



# *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**

**DECEMBER 2025**

*From the thoughts of the pastor...*

Recently, I've been thinking about my role here at Good Shepherd, and what it means to be a pastor. I think it would be helpful for me, and maybe you the reader, if we explored what it means to be a pastor.

At its most fundamental layer, a pastor is the spiritual and theological leader of the congregation he/she/they are called into. It is the responsibility of the pastor to care for the well-being of a person's spiritual being, their soul if you will. Pastors do this through guiding person(s) with their faith with preaching faithful messages, presiding at the sacraments – the earthly connection to the spiritual – and by teaching about faith and how to live a faithful life. But all these are still not at the core, still words, maybe 25 cent words, to explain what a pastor does and is supposed to do...is called to do.

Some pastors are called into the teaching lane more, becoming professors or youth teachers; becoming the ones who try to impart their knowledge, try to get those who listen to them, to understand the words that come out of their mouths into something the hearers can understand and adapt into their brains for their own understanding. These called into teaching have their own set of gifts to make the audience understand what they are teaching that day. They have the ability to focus their minds and their words into something that is coherent, obtainable, and faithful without being all over the place, without starting one line of thought then moving onto the other and then moving back, sometimes within their own sentences. Pastors of a congregation are to be teachers. And, through the grace of God, supposed to be good teachers. But this pastor doesn't think of himself as a coherent, single line of thought teacher. This pastor starts one direction and thinks about another direction following that just to return to that first direction moments later. And, you know what, this pastor is okay with not being the best teacher and not being called into the teaching lane more than other callings.

This pastor is called more to the sacraments – to preside and administer the sacraments. We remember from our confirmation days – or looking through our small catechism – the sacraments in the Lutheran Church are The Sacrament of Holy Baptism and The Sacrament of the Altar (which we sometimes say Holy Communion or Eucharist). Presiding at either of these sacraments is a joy and a privilege that not all people have the opportunity to experience. Sacramental Pastors have the opportunity to get a real world connection, a real world example, something that can be seen and touched and experienced without words, without anyone telling you what you should feel or even believe. Connecting the spiritual world and the spiritual being to the earthly thing that we see, touch, hear, taste, and smell gives us some kind of reality behind the words, the noises coming from our mouths. Being the one that leads all those around to these connection points – these connections between spiritual and physical, to God and earth – is powerful, humbling, and honoring for any pastor, especially this pastor.

Yet, there is one part of the call, one part of being a pastor that doesn't get much attention and, if we're honest about it, much use. Being a pastor also means being a counselor. This pastor thinks of this role as paramount, greater than the presider and administer of the sacraments.

The common joke that a pastor works only a couple hours on Sunday is, of course, not true. The pastor is available during the week for conversation, counseling, and guidance. While many think this only applies when one needs help on spiritual matters, the pastor is available to be a sounding board, a shoulder to cry on, or someone to yell at, complain to, or just get something off one's chest. Do you want to run something by someone before a presentation? Come to the office. Are you having difficulties with someone in the house and just want to vent? Come to the office. And, of course, are you worried about where you will go when you die? Come to the office.

I know it makes things easier when one is already there for a Sunday worship service to then utilize the counselor pastor, and for emergencies, (like someone actively dying – or recently died – someone who is having a mental melt down, contemplating – or actively talking about – suicide, emergencies that have a timeline attached to them) this pastor will hold everything to respond to the emergency. This pastor is in his office every day and will drop everything – including lunch – to listen, to acknowledge, to be present, to counsel as best he can. This pastor likes to listen, likes to counsel, but he also knows his limits and will convey the best he can. The well-being of the one's he shepherds matter more than the service, the class, or the administration of the congregation.

Here, however, are what pastors are not, including this pastor. He/she/they are not fixers; pastors have no magic wand to fix anything including relationships (especially between the person and God). Pastors are not someone to bully; pastors listen and take in information but, when needed, will defend themselves from verbal abuse. Pastors live in the real world and have lives; there will be times when pastors get sick or busy and are unable to drop everything to respond to an emergency. While this pastor tries to stay healthy and 99% of the time does not have something that can't be left for an emergency, pastors still are human and have scheduled appointments or commitments. Finally, pastors are not mind-readers. This pastor believes no news is good news (or to quote Robin Hood: Men in Tights, "no noose is good noose").

But just because pastors don't come, are not available, or do not answer, does not mean he/she/they do not care; pastors care, this pastor cares...a lot.

So, what does a pastor do? Pastors are teachers – sometimes through verbal classes, written letters (like this), or spoken at the pulpit. Pastors are caretakers of the sacraments – sometimes getting to baptize children, sometimes saying this bread and wine are the body and blood of Christ. And pastors are counselors, someone who is guaranteed to listen, no matter the issue, no matter the subject, no matter how personal it goes. As part of being a counselor, there is a level of secrecy that is often not seen when talking with other friends. While Lutherans don't have the Sacrament of the Confessional, we pastors are bound by some rules of secrecy and silence.

This pastor's office door is always (or near always) open to drop by and complain, talk about the weather, just take a load off and have a warm beverage (including espresso now). See you soon.

*Amen+*

السلام عليكم

*(Peace be upon you)*

*The Reverend Joshua Krenz*

The Reverend Joshua Krenz

# The Big Churchy Word



ECHO Word December 2025

**Pastor** (Gr. *Poimenos*, “shepherd”; cf. Lat. *Pascere*, “to pasture,” “to feed”) One who has spiritual oversight over a congregation of Christian believers in a church or Christian community (Eph. 4:11). Also the shepherd of a flock.<sup>1</sup>

**Presider** (Lat. *Praesidere*, “to preside”) A term for anyone who oversees an act of public worship.<sup>2</sup>

Throughout the worship bulletin, we see the words presiding (or sometimes assisting) minister. While it is usual for the presider to be the pastor, this is not always the case. When I went to Santa Fe this November to baptize my niece, I was the presider/presiding minister but I was not the pastor; I am only the pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. This is the same case when the Bishop comes to lead worship as she would be the presider and I still would be the pastor. This is why the italicized rubrics exist within the worship bulletin and in the leaders guides and why they are important.

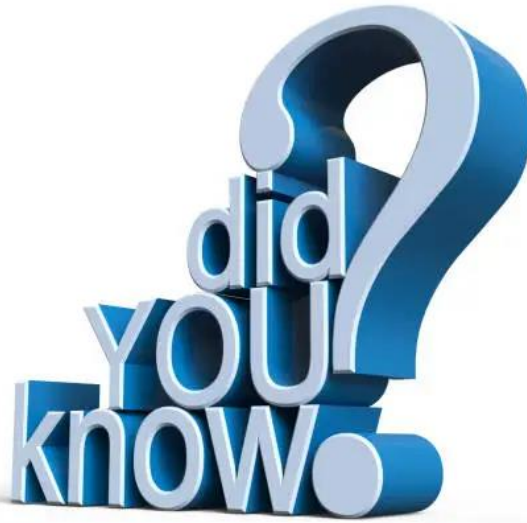
We often overlook the rubrics, and sometimes don’t even include them, because there is nothing for us, as worshipers, to do; they are like stage notes (cringe at the thought) for the “production” of worship. (Now worship service is NOT a production and should NOT be thought of as a production.). The rubrics give guidance and the “who’s who” during the worship service. But there’s more to this as, of course within the church, there are theological implications and reasons why some people say some things...stay tuned for that explanation.

For now, though, during a normal worship service when there are no guests to lead the service, I am the pastor and the presider; when I am away, I am still the pastor but someone else is the presider; when we have a guest like the bishop or son of the congregation, I am the pastor, but they are the presider.

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

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



Did you know...

The beautiful organ that we use during our traditional service times was not the original organ when the church was dedicated 60 years ago. In 1965, the worship services were accompanied by the Hammond electric organ which came over from Grace Lutheran Church; it wasn't until 1973 when funding began for a new organ.

In 1973, funds from the former Faith Lutheran Brotherhood of Faith Lutheran Church were established as the seed money to buy and install a new organ. Starting at \$499.89, the seeds were planted with gifts and memorials bringing the dream into a reality.

In 1976, the Church Council decided it was time to establish an Organ Committee, responsible for research, qualifications, make, and type of organ to purchase and install. The committee went around to various churches nearby and far away, including Maryland, to investigate organs. After almost a year of searching and learning, it was decided that a pipe organ from Schantz Organ Company in Orrville, Ohio, would be recommended to the congregation. In a congregational meeting on June 12, 1977, the congregation overwhelmingly affirmed this decision.

However, one does not simply go to the store and buy an organ of this magnitude. The process takes time – this organ took 19 months to schedule, prepare the sanctuary, and install the organ. Adjusted for inflation, the organ was installed at a cost of over \$200,000. The organ was installed in 1979 with the former organ given to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Jefferson, Ohio.

On June 10, 1979, at 7:00 PM, an organ recital and dedication ensued under Rev. Richard Bowen and Mr. Robert Schneider with our very own new (not new but returning) organist Mrs. Sandra Matheny assisting Mr. Schneider.

# December Birthdays



Mike Vendetti  
George Peterson  
Chrisann Lewert

Abigail Rigolizzo  
Jan Uveges  
David Thompson  
Pastor Joshua Krenz

Paul Gauvin  
Laurie Bidwell  
Katrina Pavolino



## ATTENDANCE

11/2	67
11/9	60
11/16	64
11/23	47



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

The OFFICES will be  
CLOSED if the  
Schools are CLOSED

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 at  
440-599-8908. To add someone to the prayer chain,  
you can call Betty at 440-265-2452.

# TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2025

## TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	GENERAL FUND	BALANCE AS OF	31-Oct-25					\$8
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%	\$ 16,330	\$ 65,652	102.4%
7	May	\$ 12,139	\$ 525	\$ 60,270	75.8%	\$ 12,981	\$ 78,633	96.1%
8	June	\$ 8,867	\$ 551	\$ 69,688	73.3%	\$ 15,433	\$ 94,066	97.1%
9	July	\$ 7,794	\$ 450	\$ 77,933	70.5%	\$ 13,890	\$ 107,956	96.7%
10	August	\$ 8,605	\$ 1,159	\$ 87,697	69.6%	\$ 12,223	\$ 120,179	93.5%
11	September	\$ 6,508	\$ 401	\$ 94,606	66.9%	\$ 16,170	\$ 136,349	94.6%
12	October	\$ 8,754	\$ 1,939	\$ 105,299	67.1%	\$ 13,340	\$ 149,688	93.8%
13	November							
14	December							
15	Need \$16,035 ea Mo.	\$192,425/year		\$ (51,603)		EXPENSE V BUDGET	\$ (9,946)	
16							9/30/2025	10/31/2025
17	Capital Improvement Endowment Fund						\$ 961,217	\$ 1,061,679
18								
19	Community Involvement Endowment Fund Balance						\$ 45,023	\$ 45,330
20								
21	Mission & Education Endowment Fund						\$ 131,686	\$ 131,588
22								
23	Thrivent Fund						\$ 16,000	\$ 16,253
24								
25	Capital Improvement						\$ -	\$ -
26								
27	Youth Missions Fund						\$ 8,484	\$ 8,484
28								
29	Abiding Memorial						\$ 7,157	\$ 7,784
30								
31	Detroit Street						\$ 12	\$ 12
32								
33	Sandusky St						\$ 5,856	\$ 7,201
34								
35	Capital Improvement Endowment Fund Usage for Operating Expenses YTD						\$ 17,800	\$ 20,300
36								
37	5% Biblical Tithe to Synod						\$ 325.40	
38								
39				Stacy Racut, Treasurer				
40								
41								



# NEWS & UPDATES



**\$7 cash**  
Additional charges  
apply for online/credit  
card sales

**Nisua Bake December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Volunteers Welcome  
Order on or before November 30<sup>th</sup>

Please place orders for  
**Poinsettias**  
on or before **December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**\$10 each**

Forms are in the Narthex.



**December 7<sup>th</sup>**



**Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
at Golden Dawn

**Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex**



**December 13<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm**  
**ALL WELCOME!**

If you want to volunteer, see Jen

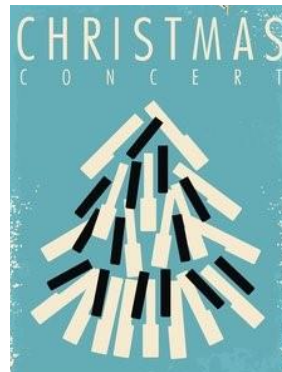


## QUILT RAFFLE

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

Order through the office  
or through the Square link

**Next and Final Drawing- December 14<sup>th</sup>**



**Christmas  
Concert**  
at GSLC  
**December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
2pm

<p><b>The Admin office will be CLOSED Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> - Jan 2<sup>nd</sup></b></p> <p><b>PASTOR'S office will be CLOSED Dec 29<sup>th</sup> &amp; January 1st</b></p> 	 <div data-bbox="836 361 1133 436"> <p><b>Quilting Ministries Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1156 361 1429 436"> <p><b>NO QUILTING December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup></b></p> </div>
 <p>Want to sing <b>special music</b> on Christmas Eve? Sign up in the Narthex.</p>	 <p><b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 6:00 pm (Contemporary) 9:00 pm (Traditional)</p> <p><b>Christmas Day Service</b> 10:00 am (Traditional)</p> <p><b>Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> (1 service)</b> 10:00 am (Contemporary- no Christian Ed.)</p> 

## Committee News

### Christian Education

Our **Christmas Party** will be on December 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. If you'd like to volunteer to run a station or to wrap presents, see Jen.

There are **no Sunday school/Christian Education** classes on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Evangelism

I would like to personally **thank** all the volunteers that helped with the bake and soup sale we had for the election. We made about \$300. People are looking forward to our next one in May.

**Purse Bingo** is February 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are welcome; see Michelle or Jen. Tickets are available now; you can order them online with the link or QR code, before or after services, or during office hours.

**Volunteers** are greatly appreciated for unloading trucks and helping prepare lunches in the kitchen, especially on Tuesdays.

**Fishes & Loaves** – Hours are Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and Saturdays have been extended to 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. until further notice. For food emergencies, call 440-381-1018. Volunteers are always welcome to assist. Fishes and Loaves, Free Lunches, and Nick's Closet will be closed December 23<sup>rd</sup>-January 3<sup>rd</sup>.



### 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!

Please remember to keep **doors closed** to help with climate control. Also, please remember to **turn off the lights** when you leave the room.

Offices will be closed if the schools are closed for **snow** accumulation. Worship services will only be cancelled if there is a level 3 snow emergency.

### Social Ministries

Volunteers welcomed to serve **hospitality** after each service. See the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

If you're interested in **leading Social Ministry** or have ideas about Social Ministry events, see Pastor.

**Nisua bake** is on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

The final **quilt raffle** of the year will be December 14<sup>th</sup>. There is **no quilting** on December 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Worship and Music

Make a **joyful noise** with us! **Bell Practice** has resumed. **Choir practice** starts on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and they'll have practice on Wednesdays leading up to Christmas Eve. Come try it out! All are welcome to join. See Sandra.

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

Order your **poinsettias** by December 7<sup>th</sup>. Half-sheets are in the Narthex.

**Hanging of the Greens** will be December 7<sup>th</sup>. Wes Combs will be here to start setting trees up on December 6<sup>th</sup>, if you'd like to help that day too.

There will be a **Christmas Concert** at GSLC on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm.

**Christmas Eve** services are December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (contemporary) and 9pm (traditional).

**Christmas Day** service is December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am. There is only 1 service at 10am on **December 28<sup>th</sup>**.

### Other News

**Bell Ringing** at Golden Dawn for the Salvation Army is December 12<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

The next **Congregational Meeting** is December 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.

The **Administrative Office** will be closed December 22<sup>nd</sup>- January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Pastor's Office** will be closed December 29<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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



# December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Nov 30</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Service	<b>1</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>2</b> 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches  Quilting 9-11	<b>3</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>4</b> <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>  <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>5</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>6</b> 10-2 Food Pantry 11-12:30 Free Lunches & Nick's Closet <b>Nisua Bake</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Service <b>Hanging of Greens</b> <b>Last day to order poinsettias</b>	<b>8</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>  Echo Articles Due	<b>9</b> 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches  Quilting 9-11	<b>10</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>11</b> YMCA X-mas Party 11:30am  <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	<b>12</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>  <b>Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Golden Dawn</b>	<b>13</b> 10-2 Food Pantry 11-12:30 Free Lunches & Nick's Closet <b>Christmas Party 4-6pm</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Service <b>Quilt Drawing</b> <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>15</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>16</b> 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches  Quilting 9-11	<b>17</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>18</b> <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>	<b>19</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>20</b> 10-2 Food Pantry 11-12:30 Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
<b>21</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Service <b>Children's Message</b> <b>2pm Concert</b>	<b>22</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i> <b>Admin Office Closed</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Admin Office Closed</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Admin Office Closed</b>  <b>6pm Service</b> <b>9pm Service</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Admin Office Closed</b>  <b>10am Service</b>	<b>26</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>10:00 Service</b>	<b>29</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>  <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Admin Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b> <i>9:00 &amp; 10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>  <b>Admin Office Closed</b>	<b>Jan 1</b> <i>5:00 Line Dancing</i>  <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>Jan 2</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <i>10:30 YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>Jan 3</b>

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE	HOSPITALITY
12/7/2025 8:30		Katrina Pavolino		Nancy Altman			
11:00		Glenda Betteridge	Glenda & Greg Betteridge	Mary Lou Moisio	Greg Betteridge		
12/14/2025 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino			Amy Gallagher		
11:00		Mark Lytle		Mary Lou Moisio	Mark Lytle		
12/21/2025 8:30	Jen Best	Katrina Pavolino		Nancy Altman			
11:00	Jen Best	Ruth Brown			Susan Tan		
12/24/2025 6pm	Deac. Heidi						
9pm	Deac. Heidi	Glenda Betteridge	Glenda & Greg Betteridge		Greg Betteridge		
12/25/2025 10am	Deac. Heidi						
12/28/2025 10am		Katrina Pavolino		Katrina Pavolino	Stacy Racut		

**DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD:**  
 Katrina Pavolino, Michelle Flower,  
 Kelly Anthony, Robin Bryant,  
 Susan Tan



**JANUARY ALTAR GUILD:**

***Good Shepherd Lutheran Church***

876 Grove Street  
Conneaut, OH 44030  
440-599-8908 / [www.gslcc.org](http://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](mailto:gslcpastor@gwcmail.net)

**Office Staff**

Jennifer Best, Administrative Assistant  
[goodshepherd@gwcmail.net](mailto:goodshepherd@gwcmail.net)

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Conneaut, OH 44030