



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

JUNE 2025

From the thoughts of the pastor...

This year marks the 1700th anniversary of the original Nicene Creed. A bit of background.

From the time of Jesus, different followers of Jesus followed various teachings and teachers; the most notable examples are those who followed Paul and those who followed Peter. Either way, by the end of the first century, Christianity began to spread. As it spread, variations in teachings emerged, prompting the first Church Council in the city of Nicaea to clarify the official doctrines of Christianity, which gave us the original Nicene Creed.

The Nicene Creed that came from this council differs from the Nicene Creed we have been confessing during this Easter season. The creed we confess is technically called the Nicene-Constantinople Creed, which was completed in 381 CE. While most of the body of the creed remained unchanged between 325 CE and 381 CE, the Third Article regarding the Holy Spirit was expanded beyond the original statement, “We believe in the Holy Spirit,” which concluded the Nicene Creed.

It was at the Nicene Council, a prominent pastor from Alexandria, Pastor Arius, who questioned the full divinity of Jesus – God incarnate, fully human. The question for Pastor Arius was: “How could God, the unknowable, immutable, transcendent one, become fully human without being changed in the process?”¹ Pastor Arius went against the teachings of his bishop, Bishop Alexander, as well as a local deacon, Athanasius. It was Athanasius who distinguished the idea of generated and created, the differing ideas of *homoousios* (being of the same substance) and *homoiousios* (being of similar substance); this is the difference between Christ being God and Christ being like God.

Eventually, the assembled bishops and church leaders at the Nicene Council rejected *homoiousios* (Christ being like God) and the teachings of Pastor Arius. The words we confess today, “...true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father...” is the result from conflicting orthodox teaching – which we simply call heresy. (Side note: the word “heresy” has received a serious negative connotation over the centuries. Its meaning is simply unorthodox, going against the orthodox (or the accepted) teaching; it doesn’t mean anything like devil worship or against God or any of the other negative connotations it has received.)

The Council of Nicaea concluded with the teachings of Pastor Arius (or Arian Teaching) being condemned as heresy and the rest of the Christian church continued to preach and teach the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the LOGOS (the Word), Son of God, God incarnate, true God of true God. However, while this council clarified the divinity of the Son, it did not address the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

¹ Quash, B., & Ward, M. (2012). *Heresies and how to avoid them: Why it matters what Christians believe*. Baker Academic.

A second council, this time held in Constantinople (today Istanbul), was called to discuss the remaining Arian controversy, the new group of Macedonians (or Pneumatomachi who confessed against the divinity of the Holy Spirit), and the rising teaching of Apollinarius who taught the *dokein* (Greek word meaning “to seem”) of Jesus – Jesus only seemed to be human.

While the Council of Nicaea established the full divinity of Christ Jesus, other pastors and teachers began to question whether or not Jesus was fully human; or did Jesus just appear to be human. Eventually, Deacon Athanasius (the same who opposed Arius) wrote a statement of belief for those who question the doctrine of the Trinity, which we call the Athanasian Creed, which is often confessed on Holy Trinity Day.

The other major outcome from this Council of Constantinople was Article Three of the Nicene Creed, which includes: the divinity of the Holy Spirit, the church, baptism, and the resurrection of the dead. As mentioned above, the third article of the Nicene Creed of 325 ended “We believe in the Holy Spirit”. At this Council of Constantinople, the additions regarding the Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets” were clarified and added to the creed, and the additions regarding the church, baptism, and the resurrection, “We believe in only holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge on baptism for the forgiveness of sins; we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come” were also added.

It would seem the Nicene Creed is the same that we confess during our worship services, doesn’t it? Unfortunately, it doesn’t because we have, in the creed coming out of this last council, “[the Holy Spirit] proceeds from the Father,” where we say “[the Holy Spirit] proceeds from the Father *and the Son*”. The “*and the Son*” is known as the *Filioque*. *Filioque* is defined as “(Lat. ‘and the Son’) Phrase inserted into the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (381) at the Council of Toledo (589) to say that the Holy Spirit proceeds from both Father and Son (double procession) in the Trinity. It was rejected by the Eastern Church (1054) and was part of the reason for the East-West church schism.”²

It should be noted here that the Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople are “Ecumenical Councils” where bishops, from around the world, gather to discuss and vote on Christian doctrine, administer discipline, and other matters. The Council of Toledo (589) was a gathering of European bishops to discuss the entry of Visigothic Spain into the Catholic Church. The Visigoths were the Germanic people who first lived under the Roman Empire but then invaded Italy and sacked Rome in 410, eventually expanding their authority into Spain and Portugal. It was here in 589 that the Visigoths, under Reccared I, converted from Arian Christianity to Nicene Christianity. The Third Council of Toledo was held to bring this group of people into the Catholic Church. King Reccared I, his bishops, clergy, and nobles, had to publicly renounce their belief of Arianism and accept Chalcedonian Christianity. (The Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon held in 451, which solidified the two natures of Christ in one person.) It was also during this Council of Toledo that the *Filioque* was added. Because the *Filioque* was added at a non-Ecumenical Council, and it seemed to violate Canon VII of the Council of Ephesus, the Eastern Church disputed this teaching and practice.

Canon³ VII of the Council of Ephesus condemns “any departure from the creed established by the First Council of Nicaea.” The Eastern Church believed that adding the *Filioque* into the creed changes the understanding of the Trinity, as it might underestimate either God the Father’s role or God the Son’s role in

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

³ A canon is an official point, a rule or law that is decreed by the church. It is voted upon and agreed to by a majority of the assembled.

the Trinity. Since the Trinity is central to Christianity, changing how God the Father or God the Son acts within the Trinity has severe implications. However, the church does not exist in a vacuum and is also impacted by social events.

More to come next month...

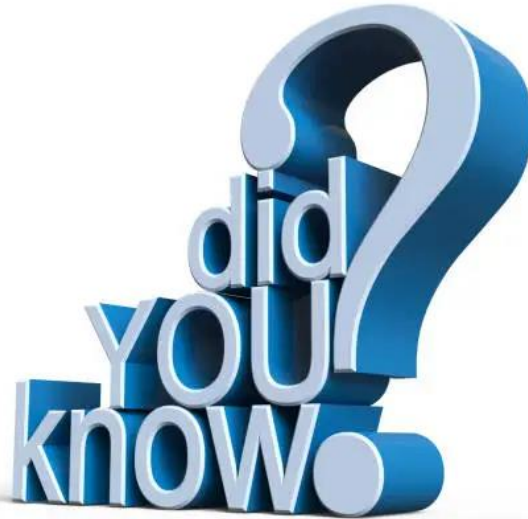
Amen+

السلام عليكم

(Peace be upon you)

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

The Reverend Joshua Krenz



Did You Know...

During the period of closure and physical distancing during the COVID pandemic, a few members of our congregation saw a need in the community to feed the adults as well as the children of our community. This began the Good Shepherd Food Pantry.

Its original location was in the old office used by Pastor Gore before the new Education Wing was built, then by Nancy Guthrie after. This office space is small. But small as it is, these members utilized the space to provide a service to the community during a difficult time. Another one of our members saw another need in the community, not food rather basic hygiene items. Since the old office was not large, the current IT closet off the office was utilized. Since the space was a closet, it was named after its founder, Nick's Closet.

In our community today, the need has grown tremendously. The Food Pantry outgrew the office quite rapidly and, as the space across the hall was vacant – only a meeting room – the Food Pantry moved into that space. This almost doubled the size of the space, allowing for more food to be stored and, thus, more people in the community to be helped. New shelving was purchased, and previous bookshelves from the unused library were installed. Nick's Closet grew as well from the closet to a wall of bookshelves – from a few items available to more inventory and greater variety.

The Food Pantry continues to grow, reaching its storage capacity and expanding into another unused room. And yet, through all the expansion, through some difficult times, no funds from the Operating Budget of Good Shepherd were used for the Food Pantry or Nick's Closet. Funding for the ministry's plant, growth, and expansion was raised through generous donations, grants, and partnerships. Both members and the community of Conneaut have donated food, materials, hygiene items, their time, and money to make the Good Shepherd Food Pantry what it is today – helping over 100 people per month.

The need in the community continues to grow, and some places in Conneaut are either underserved or not served at all due to various reasons. One vision is to expand again, though outside the walls of Good Shepherd, into a storefront-type location. As part of this vision, partnering with other churches and worship spaces in Conneaut and the Conneaut Area would be needed and welcomed to make the Good Shepherd Food Pantry into the Conneaut Area Churches Food Pantry (or whatever the name would be). The vision includes food, clothing (perhaps combining with Conneaut Church of Christ's clothes give away and Corpus Christi's Mother Mary's Closet), a free basic health clinic, and a place with people to help navigate governmental bureaucracies to apply and receive aid under both State and Federal Guidelines. The vision is an all-in-one place where most, if not all, needs can be met.

The Good Shepherd Food Pantry has become a staple ministry at this church – it has become one of the things our church is known for and an example of what we, as followers of Christ, can do when we come together as one church doing God's Work with Our Hands.



ECHO Word June 2025

This month, we are returning to learn about the different candles of the church.

Candle (Lat. *Candere*, “to shine”). Candles are lit during liturgical services to symbolize a number of Christian beliefs. These include the divine light (1 John 1:5), purity, holiness, and the risen Jesus Christ as the “light of the world” (John 8:12; cf. 1:5).⁴

Altar Candles (AKA Altar Lights) Candles placed on altars in Christian churches on either side of the cross.⁵

In essence, candles provide illumination. Before the time of provident electricity, candles were the way to light the room. Now, they add beauty, ambiance, and spiritual connection. As we’ve read, candles symbolize the light of Christ, the light of God, and the purity and holiness of God. Candles also connect us to the natural, the creation, and the history of the church.

Wax, especially beeswax, was the preferred material to make candles. But these candles were expensive, which led to their use by the elites and the churches. Another material called tallow – or animal fat – was used for the common person, as this material was less aesthetically pleasing, as it offered an

⁴ McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

⁵ Ibid.

unpleasant odor. As technology continued to progress, paraffin, from petroleum, coal, or oil shale, has replaced the tallow candles for the masses. However, beeswax candles are still the preferred material for liturgical candles. Today, many churches, including Good Shepherd, have gone to a refillable liquid oil candle or even an electric or battery-powered candle for most of the liturgical candles.

In most denominations, two candles are placed on the altar on either side of the cross. Before the 1960s, when free-standing altars began to be used, the altar candles were moved from the “rear altar” to either side of the free-standing altar, with the cross remaining behind, or above, the altar. At Good Shepherd, the altar candles are on either side of the free-standing altar, near the extremities of the altar, with the eternal candle on the “rear altar.” Additional candelabras, six candles each, were added later to either side of the altar behind the ministers. This tradition is more Counter-Reformation Roman use and is used primarily within the Roman Catholic Church, though some Protestant Churches do follow this practice. And, like almost everything in the church, there is a proper way to light the candles and a proper order to light the candles, though this strictness is not enforced much.

The candles should be lit with the candlelighter (see ECHO February 2025) carried by the acolyte who receives the light from outside the sanctuary to symbolize the light of Christ entering the worship space. The order is the Epistle Side – or Lectern Side – first, then the Gospel Side – or the Pulpit Side – last. Extinguishing the candles is done in reverse order. One should not light the candles with a match or lighter at the altar, nor should the candles be blown out – the snuffer should be used. But what matters more is that the candles are lit to symbolize the light of Christ, the light of God, is present in the worship service.



Pastor's Vacation:
June 24th – July 3rd

Admin Office Closed:
June 30th & July 3rd

TREASURER'S REPORT
APRIL 2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	GENERAL FUND	BALANCE AS OF	30-Apr-25					\$124
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	\$ 8,483	\$ 634	\$ 47,606	74.3%	\$ 16,106	\$ 65,428	102.1%
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		\$ (16,478)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ 1,322	
16							3/31/2025	4/30/2025
17	Capital Improvement Endowment Fund						\$ 949,070	\$ 949,767
18	Money Market Fund							
19	Family Center Endowment Fund Balance						\$ 38,827	\$ 39,029
20								
21	Mission & Education Endowment Fund						\$ 124,113	\$ 124,492
22								
23	Thrivent Fund						\$ 14,192	\$ 14,127
24								
25	Capital Improvement						\$ -	\$ -
26								
27	Youth Missions Fund						\$ 11,484	\$ 8,484
28								
29	Abiding Memorial						\$ 6,609	\$ 6,609
30								
31	Detroit Street						\$ 1,088	\$ 995
32								
33	Sandusky St						\$ 1,423	\$ 1,918
34								
35								
36								
37		10% Biblical Tithe to Synod						\$ -
38								
39				Stacy Racut, Treasurer				
40								
41								

June Birthdays



Shirley Harco
Luna Taylor
Robin Bryant
Mary Ann Pollock

Janice Boyle
Peggy Harco
Betty Monday
Glen Patten
Marlin Haas

Mak Lytle
Daniel Huya
Rosemarie Uthe
Jen Best



ATTENDANCE

4/17	23
4/18	12
4/19	3
4/20	88
4/27	52
5/4	55
5/11	57
5/18	68
5/25	54

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.



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

You're invited to
Amelia Sanford's
Graduation Party

GSLC
June 7th 1-4pm



NEWS & UPDATES

Blessing of Grads
June 1st during services


**CLASS OF 2025
CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES**

Luna's 4th birthday
GSLC
June 1st 12:30pm

All are welcome!
RSVP with Jen



6 wings & a side for \$10

Soft drinks \$1
water & coffee are free

The first Wednesday of the month, this summer:
June 4th, July 2nd, and August 6th
4-7pm



June 8th
Gallery Walk
between services

Pentecost Sunday
June 8th
Wear red

Induction of
New Members



**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.

**Rent the GSLC
Fellowship Hall!**

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hosted at **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

June 17-19 5:00-8:00 p.m.
FREE DINNER served at 5:00

All children and families are welcome to join us for
games, music, crafts, and new friends!

To register, fill out form in Narthex or call 440-599-8908

Children's Worship Bulletin™

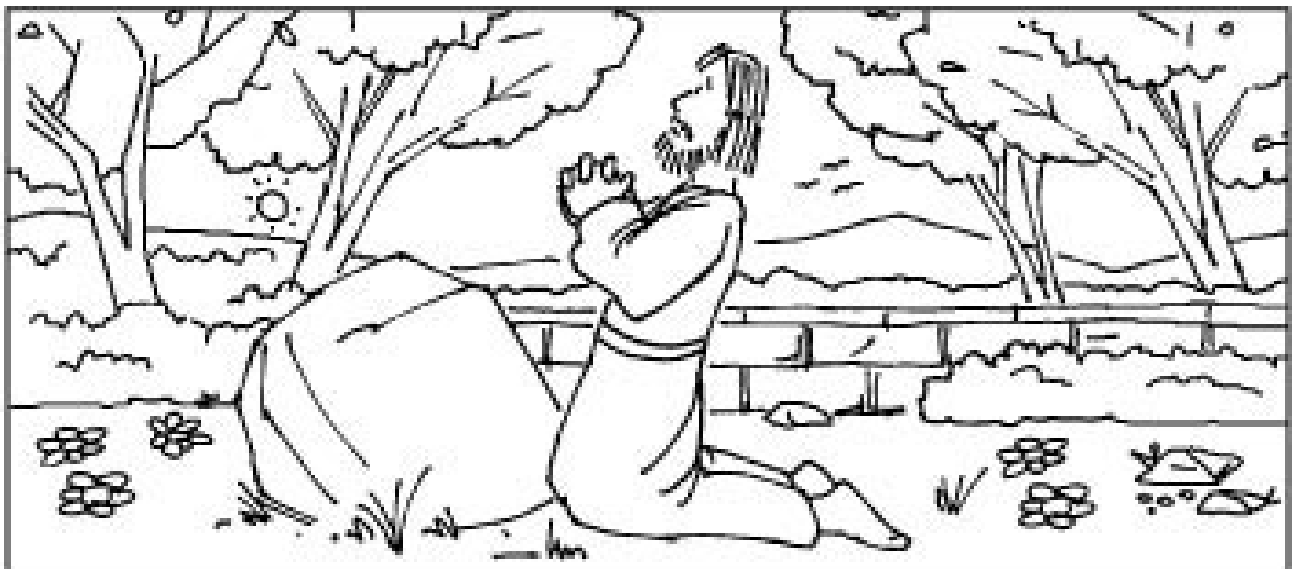
Ages 7-12

John 17:1-11

Jesus Prays

Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven.

Find 10 things that are different in the second picture.



Committee News

Christian Education

The last day of **Sunday School** will be June 1st. **Vacation Bible School** will be June 17th, 18th, and 19th from 5-8pm. The theme is What a mess. Children will learn that no matter how messy we are, Jesus loves us; we're all children of God; and to love and forgive each other. Registration forms are online and in the Narthex. **Adult Sunday School** will start in July; more details to come next month. **Scholarship applications** are available in the office, on the website, and in the email announcements.

Evangelism

Join us for **Wing Night** the first Wednesday of the month this summer (June 4th, July 2nd, August 6th) 4-7pm! Enjoy 6 wings and a side for \$10. Soft drinks will be available for purchase as well; water and coffee will be free!

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 June 14th (for the Community Dinner).

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. See the signup sheets in the Narthex.

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

The last day of quilting will be May 20th.

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.

Thank you to Ruth Brown for serving as the Altar Guild Chair for all these years! We appreciate all your hard work and dedication over the years.

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

June 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
1 8:30 Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Service Blessing of Grads Luna's b-day party 12:30	2 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> 5:00 Bells	3 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches	4 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Wing Night 4-7pm	5 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	6 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	7 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
8 8:30 Service 9:45 Gallery Walk 11:00 Service Pentecost-wear red	9 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	10 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches	11 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	12 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	13 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	14 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
15 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	16 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	17 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches VBS 5-7pm	18 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Echo Articles Due VBS 5-7pm	19 VBS 5-7pm	20 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	21 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
22 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	23 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	24 9-2 Food Pantry Free Lunches Pastor vacation	25 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Pastor vacation	26 <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i> Pastor vacation	27 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Pastor vacation	28 11-12:30 Food Pantry Free Lunches & Nick's Closet Pastor vacation
29 8:30 Service 11:00 Service Pastor vacation	30 Admin OFFICE CLOSED <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Pastor vacation	July 1 9-2 Food Pantry 5-7 Food Pantry Pastor vacation	July 2 <i>9:00 & 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> Wing Night 4-7pm Pastor vacation	July 3 OFFICE CLOSED <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	July 4 OFFICE CLOSED <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	July 5 Firework Parking

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE	HOSPITALITY
6/1/2025 8:30	Rich Tulino	Katrina Pavolino	Wes & Susan Combs	Nancy Altman	Rich Tulino		
11:00		Ruth Brown		Mary Lou Moisio			
6/8/2025 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Susan combs		Wes & Susan Combs	Amy Gallagher		
11:00	Deac. Heidi	Mark Lytle			Mark Lytle		
6/15/2025 8:30	Jen Best	Katrina Pavolino	Wes & Susan Combs				
11:00	Jen Best	Ruth Brown			Susan Tan		
6/22/2025 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino		Katrina Pavolino	Amy Gallagher		
11:00							
6/29/2025 8:30		Katrina Pavolino	Wes & Susan Combs	Nancy Altman			
11:00	Deac. Heidi	Glenda Betteridge	Glenda & Greg Betteridge	Jerry Lampela	Greg Betteridge		

**JUNE
ALTAR GUILD:**

*Serving from
the Heart*

**JULY
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*



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
876 Grove St
Conneaut, OH 44030