

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

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From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings Church!

We are in the season of Easter and we have an exciting month ahead of us! First, we're going to dive into the belief that Christ's death and resurrection didn't just mean something *back then* but mean something for us **right now!** We'll spend the next 6 weeks talking about how Christ's death and resurrection mean a:

1. New Joy
2. New Understanding
3. New Power
4. New Fruit with a New Focus
5. New Blessing, and a
6. New Call

This sermon series is going to be particularly helpful for people who are looking to develop tools of faith to strengthen and empower their everyday lives. Specifically, we'll learn how to confront the stress, struggle, and strife life throws at us so that we can know how to live with more peace and more joy, regardless of our circumstances!

In addition, we meet this Sunday for a church collaboration to ask a few BIG QUESTIONS that will help us define and refine things like *who we are* and *what we want to be about*. We'll develop not only a mission statement, but a vision for the future. We ask you to join us this Sunday for a lively collaboration as we dream, brainstorm, and pray about what God wants us to be about!

Last, the Mutual Ministry Team has been established and will host their first meeting this week. What's the Mutual Ministry Team you ask? You'll have to keep an eye out to learn more! We will formally introduce the Mutual Ministry Team and describe what it is, what it does, and why we need it! So, keep an eye out for more on the MMT!

What should have been first, but is actually last, is the invitation and declaration to begin with prayer. Prayer humbles the heart and orients the mind to understand and acknowledge that *without God, nothing is possible*. Put positively, with God, all things are possible (and nothing is impossible)! Therefore, let us begin with prayer! Set aside time this week to ask that God would speak to us, that God would cause us to *dream dreams and see visions*, that would lead and guide us forward!

I'm really excited for this upcoming month and expect God to do great things! Be sure to come to church and join us so you can be a part and play part as God does something amazing!

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 await the arrival of a baby 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.

**Into your hands, Oh, Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

THANK YOU TO

• Those who contributed to provide Easter Lilies:

- Evelyn Agostinelli – In Memory of her sister, Doris Kay
 - Lori Pehling – In Memory of Doc & Carol Pehling
 - Al & Nancy Moen – In Memory of their son, Steven Moen
 - Rich & Cheryl McCutchan – In Memory of Rich's parents – Stan & Irene McCutchan and In Memory of Cheryl's parents, Bill & Mur Jensen
 - Doug and Donna Garland – In Memory of Donna's parents, Don & Pat Wheeler and In Memory of Doug's mother, Louise Garland-Wheelen
 - Pat Veale – In Memory of her son, Robbie Bond
 - Dell Deierling – In Memory of Nola & Paul Schaus and Flo Craven
 - Lisa Robinson & Family – In Memory of her husband, Weston, and mother, Barbara Keller
 - Goodnights – In Memory of Arne & Dorothy Nordal
 - Terry & Joy Vaughn – In Memory of Joy's parents, Don & Martha Taylor, and Terry's parents, Ken & Ellie Vaughn
 - Pat Pehling – In Memory of her Parents
- All those who attended the Spring Cleaning Workparty – so much was accomplished!
 - All those providing soup, bread and desserts for the Lenten Service dinners
 - All those providing Easter Brunch treats – what a spread was provided!
 - Terry Danner for his diligent care for our fountain and supervising acolytes!
 - The Snohomish Men's Chorus for sharing their amazing music on April 7 during Worship

***Congratulations to Sharon and Bogdan ! They are expecting the arrival of a baby in October!
Please keep them in your prayers for a safe and healthy pregnancy and delivery!***

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 or want to practice before reading on Sunday morning.

ORVILLE & WENDELL ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND

Many years ago, when Orville Anderson passed away, he bequeathed half of his estate (which included his brother, Wendell's estate) to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in an amazing gesture of generosity. With this gift, we were able to remodel the sanctuary, create the narthex and restrooms AND put aside a lump sum to establish the Orville and Wendell Anderson Benevolent Fund.

This fund generates interest each year that is then turned over to a committee of 5 church members who review applications and get to support individuals and/or organizations. It also provides \$500 scholarships to church youth in college! The fund is also currently supported by the gifts from some of our members. If you are so inclined, additional contributions may be made directly to the Benevolent Fund – just designate clearly on your check.

The Committee is always open to suggestions. Dell Deierling is the current Chair of the committee.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - Dean Kloes

Sunday School continues to meet each Sunday at 10:45 AM.

The Women's bible study will be held on Friday, April 26th at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel. The Women's bible study group is currently studying 1 Corinthians.

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study at the Barstad's home is working through the book titled *Help Is Here* by Max Lucado.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP – Karla Kloes

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! We are now in the season of Easter. Thank you for all the meaningful Lenten services with Holden Evening Prayer and Holy Week culminating with Easter. Thank you to Bonnie and the choir for the beautiful music and for Bonnie, Pat Pehling and Terry Danner for their role in the Lenten services.

I want to thank Donna Garland, Joy Vaughn and Mary Nelson for being substitutes for me and for all their assistance. I appreciate you all.

Thank you to all who donated Easter lilies for the sanctuary and for Pat Pehling for purchasing them.

I hope you were able to enjoy Easter brunch.

Please continue to sign up to help with reading and greeting. Also, it would be nice to have a few more volunteers to open and close church on Sundays. Even if you can only do one or the other it spreads the work around so others can have a break. Thank you for considering. Enjoy the beautiful month of April.

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! In addition, thanks to your generosity we are currently running a bit 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>

LOOKING AHEAD

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. We are fortunate to have enough cash on hand to cover this expense.

Are you a Thrivent member? Did you know that there are Thrivent dollars available to be donated to a non-profit of your choice (I didn't), and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is one? No matter where you designate those dollars to go, please do not let them expire unused. They can be a blessing to non-profits that do good works.

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

Thank you to all who participated in the Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers and the Easter Brunch following the service on 3/31. The food offerings were many (three tables full) and all delicious. Also appreciate all those that helped with the clean up afterwards. Many hands made light of the work.

There are a couple Sundays open for Fellowship hosts in April (the 14th and 28th) and May is wide open. Thank you to the Kloes's (4/7) and the Errey's (4/21).

Reminder to those that signed up -- the MercyMe & Newsboys concert is Sunday, April 14th.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE–Pat Veale

Food Bank

There are bins in the narthex which are continually in need of food donations for the Snohomish Food Bank as well as clothing, toys, and board games for Matthew House.

The Snohomish Food Bank has a new director. Her name is Ashleigh Cruze. I met her today as I was dropping off 6 bags of food items. She gave me a list of food items the Food Bank needs for April, as shown below.

- canned corn
- mac & cheese
- tuna fish
- peanut butter

Plastic Recycling – Bags To Bench Program

- How much Plastic goes through your hands each month?
- This month I would like to highlight the work done by Renee Deierling and others from the Snohomish Lions Club.
- They have undertaken the job of collecting, sorting and weighing plastic to provide 500 pound bags of plastic to Trex.
- Each 500 pound bag of plastic is provided, in a partnership with Trex, to provide earth friendly composite decking and railing through the “Bags To Bench Program”
- Did you know the bench donated by the Snohomish Lions Club to honor Pastor Rohde was made from plastic bags collected from the “Bags To Bench Program”?
- How many bags and how much time was needed to create this bench?

EARTH DAY 2024 Snohomish County

- Saturday, April 27, 2024 10am --2pm at the Evergreen State Fair Park, west (Red) Parking Lot: 14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272
- Bring hard-to-recycle items for recycling and proper disposal, for free.
- Items accepted include Styrofoam, household batteries, florescent light bulbs and more!
- Once you drop your recyclables off, park your car and wander around the many displays to learn more about programs and initiatives across county government and beyond that are doing their part for climate resiliency.
- I know we can all do our part, whether it is just picking up the litter in our neighborhood, in the community, or at the church.

Happy Spring

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Doug Garland

Completed:

Thank you to those who helped with the spring cleanup on March 16th. We got a lot of gardening done, windows washed, BBQ cleaned, sanctuary cleaned up, canopy lights cleaned, bulbs replaced, and the refrigerator cleaned up. We also had a BBQ for lunch. Thank you to The Kloes', the Errey's, the Vaughn's, the Garland's, Pastor JP and Joni Siewert.

We had been fighting a water leak in the church for some time. Thanks Dean Kloes for tracking down and resolving the leak issue.

In Progress:

The roof is being replaced the week of April 1st while the school is off for their spring break. Thank you, congregation, for approving the funds for the new roof.

Work Parties:

Monthly work parties will be on the third Tuesday of the month through September. The first work party will be on Tuesday, April 16th 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.

From Sabrina Adams:

Some of you have asked me how I spend my winters in Southern California and there seems to be interest in knowing more. Mark & I participate in the Joshua Tree Philharmonic (JPhil). This is the same Joshua Tree as in the National Park. For the Spring 2024 performances, we are celebrating not only the 1980's but also the JPhil's 20th Anniversary! The 80's, apparently a great decade, brought great music from U2, The Police, Michael Jackson and many others as well as classical music made famous in the 80's by bringing them into movies & stage – Phantom of the Opera, Somewhere in Time.

Our performance schedule for the Spring is May 10th (evening), 11th (matinee & evening), & 12th (matinee only). There has been talk of adding another evening performance on Thursday, May 9th.

The website to find out more information regarding the JPhil and how to purchase tickets is: hidesertculturalcenter.org

Further information for the area include:

*Nearest airport is Palm Springs (PSP) – There are non-stop flights on Alaska Air from Everett (PAE) to Palm Springs (PSP) and then it is about a 70 minute one way drive to Joshua Tree. The airport also has car rentals.

*Hotel locations – of course in the Greater Metropolitan Palm Springs area but also up CA Hwy 62 into Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree & Twentynine Palms – the 3 major cities/towns on this highway.

*If you want to drive here, the most direct route is I-5 South to Los Angeles and then I-10 (“The Ten”) East to Highway 62 (there is only one direction on Hwy 62 from The Ten. I used to be able to drive it in 2 days – only stopping for gas, bathroom & sleeping. No sightseeing.

We would love to see you if you decide to come down for one of the performances! Tickets do tend to sell out quickly.

We also do a Christmas Performance typically the 2nd weekend in December. Follow the above website for further information!

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION

BIRTHDAYS:

April	4	Lori Fox, Riley Ess
	6	Al Moen, Todd Lipke
	9	Tyler Toutonghi, Nancy Soderblom
	10	Allen Soderblom
	11	Megan Robinson
	13	Keira Mahoney
	12	Joy Vaughn
	14	Danielle Reed
	21	Howard Negaard
	22	Jeff Thoreson
	25	Elisabeth Barnes
	27	Bethany Karlsen
	29	Meghan Gilbert Blair
	30	Nancy Negaard

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 4-H Club Meeting 6-9pm	2	3	4	5 Project Linus 10am-10pm	6 Project Linus 10am-10pm
7 Worship 9:30am (Snohomish Men's Chorus) Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	8	9 The Academy School 8:45am-9:10am 2:40pm-3:15pm	10 Project Linus 10am-3pm	11 Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm	12	13
14 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	15 The Academy School 8:45am-9:10am 2:40pm-3:15pm	16 The Academy School 8:45am-9:10am 2:40pm-3:15pm	17	18 4-H Meeting 6-9pm	19	20
21 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	22	23 The Academy School 8:45am-9:10am 2:40pm-3:15pm	24	25 4-H Meeting 6-9pm	26 Women's Bible Study 10am	27
28 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	29	30 The Academy School 8:45am-9:10am 2:40pm-3:15pm				