

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
swanstrail@outlook.com www.swanstrail.org

Rev. Joseph Paxton

thecaffeinatedpastor@gmail.com 480-600-3727

5511 64th Street SE, Snohomish WA 98290

Church Phone 425-334-1220

DECEMBER 2023



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear friends,

Grace, peace, and joy be with you!

I am so excited to begin ministry and have entered the first week and next chapter of this adventure with you all! We have received such a warm reception and already, our kids *love going to church!*

A note about Advent. When I look ahead in the lectionary, I get this overall sense that God has your back; God's got you. Whatever you're facing, whatever's in front of you, whatever you're going through, whatever you've gone through, God is here to bless, strengthen, and help you. The Old Testament lessons are ripe with promises: things God *is going to do*.

To this end, take some time and identify the things that you need in this season. We might believe this season, and this story, is all about God but It's not *just about God*. This season is also (all) about you. Think about it, God is leaving heaven and coming down to do what? "Seek and to save" YOU. In a very real way, this season is a reconnaissance mission. God is going to help you. God is going to heal you. And God is going to awaken and enliven you to a greater reality of God's love and give you (new) life. So, if you need anything, make a list. Take it to God in prayer and then watch and wait for God's miracles to unfold.

What's to come. I think this next season is going to be wonderful! I don't know what to expect, I don't know what's going to happen, but I'll be doing it with you. So, it will be fun to wait, watch, and listen to see what God does in us, with us, and through us!

Also. Let me know what you'd like to do. If there's something at the church you'd like to see happen, let me know. In addition, I'll spend this next season getting to know your rhythms and routines. So, if there's something that I'm not doing that I'm supposed to be doing, let me know. And if there's something that we're not doing that you'd like to be doing, communicate so we can collaborate!

Logistics. Don't be afraid to reach out, via email, via text, via phone, whichever is more convenient for you. I want to hear from you. I welcome conversation, coffee, or lunch. Don't hesitate to reach out. I'm looking forward to this next season and beyond with you. May the God of all grace continue to reveal more of who Christ is that we might be filled and overflowing!

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:*

Pastor JP as he begins his ministry with Good Shepherd

The Amberson family on the loss of Bob Amberson

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:

Marilyn Sheppard as she recovers from a broken hip

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

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.*

INSTALLATION SERVICE

Please plan to join in on the exciting Installation of Pastor JP with Good Shepherd at Swan's Trail! Bishop Shelley Wee will be conducting the Service and other Pastors are invited to come. Set aside Sunday afternoon, December 17, 2pm, for the Installation and a reception following. If you can help provide snacks and/or help with serving and clean up, please let Karla Kloes know. There will be a sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU TO

- Our Transition Team (Chairs Pat Davis and Donna Garland, Rick Homme, Bonnie Thoreson, Pat Veale, Karla Kloes) and the Call Committee (Chair Rick Homme, Substitute Chair Donna Garland, Tim Danner, Karla Kloes, Lori Fox and Terry Danner) – their work is completed!!!!
- Those contributing toward the Holiday Baskets and gifts.
- The Choir for their contributions of meaningful anthems at Worship.
- Bonnie Thoreson for her continuing amazing contributions toward each Sunday's worship service AND her talents on the Piano and Organ!
- Terry Danner and Jim Flynn for the great clean-up job on the fountain....it sparkles now!!!
- To those who contributed toward the Poinsettias to enhance our worship space for Advent and Christmas:

Cheryl & Richard McCutchan – In memory of Stan & Irene McCutchan and Bill & Mur Jensen

Pat Pehling – In memory of her parents, Doc and Carol
Karen Goodnight – In memory of Carl Kirkpatrick
Lisa Robinson – In memory of Weston Robinson and Barbara Clark
Joy & Terry Vaughn – In memory of Dan & Martha Taylor and Ken & Ellie Vaughn
Al & Marilyn Errey – In memory of loved ones
Lori Pehling – In memory of Doc & Carol Pehling and her father, Floyd
Pat Veale – In memory on family and Son, Robbie
Doug & Donna Garland – In memory of their parents Louise Garland-Wheelen, Don & Pat Wheeler and all loved ones
Mary Nelson

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE POSITIONS

There are several openings this year. If you are interested in serving or have any questions, please contact the nominating committee: *Chairs: Pat Pehling & Richard McCutchan Members. Pat Veale, Karla Kloes, Chad Masche and Cheryl McCutchan*

MEMORIAL FOR BOB AMBERSON

Our long-time church family member, Bob Amberson, passed away in November and his family is inviting us to his Memorial Service on Saturday, December 9, at noon at Good Shepherd. Pat Veale is organizing refreshments so please contact her if you can assist with refreshments or in the kitchen 425 350 0352. Please keep the family in your prayers.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Karla Kloes

Wow! It has been a busy and exciting November. Thank you to all those who brought food and picked up the cakes and sandwiches for the three celebrations the last three weeks. We recognized Deacon Liz and Pastor Erik and welcomed Pastor JP.

There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for bringing food for the fellowship time after Pastor JP's installation service on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 pm.

On Sunday, January 14th, we are planning a trip to St. Mark's Cathedral, in Seattle, to participate in the Compline service at 9:30 PM. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dean Kloes on or before January 1st.

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!

Thank you for all those who bring treats and sponsor fellowship time! You are appreciated.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP – Donna Garland



As we prepare to enter the new church year with the coming of Advent this Sunday, I would like to thank and recognize Deacon Liz Colver and Pastor Erik Samuelson one more time for their generous and faithful service to our Good Shepherd family during this time of transition. We are beginning this new church year well prepared with Pastor JP and an unlimited future ahead of us. For that I am very thankful.

Looking at our Advent season, you may have noticed that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. This has brought up a couple of challenges for the Worship team. Not only is Christmas Eve on Sunday, but it is also the fourth Advent Sunday. Do we have two services on Sunday, one in the morning for the fourth Advent and one in the evening for Christmas Eve? After much discussion it has been decided to double up on one Sunday to recognize two Advents and to hold our traditional candlelight evening service on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm as our only service for that day. If you want to attend a morning service or an earlier evening service that day, Christ the King has a 10am Service and 5pm and 10pm Christmas Eve Services and Zion Lutheran has a 9am Service plus a Christmas Day Service at 9am.

Please don't forget the youth Christmas skit during Worship on December 10th!

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Marilyn Errey

Thank you for your gracious and generous donations to Holiday Baskets! On November 21, four local Riverview Elementary school families were provided with both perishable and non-perishable holiday food items to make good holiday meals. The families were very grateful for these generous gifts of food!

For Christmas we will be providing food gift cards as well as giving a toy or personal item and an article of clothing to each child in the same four families from the Riverview Elementary area. The sign-up board/sheet is in the Narthex.

Please bring the **wrapped and labeled** gifts to church by Sunday, December 17.

Thank you for your consideration, generosity and care for our neighboring families in need.

The Benevolent Fund has provided McDonald Gift cards to the Community Kitchen!

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! Through your support and the blessings of some generous one-time donations, we are coming close to meeting our year's goal (see below).

END OF YEAR DONATION TIP: USE YOUR IRA RMD TO SUPPORT GOOD SHEPHERD

Use your IRA RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) to support the church and save yourself \$'s on your taxes. December is the time to review your financial situation and how your income impacts your taxes. If you have an IRA (most IRAs qualify) and you are age 70½ or over, you can exclude up to \$100,000 from gross income for donations paid directly to a qualified charity (like Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!) from your IRA. This is a great way of making your contribution to the church while reducing your taxes. Read up more on this option and consult your tax advisor before taking action.

OTHER 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 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Dean Kloes

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.

The Women's bible study will be held on Friday, December 8th at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The Women's bible study group is currently reading *First Corinthians*..

Beginning in January 8th, the Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study at the Barstad's home will begin a new study titled *Help Is Here* by Max Lucado.

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

December	1	Betty Martens, Terry Vaughn & Jacob Kloes
	4	David Martina
	6	Elizabeth Thoreson
	7	Camryn Kloes
	10	Barry Walther
	17	Jeremy Reichelt
	18	Richard McCutchan
	24	Jody Rohde, Sabrina Adams
	26	Rick Homme

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December	23	Dave & Billie Nilson
----------	----	----------------------



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Project Linus</i> 10-10	2 Decorate the Sanctuary 5:30pm <i>Project Linus</i> 10-10
3 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Advent Faire 3-5pm	4 <i>4-H Meeting</i> 6-9pm	5	6 <i>The Academy</i> All day to 2pm	7	8 Women's Bible Study 10am <i>Trauma Group</i> 6pm	9 Bob Amberson Memorial-Noon
10 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship & SS Program 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am	11 <i>The Academy</i> All day to 2pm	12 <i>The Academy</i> All day to 2pm	13 <i>The Academy</i> All day to 2pm	14 <i>The Academy</i> All day to 2pm <i>Pilchuck Camera</i> Club 7-9pm	15	16
17 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Installation Service 2pm	18	19	20	21 <i>The Academy</i> All day to 2pm	22 Barbara Black Memorial- Robinson Family	23
24 No morning Service! Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am						