

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
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APRIL 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy April, Church!

This past month we've taken a look at humility with the hope and aim that God would root us in 1) an approach to life and 2) an orientation to life. Humility is arguably the most important virtue because of its value. Humility is what allows us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to be angry". Humility is aware of what it doesn't know, and aware of its own limitations. Therefore, the most important attribute of a humble person is their willingness to ask for help – first and foremost from God, but also from neighbor. In addition, they are willing to help because humility is other's-oriented and spends time not focused on the self but God and others.

For this next month, we're going to take on an unlikely and (very) interesting topic: boredom! We'll make the claim that boredom is a foundational, and essential, part of life. I think you'll be (pleasantly) surprised to see how boredom gives rise to life, and the Good Life God has for us. But, it can be a "noonday demon", as Evagrius of Ponticus calls it. Over this next month, we'll tackle four questions surrounding boredom:

1. What is boredom?
2. What is boredom good for?
3. What makes us bored?
4. What should I do when I become bored?

This next month will equip our spiritual tool belt with more tools to live into the Good Life that God has for us. We'll do this by assessing and increasing awareness around the pit falls of boredom: what to and how to respond to the "irremediable flatness" of life. Here, we will learn to not only embrace but also engage boredom *so that* boredom can be the springboard that launches us into a more spiritually engaged life!

Boredom will teach us how to approach death and enter into life, a major movement in the Easter season: Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday! To that end, we are excited to host Holy Week services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Keep an eye out for more information on our worship events.

Have a great rest of the week and keep an eye out for our first email on boredom! I promise, it won't be boring!!
Peace and joy,
Pastor JP

THANK YOU TO

- All those hosting Fellowship time and the Sunday Supervisors making sure the church is open, lights and heat on and then closed properly afterward
- The Council and Pastor for their extra time and dedication
- Those who designated Good Shepherd for your Thrivent Choice dollars

Prayer Requests



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

Jane and Jack Melynk and family on the loss of Jane's father, Jack Gleeson
Suzanne Walters and family on the loss of her mother, Helen
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:
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. Contact Pastor JP.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

It's April which means SPRING CLEANING TIME !!!

Open wide your closets, cupboards and cubbyholes. It's time to collect ALL those clothing items that either don't fit, not your style, wrong color, not trendy enough, too trendy, and donate them. The Everett Gospel Mission (both men's and the women's shelter) have an ongoing need of clothing including accessories (shoes, jewelry, belts, scarves, hats, gloves, socks, underwear, personal hygiene items, children's and baby clothes, toys and books. They will appreciate your gently worn items!

Put the items in bags/garbage bags/tote bags, mark them EGM (Everett Gospel Mission) and designate whether they're MEN'S or WOMEN'S. They can be placed in the Narthex (where the Food Bank bags are) and I will deliver them to the mission. If the area gets too crowded, place donations directly across the room where the choir robes are kept.

Keep up the good work on donating to the Food Bank. Donations are regularly taken to the Food Bank for distribution.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

The Sunday evening 6:00 pm bible study group at the Barstad's home is working through the study titled *Making Sense of Scripture* by David L. Lose.

Also, Pastor J. P. is leading a weekly Sunday morning 8:30 AM Lenten bible study in the fellowship hall. The Lenten study will continue through April 13th. All are welcome!!

The monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on 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. On Easter Sunday, 4/20 at 10:45 AM, there will be an Easter Egg hunt at the church instead of regularly scheduled Sunday School.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP –

Cheryl McCutchan & Lisa Robinson

There are a couple of Sunday slots open for fellowship treats in April and May is wide open. Please sign up in the scheduling book located by the mailboxes in the fellowship hall if you are able to help. We appreciate all the goodies provided in March by Nancy M, Nancy N, Karla, Susanne, Cindy, Pat V, Evelyn, Donna, Lisa and Cheryl.

The Lenten Soup Suppers will continue each Wednesday in April (except Thursday the week prior to Easter) until Easter. Dinner is at 6pm preceding the Lent Service at 7pm. So far, the previous suppers have yielded a wide variety of soups for sampling. If making soup is not your thing, there is always enough and we would love to have you join us. There is a sign up for bread or dessert.

On Easter Sunday, April 20, at 8:30am prior to the church service, there will be a breakfast potluck. There is a signup sheet on the table in the fellowship hall.

If you have additional ideas for get-togethers, please let Lisa or Cheryl know. We are already planning for a breakfast church, luncheon potluck, and a bingo night sometime in the future.

MINISTRY OF GODS HOUSE– Doug Garland

Saturday April 12th 9:00am - 5:00pm, we will be hosting a church wide cleanup day. If you are able to give a day or an hour, anything will be very much appreciated, lunch will be provided. If this date and time doesn't work for you, let me know and we'll work out an alternative time that you can assist us. Chores include but are not limited to:

- Cleaning windows
- Pressure washing sidewalks
- Cleaning light fixtures
- Gardening
- Cleaning pews, window boxes and altar
- Clean the entry canopy area
- Polishing church sanctuary items
- Cleaning the refrigerators and microwave
- Thorough cleaning of the kitchen
- Mop the kitchen floor
- Trimming hedges

Mow the grounds
Clean piano and organ
Clean fountain

If you are not sure what you may be able to help with, contact me, and we'll figure out how best you may be able to serve the church.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes

This month we look forward to celebrating Easter on Sunday April 20th preceded by Holy week. There will be a service on Maundy Thursday (April 17th) and Good Friday (April 18th) at 7:00 p.m.

We'd like to have many Lilies decorating the sanctuary for Easter! If you would like to donate one or more, please fill out the attached form and drop in the offering plate by April 13.

I am starting the prayer chain up again and I have placed a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. I will send out an instruction sheet with the prayer chain in a few weeks to allow time for those interested to sign up.

Please also check the book in the fellowship hall and sign up to help where you are able. We need people to open and close the church, read and provide fellowship treats for April. Thank you for considering. Many hands make light work.

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! Thanks to your generosity we are currently ahead of budget so far this year. This is truly a blessing.

Also, a big thank you to those of you who designated Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for your Thrivent Choice dollars. GSLC has received \$509.00 in the first quarter!

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>

EASTER LILIES FOR THE SANCTUARY

I will donate _____ Lilies at \$10 each to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please put in Offering Plates or mail form and check for \$10 each to
5511 64th ST SE, Snohomish WA 98290

Notice of donations will be in the May Newsletter

Donated by _____

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Soup & Bread 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm	3	4	5
6 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Lenten Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm <i>Camera Club 4-7pm</i>	7 <i>4-H 6-9pm</i>	8	9 Soup & Bread 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm	10 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	11 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	12 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i> Church Clean Up 9am-5pm
13 PALM SUNDAY Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Lenten Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	14 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15</i>	15	16 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	17 Soup & Bread 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm	18 Good Friday Worship 7pm	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY Easter Brunch 8:30 – 9:15am Worship 9:30am Youth Egg Hunt 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	21	22 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15</i>	23 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	24	25 Women's Bible Study 10am Anderson Chapel	26
27 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Lenten Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	28 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15</i>	29	30			