



# *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**

## **JULY 2023**

*From the thoughts of the pastor . . .*

CORRECTION: Please be advised I was incorrect in my June article of the ECHO regarding the "Rent-to-Own" situation of the past. I have been corrected as the following is what happened (or at least the very closest to what happened):

Years ago, the church (or one of previous churches) owned a parsonage. GSLC then sold that parsonage with some intent to use proceeds from that sale to loan to the pastor – at a very low rate – funds for a down payment of a house. This was done three times with two of the three paying back the loan (and small interest) in full. The third, however, did not and sold the home purchased, and left the community and the church, without full payment of loan back to the church.

The church DID NOT purchase a house for the pastor to live with a "Rent-to-Own" agreement in place and I was mistaken and apologize.

And while I am doing a mea culpa, I want to take an opportunity to apologize for offences I have committed in person, in writing, or social media posts. The last thing I want to do is cause division that is unnecessary, or post things that are offensive to people – specifically around language. I am sorry and I humbly repent and ask for forgiveness. I am human, I make mistakes, I sin and I have been made aware of my sin and need to acknowledge my sin.

My calling as a pastor is to not make division, but put voice to division that exists in the subtext. I mentioned in last month's ECHO about being transparent, something I endeavor to be continuously, and I want this stated without subtext or inference: there is division, serious and, I would say, harmful division in the church council. I know we don't like our dirty laundry aired but you as the congregation need to know this. And this division is surrounded by differences in church ideologies, financial ideologies, and governance ideologies. The division has come out regarding the status and ownership of rental properties.

As pastors, we look for the quiet voices, the voices that are not being heard, the voices that don't want to make waves and we speak for those voices. Good pastors trying to get all voices heard end up creating division because the loud voices start to lose their dominance as new voices come in. In the past, other pastors might have been "good" because they maintained the status quo. But they were reluctant to face issues in the congregation and kicking the bucket of division into the future. It is very, very easy to maintain the status quo and kick problems into the future. But the downside of this is two-fold: 1) decline in attendance leading to church closure; 2) making things more difficult for future generations (if in existence) and future pastors. Dealing with things here and now, while the opportunity exists, is the best course of action – even if it causes division.

There's a small fact many pastors won't acknowledge or admit but a fact nonetheless. Church attendance declines in the first few years of a pastorship. The changing of the guard, if you will, is a change to something different and some people are just not willing to change along with the guard. Unfortunately,

sometimes, those who leave are some of the oldest (not in age but longevity) members who leave. I have seen this in the congregation in Santa Fe when the current pastor was called there. My parents decided to attend separate churches (one continues at the church the other attending a different church), people I knew growing up for 30+ years going there, people who I would never have thought would leave all have left because of the change in guard, not because the pastor there is a bad fit or a bad pastor, but couldn't adapt or unwilling to adapt to the change in guard. I think, also and unfortunately, here at Good Shepherd, the COVID pandemic gave an excuse to leave (or not return) leading to an extra decrease in attendance.

I don't mention this fact to encourage anyone to leave – I truly and absolutely hope everyone will stay. I mention this fact as a transparency to the life of a church during transition (and yes, we are still transitioning). As such, in this time of transition, we have a red hot iron ready for striking to allow all voices heard even if this causes division. My theme for the first year – and in all honesty still is to this day – is “because we've always done it isn't a reason”.

Because we've always done it isn't a reason to do anything. Many of us have driven for a long time, to the point of saying, “I've always driven”. But sometimes we need our license and car taken away for the safety and wellbeing of ourselves and others. Some of us have lived on our own for a long time, to the point of saying, “I've always lived alone”. But sometimes we need to be entered into an assisted care facility for our wellbeing or the wellbeing of those we love. Because we've always done it isn't a reason to do anything; we have to look at our wellbeing and the wellbeing of those around us.

I am still learning how to be a pastor and, hopefully, a good pastor. And I am still learning how to be your pastor. I come with new ideologies, fresh seminary training, and a commitment to Good Shepherd. What I hope to learn and hope to teach is the openness to something different, a change of the “we've always done it”, and a philosophy of striking the iron while it's hot. We strike the iron now to forge for the future and the future of this church.

Amen+





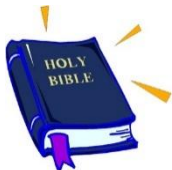
السلام عليكم (Peace be upon you)

*The Reverend Joshua Krenz*

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

# 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 – 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

### Pastoral Staff

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

### Office Staff

Jennifer Best, Administrative Assistant  
[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).

# July Birthdays



Janet Antila  
Addison Beagle  
Virginia Black  
Jerry Brookhouser  
Rachelle Douglas  
Anthony Gauvin

Julie Kantola  
Peyton Kantola  
Mary Lou Moisio  
Mike Malys  
Timothy Moga  
Mildred Niinisto

Payton Poff  
Amelia Sanford  
Grace Todaro  
Aiden Vidmar  
Brandon Vidmar  
Kenneth Woodring



## GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2023

						\$3,851
						%
MONTH	OFFERING INCOME	YTD INCOME	%ESTIMATE BUDGETED REVENUE	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	ESTIMATED OPERATING COST
January	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500	90.1%	\$ 18,583	\$ 18,583	117.0%
February	\$ 16,505	\$ 30,005	98.4%	\$ 15,958	\$ 34,540	114.2%
March	\$ 10,409	\$ 40,414	88.8%	\$ 14,636	\$ 49,176	102.9%
April	\$ 11,939	\$ 52,353	84.8%	\$ 15,915	\$ 65,091	104.3%
May	\$ 11,695	\$ 64,048	83.6%	\$ 16,215	\$ 81,154	101.3%



### ATTENDANCE

5/28 55  
6/4 58  
6/11 66  
6/18 60

## Prayer & Visitation

Prayer and visitation requests may be submitted in the box in the Narthex using the cards provided. Prayer chain requests can also be initiated by calling **Pearl Ann Curtis (440-593-2190)**. If you know of someone who is hospitalized, sick or needs a visit, you may also call the church office **(440-599-8908)** so that a visit can be arranged.



**Parsonage** The residence of the clergyperson who serves a local congregation. It is usually owned by the church. Also called a “manse [ , clergy house, prior, rectory, parish house, etc].”<sup>1</sup>

**Manse** (Lat. *Manere*, “to dwell”) A house owned by a church to be used as the residence of the pastor or minister.<sup>2</sup>

I decided to take a break this month from the vestment definitions and define for you some of the words that were used in this month’s ECHO Article from the pastor. Before I begin, though, I want to make clear I am not advocating for anything, rather a clarification of terms that are often used in the church world that maybe not everyone knows what they mean. (This is the reason for this section of the ECHO.)

Each denomination within the Christian church has its own policy regarding a *parsonage*. But before going into that, let’s look historically. Parsonages were houses that were usually close to, if not on the same grounds, as the church building. Prior to parsonages, clergy would have a private or semi-private room within the church building. (To go back further would mean talking about monasteries and the lack of local churches.) Martin Luther, when sent to Wittenberg prior to the reformation, had a private room within the church building, then a house after his marriage to Katharina Von Bora. Luther didn’t start the practice of parsonages, just some context of his living situation as a pastor; parsonages, as we know them, began more in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Prior to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, most churches were started by wealthy patrons and the clergy wasn’t really thought of highly, only necessary, so they would house the clergy in the church somewhere. But around the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and to show the lords of the lands benevolence, a separate house was built, usually on the church grounds if possible, for the clergy. These houses varied in construction and the old ones, that exist today, were usually the ones built the strongest and most luxurious, as clergy started to have a standard of living comparable with the lords. As the centuries past, the housing for the clergy developed to be more in line with the housing of the communities until we get to today where a parsonage is no different than an ordinary house with some continue to be on the same grounds as the church and others miles away.

More and more these days, denominations are going to a “housing allowance” form of housing practice to allow the clergy to get a home that fits them as a parsonage might not fit their needs or desires. Some, though, do provide a parsonage and the clergy must, then, chose to live in that parsonage or not with the consequences that come from that decision. It is a decision for the congregation/parish to make. Usually, and I really am stretching the term of usually, usually the Roman Catholic Church has a parsonage that the clergy lives in, same with the United Methodist

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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.

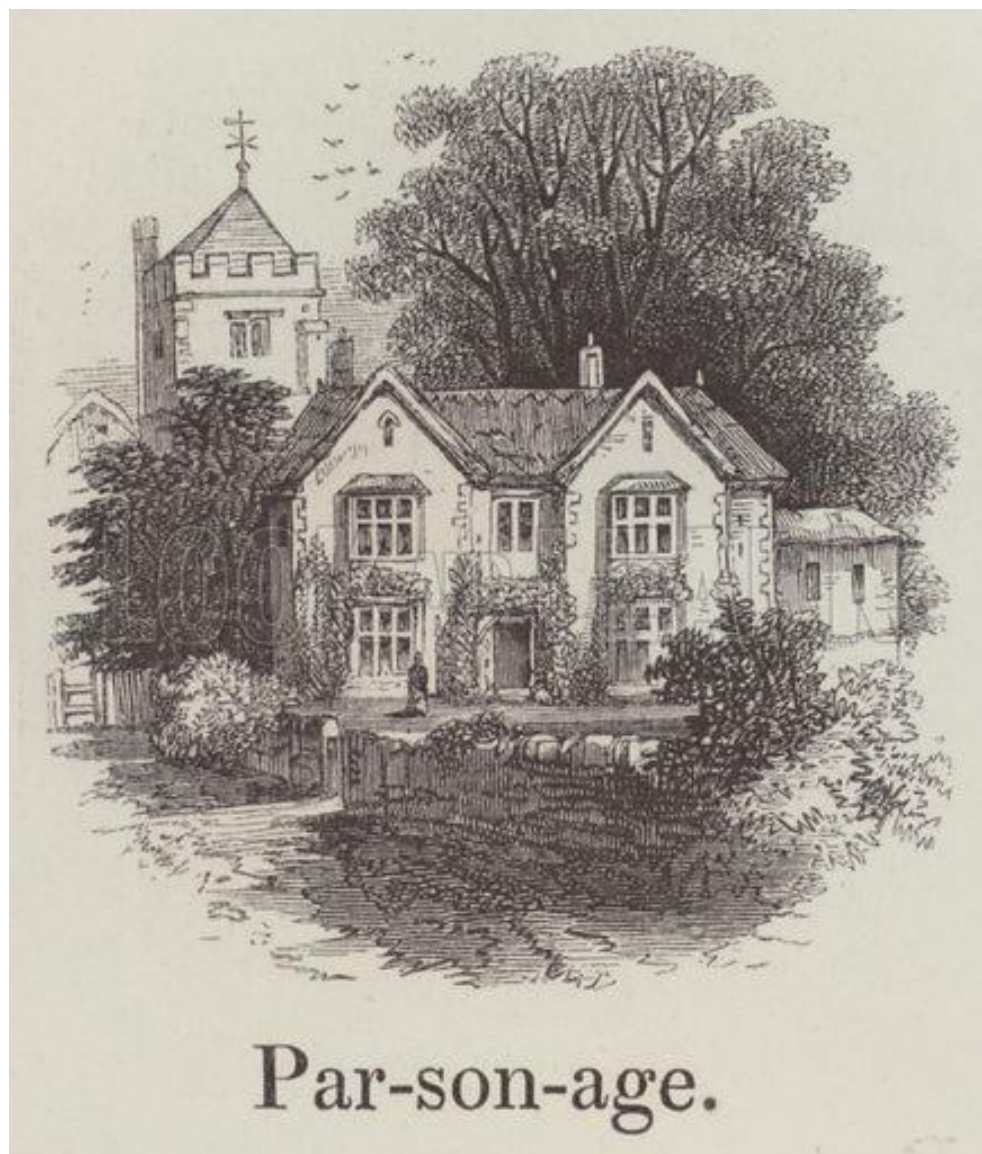


Church. Rural and/or conservative ELCA Lutherans still have parsonages where urban and/or progressive ELCA Lutherans do not. It does really depend on the location of the church and the housing availability near the church that can determine a parsonage or not.

But, as I mentioned, more and more congregations/parishes are going to the “housing allowance” system like we have here at Good Shepherd. And this makes sense, though I might be a little bias, as more and more clergy desire a home that suits their needs and desires, and allows a little separation (boundaries) between congregation and clergy – which is healthy.

Since parsonages are church property, they are maintained by the church property committee, they are fully owned by the church as not allowing the clergy the ability to have as much equity as their own home would, and it makes for awkward dynamic between congregation and clergy.

As I stated, I am not suggesting anything, advocating for anything, or any desire for anything; all I want to do was to define a word used in the church for clarity.





Memorial Candle



## Our Sponsors

Date	In Honor/Memory of	Given by
<b>Bulletins:</b>		
July 2		
July 9		
July 16		
July 23		
July 30	Our 42 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary	Steve & Michelle Logan
<b>Flowers:</b>		
July 2		
July 9	Happy Birthday to My Kelsey	Love, Mom
July 16	In Memory of Loved Ones	Chuck & Kelly Anthony
July 23	Petersons	
July 30		
<b>Memorial Candle:</b>		
July	In Memory of Bob Miller	Wes & Susan Combs

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

### **FLOWERS**

Cost is \$40 for each Sunday. Sign up poster is in the Narthex. 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 11:00 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 Narthex. 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 Narthex. 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)

# News & Updates



## A Message from the President

### Financial Report

#### May Income

Offering Income	\$11,695
Fellowship Hall Rental	1,075
Miscellaneous Income	<u>63</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,833</b>

**May Expenses**                      **\$16,215**

**May Deficit**                         **- \$ 3,382**

#### Year-to-Date Income

Offering Income	\$64,048
Fellowship Hall Rental	2,350
Miscellaneous Income	<u>1,245</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$67,643</b>

**Year-to-Date Expenses**                      **\$81,154**

**Year-to-Date Deficit**                         **- \$13,513**

**Projected full year**                             **- \$32,431**

### Welcome to our newest council member, Taylor Racut

We have established the maximum number of council members at 10 but until June 11<sup>th</sup> we had one vacancy. I am pleased to announce that Taylor Racut was nominated to fill that position and she accepted. Ordinarily the congregation votes for council nominees at the beginning of the year but when a vacancy is filled after the annual congregation meeting, then the council has the authority to appoint a council person. A special vote was held and Taylor was approved. She will serve through the remainder of 2023 and then will be eligible to be nominated for a three-year term at the next election date by the congregation. Welcome aboard, Taylor!

### Thank You to the Garden Crew!

I had three excellent gardeners to help me plant, fertilize, and mulch the flower beds and baskets during the last week of May. Janelle Cole, Suzanne Malys, and Susan Combs joined me bright and early on three mornings to beautify our grounds and give glory to God, our creator. Their cheerful help sure made the work load easier and more fun. I truly appreciate their labors and I encourage you to thank them as well.

### Academic Scholarships

The Mission and Education Endowment Fund was established through the generous donations of members of Good Shepherd, past and present. One of the uses of the fund is to financially support our members with scholarship money for their post-high school education expenses. I am pleased to announce that four of our youth, Taylor Racut, Nickolas Mason, Jasmine Steighner, and Brandon Vidmar have been awarded scholarships worth a combined value of \$5,250. Congratulations and best wishes to you as you pursue your dreams.



### **Red, White & Boom Donation**

The Fourth of July festival, the **Red, White, & Boom**, will be held July 1-3 at Lakeview Park. There will be a parade, pageants, food, music, and fireworks. It is a large community event that council decided to support this year with a \$5,000 donation. The funds will come from our Family Center Endowment.

### **TV Screens in the Sanctuary**

We are considering the purchase and installation of four large TV screens that will be placed high on the walls, two on each side, facing the pews. There would be two at the front near the pulpit and lecture, and the other two about midway. The idea is to have the entire service in an easier to read and follow format. It would also greatly reduce our paper and printer expenses. We tried this before with a large projection screen above the chancel area but the screen blocked our view of the cross and stained-glass windows behind the altar. Many people voiced their dislike for the screen and we went back to paper. Please let us know how you feel about this idea. The cost of the TVs will be paid from our Abiding Memorial Fund.

Peace to you,  
*Mark Lytle*  
Council President

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## **Committee News**

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### **Evangelism**

Mark your calendars! We have a lot of fun events coming up. If you're interested in volunteering, please let me know. The food pantry and Nick's closet will be closed July 1st and August 16-19.

1. There will be no free lunches the month of July. We will resume in August and adding free lunches on Wednesdays. We will need more volunteers.
2. Independence Day Parking for Fireworks will be July 3rd. We will be here starting at 7pm. Cost is donations only.
3. D Day Parking 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of August.
4. Congregational Picnic will be August 27<sup>th</sup> at Camp Luther (aka Hopewood). We will have one church service at 10 am (at Camp Luther) with the picnic to follow.
5. Planning to do a Basket Raffle October 7th.
6. Potential Trunk or Treat - October 31<sup>st</sup>.
7. Purse Bingo will be in February.
8. Spa Day will be held again Next year 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the GOBA event. I will have GOBA details in the August ECHO.

Serving Christ,  
*Michelle Logan*  
Chair

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## Social Ministry

Social Ministry will be getting things together for the fish dinner on D-Day weekend. It will be all-you-can-eat as it was last year. Perch is not an option again this year as the price has escalated. We are always happy to see new faces, so if you want to help us, please get in touch with me or Julie Kantola. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex in July.

The GOBA event was a huge success, thanks to Michelle for all her hard work and organizational skills. She did an awesome job. This was the first GOBA event in Northeast Ohio, and next year they will go to another destination.

Mark your calendars for August 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Church picnic at Camp Luther, and one church service held that day at 10 a.m. at Camp Luther. We will furnish the hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring a covered dish and join us.

God's Blessing to you all,  
*Pearl Ann Curtis*  
Social Ministry Team

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### Fishes & Loaves



### Ministry

FREE LUNCH

Pickup: Saturdays 11:00 to 12:30

**No Free Lunches during July**



Hours: Saturday 11:00 to 12:30

Essential Cleaning and Hygiene Items

Items include paper products, household items, and hygiene items

(Donations of these items are greatly appreciated.)

**Closed July 1**



Hours: Saturday 11:00 to 12:30

Wednesday 9:00 to 2:00

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

**Closed July 1**

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# July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
     <p>Reminder: we are <b>updating our records</b>. Please complete the form in the Narthex. We are asking each individual to complete a form, including the confirmed children of the house as they are separate members.</p>						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Service	<b>3</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>4</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>5</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>6</b> 5:30 <i>Line Dancing</i>	<b>7</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> 11:45 <i>Gentle Yoga</i>	<b>8</b> 11:30-12:00 Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
<b>9</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Service	<b>10</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>11</b> 9:00 3M's 6:00 Committees	<b>12</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>13</b> 5:30 <i>Line Dancing</i> 6:00 Finance	<b>14</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> 11:45 <i>Gentle Yoga</i>	<b>15</b> 11:30-12:00 Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
<b>16</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Service	<b>17</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>18</b> 9:00 3M's 6:00 Council	<b>19</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>20</b> Echo Articles Due 5:30 <i>Line Dancing</i>	<b>21</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> 11:45 <i>Gentle Yoga</i>	<b>22</b> 11:30-12:00 Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
<b>23</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Service	<b>24</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>25</b> 9:00 3M's	<b>26</b> 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>27</b> 5:30 <i>Line Dancing</i>	<b>28</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> 11:45 <i>Gentle Yoga</i>	<b>29</b> 11:30-12:00 Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
<b>30</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Service	<b>31</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<p>From a compilation by Max Bowen of announcements that actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:</p> <p>"The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'."</p> 				

Key: *Italics* = Non-GSLC Programs & Events

*Lord, we are your servants . . .*

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER
<b>7/2/2023</b> <b>8:30</b>	Amy Gallagher	n/a	Wes & Sue Combs	Pearl Ann Curtis	Amy Gallagher
<b>11:00</b>	Mark Lytle				Janelle Cole
<b>7/9/2023</b> <b>8:30</b>	Amy Gallagher	n/a	Pearl Ann Curtis & Kathy Mills	Rich & Julie Kantola	Amy Gallagher
<b>11:00</b>		Mark Lytle	Michelle Logan	Ruth Brown	Mark Lytle
<b>7/16/2023</b> <b>8:30</b>		Sue Combs	Suzanne Malys	Janet Maenpaa	Mike Malys
<b>11:00</b>	Jennifer Best	Ruth Brown	Stephanie Newsome	Mary Lou Moisio	Ron Young
<b>7/23/2023</b> <b>8:30</b>		Katrina Pavolino	Wes & Sue Combs	Dolores Pelow	Dolores Pelow
<b>11:00</b>		Ron Young	Stephanie Newsome	Mary Lou Moisio	Ron Young
<b>7/30/2023</b> <b>8:30</b>	Richard Tulino	n/a		Janet Maenpaa	Richard Tulino
<b>11:00</b>		George Peterson	Kay Peterson	Janelle Cole	Susan Tan

**JULY ALTAR GUILD:** Ruth Brown, Susan Combs, Susan Tan

Serving   
Heart

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

