

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

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Church Phone 425-334-1220

DECEMBER 2022



FROM DEACON LIZ

I recently heard a young woman give big sister advice. She said, “excitement and anxiety are the same emotion. But as we get older, we start to anticipate more negative outcomes. If you start telling yourself that you’re anticipating a good reaction, your anxiety will turn back into excitement. It might take some time, but you can rework how your brain looks at things.”

My brain resembled the head exploding emoji after hearing that, and I sat in silence thinking about it for quite a while.

This advent, as we prepare for family coming from near and far – perhaps too many people in the kitchen, perhaps kids playing spectacularly well until they aren’t and it gets too loud, as we frantically search the grocery store aisles for the last jar of anise seed for our special recipe everyone is expecting to perfectly flood their hearts with fond memories and emotions, we might stumble from excitement into anxiety and back and forth a few times. And that’s ok.

This advent, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus in human flesh, as we anticipate the finalization of your Ministry Site Profile going live for potential pastoral candidates to see, as we anticipate what unknown comes next together, we might stumble from excitement into anxiety and back and forth a few times. And that’s ok.

Because friends, this is the gift of Advent. This is the gift of knowing that we are SO LOVED that God wanted to experience what it was to be like US – fully human, oscillating between excitement and anxiety, feeling overwhelmed and overjoyed and all the emotions in between. Emmanuel – God With Us journeys *with us* through this advent season of waiting and watching and wondering with joy and delight. And I believe Christ carries the excitement forward when it feels too much like anxiety to us. So be affirmed in your humanness, because it’s cast in the image of God. Trust that God’s love will carry you through into the Christmas season and beyond, because God knows that anxiety and excitement can be the same emotion, and chooses to sit with us in each expression of it.

With Christ,
Deacon Liz

Contact information for Deacon Liz Colver is:

Email: deacon.liz.colver@gmail.com

Cell phone: 206-391-2117

Dcn. Liz will check emails on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with Mondays and Fridays off (except for emergencies - call or text at any time)

An update from Transition Partner Pastor Erik

A few weeks ago, we had a “Let’s Talk” after worship with some updates on the Transition Process. Since not everyone was there and since there was a lot of info shared, I thought I’d give a similar update in the newsletter, particularly laying out the timeline and next steps.

First, I want to give a shout out to the Transition Team: Donna Garland, Rick Homme, Bonnie Thoreson, Pat Veale, and Karla Kloes. These leaders, along with the Council, have been hard at work for nearly a year on the “Ministry Site Profile” document that we need to complete to jump-start the process of finding a pastor, and all the supporting research and work that goes into putting that together.

At the meeting, we reviewed the progress of the last year, starting with forming the Transition team, getting our mind around the task before us, starting the research, realizing that the budget might not be enough for a full-time pastor, and doing some hard work around whether it was time to consider a holy end to the ministry of Good Shepherd at Swan’s Trail. After facing that uncomfortable possibility, your leaders realized that we still have energy left for ministry in Snohomish, for worship and fellowship as a congregation, and a hunch that God might be calling us to something new—something more connected outside of our walls and with other partners.

When we sat down to figure out just what that was, we realized that we needed a bit more time to discern, and so in September decided another 6 months to a year of transition might help us get clearer about that. Over the summer our conversations about shared ministry possibilities with Holy Cross in the short term started to take shape—at least in terms of sharing a care pastor—and so we decided to look for one together. This process got slowed a bit by the challenge of actually finding a care pastor to serve both congregations, and the need to coordinate with Holy Cross with our worship times in order to make the sharing work share. But, with Deacon Liz in the pulpit I think it was all worth it!

Now that we are all able to focus again on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) the Transition Team has put our heads together through the month of October and early November and came up with a very solid first draft. This was shared with the Council on November 15th for conversation and revision, and now a 2nd draft is available for your review. There are copies in the narthex available for you to look at or take home, and if you would like an electronic copy, let Donna Garland know (her email is mtngirl817@gmail.com). She’s also the person to send any comments or questions to, or you can talk with any transition team or council member if you’d prefer.

In early January we will have more information about end of year giving, and on January 8th there will be a congregational budget meeting where we will look at the numbers together—particularly around how much we can expect to budget for the pastor’s salary, pension, health insurance and other benefits. We know that our area has a very high cost of living, and that presents a challenge for a pastor coming from out of state in particular. Early indications are that there may not be enough financial resources available for a full-time pastoral call—and there has been discussion among the Transition Team and

Council that we may want to seek a part-time pastor. This could be a pastor looking for part time ministry, a pastor who could be shared among two or more congregations, or someone who is willing to (or wanting to) have a supplemental career alongside their pastoral ministry. The Council and Transition team also noted that one of the “perks” Swan’s Trail can offer is flexibility in schedule, which might be particularly attractive to a pastor with kids or parents to care for.

Once we know the budget numbers, more congregational conversation will take place at the Annual Meeting on January 29th, where you can expect a proposal from the Transition Team and Council about the options before us and how to move forward. Pastor Andy has shared with us that there are currently 45 pastors (locally and nationally) who have indicated an interest in serving in Northwest Washington, 8 of whom are open to part-time calls, and just one looking specifically for a part time call. There are also many open pastoral positions, both in our Synod and in others, so it’s hard to know just what the “pool” of candidates might look like.

Once we have a sense of what Good Shepherd has to offer in the pay package, and once the draft is finalized, we’ll submit the MSP to the Synod. Bishop Shelley and Pastor Andy will then work hard to find us a slate of candidates whose gifts and passions match with our goals and hopes for our next pastor. Then a call committee will be formed and the interview process will begin. I’ll stay with you through that process (as long as you want me to!) so that you won’t be on your own in trying to navigate that.

We will pray that God will bring us the perfect candidate in that first round, but it’s also good to recognize that because of many factors, we may not have a match right away. In that case we may request another “slate” of candidates from the Synod, we may go back and do some work on the MSP, or that may be the occasion to look a little more closely at our options for partnership and shared ministry and get even more creative. It’s hard to know right now what will happen, but we can trust that God will be involved!



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*Pr. Erik, the Transition Team, the Council, Deacon Liz and our own Congregation as we work
through the transition process*

The Kloes Family

The McCutchan family on the loss of Cheryl’s mother, Mur Jensen

Chris Reed and family on the loss of his wife, Juli

Jane Melnyk and family on the loss of her brother, Terry

For health concerns:

Al Moen

Lisa Robinson’s Sister-in-law, Debbie, as she recovers from auto accident

Bob Amberson

Richard McCutchan’s sister

*Heidi Ferria, Pat Heifort's daughter
Bo Henderson
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.*

THANK YOU TO

- Those contributing toward the Holiday Baskets and gifts.
- Pat and John Veale for donating the beautiful Tree, Pat Pehling and Dell Deierling for delivering it and Pat, Doug and Donna Garland for putting it up!
- The decorating crew who transformed the Sanctuary for Advent: Renee Deierling, Joni and Don Siewert, Joy Vaughn, Donna Garland, Pat Pehling and Chad, Elizabeth, Lily and Greta Masche.
- Advent Fair –Cheryl McCutchan for crafts, Diane Campbell – coloring squares for a Project Linus quilt, Renee Deierling and Pat Pehling for the Swags and Advent log creations, Richard, Thomas and Cheryl McCutchan for the awesome Lefse, Joy Vaughn and Pat Pehling for set up and all those who helped with clean up!
- The Choir for their contributions of meaningful anthems at Worship.
- Bonnie Thoreson for her continuing amazing contributions toward each Sunday's worship service AND her talents on the Piano and Organ!
- Michele Coady for her special flute music that adds so much to worship.
- Those who donated poinsettias for the sanctuary:

Joy and Terry Vaughn in Memory of their parents, Don and Martha Taylor and Ken and Ellie Vaughn

Dell and Renee Deierling in Memory of Nola Deierling and Paul Schaus

Tom and Jody Rohde – a Gift to Good Shepherd

Donna and Doug Garland in memory of their parents, Dona and Pat Wheeler and Louise Garland

Pat Pehling in memory of Doc and Carol Pehling

Cards needed for Bo

Robin Rigdon, Bo Henderson's daughter in law, has a request:

"I wanted to ask again if a request for cards could be put in your newsletter for Bo's 91st birthday on Christmas Day. He really enjoyed getting mail and all the cards that people sent to him last year. He saves all his mail and reads them again and again.

I would really appreciate this if it's possible.

Bo's address is:

Bo Henderson

Aegis of Lynnwood

18700 44th Ave. West Room #130B

Lynnwood, Wa. 98037

Thank you so much, Happy Holidays! Robin”

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE POSITIONS

There are several openings this year. If you are interested in serving, please contact the nominating committee: *Chair: Marilyn Errey, Dean Kloes, Doug Garland, Chad Masche, Richard McCutchan and Terry Danner*).

TRANSITION TEAM – Donna Garland, Chair

The Transition Team has completed the first draft of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), it has been submitted to the council, and was presented to the congregation at the “Let’s Talk” on November 20th. As you can guess it has taken quite a bit of effort and coordination to get this document to its current state. You are also invited to read and comment on this draft. We are hoping that you will prayerfully consider what the Transition Team has compiled. Feedback can be given to any Transition Team member, Councilperson, or I will be sending an open format survey that you can provide anonymous feedback.

I would like to thank the transition team, Pat Davis, Karla Kloes, Bonnie Thoreson, Pat Veale, Rick Homme and Pastor Erik for all their efforts over this past year and I appreciate all their inputs and suggestions. The Transition Team would also like to thank all the people in the congregation that took the time and effort to fill out the surveys that were sent. Those responses are an integral part of the MSP, indicating the talents and characteristics of what we desire in a pastor and also the talents and strengths we as a congregation will provide to support our new pastor.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Karla Kloes

Thank you to all who helped with the shower for Sam and Tim Danner and for all who came and participated. It was a great day. A special thank you to Marilyn Errey for coordinating the event.

Thank you to all who came to the fellowship potluck on November 15th. We had a great turn out and wonderful fellowship and food. Thank you especially to Pat Veale who organized the day.

Thank you to all who came to the advent fair and participated and to all those who decorated the tree and the church. We appreciate all your work, and the sanctuary looks fantastic.

Please be sure to come to the service on Sunday, December 11th to see the children's Christmas program.

Thank you to all who provide snacks and host the fellowship time after church. Please continue to check the book and sign up to help.

Leisure Time Potluck - Pat Veale is hosting a Leisure Time Potluck on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 12 noon at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Bring a dish to share. This is for all ages. If you have extra time on your hands and don't know what to do with it, come. Bring your photos and stories, what trips you have been on or want to share what you do. There is no formal agenda.. Bring a friend or neighbor with you if you like. Maybe some old friends of Good Shepherd would like to get reacquainted.



MINISTRY OF WORSHIP – Donna Garland

I can hardly believe it but it's almost Christmas and we are now in the season of Advent. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and means "coming". It is a time of preparation, anticipation and expectation of Christmas where we celebrate that Jesus, God's son, was born into our world. Many advent traditions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church are about looking forward to and counting down for Christmas.

As many of you have discovered, Christmas Day is on Sunday this year. Good Shepherd will have its Christmas Eve service as usual at 7:00pm but will not have a Christmas Day service in order to allow Deacon Liz and the congregation to spend Christmas morning with their families.



New Year's Day also falls on Sunday this year and we have decided to have a service that morning. Bonnie has promised lots of Christmas hymns during the service and possibly a non-hymn Christmas sing along during our fellowship time. Come and join in singing all of your favorites.

I continue to look for, and invite, help with paraments and communion prep. If you are interested, please see me after church or call me anytime

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Dean Kloes

BIBLE STUDY

Each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm, bible study continues at the Barstad home where the adult group is studying a book titled *The Faith We Hold*. (2225 Park Avenue, Snohomish).

CHRISTIAN LEARNING -

Sunday School for the youth of our church continues each Sunday beginning at 9:45 am and on Sunday December 11th, during the weekly church service, the youth will be providing a mini Christmas skit..

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The December women's monthly bible study will be held on Friday, December 9th at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel. All women are welcome!

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Marilyn Errey

Holiday Baskets - Thank you so much for your generous donations to Holiday Baskets! Three local families were provided with both non-perishable holiday food items and grocery gift cards for fresh foods to make good holiday meals.

For Christmas we will be providing gift cards for food as well as giving a toy or personal item and an article of clothing to each child in the same three families from the Riverview Elementary area.

The sign up board will be in the Narthex on December 4, however, the **wrapped and labeled gifts** need to be at the church no later than Sunday, December 11. Due to our **much shortened timeline** this year, an email has also been sent with the sign up opportunities.

Reverse Advent Calendar – Attached (and available at Church) is a “reverse” Advent Calendar where you collect one food item each day of Advent and then deliver to church on either Christmas Eve or following Sunday. Food banks often receive fewer donations after Christmas so this is a great way to serve our community!

Thank you for your consideration, generosity and care for our neighboring families in need.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Dell Deierling

THANK YOU AND PLEASE CONSIDER.....

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! We are falling considerably short of meeting the budgeted 2022 income for our church. Fortunately, our needs are currently being met. The reality is that with a calling of a new pastor, we may be faced with annual expenses as much as \$17,000 higher than our current budget (this is on the higher end for an experienced pastor). Here’s an example of what we may need to prepare for with a salary that reflects the compensation and benefits for a ¾ time pastor with years of experience and a family.

Together we can and will succeed in achieving our greater needs for our ministry as we prepare for the calling of a permanent pastor.

DONATION TIP: USE YOUR IRA RMD TO SUPPORT GOOD SHEPHERD

Use your IRA RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) to support the church and save yourself \$'s on your taxes. December is the time to review your financial situation and how your income impacts your taxes. If you have an IRA (most IRAs qualify) and you are age 70½ or over, you can exclude up to \$100,000 from gross income for donations paid directly to a qualified charity (like Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!) from your IRA. This is a great way of making your contribution to the church while reducing your taxes. See [Forbes Article on IRA RMD Donations](#) for more details and consult your tax advisor before taking action.

GOD’S HOUSE – Chad Masche

Outdoor Work Parties: Our monthly gardening work parties came to an end in November and will pick back up in Spring 2023. As always, THANKS for all those who volunteered their time and talents throughout the 2022 year, without you maintaining our wonderful building and grounds would be impossible.

Over the month of December, with weather permitting, I will be going up to the church on a couple of Saturdays to take care of some additional fall clean-up opportunities before Christmas. If you wish to know when I plan to be up at church, please contact me. I’d be happy to have some teammates with me as I pick up leaves, trim and clean-up shrubs, and bushes, as well as mow one last time.

Projects in the works: Nothing currently forecasted for the month of December.

Projects completed: Recently work was completed on a central power line for our Fire System. We are now up to code and in great shape for all matters concerning fire safety, monitoring, and occupancy. This project originated from our latest fire code inspection where it was determined that our system was connected to a shared power source and is required to have its own individual power line/connection. Thank you to Doug Garland for heading up this project and getting it completed!

Just a couple of notes: Additional Projects are continuously being recognized, discussed, 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 they can be addressed.

ANDERSON BENEVOLENCE FUND – Rick Homme, Chair

At the beginning of the year, \$36,319 was available for distribution from the Benevolence Fund. Through the 3rd quarter of this year, \$23,344.20 had been awarded. \$13,075 was available for 4th quarter distribution.

The Benevolence Committee met on Sunday, November 20th and designated the following contributions:

Monroe Women’s Shelter	\$ 1,000
Hands for Peacemaking	1,000
Shop with a Cop	1,000
Snohomish Food Bank	1,000
Maltby Food Bank	1,000
Marysville Food Bank	1,000
MacDonald’s gift cards to be given out at the community dinner	750
Hand-in-Hand	500
Homage	<u>500</u>
	<u>\$ 7,750</u>

The Committee reserved \$5,325 to be rolled into 2023 in anticipation of a much smaller amount to be available for distribution next year.

The Committee is very interested in being able to assist local individuals and services. Please let us know if you have any recommendations.

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

December	1	Betty Martens, Terry Vaughn & Jacob Kloes
	4	David Martina
	6	Elizabeth Thoreson
	7	Camryn Kloes
	10	Barry Walther
	17	Jeremy Reichelt

18 Richard McCutchan
24 Jody Rohde, Sabrina Adams
25 Bo Henderson
26 Rick Homme

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 23 Dave & Billie Nilson

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Quilters 3-9pm	2 Project Linus 10-10 Trauma Group 6pm	3 Project Linus 10-10
4 Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship 10:30am Bible Study 6pm	5 4-H Club 6-9pm	6	7	8 Pilchuck Camera Club 5:30	9 Memorial Service 1-4pm 4-H Event 5-9pm	10 Quilters 11am-4pm
11 Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship 10:30am with Children's Program Christmas Family Gifts due Bible Study 6pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Sunday School 9:45am Worship 10:30am Bible Study 6pm	19	20	21 Project Linus	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7pm
25 CHRISTMAS DAY NO WORSHIP SERVICE	26	27	28	29	30	31

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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