



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

JANUARY 2024

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

Happy New Year and may 2024 be a blessed and fruitful new year. We all wish the year would end and leave all the problems, all the conflicts, all the divisions in the last year and then the new calendar year begins with, as they say, a fresh slate. But, alas, we can't do that as problems, conflicts, and divisions just don't end because the calendar changes to a new year. This, thusly, brings us to the third part of the History of the Land We Call Israel.

History of the Land We Call Israel
(Part 3)

We got a little bogged down in part 2 with the different leaders of the land and ended with the Zealot Revolt of 70CE which destroyed the Second Temple, to which, only the foundations remain as the Wailing-Wall. Then, a second revolt which banned all Jews from Jerusalem upon pain of death and Palestine being formed.

The Jewish people began to move around the world and around the countryside of Palestine. The Roman empire was commanding the area and governing Jerusalem but with the threat of death for the Jewish people, other religions began to take hold in Jerusalem including pagan religions. (Quick sidenote: pagan DOES NOT mean devil worship. Rather it is the worship of other gods such as Jupiter, Saturn,

Venus, Zeus, the seasons, etc. It was Christians who made the term pagan to mean devil worship as a way to persecute other faiths.) These people who were moving into Jerusalem were migrants from nearby Syria, Phoenicia, and Arabia and where Arabic was the primary language. During this time, before (roughly) Emperor Constantine, Christianity was viewed as a similar religion to Judaism and therefore banned from the city as well.

However, once Emperor Constantine became emperor, he moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Constantinople (formerly Byzantium and modern-day Istanbul). With this move, and his conversion, Christianity became the official religion in Constantinople (and thus an accepted religion in the empire). His mother, Helena, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the holy sites and ordered the construction of the Church of the Nativity (in Bethlehem) and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (in Jerusalem). Jerusalem was renamed Aelia Capitolina (which really doesn't have an English translation, but we do know that Aelia is the source of the term İlyā which is a 7th-century Islamic name for Jerusalem) and Aelia Capitolina became a Christian city. It was decided at this time that Jews could visit their holy sites and worship at the ruined temple but were still banned from living in Jerusalem.

Also, as a Christian city, over the next few centuries, paganism was turned into the aforementioned "devil worship term" and Christians worked, not only in this land but across the empire, to eradicate paganism; this led to the destruction of many Roman temples and many of the classical Roman traditions.

The year now is 390CE and the Roman Empire split into the Western Empire (capital and ruled by Rome) and the Eastern Empire (capital and ruled by Constantinople and becomes known as the Byzantine Empire). The land of Palestine falls under the Byzantine Empire so we will focus there. Christianity began to become very popular and then became the dominate religion in the region. Christian pilgrims from all over the known world came to Palestine to either visit or to settle. The Christian leaders encouraged this pilgrimage and began to build magnificent churches in locations that either directly link or backward link to biblical stories. Monasteries were built and the conversion (sometimes forced conversion) of the pagans ensued. The Jewish religion was allowed to exist, however, restrictions gradually increased to include a ban of new places to worship, holding any public office, or owning Christian slaves. Jewish leadership moved to Babylonia and the Jewish center focused less on

Aelia Capitolina (Jerusalem) and more on Babylonia. Over the next few centuries, there were revolts (e.g. the Samaritan Revolts) and invasions (e.g. Sassanid of Persia which included the capture of the “True Cross”). These revolts and invasions were supported by Jewish fighters with some claims that Jews massacred Christians in the city of Jerusalem after its capture. The Persian emperor who followed, though, returned the city and Palestine to the Byzantines in a peace treaty and the Jewish population was, once again, banned on entering the city. We are now in the 600sCE, and a new religion is about to come on the scene.

In 570CE, the Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca, in modern-day Saudi Arabia. He was orphaned early in his life but, through his dealings as a trader of goods, became known as the “trusted one” and was sought as an impartial arbitrator. He eventually married. In 610CE, he was troubled by the moral decline and idolatry in Mecca and sought seclusion and spiritual contemplation; he retreated to the Cave of Hira where he received his first revelation of the Quran from the angel Gabriel. (This is the same angel that came to Joseph – according to the Gospel of Matthew – and to Mary and the shepherds – according to the Gospel of Luke.) This night of the revelation is known as the “Night of Power” and considered a significant – if not the origin – of modern-day Islam. Muhammad continued to receive revelations from God and is considered the last of the prophets. He, like the early Christians, first taught in secret then in public; many of his converts were women, the poor, foreigners, and slaves. He and his followers were persecuted by the Meccans. Through these

persecutions, Muhammad formed the first pillar of Islam – the Hijra (or Hajj) (or emigration which modern-day Muslims travel to Medina yearly if possible). By the time of his death, Muhammad united the tribes of Arabia into a single religious polity through both war and bloodless conquest. He died in 632 CE.

After the death of Muhammad, Islam began to spread rapidly beginning in the Arabian peninsula then further out. In some areas, Jews and Christians were persecuted as religious minorities and heretics and, thus, taxed heavily which eventually led them to leave allowing Muslims to take their lands. This expansion grew into the Persian and Byzantine empires and is known as the Rashidun Caliphate. (For all intents and purposes, Caliphate is the same as empire or state.) During the Rashidun Caliphate, Palestine was conquered while the Caliphs conquered Syria (known as the Muslim conquest of the Levant). Two military districts were established in Palestine and a new city called Ramlah/Ramla/Ramle (which exists today) was established as the capital of one of these districts; the other capital was Tiberias (which also exists today). During this time, the Byzantine ban of Jews living in Jerusalem came to an end.

In Jerusalem, in 661CE, Muawiyah was crowned Caliph and became the first of the Damascus-based dynasty. In 691CE, his successor Caliph Abd al-Malik constructed the first Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount – where the two Jewish temples had been located. A second building, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, was also constructed soon after. The Dome of the Rock was built to honor the believed site of the creation of the world and the

belief of the Night Journey of Muhammad began from the rock at the center of this structure and the Mosque was built to accommodate the congregation and a sheltered place of prayer.

In 750CE, the Abbasid Revolution occurred, and the Damascus-based dynasty was replaced by the Abbasid Caliphs who built a new city, Baghdad, as their capital. This begins the period known as the Islamic Golden Age as the Arab Empire was the largest in the world (as the Roman Empire both Eastern and Western Empires were beginning to deteriorate, and the Persian Empire was all but extinct) and Baghdad was the richest and largest city in the world. Both Arabs and minorities prospered across the whole region including scientific advancements. But, at the same time, a new law was introduced to require both Jews and Christians to wear identifying clothing – a yellow star around their neck and hats for Jews and a blue for Christians. A poll tax was imposed on all non-Muslims and failure to pay could result in imprisonment or worse. These periods and laws were designed to humiliate and then persecute all non-Muslims.

In 982CE, a Cairo-based dynasty conquered the region – including Palestine. Around the year 1010CE, the Caliph al-Hakim destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulcher but 10 years later paid for it to be rebuilt. We have now reached the age of the Crusades and the Mongols.

We will continue this history next month. An abbreviated presentation of my trip to the Holy Land will be shown to the Confirmation Class on January 21st where all are welcome. An unabbreviated presentation will be offered at a future date when interest is made.

Please note: the last time I did this presentation, it took about 2 hours. Please contact me or the office to show interest.

Blessings and peace in this New Year.

Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



Ciborium (Gr. Kiborion, hallow seedcase of an Egyptian water lily and thus a drinking cup). Canopy over an altar supported by four columns (baldachino). Also, a vessel with a lid holding wafer bread for the Eucharist.¹

The Ciborium is the vessel that holds the wafers that are used during communion distribution. It is also designed to hold extra hosts that are consecrated without the need to dispose of the host properly. The Ciborium is often shaped similarly to the chalice, but the interior bowl is of a rounder shape than conical (as in a chalice). The name, Ciborium, comes from the cover or lid that is surmounted by a cross or another sacred design.

During the early Christian persecutions when Christianity was outlawed, the Ciborium was used to transport the consecrated hosts to the various worship locations, and even – after churches were built – to homes for safe keeping. Remember,

the bread (or wafers) in the Ciborium is consecrated and should be handled reverently and with the utmost respect. In today's world, Ciboria are kept in tabernacles or aumbries for either veneration or safe keeping. The Roman Catholic Church keeps their Ciborium in a tabernacle for the worshipful to venerate the body (and blood) of Christ. In some Anglican (Episcopalian) churches, the same is done but for safe keeping, rather than veneration. In the Lutheran Church, the Ciborium is traditionally placed in an aumbry or on the credence table for safe keeping. Here at Good Shepherd, though, the Ciborium is set on the counter in the sacristy. However, we can have an aumbry as the purpose of the hole in the wall in the chancel going into the sacristy can be an aumbry.

BONUS WORD

Cruet (Norman Fr. "little flask") A small glass pitcher that may contain

the wine for Holy Communion or water to cleanse the chalice.²

Normally, these two little pitchers match with religious symbols on them. The tradition goes back to the Old Testament with little jugs or jars to hold oil, especially pure oil used in anointing. The same idea is in the church as well as we use these little jugs to hold the wine that is then consecrated (set apart or anointed) as the blood of Christ. At Good Shepherd, we have two cruets: one with water and one with wine. The practice here is to use both to form the blood of Christ as both water and blood flowed when Christ's side was pierced by the lance (according to the Gospel of John). In other churches, especially the very High-Church practicing locations, the cruet of water is used to wash the hands of the officiant as well as clean the chalice after all wine has been consumed.

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

² Ibid.

January Birthdays



Gail Burlingham
Kris Cameron
Wes Combs
Alison Hathy

Kevin Manniko
Paislee Murtha
Mark Owens
Carol Stills

Deborah Sturtevant
Beth Vendetti
RaeAnn Wright



ATTENDANCE

11/26 67
12/3 66
12/10 72
12/17 57



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.



GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2023

\$2,168

						%
						ESTIMATED OPERATING COST
MONTH	OFFERING INCOME	YTD INCOME	%ESTIMATE BUDGETED REVENUE	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	
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%
November	\$ 9,776	\$132,068	77.3%	\$ 12,977	\$ 169,145	98.1%

NEWS & UPDATES

2024 Upcoming Events:

Jan 13th: Youth Bowling

Jan 27th: Nisu bake

Feb 3rd: Designer Purse BINGO

Feb 11th: Sub Sale & Installation of new church & council members

Feb 14th: Ash Wednesday (weekly Lent suppers begin)

Feb 18th: Congregational Meeting

March: Date Night, Community Dinner, Holy Week, & Easter Breakfast

More details coming soon! "Follow" us on Facebook to get the notifications and stay up-to-date!



\$7

Nisua Bake January 27th
Volunteers Welcome
Order on or before January 21st

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.



WORSHIP SERVICES will only be CANCELED if there is a LEVEL 3 SNOW EMERGENCY

The OFFICES will be CLOSED if the Schools are CLOSED



3 rounds of bowling
(includes shoes),
pizza & soda!

January 13th 6:00pm
El Camp Lanes

\$10 per person. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.
Sign up is required, so we order enough lanes and food for everyone.



FEBRUARY 3, 2024
DOORS OPEN AT 5, **BINGO STARTS AT 6:30 SHARP**
COST \$40.00
BYOB

TICKETS AVAILABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS
MON-THURS 8:30-1:30

Eucharistic Ministers

Volunteers for Visitation, in homes and hospitals

Visitations will include communion

Sign-up sheet available in the Narthex



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

Congratulations

Congratulations to Taylor Racut and Nickolas Mason on their election to council. They will be installed **January 14** at both services, as we also welcome new members to the congregation.

Committee News

Christian Ed.

Our Sunday School is geared towards children grades K-6. All students are offered a snack. Our new curriculum, Lift, is mostly aligned with the weekly lessons the adults hear during church. It has recommended weekly videos, games, and songs to accompany the lessons. The younger kids seem to

really enjoy the digital aspect for story, games, and music. We still do other activities that get the kids moving and crafts. The older kids have more discussion. The Lift Curriculum is very easy to use for teachers, and very adaptable.

It's never too late to get the children to Sunday School. If you'd like to enroll your child(ren), bring them

and ask Mary, Suzanne, or Jen for the form.

Please note: There is no Sunday School class Dec 24th- Jan 7th

In His service,
Suzanne Malys
Christian Ed.

Evangelism

First, I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help with our Fishes and Loaves Ministry. We have had a truly blessed year.

We heard and listen. We several events planned. Please mark your calendars:

Jan. 13 - Youth bowling at El Camp Lanes. Bowling will start at 6:00 p.m. cost is \$10.00. This covers 3 games of bowling, shoes, and pizza and soda. There is sign-up sheet in the

narthex or call the office. We need a count by Jan 6th so we can order the pizza and reserve the lanes.

Feb 3 - First Annual Designer Purse Bingo. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Bingo starts promptly at 6:30. Cost is \$40.00. Tickets are available at the church office.

Possibly a swim day at the YMCA in February. More information to follow.


Keep an eye for future events. We have many planned.

Lunches will resume after New Year. We are in need of volunteers to help prepare and serve lunches. We serve lunches every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and every Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please see Michelle if you have any questions or would like to help.

Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year,
Michelle Logan
The Evangelism Team



January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00 Quilting	3 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	4 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i>	5 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	6 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry
7 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	8 Annual Reports Due <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	9 9:00 Quilting 6:00 Committees	10 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	11 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i> 6:00 Finance	12 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	13 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
14 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	15 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	16 9:00 Quilting 6:00 Council	17 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 12:00 Worship & Music	18 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i>	19 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	20 Echo Articles Due 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
21 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	22 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	23 9:00 Quilting	24 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 1-6 Blood Drive	25 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i>	26 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	27 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
28 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	29 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	30 9:00 Quilting	31 9-2 Food Pantry <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	 January nisu bake: Last day to order, Jan. 21; bake date, Jan. 27; pick-up date, Jan. 27 after noon & Jan. 28		

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

Lord, we are your servants . . .

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE
1/7/2024 8:30	Richard Tulino	Mike Malys	Suzanne Malys	Janet Maenpaa	Richard Tulino	
11:00	Jen Best	Stacy Racut	Michelle Logan	Mary Lou Moisio		
1/14/2024 8:30	Richard Tulino	Katrina Pavolino	Pearl Ann Curtis & Kathy Mills	Nancy Altman	Richard Tulino	
11:00		Mark Lytle	Michelle Logan	Bob & E Jay Hybert	Mark Lytle	Chrisanne Lewert
1/21/2024 8:30	Amy Gallagher		George Peterson	Kay Peterson	Amy Gallagher	
11:00	Paul Mechling	Greg Betteridge	Glenda Betteridge	Joanne Mechling	Paul Mechling	Bellalyn Fimiano
1/28/2024 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino	Pearl Ann Curtis & Kathy Mills	Janet Maenpaa	Amy Gallagher	
11:00		George Peterson	Michelle Logan	Mary Lou Moisio	Kay Peterson	Lauren Cameron

JANUARY (to FEBRUARY 4) ALTAR GUILD:

Pearl Ann Curtis, Stephanie Newsome,
Amanda Sanford, Susan Tan

FEBRUARY 11 (to FEBRUARY 28) ALTAR

GUILD: Ruth Brown, Pearl Ann Curtis, Mary
Lou Moisio

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

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