

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
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From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear friends, grace, peace, hope, and joy be with you!

Happy New Year! We're still in the afterglow of the birth of Christ and the installation service, both of which mark the end of a very long *waiting and wilderness journey* and an exciting new beginning!

As we enter Epiphany, the next liturgical season which begins the first week of January, we will have an opportunity to seek and to knock and to ask and to see what God has for us. Epiphany is about God revealing, and continuing to reveal, more about who God is and God's purpose, plan, and promise, not only for us, but the world! Revelation is exciting. We get to see and to know more and grow more. But it can also be difficult. Sometimes God's revelation can invite us to make changes, surrender certain things, and maybe even confront things in our hearts/minds/lives that inhibit the coming of God's Kingdom, in our own lives and the lives of others. As God continues to draw near to us and work among us, I hope we can collectively commit to have the mind of Christ: to be humble, curious, open, gracious, and responsive to what God has for us.

To this end, let's commit to have fun in this next season, not take ourselves, or others, too seriously, but enjoy the journey and joy of continuing to discover God's purpose, plan, and promise.

As we journey together, please reach out to me via text, email, or phone. I want to hear from you! Even if it's just a, "Hey, Happy Monday!" I want to hear from you. I want to know how your day/week/month/season of life is going or how your kid or your dog or your cat or your mom/dad/whoever is doing, and how I can pray for, encourage, or walk alongside you. I'm totally open to spontaneous communication.

Next, pray for me as often as you think about it. The call to ministry is a supernatural endeavor, one that cannot be done apart from the power of prayer; and I can't do it without you and without your prayers!

Last, I want to set an expectation for our relationship. I commit to love you; I will endeavor to serve you and to continue to learn what this means; and I will seek to encourage, walk alongside, understand, and stand beside you. I won't do this perfectly. I will make mistakes. When I do, please give me the opportunity and grace to let me know so I can have the opportunity to mend and strengthen the bond between us. I commit to not be angry, upset, disappointed, or gaslight what you bring before me. Instead, I commit to listen, learn, be curious, ask questions, and earnestly seek to understand your experience and point of view to grow in love, grace, and service towards you.

Thank you for the tremendous privilege of being your pastor. I am so grateful for you, and already so encouraged by your love, faith, and passion!

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, Barbara

Al and Nancy Moen and Family on the loss of their son, Steve

Friends and family on the loss of Bo Henderson

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.**

*Prayer requests or changes should be submitted to swanstrail@outlook.com 425-334-1220 or
Pat Pehling pehling@frontier.com*

THANK YOU TO:

- Those who donated food and monetary gifts for the Food Bank and holiday baskets – it was very much appreciated by the recipient families!
- All who donated Christmas gifts for our adopted families!
- The special music on Christmas Eve – Terry Danner on his harmonica and Bonnie Thoreson with her usual lovely music on organ and piano!
- Marilyn Errey and Bonnie Thoreson for continuing to provide our weekly worship bulletin – it is a LOT of work but getting better with Pastor JP's assistance.
- The Sunday School for their Christmas Program that was presented during Worship last month. Also to Dean Kloes for directing, Meagan Blair and Joanie Gilbert for costumes, and the parents for all their support

ANNUAL MEETING

Our *Congregation's Annual Meeting* is on Sunday, January 28 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 2024 budget, the nominating committee is contacting members to serve as committee chairs and officers, and committee chairs are preparing their reports for 2023

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Reminder to Council members of the meeting on Sunday, January 21, following Worship. Main topic is the budget preparation.

CHOIR NEWS

The Choir is taking a break for a couple of weeks and will resume rehearsals on January 21 at 8:30am. More voices are always welcome!

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND – Rick Homme

At the beginning of this year the Committee had \$24,387 available for distribution. This amount included \$5,322 left from the previous year and \$19,067 funded from the Church's investments.

After the Committee made its 4th quarter distributions in early October, there was \$3,616 remaining to either roll forward into 2024 or, if requests came in, to use before the end of this year. Five more requests did come in and awards were made to three of them reducing our remaining balance to \$2,471.

At this time the Committee plans to carry that amount forward into next year to be combined in January with whatever amount is funded to the Committee from the Church's investments

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Marilyn Errey

Thank you for your generosity to those in need! The Christmas gifts were delivered to four Riverview Elementary families (11 children). In addition, each of the families was provided with local grocery gift cards in the amount of \$225.00. There were lots of smiles, much gratitude and even a hug or two! One little girl asked, "Are you Mrs. Santa?"

The Reverse Advent Calendar food donations are being delivered this week to the Snohomish Food Bank.

Please continue to bring donations throughout the months ahead and place them in the boxes against the back wall of the Narthex.

As we begin this New Year, please feel free to make suggestions for ways in which Good Shepherd may help build community throughout the year.

Thank you again and always for your continued generosity!

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT EDUCATION –Lisa Robinson with Dean Kloes

Sunday School continues to meet each Sunday at 10:45 AM.

The Women's bible study will be held on Friday, January 19th at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The Women's bible study group is currently studying 1 Corinthians (per Karla, at a leisurely pace).

Beginning on 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.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Dell Deierling

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have been 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! Together we succeeded in supporting the needs of our ministry in 2023. We fell short of meeting our budgeted expenses that were based on having a full time called pastor starting earlier in the year. The good news is that we met our actual expenses and managed to build our savings.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we plan for 2024, we will be able to more accurately estimate our financial needs now that we have Pastor JP installed. Yeah! The 2024 budget will be approved at our Annual Meeting on January 28. The February newsletter gifts report will reflect the new 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 ADULT & YOUTH FELLOWSHIP – Karla Kloes

Thank you to all who participated in the Advent Fair.

Thank you for all the many helpers for Bob Amberson's memorial service especially Pat Veale for her leadership.

Thank you for those who brought cookies and those who helped for Lisa Robinson's Mom's service, especially Marilyn Erry, Pat P., Donna Garland and Karen Goodnight.

Please continue to check the book for opportunities to serve. Thank you!

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.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP – Donna Garland

Christmas is over and a new year is in view, and with that new year, we have a new Pastor. Pastor JP was installed on December 17, 2023 in front of the congregation, pastors from the local ELCA churches, and Synod representatives. It was a wonderful service with Bishop Shelly Wee presiding and witnessing as Pastor JP promised among other things to preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures, to love, serve, and pray for God's people, and to give faithful witness in the world. The congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swans Trail also made promises. We promised to regard Pastor JP as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God, to pray for Pastor JP (and his family), and to help and honor Pastor JP in carrying out this ministry. I know we are all excited to begin this new chapter in the life of GSLC and to see where the Holy Spirit leads us.

Turning to the church year, January begins the season of Epiphany where Lutherans think about three major events when Jesus' identity and mission were made known to all people (including us). First, we celebrate the arrival of the Magi offering gifts to the young Jesus. Next, we celebrate the baptism of the adult Jesus. On the last Sunday in Epiphany, we will celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord.

My continued thanks to Bonnie for music, Marilyn for bulletin and Mary and Joy for their help in getting the church set up for Sunday services and assisting with communion during the service. If you would like to join the worship committee and help with Sunday service set up, communion prep, and communion distribution please let me know. It is not difficult and can be accomplished in about an hour per week.

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Chad Masche

Outdoor Work Parties:

Hello, there are **no more** Church Work parties scheduled for 2023. As always, thanks to ALL those that donated their time and efforts at our work parties during 2023!

Any time you can contribute is so appreciated! No experience is necessary, your time and a good attitude is all that is required for any project

Projects:

- **Completed** – Recently Dell Deierling spotted some small water leaks in the stairway. He was able to address these by removing a collection of leaves in the gutters located directly outside. In the next year, we will be addressing some gutter areas that need some repair. Thanks Dell!
- **In the works** – Just two months ago, the west parking lot was upgraded with several new loads of rock. With the continued heavy traffic from the Academy drop-off and pick-up process much of rock has settled, and other areas could use more rock to further stabilize the area. As a result, we will be receiving several more loads of rock in the next month or so. This additional rock will also create more of a uniform parking lot for the west-side of the church.
- **In the works** – In the next several months the lighted cross on the north side of the building will be removed or repaired with an updated version. Dean Kloes has mentioned the use of LED lights for less maintenance and longer life.

Just a couple of notes:

Additional Projects are continuously being recognized, discussed, 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.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:

If we are missing any of your family dates, please let Pat Pehling know!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January	1	Nicolas Smith
	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!

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study-Barstad's 6pm	8 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	9	10 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	11 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7-9pm</i>	12	13
14 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Compline Service –Seattle Bible Study-Barstad's 6pm	15	16	17	18 <i>Busy Bee Quilters 11am-9pm</i>	19 Women's Bible Study 10am	20 <i>4-H Meeting 9am-1pm</i>
21 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Council Meeting 11am Bible Study-Barstad's 6pm	22	23	24 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	25 <i>Busy Bee Quilters 10am-4pm</i>	26 <i>Project Linus 10am-10pm</i>	27 <i>Project Linus 10am-10pm</i>
28 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Annual Meeting 11am Bible Study-Barstad's 6pm	29	30	31			

