



The Messenger

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Olney, Maryland

November

2020

“Imagining Heaven”

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him....” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

In the summer of 1530, Martin Luther was at the Coburg Castle (as near as he could safely travel to the imperial city of Augsburg) to advise the Protestant delegation to the Imperial diet. Luther took a break from his work to write a letter home to his four-year-old son, Hans. In this letter, he describes for his young child the joy of heaven:

GRACE and peace in Christ, my dear little son. I hear with great pleasure that you are learning your lessons so well and praying so diligently. Continue to do so, my son, and cease not. When I come home, I will bring you a nice present from the fair. I know a beautiful garden, where there are a great many children in fine little coats, and they go under the trees and gather beautiful apples and pears, cherries and plums; they sing and run about and are as happy as they can be. Sometimes they ride on nice little ponies, with golden bridles and silver saddles. I asked the man whose garden it is, “What little children are these?” And he told me, “They are little children who love to pray and learn and are good.” When I said, “My dear sir, I have a little boy at home; his name is little Hans Luther: would you let him come into the garden, too, to eat some of these nice apples and pears, and ride on these fine little ponies, and play with these children?” The man said, “If he loves to say his prayers and learn his lessons, and is a good boy, he may come; [his friends] also; and when they are all together, they can play upon the fife and drum and lute and all kinds of instruments, and skip about and play with little crossbows.” He then showed me a beautiful mossy place in the middle of the garden for them to skip about in, with a great many golden fifes and drums and silver crossbows. The children had not yet had their dinner, and I could not wait to see them play, but I said to the man: “My dear sir, I will go away and write all about it to my little son Hans, and tell him to be fond of saying his prayers, and learn well and be good, so that he may come into this garden; but he has a grand-aunt named Lehne, whom he must bring along with him.” The man said, “Very well: go write to him.”

Now, my dear little son, love your lessons and your prayers, and tell Philip and Jodocus to do so too, that you may all come to the garden. May God bless you. Give Aunt Lehne my love, and kiss her for me. Your dear father, Martinus Luther. In the year 1530.

The childlike picture of heaven that Luther paints no doubt brings a smile to our faces (and my son, for one, will be excited to learn about the heavenly crossbows), but it contains an important point. The created gifts of this life—from pears and ponies to friendship and philosophy—are good in and of themselves, but they are also signs that point beyond themselves toward the wonder of heaven. There is within us a desire for joy, a longing for love, and an appreciation for beauty that no earthly good can entirely satisfy. Let your imagination run wild! Whatever paradise you can imagine, whether it’s a garden full of ponies and crossbows, or a feast of rich food (Isaiah 25), or a gathering of long-departed friends, the joy of heaven will be yet greater—ininitely greater. For God himself is the true object of our longing. He is the source of every good thing, and in his new creation, no good thing will be lost.

May you too continue to learn and pray and—above all—trust in Jesus, until you come at last to the place he has prepared for you and the joy that never dies.

Pastor Tim

About People . . .



We continue to pray for:

... **God's care for our relatives and friends:** Lorraine Ackerman (mother-in-law of Ann Sprague's daughter); Kathryn Mindler (Ann Sprague's aunt who is in hospice care); Robert "Bob" Giurco - Metastasized cancer, friend of Quinn's.

. . . **New Life:** Birth of Lucas Xavier Gleason, born on October 5. His parents are Julia and Mark Gleason.

. . . **Thanksgiving:** Nancy (Andy Carpenter's sister) who participated in a 5K race this week, after being in a very serious car accident over two years ago and being told she would probably not walk again.

. . . **Military serving our country:** **Seth M.** stationed in Korea (Darlene M. request); **Trevor W.** now serving in North Carolina (Brianna H. request); **Libby S.** (friend of Jeanne B.) stationed in Ankara, Turkey; **Raphael** (neighbor of the Hoffman's) Marine Corps; **Mike H. Jr.** deployed (friend of Ron & Cindy M.)

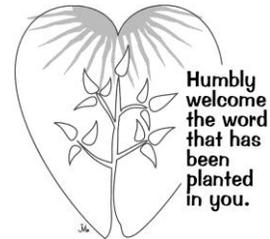
. . . **those who mourn:** For the family of **Xavier Falco** (16-year-old friend of Jake and Lucas Wald who died of bone cancer); for the family of **Tani's uncle** (a friend and flat mate of Patrick Gregory). Her uncle, who had raised her when she was young, died suddenly on October 27. Family of **Gretchen Aysse**, who died this past week. She was Rachel Vincent's sister.

For those who serve on the front lines of the pandemic:

Sarah King	Elena Wilson
Sarah Edsinger	Vicki Wilk
Thomas Gordon	Robert Seggel
David Hillhouse	Rosemary Sampogna
Deb Harman	Molly Mullen
Paul Fowler	Kathy Nicholson
Mike Rajnik	Phil Nicholson
Christine Birch	Dawn McCann
Judi Seggel	Sungjoon Ryou
Lori Falck (Dolores Falck's daughter-in-law)	

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 15, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service, five Good Shepherd second year class members will receive the Rite of Confirmation.



Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you.

Confirmands being honored this year are:

Nicole Carrasco Regan Carrasco
Vittoria Satterlee Lucas Wald
Connor Wilson



Bible Verse to Remember

1 Timothy 2:1-4

1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are known as the Pastoral letters because they give instruction to Timothy and Titus concerning the pastoral care of churches. The following was written by Paul to them.

I urge, then, first of all, that request, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving are made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.



All Saints' Observance

On **Sunday, November 1st** at the **11:00 service**, our Good Shepherd family will observe All Saints' Day. Within the liturgical church year, those saints, who have gone before us to eternity with Christ, will be reverently remembered.



November 1, 2020. Remember to turn **BACK** your clocks one hour on **Saturday night, October 31.**

Our cupboard is bare.



The **Social Ministry Board** will be collecting food over the **November 21 and November 22** weekend. Please bring any items to the church the **week BEFORE Thanksgiving OR on Saturday, November 21 between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM** to the box by the back door of the church **or on Sunday the 22nd.**

We appreciate your help.



ALTAR FLOWERS

For a live streamed service

If you have an upcoming special occasion and would like to SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS for a church service, you can still do that. Contact the office and if there is no answer, leave a message to let Connie know what date you want and the reason. Generally, flowers are in honor or memory of an event such as a birthday, anniversary or something else. We just need to know the date, the event and your name. The cost is a total of \$50 for ONE on each side of the altar (\$25 per vase). If two people sign up the cost can be shared. The cost for a large arrangement in front of the altar is \$50.



Thank you to those who have so faithfully provided the flowers that are in front of the altar each Sunday morning during our live streamed services. When the warm days of summer were here, some of them used flowers from their yards but otherwise the following people are taking turns at purchasing and arranging them each week:

**Angela Boerger
Matt Quinn
Connie Strachan
Rachel Vincent**

Please know how much we appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

Youth Ministry

OGSLY

Olney Good Shepherd Lutheran Youth
(High School)

Confirmands

(Grades 7 & 8)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Grades 4-6)

OGSLY

Upcoming Events

- OGSLY meets for Sunday School every Sunday at 10:00, every Thursday at 7:00 for "Study Sessions", and each Friday evening just for fun.
- During Sunday School OGSLY is learning about God's high view of family while we participate in eight weeklong series dealing with parent and teen relationships. The series points out that just as God intends a husband and wife to be a blessing to each other, He also intends for parents and teens to be a blessing to each other. The goal is for our youth to have a better understanding of their parents in hopes that they will better see them for who they are and learn how to better relate to them.
- Thankfully, our youth are making the best of these difficult times by connecting whenever and however they can. They share their joys, fears, and advise with each other on many personal and academic issues. Some love their virtual learning while others struggle with it. They all agree that they miss the real connections with people. Even with no football, homecoming, and other significant school events, they are already talking about prom. One young man stated that he was going to protest to open schools even if he has to by himself! It's hard! It's hard for all of us! OGSLY continues to pray for better times.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Samantha R.
Angela B.
Bob W.
Pastor Tim B.
November 10 (*Martin Luther*)
Charlie C.
Paula H.
Dominic H,
William S.
Karen H.
Melissa G.
Jimi T.
Joshua F.
Sylvie B.
Ron M.
Patrick G.
Martin P.



Matt & Gina Q.
Howard & Debrah H.
Charles & Mary L.
Mark & Judi S.
Andrew & Jennifer K.

Congratulations!!



C.A.R.E.
(Caring and
Respecting
Everyone)

SCHEDULE

Classes are still meeting - See below

SATURDAY MORNING

The **Men's Group** will meet on the **first Saturday of each month from 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.** and will get together on **Zoom** to discuss topics from the Bible.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES:

Pastor Tim's Bible Class from 9:30-10:15 a.m. on Zoom.

Children's Sunday School:

Children's classes at 8:45 a.m. with Cindy King. Contact her at cindyk5@verizon.net And she will send you a [link to join](#) the class.

High School Sunday School

OGSLY meets Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Contact Steve Gordon for more information.

OTHERS

Book Club – Sunday, November 8 on Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

LifeLight Bible Class – Monday Night on Zoom from 7:00-9:00 p.m.– Kathy Nicholson

Women's Bible Class with Pastor Tim
Thursday mornings 10:30-12:00 noon on Zoom – 1-2 Fascinating Bible Stories

You are invited to join one or more of these groups. Call the office at 301-774-9125 for information, or contact the people in charge, or email office@olneygoodshepherd.org



Book Review Group

The Good Shepherd Book Club

will meet on [Zoom](#) at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 8, 2020

**You will be notified about
how to join the group.**

“Little Fires Everywhere”

Written by Celeste Ng

Into a middle American town called Shaker Heights comes Mia Warren and her daughter Pearl. Their ways are not necessarily the ways of the town. But children adore Mia, an artist whose style is unique. She and her daughter seldom stay for more than a year in one place. But now, Pearl has made friends and has no desire to change schools again. There in the journey begins as to who will succeed and what secrets has Mia hid from all around her. So, join us on Zoom, bring a little snack and settle into a vigorous discussion on secrets, art and motherhood, not necessarily in that order. See you November 8th at 6 pm.



The deadline for the December newsletter is **Friday, November 20.** Please email articles to nancy.wald@olneygoodshepherd.org.

Thanks, Nancy

Stewardship in the Time of COVID-19

During this time of social distancing, it is important to remember that LCGS is still in need of our financial gifts if you are not able to attend worship. Here are some simple ways to continue to give remotely.

Online with PayPal

If you would like to DONATE to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd through our secure PayPal account, please press the PayPal icon on the lcs.church/worship webpage.

Are you using PayPal to make your donations to LCGS? Remember to select "Sending to a Friend" which will eliminate any charges to LCGS for processing the transaction.

U.S. Mail

Your LCGS envelope can be sent via the mail. If you send a check, please mail the envelope to the Church's P.O. Box

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
PO Box 280
Olney, MD 20830-0280

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10

Staying Safe – Remember to:

- Wear a mask when around others
- Social Distance
- Wash your hands often
- Don't touch your face
- Stay 6 feet or more apart
- Stay home or away from others. It is safer to call, text, do FaceTime or video chat.

Just Be Safe – Covid does NOT play nice.
Think of it as the devil described in 1 Peter 5:8 (which came to my mind) "Be sober, be watchful; your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." It is lurking everywhere trying to find you and make you sick, just like the devil trying to make you sin.



To Our Loving Faith Family,

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love and support everyone has shown to us during this difficult time. The outpouring of love we have felt, the many cards, the phone calls and the occasional visit mean so much to us. Shared memories comfort us and bring us such joy. We could not imagine going through this without our loving faith family. When we pray, God hears more than we say, answers more than we ask, gives more than we can imagine, all in His own way and His own time. We are so thankful that He gifted us with Eric, however brief His gift was with us. To all of you, we feel your love and kindness and want you all to know how very much we appreciate and love you.

Love in Christ,

Mel, Nancy, Jake and Lucas Wald

*Thank you, God, for everything
I've experienced here on earth.
Thank You for protecting me
From the moment of my birth.*

*Thank you for the beauty
Around me everywhere,
The gentle rain and glistening dew,
The sunshine and the air.*

*The joyous gift of "feeling"
The soul's soft, whispering voice
That speaks to me from deep within
And makes my heart rejoice.*

*Oh, God, no words are great enough
To thank you for just living,
And that is why every day
Is a day for real THANKSGIVING.*

- From Joyful Noiseletter,
November-December 2018

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

The graphic features the word 'HAPPY' in a clean, black, uppercase sans-serif font at the top right. Below it, 'Thanksgiving' is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The text is surrounded by several autumn-themed illustrations: a bright orange pumpkin with white stripes is positioned above the 'T'; a cluster of small, round green grapes is located below the 'g'; and various sprigs of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown are scattered around the text, some framing it from the sides and bottom.

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**The deadline for the December issue is
Friday, November 20, 2020**

**Current Sunday Worship Services
are live streamed at 11:00 a.m.**
Sunday School – Zoom classes only
Check for Times.