

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
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AUGUST 2024

Greetings Church!

I hope everyone has had a wonderful, refreshing, meaning-filled, and rejuvenating summer!

As we get back from vacation and settle into our schedules, I want to invite you to think about how and in what way(s) you would like God (and our church) to be a part of your schedules, routines, and daily/weekly/monthly spiritual life. Consider to what extent and to what degree you would like the God of the universe to be a part of your life. A W Towzer said, "Every person is as close to God as they would like to be."

So, if you'd like be closer to God, and work to prioritize God and the things of God, now could be a good time to pencil in more of God, before your schedules fill up. As we learned from our Old Testament lesson in 2 Kings 4, where Elisha feeds 100 people, we have the opportunity to give to God our first fruits, not just what's left or what's leftover.

The past few weeks, in the midst of my sickness, I've been able to connect with a number of you over the phone and we've made the most of that time by connecting and catching up, but we also had some intentional conversations about church growth.

In the last email I sent, I shared quotes and thoughts and ideas I've heard from parishioners. And I have two things for you to consider. First, it sounds like many of you think that our church may grow by word-of-mouth. This is called *relational growth*. Word will get out and people will hear about what is going on here and they may decide that is something they want in their life as well, or that is something they want to be a part of.

To this end, don't be afraid to talk about or talk up our church in regular conversation with family or friends. If God is doing something here, and it has made a positive impact, talk about it. Tell somebody. It doesn't have to be clunky or awkward, it can be socially appropriate and apropos.

For example, take advantage of the small passing opportunities, like when someone asks how your day is. Subtly mention church. You can say something like, "I'm doing really good, I really enjoyed connecting with my friends at church this past Sunday" or "I'm really good. I heard a sermon this Sunday that really got me to think and it's helped me a lot this week." You don't need to talk a lot to say something small and significant.

You can also look for opportunities to invite people to church. As you talk to your friends, you may hear about things that are going on in your life, and if there is something here at church that can help them, tell them: "Hey, I know you've been struggling with grief and loneliness, you should come to church with me, Good Shepherd is a place that really helped me when I was in a rough season, the people there feel like family" or "You should give our church a try, the service is like a fill-up that gets my mind right and equips me for another week of life." These are just made-up responses, so consider how Good Shepherd has affected you and personalize it.

Let what speaks to you have the chance to speak to others and speak into the spaces they may be inhabiting. It can be like fishing. Try out different things. Just cast the line and reel it back. If you catch someone, great! If not, just reload and recast. We are fishers of people, after all! But genuineness and authenticity are something that I value, and they've been effective for me.

Second, in talking with our council President, he said something that was really encouraging. Looking at the numbers he said, "If we only grew by 5 members a year we would grow at a rate of 13%" (assuming we worship 40 on any given Sunday.) 5 is not a huge or daunting number! It feels *doable*. It's easy to get weighed down with this notion that we need to "save-the-church" or "try-to-survive", but if we break down into a small, tangible, and reasonable goal of 5 friends: we just want to add 5 friends to our friend group every year, that's doable. That's not as daunting! Also, I like it because it means we can focus on quality, not quantity; and I'm not talking about picking and choosing new members. But we get to focus on *loving people well*. That would be hard to do if all of the sudden we had 50 new people; it'd be a fun reality to face, but it'd be hard to faithfully love and serve 50 people as opposed to 5. So, for any new members who come, let's focus on quality. Let's love and serve them well.

To this end, I think it would be helpful to think about church growth in an additional way. In addition to thinking about bringing people in (from the outside), we can also begin to think about the ways we want to grow. What would be helpful for you right now? What do you need? What would you like to see? Would it be helpful to have a midweek fellowship group or a midweek Bible study? Would you like to join a monthly community group, a group that gets together once a month for a dinner? Terry has brought up the idea of camping...

One way to grow our church is to grow our fellowship - what we do and how often we get together to do it. With school coming up, maybe we could try to join a backpack drive, or see if we could put a couple of backpacks together to donate. I don't know. But what I do know is we have a group of great people with great ideas; that's apparent in the people I've talked to so far. So, let's continue the conversation and prayerfully consider how we can not only go forward but also grow forward! The time is ripe and a new season is upon us. Let's make the most of it friends!

Peace and joy,

Pastor JP

THANK YOU TO:

- Those who help keep the lawns mown and the gardens looking good.
- All those who are helping provide the live stream of our Worship Service!
- To all the great cooks providing such a wonderful Breakfast at Breakfast Church!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

As you will read in Doug's report, the damage to our roof was much more extensive than we had imagined which, of course, resulted in additional expense. We will need the congregation to approve the additional funds needed so are calling for a (brief) Special Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 18, immediately following Worship.

Prayer Requests

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

Jon Tollefson, undergoing cancer treatment, cousin of Cheryl McCutchan and Chad Masche.

Sharon and Bogdan as they await the arrival of a baby girl 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

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.***

Prayer requests should be submitted to Pat Pehling (pehling@frontier.com) In an effort to keep the Prayer List timely, names will be included for six months unless a request for removal or continuation is made.

GOODBYE TO BONNIE

As you know, our amazing Music Director Bonnie, has accepted a position at a Church in Mount Vernon that is located less than 2 miles from her home (we are 40 miles). Bonnie will stick with us for the month of August, which is very much appreciated! Here is a note from Bonnie:

“Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful decade. I will leave Good Shepherd with mixed emotions--relieved to be involved with a church only five minutes from my house, but sad to say goodbye to such a loving congregation.

You paid my salary during covid and you take such care in pointing out whenever there is something gluten- and dairy-free on the fellowship hall table. The choir has brought me hours of joy, generous presents, and will always be close to my heart. I had a great relationship with Pastor Tom and continue to be a fortunate recipient of pastoral concern from the irrepressible Pastor JP. When I first told him that a church in Mount Vernon had approached me, he immediately prayed for my decision and for both congregations.

Thank you for your patience in learning new hymns and your stalwart singing of old ones. It would be much easier to leave if you hadn't sounded so good during our latest breakfast church.

Take care,
Bonnie Thoreson”

ELCA MISSION SUPPORT

Tom McCutchan will be heading to the Argentina/Uruguay region to participate in the ELCA YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) program for a year. If you would like to make a donation specific to Tom, please make the check payable to ELCA and note “YAGM - GCS3564” on the memo line. You can put the check in the Sunday offering which will then be mailed to the ELCA.

If you prefer to donate via credit card, ask Cheryl McCutchan to send you the QR code for Tom's personal page or visit www.elca.org/yagm/give and then choose your donation amount and a volunteer's name from the drop down menu. Your support will be appreciated.

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland/Cheryl McCutchan

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! As a result of your generosity we are currently running ahead of budget. If your summer plans take you away from GSLC please consider the following options for supporting your church during your travels.

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>

IN THE WORKS

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. At the special congregational meeting on May 26th, an additional \$12,000 was authorized for additional roofing expenses. To date, two laptops and a printer have been purchased and we have updated the church's financial software. Also, we have paid approximately \$18,500 for the part of the roof that is over the fellowship hall.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson/Cheryl McCutchan

Many thanks to the Kloes Family, Lori and Pat Pehling, and Joni Siewert for providing fellowship snacks after church in July and to everyone who brought food for our second breakfast church on the 28th. You all made the adventure quite a success!

On August 25th we will have a potluck following Worship in honor of Bonnie Thoreson's years of service. It is her last day as our Music Director. Watch for a sign up sheet for what you can contribute and plan to celebrate Bonnie with us!

Coming up in August, there is one Sunday open for fellowship hosting, the 11th .. Lisa and Cheryl will host on the 4th and Sam is hosting on the 18th, along with the baby shower for Sharon and Bogdan.

We have a game night set for Tuesday the 20th, from 5 to 7:30pm. Please join us for bingo, pizza and prizes.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

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

The monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on September 13th at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

Also, weekly youth Sunday School will begin on September 8th at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel. .

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE– Pat Veale

There are many opportunities to serve our Community during the next several months!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES It is **Back to School** time and Riverview Elementary School along with regular school year supplies have some unique needs again this year. Their goal is to provide students with equitable supplies

to their peers and to be discreet in the process. The unique needs are because kids living in poverty come to school without some basics, so they try to keep a supply in the nurse's office for emergencies and to cloth children who may come to school without these basic necessities.

School supplies:

Pencils (#2 sharpened, Ticonderoga or Dixon preferred)

Rulers – not the bendable kind

Crayola 16 color paint sets

Expo dry erase markers

Flair pens

Black sharpie pens

Other needs:

Plain backpacks (no sports, cartoon characters, etc.)

Socks - medium & large sizes

Underwear - sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 & Adult small

Heads up! “God’s work, our hands” is Sunday, Sept 8. Would we like to participate?

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

Pat Veale will find out more about this Opportunity. Contact her if you are interested.

The 27th Snohomish Community CROP HUNGER Walk October 13, 2024 12:30pm

@ St. John’s Episcopal Church

Now more than ever the world’s hungry and displaced need our help. Monies raised from local CROP Hunger walks fund Church World Service (CWS) and our local Community Kitchen. Community Kitchen receives 25% of the funds raised.

In Snohomish the money raised will provide meals to the needy through the all-volunteer Snohomish Community Kitchen. The Community Kitchen delivers and serves in-house approximately 95 meals each Monday and Thursday. Funds are needed to pay for delivery costs, rent and food to keep this important resource available to people in need of a meal. Please donate, walk and support our Walk with your prayers.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks>

We’ll be asking for contributions in November for our Thanksgiving Baskets and then in December for Christmas Gifts and Food Baskets

Also, please remember that we also have on-going drives for the Food Bank, clothing and other needs.

This is the time of the year we start asking a lot, in \$\$, from our family budgets. Please remember your neighbors in need.

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE- Doug Garland

The good news is: Work on the church roof itself has been completed.

The bad news is: There was a lot of rotting, moldy plywood panels and insulation that needed to be replaced, 66 panels in all, adding a lot of expense to the cost of the project. They did a very good job of documenting the bad panels with pictures and explanations of what they found. I can supply these to anyone who may be interested.

The gutters still need to be replaced by Chinook. It is included in the contract and still needs to be completed. They are in the process of getting materials and scheduling an installation date.

The irrigation system has been activated keeping the flower beds green and thriving.

The Annual Fire Inspection was completed last week and we passed without an issue! We should be getting our certificate of occupancy for the next year soon.

Our next work party is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20 starting around 4:00, hope to see you there.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC – Karla Kloes

We just completed our second breakfast church last Sunday, July 28th with a great turnout. It was fun to try something new this summer. I would appreciate feedback on this service. It would be nice to know if we would like to try it again and the pros and cons. Please let me know.

We continue in the church season of Pentecost through November 27th.

Thank you again to Mary Nelson for helping with communion and being my substitute.

As you have probably already heard at church or have read the email, our dear, talented, long serving music director, Bonnie has accepted another job closer to home. This will make it so much easier for her commute especially during the winter months. Her last Sunday with us will be August 25th. We would like to honor her and give her a fond farewell with a potluck after church that Sunday.

I have a substitute pianist lined up for September, Joan Purswell. In the meantime, we will be meeting as a council and forming a committee to work on hiring a new music director. It will take hard work and brainstorming to decide what we need and want here at Good Shepherd as far as worship, music and choir.

While we will deeply miss Bonnie, this is a time for decisions about continuing with a similar service or making changes. During these next steps please provide me or members of the council with your feedback and or suggestions. We would like to know what our church family desires. In addition, if you would like to be on that committee, please reach out to me. We would love the help. I am especially interested in choir members and/or those with musical gifts. Please pray for the process, discernment and God's will

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dell Deierling, Chair

The Benevolent Committee had its third 2024 meeting on July 28. The following distributions were approved:

Assistance League of Everett \$500

Snohomish County Volunteer Search & Rescue \$500

Homage Senior Services \$500

Everett Gospel Mission \$500

Lydia House/Everett Gospel Mission \$500

Bridge Receiving Center \$500

Bethany of the Northwest \$500.

This year's Committee members are Dell Deierling, Rich McCutchan, Ron Walther, Karen Goodnight and Joanie Gilbert. Please feel free to reach out to us with any needs that you identify in community.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:

(Check with Pat Pehling to be sure your family's special dates – Birthdays and anniversaries - are included in the appropriate month!)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 3	Dean Kloes
4	Marilyn Haug, Mike Davis
6	Andrea Cole

7 Ken Hammond
8 Jacob Hammond
13 Herb Holten
16 Christina Deierling
19 Trevor Robinson
20 Marilyn Errey
23 Jeff Nelson
27 Dustin Goodnight

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 4 Mike & Betty Martens
8 Bogdan & Sharon Bozhinov
12 Brian & Lorna Martina
14 Trevor & Brianne Robinson
17 Doug & Donna Garland
19 Daren & Lori Kloes
20 David & Cindy Martina
20 Brad & Jennifer Lachapelle
26 Dean & Karla Kloes
27 Eric & Megan Olson



Splish Splash




IT'S A BABY BASH

PLEASE JOIN US TO HONOR

Sharon Bozhinov

Sunday **08/18/24** 11:30-1:00



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
5511 64th St SE, Snohomish, WA 98290



REGISTERED AT
<https://my.babylist.com/bozhinov>



August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	2	3
4 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	5 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	6	7	8 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	9	10
11 Worship 9:30am Bible Study 6pm	12	13	14	15 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	16	17
18 Worship 9:30am Congregational Meeting 10:30am Baby Shower 11:30 Bible Study 6pm	19	20 Workparty 4pm Game Night 5pm	21 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	22	23	24
25 Worship 9:30am Church Potluck Lunch Bible Study 6pm	26	27	28 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	29	30	31

