



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

MAY 2025

From the thoughts of the pastor...

Christos Anesti ("Χριστὸς ἀνέστη")

The last couple of months, my whole mind and even my whole being stopped at Easter Sunday; like I could not think of things past Easter – no appointments, no meetings, nothing about my life or the church beyond Easter Sunday. It's difficult to explain but it's like my whole life stops at Easter, which is ironic because Easter is all about new birth, new life, resurrection and all that jazz.

We celebrate Easter because it is the point in our faith where our faith really begins. We've never seen, nor heard of (scholarly historical accounts) of any person rising from the dead, being resurrected. There isn't any proof, evidence, tangible facts that tell us Jesus (or anyone) rose from the dead. It's by faith that we believe this; it's by faith we believe in life after death. This is the heart of the Christian faith to believe that Jesus rose from the dead – not just spiritually, but physically. We don't see that in today's world; our dearly beloved who have died are not physically with us again. And if we do, it has become more of a zombie-type fear that has been propagated within society – hence the inappropriate moniker "Zombie Jesus Day" for Easter.

But to invoke Shakespeare, what's in a name? Should we really care whether we call it Easter Sunday, Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Day, or Zombie Jesus Day? I would say, no, it doesn't matter what the day, the celebration, is called. And, if Zombie Jesus Day is something that makes you think about what happened this day, all the better. Like "a rose by any other name [still] smells as sweet" (Shakespeare, *W. Romeo and Juliet*, Act 2, Scene 2), the reason for the day is what matters. Jesus is victorious over death.

There are many "theories" and "explanations" – almost one for every theologian (ordained or lay leader or biblical scholar) – that tries to deal with the question, "what happens when we die" and "what does it mean that Jesus is victorious over death." The truth of the matter is, we don't know, but we have certain beliefs that might help with these questions. Let's begin with the second question, "what does it mean that Jesus is victorious over death."

To answer this, we need to back up a little bit to Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians where he writes, "So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. *It is sown a physical body, there is also a spiritual body*" (1 Cor. 15:42-44, NRSV, emphasis added). Paul talks about, in several places but most specifically here, having two bodies – the physical and the spiritual. When we talk about Jesus' victory over death, we talk about the death of the spiritual body. Now the question arises about death of a spiritual body.

The answer to this is quite simple, being separated from God. Like our physical bodies need good nutrition, exercise, rest, and so forth, our spiritual bodies need the same, otherwise they will decay and die.

Good nutrition for our spiritual bodies is doing something good for others, worshipping God, prayer, things that would “feed the soul” (soul being another word for spiritual body). Exercise is the same my practicing your faith, even testing it from time to time; like a muscle in the physical body during weight-lifting tests the strength of the muscle, testing your spiritual body through faith testing tests the strength of the spiritual muscle. And rest, the time to recharge your spiritual body through worship services and other practices – perhaps outdoor activities, time with family, and so on. When we fail to “eat right, exercise, and get plenty of rest” our spiritual bodies decay and wither until it dies – until we are separated from God. Hell/death is the ultimate separation from God.

But we say Jesus has been victorious over death, how can death (or Hell) exist? Let’s answer the question with a question: the 13 colonies were victorious over England, how can England exist? Same principle. And this leads us to the question: what happens when we die? Or more aptly, what happens when we physically die and when we spiritually die?

When we physically die, our physical bodies start decomposing almost immediately. Without the heart pumping blood and oxygen around the body, the body becomes acidic which starts breaking down the tissues. As the tissues are being broken down, gases are produced (which eventually leak out causing a terrible stench) and insects are attracted which begin to speed the decomposition of the body. Eventually the body liquefies leaving the bones and teeth remaining.¹ (This is, of course, without the uses of a funeral home for embalming – which delays the processes – or cremation – which burns the body completely). But our physical body death does not equal the spiritual body death.

(I’ll caveat this section as my personal belief, and what I teach.) When the physical body dies, the spiritual body continues – out of time, space, and science. Maybe it moves to another dimension, maybe it moves to a higher plane, maybe it’s transformed into pure energy; what matters is it continues and then put into another physical body – if one chooses. I don’t believe in the pearly gates or Peter with the list or clouds and all that has been depicted in art, cartoons, and other media. I don’t think we have the words to describe “heaven” only as a place of pure bliss. I believe our spiritual bodies have a choice to either stay in this pure bliss or return to earth as anyone in history or anyone in the future or some random person. For example, we might return to earth as a great historical figure like George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. The point is we get to choose what we do next and the spiritual body lives on.

Now we get to the question: if the spiritual body lives on, how can we spiritually die? Unfortunately, the answer to this is quite simple, by not believing in God (or higher power or any other name for God). When we choose to stop believing, we spiritually die.

But, because Jesus is victorious over death, we can return to God – believe in God – and our spiritual bodies are alive again. It might not seem fair, it might not seem right, it might seem as an easy out to do bad things in the world and then at the last minute believe in God, but remember, belief is more than just saying the creed or going to worship services; belief is deep within us, at our very core, our very conscience which helps us make decisions in this world. The victory of Jesus over death allows us to make mistakes – go against our conscience and our core – and not be eternally separated from God when we ask God for forgiveness, which, again, needs to come from our very core.

So, yes, my mind is focused on Easter Sunday, but all of our minds should always be focused on Easter Sunday. It is the day where we are granted the greatest gift ever to be granted, life. When our physical bodies die, our spiritual bodies live on because of the victory of Jesus over death. Like our physical

¹ <https://servicemasterbioclean.com/blog/stages-human-decomposition#:~:text=24%2D72%20hours%20postmortem%3A%20Internal,postmortem%3A%20Nails%20and%20teeth%20loosen.>

bodies, we need to take care of our spiritual bodies by feeding it right and good things, exercising it with prayer and faith trials, and making sure it is rested and recharged each week during worship services. The life we've been granted by Jesus' resurrection gives us the chance to live a physical life to the fullest – even if we make mistakes. Whether you call it Easter Sunday, Resurrection of our Lord, Easter Day, or Zombie Jesus Day, remember the life you have been granted by the resurrection of Jesus and live that life.

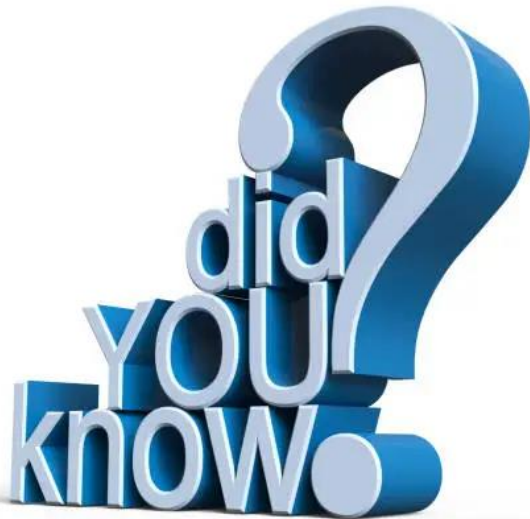
Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



ECHO Did you Know May 2025

Did you know...

Have you seen these things around in the world?



(Full-Service Dinner)



(Spa Day)

These are called QR Codes (Quick Response Codes). Back in the day, one used to have a special app to scan these images. But today, all modern smartphones, in their cameras, have the ability to scan these images.

In short, one just needs to point their camera on their phone at these codes and click the link that comes up rather than writing the URL (<https://blaa.blaa.blaa>) or copying the URL in a webpage. It makes things quicker – and easier – to get to certain webpages.

The Big Churchy Word



ECHO Word May 2025

We'll pick-up the candle words in June as there's a word I've been using and thinking about more often.

Adiaphora (Gr. "things indifferent") Elements of faith regarded as neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture and thus on which liberty of conscience may be exercised (see Rom. 14:17; 1 Cor. 6:12; 8:8; Gal. 5:6). An adiaphoristic controversy in relation to the Augsburg Interim (1548) led to art. 10 [Article 10] of the Formula of Concord (1577).²

In simple terms, adiaphora means it doesn't really matter (at least for justification or salvation). Some simple examples, to alb or not to alb is adiaphoric, grape juice or wine, standing or sitting, chanting or speaking, organ or electric piano – all these are not questions to be dealing with when speaking about what is needed for justification or salvation. Faith in God/Christ is NOT adiaphoric for justification. A lot of the disagreements between denominations are indeed adiaphoric. I might mean a whole lot to one person or one denomination, but it won't stand in the way of praising God together or even sharing the meal with one another.

I've mentioned the greatest division between the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church is the theology of the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion/the Eucharist. It is the change in substance verses the change in essence. This difference, to some people – including those like me who wish to be Ecumenical – is adiaphoric and at the same time is not because the holy meal does matter. What we struggle with – in our personal soul searching and reflections – is whether the holy meal is a requirement for justification and/or salvation. I say it's not because if you have faith, you are granted grace and Holy Communion is the physical manifestation of that grace. I say this because I'm Lutheran, where I believe the Catholic faith is different.

But whether we use oil candles or wax candles, baptismal font in the front or the rear of the sanctuary, crucifix or empty cross, all these do not matter for justification or salvation...as long as it does not distract from worshipping God. After all, the only thing that does matter and is not adiaphora is worshipping God.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT
MARCH 2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	GENERAL FUND	BALANCE AS OF	31-Mar-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	\$ 10,014	\$ 747	\$ 38,489	81.5%	\$ 20,915	\$ 49,322	100.3%
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		\$ (8,716)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ 124	
16							2/28/2025	3/31/2025
17	Capital Improvement Endowment Fund						\$ 968,028	\$ 949,070
18	Money Market Fund							
19	Family Center Endowment Fund Balance						\$ 40,120	\$ 38,827
20								
21	Mission & Education Endowment Fund						\$ 125,801	\$ 124,113
22								
23	Thrivent Fund						\$ 14,798	\$ 14,192
24								
25	Capital Improvement						\$ -	\$ -
26								
27	Youth Missions Fund						\$ 10,653	\$ 11,484
28								
29	Abiding Memorial						\$ 6,609	\$ 6,609
30								
31	Detroit Street						\$ 1,885	\$ 1,088
32								
33	Sandusky St						\$ 10,323	\$ 1,423
34								
35								
36								
37		10% Biblical Tithe to Synod						\$ -
38								
39				Stacy Racut, Treasurer				
40								
41								

May Birthdays



Laura Gustafson
Janet Maenpaa
Kay Peterson
Richard Kantola

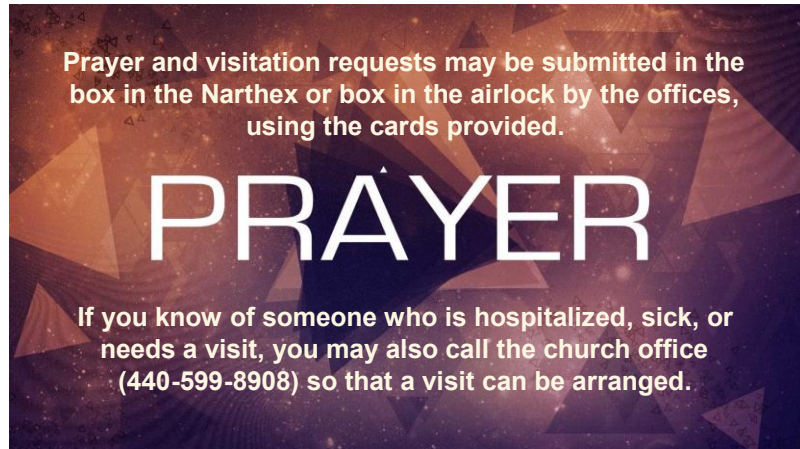
Naomi Sanford
David Uthe
Jim Bryant
Thaddaeus Huya
Joanne Mechling

Sandra Matheny
Ruth Brown
Susan Combs
Grace Patriarco



ATTENDANCE

3/26	14
3/30	49
4/2	14
4/6	57
4/9	9
4/13	64



**Scholarship Applications are now available in the
GSLC office, on the website at gslcc.org/forms, and
in the email announcements
High School graduates and post-secondary students
are encouraged to apply.**

**Applications and paperwork are due before
the July Endowment Committee meeting**

NEWS & UPDATES



SPA DAY



May 17th 12-4pm

Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door.

Catered lunch, massage, reiki, yoga, and more!



Northeastern Ohio Synod
Assembly - May 17, 2025

- This year Synod Assembly will be held virtually from 9am-12pm on May 17th.
- We can have 2 lay voting members
(or 3, as long as one identifies themselves as Black, Indigenous, or Person Of Color, part of the Queer community, or under the age of 30.)
- Let Pastor know if you're interested.



QPR Training

- Saturday, May 31st at 10am
- QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer.
- It is a 1.5-hour evidence-based training to help prevent suicide.
 - Participants learn to recognize warning signs of suicide, offer hope to a person who might be experiencing a suicidal crisis, and learn how to get help to save a life.

Rent the GSLC Fellowship Hall!

Call the office for more info and to schedule your event.



**KEEP THE PEACE
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT SUMMIT
LUNCHEON & PANEL DISCUSSION
MAY 16TH, 2025
12:00 P.M. TO 3 P.M.**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
211 BUFFALO STREET
CONNEAUT, OHIO 44030



Full-Service Community Dinner

Saturday, June 14th

Doors open at 5:30

Dinner starts at 6:00pm

BYOB

Food provided by Biscotti's

\$20 for single; \$35 for couple

Tickets must be purchased by June 7th.



WHAT IS
CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?

MONTHLY MINISTRY FOCUS

Every 4th Sunday of the month at 10am

All are welcome to attend.



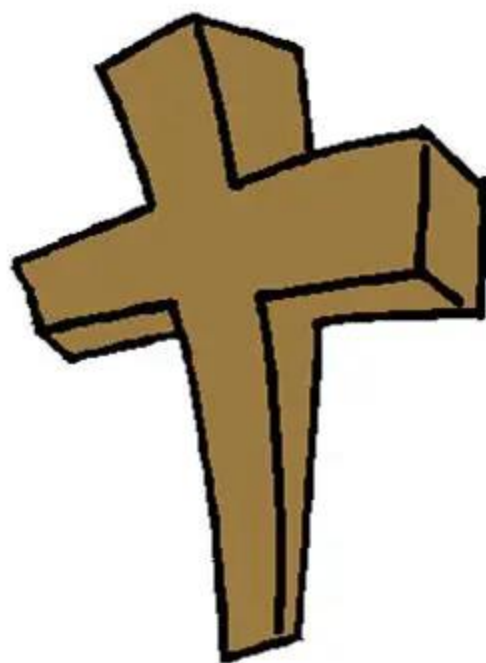
Children's Message

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

Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES
CHRIST
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
HOLY
JESUS
KING
LAMB
LOVE



MARY
REDEMPTION
RESURRECTION
RISEN
ROMANS
ROOSTER
SACRIFICE
SALVATION
SAVIOR
THORNS

Committee News

Christian Education

In May, our **monthly lesson** is about the prophet Ezekiel. A summary of the theme will be covered in the next **children's message** on May 18th during the services. May 25th, we'll learn about our gardening ministries for the **Monthly Ministry Focus**. All are welcome to join us! The last day of Sunday School will be June 8th. If you're interested in volunteering for **VBS**, join us for our next meeting on May 18th 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 will be available in the email announcements.

Scholarship applications are available in the office, on the website, and in the email announcements.

Evangelism

Mark your calendars for GSLC's relaxing **Spa Day** May 17th from 12-4pm. Spa Day tickets are on sale now. Cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

Full-Service Community Dinner Saturday, June 14th. Doors open at 5:30. Dinner starts at 6:00pm. Food provided by Biscotti's. \$20 for single; \$35 for couple. Tickets must be purchased by June 7th. BYOB.

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 May 17th (for Spa Day) and June 14th (for the Community Dinner). There will be no lunches on May 6th due to the special election.

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.

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

Join the **Quilters** Tuesday mornings from 9-11am. The last day of quilting will be May 20th.

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

The next **Nisua** bake will be in the fall.


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.

May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
	Key: <i>Italics</i> = <i>non-GSLC</i> <i>Programs</i>			1 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	2 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	3 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
4 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	5 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	6 Election Day 9-2 Food Pantry	7 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	8 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	9 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	10 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
11 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service	12 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	13 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	14 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Echo Articles Due	15 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	16 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> <i>Keep the Peace Summit at UCC 12-3pm</i>	17 Synod Assem- bly 9am-12pm Spa Day 12-4pm
18 Children's Msg 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service 12:30 VBS meeting	19 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	20 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches 9:00 Quilting	21 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Blood Drive 1-6pm	22 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	23 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	24 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
25 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Monthly Mission Focus 11:00 Service 1pm Blessing of Vehicles	26 OFFICE CLOSED -Memorial Day <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	27 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches	28 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	29 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	30 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	31 QPR Training 10am 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE	HOSPITALITY
5/4/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino				Rich Tulino		
11:00				Mary Lou Moisio			
5/11/2025 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino					
11:00		Mark Lytle		Mary Lou Moisio	Mark Lytle		
5/18/2025 8:30	Jen Best	Katrina Pavolino					
11:00	Jen Best				Susan Tan		
5/25/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino		Katrina Pavolino	Rich Tulino		
11:00							

**MAY
ALTAR GUILD:**

Ruth Brown, Kelly Anthony,
Katrina Pavolino, Susan Combs



*Serving from
the Heart*

**JUNE
ALTAR GUILD:**

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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876 Grove St
Conneaut, OH 44030