

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 2024

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

From time to time, I listen to podcasts on my way to and from the office or wherever I need to be. Sometimes, the podcast is Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, the NPR News Gameshow. Sometimes, the podcast is Car Talk, the NPR Car Repair Show. But recently, I've been listening to Rachel Maddow presents Ultra. The first season of this podcast goes into the largely unknown Nazi plot within this country during the Second World War to overthrow the democratic and elected government and in its place, set a Fascist government. While this idea doesn't come as a surprise to many of us because, of course, the German government at the time would want this, what I found interesting was number of people, within Congress, that not only was for this movement, but actively participated in removing and destroying the democratic government to place the Fascist government with ties and subordinacy to Hitler. According to Maddow, at least 30 members of Congress were indicted for Sedition (inciting people to rebel against the government). As part of this movement, an organization and movement called America First, which was organization formed to support isolationism. The America First Committee (AFC) originally began as a coalition of farmers, union leaders, wealthy industrialists, college students, and may other professions and included people from Democrats and Republicans, as well as socialists, communists, anticommunists, radicals, pacifists, and simply FDR (Franklin D. Roosevelt, President at the time) haters. So, there was no political line, no political division (other than FDR supporters and those who were not) that were part of this organization, simply a large group of people that believe the United States should stay out of the war in Europe.

However, this organization was only in existence for 15-months (Sept. 1940 to Dec. 1941) and in that short time, the speeches went from ideas no foreign country could successfully attack America and aid to Europe weakens national defense at home, threatening to draw America into a war abroad, to anti-Semitic and profascist views, especially when Charles Lindbergh joined and became its most affluential speaker. One of the other, more influential, speakers was Charles Coughlin, or more commonly known as Father Coughlin.

Father Coughlin was a Roman Catholic Priest based near Detroit

and dubbed the "Radio Priest". It is estimated that a guarter of the whole United States population would tune into the weekly broadcasts during the 1930s. While originally he was a supporter of FDR and the New Deal, Coughlin began to criticize the President as being too friendly to bankers and made anti-Semitic comments of Jewish Bankers. Coughlin tapped into the widespread antisemitism in American society going so far as to express overt support and sympathy for the fascist governments of Hitler and Mussolini with some of his broadcasts being described as "a variation of the Fascist agenda applied to American culture."1 Eventually, both Father Coughlin and the America First Committee lost support after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, with both Father Coughlin and the AFC acquiring the reputation of sympathizing with the enemy.

While both Father Coughlin and the AFC diminished, their ideas remained, and remain to this day. The anti-Semitic, isolationist, fear mongering both Father Coughlin and the AFC spoke to the people still exist. And exist under a new branding with the extremism of AFC returned in the last decade as Christian Nationalism.

¹ DiStasi, Lawrence (May 1, 2001). Una storia segreta: The Secret History of Italian American Evacuation and *Internment During World II*. Heyday Books.

Christian Nationalism seeks to establish a particularly exclusive and particularly exclusionist concept of Christianity where the role of internal politics of society and civil and criminal laws reflects the views of Christianity as well as a role of religion - specifically Christianity in the political and social life of In short, the Christian people. church would perpetuate in national politics and people's individual lives. Other religions would be threatened, if not outright suppressed, scientific research and progress would be suppressed unless it follows the "biblical authority", and freedoms that are foundational to the United States would be reduced to biblical interpretation. Very often, especially in recent years, Christian Nationalism has overlapped with Christian Fundamentalism and White Supremacy and has been used and noted by supporters and congress members on the far-right political spectrum.

In the early 1940s and today, this idea of Christian Nationalism is a threat to democracy as we know it and goes against Christian teaching. Christ never taught about ruling the kingdom on earth, never talked about overthrowing the Roman Occupation of Judea and Jerusalem, never talked about being allegiant to something other than God and love. I think the best illustration of this teaching comes from the musical Jesus Christ Superstar when Simon the Zealot suggests that Jesus lead his mob in a war against the Romans and gain absolute power. The lyrics are, "There must be over fifty thousand screaming love and more for you. And everyone of fifty thousand would do whatever you ask him to. Keep them yelling their devotion but add a touch of hate at Rome. You will rise to greater power, we will win ourselves a home!"² The song that Jesus responds with is "Poor Jerusalem" where Jesus says, "Neither you, Simon, nor the fifty thousand. Nor the Romans, nor the Jews. Nor Judas, nor the twelve, nor the Priests, nor the Scribes nor doomed Jerusalem itself, understand what power is, understand what glory is, understand at all. If you knew all that I knew, my poor Jerusalem, you'd see the truth, but you close your eyes, but you close your eyes. While you live, your troubles are many, poor Jerusalem, to conquer death you only have to die, you only have to die."3

You see, Simon is like the Christian Nationalists who wish to overthrow the country and the democracy that the country is founded upon. But Jesus says that is not the way. Moreover, we can consider Christian Nationalism to be offering to us, the people, everything that Satan offered to Jesus while he was tempted in the wilderness. And then, finally, Christian Nationalism is illegal as it violates the First Amendment to the Constitution, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ... "4 The establishment of a Christian Nation violates the whole principle the United

States was founded upon and what Christianity is all about. The framers of the Constitution, while majority (if not unanimously Christian), wanted to make sure there was absolute freedom to practice religion in all forms - including Jewish and Islamic forms. And then the obvious question becomes, which Christianity is right to practice, and which Christianity is wrong? You've heard me say again and again, that as long as you worship God, it doesn't matter what religion or denomination you worship God through - just worship God. And you've heard me say, again and again, the best worship of God is to follow the commands that Jesus gave us, love God by loving one another.

The rise of Fascism in the United States did not completely die after the 1940s or after the trials as it remains today with some of the congressional representatives and candidates who call for Christian Nationalism. Christian Nationalism is a sin, its temptation itself from Satan, its un-American, and it is not Christian. As we celebrate our independence this month, let us celebrate our independence, not only from Britain 248 years ago, but also from sin and death and the devil, and celebrate our independence to worship God how we feel is it right to worship.

Amen+

السلام عليكم (Peace be upon you) The Reverend Joshua Krenz The Reverend Joshua Krenz

⁴ United States Constitution, Amendment I.

² https://genius.com/Jesus-christsuperstar-original-studio-cast-simonzealotes-poor-jerusalem-lyrics

³ Ibid.



We've kind of gotten off track in the recent months, not a bad thing as all the Churchy Words are important to know and study. So, I though this month, we return to some of the Churchy Words that we use regularly, but maybe don't know the history of them fully. I had to go through and look at all the past ECHOs since I've been here to see if I already talked about the word that we're going to talk about today...apparently, I haven't, which is odd because it's the focus of everything we do in a worship service.

Altar (Gr. *Thysiasterion*; Lat. *Altare*, "high place"). The raised place on which sacrifices were offered in the OT period. In many churches, a raised table as the place where the bread and wine of the Eucharist are consecrated.⁵

In short, the altar is the place that represents the table of Christ that all gather around when in heaven. In some denominations, Presbyterian for example, the altar is simply called the "table". But there is one thing to be sure to understand, the altar or table is not a Christian thing – many religions around the world have an "altar" of some sort or another.

Altars have existed for centuries and millennia. While we think of an altar like we have in our sanctuary, the older altars were made of stone and mud and dirt. The first recorded altar in the Old Testament is made by Noah, "Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar."6 That is what the original altar was all about, to make an offering to God usually through the sacrifice and burning of an animal. Altars were later erected by Abraham and Isaac - the most well-known is during the offering of Isaac by Abraham via a command of God. An altar was erected by Jacob after his dream where his hip is disjointed wresting with God. Altars became places where God interacted and the place was memorialized, very similar to stacked rocks that you might come across during a hike.

After the stories of Genesis, we get the creation of more altars that we might recognize in the building/ erecting of the tabernacle and later the altars in the Temple. But while these altars were more of what we recognize, the purpose remained the same – to offer a burnt offering to God. Today, we don't offer a burnt offering to God as we don't offer to God animals – we offer our treasures, our money – to which we still place on the altar and give thanks for this offering – the

Offering Prayer. And to me, it's important to keep that offering on the table as a continued thanks to vou all and to God for the all the gifts that we receive. Take a closer look at everything that gets put on the altar before the Offering Prayer: the offerings in the offering plates, the offerings of wine and wheat, the chalice, the patten, the ciborium, the trays, and the water in the chalice; it's all placed on the altar to give thanks to God. Just like the people of the Old Testament making a sacrifice, our offering is meant to be a sacrifice as well.

However, the altar is not just a throwback to the past of burnt offerings, it is also the place where we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us, and we do this through Holy Communion. Sometimes, I find it helpful to imagine a beam or ray of light coming down and enlightening the altar; this beam of light being God's presence to consecrate - or make Holy everything on the altar. Now, of course, we believe God's presence is all around us, but the altar is the focal point, and it gets more focused on the corporal (see September 2023 for this churchy word). If you've ever assisted me during worship when we celebrate Holy Communion, you will notice that everything used for commun-

⁶ Genesis 8:20, NRSV.

⁵ McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed.

Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

ion – the chalice, ciborium, paten, trays – all at least touch the corporal. It's not that if it doesn't the elements are not consecrated, it just makes me feel better and brings that beam or ray of light focused to the elements – and it goes back to setting these things apart from the regular wine, bread, grape juice that is consumed around the world every day that is unconsecrated, setting these things apart as an offering. (The meaning behind consecration is setting something apart from secular or profane use and dedicating permanently to the sacred prayers, rites, and ceremonies. We set all the elements of Holy Communion apart from the world to offer – or really give to God.)

The altar becomes the place where we set things apart from the world – the secular – and give to God. The altar is the place where we give to God and ask God for God's blessing on items (bibles, money, quilts, etc.) that they might be used as God sees fit. The great thing about an altar, as we know from our outdoor services, is they don't have to be fixed in place – or even placed in the same place week to week; they don't have be elaborately decorated or made from any particular material – as long as those gathered together want the table, chair, desk, something elevated to be the altar, it becomes the altar.



ATTENDANCE 5/26 50

-	
6/2	56
6/9	63
6/16	51
6/23	48

TOO GREAT OR TOO SMALL FOR PRAYER

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.

July Birthdays

Janet Antila Virginia Black Budd Brookhouser Rachelle Douglas Anthony Gauvin Cheryl Jewell Julie Kantola Petyon Kantola Mike Malys Mary Lou Moisio



Jaime Murtha Mil Niinisto Amelia Sanford Aiden Vidmar Brandon Vidmar



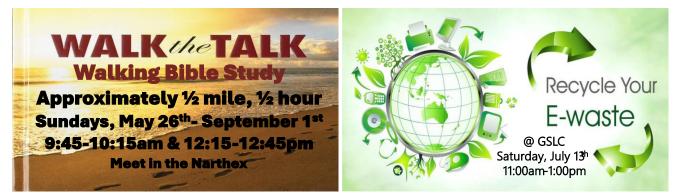
GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF MAY 31, 2024

\$4,995

MONTH	OFFERING INCOME	OTHER INCOME	YTD INCOME	%ESTIMATE BUDGETED REVENUE	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	% ESTIMATED OPERATING COST
January	\$10,527	\$ 369	\$10,896	68.2%	\$18,831	\$18,831	115.3%
February	\$15,228	\$ 508	\$26,632	81.9%	\$16,885	\$35,716	105.9%
March	\$10,184	\$1,263	\$38 <i>,</i> 079	76.6%	\$15,319	\$51,036	103.4%
April	\$11,021	\$1,006	\$50,106	76.5%	\$18,836	\$69 <i>,</i> 872	108.5%
May	\$ 7,233	\$ 375	\$57,714	70.9%	\$13,381	\$83,179	100.6%
						Budget income YTD \$65,540.03	Budget expense YTD \$64,369.12
Need \$15,622 ea Mo.	\$187,465/year		\$(23,640)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ 533	
						4/30/2024	5/31/2024
A W W							
Capital Improven	nent Endowmer	nt Fund				\$ 885,408	\$ 901,246
Capital Improven Money Mark		it Fund				\$ 885,408	\$ 901,246
	ket Fund					\$ 885,408 \$ 35,286	\$ 901,246 \$ 36,543
Money Mark	<i>ket Fund</i> dowment Fund	Balance				. ,	. ,
<i>Money Mark</i> Family Center En	<i>ket Fund</i> dowment Fund	Balance				\$ 35,286	\$ 36,543
<i>Money Mark</i> Family Center En Mission & Educat	<i>ket Fund</i> dowment Fund tion Endowmen	Balance				\$ 35,286 \$ 117,711	\$ 36,543 \$ 119,957
<i>Money Mark</i> Family Center En Mission & Educat Thrivent Fund	<i>ket Fund</i> dowment Fund tion Endowmen nent	Balance				\$ 35,286 \$ 117,711 \$ 13,595	\$ 36,543 \$ 119,957 \$ 13,595
<i>Money Mark</i> Family Center En Mission & Educat Thrivent Fund Capital Improven	<i>ket Fund</i> dowment Fund tion Endowmen nent und	Balance				\$ 35,286 \$ 117,711 \$ 13,595 \$ -	\$ 36,543 \$ 119,957 \$ 13,595 \$ -
<i>Money Mark</i> Family Center En Mission & Educat Thrivent Fund Capital Improven Youth Missions F	<i>ket Fund</i> dowment Fund tion Endowmen nent und	Balance				\$ 35,286 \$ 117,711 \$ 13,595 \$ - \$ 14,870	\$ 36,543 \$ 119,957 \$ 13,595 \$ - \$ 14,870
Money Mark Family Center En Mission & Educat Thrivent Fund Capital Improven Youth Missions F Abiding Memoria	<i>ket Fund</i> dowment Fund tion Endowmen nent und	Balance				\$ 35,286 \$ 117,711 \$ 13,595 \$ - \$ 14,870 \$ 5,772	\$ 36,543 \$ 119,957 \$ 13,595 \$ - \$ 14,870 \$ 6,772
Money Mark Family Center En Mission & Educat Thrivent Fund Capital Improven Youth Missions F Abiding Memoria Detroit Street	ket Fund dowment Fund tion Endowmen nent und al	Balance				\$ 35,286 \$ 117,711 \$ 13,595 \$ - \$ 14,870 \$ 5,772 \$ 12,592	\$ 36,543 \$ 119,957 \$ 13,595 \$ - \$ 14,870 \$ 6,772 \$ 12,592
Money Mark Family Center En Mission & Educat Thrivent Fund Capital Improven Youth Missions F Abiding Memoria Detroit Street Sandusky St	ket Fund dowment Fund tion Endowmen nent und al	Balance t Fund	od			\$ 35,286 \$ 117,711 \$ 13,595 \$ - \$ 14,870 \$ 5,772 \$ 12,592 \$ 12,167	 \$ 36,543 \$ 119,957 \$ 13,595 \$ - \$ 14,870 \$ 6,772 \$ 12,592 \$ 3,382

Stacy Racut, Treasurer

NEWS & UPDATES





Pancake Breakfast

Last Saturday of the month 7:00-11:00am

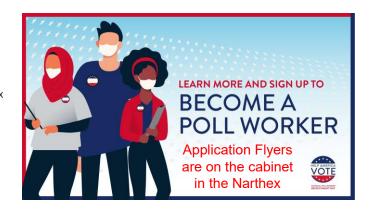


Pancakes, sausage links and patties, coffee, juice Cost: \$8 for adults; \$6 for children 12 and under



GSLC SHIRTS

- \$15 for short sleeve • \$20 for long sleeve
- Additional \$2 for 2x, \$3 for 3x



God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

For more info about GSLC ministries and volunteer opportunities, contact the office at 440-599-8908







Attention Worship Volunteers:

As many of you know, Shirley has stepped down from scheduling the volunteers for worship. I thank her for her many years of service doing this, because it's not a simple task. Making the calls and working around everyone's busy and changing schedules is not easy to coordinate. As I began to take over this new role, I had one idea in my head of how I would do it, but that wasn't working. I noticed that some people like to keep a regular schedule. Some people prefer certain weeks, and some people can fill in whenever. Some people can volunteer once a month, but don't know that far ahead of time. It also seemed instead of playing phone tag, it was easier to have face-to-face conversations before/after service. Taking all of that in, I believe I came up with a scheduling tactic that will work easiest for me and for the volunteers:

- The volunteers who want to be scheduled on a routine basis (the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th Sunday of every month) will be automatically put on the worship volunteer schedule starting August and continuously until you tell me otherwise.
 - If there is a month that you are unable to keep that date, let me know by the 15th.
 If you are no longer able to commit to a routine or want any other alterations to your schedule, let me know.
 - Please check the worship volunteer schedule regularly for changes, especially around seasonal variations. I will try to keep to the routine and if there is a change, I will try to contact you first.
- For all worship service volunteers:
 - I will have a printed, unfinished copy of the schedule in the Narthex. It will most likely be by the attendance books, but if it's not, it will be by the other sign-up sheets on that cabinet on the north wall.
 - Routine Volunteers' names will already be typed in.
 - Please look at the schedule and write your name legibly in any blank areas that you would like to volunteer for.
 - Please sign up before the 15th. This will give me time to type it and email it for the ECHO.

The completed schedule will be posted on the bulletin board by the bathrooms and on the kiosk in the Narthex. It will also be posted in the ECHO. The ECHO is sent in at least one of the weekly announcement emails; it is posted on the website; and there are hard copies printed and available in the Narthex.

If you haven't volunteered for one of the worship steward positions and want to learn more about it, reach out to me or Pastor Josh, or even another volunteer. If you have any questions about this new sign up setup, let me know.

Thank you for your continued service and commitment to the church.

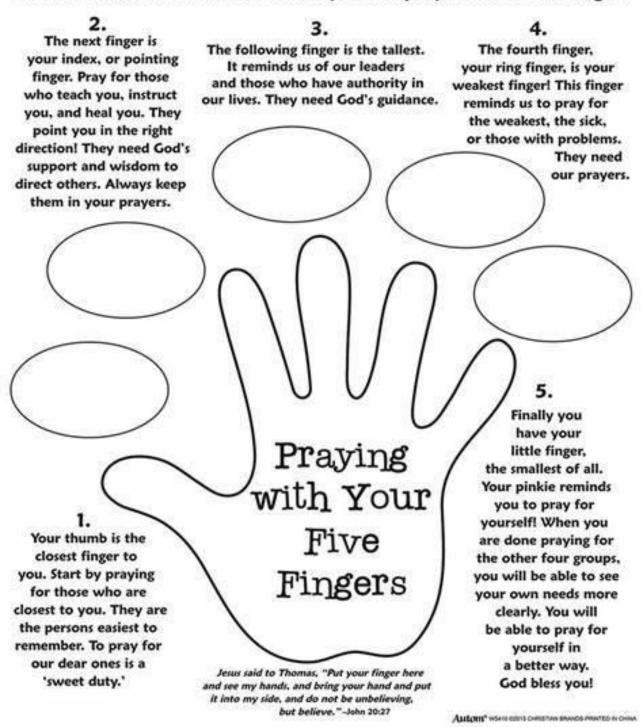
Blessings,

Jen



My name is .

Pope Francis has given us a simple way to pray using our 5 fingers! In the ovals, draw and color whom you will pray for with each finger.



Committee News

Evangelism

The full-service community dinner was a hit. Several community members asked when our next event was. They expressed how much they enjoyed it and were very excited about all our church has to offer. We might possibly hold another dinner in the fall.

Fishes and Loaves continues to amaze all of us. The love and support we get from everyone is amazing. This past month we served 126 families in the food pantry. That equals to almost 2,100 meals. We were blessed to serve 848 lunches.

The month of July we will not be serving lunches. The team is taking a much-needed break. The food pantry will only be opened on Wednesdays 9 am to 2 pm. When we resume in August the new schedule will be Tuesdays 9 am to 2 pm and the usual hours on Saturday.

As part of our partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank an opportunity has arisen for us. Walmart, with agreement with Cleveland, has agreed to make weekly donations to us. We will receive meat, vegetables, fruit, canned and boxed good and baked goods. This is free to us. But we have to go to Walmart in Ashtabula to pick up donated items. It usually weighs several hundreds of pounds. We do need help sorting through the items at the church. If you would like to help, please contact Michelle.

We continue to have volunteer opportunities. We need help with lunches, unloading and putting away

stock, and Nick's Closet. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

D-Day is right around the corner. Volunteers are needed to help with the parking. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

I would like to thank Janice Boyle for her hard work and dedication to the Fishes and Loaves Ministry. Janice has been with the team from the beginning five years ago. She has always been a shining beacon for the team. Janice has decided to step back from the lunches full time. We are going to miss her very much. We love and thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

God's blessings, *Michelle Logan* The Evangelism Team

Social Ministry

Can you believe June is almost behind us? Where does the time go? Your everyday life can change in a heartbeat and will never be the same. But we accept it and move on. Thank you all for your love and support and the beautiful cards in the last few weeks. It is greatly appreciated.

It is time to start preparing for D-Day and the fish dinner. If you would like

to help let me know. We will find a job for you. The Church picnic will be in August, watch the TV in the narthex for the date.

The council will be cleaning the sanctuary on the last Saturday of the month. They will also be helping to park cars for the July 4th fireworks. Mark Lytle, Janelle Cole, and Susan Malys have the flowers planted. They will be beautiful in just a few weeks if the heat wave we have

been experiencing doesn't ruin them.

There are many opportunities to take advantage of in the church. Hospitality on Sundays is being taken care of by just a few ladies, the sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Serving gratefully, Pearl Ann Curtis Social Ministry Chairman



July 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	2	3 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	4 OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 Line Dancing	5 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 YMCA Fitness	6 8:00 3M's Fireworks Parking
7 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	8 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness 5:30 Finance	9	10 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	11 5:00 Line Dancing	12 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 YMCA Fitness 3-7 Adventure Zone	13 8:00 3M's 11-1 E-waste Event
14 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	15 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	16	17 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	18 5:00 Line Dancing	19 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 YMCA Fitness	20 Echo Articles Due 8:00 3M's
21 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	22 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	23 6:00 Council	24 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness 1-6 Blood Drive	25 5:00 Line Dancing	26 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 YMCA Fitness	27 7-11 Pancake Breakfast
28 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	29 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	30	31 9-2 Food Pantry 9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness	Walking Bible Study every Sunday 9:45-10:15 & 12:15-12:45 (Meet in Narthex)		

Key: Italics = Non-GSLC Programs & Events

Lord, we are your servants . . .

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE
7/7/2024 8:30		Wes Combs	Wes Combs	Pearl Ann Curtis		
11:00	Paul Mechling	Jo Mechling	Ruth Brown	Jo Mechling	Paul Mechling	
7/14/2024 8:30		Katrina Pavolino	Shirley and Peggy Harco	Katrina Pavolino		
11:00	Ron Young	Mark Lytle	Stacy Racut	Mary Lou Moisio	Mark Lytle	
7/21/2024 8:30	Jen Best	Mike & Sue Malys	Mike & Sue Malys	Wes & Susan Combs	Susan Combs	
11:00	Jen Best		Ruth Brown	Barb Talon	Susan Tan	
7/28/2024 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino	Katrina Pavolino	Janet Maenpaa	Amy Gallagher	
11:00		Glenda Betteridge	Glenda and Greg Betteridge	Greg Betteridge	Greg Betteridge	

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



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

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



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 876 Grove Street Conneaut, OH 44030