



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

MARCH 2025

From the thoughts of the pastor...

Last month, we talked about what it means to be a Christian, a Lutheran, and an ELCA Lutheran. We learned that a Christian believes in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – the three creeds of the church – Nicene, Apostles', and Athanasian – believes and confesses the Gospel as the power of God and believes and confesses that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Savior. One thing I forgot to mention, and probably a big thing to forget, was a Christian believes in the resurrection of Christ. While this is within the three creeds, this point is one of those points that is the quintessential points of a Christian – that Jesus Christ died, buried, and rose from the dead. This is what it means to be Christian. Unfortunately, our name as Christian has received some terrible marks against it, usually become of a few people who use their soap boxes and megaphones for attention, who don't act like a Christian or like a Christian should act.

Religion is all about interpretations about both what is seen and not seen. For the Christian religion, it is about the interpretations of the Triune God's words actions and this person of Jesus and his teachings and actions; usually the interpretations focus on the teachings. Two people can take the same bit of scripture and interpret in two different ways. For example: the shortest verse in Holy Scripture is John 11:35, "Jesus began to weep" according to the New Revised Standard Version. One person might interpret this verse as Jesus weeping for the loss of his friend like we would weep for the loss of our friend. Another person might interpret this verse as Jesus weeping for the grief of the people, weeping because of the sadness around him. Both are valid interpretations, but, at the same time, both are completely different as to why Jesus weeps. Both have context to support the interpretations and so a religion (or really subset of the religion – denomination) is formed.

This is how we have many different denominations of Christians in the world and in this country. Unfortunately, instead of finding the denomination that we agree with in our hearts, how we interpret Holy Scripture – and you do not have to be a biblical scholar to interpret scripture – we choose a denomination that aligns with our views on society; this is politics – interpretation of views on society. I've said it and now I write it: your politics should not influence your faith; your faith should influence your politics. The interpretation of society should not be the lens of which you interpret and read Holy Scripture, the way you read Holy Scripture and try to understand what it says should be the way you see and understand society.

Holy Scripture writes in the Gospel of Luke, "[Jesus says] But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you...Do to others as you would have them do to you."¹ At the same time, in the Gospel of Matthew, "[Jesus says] 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'" But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."²

¹ Luke 6:27, 31, NRSV.

² Matthew 5:43-44, NRSV.

And, finally, in the Gospel of John, “[Jesus says] ‘I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.’”³

Three times in Holy Scripture does Jesus tell us to love either our neighbor and/or our enemies. And yet, we interpret this scripture – or flat out ignore it – to say, “I love you, but not you; I love you who look and think and act like me and agree with me, but not you who look and think and act differently than me and disagree with me.” Is this not the case, now in our world and especially in our country? “If you don’t agree with me or don’t think the way I think or you look different than me or have a different status than me, you are the enemy and I should hate you, make laws against you and your living, cast you out into the land of danger, the land of death, the wilderness.” This is what is happening in our world and our country today. Both “sides” are guilty – “a plague o’ both your houses!”⁴

This is where Christians are encouraged to step in, to preach and teach against the ones who say one group of people is an enemy. We don’t because we are afraid of making people upset, afraid of people leaving our church, afraid that we might have to make a sacrifice; or the real reason, because we are afraid of losing people’s offerings (their money). How many times do we say, “we need more people to come to church” and we mean, “we need more people to give money (*secretly* because I don’t want to give more)”. How honest are we, especially as Christians, when we don’t preach and teach against the ones who support hate, violence, division, separation? We are disingenuous – insincere, pretending – in our vocation, in our beliefs, in our creed when we claim to be Christian but talk about hate, violence, division, separation or those who support and talk about hate, violence, division, and separation. We are false disciples when we say “love our neighbor” but don’t act it. Words are cheap, action takes courage.

To take action doesn’t require formal education, doesn’t require a podium or lectern or pulpit, doesn’t require a soap box or a megaphone or a cable news network. To take action doesn’t even require an audience. All it takes is courage – courage to stand up for what you believe; courage to think about what Holy Scripture is saying to you; courage to listen to the Holy Spirit and follow where it draws you. Jesus says, “‘if anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also...’”⁵ meaning do not return violence with violence – albeit violence with words or violence with actions. If someone says to you, “you are wrong for loving ‘those people’”, say to them, “I love as Jesus commanded to love, and I love you too.” After all, God loves us beyond all measure, beyond everything and anything that we could possibly imagine, beyond the beyond. This is the message we believe, the message in our creeds and in our scripture; this is the message that should be said when we claim ourselves as Christian – that God loves all people beyond the beyond, who are we to say otherwise.

Amen+

السلام عليكم
(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz
The Reverend Joshua Krenz

³ John 13:34-35, NRSV.

⁴ *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare. Act 3 Scene 1.

⁵ Luke 6:29a, NRSV.

The Big Churchy Word



Pews (Lat. *Podia*, pl. of *podium*, “raised place,” “balcony”) Traditionally, straight-backed wooden benches arranged in rows for seating in churches.⁶

Hymn Board The board traditionally hung toward the front of the sanctuary (and in the middle for larger naves) with the hymn numbers of the service.

Missal Stand The stand on the altar where the Missal book would rest.

This month, we finish our list of Church Words regarding furniture. At Good Shepherd, our nave in the sanctuary is full of pews and are the common seating furniture for a more traditional worship space – Corpus Christi, Amboy United Methodist, and First Congregational United Church of Christ also has pews. But the word “pew” is not only for the sacred world as Deacon (and Judge) Nick Iarocci often calls the gallery seating in the courtroom pews as well, and some other judges call the seating pews as well. But, when people think of the word pew, they think of a religious place – a worship space.

Pews haven’t always been the “furniture of choice” in sanctuaries. For the most part, “Churches were not commonly furnished with permanent pews before the Protestant Reformation” according to the Wikipedia page on pews.⁷ It was during the Protestant Reformation where the sermon became a more integral part and almost focus point of the service. (Luckily, this has changed to the Sacrament of the Altar – Holy Communion – is now the focus point of the service.) The sermon was the time for the general public to hear and help understand Holy Scripture. Before the Protestant Reformation, and printing press, a bible was hugely expensive and in Latin, which most people couldn’t understand let alone read. Thus, the sermon was their chance to hear scripture and get a learned interpretation; and because reformation pastors spoke for a long time, people needed to sit down. (Just imagine if you had to stand for my sermons; mine are about 1/3 the length of a reformation sermon.)

As pews began to grow in popularity, more and more congregations wanted pews and with the Protestants moving to North America, they wanted their new churches to have pews. But back then, just as today, pews were expensive. As such, some of the congregants would fund a pew, even considering them their personal property.⁸ This is where we get the idea of “my pew” or “my family’s pew” in our churches today. (I can’t remember where I heard this, probably during internship in Pennsylvania, but I recall a story of someone putting in their will their pew at a church as pews were handed down through the generations.) Churches didn’t subdue this thought and this practice rather kept records of whose

⁶ McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pew>

⁸ Ibid.

pew is whom through the use of *pew deeds*. People would also help fund the church – for either construction or operation – with the promise from the church of a pew deed.

Before sound amplification, even with the acoustical advancement in church and pulpit construction (see January 2025 ECHO) the closer you sat to the front, the more you would hear, and the then belief, the closer you were to God. So, the pews and the pew deeds towards the front of the nave (closer to the chancel and the pastor/minister) were more expensive; sometimes these pews were more elaborate and even more comfortable. And, where you sat was also a status symbol and part of the social hierarchy.

Today, the church pew is dying out for more comfortable and more practical seating arrangements. More and more churches, even old traditional churches, are removing pews to expand the worship space for a variety of worship styles – including worship in the round, discussion worship, special prayer services, and so on. At Trinity Seminary in Columbus, the old chapel (Schenk Chapel) had pews originally installed but have since removed them for chairs to allow for a wider variety in worship practices. The ultimate question when considering removing pews is where they will go.

The idea of “my pew” is going out, even though we get comfortable sitting in the same place each week. In the *Lutheran Handbook: A Field Guide to Church Stuff, Everyday Stuff, and the Bible*, a fun book allowing Lutherans to laugh at themselves, they have a section entitled, “How to respond when someone sits in your pew.” The steps are simple: 1) smile and greet the “intruders”; 2) View the “intrusion” as an opportunity; and 3) If you can tell that your new friends feel uncomfortable at having displaced you, despite your efforts to the contrary, make an extra effort to welcome them.⁹ The next time you come to worship – after reading this – consider sitting in a different place, break the habit of the old seat. After all, these pews might not be here forever.



⁹ Skrade, K., & Satter, J. (2005). *The Lutheran Handbook*. Augsburg Fortress.

March Birthdays



Michelle Gauvin
Margo Kaihlanen
Colton Cameron
Jerry Lampela
Suzanne Malys

John Thompson
Nicalli Fill
Bellalyn Fimiano
Amy Gallagher

Heidi Cowey
Nickolas Mason
Nancy Sackett
E. Jay Hybert
Todd Pew



ATTENDANCE

1/26	54
2/2	48
2/9	46
2/16	33

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.

EASTER PLANTS

Tulip and lily plants will be available at a cost of \$10.00 for each plant. Payment, along with this form, may be placed in the offering or mailed to the church office. Checks can be written to GSLC.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

876 Grove St, Conneaut, OH 44030

DEADLINE for ORDERING is March 24th, 2024

We ask that ONE NAME OR ONE COUPLE be honored or memorialized for ONE PLANT ordered.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor's Name _____

No. of Plants Ordered _____ Amount Enclosed _____ Tulip _____ Lily _____

NEWS & UPDATES



ASH Wednesday
RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD

Services 12pm & 7pm Soup & Bread 6pm
March 5th

March 9th
12:30-2:30pm
Wear or bring your pj's to church
Pizza and a movie in the Fellowship Hall



PAJAMA PARTY




Lenten Suppers Soup & Sandwiches 6:00-6:45pm
Service at 7:00pm

Lenten Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.

Youth & Family Swim
April 5th
Subway lunch at 1:30; Swim at 2:30
Must RSVP for lifeguards




Children 7 & under must have an adult in the pool with them (1 on 1)
Cost is \$10



Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday	April 13th	8:30 and 11 services, as usual
Holy Thursday	April 17th	7pm service
Stations of Cross	April 18th	12pm - Township Park
Good Friday	April 18th	7pm service
Holy Saturday	April 19th	6pm service
Easter Sunday	April 20th	8:30 and 11 services, as usual Breakfast 9:00-10:30; no Sunday School



Marianne's CHOCOLATES Since 1963 Hand Made in Austintown, Ohio

Easter Fundraiser



Sign up sheet is in the Narthex
Pickup April 15th, 16th, 17th, 20th.



WHAT IS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?

MONTHLY MINISTRY FOCUS
Every 4th Sunday of the month at 10am
All are welcome to attend.



Children's Message

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

Find the following words hidden in the puzzle.

Lent	remember	season	love	ashes
cross	prepare	follow	pray	Jesus

S	Y	P	G	D	P	S	Q	L	A
L	E	G	R	H	W	U	R	E	S
O	O	A	T	A	W	S	E	N	H
V	K	G	S	O	Y	E	B	T	E
E	O	E	L	O	Y	J	M	F	S
I	C	L	O	L	N	N	E	G	I
R	O	S	S	O	R	C	M	M	T
F	Y	Q	M	A	H	K	E	B	B
P	R	E	P	A	R	E	R	J	V
C	E	H	I	Y	X	S	X	C	Z

Committee News

Christian Education

In March, our monthly lesson is "Totally Extreme". It follows the story of David. A summary of the theme will be covered in the next children's message on March 16th during the services. March 23rd, we'll learn about our maintenance ministries for the Monthly Ministry Focus. All are welcome to join us! March 9th we'll have a pajama party here at GSLC! Wear or bring your pj's to church. We'll have pizza, snacks, and a movie. April 5th we'll be meeting at the YMCA in Ashtabula at 1:30 for lunch and from 2:30-3:30 we'll be swimming! Please sign up in advance so we know how many lifeguards we'll need. Children 7 and under must have an adult in the pool with them. Cost is \$10 per person. We have a Marianne's candy sale happening now through April 6th. Payment should be made upon ordering. Orders can be picked up April 15th, 16th, 17th (during office hours), and 20th (before/after Easter Sunday services). If you're interested in volunteering for VBS, join us for our first meeting on April 6th at 12:30pm.

God's blessings,
Jennifer Best

Evangelism

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we celebrate with our Easter breakfast on April 20th. Between the 2 services, 9:00-10:30am, we would enjoy your homemade breakfast casseroles. Please consider bringing a delicious casserole on Easter morning. Please consider, on the other Sundays, bringing a snack, homemade or storebought, for hospitality. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

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.

We need help organizing the archive room. See Pastor for more info.

Join the Quilters Tuesday mornings from 9-11am.

If you're interested in helping with funeral luncheons, contact Pearl Ann.

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

March 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
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> Ash Wed. 12pm & 7pm Soup at 6pm	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 12:30 PJ party (wear pjs' to church)	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> Midweek Ser- vice 7pm Soup & Sand- wich 6pm	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
16 Children's Msg. 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	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> Midweek Ser- vice 7pm Soup & Sand- wich 6pm	20 OFFICE CLOSED <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
23 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Monthly Mission Focus 11:00 Service	24 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Last day to order Easter flowers	25 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting <i>Blood Drive 1-6pm</i>	26 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Midweek Ser- vice 7pm Soup & Sand- wich 6pm	27 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	28 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	29 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
30 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	31 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Last day of Candy sale					Key: <i>Italics = non-GSLC Pro- grams</i>

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE	HOSPITALITY
3/2/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino			Rich Tulino		
11:00				Mary Lou Moisio			
3/5/2025 12 (AshWed)							
7pm (Ash Wed)							
3/9/2025 8:30		Katrina Pavolino		Nancy Altman			
11:00		Mark Lytle		Mary Lou Moisio	Mark Lytle		
3/16/2025 8:30	Jen Best	Katrina Pavolino					
11:00	Jen Best				Susan Tan		
3/23/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino		Katrina Pavolino	Rich Tulino		
11:00							
3/30/2025 8:30	Amy Gallagher			Nancy Altman	Amy Gallagher		
11:00			Jen and Luna	Jerry Lampela			

**MARCH
ALTAR GUILD:**
Ruth Brown, Susan Tan,
Katrina Pavolino



**APRIL
ALTAR GUILD:**
Ruth Brown, Kelly Anthony,
Katrina Pavolino, 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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