

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What's up Church!

Happy Advent - a time of waiting, preparation, and stillness.

The French sculptor, Auguste Rodin, once said, "Patience is also a form of action." Waiting, rest, and stillness can be difficult for us (in a success-driven, achievement-focused society) because it can *feel* like we're not doing anything. But doing nothing, paradoxically, is actually doing something, and it's a very important something. In a world of busyness, I think we forget that we are human *beings*, not human *doings*. It's constantly go-go-go, do-do-do, achieve-achieve-achieve. And often times it's at any cost. Your mental health, physical health, social and emotional health. Busyness, success, and achievement comes at a cost. So, Advent is an important time to stop, think, reflect, and determine if we're busy with and successful at not only the right things but the things of God.

As we look to the New Year, I want to announce our very first *Theme of the Year*. A *Theme of the Year* is a theme that will guide, orient, and influence our spiritual lives so that much of what we do will center on this theme. The theme for this upcoming year is *Rooted*. We're going to look at not only what the word means, but what it means and looks like for our lives of faith so that we can be(come) rooted in not just the right things, but the good things and the God-things. Keep an eye out for more!

Currently, we're kicking off a 4-week Advent Discussion Group centered around a book by Alistair Begg. This group is process-oriented, which means it is not focused on learning: it's focused on becoming! The questions, discussion, and dialogue will help us become *Rooted* in the ethos of Advent and our lives of faith. I will provide breakfast each of the four weeks and the menu includes: Breakfast Casserole, Veggie Omelets, Baked French Toast, and a Breakfast Burritos.

Beyond Advent, I plan to host **Bible Studies** that will be *Rooted* in books of the Bible and help us establish *Roots* in topical studies like anger, grief, trauma, evangelism and church growth, faith and mental illness, spiritual growth, and stress and coping.

We will also launch a **Dinner for 8 Group**. Dinner for 8 is exactly what it sounds like. 8 people sign up to have dinner together. Each month, 8 more people will sign up (same and/or new members) and the group will be hosted at someone's house each month. Pastor JP and Bri will host the first kick-off dinner in the New Year, so keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet.

We will also launch **The Lunch Bunch**. Once a month, we'll set a time, a date, and a place to gather together and grow together over a nice meal at a local restaurant. This will also begin in the New Year!

We have a lot of exciting things in the mix. We hope you'll find time to connect with more people here at church outside of church, and be inspired to invite others to come, experience, and be a part of what God is doing here in us, with us, and among us.

Happy Thanksgiving and welcome to Advent!
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.**

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 on January 19 to prepare our 2025 budget, which will be proposed to the Congregation at our 2025 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. There will also be a short Congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, January 12, to approve updates for our Constitution and ByLaws and then the changes can be ratified at the Annual Meeting.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK

Doreen Parise, who is a retired nurse, has offered do health/blood pressure checks after church on December 15 and January 12. Let's take advantage of her expertise!

THANK YOU TO:

- Those who continue to care for our church home – inside and out. Special thanks to Doug Garland for getting our water leak located and temporarily fixed!
- Our fantastic “D” team of Doug, Dell and Dean for acquiring and installing the new Smart TV in the Fellowship Hall!
- Dean Kloes and those helping update our Confirmation Photos
- Don Siewert, Pat Pehling and Errey’s for providing the greens for the Advent Faire
- All those providing crafts for Advent Faire – Joann Barstad, Renee Deierling, Pat Pehling, Richard McCutchan for the wonderful Lefse, and Diane Campbell and Project Linus for the fun coloring for future quilts!
- All the generous donations to our Thanksgiving Baskets for three Riverview School families.
- Doug, Donna and Pat P for acquiring the Tree and setting it up ready for decorating!
- All the special folks decorating the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the Christmas Season!
- 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

ANDERSON BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE – Dell Deierling, Chair

In November the Benevolent Committee assisted two single mothers with rent assistance (\$1,500 & \$1,450) and another woman with an automobile insurance payment (\$242.87). In both house rental situations, we felt that our support bridged financial gaps that will get the moms to where they can take care of themselves and children going forward. In addition, we approved \$750 for 75 McDonald gift cards for Community Kitchen attendees to be given out at Christmas time.

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.

We will have a need for a new member starting in 2025. Please consider serving.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9.

MINISTRY OF FELLOWSHIP – Lisa Robinson & Cheryl McCutchan

We had quite a turnout for the Advent Faire on November 24th. There were 40-50 attendees, including guests from Christ the King. The end result was 20-25 swags assembled, 64 Lefse flipped, 8 craft options, and 46 quilt squares colored! (Note: Diane would like to thank everyone who helped “make such lovely blocks to go into a lot more quilts”).

A huge Thank You to everyone who provided Pies for Thanksgiving Eve fellowship! They were all delicious!

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP & MUSIC – Karla Kloes

Emmanuel - God is with us. This Sunday we begin the new season of the church year (the beginning) Advent. May we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth with anticipation and joy.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 7pm on December 24. Bring your families to experience this wonderful worship time.

I wish I had some answers to share about our music director. There has been no decision yet. I will keep you posted. Please keep our church in your prayers. Paul Hoffman, for the second part of his interview, played Sunday the 24th and we all enjoyed him, hearing the choir and his musical talent. I had a meeting with Paul and Cindy on Tuesday November 26th. It was a good meeting of sharing goals and desires and how we might work together. It is a challenge making the decision because Paul has other commitments throughout the year.

Thank you to Dean, Mary, Joy and Lincoln for helping with communion.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE – Pat Veale

Thank you for your gracious and generous donations to Holiday Baskets! On November 25, three local Riverview Elementary school families were provided with both perishable and non-perishable holiday food items to make good holiday meals. The families were very grateful for these generous gifts of food!

For Christmas we will be providing food gift cards 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 plus two families who need our help as well to a total of 5. The signup board/sheet is in the Narthex. Please bring the **wrapped and labeled** gifts to church by Sunday, December 15.

The Food Banks are in need of our help as well. There is a box in the narthex for your donations.

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

Also, the Benevolent Fund has provided McDonalds Gift Cards to the Community Kitchen

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

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).

During the Advent season, each Sunday from 8:30 AM- 9:00 AM or 9:15 AM, Pastor JP will be hosting an Advent book study using the book *Let the Earth Receive Her King* by Alistair Begg.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - The monthly Friday women's bible study group will continue their study of 1 Corinthians on December 6th and 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.

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 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>

MOVIE TIME

All are invited to attend the movie "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" on December 15 at the Marysville Regal Cinema. Times are not yet available (probably between 2 and 4pm) but watch for an email and on Facebook with the time so you can purchase your tickets in advance.

COMMON GROUND CONCERT – A Holiday Celebration & Sing Along – Jeff Thoreson, one of the members of this group, shared this information for Good Shepherd. This year it is at Everett First Presbyterian Church, 2936 Rockefeller on Sunday, December 15 at 3pm. Free with suggested donations to Port Gardner Bay Music Society.

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	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
	26	Rick Homme

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December	23	Dave & Billie Nilson
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Bible Study 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 8:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	2 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 And 2:30-3:30</i> <i>4-H Meeting 6-9pm</i>	3 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 And 2:30-3:30</i>	4 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 And 2:30-3:30</i>	5 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 And 2:30-3:30</i>	6 Women's Bible Study 10am <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>	7 <i>Project Linus 10-10</i>
8 Bible Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	9 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 And 12:45-1:15</i>	10	11 <i>Project Linus 10-3</i>	12 <i>Pilchuck Camera Club 7pm</i>	13	14 <i>Busy Bees Christmas Party Fellowship</i>
15 Bible Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Blood Pressure Check 10:30 Sunday School 10:45am Family Movie TBD Bible Study 6pm	16 <i>The Academy 8:45-9:45 And 12:45-1:15</i>	17	18	19	20	21
22 Bible Study 8:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25 	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Bible Study 6pm	30	31	Congregational Meeting – January 12 Annual Meeting – January 26 The Academy Christmas Break – December 22-January 1			

