

The Shepherd's Staff

Monthly Newsletter of

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Swan's Trail

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5511 64th Street SE, Snohomish WA 98290

Pastor Thomas J. Rohde

Church Phone 425-334-1220

July 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear People of God at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Hope you are all well and safe as you read this. I find myself saying that a lot to folks as I end my conversations: be safe. It has replaced have a nice day, or see you later. Be safe.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

I hope that amidst all these word from the Apostle Paul, he is not saying that we should not be held accountable for our actions. We have an excuse, so don't hold my actions against me. I don't know how far we can get with that.

Paul does seem to say we know what we want to do, or want to be, we just can't do it. We have some awareness, some sense, some direction that gets short circuited by sin. It is not like we are clueless or dense or just can't see it. That is important during these times.

In conversations, mostly with colleagues, during this time of protest and marches and rallies, I have to admit I don't see it, I am clueless and I am dense when it comes to ways, I, as a white, advantaged male have more than a leg up on many others. I don't see my own racist tendencies, I didn't have a very good working definition of what racism is and so I cannot even say "for I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" because I don't even know what the that is. That is how clueless many of us are. We just don't see it. And maybe we don't want to.

And maybe the reason we don't is because we don't want to give up the advantage we have. Maybe the reason we don't want to is because we would have to reorient our whole way of thinking and acting. Maybe the reason we don't want to is because we would have to give up the luxury of "being right" about others in our judgments of them. Maybe we don't want to because then we

would have to admit the many ways in which we have been complicit in the myriad of ways we keep others “in their place” in a very systemic way. And the problem is, we are so unaware of how we do that and so clueless that we think we couldn’t possibly do it. We who are advantaged have a lot to lose and, we think, not much to gain.

When what we have to gain is a brother or a sister whom we have made, many times ignorantly and many times intentionally, less than ourselves. What we have to gain is an authentic relationship based not on better or worse but equally valued and our wanting the best for them. What we have to gain is a new perspective on how to talk about, visit with, be aware of, and put into practice new ways of being in relationship and conversation that does not continue to promote our advantage in subtle and overt way. But how so much still gets in the way.

Paul ends the chapter with these words: ²⁴*Wretched man/person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?* ²⁵*Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Who will rescue me indeed? Who will keep me safe from such thoughts and ideas and behaviors, both subtle and overt? I would hope we would not just count on Jesus Christ our Lord to bail us out. Maybe we/I need to do some of that hard work ourselves/myself, if we are serious about our need to be in harmony with all of God’s people.

THANK YOU TO:

- Those who help keep the lawns mown and the gardens looking good.
- All who participated in the June Work party – Cleaning gutters, mowing the front yard, trimming hedges and taking care of the gardens – Chad, Elizabeth and their children Lily and Greta Masche, Doug and Donna Garland, Marilyn and Al Errey, Pat Pehling
- All those who so generously help provide our Weekly Worship Service!

Prayer Requests

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

Cathy Karlsen and family on the loss of her mother

Laurie Cole Holmes on the loss of her son, Dylan

Mur Jensen and the McCutchan family on the loss of Bill Jensen

Kathy Compton and the Vaughn family on the loss of Tom Compton to cancer

Terry, Sharon and Tim Danner on the loss of a wife and mother, Judy

The Pedack/Moen family on loss of Helena Pedack

For health concerns:

Donna Garland’s mother, Pat Wheeler, who is on hospice

Jody Rohde for healing from shoulder surgery

Erica Farmer’s twin sister Erin, concerning a cancer diagnosis and treatment

Nancy and Howard Negaard as they recover from an auto accident

Cathy Karlsen for healing from a fall and 2 broken ribs

Jennifer Lachapelle

Richard McCutchan’s sister

Heidi Ferria, Pat Heifort's daughter

Joanne Walther

Bo Henderson

Juli Reed, who is struggling with MSA

Karla Kloes' sister, Fara Schwencke, brother-in-law, Brad, and Mother

*For all others who are in need of healing and wholeness,
For peace in the Middle East, Iraq, and all over the world,
For Pastor Tom and 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 should be submitted to Pastor Tom. In an effort to keep the Prayer List
timely, names will be included for six months unless a request for removal
or continuation is made to Pastor Tom or Pat***

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES:

High School:

Jacob Kloes (Snohomish High School)

College

Hans Thoreson (UW)

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE– Pat Pehling

If you are in need of any assistance (home help, shopping help, etc.) please let me know
(pehling@frontier.com or 425-334-1220.)

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Food Bank

Please keep remembering the needs of the Snohomish Food Bank this summer. The food bank is a vital resource to many in our community, especially in these times of high unemployment. Donations of Funds or non-perishable items are always needed, including not only pantry staples, but also paper products and pet supplies. Thank you to all for sharing your resources with others. Snohomish Food Bank has an on-line donation opportunity at <http://snohomishfoodbank.org/dgx-forms/donate-online/> or checks can be mailed to P O Box 1364, Snohomish WA 98291

Drop off donations to: 1330 Ferguson Park Road (Behind the National Guard Armory, Fire Station and Haggen Grocery complex off Avenue D) (360) 568-7993.

MINISTRY OF GOD'S HOUSE- Doug Garland

We will have a church work party on Tuesday evening, July 21st, 5:00pm – 8:30pm. We, of course, practice safe social distancing rules during the work parties. If you would like to volunteer to work on your own, other than during a work party, let me know and I can give you some ideas as to what needs to be done. We will have a “bring your own picnic” for dinner. It will be outside while practicing safe social distancing.

Along with pruning and weeding we'll be working on the hedges and the irrigation system. Thanks for your support in maintaining the church.

Projects are continuously being recognized, planned, and completed. 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 AND MUSIC – Pat Davis

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the amazing church services we have been able to view online. While "viewing online" is not at all the same as actually being together in the church, it does provide us an opportunity to "be together while staying apart". Everyone who has taken the time to record the "Thanks be to God" that concludes the service, to the musicians who have so graciously given of their talents, to all who have read the lessons for us and most especially to Pastor for the inspiring word that leads us into the coming week...THANK YOU!! For as long as it takes until we can be together again, we can be together in spirit. Blessings to all.

Hold the date! A post wedding bridal shower for Sharon Danner is being planned for October 11, 2020, 12:00 p.m. after service at our church. Hopefully by that time, the "new normal" will provide a manner for which we are able to host a Good Shepherd Lutheran Church bridal shower for Sharon and Bogdan. They are registered at the following stores if you are interested in ideas, needs, colors, themes, etc.:

Bed, Bath, and Beyond

<https://www.bedbathandbeyond.com/store/giftregistry/viewregistryquest/548450495?eventType=Wedding>

Target tgt.gifts/sharonandbogdan

Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/wedding/share/bogdanandsharon>

Hostesses: Marilyn Errey, Pat Heifort, Mary Nelson, Pat Pehling, Jody Rohde and Bonnie Thoreson

SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN OUR CONGREGATION:

(Check with Pastor Tom or Pat to be sure your family's special dates – Birthdays and anniversaries - are included in the appropriate month!)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 5 - Skyberg Thoreson, Jason Flynn
July 6 - Fran Walkley
July 8 - Hans Thoreson
July 9 - Dave Nilson
July 12 - Doug Garland, Lukas Blair
July 13 - Renee Deierling
July 14 - Scott Richards, Donna Garland
July 15 - Matt Homme
July 16 - Kailen and Makena Olson
July 18 - Brad Lachapelle, Al Errey
July 19 - Jennifer Lachapelle, Kelly Delfel
July 20 - Trevor Grillo
July 23 - Diane Barnes
July 24 - Lucas Robinson

July 27 – Kelly Flynn

July 28 - Krysti Lachapelle

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 7--Howard & Nancy Negaard

July 7--Kevin & Jennifer Ess, Mike and Pat Davis

July 9--Richard & Cheryl McCutchan,

July 10--Chris & Jillian Nofziger

July 14--Rick & Chris Homme

July 16--Jeff & Elizabeth Thoreson

July 17--Keith & Karen Goodnight