

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"

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

October 2026

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy Fall, and Welcome to October!

This past month we've been reminded that *invitations matter*.

Sometimes we imagine evangelism requires special training or extraordinary courage, but often it begins with something wonderfully ordinary: noticing someone, welcoming them, and inviting them to join us. Whether or not someone accepted an invitation this month, every invitation was an expression of God's open heart toward the world.

As we turn the calendar to October, we're going to continue building on that foundation with a new focus: **Serving as Witness**.

One of the remarkable things about Jesus is that He rarely separated His words from His actions. He preached the good news, but He also fed the hungry, welcomed the outsider, healed the sick, and served those everyone else overlooked. His compassion gave credibility to His message.

The same is true for us.

The world may not always listen to what Christians say, but it always notices how Christians love. This reminds me of something Mother Teresa said, "People will not always remember what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel." People can *feel* love.

Every meal delivered, every encouraging note written, every neighbor helped, every child mentored, every lonely person visited becomes an opportunity for the love of Christ to be seen in tangible ways. We don't serve because we're trying to earn God's favor. We serve because God's grace has already transformed our hearts.

This month, let's look for opportunities to make the love of Jesus visible in everyday life. You don't have to organize a big project or change the world overnight. Simply ask each morning, "Lord, who can I love today?"

Faithful service has a way of opening doors that words alone never could.

Peace and joy,

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 experience pregnancy for a second child

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

For health concerns:

Nancy Moen, who is recovering at home from a stroke

Tyler Blair as he faces surgery

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 PHOTO DIRECTORY They're here! Our new Church Directory is ready and there is a copy in everyone's mail slot (if you don't yet have a mail slot, there are extras and we'll get you added)

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 Sunday readings for those who like to look ahead. Suggestions on what to include on our website are most welcome. Contact Pastor JP.

STEWARDSHIP – September was Stewardship Month! The deadline for the Time and Talent forms has been extended to October 11, and they are available in the Narthex. Filling out this form is especially important as we have many new members who may want to participate in the running and maintenance of the church but may not know who or how to contact to become involved. Also, several of the council positions will be turning over this year. Council members may serve up to three one-year terms. Please prayerfully consider how best to use your talents to support our church.

THANK YOU TO

- Those keeping our church building and grounds looking good!
- Donna and Karla for preparing the new Church Directory and Donna for getting it printed!
- Donna for preparing the Time and Talents form for our Stewardship month!
- All those who have completed and submitted their Time and Talents form! There's still time!
- Tyler Blair for repairs on our church doors!
- Doug and his team for being prepared for the Fire Marshall inspection – we are legally allowed to occupy our building!

CHOIR INVITATION

Choir rehearsals have restarted after a summer break meeting most Sundays at 8:30am before Worship. New members are always welcome! We are all amateurs and welcome all voices....no previous choir experience is needed!

A NOTE FROM CATHY KARLSON

Dear people of God at Good Shepherd Lutheran church,
I would like to thank you all for walking with me through 24 wonderful years of my faith journey. With the spirit of love, hope and joy in Christ, you have helped me personally get through some good and some hard times. I will carry your love and prayers with me always.
I have found a church in Monroe to worship with. Part of my family is also attending this church. My prayers and love will be with you along with many fond memories. I do hope to run into you each now and then to say hello!
Peace and blessings on this day to all.
Cathy

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chrissie Homme

The 29th Annual Snohomish Hunger CROP walk will be Sunday, October 18, at 1pm with on-site registration at 12:30pm. The walk begins at St. John's Episcopal Church (913 Second Street, Snohomish). The organization is an inter-faith community walk dedicated to raising awareness and funds to end hunger locally and globally. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Snohomish Community Kitchen. Donation can be made out to "CSW/Crop Walk".

Thank you for your contributions to the Snohomish Food Bank and the Everett Gospel Mission (Men, Women and children), Donations are picked up and delivered on a regular basis.

It is hard to believe we are looking at the holidays next month (unless you walk into any department store and see holiday decorations; personally, I feel it is a bit early to see decorated artificial Christmas Trees!) But it is a reminder that November and December are around the corner and they are important months for Good Shepherd's community outreach. More to come next month regarding Thanksgiving Baskets!

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

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

Weekly, Sunday School for the youth continues each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

The Women's Bible Study group will meet in the Anderson Chapel on Friday, October 23rd at 10:00 AM.

Also, beginning Sunday, October 4th at 10:45 AM, a weekly woman's study will be meeting in Pastor JP's office. The new group will be working through the book titled *Having a Mary Heart In A Martha World*

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes

We continue in the season of Pentecost until the final Sunday on November 22nd.

October 4th we are excited to welcome new members to our congregation.

Thank you to all who volunteer to serve in any capacity during our worship time. You are greatly appreciated. We would enjoy new volunteers too, so please use the book in the narthex to sign up to help.

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! Thanks to your generosity we ended up summer ahead of 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>

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Doug Garland

We have received our certificate of occupancy from the fire marshal, we're good now through December of 2027. Thanks to all who participated in getting this done.

Next up is getting thermostats replaced, doors fixed, Pastors office remodeled and getting the irrigation system winterized. Your participation and ideas are always greatly appreciated.

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 Pastor JP, Dean and Karla, and Rich and Cheryl for providing fellowship treats for September. Also thank you to everyone who provided items for the Apple Cup potluck on 9/6 and the start of Sunday School BBQ on 9/13. Especially appreciate Jim and Terry for grilling the hot dogs and hamburgers in the rain for the BBQ, as well as Dell and Renee who hosted the September Fellowship on Tap at their house, along with apple cider pressing!

The signup sheet for October fellowship is filled. On 10/4, there will be a potluck to welcome new members. Cindy claimed 10/11, Pastor JP has 10/18, and Donna took 10/25. If you feel called to serve in this area, please sign up in the notebook located in the Narthex.

September also saw the start of a coffee club that met on 9/29. The next coffee club meeting is slated for this Tuesday (10/6) starting at 10 am in the fellowship hall.

Fellowship on Tap will be on Sunday (10/11) from 3-5 pm at Thomas Family Farm in Snohomish.

The 2026 Snohomish CROP Hunger Walk is set for Sunday (10/18) starting at 1 pm at St. Johns Episcopal Church. Check out their website for registration details or you can register on site at 12:45 pm on the day of the walk. Anyone interested in putting together a Good Shepherd team?

Also on 10/18 is Oktoberfest in the fellowship hall from 3-5pm. Kristine and Kathy will once again provide the festive accordion music. Brats and root beer will be provided. If you are able, please bring a potluck dish to share.

Planning ahead, mark your calendar for the Advent Faire with crafts, swags, lefsa and krumkake on 11/22. There will be a Pie Social following the Thanksgiving Eve service on 11/25. And on Saturday 11/28, we gather at the church to help decorate for the Advent Season.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Potluck 10:30am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:45am Bible Study 6pm <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	5 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	6 Coffee Club 10am	7	8 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 6:30pm</i>	9	10
11 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:45am Fellowship on Tap 3-5pm Bible Study 6pm	12	13 Coffee Club 10am	14	15 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	16	17
18 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:45am CROP WALK 1pm OKTOBERFEST 3-5pm Bible Study 6pm	19	20 Coffee Club 10am	21 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	22	23 Women's Bible Study 10am <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	24 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
25 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Bible Study 10:45am <i>4-H 5-9pm</i> Bible Study 6pm	26	27 Coffee Club 10am	28	29	30	31

