



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 2023

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

History of the Land We Call Israel (Part 2)

Last month, we left off the History of the Land We Call Israel with the Roman Occupation, the Governorship of Pontius Pilate and the mid-first century revolt in Judea causing the Romans to expel the Jewish people from the land. Let's talk a little bit more in depth about these events.

As we recall, this land has been conquered again and again. We begin this era in history with the Greeks conquering this land from the Persian Empire by Alexander the Great who gives control of this land to the Ptolemies of Egypt. Then Jerusalem and this land was conquered by Seleucids of Syria (still a Greek dynasty). These people persecuted the people of Israel in Jerusalem eventually leading to the Maccabean Revolt which occurred at the same time as the Roman Empire was expanding into the Greek Empire. Eventually, the Roman Empire conquered the Province of Judah and all the eastern Mediterranean Sea ending the rule of the Greeks.

When the Roman Empire conquered a land, they would set up a king, a governor, or some other ruler in the land while trying to keep some institutions of native rule in place. This was done to help ease

people into accepting being conquered and gave some voice of the conquered people in their own affairs. In Jerusalem, the council of Jewish leaders called the Sanhedrin had authority in some matters, but the Roman authority was the final say. This policy of setting up a king occurred in the land beginning with Herod the Great.

Herod the Great was first appointed by Marc Antony and later confirmed by Caesar Augustus. Under Herod the Great, projects including the harbor at Caesarea, several fortresses, the ancient city of Samaria were completed. The greatest project that is attributed to Herod the Great, though, was the expansion and refurbishing of the temple in Jerusalem. At completion, this was regarded as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, and its pinnacle was the highest architectural point in the world. (When we read and hear of the Temptation of Jesus and tells Jesus to throw himself down as the angels will protect him, this is the point where the devil takes him.) However, Herod wasn't totally accepted by the Jewish people as some saw him as a foreigner and a Roman collaborator. He becomes increasingly paranoid to the point where we hear in the Gospel of Matthew the Magi telling him of the newborn king and Herod the Great ordering the execution of all babies in Bethlehem.

Herod died not long after this order. But, before he died, he split his kingdom into a Tetrarchy (a region split into four parts.) The four rulers were Philip, who ruled on the east side of the Sea of Galilee, Herod Antipas, who ruled the area of Galilee (west side of the Sea of Galilee almost to the Mediterranean Sea) and Perea (east side of the Jordan River), and Herod Archelaus, who ruled the areas of Judea and Samaria (the west side of the Jordan River and Dead Sea). Here we get some confusion between the gospels of Matthew and Luke where they don't agree on what year Jesus was born. What is agreed is Herod Antipas was ruler of Galilee when Jesus was doing his ministry. Also, what is agreed is Herod Archelaus was ruler of the areas of Judea and Samaria until he was deposed because he violated Mosaic Law (the Torah) and the Jewish people in Judea and Samaria were becoming enraged. Herod Archelaus was banished to Vienna (today Vienne) in modern-day France. Pontius Pilate was appointed by Rome as a prefect (a magistrate of high official) or procurator (a governor appointed by the Roman emperor to administer a province for an indefinite period).

In this time, the major cities and cultural centers were Jerusalem, Caesarea, Joppa, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, and (maybe)

Nazareth. Three of these major cities were in the territory administered by Pontius Pilate (Caesarea, Joppa, and Jerusalem) and this territory was the largest of the tetrarchs. Thus, with Pontius Pilate administering the largest territory with most of the major cities and being a Roman citizen appointed by the emperor, he was the most powerful ruler in this land during the time of Jesus. But, while powerful, he did not administer all of what is called Israel today and his rule is stained with blood throughout his time. He was eventually recalled after a brutal attack and extreme force to suppress a religious revival.

Life under Roman rule wasn't necessarily poor, but it wasn't anything to boast about either. The Romans administered the land very smoothly and cleared the sea of pirates. They built aqueducts, improved roads, kept crime low and had a large opportunity for employment. This brought the known world into a kind of peace

that was not known for a very long time. Communications became a relative ease and travel was easier as road networks were connected; this was essential in the spread of Christianity. However, life in the Land we call Israel was not as glittering as it was in other parts of the empire.

There was a very high tax put on the entire empire and in this land, it drove many into poverty and kept them there. This caused them to enter slavery to improve their lot by at least being fed. Second, the Jewish people knew they were not free, even those who were not in literal slavery. They knew there were soldiers everywhere and a constant reminder that they were conquered people. This went against their own national honor and religious sensibilities. While they were allowed to practice their own religion, the tradition of prophets was seriously suppressed, especially those who spoke against injustice and the powerful and even the Romans themselves. Prophets

who spoke about the goods of the times and how to embrace the powers, were allowed to speak.

Eventually, enough was enough and a rebellious group of Jewish people – called Zealots – began to protest and begun an all-out war against Rome. This is the Jewish Revolt of 66-73CE. In 70CE, Jerusalem was reconquered, and the temple destroyed. The ruined foundations exist today as the Wailing Wall. About 60 years later, another revolt led by Simon ben Kosiba occurred against Rome and the Romans repressed this revolt as well but issuing a complete and utter ban that Jews were not permitted to enter Jerusalem on pain of death. The Roman name for this land after it was conquered is Palestine. Stay tuned for Part 3.

Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Big Churchy Word



I thought about going into the lesser known paraments but decided to start the vessels.

Vessels, sacred Receptacles and utensils used in the eucharist service. In the Roman Catholic

Church these include chalice, paten, ciborium, pyx, capsula, lunette, and monstrance.¹

Paten (Gr. *Patanē*, Lat. *Patina*, “dish”) A plate, often of gold or silver, used to hold the bread in

Holy Communion. It often covers the top of the chalice that holds the wine.²

Chalice (Lat. *Calix*, “a cup”) The cup used in the Lord’s Supper to hold the wine, which Jesus Christ

¹ McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed.

Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

² Ibid.

said was his blood (Mark 14:23-24; 1 Cor. 11:25).³

The paten is sometimes called *diskos* especially in the Eastern Church. It is a very simple saucer-like plate or perhaps a small bowl. Here we have many paten plates and a bowl. However, in the Western Church, the bowl is only a paten if it doesn't have a stem like a goblet or a cup. Many paten/chalice sets are similarly designed, and the paten has a depression for it to sit on the chalice securely. In the Lutheran tradition (and most protestant traditions) the paten is made from a solid material (stone or metal and possibly from glass). In a pinch, a paten is just a plate so any stable plate can be used. In the Roman Catholic tradition (according to the Roman Missal), all sacred vessels should be made from precious metals or at the very least gilded to prevent rust. However, with the cost of even gilded vessels being out of reach for many congregations, the Roman

Missal does allow from other solid material.

The *diskos* in the Eastern Church does have a stand and is accompanied by other sacred vessels.

The chalice is a footed cup or goblet that is used in various religions. They are usually also made of precious metal and often richly enameled and jeweled. More recently, though, chalices and patens are being made from stoneware and becoming less ornate to put our focus back on the elements of Christ, rather than the vessels Christ comes to us in. There is a slight difference between the Western and Eastern Churches but both churches use a chalice for the Blood of Christ.

Yet, in Unitarian Universalism, the chalice is used to hold a flame lit by the congregation at the opening of worship services and is seen as symbol of religious freedom and/or peace. In Wicca, the chalice is seen

as a feminine principle and a ceremonial, black-handled knife as a male principle; these two are brought together as a symbol of universal creativity. In Neo-Paganism, the chalice is used, again, as a representation of femininity. Finally, the chalice has often been used in heraldry (the design, display, and study of armorial bearings – coat of arms). The word itself is sometimes used as a curse (swear word) in some parts of the world, like Quebec.

What matters, though, is not how you use it, but the respect and honor it is afforded for those the purpose it is used. Here, all the patens and chalices are cared for and honored by the Altar Guild and should be respected. But because it is done one way here, does not mean it is misused by another group of people. Context matters, especially with everything we've been learning about and all the churchy words we've explored thus far.

A Moment in Faith

By Richard Tulino, a Layman's Interpretation



Advent

Welcome to Advent. It seems like we just celebrated Advent and it is here again. Advent is a season of mixed messages; like a real life "good news/bad news" joke and if you only hear part of the message, you will miss the point. If you only hear the good news; "Peace on earth, the Savior is born" you will miss the wakeup call that warns us of a day of judgement that will one day come. But if you only hear the bad news, you will miss the comfort

and security that will protect the People of God from that awful day.

Let's take a few moments to learn about Advent. What it is and what it isn't. There may be someone that has never observed Advent or heard of it and you might be able to answer a question for them. How can we use this season of Advent to prepare ourselves for all that is to come?

One thing that we need to know is the meaning of the word Advent. It means "coming" and it is from the root word "adventure." Just around the corner, something is about to happen. Soon . . . but not yet . . . we will experience a new thing. What will happen? When will it come? That is part of the "Adventure." In Advent, this theme of coming has three different references: a past, a present, and a future. Something came once,

³ Ibid.

something is coming now, and something will come again.

We all celebrate the first of those references. We celebrate the One who came in a manger over 2,000 years ago. It is why we decorate our homes and church, and sing carols, ring bells, give gifts, and speak of joy, because God came to earth in the form of a child and became the Savior of the world. Each Advent, we slowly approach Christmas, so that we appreciate the anticipation of a Savior.

So Jesus came over 2,000 years ago, but He also comes in the present. Not in a manger, or on a cross, but in countless other ways. He comes to us every time we receive Holy Communion. When we eat the bread and drink the wine, Jesus says we take Him into our bodies and He goes with us when we leave the church. No

matter where we go or what we do, Jesus is with us. If you think you are alone in this world and in the problems you may face, think again, He is there with you.

Jesus will come again. Scripture is full of references of when the world, as we know it, will come to an end. When we least expect Him, He will come! Some people read those scripture references and are filled with terror, but others who read them are filled with expectation. The difference lies in the fact that some will be prepared for His coming, while others will not. Advent tells us to get ready.

That is the message of Advent, BE PREPARED! There is no time clock to tell us when that last day is coming, so being prepared is the ultimate goal of the game. Knowing when the times comes, our Faith is in Jesus and only Him,

that alone saves us. Salvation won't be found in our good works, not in our financial security, not in the hours volunteering for many things in the church. When the time is up, when the game is over, the right team to be on is the one whose members trust Jesus Christ as Savior. It is written, not to scare us, but to prepare us for His coming.

So, how is your Faith as we enter this Advent season? Do you know who the Savior is? Do you know the Savior loves you? If not, perhaps Advent is a good time to contemplate these questions. If you can answer yes to these questions then your eternity is determined, and you are ready for His coming. If not, use this time to get prepared! Let the Season of Adventure begin.

May this season and the season of Christmas find you in the Savior's Grace.

December Birthdays



Laurie Bidwell
Jennifer Gallagher
Paul Gauvin
Joshua Krenz

Renee Montagano
Katrina Pavolino
George Peterson
David Thompson

Janice Uveges
Stephanie VanNorman
Mike Vendetti



ATTENDANCE

10/29	53
11/5	80
11/12	68
11/19	63



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.



GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023

\$1,163

						%
						ESTIMATED
MONTH	OFFERING INCOME	YTD INCOME	%ESTIMATE BUDGETED REVENUE	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	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%
June	\$ 10,482	\$ 78,350	83.1%	\$ 14,627	\$ 95,781	100.9%
July	\$ 10,863	\$ 89,588	81.8%	\$ 14,717	\$ 110,497	101.0%
August	\$ 11,053	\$101,192	81.0%	\$ 14,194	\$ 124,692	99.4%
September	\$ 10,015	\$111,207	79.3%	\$ 16,091	\$ 140,782	100.5%
October	\$ 9,377	\$121,066	77.9%	\$ 15,386	\$ 156,168	100.6%

NEWS & UPDATES

call for
NOMINATIONS

Contact the office with your
Nominations for vacant council positions
By December 3rd



December 3rd
after 11:00 service
Free, catered dinner after,
for all who volunteer.
RSVP required.

Voices
OF
HOPE

**Concert December 7th 6:00
pm**

Conneaut Human Resource Center



\$7

Nisua Bake December 9th
Volunteers Welcome
Pick up on December 10th
Order on or before December 3rd



The GSLC office will be
CLOSED
December 21st - January 1st



November 25, December 23, & January 3:
Food Pantry, Free Lunches
& Nick's Closet will be **CLOSED**.

December 27, 30 & January 6:
Food Pantry will be **OPEN**.
Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
will be **CLOSED**.

All other dates will maintain the normal schedule



Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex

Attention Readers:

Instead of the readings being mailed there will be a binder of the weekly readings in the Narthex on the shelf below the sign-up sheets.



There will be two copies per week, 1 for the 8:30 reader and 1 for the 11:00 reader, so be sure to take only one copy. If for any reason this doesn't work, please let Jen know in the office and she will continue to mail copies to that reader.

**Pastor Josh has a new number for
church related business Mon-Thurs 9-5
& Emergencies (anytime)**



New Phone Number

440-661-1423

Sportscraft Air Hockey Table for sale.
It's still in really good condition, works perfectly fine.



Purchase of this table helps support &
fund the Wave-Walker Youth Group!
\$400 OBO



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 10, 2023.
Plants may be left at the church through Sunday, December 31, 2023.



Beginner Bell Choir
& Intermediate-Advanced Bell Choir
Sign up sheets in Narthex
Practice- Mondays @ 5:30pm



Thank You

Thank you Pastor Josh and the GSLC family for your support, cards, and prayers during the illness and passing of our mom, Dannette “Dani” Ingersoll. Your thoughtfulness has brought us much comfort during this difficult time and is very much appreciated.

Kelly & Chuck Anthony
And the Ingersoll family

Committee News

Property and Maintenance

Property Changes around Church:

- 1) We have made some headway on replacing many of the tools in the Maintenance Shop. Ron Young is heading up the process of organizing and identifying what we have and what we need.
- 2) We meet on Saturday Mornings beginning at 8:00 AM. We have been there until approximately 11:30 AM, sometimes as late as Noon, depending on where we are in a project. You are free to come and go as you please. Some come at around 9:00 and some stay about an hour and some stay longer. All help is always appreciated. This move to Saturday morning was to accommodate those that have said "If we could change to a time when I'm off I would gladly attend."
- 3) We continue to send out a "group text" weekly so the team

is aware of tasks we would like to accomplish that week. Some people like to attend when there is a project on the list that is of special interest to them. **If you would like to be added to the group text, please let me know even if it's just to keep up with what is being done around the church, you might see something you want to be involved in making it happen.**

The following is a list of some items we have completed in November:

- Installed four new 75" Smart Televisions in the sanctuary including cabling and mounting hangers. The crew had a fun time and really enjoyed the feeling of great accomplishment making this happen! We did have an estimate from professional installers for this project of almost \$6,000. Cost for us: \$18 for donuts and \$55 for a dry wall lift.
- Repaired two of the four lights under the West Portico. Two more to replace in the next week.
- Installed new emergency exit signs and light; two more outdoor emergency lights yet to be replaced.
- Built the new refreshment cart now in the Narthex
- Installed seventeen "directional" signs identifying rooms throughout the church

➤ Note:

- Please consider being part of this group on Saturday mornings starting at 8:00 AM (8:00 – 8:30 donuts and coffee and socialization)
- Property Committee Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM - All are welcome to attend!

Thank You and Be Blessed
George Peterson
Property Chairman

Social Ministry

Another month has flown by! Thanksgiving week is already here, and Christmas is approaching. Since the first Sunday of Advent is December 3, and the beginning of the Christmas season is marked this year by the hanging of the greens and a catered dinner, there will be a turkey in the Narthex, and his feathers have the gifts written on

them. Please take a feather, purchase the gift written on it, wrap it, attach it, and return it by December 21. On Sunday, December 17 we will take any remaining feathers and send our shopping elves, Ruth and Mary Lou, out to purchase the remaining gifts. This year, we adopted all of our families through Halo and chose families that have never been adopted. The need in our area is more extensive than

ever. The number in the lunch program and food pantry grows every week. There will also be a tree for mittens and hats in the Narthex. Thank you all for supporting our ministries; your support is much appreciated. Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas Blessings to you all.

In his service,
Pearl Ann Curtis
Social Ministry Committee



December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	2 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
3 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service Hanging of the Greens	4 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	5 9:00 Quilting	6 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	7 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i>	8 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	9 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
10 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service 12:30 Congregational Meeting	11 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	12 9:00 Quilting	13 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	14 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i>	15 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	16 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
17 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	18 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	19 9:00 Quilting	20 Echo Articles Due 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	23 8:00 3M's
24 Christmas Eve 8:30 Service 11:00 Service 6:00 Service 9:00 Service	25 Merry Christmas! OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Service	26 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 Quilting	27 OFFICE CLOSED 9-2 Food Pantry <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	28 OFFICE CLOSED <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i>	29 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	30 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry
31 10:00 Service	 <p>December nisu bake: Last day to order, Dec. 3; bake date, Dec. 9; pick-up date, Dec. 10</p>					

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

Lord, we are your servants . . .

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE
12/3/2023 8:30	Richard Tulino	Katrina Pavolino	Shirley Harco & Peggy Harco	Nancy Altman	Richard Tulino	
11:00	Jennifer Best	George Peterson	Ruth Brown	Mary Lou Moisieo	Kay Peterson	Ariana Berry
12/10/2023 8:30	Richard Tulino	Katrina Pavolino	Pearl Ann Curtis & Kathy Mills	Todd & Julia Pew	Richard Tulino	Lori Punkar
11:00	Paul Mechling	Mark Lytle	Ruth Brown	Bob & E Jay Hybert	Mark Lytle	Bellalyn Fimiano
12/17/2023 8:30	Amy Gallagher	George Peterson	Suzanne Malys	Janet Maenpaa	Kay Peterson	
11:00		Greg Betteridge	Glenda Betteridge		Susan Tan	Chrisanne Lewert
12/24/2023 8:30	Richard Tulino		Shirley Harco & Peggy Harco		Richard Tulino	
11:00		George Peterson	Stacy Racut		Kay Peterson	
6:00	Mike Malys	Suzanne Malys	Pearl Ann Curtis & Kathy Mills		Mike Malys	
9:00	Amy Gallagher	Greg Betteridge	Glenda Betteridge	Shirley Harco & Peggy Harco	Amy Gallagher	
12/25/2023 10:00	Jennifer Best			Nancy Altman	Jennifer Best	
12/31/2023 10:00		Stacy Racut	Michelle Logan	Janet Maenpaa	Dolores Pelow	Taylor Racut

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD: Ruth Brown,
Stephanie Newsome, Katrina Pavolino, Barb
Talan

Serving 
from the
Heart

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

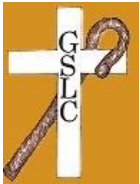
Pastoral Staff

Rev. Joshua Krenz, Pastor
gslcpastor@gwcmail.net

Office Staff

Jennifer Best, Administrative Assistant
goodshepherd@gwcmail.net

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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