



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

JANUARY 2025

From the thoughts of the pastor ...

Happy New Year everyone. I hope 2025 is a blessed and God filled year for you all.

I was going to continue the discussion on the Seven Deadly Sins this month with the discussion of Envy, but something else drives inside of me, a kind of repeat from the January 2023 ECHO with a little twist. I began writing about Envy and the definitions and trying to explain the difference between envy and jealousy and covetousness, but I feel more of a draw to something else – another topic – that we all think about this time of year.

Many of us talk with each other about RESOLUTIONS in the new year; what resolution(s) are you making. They are sometimes the standard ones: eat healthier, lose weight, pay off debts, be nicer, etc. But what about spiritual resolutions, and not a resolution to go to church more often or pray more, but a resolution to let God influence your life (notice I didn't say influence your life more). How about a resolution to just let God influence your life.

We might say, "well, God does influence my life." I'm a pastor, a spiritual leader, and only sometimes do I know God influences my life; only sometimes do I let God influence my life. How many of us

look at the person on the street corner – or try not to make eye contact – and just pray for the light to change so we can move on? How many of us look at our financial situation and the privileges and pleasures we have and have been granted and think, I can't give up anything to give to the church more. We had a congregational meeting in June of 2024 to discuss the financial situation of the church, and a very contentious meeting in December of 2024 because we continue to be in financial turmoil. How many of us let God enter our ears and our hearts to give up a privilege or pleasure; to take what we would have spent on the privilege or pleasure and spend it in the church? We let God influence our lives when we agree with God and we don't want God to influence our financial situation – don't want God to influence our money – because we want control.

That's another word that I've been thinking about recently, CONTROL. I ask myself, "do I really have control?" I could blame certain spending on the manic phases of my mental health; I could blame certain spending on the excuse to benefit a local business; I could blame my health on the food I eat and even blame the food I eat on the convenience and ease of less healthy options or the time to make a healthy meal or the left-overs or

the tiredness when I get home (all of which I have used in the past). We can blame a lot of things on a lot of things and say to ourselves we don't have control. And it's true, we really don't have control...we don't have control of anything in our lives. This is a scary thought for us humans who have a strong desire to be in control. And so, we take control of where we can – our giving of time, talents, and treasures; of giving our resources. But what takes the hardest hits when we try to take control? What suffers the most when we take control? Our neighbors are hit the hardest, suffer the repercussions, when we take control, especially when we take control of our giving to the church to do ministry.

The church is solely funded by its people. Some denominations have larger church bodies fund individual churches – though that practice is starting to die; and there is a negative effect of that funding, such as doing less mission work in the country and around the world, having a pastor/priest being forced on a congregation which may be harmful to the congregation or the pastor/priest, doing less with what is given to the denomination. The ELCA, the larger church body Good Shepherd belongs to, has a huge global impact with feeding the hungry, helping after a disaster, bringing the gospel of Jesus to the

people in many ways. If the ELCA funded individual congregations, the impact of the gospel in the world would be negative, which would bring the question, why even be a church at all if not for the neighbor. We cannot let our neighbors suffer because we want to control what we have – time, talents, and treasure; that is a very inward and selfish view of the gospel. Jesus did come to give you salvation and justification, but Jesus also came to give your neighbor salvation and justification; the church does not exist for any one person to control or dictate what resources are used within the congregation.

Therefore, as we begin the year 2025, and as we make resolutions, an invitation: Let Go and Let God. Let go of trying to control your time, talents, and treasures, let go of trying to limit the expanse God is, let go of thinking Jesus is just for you and let God be God. Let God influence what you do with your time, talents, and treasures, let God reach the absolute limits of God’s expanse, let God use you to bring the news of Jesus and the salvation and justification of Jesus to every person. Let God influence your life at all times and in all places; let God be that little voice in the back of your head that asks you if you really need that certain pleasure; let God be in control of your actions and your words.

This place, this church of Good Shepherd, needs to be a place where all can feel welcome and safe and at peace. In this new year, as we let God influence us, maybe we should reflect on why Good Shepherd is our home. The mantra of 2023 remains to this day: because we’ve always done it is not a reason. Resolve in 2025 to let God be in control and influence all that you do.

Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



The Big Churchy Word

There are two words that I use during the invitation to communion when we have one Communion Assistant. I will say which side we will begin with, either Pulpit or Lectern. Let us look into these Churchy Words.

Pulpit (Lat. *Pulpitum*, “platform”) The elevated place in which the preacher stands to deliver a sermon.¹

Lectern (Lat. *Legere*, “to read”) A stand or desk that holds the Bible for public reading.²

Ambo (ambon) (Gr. *Ambōn*, “raised edge, rim”) A structure, often surrounded by a parapet and stairs, from which the reading of the Gospel was done at medieval eucharistic worship services.³

At Good Shepherd, we don’t have a traditional Ambo, but in other churches the place where people read the lessons, the gospel, and

preach the sermon is free standing and a singular place. It could be said, during the outside worship services, the music stand we use to read from, and I preach from, is an ambo...maybe. A traditional ambo is more like a podium like those speakers give speeches from; they are more mobile and come in a variety of materials from wood to acrylic to plastic to metal. Like many things in the church, a piece of furniture has many names, one in the secular world and one in the

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

Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

sacred world. Thus, an ambo is a podium in a church.

But a lectern and a pulpit are different. Traditionally, the lectern and pulpits are fixed in place. At Good Shepherd, the lectern is on the right, as you face the chancel, and the pulpit is on the left. The lectern usually doesn't have any surround around it where the pulpit is somewhat enclosed. The lectern usually holds the bible for the reading in the assembly. At Good Shepherd, our readers read from the lectern. In some churches, rather than the bible, the lectern holds the lectionary – the collection of bible readings in worship (this is the book read for the gospel reading before the sermon). In traditional settings, the lection-ary is always kept on the lectern as it is treated the same as a bible, which should never be hidden or out of sight. However, with the updated translations of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Holy Bible, the lectionary we have is out of date, hence why what I read from the lectionary of the gospel does not always match what is on the screens or in the bulletin, and why the readers read from printed pages. If the NRSV Updated Edition (NRSVUE) is put into a lectionary, and if we – the church/congregation – deem it an appropriate expense and if the readers can read the type, we might consider returning to a lectionary book. But what matters here is the lectern is the place where the scriptures are read to the congregation.

The pulpit is different. The pulpit is normally raised to allow both audible and visual access. Before

the advent of amplification of sound (microphones and speakers), the voice of the preacher was the limiting factor on how well the congregation could hear what the preacher was saying.

In the old church (around the time of Luther say) the elites would purchase their seats close to the pulpit, giving them the best chance to hear the preacher and the lesson of that preacher. The common people would sit further back, and the poor would sit (or probably more likely stand) in the far back, less likely to hear the lesson. Churches tried to make it better by elevating the pulpit – allowed for greater audio projection – and, later, added a canopy which – despite common conception – was not to keep the preacher dry rather to act like a sounding board to reflect the sound out and down; even some of the decoration on the pulpit was done for acoustical effect. Some of the most beautiful pulpits in European churches have these canopies.

As New World churches are built, the technology and practice of acoustics was implemented to lessen the need for these ornate pulpits and canopies. Lower ceilings and materials like wood, carpet or firs, were used to help lessen the reverberations of sounds and echoes in the church worship space. This can be experienced at Good Shepherd by having a normal conversation with someone in the Fellowship Hall and continuing that conversation in the sanctuary; you will notice a difference in reverberation and might even hear the other more clearly. One might lessen the volume of the conversation in the sanctuary, not

only out of reverence, but out of need. Furthermore, sloped ceilings have the effect of channeling the sound back down to the congregation. An old New World church will have more of a upside down boat shape than a modern (post amplification) church. All this technology and practices and knowledge of the past, led to pulpits more like the ones we have today where the decoration is merely decoration, and no canopy is needed.

Pulpits and lecterns function basically the same, a place to set your readings down allowing you to speak verbally and with your hands to the congregation. Lecterns have traditionally been less ornate, less decorated than pulpits. Lecterns are usually the place where the non-gospel readings are said – the “Epistle side”, where the lay people (historically) were allowed. (Historically, the pulpit was only for use of the clergy.) Pulpits are the place where the clergy reads the gospel – the “Gospel side” and preaches the sermon. Pulpits were ornately designed for both looks and auditory reasons but have now returned to a simpler design. Pulpits are remembered throughout history like the pulpit of Luther in Wittenberg or the pulpit in Canterbury Cathedral or the pulpit of the Basilica of Saint Clotilde in Paris. What matters between either the lectern or the pulpit is the use of these to read, teach, preach, the word of God. That can happen with an ordinary music stand or highly decorated place. Reading, speaking, teaching the word of God is why both the lectern and the pulpit exist.

TREASURER'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 2024

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	GENERAL FUND	BALANCE AS OF	30-Nov-24					\$12,864
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							
15	Need \$15,622 ea Mo.	\$187,465/year		\$ (65,675)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ (10,892)	
16							10/31/2024	11/30/2024
17	Capital Improvement Endowment Fund						\$ 950,200	\$ 964,146
18	<i>Money Market Fund</i>							
19	Family Center Endowment Fund Balance						\$ 38,654	\$ 40,109
20								
21	Mission & Education Endowment Fund						\$ 122,289	\$ 124,560
22								
23	Thrivent Fund						\$ 14,517	\$ 14,517
24								
25	Capital Improvement						\$ -	\$ -
26								
27	Youth Missions Fund						\$ 10,653	\$ 10,653
28								
29	Abiding Memorial						\$ 7,793	\$ 6,958
30								
31	Detroit Street						\$ 1,960	\$ 1,960
32								
33	Sandusky St						\$ 2,992	\$ 10,128
34								
35	Reserve Account						\$ -	\$ -
36								
37		10% Biblical Tithe to Synod						\$ -
38								
39				<i>Stacy Racut, Treasurer</i>				
40								
41								

January Birthdays



Gail Burlingham
 Kris Cameron
 Wes Combs
 Alison Hathy

Kevin Manniko
 Paislee Murtha
 Mark Owens
 Carol Silis

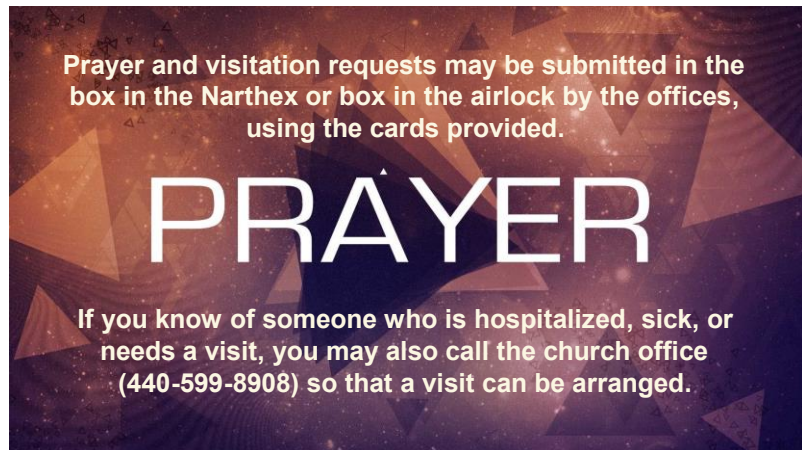
Deborah Sturtevant
 Beth Vendetti
 RaeAnn Wright



ATTENDANCE

11/24	56
12/1	N/A*
12/8	55
12/15	54

*Level 3 snow emergency



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.

NEWS & UPDATES

QUILT RAFFLE

Tickets:
1 for \$1 6 for \$5 14 for \$10

Order through the office
or through the Square link

Next drawing Jan. 26th



WHAT IS
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?
MONTHLY MINISTRY FOCUS:
WORSHIP
Sunday, January 26, 10am
All are welcome to attend.

Coming up in 2025:

- Feb 1st: Purse Bingo
- Feb 22nd: Bowling at El Camp Lanes
- 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
"Like" & "Follow" us on Facebook to get notifications & stay up-to-date!
- Apr 20th: Easter (No Christian Ed. Classes)
- Apr 21st: Offices closed



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



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.

Volunteer Opportunity:



**Organize the
Archive Room**

See Pastor for more info



**WORSHIP SERVICES will only be
CANCELED if there is a LEVEL 3
SNOW EMERGENCY**

The OFFICES will be
CLOSED if the
Schools are CLOSED

THE OUR FATHER PRAYER

My name is _____



**Our Father who
art in**

_____ ,

Hallowed be Thy

_____ .



Thy

**come, Thy
Will be done,**



on _____

as it is in Heaven.

**Give us this
day our daily**

_____ ;



**and
forgive
us our
trespasses,
as we**



those

who _____ **against us; and lead us not into**

_____ , **but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Committee News

Christian Education

In January, our monthly lesson is "King Me". It reviews Chapters 8, 9, 10, 13-16 of 1 Samuel and the events that unfold during the first years of Israel's monarchy. We learn that even though there are earthly rulers, God is the true king. A summary of the theme will be covered in the next children's message on January 19th during the services. January 26th, we'll learn about worship ministry and stewardship for the Monthly Ministry Focus. All are welcome to join us!

We had a very successful Christmas Party. Thank you for all the volunteers and to all who came!

February 1st will be the Purse Bingo. Tickets are on sale now.

Evangelism

The Evangelism Team would like to thank everyone in the church who has supported us through time, talents and treasures. If not for your support, we wouldn't be able to continue this mission.

Quilting

Quilt Raffle Tickets are on sale now for the January Raffle: 1 for \$1, 6 for \$5, 14 for \$10. Order through the office Monday -

We only have 119 more tickets available, so get them before they sell out.



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, any child who attends Sunday School and 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 we're charged. Adult prices will be the same, with the exception that you don't need to attend Sunday School. (Example: if El Camps normally charges \$15, but they discount us to \$10—Luna would pay \$5, since she goes to Sunday School and church at least once a month. If Luna brings her friend from school who hasn't been to church or Sunday school, that friend would pay \$7.50. If someone sees it on Facebook who has not come to church or Sunday School and wants to join, they would pay \$10.) If you have questions, please ask me or Pastor Josh.

God's blessings,
Jennifer Best
Christian Education

Thank you to all those who took the feathers. We were able to serve 10 families. We are collaborating with Christian Ed. on Purse Bingo and Bowling.

Spa Day will be May 17th. There may be more events to come. See

the ECHO and announcements for updates.

Many Blessings,
Evangelism Team

Thursday 8:30-1:30, or online using the link below:

<https://checkout.square.site/.../REQOJNBVFC3GAXCHXCBT3SAK>

The drawing will be January 26th. Also, quilts are available for purchase at \$40 each.

Many Blessings,
Quilting Team



January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> OFFICES CLOSED	2 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	3 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	4 8:00 3M's
5 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	6 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	7 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	8 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	9 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	10 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	11 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
12 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	13 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	14 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	15 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	16 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	17 OFFICE CLOSED Echo Articles Due <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	18 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
19 Children's Msg. 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	20 Echo Articles Due <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	21 Annual Reports Due 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	22 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> <i>1:00-6:00 Blood Drive</i>	23 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	24 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	25 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
26 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Monthly Mission Focus 11:00 Service Quilt Drawing	27 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	28 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	29 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	30 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	31 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	Purse Bingo February 1

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

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE	HOSPITALITY
1/5/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino			Rich Tulino		
11:00				Mary Lou Moisio			
1/12/2025 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino	Shirley and Peggy Harco	Shirley and Peggy Harco	Amy Gallagher		
11:00		Mark Lytle			Mark Lytle		
1/19/2025 8:30	Jen Best	Katrina Pavolino		Nancy Altman			
11:00	Jen Best			Barb Talan	Susan Tan		
1/26/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino		Katrina Pavolino	Rich Tulino		
11:00							

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD:

Please volunteer;
See Ruth Brown or Jen



FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD:

Please volunteer;
See Ruth Brown or Jen

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