

**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)  
**5511 64th Street SE, Snohomish WA 98290**  
Church Phone 425-334-1220  
Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
Elementary Sunday School 10:45 – 11:15

**April 2022**

**FROM PASTOR ERIK**

Your transition team has been reading several books together and one that has really grabbed their attention is called “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You Are Going: Leading in a Liminal Season” by Susan Beaumont. The word “liminal” might be unfamiliar to you. It comes from a Latin word that means “threshold”: literally the strip of wood or metal underneath a door that you cross when you come in or out of a room. It’s somewhere in between “here” and “there.” A middle place between “where we were” and “where we want to be”. Similarly, a liminal season is a “time of ambiguity or disorientation that occurs during transition, when a person or group of people is in between something that has ended and something else that is not yet ready to begin.” Doesn’t that sound a lot like what we are going through? Not just at Good Shepherd but everywhere these days!

Susan Beaumont, in describing a congregation in this sort of liminal season, observes: “The people would rather go back to the comfort of the old status quo they enjoyed with their previous leader or make a dramatic leap forward.” Boy, that’s me more often than I’d like to admit. But, the invitation for those of us who find ourselves in transition is to resist either of these natural tendencies, for the time being at least, so that we can do the unique work this kind of time allows us to do: “unlearn old behaviors, challenge the status quo, experiment, take risks, and learn.” Though we would rather push through to the new (or go back to the old) God invites us to use these moments to slow down, to listen more closely to the Spirit among us, and to try to get a clearer picture of how we are called to follow Jesus into the next phase of our lives, and into the future God is dreaming for us.

It has helped me to realized just how many stories there are in scripture about God’s people navigating liminality. Abraham and Sarah left their homeland and wandered to a new land. Noah floated around in a boat full of animals wondering whether dry land would ever appear again. Jonah spent time in the belly of the whale before taking up God’s call. Jesus spent 40 days being tested by the devil in the wilderness. The disciples waited three hard days after Jesus’ death not really knowing if the resurrection would happen. And that’s just a start. One of the primary stories of liminality is the story of Moses, who led God’s people out of slavery in Egypt and into the promised land. But remember, this happened after they had a 40-year liminal season of wandering in the desert. In the wilderness of liminality we leave behind things that gave us structure and meaning—some willingly, some with resistance. We have to learn to trust in one another and trust that God is leading us, especially when it seems like we are going in circles or not moving as fast as we think we should be. We experience a longing to return to what we had

(even if it wasn't so great) because at least it was predictable, and have to learn to let go and be patient. And after that season of letting go, of loss and disorientation, when we have learned the lessons that God intends the liminal wilderness to teach us, we eventually find ourselves in the land of milk and honey that God promised long ago.

As your "Transition Partner Pastor" I'm really grateful for the leaders that have stepped up to be part of this process. For the council who is continuing to lead the ongoing work of the congregation and the transition team for being willing to jump into the liminal wilderness space and blaze a trail. I promise this transition time won't last forever (though maybe longer than anyone would like) and I'm confident that God is leading us through this time to a future we are only beginning to imagine.

### **THANK YOU TO**

- Pastor Helen and Pastor Erik for their superb leadership!
- Marilyn Errey, Bonnie Thoreson and Michele Coady for their on-going dedication to providing our weekly bulletin!
- Michele Coady for her beautiful flute music anytime she can provide it to enhance our worship experience!
- Bonnie Thoreson and the Choir as they restart adding a Choir Anthem to our Services
- Marilyn Errey and Doug Garland for providing the on-line Worship for those who are unable to attend on Sunday mornings.
- Those who are working to keep the church gardens weeded, the lawn mowed and the church building in good shape!
- Sunday Supervisors, Readers, Communion Assistants, Acolyte, Offering counters and Fellowship Hosts for their service!
- The Council and the Transition Team!

### **The Acolyte's Corner – Terry Danner**

After a brief conversation, Noah and I thought we should resurrect the Acolyte's Corner. Before all the fun started a couple of years ago we had at one point 13 acolytes. We are down to one. Thank you, Noah Kloes, for being our one acolyte.

We are not up to full acolyte duties yet, but we still light and put out the candles, and ring the opening bell. Hopefully, one day soon we'll be there. If you were a previous acolyte and would like to continue to be one let me know. If you've never been one but would like to, let me know. If you can only come to church periodically but would still like to be an acolyte let me know.

I hope you sense a theme here. One new requirement is that since we are live streaming services over the internet we will need parental permission for you to be an acolyte. You can reach me via phone/text at 425 512 4736 or via email at [tjstdanner@frontier.com](mailto:tjstdanner@frontier.com). Thanks and I hope to hear from many of you soon.

Terry Danner, your acolyte trainer/coordinator.

### Prayer Requests

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

*Pr. Helen, Pr. Erik, the Transition Team and our own Congregation as we work through the transition process on the path to seeking our next Pastor Jane Melnyk and family on the loss of her brother, Terry Karla Kloes and family on the loss of her sister, Fara The Eldridge's on the loss of Fred's father 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:*

*Kandi Eldridge*

*Bob Amberson*

*Richard McCutchan's sister*

*Heidi Ferria, Pat Heifort's daughter*

*Bo Henderson*

*Juli Reed, who is struggling with MSA*

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

*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*

*[pastor@swanstrail.org](mailto:pastor@swanstrail.org) 425-334-1220*

*Pat Pehling) [pehling@frontier.com](mailto:pehling@frontier.com) or 425-327-6778*

**CHURCH WEBSITE** is at [www.swanstrail.org](http://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 and Worship Bulletins for those who like to look ahead. Also, the weekly worship service will be posted. Other suggestions of what to include in the site are most welcomed..

### **ORVILLE & WENDELL ANDERSON BENEVOLENCE FUND**

Many years ago, when Orville Anderson passed away, he bequeathed half of his estate (which included his brother, Wendell's estate) to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in an amazing gesture of generosity. With this gift, we were able to remodel the sanctuary, create the narthex and restrooms AND put aside a lump sum to establish the Orville and Wendell Anderson Benevolence Fund.

This fund generates interest each year that is then turned over to a committee of 5 church members who review applications and get to support individuals and/or organizations. It also provides \$500 scholarships to church youth in college! The fund is also currently supported by

the generous gifts from some of our members. If you are so inclined, additional contributions may be made directly to the Benevolence Fund – just designate clearly on your check.

The Benevolence Committee encourages all worshippers at Good Shepherd to let the Committee know of opportunities where we can provide financial assistance to individuals and families that have experienced sudden and debilitating loss. Flooding, fires, accidents, and life threatening medical circumstances would be examples of events that can lead to financial difficulties. If you are personally aware of people in those circumstances please bring them to attention of the Benevolence Committee. The Good Shepherd website has recently been updated to include a link that allows a request to be made on-line, but you can reach out to any Committee member. Generally speaking we would like to help with local situations. However, we recently contributed to humanitarian relief in Ukraine and the Committee will consider any request.

### **MINISTRY OF WORSHIP – Donna Garland**

April is almost here and Good Shepherd again has much to be thankful for. The end of February saw the Reverend Helen McPeak joined us as care pastor and we are very glad to have her as part of our congregation. She has been very busy getting to know people in our congregation and establishing care for those who need/desire it.

Lent is underway. I pray that you all have a Lenten journey that you are taking. I have been attending Christ the King and enjoying their Holden Evening Service. My favorite quote that I have heard this Lenten season is, “What are you giving up for Lent?”. The response, “I’m giving up giving up things for Lent. We have had to give up so much in the past two years that I am adding things for Lent, adding joy, adding thankfulness, adding gathering as God’s people.”

Looking forward to Holy Week, we are making plans for the following:

Palm Sunday – 9:30am service

Good Friday – 7:00pm service

Holy Saturday – 10:00am-3:00pm meditative labyrinth

Easter – 9:30am service, breakfast following in fellowship hall

I would like to thank Marilyn Errey, Michele Coady and Bonnie Thoreson for their diligent work on the bulletin each week. I would also like to thank Joy Vaughn, Marilyn Errey, Pat Pehling, Dean Kloes, Michele Coady for assisting with communion. If you have a desire to help with the Worship duties, please let me know. As always there are opportunities for you to help with the worship on Sundays, please consider reading, greeting, and/or Sunday Supervisor

### **MINISTRY OF ADULT & YOUTH FELLOWSHIP – Karla Kloes**

Hello people of Good Shepherd Lutheran church. I am the Youth and Adult Fellowship council member. I have been on the fellowship committee several times in the past, but not the chair, so I need all the help that I can get. There is no instruction manual, and I don't know where the fellowship binder is located. If anyone has it at home, I would love to look at it.

It has been a pleasure to have fellowship again. Please sign up in the notebook in the fellowship hall to help with snacks after church. It is greatly appreciated.

I will be out of town for Easter, but will leave a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall for those who are interested in an Easter brunch potluck after church.

If you have any fellowship ideas, questions or concerns please contact Karla Kloes (360)563-0520.

On April 10th at 2:00 pm, the youth and friends of Good Shepherd are invited to go for a bike ride on Centennial Trail in Snohomish.

### **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 will succeed in supporting the needs of our ministry for 2022.

#### **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.

Please prayerfully consider all your gifts to our church community (both financially and time/talents).

### **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - Dean Kloes**

Christian learning continues at Good Shepherd with weekly Sunday School classes for elementary age students following Worship, 10:45 – 11:15am

Also, each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm, bible study continues at the Barstad home where the adult group is studying the book titled *Free To Be*.

The women's monthly bible study group is working through the study titled *Trusting God - A Life Without Worry*. This month they will meet in the Anderson Chapel on Friday April 15th at 10:00 am.

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

#### **How To Build Community**

\*Turn off your TV \* Leave your house \* Know your neighbors \* Greet people \* Look up when you're walking \* Sit on your stoop \* Plant flowers \* Use your library \* Play together \* Buy from local merchants \* Share what you have \* Help a lost dog/cat \* Take children to the park \* Honor elders \* Support neighborhood schools \* Fix it even if you didn't break it \* Have pot lucks \* Garden together \* Pick up litter \* Read stories aloud \* Dance in the street \* Talk to the mail carrier \* Listen to the birds \* Put up a swing \* Help carry something heavy \* Barter for your goods \* Start a tradition \* Ask a question \* Hire young people for odd jobs \* Organize a block party \* Bake extra and share \* Ask for help when you need it \* Open your shades \* Sing together \* Share your skills \* Take back the night \* Turn up the music \* Turn down the music \*

Listen before you react to anger \* Mediate a conflict \* Seek to understand \* Learn from new and uncomfortable angles \* Know that no one is silent though many are not heard, work to change this

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

#### Outdoor Work Parties:

It's that time of year! We will be starting to have our monthly gardening work parties on the third Tuesday of every month. The first work party will be Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00pm. We get a lot done during these work parties, and we will need more hands to get ahead of the weeding, trimming of shrubs/bushes, and other projects. Any time you can contribute is very much appreciated. No experience is necessary, your time and a good attitude is all that is required.

Our hope is to offer some BBQ/Grilling for our volunteers at our work parties. It super helpful to know ahead of time if you plan on joining us, that way we can make sure there is enough burgers, chips, fixings, and salad. Bring your own beverage.

#### Future projects in the works:

- The church will receive a new coat of paint this summer under the direction of Dean Kloes and a host of other volunteers. We are extremely grateful to Dean for his leadership on this project. Thank You Dean!
- We will be adding new woodchips around all the flower/gardening beds to help prevent so much weeding throughout the year. Doug Garland is leading this endeavor. Thank You Doug!
- The bench that celebrates Pastor Tom's years at Good Shepherd will soon be positioned outside in a permanent spot...stay tuned.
- Soon we will be replacing parts on 2 of the light fixtures in the Fellowship Hall. Recently they had completely stopped working due to faulty parts, those parts have been ordered.

Additional Projects are continuously being recognized, planned 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.

### **Assistance for the Crisis in Ukraine**

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has launched a call for donations to support the churches and people of Ukraine, who are fleeing their homes and seeking shelter, necessities such as food and water, following Russia's military invasion of the country. LWF General Secretary Rev. Anne Burghardt said this "support is vital for people desperately seeking shelter from the gunfire and bombing. Every donation counts." Donate here:

<https://donate.lutheranworld.org/emergencies/ukraine/~my-donation>

To support opportunities to address the crisis of refugees coming across the borders from Ukraine, consider donating to Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services <https://www.lirs.org/ukraine-crisis> and Lutheran Disaster Response <https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response>



### **From the Bishop:**

One of the things I love about living in the Pacific Northwest is the abundance of life. In January, the grass is green. In February, plants are blooming. In March, little flowers are pushing through soil. In April, color bursts out everywhere. To me, these signs of life are miracles.

And don't we need some of these signs right now? I mean, there are so many places where it feels like ongoing winter - the discord and acrimony amongst families, churches, peoples, and nations. As I write this article Russia is invading Ukraine. Perhaps when you read this article, things will be different but at this moment there is bombing and shooting and fear and death. And entrenched crises continue: houselessness, racism, ableism, unjust governments, and so much more. Individually, many are experiencing physical and mental illness, fatigue, and exclusion. I remember a quote from C.S. Lewis' book *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* where one of the characters says, "It is winter in Narnia, and has been for ever so long ... always winter, but never Christmas."

It has been a long winter ... perhaps even two years of winter. Pain and sorrow and death feel very close. There is grief, there is anger, there is exhaustion, and there is sadness.

And yet ... And yet ...

Gardens are full of seeds. Farmers are tilling the soil. Tulips are blooming. Rhododendrons are on their way. We see signs around us that winter is ending and the Bringer of Spring is coming.

As I travel through this synod, I see signs of new life and new hope. I see resolve and new partnerships. While there are challenges that we are all facing, while there is much work to do individually and together, I sense new possibilities.

When I meet with councils and other leaders in congregations, I am delighted that we are having good, strong, sometimes difficult conversations about things that matter. In our best moments, we are not as concerned about smaller difficulties but instead, as people of faith, we are leaning into what it means to love God and love neighbor in this time and in this place. I thank God for the opportunity for conversation, listening, and moving on the Breath of God's Spirit.

The truth is, alone - we cannot create life, alone - we cannot change systems, alone - we cannot move winter into spring. But *through Christ*, through the One who died for this world and who is raised into new life, we can.

And so, as it is written in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians:

*We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.* 2 Corinthians 16-18

We are promised that through this time, through world events, through whatever is next, Jesus is with us. And even more than that, we are promised that there is something amazing beyond all measure - more than we can know or even imagine. It is difficult to sometimes comprehend this promise - especially when we look at the destruction and pain and devastation in this world - and yet ... and yet ... we cling to the promise. As people of faith, we pray and whisper and shout it out - that through Christ's death and resurrection all things that create death will be gone. Period. Full. Stop.

And because of knowing and trusting this promise, we are then called, as beloved children of God, to see, appreciate, and tend to the small plants entrusted to us - knowing that we also are plants, also seeds, also soil, called to live into and share this new life with and for others.

May this Easter spring forth with new life for you. May you feel the hope given through Jesus. And may together we shout, "Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

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

### **SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION**

#### **BIRTHDAYS:**

April 4	Lori Fox, Riley Ess
6	Al Moen, Todd Lipke
9	Tyler Toutonghi, Nancy Soderblom
10	Allen Soderblom
11	Megan Robinson
13	Keira Mahoney
12	Joy Vaughn
14	Danielle Reed
21	Howard Negaard
22	Jeff Thoreson
25	Elisabeth Barnes
27	Bethany Karlsen
29	Meghan Gilbert Blair
30	Nancy Negaard

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail - April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Quilters	<b>2</b> Terry Gleason Memorial Service 1:30pm
<b>3</b> Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45  Bible Study 6pm	<b>4</b> 4-H Club Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Quilters	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 Centennial Trail Bike Ride 2pm Bible Study 6pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  Camera Club	<b>15</b> Women's Bible Study 10am  <b>Good Friday</b> Service 7pm	<b>16</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> Meditative Labyrinth Open 10am-3pm
<b>17</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Gardening Work party 5pm	<b>20</b> Project Linus Quilters	<b>21</b> Quilters	<b>22</b> Quilters	<b>23</b> Quilters
<b>24</b> Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45  Bible Study 6pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Quilters	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>