

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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July 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings Dear Friends!

Welcome to July!!

Last month we focused on **hospitality and everyday evangelism**. We were reminded that evangelism often begins long before we ever speak about our faith. It begins with opening our tables, our homes, and our lives to others. Jesus regularly shared meals, welcomed strangers, and made room for people who often felt unseen.

This month, we take the next step.

Our July theme is **Listening and Asking Good Questions**.

If hospitality opens the door, listening invites someone to be known.

We live in a culture where everyone seems eager to speak but few are willing to truly listen. Conversations often become debates to win, opportunities to give advice, or chances to share our own stories. Yet Jesus frequently did something surprising: He listened. He noticed. He asked questions.

In fact, the Gospels record Jesus asking hundreds of questions. "What do you want me to do for you?" "Who do you say that I am?" "Why are you afraid?" Rather than rushing to provide answers, Jesus often invited people into deeper reflection through thoughtful questions.

Listening is one of the greatest gifts we can offer another person. When someone feels heard, they also feel valued. Genuine listening communicates love, dignity, and respect. It builds trust. And trust creates opportunities for meaningful conversations about faith.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry (James 1:19). Good listening is not passive—it is an act of love. It requires humility, curiosity, patience, and a willingness to learn another person's story.

Throughout July, we'll practice becoming better listeners and asking better questions—not simply to become better conversationalists, but to become better disciples and better neighbors.

Over the next month we will explore the following topics:

1. The Ministry of Listening.
2. Asking Good Questions.
3. Listening Without Fixing.
4. Listening as Everyday Evangelism.

As we grow as disciples, may we become people who listen with compassion, ask with curiosity, and speak with grace. My prayer is that Good Shepherd would become known as a church where people feel heard, valued, and loved. May God use our ears as much as our mouths to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,
Pastor JP

Prayer Requests



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

The Blair family with their barn/shop fire

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

The Pehling family on the loss of Dave Pehling, Pat's brother and Lori's husband

For health concerns:

Cheryl McCutchan's brother, Dan, facing back surgery

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

Chris Homme's sister, Julie, as she faces breast cancer

Lucas Taylor, Joy Vaughn's cousin's grandson, as he battles a form of lymphoma,

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.

THANK YOU TO

- Those keeping our church building and grounds looking good!
- Dean, Marilyn and Joni for bulletin preparation and Sabrina for her proofreading support
- All who have supported the Blair family after their shop fire and Tim Danner with his research trip
- All those who provided breakfast treats for Breakfast Church in June

From the Blair Family:

To our Church family - we are beyond overwhelmed with the generosity everyone has shown us. This has been difficult and completely unexpected, but we have definitely learned that we have amazing people in our lives. The generous gifts are all going to help replace the tools that are essential for Tyler's livelihood as well as upkeep on our farm and home. Thank you so much from the bottom of all of our hearts, we are grateful for our amazing church family. Gods Blessings to all.

ANDERSON BENEVOLENCE FUND – Dell Deierling

In June we supported a community member with basic needs. Additionally, we were able to assist two of our church members with supporting funds.

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. Our next meeting is August 30th.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

The Snohomish Community Food Bank is low on food supplies. Summertime means school-age children no longer get free school lunches, which puts a burden on their family. Food staples like p-nut butter, jelly, canned protein (tuna, chicken, salmon), pasta, cereals, Mac and cheese, powdered milk, soups, canned fruit, baby diapers and wipes, adult diapers, personal hygiene items, household cleaning products and pet food are needed.

The Men's and Women's Everett Gospel Mission can use clothing, personal hygiene items, books and games. Please place clothing in bags marked "EGM" and put in the Narthex.

All food and clothing donations will be collected and delivered to the Snohomish Food Bank and the Everett Gospel Mission.

Thank you for your continued contributions!

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study group at the Barstad's home is starting a new study titled *Hebrews The Unshakable Faith* by James Kiely.

Weekly, Sunday School for the youth will begin in the fall on Sunday, September 13th at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

The women's bible study group will meet in the Anderson Chapel beginning in the fall on September 11th at 10:00 AM.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes

We continue in the season of Pentecost. We had a great turnout for breakfast church and look forward to having another one Sunday, July 26th.

Thank you to Cindy and the choir for your beautiful music.

Thank you to all who prepare and print the bulletin.

Thank you to the cantors, worship assistants and acolytes and for Terry's supervision over the acolytes, eternity candle and fountain.

Thank you to all who help prepare and serve communion.

It's nice to share the workload and make worship meaningful.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland/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! We are currently running ahead of budgeted offerings going into the summer months.

If your summer plans take you away from GSLC please consider the following options for supporting your church during your travels.

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 GOD'S HOUSE – Doug Garland

The irrigation system is still in need of repair, hopefully this will be repaired this week on Wednesday, and we'll be ready for the summer heat.

We'll have a work party on Tuesday, July 7th, starting at 4pm. The goal will be to get the hedges trimmed and looking good, plus some weeding and trimming. Looking for help, no experience needed,

We have a fire safety inspection scheduled for July 17th starting at 10:00. I'll be out of town so I'm looking for someone who can just open the church and let them in and then close up once they're done. It usually takes about an hour and a half.

FYI, my term as God's House council member expires this year, please consider taking on this ministry to support our church. We have a great team supporting the maintenance of the church, you won't be doing this on your own.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP –

Cheryl McCutchan & Lisa Robinson

Thank you to Suzanne, Pastor JP, Ellen and Cindy for providing fellowship treats in June and to everyone who contributed to the potlucks for the end of Sunday school BBQ and first breakfast church of the summer. Thank you to Jim and Terry for manning the grill.

Marge and Rick are inviting us all to a **4th of July Party** at 4pm at 6514 57th AVE SE, Snohomish. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Bring something to share and a swimsuit if you want to enjoy the pool.

The Kloes family has claimed the first Sunday in July, but if you feel called to help in providing fellowship after Sunday service, the remaining Sundays are available. Please sign up in the notebook on the pedestal just inside the front doors.

Coming up on Wednesday, July 15th, the **Lunch Bunch** will gather in the fellowship hall from noon to 2:00pm for a potluck meal and conversation. All are welcome!

The second **breakfast church** of the summer will be on Sunday, July 26th. Watch for the sign up sheet.

Also in July is **BINGO game night** on Wednesday the 29th from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Pizza and prizes provided. Please sign up if you plan to attend to help us determine how many pizzas to order.

Looking further ahead, note these on your calendar:

8/23 third breakfast church

9/13 start of Sunday school BBQ potluck

10/18 Oktoberfest from 3:00-5:00pm

If you have any ideas for things to do in August, let Lisa or Cheryl know. Maybe hot dog and s'more bbq with an epic water balloon/squirt gun battle? Or a movie night with ice cream sundaes?

July 2026

◀ June

August ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Potluck at Marge & Rick's home 4pm
5 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	6 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	7 Work Party 4pm	8 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	9 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 6:30pm</i>	10	11
12 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	13	14	15 Lunch Bunch Potluck 12-2pm	16 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	17	18
19 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	20	21	22 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	23 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	24 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	25 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
26 Breakfast Church 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	27	28	29 Game Night – Bingo 6-8pm	30	31	

