

# The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail  
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**JANUARY 2022**



## From the Bishop:

During this winter, as many continue to grapple with - and be discouraged by - the continuation of the pandemic, isolation, discontent, and loneliness, we might feel that our relationships are not as strong as they once were - with family and friends, with colleagues and co-workers, and with those in our church.

Recently I read a book called *Tempered Resilience* by Tod Bolsinger. While I wasn't enthralled with the whole book, I did resonate with one visual that he used and perhaps you will find helpful in this time, too. He writes about how our different relationships help us in our resilience and in our on-going ability to adapt. On page 112 Bolsinger writes, "To flourish in ministry or other forms of social leadership, leaders need to be conscious of at least three different contexts, and the relationships needed to flourish in those contexts, 'front stage, backstage, and offstage.'"

The Front Stage is the public face that we show to the world. It is the place where "performance" happens. It is critical to have trustworthy colleagues or teammates where you are able to be yourself. These relationships could include peers and teammates, partners, and colleagues. An example from scripture would be the disciples. Who would you include in your life?

The Back Stage is the place to support and nurture you in your "front stage" work. Good front stage work depends on lots of time backstage analyzing and thinking about the work that is being done, learning from lessons of success and failure from others, and especially, gaining perspective from experienced leaders. In his book Bolsinger cautions, "Backstage relationships don't happen because of others. They happen because of you." (p. 116) In other words, you might have to seek out "backstage people. Backstage relationships include therapists, coaches, mentors, spiritual directors, pastors, and more. An example in scripture would be David listening to Samuel or Moses listening to his father-in-law Jethro or Ruth listening to Naomi. Who would you include in your life?



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The Off Stage are the people that you are emotionally closest to and who are your confidants. As Bolsinger writes, "The quality of your relationships with other people influences how emotionally resilient you can be in the face of an emotional or physical crisis. In general, the more quality social support you can draw upon from family and friends, the more flexible and resilient you can be in stressful situations." (p. 120) An example in scripture would be Elizabeth and Mary. Who would you include in your life?

So, I'm wondering, how are you doing in these three areas? Are your relationships strong "front stage, backstage, and off-stage"? Do you have good connections? Where could you form deeper connections? Where do you need help in forming new relationships?

I'd love to hear from you how we can be a more connected church community, how we can support one another, and how resilience can be built up by forming and growing relationships.

I know this is a difficult and frustrating time for many. I feel it, too. May you feel connected with one another. May you feel upheld by one another. And, especially, in this Epiphany season, may God's presence, love and grace be made known to you.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee  
[bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



### Prayer Requests

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus  
and for all people according to their needs:  
*Our own Congregation as we seek to call our next Pastor  
Ron Walther and family on the loss of his wife, Joanne  
Michele Coady on the loss of her mother*

*The Kloes family on the loss of Karla's mother*

*For health concerns:*

*Bob Amberson*

*Richard McCutchan's sister*

*Heidi Ferria, Pat Heifort's daughter*

*Bo Henderson*

*Juli Reed, who is struggling with MSA*

*Karla Kloes' sister, Fara Schwencke*

*For all others who are in need of healing and wholeness,  
especially those affected by COVID 19*

*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.**

*Prayer requests should be submitted to  
swanstrail@outlook.com 425-334-1220 or  
Pat Pehling [pehling@frontier.com](mailto:pehling@frontier.com)*

#### THANK YOU TO:

- Chad Masche, Dell Deierling, Doug Garland and Dean Kloes for all their mowing the entire spring, summer and fall and to all those who helped at the work parties!
- Those who donated food and monetary gifts for the Food Bank and holiday baskets – it was very much appreciated!
- All who donated Christmas gifts for our adopted families!
- Michele Coady for the special music – always appreciated when she adds her beautiful flute!
- All the special music on Christmas Eve – Terry Danner on his harmonica, Lilly Masche on the Piano and Greta Mache on her violin!
- Marilyn Errey, Michele Coady and Bonnie Thoreson for providing our weekly worship bulletin – it is a LOT of work.

**From the Walther Family** – We want to let the congregation know we appreciate their thoughts and prayers, and we will be having a memorial to celebrate Joanne's life in the spring outdoors. Joanne was very concerned about the coronavirus, and wouldn't want anyone to get sick on her account.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

Our *Congregation's Annual Meeting* is on Sunday, January 30, following Worship. Please put this date on your schedule and plan to attend. It is important for us all to take part in planning for our future and we must have a quorum to conduct business. The Council is preparing the 2022 budget, the nominating committee is contacting members to serve as committee chairs and officers, and committee chairs are preparing their reports for 2021.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Reminder to Council members of the meeting on Sunday, January 16, following Worship.. Watch your email for the budget proposal. Main topic is the budget presentation.

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

Thank you for your generosity to those in need!

Good Shepherd currently provides regular support to the community later in the year (School Supplies, Holiday Baskets & Christmas Gifts, Food Bank Support, & McDonald's Gift Cards to the Community Kitchen at Christmas).

As we begin this new year of transition, please help by suggesting ways Good Shepherd can build community throughout the year.

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

### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who are faithful in their offerings and support of Good Shepherd. Your generosity of time, talents and offerings are greatly needed and very much appreciated! Together we succeeded in supporting the needs of our ministry in 2021.

### **OFFERING OPTIONS**

To help you with your gift giving we continue to offer a couple of options should you not be donating in person. Please feel free to mail your contribution to the church. As a second option, most banks will send out checks for you via a bill pay type application. Check with your bank or your on-line banking website. An additional option is a Tithe.ly donate link on our website, <https://www.swanstrail.org>. We will receive reports from the Tithe.ly site as the funds are transferred to the church bank account to be able to credit you for these gifts as normal for year-end reporting. With this option you can decide to cover the transaction fees for the church if you wish.

### **MONTHLY RECAP**

Here is an accounting of our general offerings based on 52 Sundays (through 12/31/21):

Offering amount needed each Sunday	\$2,905.06
Average Sunday offering year to date	\$2,830.95
Offerings needed to meet our budget	\$151,063.21
Offerings received to date	\$147,209.63

**BEHIND of ministry goals                      \$3,853.58\***

Current Balance in General Checking Account: \$71,222.24 (does not include some outstanding payables)

Amount of this balance designated toward Memorials: \$2,726.41

Amount of this balance designated to paraments and choir stoles: \$7,200.00

Amount of this balance designated to God's House Special Projects: \$3,133.00

Our offering amount needed each Sunday is the amount of our annual budget (\$151,063.21) divided by 52 Sundays. Please prayerfully consider all your gifts to our church community (both financially and time/talents).

\*Our shortfall in meeting our ministry goals (\$3,853.58) was offset by lower pastoral costs during the last quarter of the year.

### **MINISTRY OF WORSHIP – Pat Davis**

As a new calendar year begins; we are hopeful that a Care Pastor will soon be coming to our church. Again “Thank you’s” are being extended to so very many of you who have stepped up and volunteered to help with the worship services.

The poinsettias that graced the sanctuary throughout the Advent season were beautiful; thank you to all who donated. The special music and musicians who added to the beauty of our services provided depth and grace to our worship. The Sunday Supervisors have been faithful caretakers of all that needs to be attended to for opening and closing the church each Sunday. We continue to need volunteers for this task; please consider adding your name to list!! A special thank you is extended to each of our Supply Pastors who have provided us with special messages of hope, thankfulness and grace.

This January ends my term as chair of the worship committee. It has been a privilege to serve the congregation in this role. It was an honor to work with Pastor Tom during each of the church seasons and whoever takes over this role will have the privilege to work with the Care Pastor as we move through this transition.

Blessings to each of you,

### **MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION – Dean Kloes**

Listed below are the education opportunities available to our Good Shepherd Lutheran church family. Please contact Dean Kloes on 360-563-0520 if you have questions or would like additional information.

- Sunday School for elementary ages: Weekly, on Sunday morning at 10:45 AM (Anderson Chapel)

- Evening Bible Study: Weekly, on Sunday evening at 6:00 PM (Barstad Home)

- Women’s Bible Study for January will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am in the Anderson Chapel

### **MINISTRY OF ADULT & YOUTH FELLOWSHIP – Marilyn Sheppard**

It has been my privilege to serve as chairman of the Fellowship Committee for three years. We have not had the opportunities to partake of fellowship due to Covid 19 for quite some time. As we begin to share our time together after Sunday service, let us be safe and supportive of one another.

There are MANY openings for Fellowship hosts. Please help as you are able. Let me know if you have any questions.

On Saturday, February 5th, youth and adults from our church are planning to attend an Everett Silvertips hockey game. Go Silvertips!

### **MINISTRY OF GOD’S HOUSE – Chad Masche**

During the last several months there were multiple folks that were extremely helpful in assisting with fall-clean up and maintaining our grounds...THANK YOU!!

Recently we rebooted several of our security cameras and change out their batteries. The BLINK security system has helped multiple times in adding to the overall security of our church and property.

At this time there are no large projects planned or requested for the church and its property

Projects are continuously being recognized, planned for, 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. My email is [chmasche@yahoo.com](mailto:chmasche@yahoo.com), and my number is 425-422-7093.

**DID YOU KNOW? That Good Shepherd hosts:**

- A 4-H Horse Club that meets monthly
- Project Linus (provides Quilts to children and adults in difficult circumstances)
- Buzy Bees Quilting Club
- A Camera Club
- Snohomish County 4-H Equine Educational Contests (6 of them!)

We can feel good about providing a lovely space for our community!

**SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

January	1	Nicolas Smith
	4	Donna Kloes
	5	Bruce Martina
	9	Noah Kloes
	10	Jennifer Ess
	11	Colin Cole
	17	Cheryl McCutchan and Lori Kloes
	19	Pat Veale
	20	Kristin Flynn
	25	Gail Blaske
	26	Megan Olson
	29	Eric Olson

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY- None for January!**

## Faith and Everyday Life, 2022

**January**

*He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. (Revelation 21:4)*

Take a moment to read this verse, once through. Notice your reaction, the state of your heart, your body. Are you tense? Relaxed? Distant? Trusting?

While this verse is comforting for some, my personal and professional life has made me keenly familiar with death, suffering, pain, and trauma. Every day I find myself crying out to God for justice and mercy, for help in time of need. Must we wait until we return “home” in Heaven for God to heal and renew us? Miracles happen, but often this is not the case and suffering results. How can we find respite in this Scripture when our suffering feels so invasive and destructive now?

Scripture reminds us to return to the story of Christ, who asked this question in his final breath on the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34; Psalm 22:1). Christ’s cry from the cross illustrates that God is present with us to speak to, mourn with, and even to accuse. May we be bold to *assume* God’s presence is alive and near, especially when our pain is at its worst. What if we were to close our eyes and imagine God leaning down, wiping our tears away, drawing us near and holding us *now, at this very moment*. When we do this, we experience a glimpse of Heaven on Earth, and we find true hope.

Now take a deep breath and read this verse again, slowly. Notice your spirit, your body, as you read it. If you wish, repeat this process until you feel a sense of being at home with God, even in your suffering. Feel God’s presence with you, wiping away your tears, drawing you near. Feel within you a sense of God’s hope, God’s peace, and even God’s joy.

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network

**From Robin: Thank you for putting the note in your newsletter about Bo's 90th birthday. He received MANY birthday and Christmas wishes, he was happy to tell me each time I saw him or we talked on the phone. I know he keeps them all right next to his chair so he can re-read them over and over again. You helped make his day a special one this year.**

**I'm including a picture I took of him Christmas day at my house, it's a good one with a great smile. Hope it comes through.**

**Happy New Year & thank you,**

**Robin**

