

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

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MAY 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy May, Church!

We're almost to the halfway mark in our year of being Rooted! So far we've explored the ways God wants to Root us in 1) God's welcome, 2) wisdom, 3) humility, and 4) boredom.

Boredom got the short end of the stick being stuck with Easter. But, the focus and interest in boredom has to do with meaning, purpose, and mattering. We have made the Big Claim that God came to give us "Life in all its fullness". But what happens if we don't experience that fullness in the dullness of everyday monotony? We become bored. We can even become bored with church, bored with sermons, bored with the Bible, and bored with things of God. The main claim is this: *boredom isn't bad!*

Boredom is a sign, like pain. It communicates something to us, mainly, that something needs to change: we need to make a change. Boredom tells us that we aren't engaged, or aren't engaged in ways that are meaningful, fulfilling, and satisfying. The problem with boredom is that, in attempting to engage, we engage the wrong things and buy into what psychologists of boredom call, "beguiling relief". We rightly respond to bored by engaging, but we engage the wrong things, things that don't satisfy or fulfill. Isaiah 55:1-3 might ring a bell, "Come to me all you who are weary (bored, engaged in a life that lacks meaning, purpose, fulfillment, and the Goodness of God's fullness), who buy what will not satisfy ("beguiling relief"), and I will give you rest (true satisfaction).

The point boredom is to build a bridge so that we can start asking questions about the Good Life that God has for us. Boredom is a sign, it's a signal, that we aren't achieving or tapped into the Well of Life in the way(s) God wants us to: so we're left dissatisfied (bored).

Now, we want to turn the page on boredom to answer the conundrum of boredom, which is, "What do we do?" And the bigger question is, "How do we live lives worth living?", "How do we tap into the Good Life and the Full Life that God has for us?" Our first stop is creativity!

For the month of May, we are going to study creativity to learn what it is, where we find it, and how we cultivate it to get out of life's monotony and into the Good Life and Full Life that God has for us! May is going to be a month for us to "spice things up", spiritually speaking, for us to learn about how to engage our faith in a way that draws water from the wellspring of God's own life to tap into the Full Life that God has for us!

I'm excited to close up boredom in our last email to be sent out Friday, May 2, and head straight into the study and exploration of creativity the following Wednesday (May 7)!

If you find yourself facing boredom, the dull drab of everyday monotony, then May is going to be your month to spice things up and learn ways cultivate and tap into creativity and get into the Good Life and Full Life God has for you!

Let's have fun in May and get creative! Resurrection Peace and Joy be with you~

Pastor JP

Prayer Requests



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

Jane and Jack Melynk and family on the loss of Jane's father, Jack Gleeson
Suzanne Walters and family on the loss of her mother, Helen
The Fox family on the loss of Mead's father
The Moen family on the loss of Al Moen
Tom McCutchan as he serves in Argentina with the Young Adults in Global Mission
The Moen Family on the loss of Al's sister, Elaine Moen Heichel
The Robinson family on the loss of Lisa's husband, Weston, and her mother, Barbara
For health concerns:
Chris Homme's sister, Julie, as she faces breast cancer
Jon Tollefson, undergoing cancer treatment, cousin of Cheryl McCutchan and Chad Masche
John Veale as he recovers from heart surgery
Lucas Taylor, Joy Vaughn's cousin's grandson, as he battles a form of lymphoma,
Cathy Karlsen
Lisa Robinson's Sister-in-law, Debbie, as she continues to recover from an auto accident
Richard McCutchan's sister
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.

COUNCIL MEETING – The Church Council is meeting on May 4 following Worship. All are welcome to attend!

THANK YOU TO

- The Snohomish Men’s Chorus for their wonderful special Music
- Those who working to prepare the building and grounds for Easter Day
- Everyone who provided such wonderful food for the Easter Breakfast
- Dean Kloes for providing youth Sunday School and a fun Easter Day activity
- Terry Danner for his continued supervision of Acolytes
- Dean and Doug for installing new water heaters
- All those hosting Fellowship time and the Sunday Supervisors making sure the church is open, lights and heat on and then closed properly afterward
- The “Bulletin Angels”, those providing on-line viewing of Worship and those maintaining our website – you are all very much appreciated!
- Those who donated Easter Lilies

Evelyn Agostinelli

Doug and Donna Garland in Memory of Don & Pat Wheeler & Louise Garland Wheelen

Paxton Family in Memory of Patricia Paxton & Paul Paxton, Sr.

Terry & Joy Vaughn in Memory of Dona & Martha Taylor and Ken & Ellie Vaughn

Al & Marilyn Errey in Memory of Loved Ones

Pat Pehling in Memory of her parents, Doc & Carol Pehling

Mary Nelson in Memory of Family

Lisa Robinson & Family in Memory of Weston Robinson & Barbara Keller

Lori Pehling in memory of Jesus

Dell Deierling in memory of Nola Deierling & Paul Schaus & Florence Craven

Dorene Parise in memory of Merle Parise a& Bette & Howard Weinowsky & Family

Pat Veale in Memory of Families

Pat Heifort in Memory of Barbara Pettit, Darlene Danner & her mother, Margaret Yount

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

In addition to continued donations to the Food Bank and Everett Gospel Mission, another idea is starting our own ‘Lending Library’ at Good Shepherd. The idea is to share books that provide spiritual guidance and inspire, help heal, give hope, address loneliness, mental illness, addiction, grief, raising children, teenage years, old age, dementia... (there are plenty of subjects we can share that may benefit someone). This also includes children’s books suitable for our younger members. If you want your books back at some point, write your name in the front cover and mark ‘please return’. Until we see how many books we collect, use a box in the Narthax next to the food donation boxes. As our collection grows, we can find a suitable place for them. I will bring the book ‘Landscape as a Sacred Place’ and two ‘Chicken Soup for the Soul’ books to start.

The Snohomish Food Bank and the Everett Gospel Mission (women’s and men’s) have ongoing needs. Please designate whether the donations for the Gospel Mission are for ‘men’ or ‘women’ by writing a label on outside of bag so I can deliver to the correct location.

April showers DID bring May flowers! Enjoy the spring loveliness surrounding us.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study group at the Barstad's home is working through the study titled *Making Sense of Scripture* by David L. Lose.

Also, the Sunday morning 8:30 AM study group has completed the weekly Lenten bible study and are in discussions regarding a topic for the next study.

The monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on 5/23 and 6/20 at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The women's bible study group will take a break during July and August.

Youth Sunday School begins each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The last day of Sunday School for the school year will be June 8.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP –

Cheryl McCutchan & Lisa Robinson

Thank you to Rich & Cheryl, Karen, and Marilyn and Al for providing the fellowship treats in April. Looking ahead, the last Sunday in May has yet to be claimed as well as most of June. Please sign up in the book by the mailboxes if you are able to help on any of those Sundays.

To all of those who brought items for the Easter Breakfast and Lenten Suppers, we so appreciate your contributions there. It is always fascinating to see and taste the delicious variety provided.

Mark your calendar for the end of Sunday School BBQ on June 8th and watch for updates on future events still in the planning phase (breakfast church, lunch potluck, bingo night). Let Lisa or Cheryl know if you have anything you would like to add.

MINISTRY OF GODS HOUSE– Doug Garland

The first God's House Work Party for 2025 on Tuesday May 20th. 4-7pm.

Thanks to all who participated in the Spring Clean Up the week before Easter., We had a good turn out and got a lot done. Also, a big thanks to those that helped out with the gardening before the cleanup day, I think the gardens are looking good and are in a good maintenance mode. I think they may be due for an upgrade in the near future, if you have any suggestions let me know.

We will be having monthly work parties through the summer on the third Tuesday of the month from about 4 - 7 pm. They will include indoor as well as outdoor task. There is an opportunity waiting for anyone who would like to participate.

There has been an interest brought up in getting the parking lots fixed, repaved and lines repainted. I've received two bids in the \$50K range. Something to think about and will be brought up at the May 4th council meeting. Your input is greatly appreciated!

Many thanks also to Dean for facilitating the installation of two new hot water heaters replacing outdated ones that were due to fail soon.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! April provided many opportunities of worship with Holy Week and Easter. The Easter season continues through May. Thank you to Pastor JP and the bulletin Angels for the extra work during this time. We appreciate you all. Special thanks to the substitute pianists who made our evening worship possible.

Thank you to all those who help with our worship experience whether it be helping with communion (set up, serve and clean up), usher, making the bulletins, opening the building and getting it ready, live streaming and purchasing supplies and writing the checks to all the subs. Thank you!!!

Thank you to Cindy and the choir for the special music which we all enjoy so much!

We will have a pulpit supply pastor on Sunday, May 25th Reverend Ron Nitz.

Please check out the book in the fellowship hall to see where you might serve.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have been faithful in your offerings and support of Good Shepherd. Your generosity of time, talents, and offerings are very much appreciated! Thanks to your generosity we are currently ahead of budget so far this year. This is truly a blessing.

Also, a big thank you to those of you who designated Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for your Thrivent Choice dollars. GSLC received \$509.00 in the first quarter!

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>

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Looking ahead – Last day of Sunday School – June 8 with a celebration potluck following Worship				1	2	3
4 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Church Council 11am Bible Study 6pm	5 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15 4-H 6-9pm	6	7 TAS Event Prep 2-4:30pm	8 <i>TAS Family Day</i> 8am-4pm <i>Pilchuck Camera Club</i> 7pm	9	10
11 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	12 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	13	14 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	15 4-H 6-9pm	16 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	17 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
18 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	19 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	20 Work Party 4-7pm	21 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	22	23 Women's Bible Study 10am Anderson Chapel	24
25 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	26 <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	28	29	30	31

