

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

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

Rev. Dr. Joseph Paxton

thecaffeinatedpastor@gmail.com 480-600-3727
5511 64th Street SE, Snohomish WA 98290
Church Phone 425-334-1220

FEBRUARY 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings Church!

We're one month in to our year-long theme of *Rooted!* We've taken a look at what it means to be Rooted in God's Welcome. The four main things I pray the Lord has taught you are:

1. God's Welcome is for you *first*
2. When we Welcome God, God paradoxically shifts from guest to host of our life and provides for all of life
3. God's Welcome is what happens *beyond the door*
4. God's Welcome is about feeding, not just greeting

If I'm honest, I was tempted to push you to think about the social and ethical dimensions of God's Welcome. But in prayer, I didn't feel like that was what you needed to hear from God. I am convicted and firmly believe that you need to hear, believe, and understand that God Welcome's *you first*. God's Welcome isn't just a bridge to get you to do something for someone else. God's Welcome begins with what God *does to, at, with, and for you!!!* You are the focus. You are the priority.

However, I would encourage you, in prayer, to consider what the (social, ethical, and communal) implications of God's Welcome might be...if God Welcome's you, is it *just* you? Or does God's Welcome mean something for others...And how and in what way(s) should or could God's Welcome impact the way you live and lead your life?

As we shift gears, we'll enter into our next theme: *Rooted in God's Wisdom*. Wisdom isn't just about knowledge, intuitive reasoning, good judgment, perspective-taking, positive social influence, or temperance. It's all of those. But within a Christian worldview, it's about right living. Wisdom helps us to live "the Good Life", and live into the abundant life that God has for us. It's about seeing, trusting, understanding. But the understanding is spiritually rooted so that one possesses not just understanding but *spiritual understanding*.

Ultimately, what we're going to attempt to do is learn and discern how we can cultivate God's abundant life by developing roots in spiritual wisdom. The hope is that God would use this next month to fill and overflow, and as we saw this past weekend in Nehemiah 8, leave you with overwhelming joy!

As we enter into our February theme, let's realize that we're not done with God's Welcome. This is sequential. Let's build upon the roots we have established and grow deeper into God's Welcome to cultivate and curate God's Wisdom.

Love you guys. Welcome to February!

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 Fox family on the loss of Mead's father
The Moen family on the loss of Al Moen
Chris Homme's sister, Julie, as she faces breast cancer
Tom McCutchan as he serves in Argentina with the Young Adults in Global Mission
Jon Tollefson, undergoing cancer treatment, cousin of Cheryl McCutchan and Chad Masche.
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:
Helen Hoff, Suzanne Walter's mother, who is hospitalized in Fargo, North Dakota
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
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.

THANK YOU TO

- All those attending the Annual Meeting and helping plan for 2025
- All the Council Officers and Ministry chairs who served in 2024. Your contributions to the ministry at Good Shepherd were outstanding and greatly appreciated
- All the new and continuing Council Officers and Ministry Chairs taking responsibilities for 2025

COUNCIL NEWS

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, February 23, following Worship. Please send any agenda items to V.P.Pat Pehling by February 20.

Welcome to Lena Joy Bozhinov, who was baptized on January 5 and is the most recent member of Good Shepherd.

Welcome and thank you to our new 2025 Church Council. Please give them all the support you can! **What we are missing is a Secretary!** The Congregation authorized the Council to appoint a Secretary – is that a place YOU can serve?

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study at the Barstad's home just started a new study titled *Making Sense of Scripture* by David L. Lose.

The monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23 and 6/20 at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

Also, youth Sunday School begins each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Cheryl McCutchan & Lisa Robinson

The start of a new year means many opportunities to provide fellowship. If you feel called to help out in this area, please sign up in the scheduling book. Thank you to the January providers: Rich and Cheryl, the two Nancy's, Pat P, and Dean and Karla.

Ten people joined in the fun at the Everett Ice Rink on January 24th. There are some great pictures and videos on our Facebook page.

Coming up in February, on Tuesday the 25th, there will be a Bunco game night starting at 6pm and including dinner! Bunco is a fun and easy dice game so no experience required. There will be a signup sheet in the fellowship hall.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

Please continue to remember the Food Bank as it is a vital resource to many in our community. Donations of funds or non-perishable items are always needed, including not only pantry staples but also paper products, baby diapers and wipes; adult diapers; personal hygiene items; household cleaning products; homemade or purchased masks; disinfectant; paper and plastic grocery bags; produce bags canvas or nylon bags; and pet food.

If there are additional ways in which Good Shepherd can help build community throughout the year, please reach out.

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!

Contribution Statements for 2024 were distributed at the Annual Meeting and those left will be mailed prior to January 31. If you have any questions, please let me know.

As approved at the annual meeting, we have a budget to support the church's ministries for the year. The details below reflect this 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>

Just a reminder for those of you who are Thrivent members, Thrivent offers Thrivent Choice dollars they will donate at no cost to their members. This is money that you can designate to specific tax deductible organizations, of which Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is one. When I went into designate my Choice dollars, I discovered that some would expire at the end of March. No matter where you designate those dollars to go, please do not let them expire unused. They can be a blessing to non-profit organizations.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes

Matthew 2:9-10 "After they had heard the king, they went on their way and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." Another version said, "they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy".

We are in the time of the church year of Epiphany and will be here until March 5th which is Ash Wednesday. Please review the annual report for worship for a summary of 2024.

Deacon Liz will be our pulpit supply on Sunday, March 2nd while Pastor JP is away, and I am still looking for someone for Ash Wednesday.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for worship, please let me know.

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	3 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15 4-H 6-9pm	4	5	6	7	8 Memorial Service 11am-4pm
9 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	10 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	11	12 <i>Project Linus</i> 10-3	13 Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm	14	15 4-H 9am-3pm
16 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	17	18 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	19 <i>Project Linus</i> 10-3	20	21 <i>Project Linus</i> 10-10	22 <i>Project Linus</i> 10-10
23 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Council Mtg. 11am Bible Study 6pm	24 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	25 Bunco Night with Dinner 6pm	26	27	28 Women's Bible Study 10am <i>The Academy</i> Family Game Night 6-8pm	