



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

OCTOBER 2024

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

One of my favorite classes in seminary, as taught by one of my favorite professors, Dr. Brad Binau, was the Seven Deadly Sins class. Dr. Binau said, "this class is not a how-to class." But this topic is something that I've wanted to discuss for a little while, even thought about holding a Summer Adult Class on this topic covering one sin a week, which we can do if there is interest. But I also feel this topic, at least a few of the sins, should be covered during this election season – and, if we're honest, every election season – as the nation, and individuals locally and nationally, commit these "Deadly Sins". So, at least for the next few months, this article will be about the Seven Deadly Sins, but to echo Dr. Binau, "not a how-to".

Before we begin on what the Seven Deadly Sins are, we must first define a few things: 1) what is a sin; 2) what is a deadly sin; and 3) what is a virtue. For this, I'm going to give you: a) my definition, b) the definition from Merriam-Webster, and c) a definition from the books used in seminary class.

What is a sin? a) A sin is any action – whether thought, word, or deed –

that separates oneself from God. b) A sin is "an offense against religious or moral law, an action that is or is felt to be highly reprehensible, an often serious shortcoming; a transgression of the law of God, a vitiated state of human nature in which the self is estranged from God."¹ c) "sin is an orientation to life which is potentially or actually harmful in one or more of the following ways: i) the orientation to life is an impediment or threat to human community, ii) the orientation to life is an impediment to God's own intentions for the world, including the world of human society and the world of nature, iii) the orientation to life inhibits and even destroys the essential well-being of the individual."² As you can see, there are multiple ways to define sin, some easier and some more complicated. As such, it will be important to keep all these definitions in mind from the simple action of sin to the life orientation as the line between a normal sin and a deadly sin – in some instances – will be blurry if present at all.

What is a deadly sin? a) A deadly sin is any action – whether thought, word, or deed – used in such a way (or used in a way that encourages)

not only separation of oneself from God, but separation of others from God to either focus on another god or to permanently remove oneself from God. b) A deadly sin is "one of seven sins of pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth held to be fatal to spiritual progress."³ c) "some authors view the deadly sins as personal faults, while others view them a social evil...they are deadly because they are terribly difficult to get rid of once they have taken hold of us."⁴ Donald Capps goes further on the distinction between personal faults and social evils which can be discussed while discussing each sin.

What is a virtue? a) If a sin is an action that separates oneself from God and a deadly sin is an action that separates oneself from God to worship another god or to encourage others to worship another god or permanently remove oneself or others from God, then a virtue is the opposite where oneself draws themselves, and others, closer to God through their actions – thoughts, words, and deeds. b) A virtue is a "conformity to a standard of right, a particular moral excellence; a beneficial quality or power of a thing; manly

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sin>

² Capps, D. (2000). *Deadly sins and saving virtues*. Wipf and Stock Publishers.

³ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/deadly%20sin>

⁴ Capps, D. (2000). *Deadly sins and saving virtues*. Wipf and Stock Publishers.

strength or courage; a commendable quality or trait; a capacity to act.”⁵ c) “The virtues identified [in the book] are ‘saving’ because they are likely to be more than impulses or even attitudes and to become enduring dispositions toward life...the orientation to life...are directly opposed to the deadly sins.”⁶ Capps later writes, “The virtues are like a warrior’s armor and weaponry...”⁷ which might encapsulate more of a virtue as virtues “defend” oneself from the “blows of the deadly sins.”⁸

These are the definitions we will keep in mind over the next few months as we describe the Seven Deadly Sins of Pride, Anger, Gluttony, Envy, Lust, Sloth, and Greed. We may not go deep into all seven but next month we will begin with Pride as this is a deadly sin that causes many to fall away from God. For now, let us go into a brief history of the Seven Deadly Sins.

Early Church Fathers like Tertullian and Evagrius Ponticus felt that there was too much temptation in the world, too many things that would draw, especially monks, from their holy orders and service to God. Ponticus, a follower of Origen, left the world to become a solitary monk in the desert of Africa. He wrote the *Praktikos* as “short reflections upon the various aspects of the ascetic life, practical

guidelines that make communal life in such close proximity possible.”⁹ In these reflections Ponticus mentions ‘eight demons’ that “makes life in community, particularly community that is dedicated to God, so difficult.”¹⁰ But while Tertullian and Ponticus began to develop the ideas of “demons” that interact within and around ourselves, it was Pope Gregory the Great in the 6th century that formalized the seven deadly sins in his writing, *Morals on the Book of Job*. (At some time, it might be interesting to discuss Pope Gregory the Great because of his lasting impact on the catholic and Roman Catholic Church.) Pope Gregory I took the original eight down to seven combining Vainglory and Pride, as we will see next month. Because of the influence of Pope Gregory I, Saint Thomas Aquinas (c.1260s) – an author of several significant works in the Roman Catholic Church – built upon the work of Pope Gregory I and became some of the founding theological teachings in the catholic church; teachings that existed before the Reformation and even accepted by some influential people in the Reformation.

Finally, the Seven Deadly Sins came more into known usage through the Italian Narrative Poet Dante Alighieri who wrote *Divine Comedy*

beginning with a journey through Hell in “Inferno” to reach Purgatory in “Purgatorio” and finally Paradise in “Paradiso”. It was in “Purgatorio” where Alighieri divided Purgatory into seven different layers for the “fitting and purgings of and purifications from the Seven Deadly Sins...[Alighieri] categorizes them in accordance with love...a love to harm others...lack of love...excessive material love.”¹¹ It was Dante Alighieri and the popularity of *Divine Comedy* that made this theological teaching, theological topic of education, theological idea into the widespread world.

It should be noted that while these sins are called Deadly Sins, Pope Gregory I, Saint Aquinas, and Alighieri did not write that committing these sins would lead to Hell or damnation, and the church does not teach that even today. More that these sins are the “first step towards other sins”¹² a necessity or orientation to commit other sins. While we will use the term Deadly Sin, another appropriate word use is capital or cardinal or the “head” sin.

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

⁵ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/virtue>

⁶ Capps, D. (2000). *Deadly sins and saving virtues*. Wipf and Stock Publishers.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Willimon, W. H. (2013). *Sinning like a Christian: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins*. Abingdon Press.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹

<https://thesciencesurvey.com/spotlight/2023/06/06/sinful-history-the->

[strange-and-unknown-origins-of-the-seven-deadly-sins/](https://thesciencesurvey.com/spotlight/2023/06/06/sinful-history-the-strange-and-unknown-origins-of-the-seven-deadly-sins/)

¹² Willimon, W. H. (2013). *Sinning like a Christian: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins*. Abingdon Press.

The Big Churchy Word



Cult (cultus) (Lat. *Cultus*, “devotion,” “worship”) The form and practice of worship or the religious rites of a people. Also a term to designate a sect. The term is also used to indicate adoration or devotion.¹³

Cults Groups regarded as heretical, often marked by strong social controls.¹⁴

Sect (Lat. *Secta*, “party,” “faction”) A sociological term, often set in opposition to “church,” for a group with voluntary membership, exclusive in its views, and emphasizing separation from the world and prevailing institutions. *See also church.*¹⁵

These three terms are very similar but there are some major differences. Let’s begin with the difference between Cult (cultus – which term I will use to avoid confusion) and Cults. The term Cultus is, as seen above, a Latin term and is similar to Rite – or order of worship. Like many definitions within the church, some words mean almost the same thing but Cultus is more of a term used to define the whole worship service, all the Rites that happen within the worship service, where Rite is a portion of the worship service. At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, the 8:30 a.m. service and the 11:00 a.m. service are Cultus as we worship adoration and/or devotion to God which includes the Rite of

Confession and Forgiveness, Rite of the Readings, and Rite of Holy Communion. While some people might say a group is a cult, in this case they refer to the singular term of Cults, which is unfortunate. Now let’s distinguish between Cults and Sects.

If one had to set the differences, sects is “better” than cults because sects are more socially acceptable. It might be better to see the differences in examples. Christianity is a sect of Judaism, and at the time, was probably considered a cult; some might say that Christianity is still a cult. Roman Catholicism is a sect of Christianity, Protestantism is a sect of Christianity and Roman Catholicism, and Lutheranism is a sect of Christianity, Roman Catholicism, and Protestantism. Cults, on the other hand, usually focus on a singular person – or begun by a singular person – and has practices that are considered deviant or divergent from the norms of society. For example, some of the most well-known cults are: Peoples Temple led by Jim Jones, Al-Qaeda and Isis, the Ku Klux Klan, Heaven’s Gate, and the Branch Davidians led by David Koresh.

Usually, and this is more of a generalization, Cults have more violent rhetoric and are focused on the Biblical Apocalyptic imagery and stories. Cults like the stories of smiting the Canaanites and use

these examples to say, “everyone but the cult followers” are going to be smote. But this is a generalization. Cults like New Age leaders like Swami Muktananda and Bhagwan Shree Rajeev taught more of the heresy like there is no distinction between God and humans, taught and encouraged the use of drugs (such as LSD) to expand the mind, introduced yoga and other self-help practices; that since there is no difference between God and humans (according to their teachings) the ultimate reason for “worship” is to gain wisdom – wisdom of body, mind, and soul. While many of these Cults are either disbanded, extinct, or have become small, the largest cult that exists in the United States is the Cult of Scientology.

While the difference between Cults and Sects can be in the eye of the beholder, it should be remembered the ultimate goal is the worship of God without violence or anything that deviates from the norms of society, that God is greater than any single person. If one is following a person who is charismatic, self-appointed, promotes violence, self-centered, and more interested in advancing their own beliefs (lies and/or heresy) than the beliefs of the majority, that one might be entering a cult. As mentioned above, Christianity might have been considered a Cult at the time of its beginning, but

¹³ McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed.

Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

because the social norm has “accepted” Christianity, it is no longer a cult. Cults become denominations after a certain equilibrium is reached both within the Cults and within society as a whole.

Note: while I mentioned and went into religious cults, there are political cults, polygamist cults, racist cults, and even anti-cult cults.

October Birthdays



Ariana Berry
Glenda Betteridge
Mike Bidwell
Lauren Cameron
Susan Chapin
Janelle Cole
James Crowl

Sue Dildine
Claudia Fill
Kennedy Fuller
Duffy Guthrie
Paul Hirsimaki
George Lindgren

Michelle Logan
Paul Mechling
Chris Murtha
Stephanie Patriarco
JoAnne Seavey
Jasmine Steighner

ALL SAINTS DAY DEDICATION

Dedicate an offering to a loved one for the 50-cup Memorial Prayer Candle Stand in the chancel for \$20. See the September ECHO “big churchy word” for more information. Payment, along with this form, may be placed in the offering or mailed to the church office.

Checks can be written to GSLC.

DEADLINE for ORDERING is October 13, 2024

We ask that **ONE NAME OR ONE COUPLE** be honored or memorialized per donation.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor’s Name _____

No. of donations Ordered _____ Amount Enclosed _____





ATTENDANCE

8/25	49
9/1	60
9/8	54
9/15	50
9/22	49

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 AUGUST 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%
August	\$ 9,124	\$ 225	\$85,352	66.3%	\$12,514	\$126,133	97.5%

Need \$15,622 ea Mo.	\$187,465/year	\$ (36,980)	EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ 860
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	7/31/2024	8/31/2024
Capital Improvement Endowment Fund	\$ 930,539	\$ 942,349
<i>Money Market Fund</i>		
Family Center Endowment Fund Balance	\$ 37,883	\$ 38,698
Mission & Education Endowment Fund	\$ 121,462	\$ 121,518
Thrivent Fund	\$ 13,754	\$ 13,754
Capital Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
Youth Missions Fund	\$ 15,418	\$ 13,428
Abiding Memorial	\$ 7,327	\$ 7,427
Detroit Street	\$ 2,503	\$ 2,253
Sandusky St	\$ 3,738	\$ 3,763
Reserve Account	\$ -	\$ -
10% Biblical Tithe to Synod		\$ 777.59

Stacy Racut, Treasurer

NEWS & UPDATES

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

Help purchase a Memorial Prayer Candle Stand by dedicating an offering to a loved one for \$20. Sign-up sheets in Narthex.

Turn in forms by October 13th



\$7 cash
\$9 digital/credit card

Nisua Bake – October 19th
Volunteers Welcome
Order on or before October 13th



Pancake Breakfast
October 26th
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



MONTHLY MINISTRY FOCUS
Sunday, October 27th 10am

All are welcome to attend

Dear Church Family,

As I grew up, my family didn't talk much about money. I watched mom or dad write a check to drop into the offering plate, but we didn't talk about how much to give. To this day, we still have a hard time talking about money, I have a hard time talking about money, especially with mom and dad.

But I know my family was generous. I remember going to the grocery store and buying multiple bags of flour (those 1 or 5lb bags), multiple bags of beans, multiple other items that can be used to create meals. I remember asking once, why they are buying all these multiple items as we didn't need that much stuff in the house. They told me they buy these things to put into paper bags to help feed the hungry or provide the staples needed in a house to feed a family. When my mom and dad couldn't offer more money to the church, they would buy these staples so others could be fed.

Growing up, I remember giving gifts to my mom and dad, usually my favorite book that I liked them to read to me, but I always taped a penny to the book. I know that penny made its way to the offering plate at church. As I got older, the penny turned into a quarter and skipped the book and parents making its way into the offering plate as well. Eventually, the quarter became a dollar then it became multiple dollars and so on.

When I went to seminary, my church would send \$5000 per year to help with seminary tuition or housing. This was a huge amount given by the church and it taught me to think of others and be grateful for what I have been blessed with.

As I continue to learn more and more about every family here, I am graciously surprised how many generous people we have within this congregation. We have people in this congregation who are generous with their money, generous with their time and talents, and generous with both. In the coming months, we will be hearing stories of how the generosity of these people, and the generosity of this congregation, has impacted the lives of so many people in this community.

In the coming months, I encourage you to think about how generosity has been taught to you in your life, and how generosity impacts you and your family; I encourage you to share your stories with each other as we begin our generosity journey together.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Joshua Krenz

Committee News

Christian Education

Christian Ed. started off with God's Work Our Hands, and the kids really enjoyed helping to clean the church. We don't have many kids yet, but I'm optimistic that it will grow. Invite families that you know; they can fill out the registration forms when they come. I'll have some in the classroom and they are still available online and in the office.

Sunday school starts with a snack (and the kids are already trying some new fruits). While they eat, we introduce the lesson. Then we move into another room where we do some music, movement, and watch a video about our lesson. Finally, we move into another room for crafts and other hands-on activities. In October, our monthly lesson is "Mediocre and Mighty". We'll learn how God calls average people to do great things, through stories about Gideon.

September 29th, we'll kick off a new facet to our Christian Education lessons with our Monthly Mission Focus. Each month, someone from a committee at GSLC will talk about their committee: what they do, why it's important, how it helps others, and if the Holy Spirit calls us to this ministry, how we can help. This is open to everyone! We're hoping it will awaken a call from the Holy Spirit, to get more people (especially youth) involved in the ministries, and maybe even to learn some new skills. It will take place during Christian Ed. class, about 10 am. I expect it will last about 15-30 minutes, depending on the group participation. September 29th, we'll be learning about the GSLC Evangelism Ministry. October 27th, we'll be learning about the GSLC Quilting Ministry-bring your favorite blanket.

The 3rd Sunday of every month (September-May), during worship services, we'll have a children's

message before the readings. Invite the kids/grandkids to church with you, so they can hear it. The next one is October 20th; we'll learn about faith.

October 19th, the Youth Group will have a Halloween Party here at Good Shepherd 6:30 -?. It will be for youth, grades 6-college. They'll have games, food, and a costume contest! See Taylor or Nick for more details.

October 26th, we'll be participating in the Conneaut Candy Crawl from 5-7 pm, in collaboration with the Evangelism ministry. You can drop off candy donations at the office. If you'd like to volunteer, see me or Michelle.

Save the date for our Christmas party on December 14th. All are welcome. More details to come.

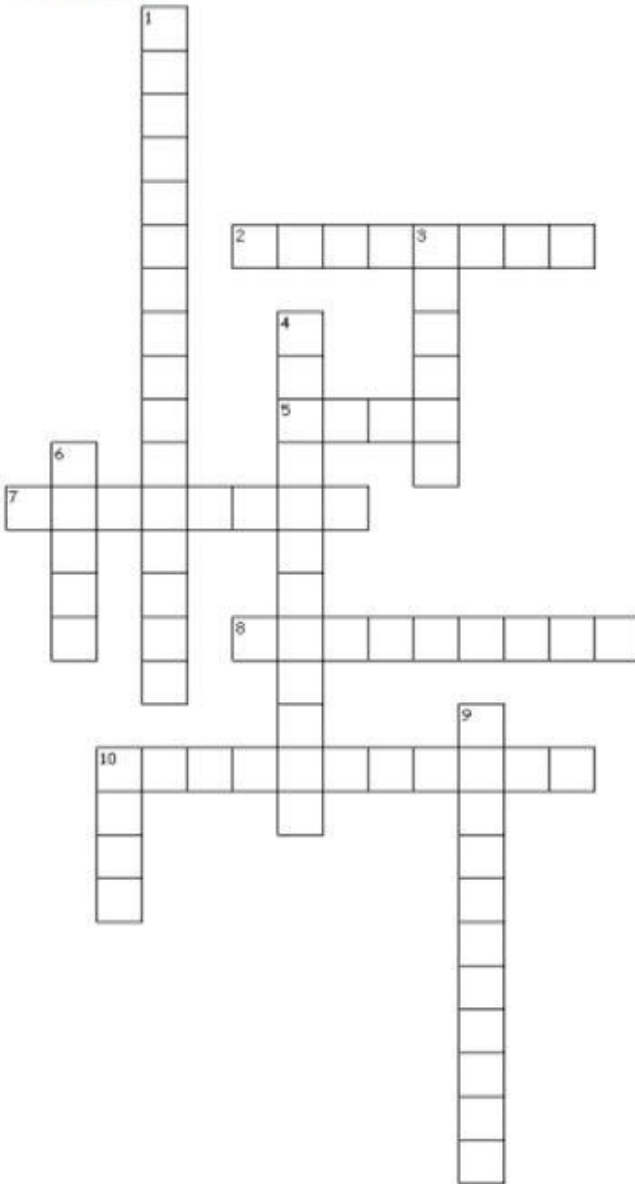
God's blessings,
Jennifer Best
Christian Education

The Reformation

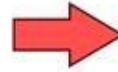


By Mr Yelland

www.SchoolHistory.co.uk

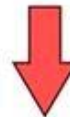


Across



2. One invention in particular helped the spread of ideas during the Reformation.
5. Luther visited which city in 1510?
7. In 1500 the majority of people belonged to which branch of religion?
8. The place where all the souls of dead people go.
10. Luther's supporters became known as?

Down




1. The list of arguments which Luther nailed to the church door in 1517 is known as?
3. This person was sent to Wittenberg to sell "Letters of Indulgence".
4. A German reformer and one of the founders of Protestantism.
6. The Bible was written in which language?
9. Certificates or letters that absolved the buyer of sin and were used by the Pope as a way of raising money.
10. The head of the Catholic Church is called?





October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Deadline Reminders: Oct. 13 – Nisua orders Oct. 13 – Memorial Candle Stand Forms Oct. 27 – All Saints Day Remembrance Forms		1 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	2 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	3 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	4 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	5 8:00 3M's 10-2 Basket Raffle
6 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	7 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	8 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	9 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	10 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	11 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	12 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
13 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	14 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:30 Finance	15 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	16 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	17 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	18 OFFICE CLOSED Echo Articles Due <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	19 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet 6:30 Youth Halloween Party
20 Children's Msg. 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service 12:30 Congregational Meeting	21 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	22 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	23 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	24 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	25 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	26 8-11 Pancake Breakfast 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet 5-7 Candy Crawl
27 Reformation Sunday (wear red) 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Monthly Mission Focus 11:00 Service	28 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	29 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	30 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	31 OFFICE CLOSED <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	 Oct. 19 – Nisua Bake Key: <i>Italics = Non-GSLC Programs & Events</i>	

Lord, we are your servants . . .

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE
10/6/2024 8:30	Mike Malys	Wes Combs	Wes Combs	Suzanne Malys	Mike Malys	
11:00		Ruth Brown		Mary Lou Moisio		
10/13/2024 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Wes Combs	Shirley and Peggy Harco	Shirley and Peggy Harco	Amy Gallagher	
11:00		Mark Lytle	Ruth Brown	Michelle Logan	Mark Lytle	
10/20/2024 8:30	Jen Best	Susan Combs	Wes & Susan Combs	Nancy Altman	Susan Combs	
11:00	Jen Best	Greg and Glenda Betteridge	Greg and Glenda Betteridge	Mary Lou Moisio	Susan Tan	
10/27/2024 8:30		Katrina Pavolino		Katrina Pavolino		
11:00						

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



NOVEMBER ALTAR GUILD: Ruth Brown, Janelle Cole, Susan Combs, Mary Lou Moisio, Katrina Pavolino

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

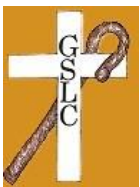
Pastoral Staff

Rev. Joshua Krenz, Pastor
gslcpastor@gwcmail.net

Office Staff

Jennifer Best, Administrative Assistant
goodshepherd@gwcmail.net

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Conneaut, OH 44030