

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
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June 2024

Dear friends! Grace, peace, and joy be with you!

We're in the season of Pentecost. This marks the arrival of the Holy Spirit, and a series of miraculous events follow. One miraculous event is church growth. The Holy Spirit moves and as Acts 2:47 says, "The Lord added to their number daily."

What I like about this text is the hope, potential, and possibilities it speaks to our context. It is *possible* that the Lord could work in a similar way and "add to our number daily." But will God? Should we "watch-and-wait" in this next season, or should we participate and take a more proactive approach?

I think it comes down to each person. We need to be true to ourselves, true to God's call on, in, and over our lives, and work within the time, energy, and resources we have on any given day, week, or month.

One thing that lingers in the back of my mind is something Dietrich Bonhoeffer said in his book, *Life Together*. He says, "We offer our personality in service to God and love of neighbor."

I say this because it can be easy, or there can be a tendency in our lives of faith to say, "That's not me" or "I'm not gifted in that area", or maybe more bluntly, "I don't feel like it." And Bonhoeffer reminds us that we are invited to offer up our personality in service to God and love of neighbor.

In terms of growing a church, it might be helpful to invite people to church. For someone who is shy or introverted, or even people like me who are extroverted, it might not feel very comfortable. It may not be convenient or easy. But seen through the lens of Bonhoeffer, it's a helpful reminder that God invites us outside of our personality or feelings or comfort into the fullness of who we are as children of God to share the light, love, and community of God with others.

As we think about church growth, I invite you to also look inward, and not just outward. Are you ready to receive, welcome, love, and serve others? What will making room for others really look like? For example, what if someone sits in my pew, or takes up a seat on council, or wants to run for a leadership position on council? Chicka-chicka-boom-boom, will there be enough room? Will we have to make room? If so, what will that look like? Are we seeking church growth for the right reason(s)? What are the right reason(s) for church growth? Why should we want to grow? How do we want to grow? In numbers, faith, maturity, evangelism, service? There are many ways to grow.

It's a lot to think about, but it's just the beginning (of something great!). I invite you to join me in beginning to think about church growth. Let's connect or meet for coffee, lunch, or a phone call and talk about the ways we want to grow in this next season. And let's pray together, as a church, that God would grow and guide us in this next season!

Peace, joy, and abundant blessings,
Pastor JP.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Sharon and Bogdan as they await the arrival of a baby girl in October
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
Al and Nancy Moen and Family on the loss of their son, Steve
The Kloes Family on the loss of Donna Kloes
The McCutchan family on the loss of Cheryl's mother, Mur Jensen
For health concerns:
Lucas Taylor, Joy Vaughn's cousin's grandson, as he battles a form of lymphoma,
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 Pastor J.P. and our Congregational Leaders and for all people according to their needs.

***For all others who are in need of healing and wholeness,
For peace all around the world, especially in Ukraine
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.***

***(Names will continue to be included on the Prayer Request list
for six months unless Pat Pehling is notified differently)***

THANK YOU TO

- Doug Garland for his diligence with our roofing project
- Pastor JP for providing his special roasted coffee
- Dale Deierling (Dell's father) for his generous donation toward our difficult and expensive roofing project
- To all who provide fellowship service and treats, open and close the church, read the lessons and serve communion each week!

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN LEARNING –Dean Kloes

The last day of Sunday School for this school year will be June 9th.

The last Women's bible study before summer break will be held on Friday, June 14th at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The Women's bible study group is currently studying 1 Corinthians.

Also, the Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study at the Barstad's home is starting a new study titled *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* by David L. Lose.

BENEVOLENT FUND – Dell Deierling

The Benevolent Committee had its second 2024 meeting on May 19. The following distributions were approved:

Community member \$500
Cocoon House \$500
Dawson House \$500
Housing Hope \$500
Matthew House \$500
Snohomish Affordable Housing \$500
Sound Pathways \$500.

This year's Committee members are Joanie Gilbert, Karen Goodnight, Ron Walther, Richard McCutchan, and Dell Deierling. Please feel free to reach out to us with any needs that you identify in the community. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28.

MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson & Cheryl McCutchan

Aloha! Dust off your Hawaiian shirts, or anything bright and colorful, and join us for a BBQ Potluck after service on June 9th to mark the end of Sunday School for the summer. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and condiments will be provided. There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall for anyone willing to add to the feast (salads, chips, fruit, desserts)

Thank you to those that provided fellowship treats in May:

5/5 Karla Kloes
5/12 Lori Fox
5/19 Pat Veale and Evelyn Agostinelli
5/26 Pat Pehling

And to those who signed up for June:

6/2 Dean & Karla Kloes
6/9 Sunday School BBQ
6/16 Al & Marilyn Errey
6/23 —open—
6/30 —open—

if you have any ideas for future activities, contact Lisa or Cheryl. Does a game night potluck sound like fun?

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP – Karla Kloes

Greetings to all as we are in the beginning of the long church season of Pentecost. I hope that you can all see the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and the life of our church.

I don't have much to report as far as worship, but if anyone would like to contribute their musical talent, we would love to hear you. Please let me or Bonnie know so we can arrange a time and date for you to bless us with your gift at church. Also let me know if you have recommendations for worship.

If you can donate flowers for the altar we would appreciate it. It's nice to have fresh flowers during this season.

Thank you to all who are helping with altar and communion while I am away this month, especially Mary Nelson.

God's peace - Karla Kloes

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE–Pat Veale

Pat's always looking for places or organization that could have a need. Please contact Pat Veale if you have any questions or suggestions.

Food Bank

Food needed for Summer: Canned Tuna, Peanut Butter, and anything that would help children and familys for the summer. Think Summer.

Thank you for all the donations to both the Snohomish and Maltby Food Banks throughout the year!

Matthew House and Everett Gospel Mission

A special thank you to Evelyn Agostinelli for delivering donations to both the Monroe Matthew House and Everett Gospel Mission. These donations continue to help those who are struggling.

Project Linus

The Project Linus organization continues to meet at Good Shepherd for quilting meetings, projects and special events. Project Linus makes quilts and blankets to which are donated to children who have experienced traumatic life events in Snohomish County.

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Doug Garland

Completed:

We now have a contract with Chinook building to complete the roof on the sanctuary and upgrade the gutters on the church from 4-inch ones to 6-inch ones for better water flow and keeping them from overflowing. They will also be installing what they call collectors in the corners of the roof that get a lot of water flow.

Thank you Dell, Pat and Al for being there for the bids and coming up with a solution to this problem.

Work Parties:

Monthly work parties will be on the third Tuesday of the month through September. The next work party will be on Tuesday, June 18th starting about 4:00 in the afternoon.

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 it can be addressed.

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! As a result of your generosity we are currently running ahead of budget so far this year. This is truly a blessing.

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>

IN THE WORKS

At the March 10th congregational meeting, \$75,000 was approved/allocated to replace the entire roof and purchase a second laptop to be used in the Pastor's office and for live streaming Sunday services. At the special congregational meeting on May 26th, an additional \$12,000 was authorized for additional roofing expenses. To date, two laptops and a printer have been purchased and we have updated the church's financial software. Also, we have paid approximately \$18,500 for the part of the roof that is over the fellowship hall, while the replacement of the remaining roof is continuing.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:

(Check with Pat Pehling to be sure your family's special dates – Birthdays and anniversaries - are included in the appropriate month)

Happy Birthday :

- 2 – Noah Paxton
- 3 – Marilyn Sheppard
- 5 – Kandi Eldridge
- 6 - Chase Goodnight
- 7 – Keith Goodnight
- 8 – Hannah Toutonghi
- 9 – Tom Koenig
- 10 – Rochele Hammond
- 12 - Lori Pehling
- 15- Benjamin Kloes
- 18 - Daren Kloes
- 19 - Katie Melnyk, Karla Kloes
- 28 – Chase Goodnight, Braden Hammond

Happy Anniversary :

- 6 – Meade & Lori Fox
- 19 – David & Alison Barnes
- 21 – Skip & Marilyn Sheppard
- 28 – Ken & Rochele Hammond

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	3 <i>The Academy Pizza Party and Book Fair 9:30-3:00</i> <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	4 <i>The Academy</i>	5	6 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	7 <i>The Academy 9-1</i>	8
9 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bar-B-Q Potluck 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	10	11	12	13 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	14 Women's' Bible Study 10am	15
16 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	17	18 Church Workparty 4pm	19 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	20 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	21 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	22 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
23 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm						