

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
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MARCH 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy March, Church!

We have concluded two months in our year-long theme of Rooted! We have taken a look at what it means to be **Rooted** in God's Welcome and this past month have taken a look at what it means to be **Rooted** in God's Wisdom. This next month we are going to continue to turn to God and let God **Root** us in **Humility!**

As a teaser, in April we will look at what it means to be **Rooted** in "These Three Days" to see how and in what way(s) Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Resurrection Sunday can inform, guide, and inspire our Spiritual Lives!

Beginning in Lent, we will begin a Lenten study with Walter Brueggemann's *A Way Other Than Our Own*. Our first study will begin Sunday, March 9 @ 8:30am and end at 9:15am. We will meet for 6 weeks. Books have arrived and can be picked up for purchase this Sunday (suggested donation of \$10). This study will provide a short didactic, or teaching (with power point) to introduce a history, tradition, and theology of Lent, include handouts, and spiritual practices to deepen our Roots in God during this Lenten journey.

If you're looking to grow personally or spiritually, I invite you to schedule a time with me for a few sessions of Short-Term Spiritual Guidance. In these sessions, we work together to help you develop spiritual goals and identify spiritual tools, resources, and practices to reach these goals (grow closer to God). In addition, if anyone would like pastoral counseling, they can reach out to the pastor to schedule a time to meet. *Pastoral counseling is not clinical counseling. It does not focus on the treatment of grief, stress, trauma, or mood and mental illness. What pastoral counseling does is help people of faith identify spiritual tools, skills, and resources that can help them address stress, grief, trauma, and/or mood and mental illness.

I believe God has Good in store for us, and I am excited for us to grow deeper Roots in God and let God Root us deeper in faith!

Happy March,
Pastor JP

THANK YOU TO

- Doug for improving internet in the Fellowship Hall and Downstairs office
- Dean for replacing deck boards as needed
- Those who will be replacing our hot water tanks
- The outstanding gravel crew of Dean, Doug, Pat, Dell, Ron and Ron's Tractor
- Those providing a fun fellowship time with dinner and Bunco

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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Remember that Daylight Savings time begins on March 9 so set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on March 8

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dell Deierling, Chair

In February we committed the following funds (actual payments are awaiting funding from the Benevolent Gift Fund): \$500 each to Snohomish Community Food Bank, Maltby Food Bank, & Marysville Community Food Bank; \$500 to Everett Recovery Café; \$500 to Lutheran World Relief in support of California wildfire victims; \$1,500 to a local family in need of transportation/rental assistance.

This year's Committee members are Tim Danner, 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.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 4.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION –Dean Kloes

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

New - Beginning 3/9 at 8:30 am, Pastor J.P. will lead us through a Lenten bible study in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!!

Also, the monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on 3/28, 4/25, 5/23 and 6/20 at 10:00 AM in the Anderson Chapel.

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

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND ADULT FELLOWSHIP –

Cheryl McCutchan & Lisa Robinson

Thank you to the providers of February fellowship:

2/2 Lisa and Cheryl;

2/9 Joni;

2/16 Pastor JP's breakfast casserole and the mystery cake;

2/23 Karla

On February 25th, about 20 gathered at 6pm for dinner and Bunco. Big thank you to Karla for getting the ball (or dice) rolling with that idea. Renee came away with the most wins, Rich the most losses, Jacob had the last Bunco, Noah had the last baby Bunco and the most Buncos, and Donna rounded it out with the most baby Bunco's.

We appreciate those signed up for March fellowship:

3/2 Cheryl and Lisa;

3/9 Donna and Suzanne;

3/16 Pat V and Evelyn;

3/23 OPEN;

3/30 Nancy N and Nancy M

On March 14th, 28 people will be attending the Silvertips hockey game at 7:05.

Also in March, starting with Ash Wednesday on the 5th, we will be having soup suppers at 6pm preceding the 7pm services throughout the season of Lent. There will be sign up sheets in the fellowship hall for bread and dessert to accompany the soup.

MINISTRY OF GODS HOUSE – Doug Garland

We have recently expanded the parking lot on the west side to accommodate more vehicles during busy times.

We have also installed a new wireless system to the church to increase coverage throughout the church. We will soon be enabling the guest portion of it so all visitors to the church will have access to free Wi-Fi in the church if desired.

Other projects in the works are replacing or two old water heaters that are out of date.

Repairing and repaving the parking lots, another special project that will need to be approved by the congregation if the council decides to move forward on this.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Chris Homme

The Snohomish Food Bank has an ongoing need for food donations. In addition to food, other items requested include:

Peanut butter, canned protein (chicken, tuna, salmon), beans, crackers, granola bars, pasta and cereals, instant mashed potatoes, spices, flour, cooking oil, baby and adult disposable diapers, wipes, household cleaning products, personal hygiene items, paper and plastic grocery bags (produce bags, canvas or nylon), and dry or canned pet food. Please bring food items anytime and place them in the bins in the narthex. When we have a few boxes collected, I will deliver them to the Food Bank.

Matthew House in Monroe closed last June so we will no longer be able to contribute to that organization. Good Shepherd has traditionally supported the Everett Gospel Mission's Men and Women's Shelter, where clothing and personal hygiene items are always appreciated. If you specifically want to donate to the shelter, indicate so on the bag/box you leave in the Narthex, and I will make sure it gets delivered.

The blood banks are low, so if you would like to donate blood, contact a blood bank.
If there are additional ways you know of to serve the community, please let me know.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP –Karla Kloes

Psalm 130:5-6 "I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word, I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning."

Genesis 3:19 "... for you are dust and to dust you shall return"

We start March with Transfiguration Sunday and then on March 5th Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent which goes through April 17th. The colors on the altar will change and the music will change. These 40 days are the time of observance or reflecting on the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring the temptation by Satan. We consider Jesus' suffering and death and anticipate the celebration of His resurrection - Easter.

Pastor JP will be out of town March 1st-8th. Deacon Liz Colver will be our pulpit supply on Sunday March 2nd. She will also be available for on-call support or Pastoral emergency while Pastor JP is out of town. Her email is deacon.liz.colver@gmail.com and her phone number is (206)391-2117.

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday March 5th. We will have soup supper at 6:00 p.m. and our service starts at 7:00 p.m. We will have pulpit supply Pastor Ron Nitz that evening and our pianist will be Gwen Hildenbrand (first time for both of them here). Please come and join us.

Starting Sunday March 9th there will no longer be a pause or break in the postlude following the service. Cindy will start playing and we will all process out as she plays. There will no longer be the play for a minute and wait and play again. Just to clarify the congregation may leave as soon as the postlude begins. It may take a few weeks to get used to but let me know if you have any questions.

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!

As approved at the annual meeting, we have a budget to support the church's ministries for the year. The details below reflect this 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>

Just a reminder for those of you who are Thrivent members, Thrivent offers Thrivent Choice dollars they will donate at no cost to their members. This is money that you can designate to specific tax deductible organizations, of which Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is one. When I went into designate my Choice dollars, I discovered that some would expire at the end of March. No matter where you designate those dollars to go, please do not let them expire unused. They can be a blessing to non-profit organizations.

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	3 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15 4-H 6-9pm	4	5 Ash Wednesday Soup & Bread 6pm Worship 7pm	6	7	8 4-H 9am-4pm Set your clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Saving Time to start
9 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Lenten Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	10 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	11	12 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i> Soup & Bread 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm	13 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	14	15
16 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Lenten Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	17 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	18	19 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i> Soup & Bread 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm	20 4-H 6-9pm	21 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	22 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
23 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Lenten Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	24 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15	25	26 Soup & Bread 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm	27	28	29
30 Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Lenten Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	31 <i>The Academy</i> 8:45-9:45 & 12:45-1:15					

