



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

ECHO the love of Christ

We are a Christian community united in God's call
to serve others by sharing the love of Christ.

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

FEBRUARY 2025

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

We began, a while ago, talking about the Seven Deadly Sins, their definitions in three ways, and what they are, going only so far to the first Deadly Sin of Pride. I realize, now, this discussion and education would be better suited for an Adult Study forum, rather than the ECHO Newsletter. So, we are going to change gears here, and go into a different direction.

I feel, at times, we should all be reminded of what it means to be Lutheran and, specifically, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Lutheran. To begin with, let's begin with the question of what it means to be Christian. In basic terms, a Christian believes and confesses:

- The Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- A Christian believes in and confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe – Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God

fashions a new creation; the Word of God is a proclamation of God's message to us through both Law and Gospel, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed; and the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the ... written Word of God...

- A Christian accepts the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of faith.
- A Christian believes and confesses the Gospel – recorded in Holy Scripture – as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.¹

This is what it means to be Christian in our context and the context of which Christianity is taught through this congregation to all ages. How we live that out is by loving God (including all of God's creation) and loving neighbor (everyone except ourselves). But a lot of denominations have this set of beliefs and other Christian denominations have very similar beliefs. What makes us Lutheran?

To be Lutheran is to accept:

- The ... Augsburg Confession as true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the ... Augsburg Confessions,
- The other confessional writings in the Book of Concord...as further valid interpretations of the faith of the church.²

A Lutheran believes in the confession of faith, presented to the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, at the Diet (or gathering) of Augsburg in 1530; this is the Augsburg Confessions. A Lutheran believes, also, in other writings found in the Book of Concord which include nine additional credal documents (Small and Large Catechism, Formula of Concord, Apology (as in defense) of the Augsburg Confession, and more). While the Book of Concord was compiled by Jakob Andreae and Martin Chemnitz, the author of all these documents is either Philip Melancthon and/or Martin Luther. The Augsburg Confessions were written during discussion via a draft of theological views between Melancthon, Luther, and Justus Jonas, but the majority of the other

¹ GSLC Constitution Chapter 2 Sections 1-4, 7.

² GSLC Constitution Chapter 2 Sections 5-6.

documents written in the Book of Concord are authored by Martin Luther. To end the constant religious debates and controversies that arose during the time after Luther died, the Book of Concord was organized and assembled in 1580. A Lutheran accepts and ascribes to the documents within the Book of Concord as both true witness to the Gospel – the good news of God and Christ – and as doctrine (“the codification of beliefs or a body of teachings or instructions, taught principles or positions, as the essence of teachings in a given branch of knowledge or in a belief system”³). This is true for most, if not all, Lutherans around the world. Where we differ and the different sects of Lutheranism happens comes in interpretation. So, now we ask ourselves, what does it mean to be ELCA Lutheran.

You will notice the ellipsis (...) of the first bullet in What it means to be Lutheran above. Ellipses are used in English writing to indicate something was omitted – sometimes to make the point easier without going into too much detail, like in the second bullet point above, and sometimes to allow for more generic ideas. What was omitted from the first bullet point was the word “Unaltered”, because not all sects of Lutheranism believe in the Unaltered Augsburg

Confessions. The ELCA believes and accepts in the Unaltered Augsburg Confessions that were presented in 1530 which differs from a later version of the Augsburg Confessions which were written to foster peace between the followers of Martin Luther and the followers of John Calvin. The difference is minor in a few of the articles with the most discussed difference is Article 10 regarding the presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper – Holy Communion. The second largest Lutheran denomination in the United States – the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) – accepts this Altered Augsburg Confessions. While the general theology is similar regarding the mystery of Holy Communion, the particulars differ. The major difference between the ELCA and the LCMS involves Holy Scripture.

To be an ELCA Lutheran, we believe and accept that Holy Scripture is the Word of God. However, those pesky ellipses showed up in the second bullet of the meaning of being a Christian. Christians believe that the Holy Scripture – Old and New Testament – is the written Word of God. Where we differ is the belief that Holy Scripture either inerrant (without errors or faults or cannot be wrong) or errant (with errors or faults or can be wrong). (A better word than

errant might be imperfect.) The LCMS believe that Holy Scripture is inerrant – incapable of being wrong⁴, that the bible is without errors or faults in its teaching and that the inspiration of the Holy Spirit allowed the writers to write the direct Word of God. However, this also means that Holy Scripture is without contradictions and material errors. The ELCA believes Holy Scripture is imperfect, that the writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit, but some of their bias or own humanity went into their writings. As such, as humans are not God and therefore imperfect beings, contradictions and material errors are present. Inerrancy also leads to the inability of Biblical criticism and then leads to biblical truthfulness regardless of other “truths” that exist in the world. However, thinking of Holy Scripture as imperfect and inspired Word of God allows critical thinking, viewing Scripture through the lens of different situations, accepting the other “truths” of the world.

This, of course, leads to the question of biblical truth regarding creation. While both the ELCA and the LCMS do not directly answer the question, the LCMS does believe in a more literal six (6) twenty-four (24) hour period of creation with Adam and Eve being “real, historic human beings, the first two people in the

³[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogma#:~:text=Doctrine%20\(from%20Latin%3A%20doctrina%2C,or%20in%20a%20belief%20system.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dogma#:~:text=Doctrine%20(from%20Latin%3A%20doctrina%2C,or%20in%20a%20belief%20system.)

⁴ Google Dictionary – inerrant.

world”⁵. The ELCA, on the other hand, neither confesses or rejects the six (6) twenty-four (24) hour period of creation but does allow for scientific theories or data, “[the ELCA] does not pronounce on the correctness of scientific theories or data. It does believe its members in their callings as scientists, technicians, and educated citizens should do so, though!”⁶ This pastor, I, believe in evolution, especially evolution of the human being. I also believe that we are created in the image of God and that God has had a hand in our creation during evolution. I also believe that we are, through God, constantly being made new, as

written in Revelation, “And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’”⁷

So, what does it mean to be ELCA Lutheran? Believe in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, accept the imperfectness of Holy Scripture, believe in Jesus the Christ as the Word of God, true Son of God, and God incarnate through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions new creation, and accept the Unaltered Augsburg Confessions and the Book of Concord. That’s basically it. Other than the belief in the Triune God, the ELCA doesn’t say you have to believe

one way about one thing or another. There are scientists, scholars, theologians, people far smarter than I who are members of ELCA church who cannot agree. What matters, and what matters the most to the ELCA, is the belief in the Triune God and worship of the Triune God – all else is human failings and human failings to understand (or really explain) who, what, where is God.

Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Big Churchy Word



Processions, liturgical (Lat. *Pro-cedure*, “to proceed”) Movement by people from place to place as religious actions within a worship service.⁸

Processional cross The cross carried during a liturgical procession.

Candlelighter The stick with wick and snuffer used to light and extinguish the liturgical candles on the altar, the Christ Candle, and the Advent Wreath (when present).

So, some of these definitions are not from any source, but they are important things to know, and

important terms used within this church.

Good Shepherd has gone away from formal processing (the verb of processions) for a few reasons:

1. There are usually not enough worship servants to process with the items we would process with;

⁵ <https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs/faqs/lcms-views#bible>

⁶ *Faith and Science*, “Ask a Scientist: Questions and Answers about Faith and Science”, elca.org.

⁷ Revelation 21:5, NRSV.

⁸ McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

2. There are usually no processions during a contemporary service as processions are seen as a more traditional and High-Church act;
3. Processions are timely and take logistical organization.

However, while Good Shepherd has gone away from formal processing, it hasn't died out completely here in this church. During Palm/Passion Sunday, it is customary to gather in the Narthex and process into the sanctuary. During Vigil of Easter, it is customary to gather outside at the new fire, process into the Fellowship Hall, then process into the sanctuary. Thus, these processions happen for the Higher Church times in our worship calendar ... but I'd be open to and willing to have more processions throughout the church year, provided #1 is covered.

Here's what you need for a true processional (and order does matter in this case):

1. Crucifer – churchy word we will get to probably next month
2. Acolyte – dido
3. Choir – if present

4. Assisting Minister
5. Pastor

*Processing into the sanctuary with only the Assisting Minister and Pastor is not really a procession, even if the Assisting Minister acts as the Crucifer.

We do, however, practice informal processions in this church. When the ushers bring the offering plates and the bread and wine from the rear of the nave to the chancel, that is an informal liturgical procession. And when the Assisting Minister and the Pastor leave during the sending song/hymn, that is also an informal liturgical procession (often called recession to differentiate from procession when worship planning).

As with all things in life, the cross goes in front⁹ with the processional cross, then the candle lighter, and so on and so forth following the order above. The cross is carried before all like a standard – a flag containing coat of arms or personal identification – to show we belong to Christ and that Christ is coming into the sanctuary. When the processional cross gets to the chancel, it

acts like the king's scepter of the United Kingdom Parliament (the business can officially and formally happen). In times before churches had permanent crosses within their worship space, the processional cross was the only cross able to be seen by the public.

The candle is brought in to symbolize the light of Christ coming into the sanctuary. During a recession, the candles are extinguished except for the last one – usually the Christ candle – where the candle lighter is relit then the last candle is extinguished with the candle lighter taking the light of Christ back into the world. In times before electricity when candles were the only means of lighting a room, the candles on the altar, lectern, pulpit, were all lit by the single candle lighter to illuminate the chancel to be able to see the worship service. In these times, there were no Bic™ lighters or matches and often times the candle lighter was lit from the Eternal Flame – which sometimes I do when lighting the candles that need to be lit for the Sunday service.

⁹ There is a person who goes before the cross with the incense.

TREASURER'S REPORT
DECEMBER 2024

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	GENERAL FUND	BALANCE AS OF	31-Dec-24					\$8,948
2	MONTH	OFFERING INCOME	OTHER INCOME	YTD INCOME	%ESTIMATE BUDGETED REVENUE	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	% ESTIMATED OPERATING COST
3	January	\$ 10,527	\$ 369	\$ 10,896	68.2%	\$ 18,756	\$ 18,756	114.8%
4	February	\$ 15,228	\$ 508	\$ 26,632	81.9%	\$ 16,885	\$ 35,641	105.7%
5	March	\$ 10,184	\$ 1,263	\$ 38,079	76.6%	\$ 15,319	\$ 50,961	103.3%
6	April	\$ 11,021	\$ 1,006	\$ 50,106	76.5%	\$ 18,836	\$ 69,797	108.4%
7	May	\$ 7,233	\$ 375	\$ 57,714	70.9%	\$ 13,381	\$ 83,179	100.6%
8	June	\$ 10,063	\$ 225	\$ 68,003	70.0%	\$ 15,481	\$ 98,660	100.8%
9	July	\$ 7,776	\$ 225	\$ 76,004	67.3%	\$ 14,960	\$ 113,619	100.8%
10	August	\$ 9,124	\$ 225	\$ 85,352	66.3%	\$ 12,514	\$ 126,133	97.5%
11	September	\$ 9,340	\$ 225	\$ 94,917	65.6%	\$ 16,033	\$ 142,166	98.4%
12	October	\$ 7,759	\$ 225	\$ 102,902	64.1%	\$ 12,786	\$ 154,952	96.8%
13	November	\$ 6,890	\$ 775	\$ 110,567	62.7%	\$ 12,481	\$ 167,433	93.9%
14	December	\$ 11,131	\$ 735	\$ 122,434	63.3%	\$ 15,019	\$ 182,452	94.1%
15	Need \$15,622 ea Mo.	\$187,465/year		\$ (71,071)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ (11,504)	
16							11/30/2024	12/31/2024
17	Capital Improvement Endowment Fund						\$ 964,146	\$ 951,663
18	<i>Money Market Fund</i>							
	Family Center Endowment Fund Balance						\$ 40,109	\$ 39,223
20								
21	Mission & Education Endowment Fund						\$ 124,560	\$ 123,194
22								
23	Thrivent Fund						\$ 14,517	\$ 14,517
24								14,530
25	Capital Improvement						\$ -	\$ -
26								
27	Youth Missions Fund						\$ 10,653	\$ 10,653
28								
29	Abiding Memorial						\$ 6,958	\$ 6,609
30								
31	Detroit Street						\$ 1,960	\$ 1,885
32								
33	Sandusky St						\$ 10,128	\$ 9,282
34								
35	Reserve Account						\$ -	\$ -
36								
37		10% Biblical Tithe to Synod						\$ -
38								
39								
41								

Stacy Racut, Treasurer

February Birthdays



Chuck Anthony
Shirley Brookhouser
Bradley Gauvin
Sonny Heinonen

Jim Monday
Cindy Nelson
Heidi Parkomaki

Sophia Poff
Stacy Racut
Mary Vidmar



ATTENDANCE

12/22	62
12/24	78
12/25	15
12/29	37
1/5	42
1/12	56
1/19	44

Prayer and visitation requests may be submitted in the box in the Narthex or box in the airlock by the offices, using the cards provided.

PRAYER

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.



Keep Everyone Informed

Committees, groups, and ministries: Share your news here! Keep the congregation informed of all the wonderful things you're planning, how past events went, and invite them to join in the fun. Submit information for this publication to Kelly Anthony by the 20th of each month; email klanthony@gwcm.net.

NEWS & UPDATES



FEBRUARY 1, 2025
DOORS OPEN AT 5, **BINGO STARTS AT 6:30 SHARP**
COST \$45
water, coffee, and meal provided (BYOB)

TICKETS AVAILABLE DURING OFFICE HOURS or QR code



\$7 cash
\$9 digital/ credit card

Nisua Bake February 15th
Volunteers Welcome
Order on or before February 9th



Rounds of bowling
(includes shoes),
pizza & soda!

February 22nd 6:30pm
El Camp Lanes

\$10 per person*. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.
Sign up is encouraged, so we order enough lanes and food for everyone.



Every 3rd Sunday of the month
Sept-May during worship services



Every 4th Sunday of the month at 10am

All are welcome to attend.

Coming up in 2025:

- Mar 2nd: Easter Candy Fundraiser Starts (pick up on Easter day)
- Mar 5th: Ash Wednesday service 12pm and 7pm; soup at 6pm
- Mar 12th: Weekly Lent Services start- 7pm; soup & sandwich at 6pm
- Mar 9th: Pajama Party 12:30pm (wear pj's to church)
- Apr 5th: Swimming at the Y
- Apr 6th: Flower Fundraiser Starts (pick up on Mother's day)
- Apr 13th-19th: Holy Week
- Apr 20th: Easter (No Christian Ed. Classes)
- Apr 21st: Offices closed

"Like" & "Follow" us on
Facebook to get notifications
& stay up-to-date!

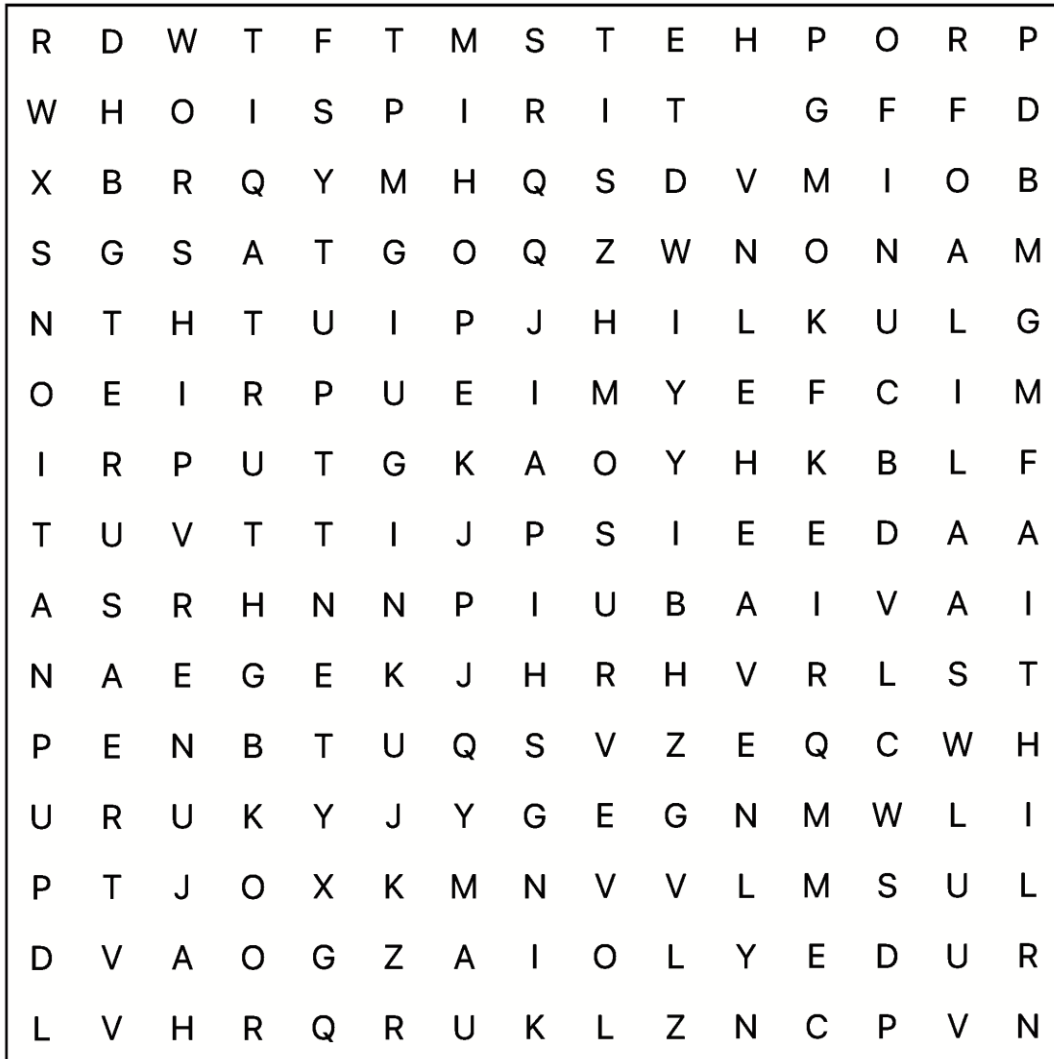
Volunteer Opportunity:



**Organize the
Archive Room**

See Pastor for more info

CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR



KING
NATIONS
WORSHIP
BENJAMIN
DONKEYS

GIBEAH
SPIRIT
KINGSHIP
TREASURE
FAITH

HOPE
LOVE
TRUTH
HEAVENLY
PROPHETS

Committee News

Christian Education

In January, our monthly lesson is "Like a Boss". It reviews how Jesus leads by serving, and we are called to do the same. A summary of the theme will be covered in the next children's message on February 16th during the services. February 23rd, we'll learn about our finance ministries for the Monthly Ministry Focus. All are welcome to join us!

February 1st will be the Purse Bingo. Our bowling event will be February 22nd at 6:30. Join us for

a few rounds and some pizza! Cost is \$10.

For all Sunday School events that have a cost, anyone who attends worship at least once a month, will get 50% off the cost. Any of their friends and family that they bring will get 25% off the cost. Anyone from outside the church with no direct ties who want to join, will pay the full price. (Example: Luna would pay \$5, since she goes to church at least once a month. If Luna brings her friend from school who hasn't been to

church, that friend would pay \$7.50. If someone sees it on Facebook who has not come to church and wants to join, they would pay \$10.) If you have questions, please ask me or Pastor Josh.

We'll have a Marianne's candy sale starting March 2nd through April 6th. Orders can be picked up April 15th, 16th, 17th (during office hours), and 20th (before/after Easter Sunday services).

God's blessings,
Jennifer Best
Christian Education



Volunteer Opportunities

3Ms: Member's Maintenance Ministry – Pitch in a few hours a month to help preserve the maintenance and beauty of our church. All skill levels welcome!

Fishes & Loaves – Volunteers are always welcome to assist with the free lunches and food pantry. Hours are Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. For food emergencies, call 440-381-1018.

Hospitality Ministry – Volunteers welcomed to serve hospitality after each service. It doesn't take much, a plate of cookies from the store and a jug of juice will do. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Make a joyful noise and share your musical talents! Join the choir and/or bell choir. You'll be glad you did! Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

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



February 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet 5:00 Purse Bingo
2 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	3 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	4 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	5 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	6 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	7 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	8 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
9 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	10 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	11 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	12 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	13 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	14 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	15 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet Nisua Bake
16 Children's Msg. 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service 12:30 Congre- gation Meeting	17 Echo Articles Due <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	18 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	19 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	20 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	21 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	22 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet 6:30 Bowling at El Camp Lanes
23 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Monthly Mission Focus - Budget 11:00 Service	24 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	25 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	26 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	27 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	28 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	

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

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE	HOSPITALITY
2/2/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino			Rich Tulino		
11:00	Paul Mechling	Jo Mechling		Mary Lou Moisio	Paul Mechling		
2/9/2025 8:30		Katrina Pavolino					
11:00		Mark Lytle			Mark Lytle		
2/16/2025 8:30	Jen Best	Katrina Pavolino		Nancy Altman			
11:00	Jen Best				Susan Tan		
2/23/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino		Katrina Pavolino	Rich Tulino		
11:00		Glenda Betteridge	Greg & Glenda Betteridge	Mary Lou Moisio	Greg Betteridge		

JANUARY-Feb 9th
ALTAR GUILD:
 Robin Bryant, Barb Talan,
 Katrina Pavolino



FEBRUARY 14-March 30
ALTAR GUILD:
 Ruth Brown, Susan Tan,
 Katrina Pavolino

*Serving from
 the Heart*

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

876 Grove Street
Conneaut, OH 44030
440-599-8908 / www.gslcc.org

Worship Times

Sunday 8:30 Contemporary
Sunday 11:00 Traditional
Holy Communion at all services

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday – 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

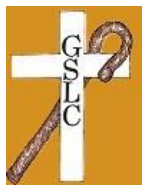
Pastoral Staff

Rev. Joshua Krenz, Pastor
gslcpastor@gwcmail.net

Office Staff

Jennifer Best, Administrative Assistant
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*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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