



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

SEPTEMBER 2024

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

Do you ever have those times when your mind is completely blank, those times when you really can't think of anything especially to say or to write? There are different words like "writers block" or "blaaaah" but sometimes that doesn't really capture the feeling. So, what are we to do when times like these happen? What can we write or say or communicate when the words just can't find us or we them? And, how, then, can we convey the importance of saying what we want to say? This happens to me, like it did for this article, so I ask for patience to get out what needs to be said.

I want to dig a little deeper into a booklet that I mentioned in the August 18th sermon, *The Use and Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament*.¹ And, especially, the section regarding Holy Communion entitled "Holy Communion and the Christian Assembly". I had a discussion with colleagues and the bishop about the apparent need for Holy Communion. I said during the August 18th sermon, that Holy Communion exists because we are sinners and that we need to partake Holy Communion to forgive our sins and

become nourished with God. And while this is true, there is something that this conversation (and the reason this conversation was held) brought up: the near Idolatrousness of Communion; in other words the need for Holy Communion to experience God, to experience Jesus. The key point of this Idolatrousness of Communion is the concern or the implicit (or maybe explicit) teaching that we only experience Jesus – or only perceive Jesus – when we get something in return. This idea or this teaching leads us from worship of God alone to worship of God only when we get something in return, mainly Holy Communion.

A question to ponder coming out of this idea: does worship feel complete when we don't celebrate the Eucharist, when we don't have Holy Communion? I think, before we can answer this question for ourselves, we must first figure out what worship is; or to say it more plainly, what is worship?

Merriam-Webster defines worship, "to honor or show reverence for as a divine being or supernatural power; to regard with great extravagant respect, honor, or devotion."² In the *Harper's Bible Dictionary*, worship is defined, "the

attitude and act of reverence to a deity."³ Each definition says to worship is to be reverent (or a feeling/showing of deep respect) to a divine or a deity. Christians have defined their worship to be reverent to Christ – or more aptly the Trinitarian Godhead. However, there is not a place where worship is defined as specific order or with specific instruction, only to be reverent to God. Christ tells his followers, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."⁴ Worship is when we gather in the name of Christ, worship happens. But does there need to be other people to have worship happen? Can we not have reverence to a deity on our own?

Jesus gives us the commandment to Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind.⁵ Being reverent, being solemnly respectful, is to love God with everything that you are. If worship is to show or act in reverence for God, then worship is loving the Lord God with everything you have. We can, then, worship God on our own – to which the special word we have for that is prayer. Prayer is more than just talking to God, it is worshipping God on our own. But something is still amiss, and the question becomes

¹ <https://elca.org/Resources/Worship#General>

² <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/worship>

³ Achtemeier, Paul J. *Harper's Bible Dictionary*. San Francisco: Harperr & Row, 1985.

⁴ Matthew 18:20, NRSVUE.

⁵ Matthew 22:37, NRSVUE.

why church. What is amiss is the idea of showing our reverence for God, how does one show reverence for God?

Luckily, the two missing questions can be solved in one answer: through corporate worship. Corporate worship is when multiple people get together to follow the same order of worship. This is what we do every Sunday morning when we follow the liturgy (the order of worship) we practice corporate worship...or do we? Yes, we gather together to say collective prayers, state collective creeds, listen collectively to readings, but are we collectively worshipping. Personally, I'd like to think so, and I hope so. I hope that we are all being reverent – showing deep respect – to God and the servants of God. I hope that we are loving God with everything we have, if not outside of the

worship space, then at least in it. Unfortunately, I know this isn't the case, or at least it wasn't years ago.

Stories have reached my ears about people having a desire to participate in the worship service, but then being criticized by others including the pastor. How can this be worship when we criticize others? I've said many times, there is no right or wrong way to pray as long as you mean it and as long as your heart is in it – love God with heart, soul, and mind. There is also no right or wrong way to worship. The liturgy we have is a guide, but only a guide. Holy Communion is a privilege not a right. Assisting in worship is the honor of helping others worship God. How can we love God with whole heart, soul, or mind when we have to figure out where we are in worship, what is being said, etc.

Centuries ago, before paper was in an abundant supply, people listened to the readings, listened to the service, memorized the prayers and responses. If I could go back then and worship with them, I have a feeling this worship experience would be more fulfilling because they can focus solely on God with their whole heart, soul, and mind. And, centuries ago, Holy Communion was offered less often and usually only with bread.

So, we return to the pondering question: is Holy Communion necessary for worship? Is worship complete when we don't celebrate the Eucharist? The answer is...

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



Eternal Flame – A flame, lamp, or torch that burns for an indefinite time.⁶

We often see these eternal flames at important gravesites like the JFK grave, or the WWII memorial in Russia, or under the Arc de Triomphe in Paris for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In fact, almost every country in the world has an artificial eternal flame burning. All these flames are used in commemoration or in memory of people, events, or some national or

religious significance. It's this last aspect this Churchy Word covers.

We, in this church of Good Shepherd, have an Eternal Flame burning every day and night, non-stop. We call it the Memorial Candle. This candle burns whether there is a dedication given for that month or not because of the religious significance of this burning and where our history of having a constant burning flame originates.

Since Christianity is a sect of Jewish religion (hope that's not a shock to anyone) there are many aspects of Jewish worship that have made their way into Christian worship – one of which is this eternal flame. In the Jewish worship history, God commanded the Jewish people, "The fire on the altar shall be kept burning; it shall not go out. Every morning the priest shall add wood to it, lay out the burnt offerings on it, and turn into smoke the fat pieces of the offerings of well-being. A perpetual fire shall be kept

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal_flame

burning on the altar; it shall not go out.”¹ If we remember our history, people would bring animals as sacrifice to God and the religious leaders would burn the offerings as these were soothing aromas to God and would please God to prevent the wrath of God. However, as times have changed, we no longer have a burning fire on the altar, but this idea of a constant flame continues and therefore the eternal flame continues to burn, but for a new reason.

In the Christian religion, this candle that burns still represents the sacrifice offered to God, but the sacrifice – and moreover, the atonement of Christ – that is reminded during the celebration and practice of the Eucharist. Our eternal flame burns to remind us of the eternal life that we are granted because of the sacrifice of Christ.

As technology has improved, this eternal flame has been replaced in some temples and churches and

other worship spaces by a fed gas line or even electric candles, but there is something special about a real flame that cannot be given through electric candles; there’s something special about lighting a candle, especially around prayer.

Do you – or have you ever – stared into a flame either a candle or around a firepit or fireplace? There’s something mesmerizing and helps focus attention, helps focus thoughts. In some denominations a candle rack or multiple candle stand is placed to allow multiple people to offer prayers while gazing into a lit candle. We often jump to the Roman Catholic Church denomination idea when we think of these candle racks. However, other denominations do this as well around the world such as Anglican, Methodist, and even Lutherans, all with slightly different practices. In the Methodist tradition, votive candles are lit on All Saints’ Day in honor of those who

have died the past year. In the Anglican tradition, either votive or the so-called “saint candles” are lit during prayer time for either remembering the dead or asking for saintly intercessions. And in the Lutheran tradition, votive or long thin candles are lit in and placed in sand for individual prayers. Having a special place to come, especially in the communal worship space, is nice for those who wish to say private prayers while gazing into a flame or to light a candle in remembrance of a deceased loved one.

You will soon see the option to help purchase one of these candle stands to be placed in the chancel for those who wish to light a candle, either before, during, or after services or at any time during the week to offer a prayer. Like the eternal flame, this lighting a candle to pray is giving an offering to God, not a sacrifice, but offering a prayer to be answered.

¹ Leviticus 6:12-13, NRSV.



ATTENDANCE

7/28	47
8/4	56
8/11	66
8/18	31



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.

September Birthdays



Kelly Anthony
Nancy Altman
Julie Curtis
Bryce Douglas
Kip Douglas

Aurelia Huya
Craig Huya
Natalie Huya
Rick Kantola
Susan Lytle

Jacob McGraw
Tammy Owens
Olivia Sorrell
Martha Jayne Thompson



GENERAL FUND BALANCE AS OF JULY 31, 2024

\$1,784

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%
July	\$ 7,776	\$ 225	\$76,004	69.4%	\$14,960	\$113,619	100.8%
						Budget income YTD	Budget expense YTD
						\$109,539.38	\$112,759.11
Need \$15,622 ea Mo.	\$187,465/year		\$(33,536)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ 860	

	<u>6/30/2024</u>	<u>7/31/2024</u>
Capital Improvement Endowment Fund	\$ 916,127	\$ 930,539
<i>Money Market Fund</i>		
Family Center Endowment Fund Balance	\$ 37,192	\$ 37,883
Mission & Education Endowment Fund	\$ 121,485	\$ 121,462
Thrivent Fund	\$ 13,754	\$ 13,754
Capital Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
Youth Missions Fund	\$ 14,895	\$ 15,418
Abiding Memorial	\$ 7,227	\$ 7,327
Detroit Street	\$ 12,517	\$ 2,503
Sandusky St	\$ 2,693	\$ 3,738
Reserve Account	\$ -	\$ -
10% Biblical Tithe to Synod		\$ 1,006.30

Stacy Racut, Treasurer

NEWS & UPDATES

Reminder for parents and guardians that Christian Education forms need to be completed for all youth under 18 years old and they should be completed and returned before classes start since our first day we will be involved in the cleaning of the church, specifically the education wing, for God's Work, Our Hands. Registration forms are in the office, Narthex, website, and upcoming weekly announcements.

SEPTEMBER 8th 9:45-10:45am



Registration forms are available in the Narthex, office, ECHO, & website.
Meet in the Education Wing
Volunteer opportunities available

CHURCH CLEANING
WE COULD USE YOUR HELP...

September 8th 9:45-10:45



Quilting Ministries resumes September 10th
Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

GSLC ANNUAL BASKET RAFFLE
Saturday, October 5, 2024, 10 am- 2 pm

Ticket Prices:
\$15 pre-sale (before Oct 4th)
\$20 day-of-sale (Oct 5th)
+\$2 for credit card & digital pay



Additional raffle tickets
(tier 1 & 2),
50/50 tickets,
& food items will also
be available for purchase.

Ticket price includes:
entry for the door prize of \$250.00
& 10 Tier 1 basket raffle tickets

Pancake Breakfast

September 29th
8:00-11:00am



Gluten free cereals &
lactose free milk
available upon request

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

GSLC SHIRTS

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



RENT THE GSLC
FELLOWSHIP HALL!
Call the office for more info
and to schedule your event.

JOIN THE
PRAISE
BAND

DRUMMER
WANTED

Did you know that September 29, 2024 is Michael and All Angels Sunday? Test your Angel knowledge with the quiz below. Use the Bible to help you find the answers.



Bible Quiz

Angels

Match the question with the answer on the right.

- ___ Who did an angel let out of prison?
- ___ Who wrestled with an angel?
- ___ In the Bible, who is the Angel of God?
- ___ How was Daniel protected from the lions?
- ___ In Revelation, how many angels are given shofars (trumpets)?
- ___ What was the name of the angel who appeared to Mary?
- ___ How did the Angel of God first appear to Moses?
- ___ How did the Angel of God look to Samson's mother?
- ___ Who rolled away Yeshua's tomb stone?
- ___ How many angels appeared to the disciples when Yeshua went up to heaven?

- 1. Jacob
- 2. Gabriel
- 3. An angel
- 4. Fearsome (Judges 13)
- 5. Within a burning bush
- 6. Seven (Rev 8)
- 7. Paul (Acts 5)
- 8. Yeshua
- 9. Two
- 10. An angel shut their mouths



Committee News

Evangelism

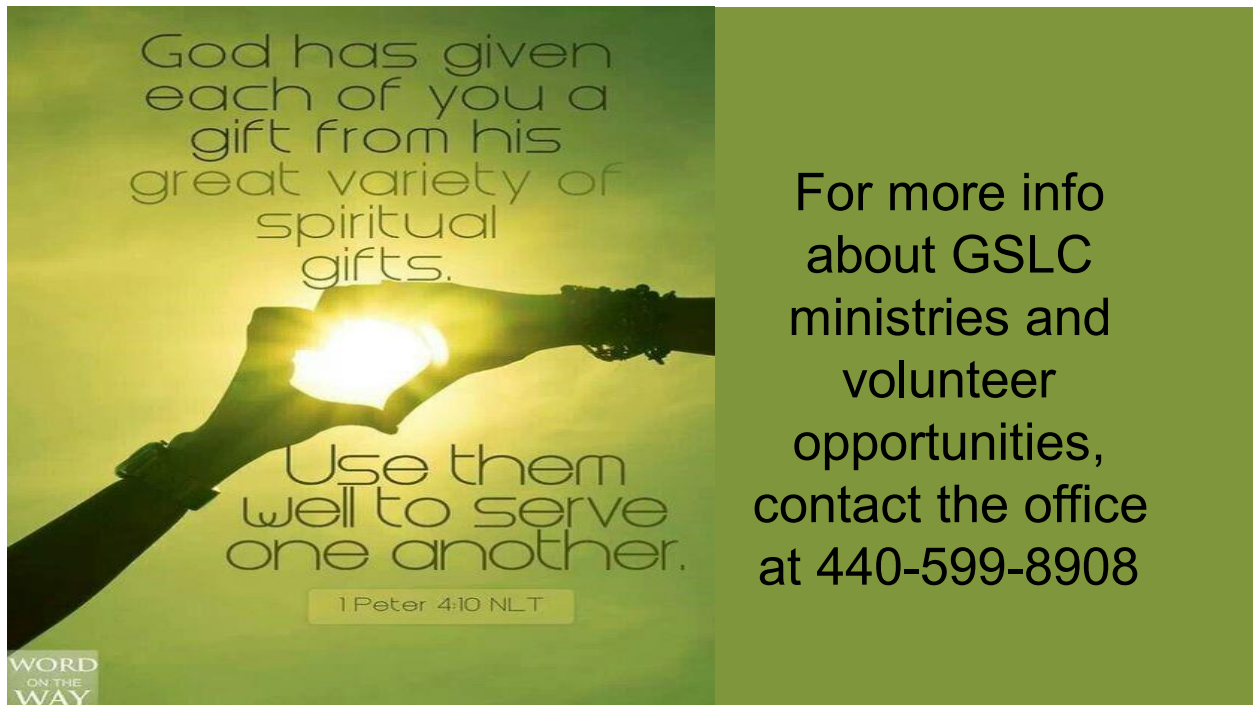
Opportunities are still available for volunteers to help with our Fishes & Loaves Ministry. Free lunches are served on Tuesdays from 9 to 2 and Saturdays from 11 to 12:30. We are in need of volunteers for both days, or we might have to reduce our

ministry for the community. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Our annual Basket raffle is coming up on October 5th. Ticket prices will be \$15 pre-sale and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available beginning September 1st. We are also seeking

donations of filled 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



September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	2 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	3 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches	4 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	5 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	6 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	7 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
8 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 9:45-10:45 Church Cleanup 11:00 Service	9 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:30 Finance	10 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	11 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	12 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	13 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	14 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
15 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service 12:30 Council	16 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	17 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	18 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 12:00 Worship & Music Meet. <i>1-6 Blood Drive</i>	19 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	20 OFFICE CLOSED Echo Articles Due <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	21 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
22 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	23 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	24 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	25 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	26 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	27 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	28 7-11 Pancake Breakfast 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
29 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	30 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<p>Last Day is September 1: Walking Bible Study Sunday, 9:45-10:15 & 12:15-12:45 (Meet in Narthex)</p>				

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

Lord, we are your servants . . .

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE
9/1/2024 8:30		Susan Combs	Wes and Susan Combs	Wes and Susan Combs	Susan Combs	
11:00				Mary Lou Moisio		
9/8/2024 8:30	Amy Gallagher		Shirley and Peggy Harco	Shirley and Peggy Harco	Amy Gallagher	
11:00		Mark Lytle			Mark Lytle	
9/15/2024 8:30	Jen Best	Susan Combs	Wes and Susan Combs	Wes and Susan Combs	Susan Combs	
11:00	Jen Best			Mary Lou Moisio	Susan Tan	
9/22/2024 8:30		Katrina Pavolino	Katrina Pavolino	Janet Maenpaa		
11:00		Glenda Betteridge	Glenda and Greg Betteridge	Greg Betteridge	Greg Betteridge	
9/29/2024 8:30			Wes and Susan Combs			
11:00		Ruth Brown	Jen Best and Luna Taylor	Jerry Lampela		

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



OCTOBER ALTAR GUILD: Kelly Anthony, Ruth
Brown, Robin Bryant, 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

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