



# *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**

## **DECEMBER 2022**

*From the thoughts of the pastor . . .*

Greetings, grace, and (almost) Merry Christmas to you all.

The year is coming to a close and what a year it has been. By the time this gets out, we will be in December, the last month of the year, and (depending on printing and publication) will have been or just about to be one-year as your pastor. I want to take this opportunity to talk about everything that has been done this year, not in a report kind of way as that will come out in February, but as a sense of accomplishment that has occurred.

Probably, the most notable thing that has been done are property improvements such as the TV in the Narthex for announcements, new carpet in the sanctuary, moved and new floor in the Food Pantry, closed and working on the library to a Family Room, and many more things. The second most notable thing happened during the summer when we turned the view from the band and down Lake Road to looking out toward the lake during the first service. Many people have commented that they like this so much and I think we'll continue to set up this way from now on. There have been things that have been happening behind the scenes that may or may not have gone unaware, such as new locks and keys, new alarm system, rental work, and the like. And, finally, things that are in the process of change but haven't gotten there yet.

In seminary – and from advice of other pastors – we are told to see how things go during your first year. You try to build relationships and try to gain the trust of the congregation so you can pastor to them and with them. I've found that to be quite difficult – to stay out of everything and not try and change how things are done.

During this first year, I've tried to update policies and constitutions in consultation with the Church Council, I've tried to introduce new settings and music in consultation with the music directors, and I've tried to get people to be more active in the community, all with varying success and failure. I've tried to help people through difficult times, try to get a better connection with God and the Holy Spirit, tried to teach what this God is and our responsibilities to God and with God. I've tried to help people understand the first year of a new pastor – regardless of COVID excuses or not – will see a dip in the attendance and the giving, hoping those who continue will pick-up any slack that may be happening. I've been watching and noting programs that exist because they've always existed with little to no success and new programs attempted with huge success. And I've been struggling with what it means to be a pastor – not just in general – but for this congregation.

Now, have I gotten over my head on a few occasions? I'd say absolutely. I've tried to take on more than I can handle and still do the things that I need to do as a pastor – at least in my own mind. I was asked one specific question during the call process that I've been asked in all call interviews. This question was: how do you deal with conflict? My answer, to which I hold today, is: conversation – have the parties come together and have a conversation with me as the mediator and outside person. But I'd add to that answer today; I'd add do things that don't cause a conflict or that would prevent a conflict. In other words, talk about how "whatever" has the potential to cause a conflict and talk through how that "whatever" needs to be addressed. Is there conflict in this congregation? Yes, absolutely. Has the conflict affected ministry at Good Shepherd? That is a question that is harder to answer for one reason and one reason alone: the lack of a definable and definite mission statement.

Over the past month or so, members of the Church Council have been attending a virtual Vital Congregation Training with ideas and a potential playbook that can be modified to fit our community and congregation. There are some great ideas that are coming out of this training from our people and this road will lead to a review and revision of our mission statement. And then, every ministry that exists or potential ministry that might exist will be held against that mission statement to see if that ministry is part of who we are. Now, before you get all worried about your involvement or think that this group is going to say who we are let me address these concerns and talk through this: YOU WILL BE INVOLVED. There will be ample opportunities for you to address your thoughts and opinions, to talk through everything before conflict happens and causes an issue in this place. That doesn't mean we'll force you to be involved but then, also, you can't complain if something happens that you don't like if you never let your voice be heard. And to that end, EVERY VOICE WILL BE HEARD. You read that right; every voice will be heard for those who choose to speak up. That is how you deal with conflict: speak your opinions, views, and feelings – yes I ask you, “how does that make you feel” quite a lot.

More information about these opportunities will be coming in the future and the second year of this pastorship (new word) will be more active than the first. New policies will be enacted, new procedures and ways of doing things will be enacted, new music, new settings, new ideas about worship, and potentially, new technology. I don't believe in change for the sake of change. But I do believe in change to spread the word of God. A secret that, well I don't know how much of a secret it is but, a secret that I have is I very much like a high church style of worship (high church being ultimate liturgical with chanting, smells and bells, full vestments, etc.) higher church than the traditional worship service. But I also will give up that style of worship, even the current traditional worship, if our message of God's grace reaches more people. I know, while reading this you might think, “that doesn't sound like giving up much”, but believe me it's giving up a lot. It might be the equivalent of giving up Sunday School or Nisua (how I choose to spell it) or giving up another long standing tradition, it is equivalent to these things.

This next year might begin looking the same and, honestly, might end looking the same, who knows. What I do know is this: change, like the coming winter, is coming. My office door is (almost) always open for anyone to visit and talk. Talk about how you are feeling about the change, talk about how you are feeling about new ideas and concerns and worries and potentially giving up institutions that have been here since the founding of Good Shepherd, talk about your feelings. I know it's uneasy and difficult – that is why during CPE we were given a feeling wheel – but it is so very important to know and be in touch with your feelings because that is where God affects us the most and where God communicates with us the most.

Amen+

السلام عليكم (Peace be upon you)

*The Reverend Joshua Krenz*

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



CHRISTMAS

EVE

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**






**7:00 pm Contemporary with Communion**

**9:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion**

**There will be only one service at 10:00 am on  
December 25 and on January 1.**

# 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> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunday School Classes 9:45 am</li> <li>Preschool thru High School</li> <li>September thru May</li> </ul>  <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)

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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**



#### **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 Birthdays



Clarence Baugher  
Laurie Bidwell  
Raymond Burlingham  
Jennifer Gallagher  
Paul Gauvin

Fritz Houy  
Faye Lampela  
Renee Montagano  
Katrina Pavolino  
George Peterson

Dave Thompson  
Jan Uveges  
Stephanie VanNorman  
Mike Vendetti



## GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2022

**\$13,602**

						%
						ESTIMATED OPERATING
MONTH	OFFERING INCOME	YTD INCOME	%ESTIMATE BUDGETED REVENUE	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	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	\$ 7,757	83.7%	\$ 16,895	\$ 92,722	96.7%
July	\$ 10,141	\$ 87,898	81.5%	\$ 12,356	\$ 105,078	94.5%
August	\$ 12,214	\$100,112	81.5%	\$ 13,716	\$ 118,794	93.2%
September	\$ 9,817	\$109,929	79.8%	\$ 14,822	\$ 133,617	93.8%
October	\$ 11,669	\$121,598	79.6%	\$ 12,457	\$ 146,074	92.4%



### ATTENDANCE

10/30 57  
11/6 81  
11/13 63  
11/20 29



To initiate a prayer on the prayer chain for someone, call **Pearl Ann Curtis (440-593-2190)**.

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.



## “Christmas”

**Christmas** (Old Eng. *Christes mass*) Church festival marking the birth of Jesus Christ. It is observed on Dec. 25.<sup>1</sup>

Ok, duh. Do we really need to talk about Christmas as the big churchy word for this month? Well, I’d say yes for reasons that you’ll read below. So, how about a two-for-one this month.

## “Advent”

**Advent** (Lat. *Adventus*, “coming”) In reference to Christ, the first advent is his incarnation; the second is his future second coming. Also used for the first season of the Christian year, in which the coming of Jesus is anticipated.<sup>2</sup>

Let’s talk about these two words separately and in connection with each other.

Christmas is the, ok duh, word that might not need any explanation but there is more to this word than the sum of its parts. We can guess, especially from the old English word listed above, that Christmas is the mass of Christ – the celebration of Christ. But don’t we celebrate – have mass – of Christ every Sunday? We don’t talk about or read stories from the Gospel of Luke Chapter 2 every Sunday, do we? And you would be correct, we don’t talk about or read the gospel about the birth of Jesus every Sunday, and we do celebrate the mass of Christ every Sunday. Yet this “mass” is different, especially in its meaning.

The word “mass” has a varying history with most agreeing mass comes from the Latin *missa*. But this word meaning differs meaning the Latin *mittere* and others saying from the Latin *missio*. The first meaning, *mittere*, means “something that has been sent” as in Christ has been sent. The second meaning, *missio*, is the root word of mission (which auto-correct wants to keep changing to) means dismissal and being sent out as in Christ has been dismissed (or sent out).

So, Christmas could mean Christ has been sent, as in sent to us, or could mean Christ has been sent, as in sent out. But I would postulate that it means both; both Christ has been sent to us and Christ has been sent out. When we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate God with us, the Emmanuel (or Immanuel depending on your tradition and spelling). We recall from our confirmation days that we believe in the Triune God – the 3-in-1, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> persons of God. We believe, as we state in our creeds, that God the 2<sup>nd</sup> person has always existed with God the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup>. And that God became human in this man called Jesus. This man who was fully human and fully divine, who cured sicknesses, preached

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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.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

the Word of God, who died and rose again bodily and fully. This is what we believe according to our creeds is that God became human.

This idea of a god, let alone the God, becoming human was and is a wholly new concept, that God would become like us, live in this world like us, and die like us is amazing and truly awe inspiring. Never before has a god demeaned themselves to become human – why take on a lesser form of existence. Sure, there were people who claimed to be a god, but certainly were not. So, why would not only a god, but the God become human? Because God is for us and to be with us. This is why we claim and shout Emmanuel – God with us. And this is why we celebrate Christmas – because God has sent the 2<sup>nd</sup> person to be for us and be with us AND to send us out.

It is not unusual to see many charitable acts happening around Christmas because Christ sends us out, especially during this time. We celebrate Christmas, the mass of Christ, because God chose to be with us at this time – some 2000 years ago.

“Oh, one more thing” from the great detective Columbo, Advent.

While writing this, it is just before Christ the King and Advent. By the time you read this, it will be Advent. Advent is our time of preparation, a time to prepare our hearts and minds for this coming God to be with us. Advent, in many Catholic denominations, is considered a mini-Lent, even using purple like in Lent rather than our use of blue. As such, Advent can be thought of, like Lent, to be a time of self-reflection, to take stock of who we are and what matters to us. During this season of Advent, I will be asking you this question: are you prepared for the coming of Christ?

We decorate our homes and churches with lights, greens, trees, etc. without ever taking stock of what matters to us, without ever taking stock to say if Christ comes today or tomorrow, am I worthy of Christ to be with Christ forever. Advent is our time of preparation for our own hearts, minds, and souls and not to get all caught up in the “Christmas activities”. So the theme I will be saying this season of Advent is preparation and are you prepared.

The Christian Calendar season of Advent lets us put our preparation in the foreground of our minds because after the Ascension of Christ, about 2000 years ago, we live in the constant Advent – the Second Advent in our definition.

Christ is coming, are you ready?







Memorial Candle



## Our Sponsors

Date	In Honor/Memory of	Given by
<b>Bulletins:</b>		
December 4		
December 11		
December 18	Pastor #B-day	Pastor
December 25	Birth of Christ	Pastor
<b>Flowers:</b>		
December 4		
December 11	In Memory of Evelyn Peterson	
December 18	In Memory of Joy Dittler	
December 25	Pastor	
<b>Memorial Candle:</b>		
December	God's blessings to my entire family	Katrina Pavolino

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



Christmas poinsettia plants are available at a cost of \$10.00 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. \_\_\_\_\_

**LAST DAY FOR ORDERING WILL BE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022.**



## Order Your Nisua

Nisua bakers are back! **Sign up by Sunday, December 4**, after either worship service, or call the church office at (440) 599-8908 during the week. Cost is \$5 per loaf. Your ordered nisua will be available for **pickup at noon on Saturday, December 10.**

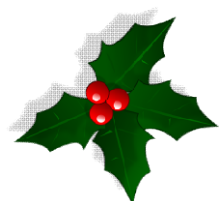


Someone on your Christmas list hard to shop for? Give them something that's hard to wrap! Sponsor a gift in honor of a friend or loved one and support projects of one of many churchwide ministries. Visit [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) for all the details.



## It's Christmas Shopping Time!

Consider using **AmazonSmile**!



### **What is AmazonSmile?**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

### **How do I shop at AmazonSmile?**

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

### **Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?**

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

### **Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?**

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

### **How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?**

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

### **How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?**

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

### **How can I learn more about AmazonSmile?**

Complete AmazonSmile program details are available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) or phone the church office, (440) 599-8908.



### It is not too late to share Your Gift of Time.

There are many volunteer opportunities to share your time and talents at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Choose those tasks that you are comfortable with and turn in “Your Gift of Time” at the church office or in the offering plate when attending worship.

Thank you for sharing your **personal** gifts of Time and Talents!

**Share Your  
Time & Talents**



### 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



Fishes & Loaves needs your help with the weekly lunches. Sign-up sheets are located on the kiosk. Volunteers are needed to help out with Fishes & Loaves for an hour on Saturday. Please consider returning an hour a week of what God has given you back to God.

The folks you always see behind the kitchen doors for all of our events need your help, too. Please consider joining **Social Ministry** and/or **The Cooks for Christ**. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Shirley Harco or Pearl Ann Curtis.

# News & Updates

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## A Message from the President

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### Highlights of November 15th Council Meeting

#### Treasurer's Report

October's offering income and expenses were \$11,669 and \$12,457, respectively. So far this year we have spent \$24,476 more than our offering income. We have been able to do this because we began the year with over \$35,000 in the general fund checking account. The checking balance as of 10/31/2022 was \$13,602.

#### Stewardship Pledges for 2023

So far, we have received only 34 pledges totaling \$76,044 for the proposed 2023 budget of \$187,465. We expect more pledges will be coming in but we are only 41% toward our goal. If you haven't submitted your pledge, please do so within the next two weeks. Typically, we do not receive pledges covering 100% of the budget but this year we are very low and it is concerning. Again, please consider the great ministries Good Shepherd does for you and the community and pledge your financial support.

#### December 11, 2022 Congregation Meeting

In October we held a congregation meeting to discuss the 2023 budget and to receive nominations for church council. On December 11<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00 service, we will have a congregation meeting to vote on those two issues. There are four council persons whose first three-year term will expire at the end of this year. Each can serve one more term and have agreed to do so. They are Jennifer Best, Pearl Ann Curtis, Kay Peterson, and Mark Lytle. Additional candidates can be nominated at the December meeting before the vote.

At the October meeting a question was asked if we are budgeting enough for our natural gas and electricity expenses. That was a very fair question because this year the U.S. has been hit hard by record high inflation. Fortunately for us, we renewed both of our service contracts for three-year fixed rates early in the year before the worst of the rate increases. Actually, our electricity rate stayed the same and the gas rate increased much less than the current rates. The other part of controlling our utility expenses is to be careful stewards; turn out lights when not needed and adjust the heat and cooling wisely.

#### ELCA Youth Gathering

The 2021 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was hoped it could be held in 2022 but that was scrubbed as well. This week we received notice that the next



**ELCA Youth Gathering** will be held **July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans.** We don't have the program agenda at this time but will keep you advised.

### **ELCA Model Constitution**

The ELCA has prepared a Model Constitution for all congregations to review, amend (if desired, with Synod approval), and adopt by congregation vote. We have just started this process with the goal of presenting it to you for a vote in February 2023.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season,  
*Mark Lytle*  
Council President

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## Committee News

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### **Christian Education**

Sunday school has been averaging about 10 students weekly. Jasmine Steighner has been teaching with Lisa Murtha assisting and doing crafts. Mary Vidmar is interacting with kids doing science experiments, and the students love it. Jim Fuller and Jennifer Best have been providing music instruction. Pastor Josh and Mike Malys are teaching confirmation class with one student participating. We are trying to get more families involved, but there has not been much response. We will keep praying!

In His Service,  
*Christian Education Staff*

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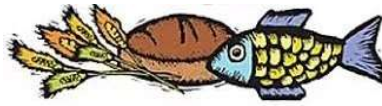




# December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
From a compilation by Max Bowen of announcements that actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:  “Miss Charlene Mason sang ‘I will not pass this way again,’ giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.”				<b>1</b>  5:30 Line Dancing	<b>2</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness 11:45 Gentle Yoga	<b>3</b> 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch
<b>4</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	<b>5</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	<b>6</b> 9:00 3M's 9:00 Cover Girls	<b>7</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	<b>8</b> 5:30 Line Dancing 6:00 Finance	<b>9</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness 11:45 Gentle Yoga	<b>10</b> Nisua Bake 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch
<b>11</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service <b>Congregation Meeting</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	<b>13</b> 9:00 3M's 9:00 Cover Girls 6:00 Committees	<b>14</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	<b>15</b> 5:30 Line Dancing	<b>16</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness 11:45 Gentle Yoga	<b>17</b> 11:00-12:30 Free Lunch
<b>18</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	<b>19</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	<b>20</b> Echo Articles Due 9:00 3M's 9:00 Cover Girls 6:00 Council	<b>21</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	<b>22</b> 5:30 Line Dancing	<b>23</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness 11:45 Gentle Yoga	<b>24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> 7:00 Service 9:00 Service
<b>25</b> <i>Merry Christmas!</i> 10:00 Service	<b>26</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	<b>27</b> 9:00 3M's 9:00 Cover Girls	<b>28</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	<b>29</b> 5:30 Line Dancing	<b>30</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness 11:45 Gentle Yoga	<b>31</b> 11-12:30 Food Pantry

## Fishes & Loaves



### Ministry

#### FREE LUNCH

Pickup: Saturdays 11:00 to 12:30

#### Holiday Closures:

December 24 & December 31



#### Holiday Hours:

December 7, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

December 10, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

December 14, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

December 17, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

December 21, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

December 24, CLOSED

December 28, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

December 31, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

After hours & Emergency 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

*Lord, we are your servants . . .*

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	HOSPITALITY	ACOLTYES	PROJECTION
12/4/2022 8:30	Richard Tulino		Janet Maenpaa	Peggy & Shirley Harco	Richard Tulino			
11:00	Mark Lytle		Ruth Brown	Ruth Brown	Janelle Cole			
12/11/2022 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino	Peggy & Shirley Harco	Janet Maenpaa	Amy Gallagher			
11:00	George Peterson	Mark Lytle	Kay Peterson	Bob & EJ Hybert	Mark Lytle			
12/18/2022 8:30	Mike Malys		Suzanne Malys	Suzanne Malys	Dolores Pelow			
11:00		Janelle Cole	Stephanie Newsome	Kay Peterson	Kay Peterson			
12/24/2022 7:00	Richard Tulino				Richard Tulino			
9:00		Paul Mechling		Joanne Mechling	Paul Mechling			
12/25/2022 10:00	Kay Peterson			Jennifer Best	Kay Peterson			
1/1/2023 10:00	Mark Lytle	Greg Betteridge	Glenda Betteridge		Greg Betteridge			

**DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD:** Ruth Brown,  
Janelle Cole, Stephanie Newsome, Katrina  
Pavolino

**JANUARY (to FEBRUARY 12) ALTAR GUILD:**  
Pearl Ann Curtis, Stephanie Newsome,  
Amanda Sanford, Stephanie VanNorman

Serving   
from the  
Heart



JOY TO THE  
WORLD!

the Lord is come

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