



# *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 2026**

*From the thoughts of the pastor...*

There is a theological concept within our Lutheran denomination that I feel I don't understand completely, a dichotomy and paradox that exists in our beliefs, our words, and our understanding of Scripture. This theological concept is the existence Law and Gospel (not quite the same as keeping grass in control, you know **LAWNORDER** (Law & Order) but...)

I understand the basics of Law and Gospel, how the Law is the way of telling us we are sinners and the Gospel is the way to tell us we are saved. But how for each, what does each mean, and why do we need – or even want, especially Law – in our belief, in our denomination, in our preaching. This is what I hope to accomplish through my own understands in my thoughts.

Like every good attempt to understand something – especially words – a definition is a good place to start.

Google defines Law as:

the system of rules which a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and which may enforce by the imposition of penalties; a rule defining correct procedure or behavior in a sport; a statement of fact, deducted from observation, to the effect that a particular natural or scientific phenomenon always occurs if certain conditions are present; [and/or] the body of divine commandments as expressed in the Bible or other religious texts.<sup>1</sup>

Google defines Gospel as:

the teaching or revelation of Christ; the record of Jesus' life and teaching in the first four books of the New Testament; a fervent style of African American evangelical religious singing, developed from spirituals sung in Southern Baptist and Pentecostal Churches.<sup>2</sup>

So, the last definition of Law makes sense to me as this is what we've been taught throughout our Christian education including seminary; and the first definition of Gospel makes sense to me as this is what we've been taught throughout our Christian education including seminary. But what does these mean specifically for us? What does Martin Luther say about Law and Gospel?

In the Anthology of *What Luther Says* (a collection of Luther's writings on certain subjects taken from the collection of Luther's Works), Law and Gospel are somewhat defined by Luther:

By 'Law' we should understand nothing but God's Word and command in which He commands us what we are to do and not to do and demands our obedience or service... The Gospel is such a doctrine or Word of God as does not demand our works or command us to do anything but bids us simply receive the offered grace of the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation and be satisfied to have it given us as a present.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Google Dictionary – Law.

<sup>2</sup> Google Dictionary – Gospel.

<sup>3</sup> Plass, Ewald M. (1959). *What Luther Says: An Anthology* (pp.732). Concordia Publishing House. #2277.

Luther further continues in a different writing:

According to the apostle [Paul], Rom. 1:1-3f., the Gospel is the message about the incarnate Son of God, who was given us without our merits for salvation and peace. It is the Word of salvation, the Word of grace, the Word of comfort, the Word of joy, the voice of the Bridegroom and the bride, the good Word[...]. But the Law is the Word of perdition, the Word of wrath, the Word of sadness, the word of pain, the voice of the Judge, and the accused, the Word of unrest, the Word of malediction; for according to the apostle, the Law is the strength of sin[...]the Law works wrath[...]and it is the Law of death[...]<sup>4</sup>

Finally, Luther writes in yet a different place:

The Law and the Gospel are two doctrines that are absolutely contrary. To place righteousness in the Law is, therefore, simply fighting against the Gospel. For the Law is an exactor, requiring of us that we should work and give; in a word, it wants to have (something) from us. But the Gospel exacts nothing from us; rather it gives freely and enjoins us to hold out our hands and to take what it offers. But now, to exact and to give, to take and to offer are opposites and cannot go on at the same time. For that which is given, I take; but that which I give, I do not take; I offer it to another. If, then, the Gospel is a gift and offers a gift, exacts nothing. Again, the Law gives nothing but exacts of us; indeed (it exacts) impossible things.<sup>5</sup>

To summarize, according to Luther (and my understanding), the Law tells us what to do, how to act, demands obedience and service; is more punishing and takes from us. The Gospel, on the other hand, is the word of grace – the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation – the message of a gift given to us without our merits. If the Law is the taker, the Gospel is the giver. Simply put, “The Law Demands; the Gospel Gives.”<sup>6</sup>

Then, we have this dichotomy, this contrast, this clash, if you will, in ideas; why have both in our teachings, why have both in our doctrine, why have both in our preaching and actions and words?

Often, when speaking with my professors on this subject, they would say the Law is a mirror, as that it shows you where you have separated from God, where you have done wrong, why you need grace; the Gospel is that message of grace, is that grace given to you, how God never separates from you. The Law is why grace is such a wonderful thing and how God is such a wonderful...well, God. So, we need this dichotomy, this contrast, to see both, to understand both. If we lived solely in the Law, if we studied or existed solely in the Law, we wouldn't know righteousness, we wouldn't want to praise and worship God. (After all, who really wants to praise and worship something/someone that is all about death, destruction, wrath, punishment, etc.) Contrarily, if we existed solely in the Gospel, we would become numb to grace, it wouldn't be special – a treat, if you will. Living solely in the Gospel would make us start to deaden ourselves to the specialness of God and our praise and worship wouldn't be as heartfelt or as meaningful.

Therefore, we need both Law and Gospel. And that's the paradox: we cannot have one without the other – we need to be told we are sinners and deserve the wrath of God in order to understand the powerfulness and specialness of the gift of God, this grace. Our Lutheran denomination is full of paradoxes, some of which I don't know if I can even explain the paradox. But I think this understanding of why we need to be told we are deserving of death and damnation through the Law matters. But we need to hear the Gospel too, and this is tough right now. What I'll live you with, then, is this: God has, and continues to, give you grace – forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. This I understand and know is most certainly true. Amen+

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid. (pp.732-733). #2278.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. (pp.733). #2279.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

# The Big Churchy Word



ECHO Word- April 2026

**Sanctification** (Gr. *Hagiasmos*, Lat. *Sanctificatio*) The process or result of God’s continuing work in Christian believers through the power of the Holy Spirit. In Protestant theology this occurs after justification and is growth in grace and holiness of life marked by good works.<sup>7</sup>

Last month, we defined a couple works – Justification and Righteousness. But another word that goes along with these two is Sanctification. It is something that was brought up – or at least came to me – during the first CAMA Lenten Service at the UCC Church on March 1. For us Lutherans, Sanctification is something we believe in only adjunctly. What I mean is, we are sanctified because of our justification. Let’s break it down a little more.

One of the Lutheran mottos is *simul iustus et peccator* (simultaneously just [righteous] and sinner) which we have shortened to *both saint and sinner*. This is a shorten version of the main theological idea for Martin Luther and for our Lutheran identity. While I won’t say that other Protestant denominations don’t ascribe to this idea – as some do – it’s the “how to become a saint” is where we differ. But, again, before we get there, we should define what it means – according to our Lutheran denomination – to be a saint.

Simply put, and many Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic denomination agree that a “saint” is a holy person. For the Roman Catholic denomination, there are a set of requirements before someone is determined to be a saint; to be determined someone is holy. Normally, it is the performance of two verifiable miracles, and only after the person has died. (Historically not the case but that’s a discussion for another time.) But for Protestants, the “requirements” differs. In some denominations, like the United Methodist Church, one has to do works – good works – to become holy; not good works to be made right with God (like the Roman Catholic belief) but good works to become a saint, to be made holy, to be sanctified. Lutherans, on the other hand, believe through Holy Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar we are made holy, we become saints, we are sanctified. Whether one is baptized at infancy or as an adult, being baptized (in the Trinitarian Formula) makes one holy, which then leaves the works that we do – the good works – solely for the benefit of our neighbor (e.g. we get nothing from it other than the good feeling of doing something go for someone else).

This is why I would say Lutheran believe in Sanctification as an adjunct, next to, Justification. We certainly put more emphasis on Justification than we do on Sanctification – more on the What God does *for* us rather than the What God does *in* us. For Lutherans, Sanctification is more of a result of Justification – we are made right with God and therefore we are holy; baptism only confirms it and Holy Communion only reminds us of it.

Thus, we are a saint (we are made holy through our Justification) and a sinner (we continue to live with the corruption of sin in our daily lives). Lutherans believe there is nothing we can do to make us any more holy. Therefore, the works we do are for the neighbor themselves.

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<sup>7</sup> McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* 2 Ed. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014.

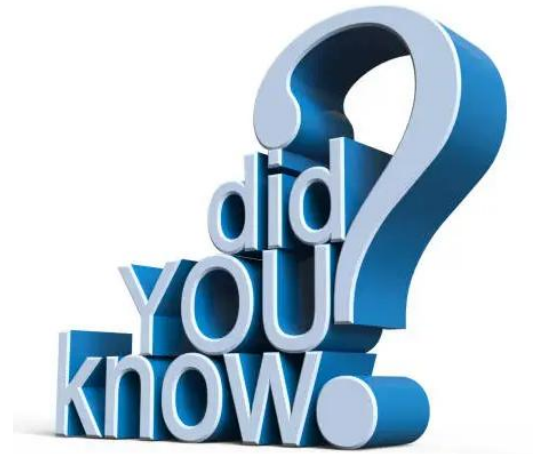
## ECHO Did You Know- April 2026

Did you know...

Outside of the church office is a yearlong calendar which has all of the church events and hall rentals marked on it. This is an easy “at a glance” way of seeing all the events that are happening within the church BEYOND the normal weekly events of Food Pantry, Quilting, and Worship Services. In this, and all editions of the ECHO, the calendar has these events as well but the big calendar outside the church office allows for a broader view of the year. Come down to the office to check it out.

BONUS Did you know!!!

Outside the Pastor’s office is a single month calendar which also gives an “at a glance” view of his month...when he remembers to update it in a timely fashion.



## April Birthdays



Renee Harley  
Rick Vidmar  
Greg Betteridge  
Karen Yourchak

Carter Sanford  
Raymie Fill  
Richard Tulino

Gary Anderson  
Bob Hybert  
Julia Pew  
Amanda Sanford



ATTENDANCE	
3/8	49
3/11	13
3/15	58
3/18	13
3/22	59
3/25	16

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 440-344-9534.

# Committee News

## Christian Education

**Communion Education Class-** April 11<sup>th</sup> 10am. We need at least 3 more people to sign up, or this event will be cancelled. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Our next event will be at **Wild Wonders** on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am-1pm. Anyone with children ages 0-12 is encouraged to bring them. Cost is \$10 per child. Food will be provided.

The **last day of Sunday School** will be May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**VBS** will be in the evenings June 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. There are many volunteer opportunities: helping with food, set-up/clean-up, crafts, activities, Bible study, music, etc. The theme will be Surprise Party- celebrating Jesus's unexpected grace for unexpected people and inviting everyone to share in that grace and love.

## 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.

## Evangelism

**Easter breakfast** will be April 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:30am. If you're interested in making/bringing some food, a sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

**Community Easter Dinner** at Corpus Christi 12-2pm on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Eat-in or take-out. Please call 440-599-8570 to make a reservation by April 4<sup>th</sup>. We will not have free lunches at GSLC this day. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you're interested in volunteering.

We'll be having another **soup and baked goods sale** in the Narthex on election day, May 5<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. See Michelle for more details.

**Spa Day** is May 16<sup>th</sup> from 12-4pm. If you'd like to volunteer, please see Michelle.

**Our community dinner** will be coming up June 13<sup>th</sup>. More details are coming soon.

**Volunteers** are greatly appreciated for unloading trucks and helping prepare lunches in the kitchen. There are many days of opportunity.

**Fishes & Loaves** – Food Pantry hours are Tuesdays 9am – 2pm and Saturdays 10am – 12:30pm. Free Lunches are Tuesdays 9am-2pm and Saturdays 11am-12:30pm. Nick's Closet is open Saturdays 11am-12:30pm. For food emergencies, call 440-381-1018. Volunteers are always welcome to assist.

All Fishes and Loaves services will be closed on April 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Holy Saturday.

### 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.

### Worship and Music

Make a **joyful noise** with us! **Choir practice** meets on Mondays at 5:30pm. All are welcome to join.

### **Hymn Request Survey**

#### **11:00 Service**

Do you have a favorite hymn? Something that has, perhaps, not been played for a while? Maybe one that gets played only once a year? We would love to know.

We invite you to share what you know about the hymn- or spiritual song- the title, lyrics, or even the category (such as season, author, or general time of the hymn- Easter, Christmas, etc.) The more information you can provide, the better we can serve you in the hymn selection.

We welcome general categories as well, such as hymns by Martin Luther, Welsh or Irish hymns, or hymns/songs by vocal groups you enjoy.

While we will continue to connect hymns/song choices to the scripture of the day, this will allow us to first look at your favorites before using our other resources.

So, we ask, what is your favorite hymn?



<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>March 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:30 and 11 services, as usual; no Sunday School</b>
<b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7pm service</b>
<b>Stations of Cross</b>	<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>12pm - Township Park</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>7pm service</b>
<b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6pm service; Fishes &amp; Loaves closed</b>
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8:30 and 11 services, as usual; no Sunday School</b> <b>Breakfast 9:00-10:30</b>
<b>Easter Monday</b>	<b>April 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Offices Closed</b>

# NEWS & UPDATES

## Food Pantry

Tuesdays 9:00am–2:00pm  
Saturdays 10:00am-12:30pm

## Free Lunches

Tuesdays 9:00am–2:00pm  
Saturdays 11:00am-12:30pm



**CLOSED April 4<sup>th</sup> No Free Lunches April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**For food emergencies, call 440-381-1018**

## Community Easter Dinner



April 11<sup>th</sup>  
12-2pm

Corpus Christi  
eat-in or take-out

Call 440-599-8570  
to make a reservation by April 4<sup>th</sup>



## Communion Class

April 11<sup>th</sup>  
10am

Sign up by 4/1

## Admin Office CLOSED April 20<sup>th</sup>



April 25<sup>th</sup> 1-5pm

## Church Clean Up



Snacks and drinks provided



Youth Event  
(kids 0-12)

May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
10am-1pm

Cost is \$10  
per child.



## SPA DAY

May 16<sup>th</sup> 12-4pm



Lunch, massage, reiki, yoga, inversion table,  
hot wax for hands, and more!

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

CHOIR PRACTICE  
Monday evenings at 5:30pm  
Make a joyful noise  
See Sandra or just show up



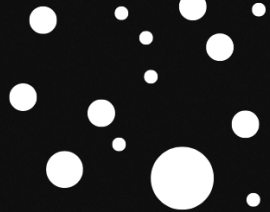
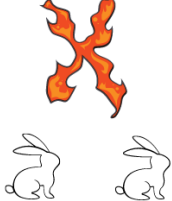



For more info about GSLC ministries and volunteer opportunities, contact the office at 440-599-8908.





# Easter Dingbats



<p><b>Chelsea</b> <b>Patella</b></p>	<p><b>GOD</b> ✓ <b>GOD</b> ✗</p>		<p><b>#FFFF00</b></p>
1	2	3	4
	<p><b>Along</b> <b>Hip</b> <b>Scotch</b></p>		
5	6	7	8
<p>Mon Dislike Tues Dislike Weds Dislike Thurs Dislike Fri Like Sat Dislike Sun Dislike</p>	<p><b>Dior</b> <b>Louboutin</b> <b>La Croix</b></p>	<p><b>EGHUNTGS</b></p>	
9	10	11	12
<p><b>BREAKFAST</b> <b>LUNCH</b> <b>DINNER</b> <b>SUPPER</b></p>			<p><b>SPRING</b></p>
13	14	15	16
		<p><b>24 + ? + Ag</b> <b>? =</b></p>	
17	18	19	20

quiz-questions.uk



Answers at: <https://quiz-questions.uk/easter-dingbats/>

# April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>March 29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:30 Service 11:00 Service	<b>March 30</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>March 31</b> 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches	<b>1</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>2</b> <b>Maundy</b> <b>Thursday</b> <b>Service 7pm</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Stations of</b> <b>Cross 12p</b> Township Park  <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Service 7pm</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Holy</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Service 6pm</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 8:30 Service <b>9-10:30</b> <b>Breakfast</b> 11:00 Service	<b>6</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>7</b> 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches  Quilting 9-11	<b>8</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>9</b> 5:00 <i>Line</i> <i>Dancing</i>	<b>10</b> 10:30 <i>YMCA</i> <i>Fitness</i>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>11</b> 10-12:30 Food Pantry 11-12:30 Nick's Closet  <b>Communion</b> <b>Class 10am</b>  <b>Corpus Christi</b> <b>Easter Dinner</b> <b>12-2pm</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Service	<b>13</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>14</b> 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches  Quilting 9-11	<b>15</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>16</b> 5:00 <i>Line</i> <i>Dancing</i>	<b>17</b> 10:30 <i>YMCA</i> <i>Fitness</i>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>Echo Articles</b> <b>Due</b>	<b>18</b> 10-12:30 Food Pantry 11-12:30 Free Lunches & Nick's Closet
<b>19</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Service <b>Children's</b> <b>Message</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>  <b>Admin Office</b> <b>Closed</b>	<b>21</b> 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches  Quilting 9-11	<b>22</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>23</b> 5:00 <i>Line</i> <i>Dancing</i>	<b>24</b> 10:30 <i>YMCA</i> <i>Fitness</i>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>25</b> 10-12:30 Food Pantry 11-12:30 Free Lunches & Nick's Closet <b>1-5pm Church</b> <b>clean-up</b>
<b>26</b> 8:30 Service 9:45 Christian Education 11:00 Service	<b>27</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>28</b> 9-2 Food Pantry & Free Lunches  Quilting 9-11	<b>29</b> 9:00 & 10:30 <i>YMCA Fitness</i>	<b>30</b> 5:00 <i>Line</i> <i>Dancing</i>	<b>May 1</b> 10:30 <i>YMCA</i> <i>Fitness</i>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>May 2</b> 10-12:30 Food Pantry 11-12:30 Free Lunches & Nick's Closet  <b>Wild Wonders</b> <b>10a-1p</b>

DATE/ TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	USHERS	GREETERS	READER	ACOLYTE	HOSPITALITY
4/2/2026 (Thurs) 7pm	Deac. Heidi						---
4/3/2026 (Fri) 7pm	Deac. Heidi	---	---	---	---	---	---
4/4/2026 (Sat) 6pm	Deac. Heidi	---	---	---	1. 2. 3. 4.	---	---
4/5/2026 8:30		Katrina Pavolino					EASTER
Easter 11:00	Deac. Heidi			Mary Lou Moisio			BREAKFAST
4/12/2026 8:30	Amy Gallagher	Katrina Pavolino		Nancy Altman	Amy Gallagher		
11:00		Mark Lytle			Mark Lytle		
4/19/2026 8:30	Jen Best	Katrina Pavolino					
11:00	Jen Best				Susan Tan		
4/26/2026 8:30				Nancy Altman			
11:00		Glenda Betteridge	Greg and Glenda Betteridge		Greg Betteridge		

**APRIL  
ALTAR GUILD:**  
Michelle Flower, Katrina Pavolino,  
Marion Patten  
Kelly Anthony, Barb Talan, Susan Tan



**MAY  
ALTAR GUILD:**  
Susan Combs, Katrina Pavolino,  
Marion Patten  
Kelly Anthony, Robin Bryant

*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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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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Conneaut, OH 44030