

# The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail  
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**JANUARY 2025**

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Happy New Year, Church!

First, Bri and I wanted to offer our deepest thanks for your love and support of not only us, our ministry with you, but also our kids. We have found a wonderful home with you all and our partnership is life-giving; and we are so grateful for you all!

Second, I'm excited for what God has in store for us in this upcoming year because I can feel God continuing to work in, at, with, and through us. The energy (peace, power, and presence of God) is palpable, and it is addicting; I want more of it – for me, for you, for all of us, for all who come through our doors!

As we head into the New Year, we have the opportunity to look back on this past year and ask formative questions like:

- Who did we become?
- What did we experience?
- How did we respond to what we experienced?
- Where was God in all of this?
- How and in what way(s) did we become more/less like Christ?

Reflecting can lead to several healthy and helpful things like 1) personal growth, 2) relational and communal growth and strengthening, 3) gratitude and appreciation, 4) hope and resilience, and 5) spiritual meaning, significance, and maturity. Ultimately, looking back grounds, equips, and strengthens the next step forward so that as we move forward, we can do so with greater clarity, focus, and intentionality; and in a way that invites and centers God in our lives.

As we enter the New Year, I want to offer a small warning: watch out for division and discord. When God is at work, Satan seeks to destroy this work. And what Satan can't destroy, he'll try to divide, discourage, or dampen. So, be on the lookout for bumps in the road and responses to bumps in the road that may lead to division or discord. When bumps happen, be a leader and respond with the grace, maturity, and wisdom that is in Christ so we can all continue to grow in Christ.

Last month, I shared the Theme of the Year: Rooted. The first month will focus on *Rooted in God's Welcome*. Through congregational emails, social media posts, and the preached Word, we will engage what it means to be a welcoming church which, as we'll see, being welcoming isn't what we do at the door, as Rev. Dr. Amy Oden says. It's "what we do *after* people walk through the doors", so we'll take a deeper look at God's deeper welcome, not just for guests and visitors, but God's Welcome to us as well!

In the New Year, we'll launch a **Bible Study** on *The Parables* as a way to engage our Theme of the Year: Rooted. The Parables will help root us in the work, will, and way of God to encourage and strengthen our journey as the people of God. We will also work to become rooted in fellowship with **Dinner for 8 Groups**. So, keep an eye out and sign up to host or attend. This is a great way to establish *deeper roots* in our relationships with one another over a potluck-style or hosted meal.

Thank you for your love and faithfulness. I am so grateful for every one of you. Connecting with you all, even for brief moments, in the parking lot, narthex, or fellowship hour is such a delight. I am continually encouraged by you and I appreciate you. Let's continue to grow and develop *deeper roots* in this upcoming year!

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 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:*

*Helen Hoff, Suzanne Walter's mother, who is hospitalized in Fargo, North Dakota*

*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*

*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.**

### **ON LINE WORSHIP**

Please remember and share with your friends and family that our weekly worship service continues to be live streamed and recorded on YouTube (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](http://www.swanstrail.org)

## **FROM THE COUNCIL**

The Council will be meeting on January 19 to prepare our 2025 budget, which will be proposed to the Congregation at our 2025 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26.

### **Things to think about for January:**

We will be having two congregational meetings in January. The first will be to vote on our intent to approve the revised constitution. The constitution has been updated to conform with the model constitution for congregations as put forth by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The second meeting will be our annual congregational meeting where in addition to reviewing 2024, voting to adopt a budget for 2025, voting for council persons, any other church business; and we will be voting to ratify the constitution.

Please note that according to the current constitution there are specific requirements for a person to be considered a voting member. First, **voting members are confirmed members**. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith. Second, confirmed members shall have **communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year**. A “contribution of record” is interpreted as being a contribution that has been made with your name associated with the offering. If you typically contribute cash anonymously and wish to be recorded as a voting member, please consider putting your offering in an envelope with your name on the outside so that we may record your offering.

## **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK**

Doreen Parise, who is a retired nurse, has offered do another health/blood pressure check after church on January 12. Let’s take advantage of her expertise!

## **THANK YOU TO:**

- Those who continue to care for our church home – inside and out.
- Maddie Morrison for teaching crocheting hats
- Dorene Parise for Blood Pressure checks
- Sabrina Adams for her special music
- All the generous donations of gifts for five families given by *McCutchans, Lisa Robinson, Joy Vaughn, DeVaults, Siewerts, Erreys, Nancy Moen, Goodnights, Paxtons, Deierlings and Pat Veale*. Also *Project Linus* for a quilt/blanket for each child! Thanks to Pat Veale for organizing this project and to Pat Pehling and Marilyn Errey for delivery to the school and Dell Deierling to delivery to the other two families.

- Those providing Poinsettias for our Sanctuary

*Nancy Moen in Memory of Alton Moen*

*Nancy Moen in Memory of Steven Moen*

*Al and Marilyn Errey in Memory of Loved Ones*

*Richard and Cheryl McCutchan in Memory of Stan & Irene McCutchan (Parents of Rich)*

*Richard and Cheryl McCutchan in Memory of Bill & Mur Jensen (Parents of Cheryl)*

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

*Dell and Renee Deierling in Memory of Flo Craven*

*Joy Vaughn in Memory of Ken & Ellie Vaughn*

*Joy Vaughn in Memory of Don & Martha Taylor*

*Pat Pehling in Memory of Doc and Carol Pehling*

**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>

**MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson & Cheryl McCutchan**

Thank you to Donna, Karla, Erreys, and Pat P for providing fellowship treats in December. If you are able to help out in January, the last three Sundays are open (Jan 12th, 19th, and 26th). Please sign up in the notebook by the mailboxes in the fellowship hall.

Special thank you to Madilyn Morrison for sharing her talent with yarn and demonstrating how to crochet hats and bracelets.

Reminder that everyone is invited to join the Sunday School students for ice skating at the Everett Community Ice Rink on January 24.

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Pat Veale**

Thank you for your generosity to those in need! The Christmas gifts were delivered to three Riverview Elementary families ( 9 children ). Also, two local families benefited from your generosity. In addition, each of the families was provided with local grocery gift cards along with a Quilt from Diane Campbell and Project Linus Quilters.

Thank you for continued food bank contributions! They have been delivered to the Snohomish Food Bank. Please continue to remember the Food Bank 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, baby diapers and wipes; adult diapers; personal hygiene items; household cleaning products; homemade or purchased masks; disinfectant; paper and plastic grocery bags; produce bags canvas or nylon bags; and pet food.

**MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION –Dean Kloes**

**CHRISTIAN LEARNING -**

Youth Sunday School begins each Sunday at 10:45 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

Then, on January 24th from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm, the Sunday School students, their families and anyone else are invited to go ice skating at the Everett Community Ice Rink (Angel Of The Winds).

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - The monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on January 17th at 10:00 AM 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.

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** - Thank you to Pastor JP for leading a great Sunday morning Advent bible study, for all who had interest, in the fellowship hall. Plans are currently in development to begin a new Sunday morning bible study in the new year. Please be watching for more information.

**MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Doug Garland**

The water leak has been stopped but not resolved at this point. The culprit is the water hydrant on the east side of the church. I'm in the process of getting it fixed and a permanent solution in place. The problem is that when working on it all the water has to be shut off to the church, I hope to have it completed before the school starts again.

Also in the works are our water heaters. They are both beyond their expected life expectancy. I don't have a lot of expertise in this area so I will be looking for some support in replacing them. Two electric hot water heaters need to be replaced off hours when the church is not in use.

The good news is that with all the rain and wind in the last month or so there is no sign of water leaking into the church that we have experienced in the past under those circumstances.

As always, I very much appreciate the support and assistance the congregation provides to keep the church in good working condition. Providing a supportive environment for worship, fellowship and education.

### **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 in 2024. Your generosity of time, talents, and offerings are very much appreciated! As a result of your generosity, we have finished the year in a favorable position as well as having made our 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 WORSHIP & MUSIC – Karla Kloes**

For worship we are just finishing up the season of Christmas and moving into Epiphany and the time after Epiphany until Lent.

As most of you know already, but it has not been included in the newsletter yet, Paul Hoffman declined our offer as Music Director. We are privileged to have Cindy Goetz play our services. We have been enjoying having the choir sing too and look forward to hearing more soon.

Thank you to Sabrina Adams for playing on December 29th. We always enjoy her talent and contribution.

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias for the altar. Thank you also to Mary Nelson and Donna Garland who helped with communion during December.

Thank you to our faithful bulletin Angels Marilyn Errey, Joni Siewert, and Dean Kloes.

Karla Kloes 425-971-7702

### **CONCERT**

Greetings Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

I'm hoping this has been an excellent Christmas Time.

The Everett Norwegian Male Chorus is keeping the Jultid alive with a final concert to finish the season. In celebration of the 11th Day of Christmas, we are going to have our Christmas concert here in Everett!

We'll be at Normanna Hall, this coming Saturday Jan 4th, concert at 2pm.

Coffee and cookies afterwards.

This is a FREE concert, but please donate what you can so we can keep singing!

Gary Strombo

President Everett Norwegian Male Chorus, Normanna Sons of Norway

2725 Oakes, Everett WA. 98201

**SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:**

*(If we don't have your family's special dates, please write them down and pass along to Pat Pehling - we'd like to include everyone!)*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

January	1	Nicolas Smith
	5	Bruce Martina
	9	Noah Kloes
	10	Jennifer Ess
	11	Colin Cole
	17	Cheryl McCutchan and Lori Kloes
	19	Pat Veale
	20	Kristin Flynn
	25	Gail Blaske
	26	Megan Olson
	29	Eric Olson

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY- None for January!**

## January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Worship 9:30am with <i>Baptism of Lena Joy</i> Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	<b>6</b> <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15 4-H 6-9pm	<b>7</b> 4-H 6-9pm	<b>8</b> <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 4-H 10am – 3pm
<b>12</b> Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Congregational Meeting 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	<b>13</b> <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Women's Bible Study 10am	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	<b>22</b> <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>Project Linus 10-10</i> Ice Skating 12-2pm	<b>25</b> <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
<b>26</b> Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Worship 9:30am Annual Meeting 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	<b>27</b> <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	