, and to Karla, Joni, and Pastor JP for providing fellowship treats in April. For the month of May, there are a couple of unclaimed Sundays, so if you feel called to volunteer, please sign up in the notebook by the mail boxes.

In April, we had our final Lenten soup supper on Maundy Thursday, Easter potluck breakfast and egg hunt, and fellowship on tap at Marge & Rick's house.

Coming up in May, we are having a farewell potluck after service on 5/3 to wish Evelyn Agostinelli well as she relocates to California.

There is an outing to the Seattle Aquarium set up for Saturday the 16th. Meet up at the Lynnwood light rail at 10:30am or at the aquarium at 11:30am. Tickets for youth and young adults will be paid for and Tim will be on hand to answer all of your shark questions.

Fellowship on Tap will be on 5/17 from 3-5pm at the Dwellers Drinkery in Lake Stevens.

Looking ahead, please join us for the after Sunday School BBQ on 6/14. Also pending, but date yet to be determined is another Lunch bunch potluck, breakfast church, and bingo night. If you have any other ideas, let Lisa or Cheryl know.

MINISTRY OF GODS HOUSE– Doug Garland

Our first work party of the summer will be on Tuesday the 12th of May from 4:00 to 6:30. We'll be doing garden maintenance and brain storming to come up with ideas to make the gardens and outside appearance of the church more appealing.

We also need to move forward to replace the thermostats with more intuitive and possibly programable ones that will be easier for us to use. Another idea is to put up some real gates to the parking lots, replacing the cable systems we have in place now.

As always, if you have an idea to benefit God's House let me know.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed Alleluia! Such a wonderful Easter celebration we enjoyed. Thank you so much for the beautiful music from the choir. It is wonderful to hear all of your voices blessing us with song again. We are grateful for your spiritual gift of music. Thank you also for all those who contributed to the Easter Lilies. It is an excellent reminder of the new life we have in Christ and beautifying the sanctuary.

The season of Easter will continue until Sunday May 24th which is Pentecost. Please remember to wear red to symbolize the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Also, a reminder that Cindy is looking for requests for music to play, so please contact her if you have some favorites.

Looking ahead we will celebrate another breakfast church in June so be on the lookout for the date.

Thank you, and if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about worship and music let me know.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland and 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!

The details below reflect the budget approved at the annual meeting.

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>

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Farewell Potluck 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	4 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>					
10 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm						
17 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Fellowship on Tap 3-5pm Bible Study 6pm						
24 Pentacost – Wear Red Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm						
31 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm						

