

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
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Dear friends, peace and joy be with you!

Happy Reformation Day! I write to you on October 31, and I am excited for the ways in which God is at work in us and with us and praying for how God will continue to work through us!!

Last month we talked about the work we have to do, and it's a really important work. But it's not complex like you might think. The invitation was to simply *be who you are*. Be who you are. Be who God made you to be. And continue to grow into and discover and uncover more about who God made you to be. Where are you strong? Where are you weak? What do you like? What do you not like? What are your passions? What are your growth areas? What are your grace areas?

I love the call of Ephesians 5:10. It's a simple invitation: find out what pleases the Lord. It doesn't dictate or mandate anything. It's an open invitation to discover, uncover, and encounter. And as you discover, uncover, and encounter (God), the path will become clearer. What's great about this call is that you don't have to have it all together to begin. It's just an invitation to come and try-out and try things on, to see what fits and find out what works; or doesn't work.

That's significant in a society where we're not only expected to have it together but rewarded for having it together, having the answers, or knowing the right way or the best way – especially when things are unclear or uncertain. The Good News is that to follow, love, or serve God, you don't have to have the answers, you don't need to know the way, because Jesus *is* The Way, and God will help you *on the way*. What that means is all you need to do is show up: God will do the rest.

In the same way that Paul encourages the Galatians to “not grow weary in doing good”, I encourage you: don't grow weary in seeking or serving the Lord. Karl Jaspers, a great philosopher, once said that philosophy is not about possession of truth but the search for it. He says that philosophy means to be “on the way.” Let us be *on the way*. And as we seek to be *on the way*, let us continue to follow Christ who is The Way *and* The Truth *and* The Life.

Keep an eye out for a congregational email I have been writing over the past week, it will help us engage the phenomenon of election stress and post-election stress. I'll offer some ideas for how to handle election stress and what to do with post-election stress.

For now, be kind to yourself. Be kind to others. The plate of suffering, as Simone Weil talks about, is being rapidly passed in new and ridiculous ways. Take no part in it. Protect your peace. Turn the tv off, take breaks from social media, get out in nature, and talk with God. Feel the feels. Be angry. Be frustrated. Be hopeless. Feel helpless. But don't forget to turn to God so that you can be strengthened. And know that you're not alone. My phone is also open. Send me a text or give me a call if you're mad, upset, frustrated, or weary. You're not alone and you don't have to go it alone. I'm here and God is with us *on the way*.

Happy Reformation Day!

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:**

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:

Lena Joy Bozhinov newly born to Sharon and Bogdan

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

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., 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 continue to care for our church home – inside and out
- Cheryl McCutchan for all her ongoing quiet behind the scenes efforts as our Treasurer for many years!
- All those who contributed to making Oktoberfest so wonderful!

ON LINE WORSHIP

Please remember and share with your friends and family that our weekly worship service continues to be recorded and posted on You Tube (can access on our Website) and Facebook. This is a way to stay connected if you are unable for various reasons to attend. Just go to www.swanstrail.org

The NW Synod website has much information that may be of interest, especially the resources page, which can be found at: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/resources>

FROM THE COUNCIL

The Council will be meeting after worship of Sunday, November 17 . All are welcome!

The nominating committee is seeking nominees to serve in 2025. Please consider where you might be able to use your talents to serve your congregation.

From the Acolytes corner: Terry Danner, Acolyte coordinator/trainer

Did you notice on Reformation Sunday the smiling young lady lighting candles and putting them out??? That was Keira Mahoney. She is Jim and Kristin Flynn's granddaughter. Young Lucas Blair has joined his brother Eli as an acolyte also. These are our two newest acolytes. If you have a young relative or friend who wants to acolyte, just let myself or the Pastor know. Don't worry little Noah Paxton and Lena Bozhinov, I have you on the potential list already. God's blessing to you all.

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dell Deierling, Chair

In October the Benevolent Committee assisted a young boy and father who had recently lost their home by paying \$792.89 for much needed accommodation. Other organizations also jumped in to assist the family.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP & MUSIC – Karla Kloes

November is upon us and daylight savings time. I love the extra hour of sleep.

Sunday, November 3rd we will have a special service for the Affirmation of Baptism for Lily and Noah. We hope you all can make it to support our confirmands. It is also All Saint's Day so wear red.

There will be a special Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 27, at 7pm followed by Pie Fellowship. Please join in!

We are wrapping up the season of Pentecost (November 30th) and on our way to Advent on December 1st, the first day of the liturgical year. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to decorate for Advent, please use the attached form.

Cindy Goetz has been enjoying playing for us each Sunday and plans to continue to the end of the year and beyond. We interviewed another candidate for music director and his name is Paul Hoffman. He will be doing a second interview for us by playing our worship service on Sunday, November 24th. Please come to hear our potential new music director.

Thank you to all who faithfully assist with communion service, prep and clean up. Special thanks this month to Pat P., Donna and Mary.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Pat Veale

A \$120 donation has been made to the Snohomish Crop Hunger Walk.

Thank you for continued food bank contributions, they have been delivered to the Snohomish Food Bank. Please continue to remember their needs as it is a vital resource to many in our community. Donations of funds or non-perishable items are always needed, including not only pantry staples, but also paper products and pet supplies.

November and December are big months for Good Shepherd's community outreach. Please prayerfully consider your gifts as we move into these last few months of the year. Thank you!

The shortened days and leaf color changes indicate fall has arrived and it is rally time for the good people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to donate food to local families who are struggling to make good holiday meals. Please prayerfully consider bringing non-perishable holiday food items to church between now and Sunday, November 24. Deliveries will be made to the families on November 25. Or, if you prefer, please feel free to donate funds to buy perishable foods by making your check payable to: ***Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*** and make sure it is clearly marked **holiday baskets**. Thank you everyone for your generosity to those in need!

Suggested Shelf-Stable Foods

1 Canned Ham

1-2 Boxes of Stuffing Mix

1 Box of Instant Potatoes

2 Box of Macaroni and Cheese

2 Canned Yams

Brown Sugar

1 Bag of Marshmallows

2 Canned Green Beans

1 Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup

French Fried Onions

2 Canned of Corn

1-2 Canned Cranberry Sauce

1-2 Jars of Gravy (Or packets)

1 Cornbread Mix

1 Dessert Mix (Pumpkin Pie Mix, Brownie Mix, Cake Mix, etc.)

2 Jello Mix

The following ideas are optional, but make nice additions to the baskets.

Beverages

Ice Tea Mix

Coffee

Bottled Juice

Drink Mix

Hot Cocoa Mix

Apple Cider (that doesn't need to be refrigerated).

If you're interested in preparing Thanksgiving baskets for the homeless, make sure the foods are ready-to-eat.

Some sample items to include are:

Canned Ham (or SPAM)

Canned Soup or Pasta

Seasoned Canned Vegetables

Ready-to-eat Meals

Chips or Pretzels

Jerky

Dried Fruits/Nuts

Trail Mix

Jello or Pudding Cups

Candy

Bottled Water

Sports Drink

Plastic Utensils

Can Opener

Tip: Consider packing your items in a backpack or small duffle bag.

Looking Forward To Christmas

Christmas gift sponsorship for children of families in need will follow right on the heels of Thanksgiving Baskets. A list will be sent out as soon as I am able to obtain the information. An easel board will also be placed in the Narthex for people to sign up. Thank you for your continued generosity to those in need!

MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson & Cheryl McCutchan

WOW! The Oktoberfest festival had a great turnout with about 50 in attendance. The music provided by the fantastic accordion duo of Kristin and Kathy was such a treat. Thank you to all who brought dishes to share.

Dean took the youth bowling at Strawberry Lanes in Marysville on October 27th as a reward for “good behaviors” during Sunday School. 13 attended with 11 bowling.

Karla, Nancy N, Cheryl and the Oktoberfest leftovers provided wonderful treats throughout October.

November 17th is available if anyone would like to provide after-service fellowship. So grateful for those that already signed up for the other dates in November: 11/3 Masche family; 11/10 Siewert's; and 11/24 Kloes'.

We hope you will join us for the annual Advent Faire on the 24th from 3-5pm. Thank you to JoAnn, Pat P, Renee, and Rich for providing the crafts, advent logs and swags, and Lefse.

Following the Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 27th, there will be a pie social. You are invited to join in and bring your favorite pie to share.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

CHRISTIAN LEARNING - Youth Sunday School begins each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel and the Sunday School students will be performing a Christmas skit during church on December 8th.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - The monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on November 8th at 10:00 AM and December 6th in the Anderson Chapel.

SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY - 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

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Donna Garland

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have been faithful in your offerings and support of Good Shepherd in 2024. Your generosity of time, talents, and offerings are very much appreciated! As a result of your generosity, we are currently running 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 appear to have a water leak between the road and the church. The meter continues to run at about 2.5 gallons a minute when the water valve inside the church is turned off.

I have not had much experience with this but will be looking into getting to problem resolved in the very near future. If you have any recommendations or referral for someone that does this type of work, please forward to me anything that might help with this issue.

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

| | | |
|----------|----|---|
| November | 1 | Kevin Ess |
| | 5 | Kathy Breece |
| | 7 | Kourtney Holton |
| | 9 | Meade Fox, Bruce Richards |
| | 10 | Brittany Reed Menday & Thomas McCutchan |
| | 11 | Tim Danner |
| | 12 | Billie Nilson |
| | 16 | Nancy Moen |
| | 17 | Brianne Robinson |
| | 21 | Patrick Vaughn, Beth Morrison, Don Siewert, |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

| | | |
|----------|----|-------------------------|
| November | 3 | Bruce & Debbie DeVault, |
| | 10 | Fred and Kandi Eldridge |



Poinsettias for our Sanctuary
(Put in Offering Plate or mail to church)

I will donate _____ Poinsettia(s)

_____ In Memory of _____

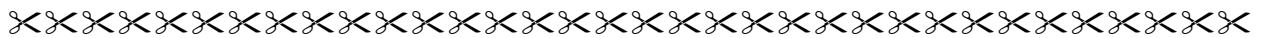
_____ In Honor of _____

_____ Enclosed is \$10 for each Poinsettia

Or

_____ I will deliver to church by December 1

Name _____



November 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i> | 2 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i> Set your clocks back for Daylight Saving time! |
| 3 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm <i>Busy Bees Potluck 3-8pm</i> | 4 <i>The Academy Devotions 8-1:30</i> <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i> | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Women's Bible Study 10am | 9 |
| 10 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm | 11 | 12 <i>The Academy Devotions 8-1:30</i> | 13 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i> | 14 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i> | 15 <i>The Academy Family Night 5-9pm</i> | 16 |
| 17 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Council 10:45 Bible Study 6pm | 18 <i>The Academy Devotions 8-1:30</i> | 19 | 20 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i> | 21 <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i> | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Advent Faire 3-5pm Bible Study 6pm | 25 <i>The Academy Devotions 8-1:30</i> | 26 | 27 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7pm Pie Fellowship follows | 28 Thanksgiving Day | 29 | 30 Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas |