

THE ECHO

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

876 Grove Street, Conneaut, OH 44030
440 599-8908

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community united in God's call to serve others by proclaiming, celebrating, inviting, and sharing Christ's Love.

Purpose Statement

"God's Word, Our Mission"

JANUARY 2016

HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATED EACH SERVICE

8:30 A.M. CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

Nursery Available for those up to age 5

JANUARY 3

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Installation of Parish Offices

JANUARY 10

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
MISSION SUNDAY
Capital Campaign Offerings
and Food Pantry Donations

JANUARY 17

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 24

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 31

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PLEASE SHARE THE INFORMATION OF YOUR UPCOMING EVENTS
EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE goodshepherd@suite224.net
THE FEBRUARY ECHO DEADLINE IS JANUARY 25.

TREASURER'S REPORT NOVEMBER 30, 2015

GENERAL FUND - BALANCE AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2015

\$ 4,869

MONTH	INCOME	YEAR TO DATE	% ESTIMATED OPERATING COST	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	% ESTIMATED OPERATING COST
January	\$ 16,306	\$ 16,306	83.6%	\$ 19,208	\$ 19,208	98.4%
February	\$ 14,246	\$ 30,552	78.3%	\$ 18,842	\$ 38,050	97.5%
March	\$ 19,615	\$ 50,167	85.7%	\$ 15,012	\$ 53,062	90.6%
April	\$ 17,619	\$ 67,786	86.8%	\$ 19,772	\$ 72,834	93.3%
May	\$ 17,617	\$ 85,403	87.5%	\$ 17,439	\$ 90,273	92.5%
June	\$ 15,434	\$100,837	86.1%	\$ 16,634	\$106,907	91.3%
July	\$ 14,385	\$115,222	84.4%	\$ 15,006	\$121,913	89.3%
August	\$ 17,054	\$132,276	84.7%	\$ 19,353	\$141,266	90.5%
September	\$ 15,532	\$147,828	84.2%	\$ 16,245	\$157,511	89.7%
October	\$ 15,808	\$163,636	83.9%	\$ 19,305	\$176,816	90.6%
November	\$ 18,128	\$181,764	84.7%	\$17,017	\$193,833	90.3%

Need \$19,513 Each Month - \$ 32,879
 \$195,130 year to date

- \$ 20,810*

* This amount could be \$8,125 more, but we chose not to expense Pastor pay and benefits due to low General Fund balances.

Roof/Addition Mortgage balance as of December 8, 2015

\$ 128,959



The **2016 charts** for Altar Flowers, Bulletins, and Memorial Candle signup are posted in the hall across from the Nursery.



“On behalf of the Conneaut Human Resources Center and the Food Pantry Program we wish to extend our sincere appreciation for the food donations given to the Conneaut Food Pantry.

During this holiday season your thoughtfulness and generosity helps the Conneaut Human Resources Center provide much needed assistance to families in need.”

Sincerely,
 Deborah Newcomb, Executive Director
 Renea Roach, Food Pantry Program Director

Nisua bakers will take January off but will be ready to bake again February 13. Contact Phyllis Waid, Heidi Parkomaki or the church office.
 Cost is \$5.00 per loaf



Pastor's Page January 2016



Isaiah 9:2 (NRSV) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

Oh how I love when Advent is over and Christmas season begins. It's probably not a coincidence that this is the first reading on Christmas Eve. It's probably not even ironic. It's a blessing. We are past the winter solstice (shortest day) and heading toward a new year. Long ago the day of the winter solstice would be considered the beginning of a new year. At any rate, the days are now getting a little longer with each day. They will continue to do so until June 21 (or there about) which is the summer solstice (longest day).

In Isaiah and the Gospel of John we hear about this light in the darkness; a great light. For those who live in darkness, light now shines on them. Darkness is used in many different ways in our vocabulary:

1. Darkness is what you sleep in, what happens when the sun goes down in the west and all the candles and light bulbs are turned off.
2. Darkness is sometimes what we call evil. Sauron was given the name Lord of Darkness in JRR Tolkien's Lord of the Rings and Silmarilian.
3. Darkness can refer to someone or the state of being ignorant. We consider the uneducated as living in darkness.

Any one of these definitions would work for Isaiah, but I would think it would be more of an ignorance of what God really wants for us. The prophet had tried to tell the people of God what exactly is important in life. I think the one who came closest was Micah:

Micah 6:8 (NRSV) He has told you, oh mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but

to do justice,
to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

If we can keep those words in our minds, thoughts, heart, actions, we will be doing the will of God. And the greatest example of doing these things is the example that we have in Christ Jesus. John the Evangelist tells us:

John 1:3b-5 What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

It isn't that darkness is stronger than light. It's that darkness is simply a lack of light.

May His light shine in your heart always.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Pastor Van De Motter

Young Adults
Something special is happening!!
SAVE THESE DATES

Sunday, February 21st
GSLC is going to Winter Jam Concert



Sunday, June 19th thru Friday, June 24th
GSLC goes back to
JOSHUA HOUSE



More information to follow
OR
Call Rae VanDeMotter at 216-633-6362

A Moment In Faith
By Richard P. Tulino, A Layman's Interpretation



This month we have a guest writer. Hello everyone, you probably have been hearing a lot about me in recent weekly readings. So most of you, if you have been going to church regularly, know who I am. I really wanted to talk to you all in person, especially the children. I like children; they are more honest than most adults I know. I sure hope that they get a chance to read or hear this.

I have been called bold, cranky, mean spirited and obnoxious by many people. I suppose that I am all of those things. Maybe you would be too, if you had to wear scratchy clothing, eat grasshoppers, and let's be honest you'd be upset too if your middle name was "The".

So here I am John the Baptist! John's my name, Baptism my game! I spent my life telling people that the Messiah of God was coming. Oh, you should have seen the crowds that came out to the Jordan River to hear me preach. Their lives were a mess and I preached a radical message of repentance, telling them they had to turn their lives around and prepare to receive God. Many did what I asked and gave their lives to God through baptism. Others were imposters though and I called them "vipers and snakes". These people thought that I was the Savior of the world. They kept asking, "Was I the Messiah? Was I Elijah? Was I a prophet?" Heavens no I said, I'm merely a voice calling out to them to, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make your paths straight, fill in the potholes of your lives, and make it like the Kings Highway." They resisted and I sent them away. I think maybe I have been misunderstood all these years and I'm the one who has come to repent, repent if my words were misspoken or misunderstood by those who could not grasp what I was trying to say.

I'm here today to tell you that my message was indeed radical, for it was the announcement of a gracious and forgiving Savior who was to come. God is not an angry God as some Jews suspected, coming to penalize the people, but to forgive them. God accepts you just the way you are, but He is not willing to leave you that way. He desires righteousness from you, but you do have to earn His love. He calls you to justice and compassion, but first offers His own justice and compassion to you. To repent means simply to turn around, to change the direction of your living. A willing heart and open mind is what God asks of you. God will do the rest.

The second misunderstanding comes from my telling people to prepare the way for the Lord's coming. In my day, the main highway did not carry a number like interstate 90 or route 11. No, the main road was always called "The Kings Highway". It was on this road the Emperor would arrive when He came to visit our city. Months before crews were sent out to fill in every low spot or as you call them potholes, to pick up rubbish, and to clean up the scenery by which the King would pass. I dare say if President Obama were to come to your city of Conneaut, you would do very much the same. What about if the Savior of the World were about to come here? Would you be pleased with the condition of your heart? Or would you cast out the sinful and unsightly practices that would embarrass you? Would you remove every barrier, and every roadblock that would prevent this King from taking up residence in your heart? People of my day thought I was calling them to perfection but on the contrary dear friends I was calling them to honesty and humility with their desperate need for a Savior. I renew that call to you people today, for the King is coming soon. Are you ready for Him?

There is one final confession I have to make and it has to do with me and my error. I thought I was pretty big stuff in first century Galilee. People knew my name, they swarmed out to hear me preach and they filed into the water so I might baptize them. I was their Pied Piper, but I failed to tell them that they have a message too. That they could reach people with their lips and their lives I could never reach. They had the same responsibility to proclaim the same radical message of repentance and forgiveness, but I failed to call them to be messengers of the Good News, of the Savior who was to come. I was wrong, don't you be wrong too! Next time you leave church be a witness to the light, so that you can be the ones to tell and spread the "Good News" of the Savior coming to earth in the person of Jesus.

Oh, it's a wicked world in which we live, violence and corruption and injustice is everywhere, but there is a Messiah coming, wishing to be born in the hearts of all of you. Prepare the path for His coming and tell all the people you can, that it's never too late to receive a King. This is the Word of the Lord! Thank you for letting me preach today. It was a great privilege for me.

John The Baptist



January 2016

Thank you all our great Sunday School teachers for all you do!!!
I am looking forward to a great new year!!



January 3rd Youth Sub Sale begins

January 10th Movie: Inside Out - Join us & wear
your clothes inside out!! Enjoy a sweet fun
snack and bring a friend!!



January 30th All sub orders and money due today

February Upcoming Events

February 6th Sub assembly party!! 10am All kids who sold subs
encouraged to participate !! Ice cream party to follow!!



February 7th Pick up all sub orders today!! (At GSLC)

February 14th Bowling Party at El Camp Lanes

February 28th Movie: Meet the Robinsons



**For the safety of our members, we are no longer putting dates on birthdays or anniversaries.*



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Logan Fattler
Jennifer Sheneman
Gunnar Schwartz
Moses Schwartz
Kevin Manniko
Mark Owens
Carol Silis
Marcus Rainey
Marilyn Hathy
John Montagano
Bethany Juncker

Joe Reed
RaeAnn Wright
James Poff
Jim Winslow
Chip Young
Beth Vendetti
Stephanie Gill
Susan Diamond
Emily Pew
Deb Sturtevant
Bob Beagle

Sydney Carpenter
Jennie Crites
Heatherlie Lester
Chase Carpenter
Alison Hathy
Shawn Houser
Steve Martin
Connie Knauff
Hannah Moxley
Kris Cameron
Tina Beagle



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Gene ♥ Janice Boyle

Don ♥ Heidi Cowey

John ♥ Sue Chapin

Scott ♥ Stacy Racut



Recent Visitors
How many did you greet?

Roger & Ann Arklin
Paul Cole
Tyler Deno
Zachary Dildine
Justin Dino
Kim Esposito
Ruth Farr
Jim Fuller
Tom Gildone
Rich & Pam Herner, Columbus, OH
Craig & Natalie Huya,
Thaddaeus, Aurelia & Daniel
George Lindgren

Mia Lytle
Tamara Matlock
Tatiana Miller
Wendy Moore
Jeff & Dorian Morrell
Peyton Newsome
Jacob, Addison & Sofia Nolan, Gallipolis, OH
Ken & Judy Pew
Sarah Rigolizzo
John Thompson
Tony Todaro
Rachel, Amy & Allison Van Epps
Keith, Angela, McKinlee & Ben Waid



ATTENDANCE	
Nov. 29	168
Dec. 6	163
Dec. 13	172
Dec. 20	169

This year was our largest undertaking for Christmas families.

We adopted 18 families which included 25 adults and 16 children. Depending on the size of the families, each family received either a whole or half ham and all the trimmings. They also received paper products, laundry soap, and several canned goods. The Kantola family donated potatoes from their garden. The quilters donated 23 quilts. Several members used their Thrivent gift cards to help with these gifts. Most family members received at least 4 gifts. The members of GSLC responded with generous hearts and took many items from the tree and the remainder of the items was purchased with money from the Turkey Box and other donations. We assembled on Sunday morning and packed all of these boxes. It certainly was a heartwarming scene. We were blessed with volunteers to pack and several of our church families with children helped to make the deliveries.

A very special thank you to Joe Reed who helped with all the heavy deliveries and filling the cars.

The last family to pick up their gift was a young mother with a husband and child. As she packed all the gifts in her car, she told of how her husband had worked for many years and recently developed severe epilepsy and was unable to work. We turned a bleak Christmas into a time of joy. As she hugged her quilts, I said to her that each night when she went to bed, she would be wrapped in the warmth of all the people of our church.

Food for the Poor

On Sunday, January 17th, please join us to hear The Rev. Dr. Melvin R. Jacob speak at both services about a ministry to provide direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pastor Jacob will share personal witness about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living into the Gospel mandate to love one another.

Matthew 25:35-36 ...³⁵'for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Installation of Parish Offices will be held at both services on January 3, 2016. Please plan to attend.



We welcome all volunteers. We will be taking down the trees and undecorating the Sanctuary and the Gathering Space on Sunday, January 3 after the 11:00 worship service.

Everyone is invited to help.



Lake Erie Perch for sale. \$10 donation per pound. The perch has been frozen and cannot be frozen again so must be eaten within a day or two of purchase. The sale will be on Sunday, January 17th, from noon till 3:00 p.m. For more information contact Shirley Harco or Pearl Ann Curtis.

FOR SALE!

JANUARY

If you are unable to serve,
please contact someone to serve in your place!

8:30 WORSHIP STEWARDS

DATE	ASSISTING MINISTERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	READERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY
JAN 3	Richard Tulino	Rich Kantola	Susan McCarron	Kylee Schwartz	Mike & Laurie Bidwell	Don & Sue Cummins	Pam Deemer JoAnne Seavey
JAN 10	George Peterson	Betty Monday	Kay Peterson Jasmine Steighner	Moses Schwartz	Dick & Diana Stoker	Heidi Parkomaki	Pearl Ann Curtis
JAN 17	Mike Malys	Amy Gallagher	Dolores Pelow	Gunnar Schwartz	John & Sue Chapin	Bob & Joe Reed	Stephanie Patriarco
JAN 24	Pam Howland	Dave Nolan	Tim Moga	Lydia Jerina	Ron & Janet Maenpaa	Pam Deemer	Susan McCarron
JAN 31	Susan McCarron	Richard Tulino	Kurt Sandberg	Brandon Vidmar	Rich & Julie Kantola	Jim & Marilyn Salo	Dolores Pelow Nancy Altman

SECURING THE CHURCH

Jan 3	Scott Racut
Jan 10	Nancy Guthrie
Jan 17	John Chapin
Jan 24	Andy Chiodo
Jan 31	Stacy Racut

ALTAR GUILD

Pearl Ann Curtis
Peggy Harco
Shirley Harco
Heidi Parkomaki
Phyllis Waid

11:00 WORSHIP STEWARDS

DATE	ASSISTING MINISTERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	READERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY	NURSERY
JAN 3	Scott Racut	Mark Lytle	Paul Mechling	Nickolas Mason Kayden Poff	Peggy & Shirley Harco E. Jay Hybert Kelsey Walters	Michelle Logan & Nickolas	Carol Allds	Mike & Suzanne Malys
JAN 10	Tyler Pew	Faye Lampela	Emily Pew Heather Farr	Michael Vendetti Ben Owens	Mike & Suzanne Malys Jerry & Faye Lampela	Pat Haas	Joanne Mechling	Stephanie Wood Deanna Brown
JAN 17	Nancy Guthrie	Susan Tan	Phyllis Waid	Chase Carpenter Matthew Van Epps	Andy & Kimberly Chiodo	E. Jay Hybert	Pat Haas	Alison Hathy & Brielle
JAN 24	Andy Chiodo	Shirley Harco	Bob Hybert	Aiden Hathy RaeAnn Wright	Michelle Logan Nancy Guthrie	Jerry & Faye Lampela	Donna Manupella & Kataya	Mark & Susan Lytle
JAN 31	Shirley Harco	Andy Chiodo	Stacy Racut	Colton Cameron JR Hutchison	Scott & Stacy Racut	Vendetti Family	Mark & Susan Lytle	Mary & Jasmine Steighner

JANUARY 2016

Sunday

Monday



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>The month of January the Youth Group is taking orders for Sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday, February 7.</p> 		<p>January 3 Installation of Offices Undecorating the Sanctuary and Gathering Space.</p>		<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	
<p>3 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 8:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Service Noon Cherub Choir 12:15 Chancel Choir 1:30 Villa Worship Fellowship Hall in use</p>	<p>4 6:00 Genesis Bells 7:00 Bell Choir</p>	<p>5 9:00 Quilting Ministry 9:00 3M" Ministry 6:30 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>6 Epiphany of Our Lord 9:30 Villa Bible Study</p>	<p>7 6:00 Weight Watchers</p>	<p>8 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	
<p>10 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD MISSION SUNDAY 8:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Service Noon Cherub Choir 5:30 Movie "Inside Out"</p>	<p>11 6:00 Genesis Bells 7:00 Bell Choir</p>	<p>12 9:00 Quilting Ministry 9:00 Men's Breakfast at Angela's 6:00 All Committees</p>	<p>13 1:30 Social Ministry at County Home</p>	<p>14 5:45 Finance Meeting 6:00 Weight Watchers</p>	<p>15 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	
<p>17 SECOND SUNDAY EPIPHANY 8:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Service Noon Cherub Choir 12:15 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>18 6:00 Genesis Bells 7:00 Bell Choir</p>	<p>19 9:00 Quilting Ministry 9:00 "3M" Ministry 5:30 Executive Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting 6:30 Girl Scouts</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 6:00 Weight Watchers</p>	<p>22 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	
<p>24 THIRD SUNDAY EPIPHANY 8:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Service 12:15 Chancel Choir</p> <p>31 FOURTH SUNDAY EPIPHANY</p>	<p>25 ECHO ARTICLES DUE 6:00 Genesis Bells 7:00 Bell Choir</p>	<p>26 9:00 Quilting Ministry 9:00 "3M" Ministry</p>	<p>27 Red Cross Blood Drive 1-6 pm</p>	<p>28 6:00 Weight Watchers</p>	<p>29 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	
					<p>Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten Season on February 10</p>	

