



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

APRIL 2025

From the thoughts of the pastor...

Christos Anesti ("Χριστὸς ἀνέστη")...well almost.

Growing up, my pastor would greet the congregation during the Easter service in the normal way, "Christ is Risen", in English, and the congregation would respond, "He is risen, indeed", again, in English. Later in his ministry, he would greet the congregation during the Easter service in the normal way, "Christ is Risen", in English, and the congregation would respond, "He is risen, indeed", again, in English, but before his sermon, he would say the above: Christos Anesti ("Χριστὸς ἀνέστη")...the Greek for Christ is (or has) risen, and the congregation would respond, "Alethós anésti ("Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη")...the Greek for Truly He is Risen (or He is (has) risen indeed). The pastor liked Greek and would insert Greek into the sermon on a regular basis. So, it was no surprise when he began his sermons with the Greek form of the Paschal greeting.

Languages, like any good skill, requires practice and upkeep. Languages, like playing the piano (for example) takes practice and continual playing, continual speaking or writing or, really, both. In seminary, Greek was a required course. You could either take it during the summer as an intensive class, like I did, or during the first year of classes, like some of my colleagues did. (For anyone who decides to attend seminary, or to learn a language, I would highly recommend the intensive course.) Faith and having faith also fall into this same category where practice and upkeep are a necessity.

Over this Lent, we have been learning about Lament and Lamenting – the holy practice of grieving in outward expressions and turning that grief and sorrow to God. This is something we, especially in this country, don't do very well; we don't Lament, we don't grieve, very well; we much rather bottle up the emotions and let them fester and ferment before exploding. Our practice of lamenting has fallen out the wayside and now we can't even play a simple tune. We have lost our skill of lamenting and our skill of faith.

How often do we think we are being punished when things go wrong in our lives? How often do we think we are being rewarded when things go right? Do we really think God punishes us or rewards us? I write this article after the March 23rd sermon and gospel lesson where Jesus tells us that the Galileans who were killed by the Romans or the people who died when the tower fell, these people were not unusually wicked sinners – no different than you or I; they just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Do we think, honestly think, that victims of drive-by shootings are unusually wicked sinners? That they deserve what they receive? Or victims of abuse, bigotry, racism, sexism, violence, do we really think they deserve what they receive? How about families suffering a loss due to suicide, cancer, or dementia? Are these families unusually wicked sinners that are punished? We might feel some people, both present times and past times, deserve punishment – eternal separation from God (hell and damnation). But God

doesn't punish, however much we might want God to smite someone or send a person to hell and damnation, God doesn't do this; God loves all people.

This idea, this fact, this theological concept is difficult to get behind, difficult to accept, difficult to live out. This is why having faith is a practice; we even call it faith practice. We need to try, try, and try again so we can go from Allemande in G Major by Schein (an easy piece of piano music to play) to Gaspard de la Nuit by Ravel (a difficult piece of piano music to play). They joke, "how do you get to Carnegie Hall is to practice, practice, practice" also is apt – though slightly changed destination – for faith practice, "how do you get through difficult times in life when it seems nothing is going right, the weight of the world is on your shoulders, people seem to hate you, and it feels like God is punishing you? Practice, practice, practice your faith."

Practice your faith when times are easy and good by being thankful to God: prayers of gratitude, being generous, and simply have an infectious positive attitude and smile. These are the simple Allemande in G Major faith times so when the Gaspard de la Nuit faith times of death, destruction, overwhelming sorrow, and grief, when they come, we have the foundation built to play; we have the practice behind us to turn these over to God.

Like for most piano students, one does not simply jump into the most difficult piece without learning the piano and practicing, one also does not simply have faith during the most difficult times in our lives; we have to build the practice up.

Our first lesson – our learning the parts of the piano if you will – is to regularly spend time in prayer and meditation, even if you think it's a waste of time and you know the parts already, regular prayer and meditation will always help your faith. We have a lot of technology that will assist us with this practice, but we will need to take that first step – schedule specific times to pray (both the Roman Catholic and Muslims have specific times of prayer), pray before a meal, quiet time after you wake up and/or before going to bed, and devotional books, apps, guides, etc. (believe me there are thousands out there) will establish the base of faith practice; get into a habit. What matters is learning what works for you, not the format, not the formality, not even the denomination or faith, but what works for you.

Our second lesson – our learning the notes and scales if you will – is consistent study and application of God's word. This is where a teacher can help you. Again, technology gives us power to do this anytime: bible apps (free and paid for). This study of God's word can be part of the prayer practice or a separate time. Have a free moment in the doctor's waiting room, pull out your bible app. Have time before a meeting starts or before your favorite show comes on, pull out your bible app. Engage and read the text, make notes, have questions, highlight, etc.

With these two fundamental lessons, and continual practice and devotion to them, our faith gets stronger. With strong faith, we can deal with the hard times in our lives, we can lament the hard times in our lives, the losses in our lives. And we can help others with their lamenting of losses in their lives. Helping others, having faith, practicing our faith, these are the things that destroy death, hell, and damnation. So, when we say Χριστὸς ἀνέστη and Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη, we practice our faith that Christ has indeed risen for us all.

Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



ECHO Word April 2025

Last month, we finished our Church Furniture words, and I was going to go to the specific titles of the people in the worship service. However, because Easter is coming up and Holy Saturday has a very specific rite within the service, I've decided to move to Church Candle words...it's not as bad as you think.

Christ/Paschal A large candle used during Easter to indicate the presence of the risen Christ with the people of God. It is also used at baptisms and funerals to indicate dying and rising with Christ (Rom. 6:4) and the celebration of his victory over death (1 Cor. 15:51-58).¹

Every year, a new paschal candle is blessed and lit during the beginning of the Holy Saturday service. At Good Shepherd, and other churches that use oil candles, we continue to bless the candle just like it was a new wax candle but use stickers for the year rather than the candle engraved with the year. The candle is lit, for the first time, from a “new fire”. The fire reminds us of the pillar of fire which led the Israelites out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom; we too are led from slavery of eternal death to freedom of eternal life. This “new fire” is the first light after the darkened world without Christ. This candle is lit to celebrate the life of Christ and we ask the blessings, “Christ yesterday and today [cross]; the beginning and the end [Alpha and Omega]; his are all times [2] and all ages [0]; to him be glory and dominion [2], through all the ages of eternity [5]. Amen.”² The [] are the places where the presiding minister traces while saying the words.

Then the proclamation this candle is the light of Christ is thrice said during the procession into the church. At Good Shepherd over the past couple of years, we have processed into the darkened Fellowship Hall. People, before entering the space, would then light candles for themselves off the Paschal Candle to share the light of Christ with the congregation.

Some churches purchase highly decorative candles while other purchase less decorative or purchase oil candles. Either way, like many things within the church, the decoration does not matter; what matters is the meaning of the candle. When we see the candle lit, we remember that Christ has been victorious over death and because of this, we are granted eternal life.

¹ McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

² *Manual on the Liturgy – Lutheran Book of Worship*. 1979. P. 326-327, edited for this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT
FEBRUARY 2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	GENERAL FUND	BALANCE AS OF	28-Feb-25					\$8,052
2	MONTH	OFFERING INCOME	OTHER INCOME	YTD INCOME	%ESTIMATE BUDGETED REVENUE	EXPENSE	YEAR TO DATE	% ESTIMATED OPERATING COST
3	January	\$ 17,420	\$ 884	\$ 18,304	117.2%	\$ 13,770	\$ 13,770	85.5%
4	February	\$ 8,149	\$ 1,274	\$ 27,728	89.2%	\$ 14,636	\$ 28,407	84.3%
5	March							
6	April							
7	May							
8	June							
9	July							
10	August							
11	September							
12	October							
13	November							
14	December							
15	Need \$16,035 ea Mo.	\$192,425/year		\$ (3,359)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ (5,284)	
16							1/31/2025	2/28/2025
17	Capital Improvement Endowment Fund						\$ 968,666	\$ 968,028
18	Money Market Fund							
19	Family Center Endowment Fund Balance						\$ 40,180	\$ 40,120
20								
21	Mission & Education Endowment Fund						\$ 125,223	\$ 125,801
22								
23	Thrivent Fund						\$ 14,456	\$ 14,798
24								
25	Capital Improvement						\$ -	\$ -
26								
27	Youth Missions Fund						\$ 10,653	\$ 10,653
28								
29	Abiding Memorial						\$ 6,609	\$ 6,609
30								
31	Detroit Street						\$ 1,885	\$ 1,885
32								
33	Sandusky St						\$ 9,771	\$ 10,323
34								
35								
36								
37		10% Biblical Tithe to Synod						\$ -
38								
39				Stacy Racut, Treasurer				
40								
41								

April Birthdays



Renee Cavanaugh
Pat Haas
Rick Vidmar
Greg Betteridge

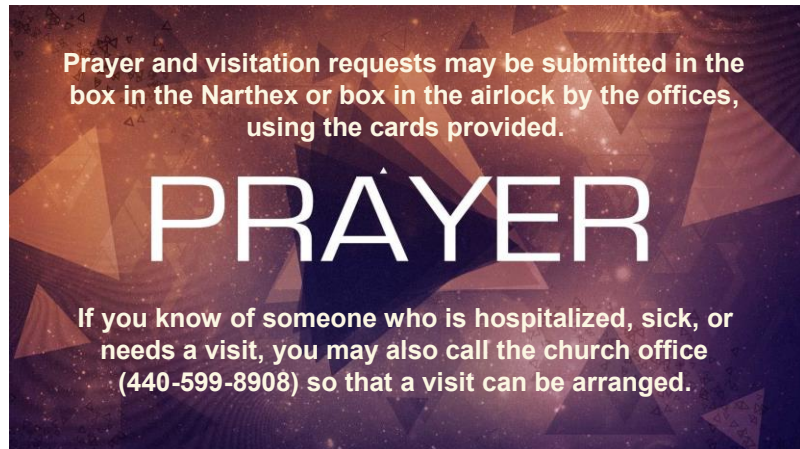
Carter Sanford
Raymie Fill
Luke Patriarco
Richard Tulino

Gary Anderson
Bob Hybert
Julia Pew
Amanda Sanford



ATTENDANCE

2/23	64
3/5	41
3/2	58
3/9	57
3/12	15
3/16	50
3/19	15
3/23	58



The Conneaut Area Ministerial Association (CAMA) is hosting a **Stations of the Cross** service on **Good Friday, April 18, 2025 at 12:00 PM**. The service will take place at the **Upper Pavilion at Conneaut Township Park**. All are welcome regardless of church affiliation. The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini-pilgrimage as the people move from station to station. At each station, the people recall and meditate on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete. The Stations of the Cross are commonly found in churches as a series of 14 small icons or images. They can also appear in church yards arranged along paths. The stations are most commonly prayed during Lent on Wednesdays and Fridays, and especially on Good Friday, the day of the year upon which the events actually occurred.

NEWS & UPDATES

*The Conneaut Area Ministerial Association
Presents*



Sunday, April 6, 2025 6:30pm
Conneaut Church of Christ
448 West Main Rd.

ALL ARE INVITED AND WELCOME!!

VBS meeting

April 6th 12:30pm

All are welcome to attend!

See Jen for more info.



Soup & Sandwiches
6:00-6:45pm

Service at 7:00pm
March 12th-April 9th

Lenten Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex.



\$7 cash
\$9 digital/ credit card

Nisua Bake April 12th

Volunteers Welcome

Order on or before April 6th



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



Easter Fundraiser



Sign up sheet is in the Narthex

Pickup April 15th, 16th, 17th, 20th.



MONTHLY MINISTRY FOCUS

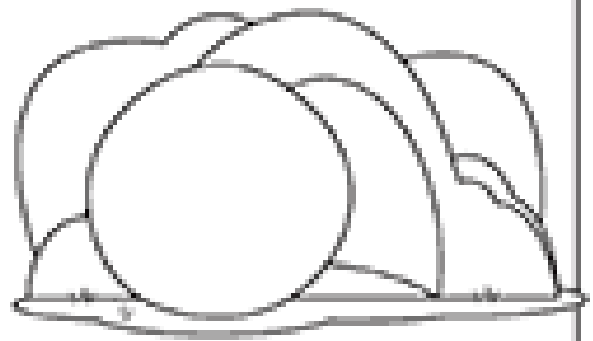
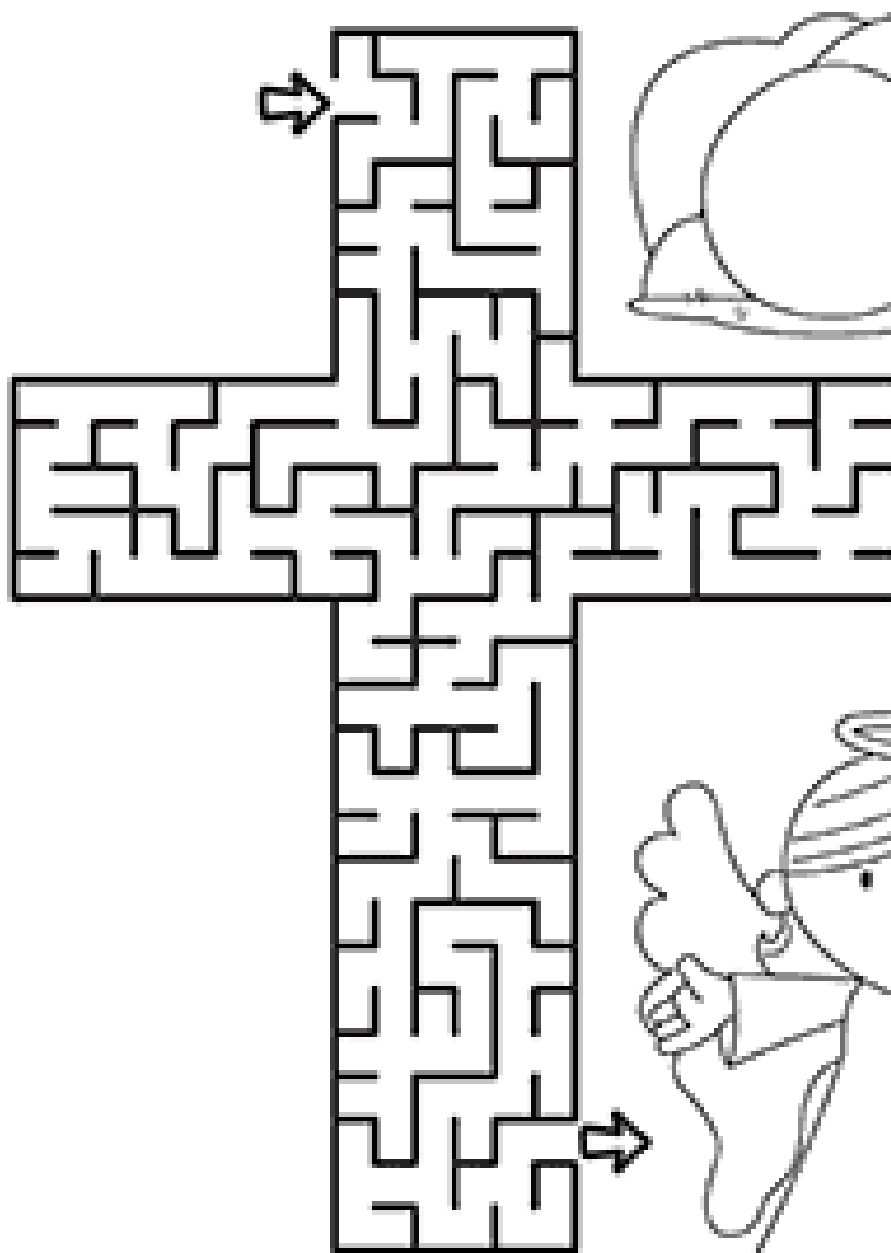
Every 4th Sunday of the month at 10am

All are welcome to attend.



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

Easter Cross Maze



He is Risen!

Committee News

Christian Education

In April, our monthly lesson is "The Big Plan", which is about God's plan for Jesus. A summary of the theme will be covered in the next children's message on Easter, April 20th during the services. April 27th, we'll learn about our social ministries for the Monthly Ministry Focus. All are welcome to join us!

If you're interested in volunteering for VBS, join us for our first meeting on April 6th at 12:30pm. VBS will be June 17th, 18th, and 19th from 5-8pm. Even if you can only help one day, or even 1 hour, we would appreciate the extra help, as many hands make light work. If you can't be at the meeting in person, a Zoom link is available in the email announcements.

For grades 7 through college, we'll be going to an Escape Room on April 26th.

The swimming event has been cancelled.

Marianne's candy sale ends March 31st. 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). We are planning a flower/plant fundraiser with Kelly's Garden in April and pick up will be on May 11th (Mother's Day).

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. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Mark your calendars for GSLC's relaxing Spa Day May 17th from 12-4pm. Spa Day tickets are going on sale April 1st. Cost is \$15.

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. Fishes and Loaves and Nick's Closet will be closed on April 19th (for Holy Saturday) and May 17th (for Spa Day).

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!

Social Ministries

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 sheets are in the Narthex.

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

Join the Quilters Tuesday mornings from 9-11am.

If you have any cloth materials or fabric that is in like-new condition, donations are always welcome.

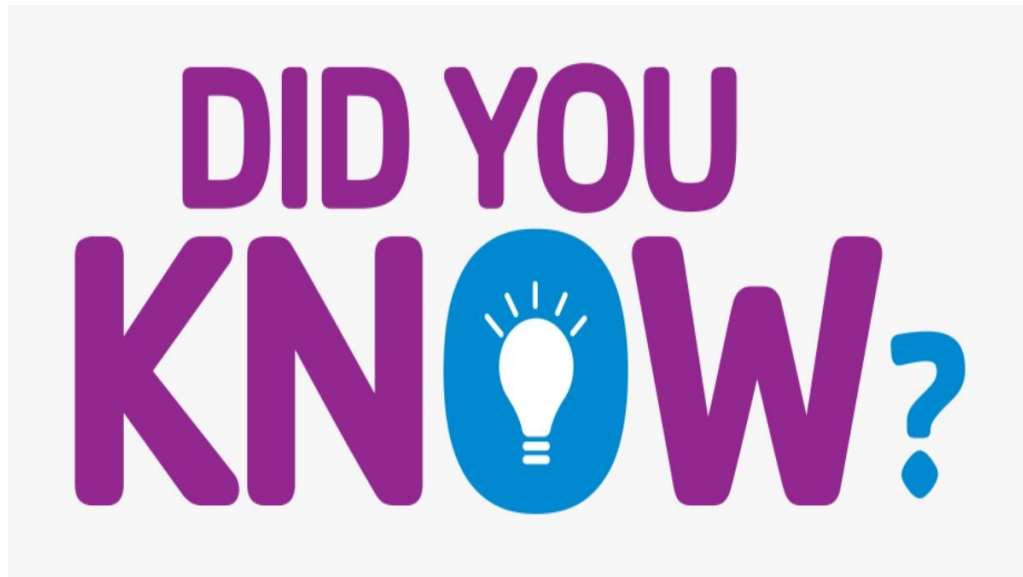
The next Nisua bake is April 12th; order by April 6th. The cost is \$7 a loaf.

Worship and Music

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.

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



ECHO Did You Know April 2025

A new section within the ECHO that will hopefully bring to light a number of things that some might take for granted while others are unaware.

This inaugural Did You Know is about the church property.

Did you know we have work order sheets in the mailboxes next to pastor's office? When we see something that needs to be fixed, we can fill out one of these sheets and put it in the "Property" mailbox. This helps the 3Ms (Member Maintenance Ministry) to do repairs on the church building and is far better than telling someone on Sunday mornings.

April 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
	March 31 st Last day to Order Marianne's; pick up orders April 15 th -17 th during office hours or Easter Sunday before/after ser- vices	1 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	2 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> Midweek Ser- vice 7pm Soup & Sand- wich 6pm	3 5:00 <i>Line Dancing</i>	4 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	5 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
6 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service 12:30 VBS meeting 6:00 CAMA service at Church of Christ	7 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	8 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	9 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> Midweek Ser- vice 7pm Soup & Sand- wich 6pm	10 5:00 <i>Line Dancing</i>	11 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	12 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet Nisua Bake
13 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	14 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	15 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	16 Echo Articles Due 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	17 HOLY THURSDAY Service 7pm	18 OFFICE CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY Service 7pm 10:30 <i>YMCA</i> Stations of the Cross 12pm Town- ship Park	19 HOLY SATURDAY Service 6pm
20 EASTER Children's Msg 8:30 Service 9-10:30 Breakfast 11:00 Service	21 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	22 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	23 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	24 5:00 <i>Line Dancing</i>	25 OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	26 8:00 3M's 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet Youth Group Escape Room
27 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Monthly Mission Focus 11:00 Service	28 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	29 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	30 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>			Key: <i>Italics</i> = <i>non-GSLC Pro- grams</i>

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE	HOSPITALITY
4/6/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino		Nancy Altman	Rich Tulino		
11:00		Ruth Brown		Mary Lou Moisio			
4/13/2025 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino			Amy Gallagher		
Palm Sun 11:00		Mark Lytle	Ruth Brown		Mark Lytle		
4/17/2025 (Thurs) 7pm	Deac. Heidi						---
4/18/2025 (Fri) 7pm	Deac. Heidi	---	---	---	---	---	---
4/19/2025 (Sat) 6pm			---	---	1. 2. 3. 4.	---	---
4/20/2025 8:30	Jen Best	Katrina Pavolino					EASTER
Easter 11:00	Jen Best		Michelle Logan		Susan Tan		BREAKFAST
4/27/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino		Katrina Pavolino	Rich Tulino		
11:00		Glenda Betteridge	Glenda & Greg Betteridge	Mary Lou Moisio	Greg Betteridge		

**APRIL
ALTAR GUILD:**

Ruth Brown, Kelly Anthony,
Katrina Pavolino, Susan Combs



**MAY
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

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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Conneaut, OH 44030