



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

FEBRUARY 2024

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

History of Land We Call Israel (part 4)

Last month, we covered the early first century, the rise of Islam, and the conquering of the area we call The Holy Land ending just before the Crusades and the Mongols.

When we left off, a Cairo-based dynasty had conquered the region – which remember is called Palestine – destroyed and rebuilt the Church of the Holy Sepulcher; this land is now under Muslim rule and the Jewish “rule” (in quotes because they were under Roman authority) hasn’t been in this land for centuries. In 1095CE, Pope Urban II called for Christians – a now thriving and powerful religion existing all over Europe, parts of Africa and Western Asia – to a Holy War to recapture the “Holy Land” and especially Jerusalem. Christians all over responded to this call in, what is now called, the First Crusade. By 1099, after only a single month(ish) siege, Jerusalem was captured followed by Beit She’an and Tiberias (two larger cities in the Galilean region); this constituted the bulk of Palestine conquered. In the decade that followed, coastal cities were conquered with strongholds established for the Crusader rule of the region.

With this region now under Crusader rule, several smaller areas,

known as Crusader states, were established with the most honored and powerful being the Kingdom of Jerusalem. Several attempts were made to establish permanent European villages but found unsuccessful due to the majority of the population were Muslims, Jews, and Samaritans with Christians counting in the minority. However, the drive to erase Muslim and even Jewish religion did not cease as in 1180CE, Raynald of Chatillon, ruler of the area east of Jordan, continuously provoked the leader of the Syrian and Egyptian Caliph, Sultan Saladin (aka Salah-al-Din). This provocation led to the Battle of Hattin (in the Galilean region) in 1187 where the Crusaders were utterly defeated. Guy of Lusignan – king of the Kingdom of Jerusalem – was captured leaving Jerusalem all but defenseless. Salah-al-Din was able to peacefully take Jerusalem and most of the, now former, Kingdom of Jerusalem.

After news reached the Christian world, situated mainly in Europe, a Third Crusade was called in 1190. After two years of battles and negotiations, the leader of this Third Crusade – Richard the Lionheart – and Saladin came to an agreement where Christians were granted free and unbothered passage to make pilgrimages to the holy sites of Christianity while Jerusalem remained under Muslim rule; this agreement is known as the Treaty of

Jaffa. For 30 years, this treaty existed until, in 1229, Jerusalem was peacefully reverted into Christian control as part of another treaty between the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II and Ayyubid sultan al-Kamil; this treaty ended the Sixth Crusade. NOTE: The crusades listed here are the only ones that affect Jerusalem and the control of the region; in total, there were eight crusades.

Christians retained control of Jerusalem and Palestine until 1244 when the Khwarezmian Tatars (a Turkic Dynasty) sacked Jerusalem, decimated the Christian population in the city, drove out the Jews, and destroyed the city. In 1247, these were then driven out by the Ayyubids (the Dynasty of Salah-al-Din). Relative peace lasted for all of 11 years when chaos began again. Between 1258 and 1291, this region became the frontier of the Mongol invaders (a sometime ally of the Christian Crusaders) and the Mamluks (new rulers and caste of warrior slaves of Turkish origin) of Egypt. This region became the frontline which destroyed cities, impoverished the country, and severely reduced the population. The Mamluks prevailed and various Sultans ruled with some destroying/eliminating many of the Crusader outposts that existed. As part of this rule, they merged Palestine as part of Syria, disallowed Jews from worshipping at the Cave of the

Patriarchs (the second-holiest site in Judaism) and only allowed the Jewish people seven steps into the site. This ban lasted until 1967 when modern-day Israel assumed control of the West Bank in the Six-Day War. Throughout their rule, they defended this land by destroying ports and destroying cities all along the Palestinian coast, from Tyre in the north to Gaza in the south.

At the same time as the Mamluk rule, in 1492, Jews were expelled from Spain and five years later from Portugal. Many of these expelled Jews moved eastward, even as far

as the Mamluk Palestine. As part of this movement, the Jewish community underwent significant rejuvenation with these Sephardic (Iberian Peninsula) Jews being mainly city-dwellers – the Jews that remained in Palestine were Arabic speaking Jews called the Musta'arbi community and lived in the “villages” of rural areas.

With Palestine being part of Syria, in 1516 and 1517, the Mamluks were conquered by the Turkish Sultan Selim I and Syria with Palestine came as a province of the Ottoman empire for the next four hundred years. Next month we should be

able to wrap up this history with some detail about the Ottoman rule, a brief occupation from Napoleon, the birth of Zionism, World War I and II, finishing with the United Nations Partition Plan and the Arab-Israeli War. I hope you enjoy this history and until next time.

Blessings and peace.

Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



We have finished most of the Big Churchy Words regarding vessels (or at least the ones we have), we can move on to the furniture. And, of course, most of the furniture that is in the church has special names and the meaning behind these names. We are going to begin with a piece of furniture that I actually had to look up for its official name.

Pulpit Chair This is the chair where the preacher sits. In most ELCA congregations, the preacher is the pastor and thus this chair is the chair of the pastor. Some churches have different types of chairs: a high-backed chair with a more elaborate design for the pastor,

and a shorter basic design for the assistants. Here at Good Shepherd, we really don't have a set Pulpit Chair. The single chair that I normally sit in is a standard cloth and wood folding chair, but it could be considered the Pulpit Chair; there is no hard and fast rule regarding seating arrangements in the chancel.

There is, however, a more elaborate name for a more important chair that is used more in the Roman Catholic Church rather than the Lutheran Church. The name for this is:

Cathedra (Gr. “a chair”) The bishop's chair or throne in a cathedral

from which official pronouncements may be made. It thus, by extension, means episcopal authority. See also *ex cathedra*.¹

Ex Cathedra (Lat. “from the chair”) The concept of acting by virtue of one's office. It is used most for the pope's explication of a dogma of faith or morals. This is the highest level of papal teaching.²

Probably the most famous Pulpit Chair, Cathedra, or ex Cathedra is the Holy See in the Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The word “see” comes from the Latin word *sedes*, meaning ‘seat’, which refers to the episcopal throne (or cathedra). Another name for the

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

Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

² Ibid.

Holy See is the Chair (or Throne) of Saint Peter. Regardless the type of decoration of chair, even a folding metal chair, the chair the pope sits in is the Chair of Saint Peter.

Therefore, like much of the furniture we are going to discuss, the chair material doesn't matter,

or even if it's part of a pew like in our chancel. What matters more is the symbolism of the chair and the duties and respect of the office and holder of the office the chair brings. In some denominations, the bishop might need to sit in the chair to make the official declaration. However, in the modern-day and

the workings with other denominations, such official requirements are no longer practiced or at least very rarely practiced. Even the Pope doesn't require sitting in the cathedra to make official dogmatic explications or dogmatic declarations.

A Moment in Faith

By Richard P. Tulino, a Layman's Interpretation



Our Lenten Journey

Soon we will be starting our journey in the season of Lent. The dictionary describes journey as: traveling from place to place, to go on a trip, to travel. We are all on a journey in this thing called life. We go in different directions, do different jobs, and see different people, but there is one part of life's journey that we have in common and that is our "Spiritual Journey" our love of God. We share that love through the many ministries we have in our churches, and by sharing that love, we serve to help others both here in church and in the community.

At the start of Lent, we begin to see the start of Jesus' journey, moving from city to city, healing and casting out demons, doing the work God his father had planned for him. The Pharisees came and warned Jesus to get out of town because Herod wanted to kill him. The Pharisees didn't want to protect Jesus; they were trying to trap him. But Jesus tells them that his work isn't done yet and that He will continue to heal and cast out demons and that His journey will continue. He knew that His purpose wasn't accomplished yet and He knew that His journey would end in Jerusalem and our focus should be on that journey.

Jesus responded to the Pharisees warning by using some very strong words: "Go tell that fox (Herod) for me that my work isn't finished and I will continue today, tomorrow and on the next day I finish my work and must be on my way because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem."

These are pretty strong words from Jesus, they aren't words of someone who is intimidated by Herod's power, but words of someone who knows He is on a journey and where that journey will end. He refuses to be side tracked from His journey of salvation. Jesus recognizes the tempter behind the powers in Jerusalem. This temptation comes at a time when Jesus is gaining followers and building for His crucifixion. It would be easy for Jesus to turn away from His purpose, but He is not tempted by the work of the devil. The devil doesn't do this all alone; he uses the Pharisees and Herod.

How many times has the devil used someone else to try to get us to do something we know is wrong? It happens but our Faith keeps us from being side tracked. Know that Jesus walks with us and will give us the strength to resist the devil's power

as he attacks us on our Faith filled journey. As we continue our journey this Lenten season, let Jesus walk with you. He is there to answer your call for help. Lent is a season of journey from the shame of sin, to the cross, to the grave, to the empty tomb. During this journey we confront our Faith and fulfill hope. This journey is where we see the cross that is coming and it's here, we think about what the cross means to us. It's a time when Jesus invites us to consider our commitment to ministry. We will be challenged on our way but Jesus reminds us that He withstood temptation and so can we.

The 40 days of Lent gives us all an excuse to be better. Ask yourselves this: Where will your final destination lead you on the Lenten journey? Along with or instead of giving up something, how about trying to do more of something? Volunteering for one of the many ministries here at the church, or visiting the sick or homebound, or reading the Bible more. If you do any of these things you will reach your final destination on this Lenten Journey feeling good and you will have found your, "Excuse to be better."

February Birthdays



Chuck Anthony
Shirley Brookhouser
Bradley Gauvin
Sonny Heinonen

Harper Lampela
Jim Monday
Cindy Nelson

Heidi Parkomaki
Stacy Racut
Mary Vidmar



ATTENDANCE

12/24	56
X-mas	84
Eve	
12/25	19
12/31	41
1/7	56
1/14	60
1/21	46



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 DECEMBER 31, 2023

\$2,338

%

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%
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%
December	\$ 9,804	\$141,921	75.7%	\$ 12,805	\$ 181,950	97.0%

NEWS & UPDATES

2024 Upcoming Events:

Jan 27th: Nisu bake
Feb 3rd: Designer Purse BINGO
Feb 11th: Super Bowl Sub Sale
Feb 14th: Ash Wednesday (weekly Lent suppers begin)
Feb 18th: Congregational Meeting
March 2nd: Date Night
March: Community Dinner, Holy Week, & Easter Breakfast
 More details coming soon! "Follow" us on Facebook to get the notifications and stay up-to-date!

Bell Choir Practice is now
 Thursdays at 5:30pm,
 starting January 25th



Sub Sale!

Sign up sheet in the Narthex.
 Proceeds benefit a GSLC youth ministry



\$7

Orders are due by Feb. 4th
 Subs will be made on Feb. 10th
 Pick up will be Feb. 11th before/after church

Eucharistic Ministers

Volunteers for Visitation, in homes and hospitals

Visitations will include communion

Sign-up sheet available in the Narthex



Council Meetings will now be held on the
3rd Sunday of each month at 12:30.

- Due to the Congregational Meeting, in February, council will meet on the 25th.
- Due to many council members being committee chairs and lack of attendance at committee meetings, committee meetings will not be held until further notice. Chairs will provide committee updates during the council meetings.



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 Annual Reports
 will be attached in the
 email announcements

— There will also be 1 printed copy hung on the Kiosk in the Narthex.

— If you would like the office to print a copy for you, contact the office.



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

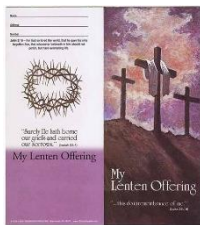
The OFFICES will be
 CLOSED if the
 Schools are CLOSED



- It is the easiest and quickest way for us to get info out to members and the community if something changes.
- If we get over 500 followers, we could be eligible to earn money through our Facebook page.
- Talk with Jen or Pastor for more details or questions.



The Salvation Army Conneaut Service Unit would like to thank all the bell ringers for helping with this year's red kettle campaign. We had a very successful campaign. We could not have done it without you!! Your local community neighbors appreciate the gift of your time.



Lenten Offering Folders will be available in the Narthex soon. Some of our members may remember using them in the past. The Lenten Offering Folders have slots for quarters to offer 50 cents each day of Lent.

Name: _____

Ash Wednesday: Lent Begins

Jesus cross Lent Easter palms hearts prayer

Fill in the blank.

1. Ash Wednesday is the first day of _____
2. We begin a time of extra _____, sacrifice and good works.
3. At Mass we receive ashes on our foreheads in the Sign of the _____
4. The ashes were made of burnt _____ from last year's Holy Week.
5. We pray and try to turn our _____ to God more than before.
6. We sacrifice and pray to help us prepare for _____
7. During Lent, we try to grow closer to _____

Committee News

Evangelism

Boy has 2024 started off with a bang. We have many events that are happening. Keep an eye out for dates and times. We also welcome volunteers to help with these events. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex.

We held our first bowling event this year. We had a great time; about 11 people bowled and a total of 15 people came to the event.

Our next event will be "Date Night" on March 2, 2024. Cost is \$20 for a single or \$35 for a couple.

The dinner is being catered by Biscotti's. The menu consists of a

choice of sauce either red or alfredo sauce, penne pasta, meat balls or grilled chicken, salad, bread and, of course, desserts. There will be child care available. We will serve you at your table and soft music will be playing in the background.

Come! Bring your partner, best friend or whoever you like to share an evening with.

This year we will be serving Easter breakfast between the two services. Some help is needed to help in the kitchen.

On April 8th a solar eclipse is happening and we are right in the path. We will be parking cars, selling solar

eclipse glasses, and some food vendors will be set up in our parking lot. We are need of volunteers to help with the parking and the selling of the glasses. Please see Michelle if you are able to help

Spa Day will be held on May 18th; more information is coming.

We are in need of volunteers to help with the lunches either on Wednesday from 9 to 12 or Saturdays from 9 to 12:30. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Blessings to each and every one,

Michelle Logan

The Evangelism Team

Property & Maintenance

Property Changes around Church:

We have started and completed two major projects in January of 2024:

1) The Ring Doorbell had never been hard wired to enable the battery to stay charged requiring it to be removed, charged and reinstalled. Through some excellent ingenuity and a high level of talent by a few of our maintenance members, this problem has been solved. This fix required a few holes in the wall and some electrical hook ups behind the wall then repairing the wall. Making this change led to a complete makeover of the entrance air lock into the church education wing and administration offices. This area is the "first impression" many people have of the inside of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Stop in and look it over! Special Thanks go

out to Gary Anderson, Jerry Lampela, Ron Young and John "JT" Andrew for the efforts to get these improvements accomplished.

2) There has been a complete overhaul of the back two short rows of the sanctuary. There is now a rebuilt AV Platform and children's play area. There has been a concern that a person could fall off the platform as well as the multiple electronic changes over the years has meant more additions of no longer need hardware due to new technology. We have consolidated all the hardware utilizing only one control cabinet, built an enclosure around the platform to prevent falls while allowing operators less distraction. We removed two short pews and installed a play area for younger children to play with soft toys during the service under the watchful eyes of their adult helpers

sitting nearby in pews designated for them to sit. The removed pews did not go to waste, they were installed in the narthex at the coffee bar creating a place for people to gather and socialize before and after services. Special thanks go out to John Andrew, Ron Young, and Pastor Krenz. It amazes me sometimes of the talent we have in our congregation. No, this project was not an attempt to get you to move to the front of the sanctuary during services (chuckle!).

We will 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.

We adjusted our schedule late in 2023 to meet on Saturday mornings to accommodate those that suggested switching to a day and time they have off work and could be available. This helped some and we can make more scheduling adjustments. **Let us know what works for you!**

Did You Know? Our church owns a very significant work of art. Several years ago, (15 or so) Good Shepherd was able to acquire a 9-foot by 10-foot stained glass made during the late 1800s in Austria of “The Good Shepherd”. This art has been stored in five crates in the maintenance shop all this time. We arranged a restorer of stained glass to come in and evaluate what we have. When he arrived and we opened the crates, he was amazed at our hidden gem! To replace the lead, completely clean, restore, frame, and install back lighting, pick up and deliver the cost is less than \$40,000.00. The

time to complete this restoration could be more than 12 months. Once restored, he estimates the value of our work of art to be in the range of \$200,000 to \$300,000! He also stated if we get some first-class pictures taken of this stained glass and publish it on our website, we will have visitors from all over the world coming to see this fine piece of craftsmanship!!

Partial List of Projects and Work items

- Repair leaking slop basin in boiler room
- Repair leak in steeple leaking into organ pipe room
- Locate and repair leak underground to storm sewer. This leak is creating very wet and soggy ground near the flower garden
- Repair or replace all damaged down spouts around the church
- Remove “Boy Scout” shed
- Clear trees and weeds from around tractor garage and replace siding
- Paint walls in narthex and hallways

- Paint all interior doors the same color
- Paint walls in both hallways on each side of the stage in fellowship hall
- Investigate and install best options for blocking line-of-sight to storage area for tables and chairs in fellowship hall.
- Replace counter curtain between kitchen and fellowship hall
- Find a solution for stall walls in both old restrooms
- Replace flooring in old restrooms
- Install larger drain for wine sink
- Determine and implement solution to hide tables/chairs from fellowship hall view
- Remove pull down screen and projectors from sanctuary
- Re-install screens and projectors in fellowship hall
- Remove non-working ceiling fan from sanctuary

Thank you and be blessed,
George Peterson
Property Chairman



February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i> 5:30 Bell Choir	2 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	3 8:00 3M's Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet 6:30 Designer Purse Bingo
4 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service Sub orders due	5 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	6 9:00 Quilting	7 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	8 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i> 5:30 Bell Choir	9 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	10 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
11 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service Pick up Subs	12 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	13 9:00 Quilting	14 Ash Wednesday 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	15 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i> 5:30 Bell Choir	16 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	17 Echo Articles Due 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
18 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service 12:30 Congregation Meeting	19 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	20 9:00 Quilting	21 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	22 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i> 5:30 Bell Choir 6:00 Finance	23 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	24 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Free Lunches Food Pantry & Nick's Closet
25 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service 12:30 Council	26 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	27 9:00 Quilting	28 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	29 <i>5:30 Line Dancing</i> 5:30 Bell Choir	Date Night is March 2. Don't miss out – purchase your tickets by Feb. 24!	

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

Lord, we are your servants . . .

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE
2/4/2024 8:30	Richard Tulino				Richard Tulino	
11:00	Paul Mechling		Michelle Logan	Joanne Mechling	Paul Mechling	
2/11/2024 8:30	Richard Tulino	Katrina Pavolino	Pearl Ann Curtis & Kathy Mills	Janet Maenpaa	Richard Tulino	
11:00		Mark Lytle	Michelle Logan	Bob & E Jay Hybert	Mark Lytle	
2/18/2024 8:30	Mike Malys		Suzanne Malys	Nancy Altman	Mike Malys	
11:00		Greg Betteridge	Glenda Betteridge		Greg Betteridge	
2/25/2024 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino		Janet Maenpaa	Amy Gallagher	
11:00	Jen Best		Michelle Logan		Jen Best	

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

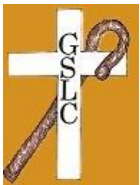
Pastoral Staff

Rev. Joshua Krenz, Pastor
gslcpastor@gwcmail.net

Office Staff

Jennifer Best, Administrative Assistant
goodshepherd@gwcmail.net

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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