

The Shepherd's Staff
Monthly Newsletter of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail
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From the Bishop:

At first glance, it does not seem as though Teresa of Avila, noted Spanish Roman Catholic saint from the sixteenth century, would have much to say about today's world. You see, she is well known for her mysticism, her ecstatic prayers, several quotes that she might or might not have said, and her reforms in the church.

All of these things are interesting – but what do they have to do with the 21st century and what is happening in the world today? In the last few days, though, I have been thinking about what she writes at the beginning of her work, *The Interior Castle*. At the beginning of this book Teresa admits that she is tired. On the first page she writes, “I’m writing this book under obedience and I’m already finding it hard. God hasn’t given me any desire for this work, and my head is so full of noise I can barely compose a letter about the most ordinary business, much less a book about prayer.”

I am so thankful for Teresa stating it bluntly. Teresa is unsure if she’ll succeed, she is not sure she has it in her to do what she is being asked to do, she is nervous and distracted. In other words, St. Teresa sounds a lot like all of us – especially when we are being asked to do something that is different or hard or difficult.

Truthfully, it can be daunting as we continue to navigate this pandemic, as we continue to navigate the changes of the world and the changing church, as we strive to live into what God is calling us to do. It is difficult, as Teresa fully expresses, to push past our fear or our unease or our malaise to do what God is calling us to do. It is pretty impossible to do a new thing without God’s help and guidance. And so, as I reflect on Teresa’s difficulties, our difficulties, I am also drawn to scripture – specifically Isaiah 43. In the first part of Isaiah 43 we read:

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

The prophet writes that God created us, God formed us. We have no need for fear because God knows each of our names. God calls each of us. We are God’s. No matter the circumstance, no matter the trial, no matter the fire. This is what Teresa understood and it is what we cling to when we struggle and when we wonder if we can go on. I invite you to hold Isaiah 43:1-3 closely as we

hear these words from Isaiah 43:18-19. Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

As we hold close the promise that God creates us, forms us, names us, calls us, and holds us, only then can we hear the promise in these words that a new thing, a new day is coming. That God will make a way. May we hold close the words of St. Teresa and the prophet Isaiah. May you feel God's love surrounding you when all seems overwhelming. And may you rise in the strength of the Lord knowing that God's love surrounds you and fills you – and a way is being made as we all go forward together in Christ.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee bishop@lutheransnw.org

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Tom and Jody and they begin a new era in their lives

The Kloes family on the loss of Karla's mother

The Farmer family on the loss of Erika's sister, Erin

For health concerns:

Bob Amberson

Richard McCutchan's sister

Heidi Ferria, Pat Heifort's daughter

Bo Henderson

Juli Reed, who is struggling with MSA

Karla Kloes' sister, Fara Schwencke

***For all others who are in need of healing and wholeness,
especially those affected by COVID 19***

For peace all around the world,

For 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.***

CONGRATULATIONS

To our long-time and beloved pastor on his Retirement!

In case you were unable to attend his final day, the Congregation presented Pastor Tom a \$1,000 Disney Gift Card, a \$1,000 Travel Gift Certificate and an additional Gift Card amounting to \$1,000. In addition, Jody was presented with a lovely necklace and a beautiful bouquet of flowers. We hope they both recognize how much they have been appreciated all these many years. The generosity of members of friends of Good Shepherd certainly reflect that appreciation!

Also, Snohomish Lions Club, through Renee Deierling, donated a beautiful bench made from recycled plastic bags and we added a plaque honoring Pastor Tom's long time with Good Shepherd. It is currently located in the Narthex but will be installed outside (so Pastor Tom can come to sit on it anytime!) Also some additional donations have been contributed so an additional gift card will be presented to Pastor Tom in the near future.

FROM THE COUNCIL

Your Church Council met with Pastor Andy Yee (assistant to the Bishop) to begin the process of obtaining a Transition Pastor, which should happen, we are hoping, within 2 months. Meanwhile, Pat Davis has arranged for Supply Pastors for Sunday Worship.

Once we have a Transition Pastor, the Transition Team will be selected and begin their work of preparing a Ministry Site Profile. This Profile of our church will be the document that is viewed by prospective pastors. The entire congregation will have the opportunity to be a part of that preparation!

If you are interested in serving on the Transition Team or the Call Committee, please contact a Council Member.

THANK YOU TO

- All those who so generously made contributions to the retirement gifts for Pastor Tom
- To all who participated in many ways on Pastor Tom's final day with us!
- Those who have kept our lawns mown and gardens weeded....and helped with other projects through the summer!
- To all those who have been helping at the monthly work parties.
- To those who are now doing the bulletins, up-dating the website, live-streaming the worship service, and serving as Sunday Supervisors to prepare the church for worship and then close it all up after service....there is a lot to do!!!!

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE– Marilyn Errey

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 our community service team/projects. If anyone has thoughts or ideas for contributions for our community service giving, please contact me. Thank you so much!

MINISTRY OF GIFTS – Dell Deierling

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who are faithful in their offerings and support of Good Shepherd. Your generosity of time, talents and offerings are greatly needed and very much appreciated!

OFFERING OPTIONS

To help you with your gift giving we continue to offer a couple of options should you not be donating in person. Please feel free to mail your contribution to the church. As a second option, most banks will send out checks for you via a bill pay type application. Check with your bank or your on-line banking website. An additional option is a Tithe.ly donate link on our website, <https://www.swanstrail.org>. We will receive reports from the Tithe.ly site as the funds are transferred to the church bank account to be able to credit you for these gifts as normal for year-end reporting. With this option you can decide to cover the transaction fees for the church if you wish.

Please prayerfully consider all your gifts to our church community (both financially and time/talents).

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE – Chad Masche

Gardening Work Party: PLEASE join us for the next work party on **Tuesday, October 19th** starting at 5:00pm. We get a lot done on these work parties but need more hands to stay ahead of the weeds, and trimming shrubs. Any time you can contribute is very much appreciated. No experience is necessary, your time and a good attitude is all that is required. We will continue to offer burgers for volunteers at our future work parties, please let me know ahead of time if you plan on attending.

Special thanks and recognition to Dean Kloes, Noah Kloes, and Al Errey for assisting with all the parking duties at the church for Pastor Toms final Sunday Service. Additional thanks to Pat Pehling, Marilyn & Al Errey, and Dean Kloes for participating in the September work Party. We moved all the pews back into the sanctuary and continued to battle the non-stop weeding outside.

Projects are continuously being recognized, discussed, and considered. If you see something in need of repair, a safety issue, or have an idea for improvements in and around the church, please let me know so they can be addressed.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP & MUSIC – Pat Davis

The next few weeks and months will bring a great deal of change to Good Shepherd. Change is not a bad thing. If we do not change, stretch and grow we run the risk of not being part of what will be an exhilarating tomorrow! That is not to say change is easy...it is challenging.

Some of the changes we will see beginning this Sunday, October 3rd, is the first of the Supply Pulpit pastors who will be bringing us the Good News of Jesus Christ. Supply Pulpit pastors will continue until the bishop's office finds us a Transition Pastor who will lead us and guide us during the time of Transition and extending a call to a new pastor.

Another change coming this Sunday is the concept of **Sunday Supervisor**. For the next few months Sunday Supervisors will be members of the church council. The role of the Sunday Supervisor will be to open the church (there is a great deal more involved than just unlocking the door!) and then closing the church following service and Sunday school. The Sunday Supervisor needs assistance with several tasks...we need a **greeter**, a **reader**, and **communion assistants**. Please respond with a resounding "YES" when called to help with tasks.

As we continue to work together as a congregation, we will find that change is a positive aspect of our ministry together.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this past Sunday such a wonderful experience for Pastor Tom, Jody, their family and all of us.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION – Dean Kloes

Women's Bible Study - The Women's Bible study will be held Friday, October 15th, at 10:00 am in the Anderson Chapel. We will be studying "Trusting God, A Life Without Worry". The chapter is Isaac's Unforgettable Love Story, it can work as a stand alone study if you aren't able to make it each time.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH & ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Marilyn Sheppard

On Sunday, October 17th at 2:00 PM, the youth plan to visit The Farm in Snohomish to play games and gather pumpkins.

FAITH AND EVERYDAY LIFE – Lutheran Counseling Network

October 2021

My mother was my Sunday school superintendent when I was growing up. I grew up believing my mom had a lifetime of faith that she passed on to me and my siblings. It wasn't until after her death that my father told me that it was his influence that led my mom to faith and being baptized after they were married. I had no idea. The rich seeds of faith that my father had been given as a child were handed to my mother who handed that love of Jesus to us. My mother grew in faith along with her children.

In The Message translation, we read this paraphrase of 2 Timothy 1:5-7 "That precious memory triggers another: your honest faith—and what a rich faith it is, handed down from your grandmother Lois to your mother Eunice, and now to you! And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed—keep that ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible." These passages have a rich message of passing on the faith. It is a call to be generous with encouragement and prayer for those who are in our family, in the family we have chosen, and for those we mentor. I believe this to be a message to us today and every day. Be bold with the gifts God has given us. Be loving with the gifts God has given us. Be sensible with the gifts God has given us. Go...keep that ablaze.

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network