



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

AUGUST 2024

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

I kind of struggled this month trying to think of a topic for the article that you are now reading. Normally, it just comes to me or an experience that takes me into wanting to educate you all as best as I can through this medium. But this time, not so much; maybe it would be better to have a blank article. And then it came, a rather large shift that Christian Education is aware of and Church Council is aware of that is going to be a difference from the past. I'm changing Confirmation Classes.

Ok, you might have gone to other places and did not think this or something else but believe me, this is going to be a shift. Confirmation has historically (since the '50s or so) been around Middle School (Junior High depending on where you're from) age – the 7th and 8th graders. This is when I went through Confirmation, this is when a lot of my peers and colleagues went through Confirmation, and I believe this is when the majority of you all went through Confirmation. We've been doing this this way forever. But remember, "because we've always done it is not a reason to continue doing it."

The change to Confirmation Classes is that they will only be held at the request of the students. Confirmation Class is no longer a "rite of passage" or a "checkmark", that is

not the point of this class. The point behind Confirmation Classes is best described in the proper title of the rite, *Affirmation of Baptism* where you affirm – or ratify that it is true. In the church world, *Affirmation of Baptism* is publicly stating what you believe, that you are ratifying or endorsing or validating your belief in God, as we teach here, in the Lutheran Confessions and Traditions, and that you will maintain that belief through your life. The rite that is said is not meant to go through the motions – none of the rites we have in this church are to go through the motions. The *Rite of Affirmation of Baptism* to state publicly that the candidate believes in God, that the candidate defies and reject the forces of that counter God, and that the candidate will live a godly life according to Christian teachings. The candidate answers the Affirmation promise with "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me." This answer is not only a promise to live the godly life, but it is also a prayer to God to help and guide the candidate. Nothing in this rite – or any rite in the church – is to go through the motions and get a "checkmark."

Thus, the change to Confirmation Classes is that they will only be held at the request of the students. This means the students taking the class have a more vested interest, rather than being forced by parents/guardians/sponsors. As part of this

deliberation, an idea was to move the ages to a high school age group. However, the basic concern that I have teaching theology is the desire, the vested interest, the actual longing to learn. When students have this desire to learn, students learn more. Think back to your high school or college days. When you took the classes that were required, you might have learned but maybe not as much (or enjoyed it as much) as the classes you got to choose. This should be the same here, learning about God and Lutheran theology and traditions should be joyful and educational.

The other reason for change is a simple fact: we don't have as many students or candidates for Confirmation as there was historically. I can hear on opposition being, "if we don't offer it, how will we get those students and that age group?" This change is not that we are not going to offer the class, but to have the students take the first step to say they want to learn it. If they say they want to learn, of course the class is offered. But a larger problem comes when we don't have many students. A class of one or two, relatively shy students, doesn't make for a healthy or fertile class environment; healthy and robust discussions are part of the learning process, questions are part of the learning process, being lectured to is not as informative as active participation in class. When stu-

dents want to learn about a topic, they ask questions, are part of the discussion or are more attentive than students who are obligated to be there. But a third reason comes based on age.

Again, historically, Confirmation Class was held at about 7th and 8th grades. However, that is the exact same age as changes begin: puberty begins, brain development continues and grows dramatically as they learn to process language, literacy, and creative arts. Students at this age are only learning active listening and just starting to look at things in an abstract way. If Confirmation Class is meant to teach them about God and Lutheran Theology and traditions, this cannot be done well as the student's brain is developing abstract approaches (multiple meanings); the student should have this ability in order to formulate their own beliefs. Furthermore, the sad truth in society right now is that church – going to church – is seen as a vulnerability, something that bullies will pick at, and peer pressure will exploit. Compelling students to attend these classes only add to the immense peer

pressure students at this age range face. Having a desire to take the class already gives a shield to this pressure allowing the student to stand up for their beliefs, rather than the “yeah, my parents/guardians/sponsors are making me do this.” A lot of physical changes happen during this time which make learning a belief that will stick less likely.

Which is, after all, the point of Sunday School and Confirmation Classes to instill a belief that will stick, a belief that will help guide their lives, a belief that will help them when troubled times happen. Having Confirmation as a “requirement” is like having First Communion classes as a requirement to partake in Holy Communion – it puts barriers between the individual and God. Nothing we do here is to be a barrier between the individuals and God. By having Confirmation Class be a desire means the student, the candidate, has a desire to learn more about God to get closer to God. If that means they explore other faiths or denominations/traditions, let them; the only goal of any Sunday School

or Confirmation Classroom is to help build a connection between the individual and God.

One question that still needs to be answered is membership and specifically “Voting Member.” But my answer to this is simple: if you are that interested in being active within the congregation – which I desperately hope you are – you should also be that interested in the Confirmation Class. Of course, like all changes, there will be an adjustment period. But I believe this will make a more rewarding experience for all students involved and show we all – regardless of age or experience or education – have something to learn, something to teach, and something to reenforce. By having this Confirmation Class model this way, all people – children or adults – can attend classes together and learn from each other.

Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



There's a word I used a few times in the Article for this month that I should probably define:

Rite (Lat. *Ritus*, “religious custom, religious usage”) An order for worship. Also, a collection of liturgical services used by an

identifiable segment of the church or originating in a specific geographic area.¹

Also, **rite, church** A practice or ceremony in the church. Rites do not have the same status as sacraments. An example is con-

firmation. *See also* confirmation, sacrament.²

Within the services in this congregation, there are several rites that we use every week. The first falls under the first definition as the Order of Worship. Most

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

Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

² Ibid.

services follow the Rite of Holy Communion with gathering, word, meal, and sending. Sometimes we add a Rite of Blessing for quilts, bibles, etc. Sometimes we add the Rite of Holy Baptism or Affirmation of Baptism with the other rites falling under the second definition. But it's enough to say the Order of Worship is also known as a Rite. And while the order of the Order of Worship doesn't matter too much, there is a definite sense of flow – you come in from the world of sin and doing sin and are immediately forgiven of your sin; you then hear the awesome and mighty acts of God through the Word and are reminded of the church, the world, and all who need prayers, and reminded of God's love for you and God's forgiveness of you through Christ; then you get to physically

taste that forgiveness, physically get to experience that forgiveness through the body and blood of Christ; and, finally, invited to leave this place to return to the world of sin to live a godly life. Some ELCA churches and other traditions do the order different – a welcome of some kind, then the word, then after the peace the confession and forgiveness then the meal and the sending. What I believe matters is hitting all the points regardless³ of their point in the service.

All the rites we have in the church allows us to focus more on our worship of God and less on the “where are we in the service” and it allows those visiting us from other congregations familiar with this Order of Worship to worship God and not feel lost or embarrassed.

Recently, the ELCA has been adding additional Rites as resources to coincide with Social Statements and changing views. These Rites include: National Election, Middle East, Juneteenth⁴, Care of Creation, Retirement, Anniversary, General Lament, Lamenting Racism, after a Violent Event, and First Nation Peoples. The list continues and continues. We in the office have been experimenting with different rites and we will continue to incorporate these rites into services.



ATTENDANCE

6/30	61
7/7	52
7/14	52
7/21	47



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.

³ It does matter a little bit to have Confession and Forgiveness before partaking of the sacraments at the table as being absolved of sin is proper

before consuming the body and blood of Christ. It's also part of good order to as it would be odd – at least in the Lutheran Tradition – to partake in the

sacrament then do Confession and Forgiveness.
⁴<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Worship#Liturgy>

August Birthdays



Judy Barch
 Amiah Berry
 John Chapin
 Griffin Fuller
 Zachery Hathy

David Heinonen
 Samantha Lampela
 Stephanie Newsome
 Dolores Pelow
 Lori Punkar

Howard Seavey
 Barb Talan
 Beth Tulino
 Phyllis Waid
 Natalie Wood



GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

\$868

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	\$38,079	76.6%	\$15,319	\$51,036	103.4%
April	\$11,021	\$1,006	\$50,106	76.5%	\$18,836	\$69,872	108.5%
May	\$ 7,233	\$ 375	\$57,714	70.9%	\$13,381	\$83,179	100.6%
June	\$10,063	\$ 225	\$68,003	70.0%	\$15,481	\$98,660	100.8%
						Budget income YTD \$15,976.04	Budget expense YTD \$16,331.09
Need \$15,622 ea Mo.	\$187,465/year		\$ (29,167)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ 782	

	4/30/2024	5/31/2024
Capital Improvement Endowment Fund	\$ 901,246	\$ 916,127
<i>Money Market Fund</i>		
Family Center Endowment Fund Balance	\$ 36,543	\$ 37,192
Mission & Education Endowment Fund	\$ 119,957	\$ 121,485
Thrivent Fund	\$ 13,595	\$ 13,754
Capital Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
Youth Missions Fund	\$ 14,870	\$ 14,895
Abiding Memorial	\$ 6,772	\$ 7,772
Detroit Street	\$ 12,592	\$ 12,517
Sandusky St	\$ 3,382	\$ 2,693
Reserve Account	\$ -	\$ -
10% Biblical Tithe to Synod		\$ 723.30

Stacy Racut, Treasurer

NEWS & UPDATES

Pancake Breakfast

August 3rd and 31st
7:00-11:00am



Gluten free cereals & lactose free milk available upon request

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

GOLF Outing

18 holes with cart
4 person best ball – enjoyable for all levels
We will have Hot Dogs, Pop, and Chips

Cost is \$25
REGISTER BY AUGUST 3rd
Jerry Lampela (440) 813-7969

Golf Fun Day for Church Members & Friends
JOIN US AT VILLAGE GREEN GOLF COURSE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th
3:00 PM TEE TIME (be early)



Scholarship Applications are now available in the GSLC office, on the website at gslc.org/forms, and in the email announcements

Applications and paperwork are due August 15th

High School graduates and post-secondary students are encouraged to apply.

Volunteer for D-Day Parking



Wednesday, August 14th
Thursday, August 15th
Friday, August 16th
Saturday, August 17th
8am - 4pm everyday

Any amount of time you can offer is appreciated!

Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.



August 22nd

RSVP & pay before August 15th

Cost is \$20 per person, for both parks (\$22 digital pay)
Meet at Pavilion: Coaster #1 (10:30 for tickets, 1:30 for lunch)

Burgers, hotdogs, soda, & water provided
Sides- potluck style

AUGUST 16TH

4:00-7:30pm

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT



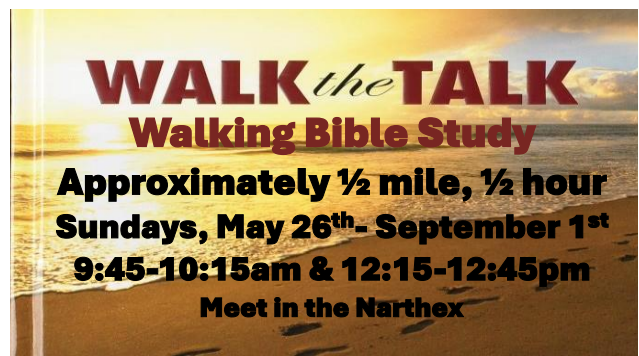
SERVERS NEEDED



Sunday, August 18th

Outdoor Service at 10a.m.
HopeWood Shores- Camp Luther

Sign-up sheets in Narthex to help with food/grilling, games, and moving tables/chairs



WHO'S READY FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL?

SEPTEMBER 8TH 9:45-10:45am

ALL FAMILIES WELCOME!

This year, we will focus more on the Holy Spirit:
how God works through us; finding and using the gifts God gave
us.

Throughout the year, we hope to include more hands-on activities,
starting with God's Work, Our Hands Sunday,
where we'll join in the church cleanup.

Registration forms are available in the office and Narthex.



**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUNDAY SCHOOL/ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REGISTRATION
2024-2025**

Student's Name: _____

Student's Birthday _____ Student's Age _____ Grade _____

Baptized YES _____ Date _____ NO _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

In case of emergency (when parent/guardian cannot be reached) please contact:

Name and Relation _____ Phone # _____

I give my child permission to participate Sunday School/Christian Education at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC). I will not hold GSLC, its staff, or volunteers responsible for accidents, claims, or damages arising from my child's participation in program activities. I also give GSLC permission to use any photographs or videos of me or my child taken during Sunday School/Christian Education classes and events in future promotional materials for its sites and programs. My child shall comply with all the rules set forth by GSLC.

Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

**FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY,
PLEASE COME TO THE CLASSROOM AT DISMISSAL.**

Student's Name _____

Please list any medical conditions or allergies that your child may have
AND include all steps to care for the child during a medical situation/allergic reaction:

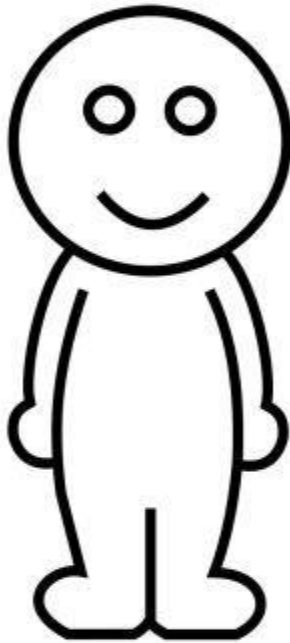
Please list any learning needs that your child may have:

RETURN THIS FORM TO: GSLC administrative office

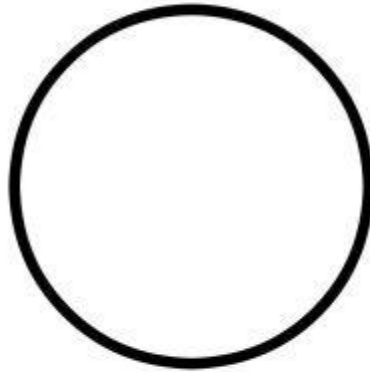
God Made Me SPECIAL

My name is:

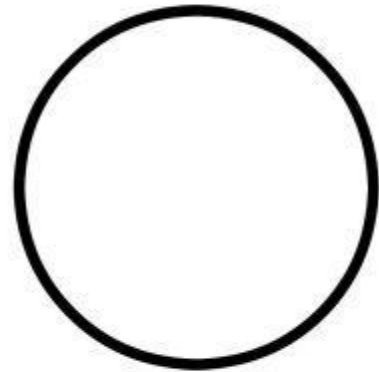
This is me:



My favorite food is:



My favorite color is:



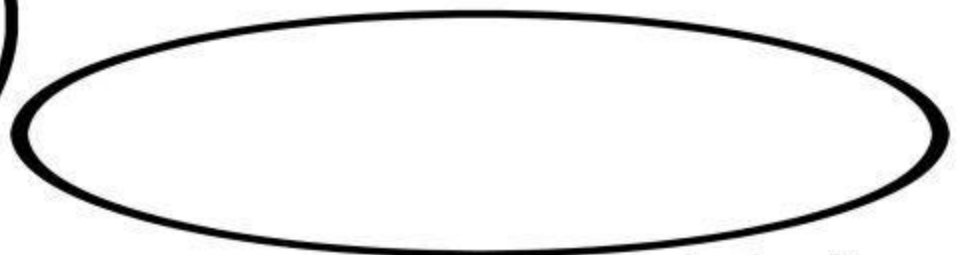
This is my family:



This is something
I love to do:



This is how I serve God:



Committee News

Evangelism

We are continuing to see an increase of families that we are serving in the food pantry. This month we have served 150 families. That is an increase from the previous month of 25 families.

Volunteers are needed for D-Day parking. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Starting in August our free lunches will resume. We will now serve lunches on Tuesdays from 9 to 2 and Saturdays from 11 to 12:30. We are in need of volunteers for both days. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

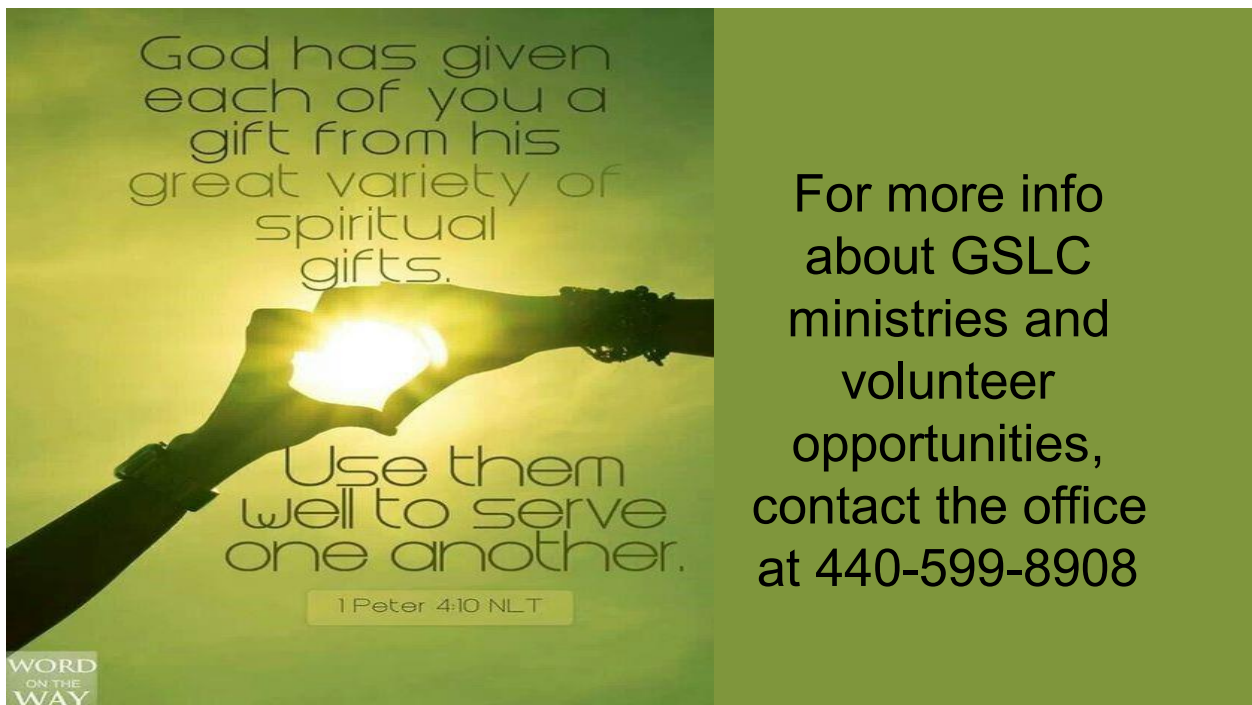
Mark your calendars! October 5th is our annual Basket raffle. Ticket prices will be \$10 pre-sale and \$15 at

the door. Tickets will be available September 1st. We are also seeking donations of baskets or items that we can put together to make baskets. Please contact Martha Jayne, Pearl Ann or Michelle.

God's blessings,

Michelle Logan

The Evangelism Team



God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.

Use them well to serve one another.

1 Peter 4:10 NLT

WORD ON THE WAY

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



August 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Walking Bible Study every Sunday 9:45-10:15 & 12:15-12:45 (Meet in Narthex)</p>				<p>1 OFFICE CLOSED <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i></p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>3 7-11 Pancake Breakfast 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet</p>
<p>4 8:30 Service 11:00 Service</p>	<p>5 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:30 Finance</p>	<p>6 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches</p>	<p>7 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>8 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i></p>	<p>9 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>10 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet 3:00 Church Golf Fun Day</p>
<p>11 8:30 Service 11:00 Service</p>	<p>12 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:30 Finance</p>	<p>13 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches</p>	<p>14 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>15 Scholarship Applications Due <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i></p>	<p>16 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 4:00 Fish Fry</p>	<p>17 Echo Articles Due 8:00 3M's</p>
8:00-4:00 D-Day Parking						
<p>18 10:00 Service & Church Picnic at Camp Luther</p>	<p>19 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>20 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 6:00 Council</p>	<p>21 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>22 10:30 Waldameer & Water World Trip <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i></p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>24 8:00 3Ms 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet</p>
<p>25 8:30 Service 11:00 Service</p>	<p>26 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>27 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches</p>	<p>28 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>29 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i></p>	<p>30 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i></p>	<p>31 7-11 Pancake Breakfast 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet</p>

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

Lord, we are your servants . . .

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE
8/4/2024 8:30	Heidi Cowey	Katrina Pavolino	Katrina Pavolino	Wes & Susan Combs	Susan Combs	
11:00	Heidi Cowey	Glenda and Greg Betteridge	Glenda and Greg Betteridge	Mary Lou Moisio	Glenda and Greg Betteridge	
8/11/2024 8:30		Katrina Pavolino	Shirley and Peggy Harco	Shirley and Peggy Harco		
11:00		Mark Lytle	Michelle Logan		Mark Lytle	
8/18/2024 10:00 At Camp Luther	Jen Best	Kathy Mills & Ruth Brown	Kathy Mills & Pearl Ann Curtis	Kathy Mills, Pearl Ann Curtis, & Ruth Brown	Susan Tan	
8/25/2024 8:30		Wes & Susan Combs	Wes & Susan Combs		Susan Combs	
11:00		Glenda Betteridge	Glenda and Greg Betteridge	Greg Betteridge	Greg Betteridge	

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



SEPTEMBER ALTAR GUILD: Ruth Brown, Susan Combs, Barb Talan

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

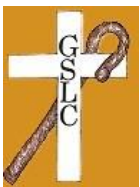
Pastoral Staff

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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Conneaut, OH 44030