



# *Good Shepherd Lutheran Church*

**ECHO** the love of Christ

**We are a Christian community united in God's call  
to serve others by sharing the love of Christ.**

**A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

## **AUGUST 2022**

*From the thoughts of the pastor . . .*

I've been thinking a lot about the past recently. In the sermons from the last couple weeks, I mentioned about how living in the past keeps us from accepting our present and looking into the future. We've been talking about how a pastor years ago did things, what was happening and how the activities were plentiful and so on and so forth. We constantly think that we – in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America denomination – will go back to the 1950s kind of church, where church is the only thing happening on Sunday mornings and we must go to church. We want to reach back to when the confirmation classes were 30 to 40 strong, where Sunday School had 10 teachers and bible study happened and...and...and... We keep trying to look back at what was and not seeing what is and what could be.

Our society today has moved beyond what was. In our world today, we don't look back at the dial-up internet days, or the pre-internet days, or the days when television was new and lucky to have any shows you can watch; in fact, we laugh and joke about those days. So why think about those days in regard to the church? If we really want to think about the past, why not go all the way to early Lutheranism and the Protestant Reformation where the rich/landowning/upper-class citizens sat in the front of the church and the poor stood in the back. We joke now-a-days about how Lutherans sit in the back, but that wasn't always the case; the most diehard Lutherans sat in the front row.

We think about the past and what was without accepting what is and looking forward to the future. One of the books I encourage all people to read is called *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* by Eckhart Tolle. It's a book about living in the now with one of the main themes being focus on the now – the future is anxiety producing and the past is full of "would've, could've, and should've" or depression. While the book might not be completely new ideas – an adaptation of Zen Buddhism – it remains to be relevant in our lives and in our congregation today. Our past is important but only certain parts of it. Holding on to the past where the pews were full and the coffers overflowed is not as healthy as looking at the now and embracing the people that are here and looking forward to the people that are yet to come. The only "thing" we should hold onto from our past is the memories of the loved ones who have died and our Lutheran heritage – though only parts of that.

It's the willingness to change – or reluctance thereof – that makes congregations either: grow, stagnate, or die. The willingness to change – and I get change has become a bad word in the Lutheran church – means an understanding and change in belief. A change in belief doesn't mean you don't believe in God, Jesus as the Son of God, the resurrection for the salvation of all, and the Holy Spirit, but changing your interpretations and understanding of scripture. The Holy Bible is a living book – the

words on the page might not change but the interpretation does. We can read John 3:16 one way to say, “only those who believe as Jesus as God’s Son will be granted eternal life.” Or we can read the same verse as “God loves everyone in the world that God sent Jesus for us and for all – that God is a benevolent God who grants all eternal life.” Our interpretations change over time and from person to person. But the one thing we can agree on is having faith in Christ Jesus is indeed a path to eternal life, and living the path Christ Jesus has put before us includes loving our neighbor as we love ourselves and how we would want to be loved.

This change doesn’t seem like much of a change but it’s the change in the interpretation. If our neighbor is everyone except ourselves, then we should accept and love everyone like we want to be accepted and loved. When we start to put limits on who we love because – in the past – they were an outcast, we eventually go back to a point where none of us will be accepted and loved. For example: if we were to limit who could attend church based on their skin color, we would all eventually be excluded. Seems silly, right? We would never exclude someone based on their skin color. Then why exclude based on anything else about them such as their income, their marital status, or sexual orientation? This also means accepting and loving those who want to exclude some people for who they are as well. It means to accept and love without trying to convince anyone of anything. When we shout at the top of our voices trying to convince someone’s belief is wrong, we don’t let the Holy Spirit do the work. What we as Christians are called to do is to tell people of how Christ and God have interacted in our lives and live the action Christ wants us to live.

It is through our actions of acceptance and welcoming that makes Christ come within us. It is through our actions of acceptance and welcoming that lets go of the past and embrace the future or the now. Martin Luther felt he could never ask for enough forgiveness and feared eternal fire and damnation for every little sin. But he found that through Christ, living the actions of Christ, by telling people his stories of Christ, he found he doesn’t have to shout at people to make them believe what he believes, that he doesn’t have to force people into believing, that he can live his life without fear and accept and love the neighbor.

Our society has become so polarized over everything. The church should be a place where all are accepted and no polarization happens. Where everyone – regardless of political views, sexual orientation, age, skin color, gender identity – where everyone can gather to worship God. Our God is a living God that lives with us in the present – God is not a God that is only a God in the bible or in the past. When we worship, we worship one God who is with us now. Reflecting about the past is good; sharing stories about the past is good. But when reflecting doesn’t allow for the present, doesn’t allow for the future, is constant about how things were, that’s where reflecting becomes fixated and where stagnation and death occur.

I know that we can move forward if we accept the past as the past and fixate on the present. But it’s not an easy road. There will be hardships and heartache on our journey of the present and future. Then again, Christianity is not an easy road either. To tell your story without knowing how it will be received is very difficult – believe me I’ve had to do it a number of times. But living our life as Christians is to talk the talk and walk the walk regardless of the difficulties. Remember, God is with us along our journey and, as we hear in Romans 8, “...and those whom [God] justified [God] also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? [God] who did not withhold [God’s] own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will [God] not with [God’s Son] also give us

everything else?”<sup>1</sup>

If we believe God is with us now, in the present, in the now time, why do we hold on to the past? God will provide, or at least that’s what we say. We have to live what we say. 1 John 3 tells us, “Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action... And this is [Jesus’] commandment, that we should believe in the name of [God’s] Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as [Jesus] has commanded us. All who obey [Jesus’] commandments abide in [Jesus], and [Jesus] abides in them. And by this we know that [Jesus] abides in us, by the Spirit that [God] has given us.”<sup>2</sup> God will provide if we live in the now and let go of the past, the would’ve, should’ve, could’ve and the use-to-be. Love one another that are here now and present and welcome those who come in the future.

Will we ever get back to the full pews and the coffers overflowing and the 30-40 confirmation students? Probably not. But I know that we definitely won’t if we continue to hold on to what was and not accepting what is now. Live in the now for that is where God is.

Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

*The Reverend Joshua Krenz*

The Reverend Joshua Krenz








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<sup>1</sup> Romans 8:30c-32, NRSV.

<sup>2</sup> 1 John 3:18, 24-24, NRSV.

# Good Shepherd Ministries

All committees meet the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM  
(For more information about our church ministries please call the church office)

Evangelism	Property	Social Ministry	Worship & Music	Christian Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Outreach</li> <li>Fishes &amp; Loaves</li> <li>Promote Events</li> <li>Maintain Website</li> <li>Family Events</li> <li>D-Day Parking</li> <li>Back to School Rally</li> <li>Support Other Committees</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain building and grounds</li> <li>Care for church rental properties</li> <li>Members Maintenance Ministry (3 M's) is a group of members who meet bi-monthly in the evening to work on the maintenance of the church.</li> <li>Support Other Committees</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree of Warmth</li> <li>Cooks for Christ</li> <li>Holy Communion Home Visits</li> <li>Card Ministry</li> <li>BINGO at Ashtabula County Home</li> <li>Nisua Bakers</li> <li>Turkey Box</li> <li>Quilting</li> <li>Funeral Ministry</li> <li>Support Other Committees</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Music</li> <li>Ushers</li> <li>Assisting Ministers</li> <li>Altar Guild</li> <li>Abiding Memorial</li> <li>Pastoral Support</li> <li>Acolytes</li> <li>Greeters</li> <li>Readers</li> <li>Communion Assistants</li> <li>Support Other Committees</li> </ul> 	<p>Sunday School Classes 9:45 am Preschool thru High School September thru May</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acolyte Training</li> <li>First Holy Communion</li> <li>Confirmation</li> <li>Vacation Bible School</li> <li>Youth Sunday</li> <li>Mission Trips</li> <li>Support Other Committees</li> </ul>

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

876 Grove Street  
Conneaut, OH 44030  
440-599-8908 / [www.gslcc.org](http://www.gslcc.org)

### Worship Times

Sunday 8:30 Contemporary  
Sunday 11:00 Traditional  
Holy Communion at all services

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday – 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Joshua Krenz, Pastor  
[gslcpastor@gwcmail.net](mailto:gslcpastor@gwcmail.net)

### Office Staff

Clarissa Murtha, Secretary/Financial Secretary  
[goodshepherd@gwcmail.net](mailto:goodshepherd@gwcmail.net)

*A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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The deadline for ECHO articles is the **20<sup>th</sup> of every month.** Articles/notices received after the 20th will be saved for the following month. Submissions can be emailed to Kelly Anthony at [klanthony@gwcmail.net](mailto:klanthony@gwcmail.net).

## A Moment in Faith

### By Richard Tulino, a Layman's Interpretation



Wouldn't it be nice if everyone came to church on Sunday morning, not only in their best clothes, but also on their best behavior, not to mention with their best mood? The previous week was great, you slept 8 hrs. the night before, and life is good. When you walk through the doors and someone asks how you are and you answer by saying, "Fine, just fine," and really mean it, and you come to church running on all cylinders.

But let's be honest, that's not the way life is. Usually when you come to church you bring your life with you. The arthritis in your joints make walking difficult, you may not remember where you put your glasses, the kids have been on your nerves all week. Perhaps you ran out of money this month paying the bills. Maybe you need a new car but you have too much negative equity on your loan so you have to keep the old one another year or two.

And because of all these problems, and maybe some others, you come to church..... well, sometimes you come with a chip on your shoulder, but figure it's better than staying home and being miserable by yourself. There's that old saying about, "Misery loves company."

One day when not in church, Jesus was confronted by a man who was in a really bad mood. It was bound to happen someday, I guess, but even though Jesus did not identify himself as a counselor, it was automatic that people were driven to him. Not only for healing and teaching, but also for the miracles he could perform. No they came to ask Jesus for help in solving their problems.

This man shouted out during one of Jesus' teaching moments and said, "Teacher, tell my brother divide our fathers estate with me." Take note that he didn't use the magic word, PLEASE! Weren't we all taught to use the magic word when we wanted something? But some people never get it. Obviously, this man was a younger brother because if he were older, he would be the one getting the inheritance. This was the custom in those days. There is a lot of responsibility when you're the oldest, and there is power to go along with it. I learned through my life as a younger son that the oldest may have had the influence and power, but the youngest was the most loved. Take that all you older siblings!

In Luke 12:13-21 there are many stories about wanting more than we have so please take the time to read it so that you can get a better understanding.

Everywhere Jesus went there were people who were greedy and selfish, who had forgotten that God owns the world. They didn't realize that we all are God's servants, and therefore we are to live sensitively, caring, and generously with others.

So, what was your mood when you came to church last week? If it was not what you know it should be, or what you want it to be, maybe it's because you've slipped into the trap of thinking that your value in God's eyes is based on what you have and not on who you are. Chances are that if you come to church in a bad mood, it is because of something you thought you owned, but in reality, it owns you. So, would you like a new lease on life? Remember that above all else, you are a child of God, the one who gives you all that you have and all that you are. Keep that in mind, and it might make all the difference in your life. It is the most valuable lesson in the entire world.

Learn this prayer: Oh lord, that you love us not because of what we have, but because finally and fully you are a God of love. Love us even when we do not say; **"Please and Thank you!" Amen**

# August Birthdays



Judith Barch  
Amiah Berry  
John Chapin  
Griffin Fuller  
Zachery Hathy  
David Heinonen  
Samantha Lampela

Stephanie Newsome  
Dolores Pelow  
Lori Punkar  
Howard Seavey  
Sofi Thompson  
Molly Todaro

Vincent Todaro  
Beth Tulino  
Michael Vendetti  
Phyllis Waid  
Rebecca Watson  
Natalie Wood



## GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

**\$27,676**

MONTH	OFFERING INCOME	YTD INCOME	%ESTIMATE BUDGETED REVENUE	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	% ESTIMATED OPERATING COST
January	\$ 13,736	\$ 13,736	90.1%	\$ 9,303	\$ 9,303	60.5%
February	\$ 18,006	\$ 31,742	105.0%	\$ 12,434	\$ 21,736	66.2%
March	\$ 11,317	\$ 43,059	93.4%	\$ 18,287	\$ 44,352	92.0%
April	\$ 12,546	\$ 55,605	88.6%	\$ 15,966	\$ 60,318	95.4%
May	\$ 12,180	\$ 67,785	87.0%	\$ 15,509	\$ 75,827	94.1%
June	\$ 9,972	\$ 77,757	83.7%	\$ 16,895	\$ 92,722	96.7%



### ATTENDANCE

6/26 57  
7/3 49  
7/10 68  
7/17 74  
7/24 65



A volunteer is needed to take over the ministry of leading the prayer chain. Please contact pastor if you are interested.

If you know of someone who is hospitalized, sick or needs a visit, please call the church office **(440-599-8908)** so that a visit can be arranged.





## “Forgiveness”

**Forgiveness** (Gr. *Aphesis*, “letting go”) Pardoning or remitting an offense. It restores a good relationship with God, others, or the self after sin or alienation.<sup>1</sup>

There is one thing that I have been gifted as being a new person to the congregation, a gift that comes to all new people in the congregation. I don’t have the history of the church and the emotions and hurt that is in the church. (Ok a gift and a curse.) But I do have experience on the congregation side, being part of a congregation that is hurting while new people are coming in.

Back in 2003, the pastor – who baptized me and confirmed me – his son completed suicide. This was very hurtful to me, my family, and my congregation. It is a hurt that remained in the congregation until his retirement, through the intentional interim pastor, and the call of the new (current) pastor. It is a hurt that was noticed when new people came to visit and join the congregation; a kind of topic that could never be spoken about, that could never be healed, and it was something like “you had to be there to be part of this congregation” idea. It made the visitors and new members feel like outsiders and the “insiders” resented the new people coming in, including the new pastor. This has caused many “insiders” and long-time members to leave the congregation and either join another church or stop worshipping in a community all together.

Unfortunately, the same happens here at Good Shepherd just like any other congregation in the world. There is a history that happens in a church and usually that history is emotionally charged. When new people come to visit and join, they can sense the charge in the congregation but cannot be part of that charge because they don’t have the history that goes with it – even if they are let in on the story, they didn’t live the history. Holding on to that emotional charge is good if directed in ways that welcome people and do ministry in the community. But holding on to the emotional charge because we cannot forgive and release the past makes it difficult to welcome people and do ministry.

Take, if you will, this analogy: the emotional charge that happens in a congregation is like electricity. Tapping into it for use is good and healthy. But too much electricity ends up burning everything and everyone it comes in contact with.

Now what does this have to do with forgiveness? Notice, in all my writings and sayings, I never combine forgiveness with forget (i.e. forgive and forget). These are two separate things and applied two separate ways. Going back to the analogy, forgetting is like turning off the electricity – it might be nice in the short term, but long term causes more problems than it solves. Forgiveness, on the other hand, is plugging into that electricity (a vacuum cleaner, for example) and using the electricity to do work. It’s exactly the same in the congregation. Forgetting the history only leads us to have heartache

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<sup>1</sup> McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

and faith concerns and grief; where forgiving the history allows us to use the energy for good and ministry.

So, where's the action? What can I do to forgive the history? How can I tap into the power that this congregation has? First, and the hardest step, forgive one another. I keep on saying it and will continue to say it, but forgive one another. Again, forgiveness and trust are two different things; I'm not saying trust one another, rather forgive the wrongs that have happened. This means forgive the past and current leaders of this congregation, forgive the past pastors of this congregation (and current if needed), and forgive the hurt, the anger, the utter betrayal that has happened. If we forgive, if we tap into the electrically and emotionally charged history without holding on to it, we can begin to rebuild relationships. Then, when visitors come and see this as a truly welcoming, accepting place where the history isn't crushing them down, then more people will come more and more.

People don't come regularly to congregations because of the entertainment value – the newest songs, light shows, dancing – they come because they feel welcomed for their individualness (new word) and a desire to use their emotional power. I've been told (by people older than me) people my age want the newest songs and electric guitar and keyboard songs (praise bands and light shows) – to be entertained. But I got news for you folks; they are more interested in being accepted than the music and the entertainment and even wanting the traditional services.

Our forgiveness of one another is the first step to forgive our history and use the power we have here. So, if in the past you've done something or have tried to do something and it was criticized, forgive. If you don't want to sign up for hospitality – for example – because people didn't like what you brought in or was different than normal, forgive and try again. If you don't want to be part of the worship service because a former pastor said you do things wrong, forgive and try again. (By the way, you can't do anything wrong in service especially with me.) If you need help with forgiving, that is why I am in my office every day to help you. The pastor does more than lead worship services, write sermons and newsletter articles and words, more than just care for the sick and dying or homebound. The pastor is there to be a mediator, a counselor, a shoulder and a crutch to help you forgive and tap into the power that this congregation has.

It's going to take time; as I said it is not easy, but if we learn the words and the difference between forgiveness, forget, and trust, we can move this congregation into a place where people will come. There is something in the words, "if you build it, he will come."<sup>1</sup> If we forgive and build a place where people are welcomed, accepted and relationships are built, they – all the future members of this congregation – will come.

Thanks be to God.

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<sup>1</sup> *Field of Dreams*.





Memorial Candle



## Our Sponsors

Date	In Honor/Memory of	Given by
<b>Bulletins:</b>		
August 7		
August 14		
August 21		
August 28		
<b>Flowers:</b>		
August 7		
August 14		
August 21	In Memory of my Dad, Hike Benson	Love, Trina
August 28		
<b>Memorial Candle:</b>		
August		

Opportunities are available to sponsor the monthly altar candle and weekly bulletins and flowers to remember or honor your loved ones.

### **FLOWERS**

Cost is \$35 for each Sunday. Sign up poster is in the gathering space. You may also call the office to sign up for a certain Sunday and mail your check to the office. Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 service or in the office on the Monday following the date picked.

### **MEMORIAL CANDLE**

Cost (by month) is \$5 for each Sunday. Sign up poster is in the gathering space. You may also call the office to sign up for a certain Sunday and mail your check to the office.

### **BULLETINS**

Cost is \$10 for each Sunday. Sign up poster is in the gathering space. You may also call the office to sign up for a certain Sunday and mail your check to the office.

You may contact the church office by phone or email: (440) 599-8908, [goodshepherd@gwcmail.net](mailto:goodshepherd@gwcmail.net)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Fish Dinner

The Annual Fish Dinner will be on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner includes all-you-can-eat cod, homemade potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, bread, dessert and drinks. Price for the dinner for ages 15-74 is \$15.00. Ages 75 and up is \$12.00. Ages 5-15 for \$10.00. Children under 5 eat free. A child's hotdog meal is available.

Hope to see you there! If you would like to help out, please contact Pearl Ann Curtis or Sue Chapin. We will be doing prep work for a few days before and many hands make light work. Thanks for supporting Social Ministry's biggest event of the year and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



## It's a Sticky Situation

This year, Good Shepherd is collecting glue sticks for the schools in the surrounding area. There is a box in the Narthex where your donations can be left. Thank you!



## Do you love children?

Of course you do! Then join the Sunday school staff and help us spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Contact Mary Vidmar or the church office for questions and to volunteer.



## Thank you, Nancy!

After years of faithful service and diehard commitment, Nancy Sackett has stepped down as the prayer chain contact and distributor. Please let Pastor know if you would like to—not replace her—but fill her shoes.



## Donations are requested for Nick's Closet

This ministry provides household and personal hygiene items (anything except food) for those in need, serving 20-25 families each Saturday. Items can be brought to the church. Donations of cash or Thrivent cards are also appreciated; please just indicate what the donation is for. Suggested items to donate include:

- paper products—toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, napkins, Kleenex, etc.
- household items—laundry soap, dryer sheets, cleaning products
- hygiene items—shampoo, conditioner, body soap, body wash, deodorant, feminine products, body lotion, combs, brushes, shaving cream, single blade razors



## Cookies Needed for D-Day Conneaut Volunteer Lunches

Cookie donations are requested between Saturday, August 13, and Saturday, August 20, 2022, for lunches for volunteers of the D-Day Conneaut event.

D-Day Conneaut provides over 2,000 lunches for volunteers during the event each year, and we are in need of cookies for the sack meals. Homemade cookies or store-bought cookies are acceptable. No frosting on the homemade cookies, though, please. If you would like to donate money for the cookies to be purchased, that would be very much appreciated, too.

If you are able to donate cookies or have questions, please contact Jean Woods at (440) 645-8521 or Georgia Woods at (440) 645-9629.

Thank you!



On October 1, 2022 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will be hosting our first annual ***Basket Raffle*** to benefit both our **Fishes and Loaves and Quilting Ministries**.

***Fishes and Loaves*** is a weekend community outreach program that includes free nutritional lunches/dinners, food pantry supplies and personal hygiene products. Fishes and Loaves started in the summer of 2020 in response to the food insecurities that many face within our local community. We have been totally self-funded through generous donations from both our church members and from local organizations.

Our ***Quilting Ministry*** provides handmade quilts to victims of disasters. This ministry expands not only locally but also beyond our community for national and worldwide distribution. We are able to provide between 150-200 quilts annually and have done so for more than 25 years.

We are reaching out to local community leaders and businesses to seek donations for our benefit raffle. These donations can be in the form of a cash donation, gift certificate and or merchandise. If you would like to support us, or need additional information, please contact **Martha Jayne Thompson at 440-593-4873** or **Michelle Logan at 440-265-8727**.

All donations would be appreciated by September 17, 2022.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Tax# 34-1117572  
Raffle coordinators,

*Martha Jayne Thompson*  
*Michelle Logan*



**world hunger**

## **Can you help?**

Donations made to ELCA World Hunger will be matched 100% by the ELCA up to \$100,000.

Checks should be made out to ELCA World Hunger and mailed to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P O Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-800



University Hospitals - Conneaut Medical Center

## **"Walk for the Cure"**

September 18, 2022 11 am to 3 pm



This fundraiser dedicated to fighting breast cancer will be held at Geneva High School on September 18.

**\*\*\*ALL MONIES DONATED BENEFIT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY\*\*\***

Sponsorship Levels will be recognized on the T-Shirts

Platinum	-	Over \$501
Gold	-	\$351 to \$500
Silver	-	\$201 to \$350
Bronze	-	\$75 to \$200

Please mail your check no later than Friday, August 26, 2022.

Mail to: UH Geneva Medical Center

ATTN: Paula Covell  
870 West Main Street  
Geneva, OH 44041

# News & Updates

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## A Message from the President

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As July has been a sabbatical month with no committee or council meetings, there is no President's Report this month.

Peace to you and yours,

*Mark Lytle*

Council President

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## Committee News

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### Evangelism

The past month has been busy, but good. We have served 550 meals and 35 families in the food pantry.

We are in need of volunteers to help with D-Day parking. If you are able to help, please see Michelle.

Mark your calendar for October 1 for a Basket Raffle! We are in need of baskets to raffle off and help to set up on the day of the raffle. Please contact Martha Jayne Thompson or Michelle Logan to help.

Serving Christ,

*Michelle Logan*

The Evangelism Team, Chair

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### Property

Over the last 7 months, many jobs have been happening around the church and our properties. Some of these jobs have been very noticeable. I wanted to take a moment to update you on what the jobs are and were, and inform you of the progress that has been made.

#### Church and Grounds:

Well, cutting the grass around the church got a little crazy there for a while. We were cutting twice a week, and could have been cutting three times a week! We were trying to make sure the 8:30 AM service had short grass but not enough to track grass into your cars. Initially, it was just me trying to keep up with it, then Steve Logan stepped in and said "just tell me what and when and I'll do it." We worked out a plan and Steve just took off. Thank you Steve. We were getting used to switching and then, gratefully, more help came and the rain stopped.

- 1) Mike Malys stepped in, and he and Ron Young worked out a plan to split the end of week cutting so Steve and I could rotate the earlier part of the week cutting. Thank you Mike and Ron.
  - 2) It stopped raining entirely and the grass stopped growing. Steve has cut it now once a week for the last 3 weeks.
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Oh Good.... It is raining today as I write this report! Mike and Ron, we will need you soon!

### **Fellowship Hall:**

You may have noticed the fellowship hall is a lot roomier! Before the quilters shut down operations for the season, we worked together to clean out some space where they can store their items, as well as assure they had space to store their "Go Wagon" and have easy access to their machines they keep on a cart to easily pull them to their sewing line. We will be making more "stilts" for a couple tables to be easier on their backs while cutting, pinning, and tying material before they start back in the Fall. The quilting ladies have been extremely willing to help make the fellowship hall larger and neater! Thank you!

Additionally, we have removed the tan (ok green moldy) curtains from both sides of the stage in the fellowship hall. Now that the curtains have been removed, the area behind them needs a little work like cleaning (or replacing) the tiles and cleaning/repainting the walls. Let me or Pastor know if you are willing to help.

The library has been closed and Laura, Shirley and Jan did a great job of tackling the mammoth task of going through the books and selecting what we should keep and what we could donate. Thank you so much for taking on such a task. I assure you every book we chose not to keep was donated, some to other churches, some to individuals of our church, some to individuals outside our church and others to charitable organizations. Nothing that I know of went to the landfill. The shelving all went to good use - to our own food pantry and our own Sunday School library. The final step is some cleaning and painting to make this new "Family Room" inviting for weddings, funerals, as well as any other times. Please let myself or Pastor know if you are willing to help in this room as well.

### **Food Pantry:**

The new food pantry space is up and running. Michelle and the Evangelism team have been fine-tuning the activities, and just in the nick of time. She reports that the Food Pantry has gotten extremely busy lately as there is a very large need here in Conneaut. This central location has allowed to consolidate all their supplies into one usable space that is now set up like a small grocery store.

### **Tables and Chairs:**

All the old wooden tables and metal chairs have been donated to church members and different organizations in Conneaut. Thank you! We are now able to store all the tables and chairs on both sides of the stage. Please, when using tables and chairs for events in the fellowship hall, use the round tables and new chairs that are on the two double high racks. The chairs kept on the old rack are for use during the outside services.

### **Let's Talk Trash!**

Let's start with the trash dumpster! We are going to move the dumpster location. For years we have been required to bag everything we throw out. The aluminum cans and steel cans must be bagged separately, and corrugated boxes had to be broken down and bagged. No trash hauler can get a trash truck in through the driveway at the east end of the Sunday School wing. Because of this, everything had to be carried out to meet the trash truck. Many discussions have taken place to determine the best place to relocate the dumpsters. After review from the City Zoning Department and a visit from the Fire Chief, Steve Lee, we will file for an enclosure permit to place the enclosure at the end the Sunday School wing. There will be enough clearance for people to pass between the enclosure and the church building at all times, meeting the requirement of emergency egress, though not a vehicle. While Chief Lee was here, we asked him if there was a need to establish the road from Lake Rd. to the courtyard. He asked, "Your fellowship hall, do you rent this to the public? Are there public gatherings? What types of activities?" Open houses, wedding receptions, exercise classes, line dancing and yoga. After answering the questions, he pointed the boiler room and kitchen are the primary points of fire ignition and said, "Ok, even if you were not moving your trash, I would tell you this emergency road needs to be reestablished." Chief Lee will be sending a letter to this point. The letter as well as the plans for the enclosure and reestablishment of the emergency road will all be included with the permit application.

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**Parking Lot Maintenance:**

We will be sealing and striping the parking lots as soon as possible. We will be moving a couple of the handicap spaces and adding a few visitor only parking spaces. We bid this out and the job is being awarded to Pro Paving. This may be the last year we can seal these lots without replacing them. We will, reluctantly, need to replace both lots – either side of Grove St. – in the next couple of years.

**Properties:**

Our Sandusky Street rental property is getting very close to being finished! At the last congregational meeting, we approved spending up to \$25,000 to repair some damage and disrepair within the 448 Sandusky Street side of this property. Rick Vidmar has been contracted for the majority of the work and has helped keep cost down for the benefit of the church.

At some point we will have to do much the same to the other side of this house and depending on timing and the economy the cost could go up or down.

Recently, Mark Lytle and I inspected the Detroit Street property. The condition of this rental was unacceptable. When the current tenants move out, this house has major concerns that will need to be evaluated on a cost vs. return basis. Mark is scheduling a revisit of this property for July 27, 2022, to determine if any improvements requested at the recent inspection have been done.

**Playground Equipment:**

Mark Lytle checked the playground equipment after it was brought up regarding inspection and meeting playground standards, and reported the equipment is still very sturdy. The ground around the equipment is very hard and needs to be brought up to a standard level of safety by using bark mulch at a specified level of thickness. During the summer families with children 5rdutilizing this equipment.

After a question was raised at council regarding liability of playgrounds and events hosted by the church such as fish dinners, D-Day parking and 4<sup>th</sup> of July parking, we were advised by Church Mutual, our insurance carrier, we do have coverage for these items, included at no additional cost to the church.

I hope this update gives an insight into the work the Property Committee has been involved with and the movement towards improving our facilities, making Good Shepherd a truly modern and welcoming place. The Property Committee thanks all those who have helped and invites all to consider volunteering some time as possible. The Property Committee also wants to say thank you to all for your continued financial and spiritual support. Enjoy Your Summer!

Be Blessed!

*George Peterson*

Property Committee

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## Social Ministry

Here we are at the end of July. A month from today, the fish dinner will be over. We plan on an all-you-can-eat cod dinner with homemade potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, bread, dessert, and a drink. The price is not set yet because we haven't got a firm cost on the fish. I have been talking with a man that made the fish dinners in Pierpont at the Masonic hall. We are looking for helpers in the prep work. If you can give us some time, it would be appreciated. This dinner will help fund our congregational thanksgiving feast and our Christmas family adoption. We will also be helping Evangelism with a new project in October. There will be a basket raffle! Michelle is looking for some helpers for that event.

It has been slow going to get the attendance up on Sunday morning. COVID is still out there, and we are taking precautions, but people are still hesitant to come back to worship. I came back as soon as the church was open for business. Coming to church starts my week, I feel blessed to have my church family, and Pastor Krenz has had some excellent sermons. We hope our youth will be able to attend the youth gathering when it is back up and running. So, if you haven't returned to the church, come back and try it. We will be happy to see you.

My brother had a liver transplant on Father's Day, and he is doing better every day. He has been able to stand with some help, but God has blessed our family again. He was critically ill for several days and on a vent longer than anticipated. If you would like to send him a card, his address is:

UPMC MONTIFORE, SELECT SPECIALTY UNIT  
Charles Lloyd rm 614  
3459 Fifth Ave  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15213

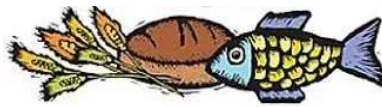
In His Service,  
*Pearl Ann Curtis*  
Social Ministry Team

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## Assistance Program Hours

### Fishes & Loaves



### Ministry

#### FREE LUNCH

Pickup: 11:00 to 12:30 Saturday  
and 12:00 to 1:30 Sundays

Lunches include: Dinners, as well as vegetable, chips, fruit,  
and drink, plus a special treat

Dinners are included with lunches



Hours: Saturday 11:00 to 12:30

Sunday 12:00 to 1:30

Wednesday 9:00 to 2:00 and 5:00 to 7:00

After hours Food Pantry phone number: (440) 381-1018



Hours: Saturday 11:00 to 12:30

Essential Cleaning and Hygiene Items

Items include paper products, household items, and hygiene items



# August 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness	<b>2</b> 9:00 3M's	<b>3</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 10:30 Enhance Fitness 5-7 Food Pantry	<b>4</b> 5:30 Line Dancing	<b>5</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness 11:45 Gentle Yoga	<b>6</b> 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch
<b>7</b> 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	<b>8</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness	<b>9</b> 9:00 3M's 6:00 Committees	<b>10</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 10:30 Enhance Fitness 5-7 Food Pantry	<b>11</b> 5:30 Line Dancing 5:45 Finance	<b>12</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness 11:45 Gentle Yoga	<b>13</b> 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch
<b>14</b> 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	<b>15</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness	<b>16</b> 9:00 3M's 6:00 Council	<b>17</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 10:30 Enhance Fitness 5-7 Food Pantry	<b>18</b> 5:30 Line Dancing	<b>19</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness 11:45 Gentle Yoga <b>3:00-7:00 Fish Dinner</b>	<b>20</b> Echo Articles Due No Lunches
<b>21</b> 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	<b>22</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness	<b>23</b> 9:00 3M's	<b>24</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 10:30 Enhance Fitness 5-7 Food Pantry	<b>25</b> 5:30 Line Dancing	<b>26</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness	<b>27</b> 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch
<b>28</b> 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	<b>29</b> 10:30 Enhance Fitness	<b>30</b> 9:00 3M's	<b>31</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 10:30 Enhance Fitness 5-7 Food Pantry	<p>From a compilation by Max Bowen of announcements that actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:</p> <p>"Potluck supper Sunday at 5 pm—Prayer and medication to follow."</p> 		

*Lord, we are your servants . . .*

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION SERVER	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	HOSPITALITY	ACOLTYES	PROJECTION
8/7/2022 8:30		Jerry Brookhouser		Susan & Wes Combs	Tim Moga			
11:00		Stacy Racut	Ruth Brown	Ruth Brown	Janelle Cole			
8/14/2022 8:30		Suzanne Malys		Janet Maenpaa	Richard Tulino			
11:00		Mark Lytle	Ruth Brown	Ruth Brown	Mark Lytle			
8/21/2022 8:30		Katrina Pavolino		Pearl Ann Curtis	Dolores Pelow			
11:00		Faye Lampela	Faye Lampela	Bob & EJ Hybert	Janelle Cole			
8/28/2022 8:30		Wes Combs		Peggy & Shirley Harco	Amy Gallagher			
11:00		Glenda Betteridge	Kelly Anthony	Mary Lou Moisio	Greg Betteridge			

**AUGUST ALTAR GUILD:** Ruth Brown, Janelle Cole, Susan Combs

**SEPTEMBER ALTAR GUILD:** Robin Bryant, Sue Chapin, Pam Deemer, Betty Monday

Serving   
from the  
Heart



