

# The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail  
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**NOVEMBER 2021**

## **From the Bishop: What is Our Purpose?**

The ELCA's Statement of Purpose is found in every congregation constitution, every synod constitution and in the ELCA Constitution. In the ELCA Constitution (4.01) we read: "The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world." This same Statement of Purpose is found in the NWWA Synod Constitution S6.01 and in the Model Constitution for Congregations C4.01. I encourage you to read ELCA's entire Statement of Purpose. It is beautiful and energizing. (Find the constitutions here: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/resources/constitutions>)

When I read the Statement of Purpose, it helps me remember who and whose I am and what I am called to do and to be. You see, sometimes we forget. Sometimes we forget what it means to be children of God, redeemed by Christ, and sent into the world. Sometimes we get caught up in finances or building maintenance, we get lost in petty disagreements and who should do what and so many other things, that we forget that we are created, empowered, called, and sent by God – by GOD – to live into and to share what God is already doing in the world – in God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying work in and for the world.

How do we live into this Statement of Purpose? Below I propose three ways that we can (there are many more but I only have so much space).

**Relationship:** There are so many people in this world who are lonely, who are discouraged, who are anxious, who are tired. There are so many who feel unloved, unwelcomed, unwanted. They are living in your neighborhood, they are shopping at your grocery store, they have kids in school with your kids or grandkids, they are walking by your church every day. They are looking for relationship and for friendship. In a 2019 survey by CIGNA, 61% of working people identified as lonely. Did you catch that? Over half of people who are working are lonely. And this survey was taken before the pandemic. I can only surmise that the number is higher after 18 months of COVID life. Other studies I have read state that loneliness and isolation lead to physical and emotional difficulties as well as societal polarization. This is obviously a problem in this country. So, how do we have deep meaningful conversations so that people feel welcome and heard? Have connection and deep friendship? How does this fit with our Statement of Purpose?

**Impact:** There are so many people in this world who are looking to do something meaningful, to change the world for the better. There are so many people who wonder how they can make a difference, how they can positively influence their communities locally, nationally, and globally. These people are living in your neighborhood, they are shopping at your grocery store, they have kids in school with your kids or grandkids, they are walking by your church every day. They are looking for impact in this world. How can they be our partners in the ministries we are already doing and in the ministries they are doing? How can we listen to them to hear what other ideas might come through the Holy Spirit working in them and through their innovation? What partners do we need to multiply the impact of your ministry site in your neighborhood? How does this fit with our Statement of Purpose?

**Transformation:** There are so many people in this world who are looking for transformation, for new life, for a new path. There are so many people who have lost hope in institutions, in the church, in their lives. These

people are living in your neighborhood, they are shopping at your grocery store, they have kids in school with your kids or grandkids, they are walking by your church every day. They are looking for resurrection. How is your ministry site set up to not only welcome those searching, but honoring who they are? How do they know that their story is welcome? How is the good news shared with those who have never heard it and are desperate to hear? How does this fit with our Statement of Purpose?

I invite you to look at ELCA's Statement of Purpose – or your own congregation Statement of Purpose and discuss in your councils, Adult Forums, small groups, and elsewhere. What other questions or thoughts come out of what you read?

Together may we live drenched in God's love and sent out to share the Good News. For we are created, redeemed, called, and sent to live into and share in God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

*Our own Congregation as we seek to call our next Pastor*

*Tom and Jody and they begin a new era in their lives*

*The Kloes family on the loss of Karla's mother*

*The Farmer family on the loss of Erika's sister, Erin*

*For health concerns:*

*Bob Amberson*

*Richard McCutchan's sister*

*Heidi Ferria, Pat Heifort's daughter*

*Bo Henderson*

*Juli Reed, who is struggling with MSA*

*Karla Kloes' sister, Fara Schwencke*

*For all others who are in need of healing and wholeness,  
especially those affected by COVID 19*

*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.**

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### **THANK YOU TO:**

- All those who continue to contribute to the process of providing our weekly worship services, especially Pat Davis, Mary Nelson, Marilyn Errey, Bonnie Thoreson and Michele Coady!
- Those who continue to care for our church home – inside and out
- Dean Kloes for providing a Sunday School opportunity, even in these difficult times.
- All the Council members for their amazing dedication to not only their own responsibilities but also to the overall needs of our church during this time!
- The Anderson Benevolence Fund members for their wonderful stewardship of this outreach!

### **From the (Former) Pastor's Desk**

Dear people of God at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

I told myself I would not have to type this ever again when I did my last newsletter article. I lied for one last time.

Words cannot begin to express the thanks and gratitude I feel towards the whole congregation. I don't know why folks say that and then use words to try and express their thanks and gratitude.

Your generosity towards Jody and me on my last Sunday was more than I thought would have come our way. The travel voucher, the Disney gift cards, the American Express card were all way over the top and I understand there is even more to come. We have not been to Disney World in Florida for a long time. Maybe we will find our way there. The bench with the plaque from the Lions Club was almost the best gift of all. I hope its presence reminds all who come to Swan's Trail the many ways we sat together in doing our work and that Swan's Trail is a place to find rest. The two remembrance books I will read more than once and remembering Jody with a lovely necklace honored her place in the congregation as well. I could not have done my work without her.

While Jody and I will not be allowed to have a presence in the congregation for some time, know that when the time is right, we will come back to the place that gave us so much, beyond the gifts of things, but the gifts of love and support and friendship, not just for me but for my whole family, that will last for all time.

God's peace on your day,  
Pastor Tom

### **FROM THE COUNCIL – Pat Pehling, President**

The Council is working closely with Pastor Andy at the Synod to locate a Transition Pastor to serve Good Shepherd as we work toward calling our next Pastor. If you have any questions about the process, please contact a Council member for more information. We'll keep you updated as we move forward.

### **DECORATE THE SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS!**

Come on Friday, November 26, 5:30-7:30pm, to help decorate our Sanctuary Christmas Tree, make swags for the Sanctuary and make the Advent Wreath beautiful.

Also, if you would like to contribute toward Poinsettias for the Sanctuary, there is a donation form included in this newsletter.

### **MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Marilyn Sheppard**

#### **ADVENT FAIRE**

Save the date on the first day of Advent, November 28, 3pm – 5pm, for Advent crafts, making your own swag and Advent Log. All are welcome - there will be crafts for all ages! Clippers and staple guns are useful for making Advent logs!

### **MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Marilyn Errey**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES** – Included below is a Thank You note and photos from Riverview Elementary School in appreciation of all the Backpacks and school supplies Good Shepherd provided.

#### **THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS BASKETS**

Good Shepherd Lutheran will again be giving donations of food to local families who are struggling to make good holiday meals. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable holiday food items to church anytime now through Sunday, November 21. Deliveries will be made to the families on November 23. Or, if you prefer, please feel free to donate funds to buy perishable foods by making your check payable to: ***Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*** and make sure it is clearly marked **holiday baskets**. Thank you everyone for your generosity to those in need!

### **Looking Forward To Christmas**

We will also be sponsoring Christmas gifts for several families in need. A list will be sent in the December Newsletter with more information. Thank you again, for your generosity to those in need

### **MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Dean Kloes**

**CHRISTIAN LEARNING** - Sunday School for all ages follows Worship each Sunday from 10:45- 11:15 am

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

November will be a brunch at Nancy Negaard's on Friday, November 12th at 10:00 am instead of the typical study. Also December will meet at the Anderson Chapel at 10:00 am on Friday, December 10th instead of the third Friday. .

### **MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Dell Deierling**

#### **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who are faithful in their offerings and support of Good Shepherd. Your generosity of time, talents and offerings are greatly needed and very much appreciated!

#### **OFFERING OPTIONS**

To help you with your gift giving we continue to offer a couple of options should you not be donating in person. Please feel free to mail your contribution to the church. As a second option, most banks will send out checks for you via a bill pay type application. Check with your bank or your on-line banking website. An additional option is a Tithe.ly donate link on our website, <https://www.swanstrail.org>. We will receive reports from the Tithe.ly site as the funds are transferred to the church bank account to be able to credit you for these gifts as normal for year-end reporting. With this option you can decide to cover the transaction fees for the church if you wish.

### **MINISTRY OF WORSHIP & MUSIC – Pat Davis**

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!!

Thank you to all who have helped make the first month of our transition time work so smoothly. We have all enjoyed hearing the Good News from several different Supply Pulpit Pastors. We will continue to hear from Supply Pulpit pastors until the bishop's office finds us a Transition Pastor who will lead us and guide us during the time of Transition and extending a call to a new pastor.

For the next few months Sunday Supervisors will be members of the church council. The role of the Sunday Supervisor will be to open the church (there is a great deal more involved than just unlocking the door!) and then closing the church following service and Sunday school. The Sunday Supervisor needs assistance with several tasks...we need a **greeter**, a **reader**, and **communion assistants**. Thank you to everyone who has answered the "call" for assistance. Please continue to respond with a resounding "YES" when called to help with tasks.

May everyone enjoy the bounty and blessings of the season with family and friends gathered 'round the table.

**BENEVOLENCE FUND – Al Errey, Chair**

Remember that we have a Committee who gets to give money away to good causes! The Benevolence Fund generates income that is available each year through application. Requests may be for personal issues or for organizations

2021 has been a busy year for the Benevolence Committee after just basic activity in 2020 due to Covid.

**We started off in April sending funds to:**

- Snohomish Community Food Bank
- Marysville Food Bank
- Maltby Food Bank
- Everett Recovery Cafe

**In May and July we sent funds to:**

- What Color is Hope and Mathew House
- Snohomish Affordable Housing and Housing Hope
- Dawson Place Advocacy Center and Cocoon House
- Interfaith Assoc. of NW Washington
- Bridge Receiving Center and Bethany of the NW
- Everett Gospel Mission and Lydia House
- Riverview School Supplies (an annual need for supplies and yes, socks and underwear)

**And finally in September:**

- Mobile Dental Support and Shower to the People
- Homage Senior Services and ESTEEM Emergency Shelter
- Hand in Hand and Volunteers of America Western WA
- Take the Next Step and Eileen & Callies Place
- Everett Transition Care Services

Our next meeting is in mid-November so if you have any considerations, let us know by contacting any committee member: Al Errey, Elizabeth Gower Masche, Lisa Robinson, Cheryl McCutchan, or Rick Homme.

**SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:**

(If we don't have your family's special dates, please write them down and pass it along to Pat Pehling - we'd like to include everyone!)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

November	1	Kevin Ess
	5	Kathy Breece
	7	Kourtney Holton
	9	Meade Fox, Bruce Richards
	10	Brittany Reed Menday & Thomas McCutchan
	11	Tim Danner
	12	Billie Nilson
	16	Nancy Moen
	17	Brianne Robinson
	21	Patrick Vaughn, Beth Morrison, Don Siewert,

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

November	3	Bruce & Debbie DeVault,
	10	Fred and Kandi Eldridge



***Poinsettias for our Sanctuary***

***(Put in Offering Plate or mail to church)***

I will donate \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$10 for each Poinsettia

Or

\_\_\_\_ I will deliver to church by November 28

Name \_\_\_\_\_



***Lutheran Counseling Network Faith and Everyday Life***

**November 2021**

*In Luke 17:17 (NRSV) we read, "Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?'" That is a reasonable question indeed. There were ten lepers who called out to Jesus, all asking for mercy. Jesus noticed them and told them, presumably all ten lepers, to go and show themselves to the priests. As they went, they all were made clean. One returned to thank Jesus. This scripture tells me the story in a way that has me wondering if I would return with the one and give thanks to Jesus. I can hope that I would.*

*Truthfully, I can easily imagine myself being with that group of nine who didn't return. I am compelled to know their story. Did the lepers disperse to different priests, what were they wondering along the way, was their healing instant or was it gradual? Being made clean, what does that mean?*

*Is this my story? Would I go quickly to rejoice with my family? Would I sit by the side of the road in disbelief? Would I stay and chat with the priest and thank them and praise God for this miracle? Would I start planning my future without the stigma of being an outcast and untouchable? Would I meet up with the other healed lepers? Would I spread the word of this miracle to everyone I meet?*

*I trust in Jesus, who showed love and healing to the lepers. I am thankful for Jesus, who shows me love and healing every day. I am with the one and with the nine. And you?*

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your donations  
of backpacks and supplies  
to our students most at  
risk and in need. You  
have set them up for  
success! We appreciate  
your support! <sup>Riverview</sup> staff & students

Thank You for the  
backpacks and school  
supplies  
Good Shepherd!



