

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"

DECEMBER 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

DECEMBER 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MISSION SUNDAY

**Capital Campaign Offerings
and Food Pantry Donations**

CONGREGATION MEETING

DECEMBER 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. Family Service

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 25 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10:00 Worship Service (1 service)

TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER, 2016

GENERAL FUND – BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2016

\$ 7,223

MONTH	INCOME	YEAR TO DATE	% ESTIMATED		YEAR TO DATE	% ESTIMATED	
			OPERATING COST	EXPENSE		OPERATING COST	
January	\$ 20,054	\$ 20,054	111.9%	\$ 16,211	\$ 16,211	88.3%	
February	\$ 16,614	\$ 36,668	99.9%	\$ 23,816	\$ 40,027	109.0%	
March	\$ 19,547	\$ 56,215	102.1%	\$ 17,046	\$ 57,073	103.7%	
April	\$ 15,289	\$ 71,503	97.4%	\$ 17,025	\$ 74,098	100.9%	
May	\$ 19,817	\$ 107,607	99.5%	\$ 18,469	\$ 92,567	100.9%	
June	\$ 16,287	\$100,837	97.7%	\$ 15,220	\$107,787	97.9%	
July	\$ 18,884	\$126,491	98.5%	\$ 15,787	\$124,574	97.0%	
August	\$ 15,079	\$141,570	96.4%	\$ 21,882	\$146,456	99.7%	
September	\$ 16,542	\$158,112	95.7%	\$ 18,470	\$164,926	99.8%	
October	\$18,641	\$176,753	96.3%	\$14,763	\$179,689	97.9%	

Need \$18,354 Each Month - \$ (6,787)
 \$183,540 year to date

- \$ (3,851)

Roof/Addition Mortgage balance as of November 8, 2016

\$ 62,434.88

DID YOU KNOW?

Your contributions can be made directly from your IRA to GSLC, for those over 70 years of age. You will not need to pay taxes on those distributions!



*Bible Study will not be held during Advent.
 Please attend the Wednesday night Advent Services
 at 7 pm.*

Wednesday Evening Advent Services

November 30, December 7 & 14

**Fellowship & dessert beginning at 6:30 pm
 and worship at 7:00 pm.**



December 14 will be a special Blue Christmas Service

Advent

**CONGREGATION MEETING
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016
 NOON
 Please plan to attend.**

Pastor's Page December 2016



Grace and Peace to you from God our Father in heaven and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

He is coming again. Jesus, that is.

And, also, this being the first days of December and Advent, the snow. Or should I say the s-word: sxxx. We have seen a dramatic turn of temps and received our first snow fall, although it was a small amount. December has a way of getting very, very busy very quickly. Our exhausting collapse at the end of the month is well deserved, but we really don't need to be so intense. Do we?

Take time today and all season to greet your friends and family with joy and with love. Take time for yourself. Reflect on the things you can do better in the New Year. Contemplate the time you spend spinning your wheels or spinning your yarns. Greet the New Year as our Lord greets us, with grace and with mercy.

For those who are worried about Christ not being in Christmas there are 2 things to say: YOU be the Christ in Christmas; Xmas has been used by Christian writers from 2nd century on. X is the foreshortened form of XRISTOS. Even in Scripture you will find written, IX which may be a nine if you are using Roman numerals, but it also stands for IESOU XRISTOS, Jesus Christ. Do not fret the small things. And how one spells Christmas is a very small thing.

Please don't post that you are not allowed to say Merry Christmas. You are. "Merry Christmas". There, I said it. When people say, sorry I'm Jewish. Don't tell them this is the Christmas season when for them it is the Chanukah Season. Or you COULD say Happy Holidays and include all of the holidays from November 1st to January 31. There are a lot of them. There is no need to make up Christian persecutions. People might be mean about this, but since most people I know are Christians, it usually comes out: Merry Christmas.

Finally, whenever tempted to be a Scrooge, think of all the wonderful events of YOUR childhood and go with the flow. 2016 is not the same as 1955 or 1932. Those days are gone and will not be coming back no matter how hard we try. Enjoy your life and your experiences and allow others to enjoy making their own experiences.

May the Peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding be with you this season. May you enjoy making new memories with your families. May you find that a heart full of Christ can surpass all the negativity that we face in this country and the world. Love all you meet, because God first loved us. God so loved the world that the Son of God was sent to redeem us.

And remember, we live in Northeastern Ohio, so it will probably be a white Christmas. Enjoy it.

Blessings of Peace in Christ's name.

The Rev. Patrick J. Van De Motter



Good News! Great Joy! Operation Christmas Child! Thank you to all the members and friends of Good Shepherd for your prayers and support of **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**. We collected 213 shoe box gifts; this includes 31 shoe box gifts packed by the First Baptist Church in Conneaut. The monetary contributions totaled \$777.00. These gifts will touch the lives of so many children who have never received a Christmas gift. More important is the fact that they will learn the real meaning of Christmas, God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.

Thanks to all the people who donated for Blanket Sunday. We collected 16 quilts, 25 blankets, 3 afghans, 10 throws, and 1 electric blanket. We packed 10 boxes to be shipped to St James Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina for relief efforts. The remainders were delivered to the Human Resource Center. Thanks to all those members who made this a huge success.

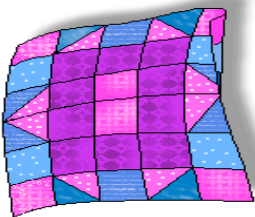


Looking ahead to Christmas:

We are helping 12 families within our church and some from the Halo program. There are 13 adults and 17 children. Please select a few ornaments off the tree and bring your gifts back to church. Please wrap your gift and put the tag back on the gift. You do not need to wrap the food items. All gifts must be in by December 18 for delivery that day. We will need some families to deliver these gifts. It is a wonderful experience for your children. If you have any questions, call Shirley Harco @ 594-3873.

We are collecting hats, gloves, and mittens for the tree of warmth to be delivered to the Lakeshore Primary. We are also collecting underwear, sox, and jogging pants which is in great demand.

If you are unable to shop and wish to be part of this outreach, you can drop some change into the turkey box or make a donation to the church marked Christmas families.



Quilts for sale at the cost of \$40 to help defray the cost of batting.



Remember to put your loose change in the Turkey Box!!



The **Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign** continues 'til Christmas. Please look at your calendar and find time to fit in an hour or more for ringing. We will man the kettles at **North Kingsville Golden Dawn**.

*This is a great opportunity for family participation and getting community service hours in for school and church. Signup sheets will be in the gathering space.

If you have any questions, please contact Marsha Taylor (440) 593-1960.



Moment In Faith

By Richard P. Tulino, A Layman's Interpretation

The Season of Advent

With the Season of Advent upon us I have a little feeling of reluctance. The purpose of Advent is to prepare us for the Lord's coming, but there are a couple of problems with that. The first is that, during the month of December, we are focused on the Lord's first coming—Christmas—rather than on the Lord's second coming. We are in a festive mood. We really love Christmas. Kids love getting toys and moms and dads love seeing their excitement. Kids enjoy having time off from school, and moms and dads—well, they look forward to the kids going back to school. We enjoy Christmas trees, and Christmas music. So, you can see that it isn't easy for us to focus on the Second Coming of the Lord.

The second problem with Advent is that it never seems quite real. People have been waiting for Jesus for over two thousand years, so it seems unlikely that He will return this year. But with the events of recent years we might just have to change our thinking about this. Let's list a few things: 9/11 was the first shot in a religious and cultural war; there have been terrorists' attacks around the world; across the globe Christians are being targeted for persecution; we are slowly recovering from one of the longest recessions in living memory; young people are graduating from college with tremendous debt that will burden them for years to come and poor job prospects to boot. Our government has sidestepped all these problems and our politicians have been focused on getting re-elected rather than serving the people who elected them.

In the Gospel of Matthew 24: 36-44 Jesus says: "As the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of man. For as in those days which were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying, giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ship, and they didn't know until the flood came, and took them all away; so will be the coming of the Son of man" (vv. 37-40) These words from Jesus warn us that we must be prepared and for those not prepared the consequences will be severe. Jesus said: "Watch therefore, for you don't know in what hour your Lord comes" (v.42). Now, it's physically impossible to stay awake every hour day and night, but Jesus wasn't talking about physical wakefulness. He was talking about spiritual preparation, and establishing a relationship with God that shapes the core of our being.

Since we were little we were taught that we had to be prepared for the second coming and it was hard for us to believe and even today we may still find it hard to believe that Jesus will come in the time we have left on this world, but we still have to be ready. If we have a relationship with God, we will be ready for whatever comes.

We will live a better life and we will die a better death. When our time comes to leave this world, we have to be confident that the Lord who blessed us in life will bless us in death. When we walk with the Lord, we are ready—ready for life—ready for death—ready for Christ's coming—ready!

Events of the recent years are reminders to all of us of the danger of not being prepared. Terrorists, intent on our destruction, can attack from any one of many directions. We have to remember that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. But that isn't the message from this Gospel of Matthew. It only serves to illustrate that we need to be ready, ready for His second coming! He says, "Be ready, for in an hour that you don't expect, the Son of Man will come" (v.44).

For some people that may sound like a threat, but for you and I we should hear it as a promise---a blessed promise. When Christ comes again, He will set everything straight. No more terrorists! No more people living in poverty! No more self-serving politicians! No more wars! So, we pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Lord, on earth as in Heaven. Come, Lord Jesus, and set our crooked world straight again. **AMEN.**



December 2016

December 4th Choir and Kids visit the Villa 1:30 pm-
(Help us spread some Christmas Cheer)

December 11th Movie Night 5:30 PM How the Grinch Stole Christmas-
Join us for a fun and festive night..

December 24th Christmas Eve Service 4PM Children's Service /All children and
teens encouraged to attend.

December 25th No Sunday School today /Service 10 AM

January 1st No Sunday School today /Service 10 AM

Family Movie Nights At Good Shepherd



Movies start at 5:30 PM

Free popcorn, snacks and drinks provided:

Bring a friend!!

December 11th How the Grinch Stole Christmas

January 15th Finding Dory

*Sponsored by Conneaut Public Library

**Confirmation Students
Required Community Service
December 4th
1:00 to 2:00 PM
Assist with Holy Communion
At the Villa**

Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for Kelsey Walters



Kelsey Walters is a 29-year old young woman who is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Conneaut, Ohio. She was recently diagnosed with a fast-growing tumor. Kelsey was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic on October 17th and immediately started chemotherapy. The benefit will assist Kelsey and her family with her medical bills which are already beginning to add up.

Saturday, December 3, 2016

4:00 to 7:00 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

876 Grove Street

Conneaut, Ohio



\$10 for adults

\$5 for children under 12

Kelsey Walters

“Go Fund Me” Account

For anyone who may be interested in helping to pay for medical bills for Kelsey, there is a “Go Fund Me” account in her name.

The link is <https://www.gofundme.com/no-one-fights-alone-kelseystrong> -- Or you can go directly to www.gofundme.com and enter #KelseyStrong to get to her account.

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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Renee Montagano

ReAna Howland

Fritz Houy

Mike Vendetti, Sr.

Gaylord Bozard

George Peterson, Jr.

Alexis Brown

Stephanie Van Norman

Rebecca Burke

Abigail Rigolizzo

Jan Uveges

Jim McKiethan

Dave Thompson

Clarence Bauger

Jennifer Gallagher

Sara Sprague

Paul Gauvin

Harper Bolt

Megan Picard

Faye Lampela

Joy Dittler

Laurie Bidwell

Steve Sanford

Janiece Woodworth

Katrina Pavolino

Joshua Anderson



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ernie ♥ Phyllis Waid

Pam ♥ John Hunt

Dick ♥ Janice Borgner

Mark ♥ Susan Lytle

Pastor ♥ Rae Van De Motter



NISUA
 Only date before Christmas
December 10
 Contact Phyllis Waid,
 Heidi Parkomaki
 or the church office.
 Cost is \$5.00 per loaf

All Committee Christmas Party

December 10, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall at

Good Shepherd Church

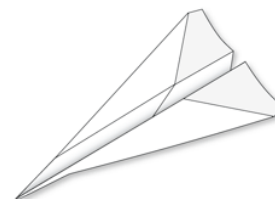
*Bring a donation to the food
 pantry. Please sign up on the*

*kiosk for a Secret Santa
 drawing*



Christmas Party
7th thru 12th Grade Youth
When: Sunday, Dec. 18th
12:15 to 2:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

Lunch, games and prizes!!!
See you there!



**PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP
 FOR THE PARTY SO WE CAN
 PLAN THE FOOD!**

**Members of our Chancel Choir will be
 joining voices with the community to
 present**

“The Story of Christmas”

at the New Leaf Event Center

on December 18th at 4:30 pm.

**All are invited to attend this Dramatic
 Musical to add to the true meaning of
 Christmas.**



Recent visitors
How many did you

Lori Barch	Waino Nyman
Micheala Bateman	Brooklyne Phillips
Kathy Cook	Fred Pierce-Rhuland
Katriina Emery	Rebecca Pierce-Rhuland
Amy Harris	Alison Tan
Don Johnson	John & Beth Thompson
Sarah Loveland,	Nancy Thompson & Jenna
Clair, Luke & Madison	Allison, Amy & Rachel Van Epps
Mia Lytle	Lana Vargo & LilyRose
Tamara Matlock	Erick & Sharon,
Joanie Norton	Drew & Jordan Walbridge
	Autumn Windler

ATTENDANCE
WORSHIP SERVICE

Oct. 30	157
Nov. 7	196
Nov. 13	145
Nov. 20	152

To the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the generosity of Barbara Lundgren for her scholarship to Trinity. I am a seminarian from Dover, Ohio and as I take online courses while on internship in Des Moines, the gift of financial help makes life much easier. I wish you all a Merry Advent season.

All the best - Evan Cameron



Christmas poinsettia plants are available at a cost of \$7.50 per plant. Payment along with this form may be placed in the offering or mailed to the church office.

We would ask that one name or one couple be honored or memorialized for each plant ordered. Thank you!

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor's Name _____ Envelope No. _____

Please indicate choice of color: **Red Poinsettia** _____ **White Poinsettia** _____

LAST DAY FOR ORDERING WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016.

DECEMBER

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
DEC 4	Pam Howland	Richard Tulino	Dave Nolan Jasmine Steighner	Tim Montagano	Don & Sue Cummins	Jim & Marilyn Salo	Pearl Ann Curtis
DEC 11	Sue McCarron	Mike Malys	John Chapin Chase Carpenter	Sylvia Jerina	Katrina Pavolino	Jerry & Shirley Brookhouser	Sue McCarron
DEC 18	Linda Hall	Dave Nolan	Amy Gallagher Lydia Jerina	Sofi Thompson	Pam & Gary Howland	Nancy Altman	Judy Barch Jan Uveges Nyla Lindgren
DEC 24 4 pm	Mike Malys	Duffy Guthrie		Madeline & Morgan Owens	John & Sue Chapin	Vendetti Family	Social Ministry Team

SECURING THE CHURCH

Dec 4	Stacy Racut
Wed. Dec 7	Andy Chiodo
Dec 11	John Chapin
Wed. Dec 14	Andy Chiodo
Dec 18	Duffy Guthrie
Dec 24	Jerry Lampela
Dec 25	Suzanne Malys

ALTAR GUILD

Ruth Brown
Ellen Gee
E. Jay Hybert
Tammy Owens
Stephanie Newsome

11:00 WORSHIP STEWARDS

DATE	ASSISTING MINISTERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	READERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS	HOSPITALITY	NURSERY
DEC 4	Scott Racut		Heather Farr	Hayley & Matthew Van Epps	Mike & Beth Vendetti	E. Jay Hybert	Kelly Anthony	Tina Beagle Sara Bowers
DEC 11	Tyler Pew		Michael Vendetti	Jasmine Steighner JR Hutchison		Ruth Brown Mary Lou Moisio	Stacy Racut & Taylor	Mary Steighner & Jasmine
DEC 18	Andy Chiodo		Madeline Owens	Ben Owens Thaddaeus Huya	Phyllis Waid Kelsey Walters	Dave & Martha Jayne Thompson	Bob & Tina Beagle	Alison Hathy & Brielle Annie Vendetti
DEC 24 7 pm	Richard Tulino		Paul Mechling	Heather Farr Emily Pew	Todd & Tyler Pew	Peggy & Shirley Harco	Social Ministry Team	
DEC 25	Nancy Guthrie	Rich Kantola	Clarence Baugher		E. Jay Hybert	Jerry & Faye Lampela	Social Ministry Team	Mark & Susan Lytle

DECEMBER 2016

Sunday

Monday










Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 6:00 Weight Watchers	2 OFFICE CLOSED  Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive	3  Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive
4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Service 1:30 Villa Worship	5 5:15 Genesis Bells 6:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Bell Choir	6 9:00 Quilting Ministry 9:00 "3M" Ministry 5:30 Executive Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting & Party at Lampela's	7 9:30 Bible Study at Villa ADVENT WORSHIP 6:30 pm Dessert 7:00 pm Worship	8 5:45 Finance Meeting 6:00 Weight Watchers	9 OFFICE CLOSED  Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive	10 NISUA   Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive 6:00 All Committee Party
11 MISSION SUNDAY 8:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Service CONGREGATION MEETING 4:30 Christmas Pageant at New Leaf 5:30 Movie "Grinch"	12 5:15 Genesis Bells 6:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Bell Choir	13 9:00 Quilting Ministry 9:00 "Men's Breakfast at Angela's"	14 1:30 Social Ministry at County Home ADVENT WORSHIP 6:30 pm Dessert 7:00 pm Worship	15 6:00 Weight Watchers	16 OFFICE CLOSED  Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive	17  Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive
18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:30 Contemporary Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Traditional Service	19 5:15 Genesis Bells 6:00 Chancel Choir 7:00 Bell Choir ECHO ARTICLES DUE	20 9:00 Quilting Ministry 9:00 "3M" Ministry	21	22 6:00 Weight Watchers	23 OFFICE CLOSED  Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 8-noon Red Kettle Drive 4:00 Family Service 7:00 Candlelight Service
 25 No Sunday School 10:00 Church Service	26	27	28	29 6:00 Weight Watchers	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> January 1 New Year's Day No Sunday School 10:00 Church Service </div>