



The Messenger

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Olney, Maryland

March

2021

“The Servant King”

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. —Zechariah 9:9

Word must have traveled fast. Bethany was only two miles from Jerusalem. So, it didn't take long for word to reach the Holy City that a man had been raised to life in the presence of a large crowd. Of course, rumors already surrounded this rabbi from the North. He was known to be a teacher of wisdom and a doer of wondrous signs. But now this Jesus of Nazareth had given life to a man four-days dead. No one had ever heard anything like this. Not even Elijah had performed so great a sign. Could he be the long-awaited Messiah? Could he be the one who would sweep the corruption out of Jerusalem and finally set them free from their oppressors? And now, rumor said, he was on his way to Jerusalem. Carrying palm branches, a symbol of victory, the crowd went out to meet him. Someone began to shout, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” Soon the whole crowd was shouting....

Hosanna is one of those words that we say all the time in church, like *amen* and *alleluia*, without really knowing what it means. Hosanna (*hoshi'ana* in Hebrew) literally means “Save, we pray!” or even “Save now!” Kind of like, “God save the King!” The crowd is quoting Psalm 118: “Save, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, grant success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!” This psalm is one of the great hymns of praise traditionally sung during Passover. But now it takes on new meaning. Jesus isn't just another pilgrim who has come up to the Jerusalem in the name of the Lord. Rather, he is THE ONE who comes in the name of the Lord. He is the Messiah, the Son of David. He is the one the people believe will save them from their oppressors.

I suspect that the Messiah who arrived in Jerusalem that Sunday was not the kind of Messiah most people expected—not a general on a warhorse but a carpenter on a donkey. As human beings typically do, they had set their sights far too low. The people hoped for the overthrow of Roman tyranny, but Jesus had come to conquer sin and death. They longed for the heir to David's throne; little did they realize that the one in their midst was the Lord of the Universe. As they cry, “Hosanna! God save the King!” they can scarcely imagine that this King is none other than the God who has come to save them. The power that created the heavens was hidden in this homeless rabbi from Nazareth, whose journey will lead not to a throne, but to a cross.

In Jesus we see that the King of the Universe doesn't use his power to force humanity to serve him. He doesn't even use it to save himself. Rather, he comes to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Jesus exercises his kingship by dying to save a world that does not want a king.

Each Holy Week, we don't simply commemorate something that happened long, long ago and far, far away. Even as we remember his triumphal entry into Jerusalem 2000-plus years ago, we celebrate the fact that this unexpected Servant-King continues to come to us *today*. Just as he came once, humbly, riding a donkey, so he comes now, humbly, borne on human language in the gospel (traveling even so profane a road as the Internet); gently, hidden under bread and wine in the sacrament—even when it comes in hermetically sealed plastic cups. He comes not to undertake our agendas, but to rescue people oppressed by sin and death. People like us. “Hosanna!” we cry; “Save now!”

And he does.

Pastor Tim

About People . . .



. . . God's care for our Good Shepherd family: **Mel W.** as she continues to heal from Covid 19.

God's care for our relatives and friends: for (Colette's friend) **Sonia S.** who needs a hip replacement and is in much pain, also Sonia's very ill mother-in-law, and an older sister struggling with congestive heart failure; For Colette's son, **Kevin**, for healing, continuing physical therapy, and thanksgiving. The bullet lodged in his left shoulder was finally successfully removed last week. PTL. Thanksgiving for (Janet M's friend) **Nancy**, whose eye has continued to heal following surgery; for **Janet M.** that the proper treatment for a mass will be found and that she finds a good doctor for a second opinion for this; Another (friend of Tom & Janet M.) **Marilyn H.** is nearing the end of chemo treatments; (Don & Chris P's friend **Dave**) a friend and former co-worker who is experiencing serious health issues; Brother of **Andy**, (friend of Alex P.) in Canada, whose **brother, Danny Y.** is in late stage of pancreatic cancer; **Sharon S.** (sister-in-law of Ann S.) who had a stroke, also pray for another (friend of Ann S): **Denise S.**

. . . **Thanksgiving:** Janet and Tom M. will celebrate their granddaughter's one-year adoption.

. . . **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.)

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)	

* Names used with permission



Ordering Easter Flowers Will be done using Google Form

Both Easter Lilies, and either Pink or Blue Hydrangeas will soon be available to order. **Supply is very limited this year.**

Available will be:

16 Easter Lilies - \$15.00 each
6 Pink Hydrangeas - \$24.00 each
6 Blue Hydrangeas - \$24.00 each

All are in 6" pots.

So, if you would like to purchase one, be watching for the Google Form that will be in the Weekly Word that Cate emails to everyone each week.



Bible Verse to Remember

1 Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all of your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

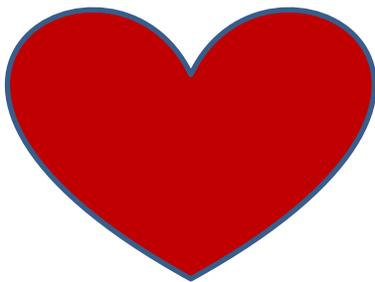
Youth Ministry

OGSLY

Olney Good Shepherd Lutheran Youth
(High School)

OGSLY continues to meet via Zoom or Google Meet on Tuesdays, Fridays, and every Sunday at 10:00 for Sunday School. For Sunday School we are starting a new topic called Fear. At times we all deal with some sort of fear. Our young people experience the fear of making big decisions about their futures including preparing for college, a career, and many other decisions. These decisions can seem scary. However, we will use Scripture to guide OGSly in overcoming these uncertainties for the next 6 Sunday School sessions.

Thank you to everyone who participated in creating Valentines for the children at Children's Hospital. Melissa and her Mom delivered 207 Valentines! Although they could not actually put the Valentines in the hands of the patients due to COVID-19, they were assured that the children in the hospital would receive all the Valentines until they were gone. Again, thank you for your participation in this project



OGSLY will continue to do service for our community by baking for Small Things Matter and spreading mulch for the Pre-School at 11:00 on March 6th.

Our most exciting endeavor for March is preparing for Youth Sunday! Yes, we will hold our Youth Sunday service on April 11th. Most of the service will be virtual with some in person musical selections.

Our theme this year is: **Even though times are hard, Jesus loves you.** The entire 'skit' is being created by our Youth. Stay tuned for more details in next month's Newsletter.

Until then, please know that we continue to pray for all those who are struggling during these times, and we are looking forward to when we can all be together. Sending blessings to you all.



BIRTHDAYS

Birdie B.
Cheryl B.
Rose Mary G.
Carter N.
Madelyn K.
Alli L.
Connor W.
Vittoria S.
Marc G.
Carol L.
Angela H.
Eliza B.
Marion I.
Matthew G.
Barbara G.

ANNIVERSARIES

IN MARCH

Don & Chris P.
Michael & Joan G.

Congratulations!!

LUTHERANS

(For us fun loving Lutherans, some of this just ain't so. However, most of us can relate to these items)

You may know some Lutherans and may have wondered what they believe. The following list was compiled by a 20th Century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard.

- 1) Lutherans believe in prayer but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
- 2) Lutherans like to sing except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four verses.
- 3) Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital even if they don't notify them that they are there.
- 4) Lutherans will usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
- 5) Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
- 6) Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make them too proud and conceited.
- 7) Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while "passing the peace."
- 8) Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
- 9) Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and a LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage.
- 10) Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
- 11) Lutherans are willing to pay up to a dollar for a meal at church.
- 12) Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
- 13) Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color for the season, and think that peas in a tuna noodle hot dish adds too much color.
- 14) Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

You know you're a Lutheran when: You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.

It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.

Doughnuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.

The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight.

All your relatives graduated from a college named Concordia.

You watch a "Star Wars" movie and when they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you."

You actually understand those folks from Lake Wobegone, MN.

And lastly, it takes 10 minutes to say "good-bye."

St. Patrick's Day Blessing

*May your joys be as deep as the oceans,
your troubles as light as its foam.*

*And may you find sweet peace of mind,
wherever you roam.*

*May your thoughts be as glad as the
shamrock,*

May your heart be light as a song,

*May each day bring you bright happy
hours,*

That stay with you all the years long.



- Joyful Noiseletter, March-April 2018



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

(Saturday Morning LCGS Men's Group)

SCHEDULE

The Men's Group will meet on Saturday, March 6 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 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, March 14 on Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

LifeLight Bible Class – Monday Night on Zoom from 7:00-9:00 p.m. beginning again in January - 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 to contact the people in charge, or email at:

office@olneygoodshepherd.org



Book Review Group

The Good Shepherd Book Club

will meet on

Sunday, March 14, 2021

at 6:00 p.m. on ZOOM

“Sold on Monday”

Written by Kristina McMorris

This book was written about the Depression Era when a large family had very little money with which to feed their children who often went to bed hungry. Life was very difficult for many families.



The Decline of Spirituality Whatever happened to 'good works'?

By Cal Samra, Editor of the Joyful Noiseletter

In an earlier Joyful Noiseletter, humorist Patch Adams called for a "revolution of loving" in America and the world.

Dr. Adams believes that "a revolution of loving" would help solve the problems of racism and violence in society. **"A revolution of loving" might also stem that other deadly epidemic in society – divorce. The divorce rate continues to skyrocket in America, leaving a trail of wounded victims in its wake, and making virtual orphans of hundreds of thousands of children.**

These children of divorce are deprived, through no fault of their own, of the ongoing, emotional and financial support and guidance of a nuclear or extended family. And our social problems are multitudinous as a result.

By and large, the politicians of both parties, many of whom are divorced themselves, are ignoring America's epidemic of divorce, one of our greatest problems.

Loyalty – the disappearing virtue

This is a divorce society. Political parties divorce, Churches divorce. Married couples divorce. Loyalty is a spiritual value increasingly missing from our society.

At bottom, the problems in our society are not political or economic or psychological problems. They are spiritual problems. It's all about how people treat one another. The decline of spirituality has resulted in a decline of civility.

Patch Adams is right on target in his call for loving action. But we've become a nation of divisive political, legal, psychological, and theological windbags who promise us heaven on earth or in heaven if we only keep whatever faith or philosophy they are promoting.

But whatever happened to "good works"? The Apostle James, the brother of Jesus, said emphatically 2000 years ago: "Faith, by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17), and "be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

Even in the fourth century A.D., the eloquent preacher and liturgist John Chrysostom, known as "the mouth of gold" by the Greek Christians, he

served, insisted that "the testimony of deeds is more likely to be believed than the testimony of words."

Centuries later, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. echoed Chrysostom: "We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to *do* right."

We build a new, healthy society not by talk and not by looking backwards in anger, like so many psychoanalysts and psychologists are always making big bucks encouraging us to do. We build a new society by *doing* what Jesus told us to do. Jesus told us not to look backwards, but to look upwards and live lovingly and joyfully in the present, serving others.

We build a new, welcoming society with hundreds of thousands of *acts* of kindness and loving good works. We need a pandemic of *good works* to save our society.

"Even the smallest act of kindness matters," says Paul Kurlowicz of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage, MI. "It's like a ripple in a pond flowing positive energy forever outward to infinity."

Do something for a poor person. **Do** something for a disadvantaged person. **Do** something for a sick person. **Do** something for a mourning person. **Do** something for a depressed person. **Do** something for a suffering person. **Do** something for a helpless elderly. **Do** something for a prisoner. **Do** something for your spouse. **Do** something for your neighbor. **Do** something for someone from a different faith tradition. **Do** something for someone who doesn't look like you or talk like you.

Talk less and text less and **DO** something to help someone.

Sermons hardly ever note that Jesus was a layman—the greatest of all action heroes, a physically fit Messiah who climbed mountains and walked everywhere, including on water, or that Jesus reserved his harshest words for those "who say and do not do, those who preach but do not practice."

Jesus declared, emphatically: Not everyone who says 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who **does** my will." (Matt. 7:21-23)

This is the joyful, action-oriented Jesus who will bring the young people – many of whom are staying away from all churches – back to church.



The deadline for the April newsletter is **Thursday, March 25**. Please email articles to nancy.wald@olneygoodshepherd.org. or leave them in the newsletter mailbox in the copier room.

Thanks, Nancy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	1 7pm - LifeLight	2	3 7pm - Ministry Team 7pm - Mid-week Lenten	4 10:30am - Ladies Bible 7pm - BoT and BoE 9pm - MOPs	5	6 8am - Men's Group
7 9am - Outdoor Communion 11am - Worship-Eucharist	8 7pm - LifeLight	9	10 7pm - Mid-week Lenten	11 10:30am - Ladies Bible 7:30pm - Board of Elders 9pm - MOPs	12	13
14 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Adult Bible Study 11am - Worship-Eucharist 6pm - Book Club	15 7pm - LifeLight	16	17 7pm - Mid-week Lenten	18 10:30am - Ladies Bible 7:30pm - Board of Trustees 9pm - MOPs	19	20 9am - BoT and BoE
21 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Adult Bible Study 11am - Worship-Eucharist	22 7pm - LifeLight	23	24 5:30pm - SCCC Board 7pm - Mid-week Lenten	25 10:30am - Ladies Bible 9pm - MOPs	26	27
28 8:45am - Sunday School 9:30am - Adult Bible Study 11am - Worship- Palm	29	30	31	1	2	3

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**The deadline for the April issue is
Tuesday, March 25, 2021**

Current Sunday Worship Services
are live streamed at 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School – ZOOM classes only
Check page 5 for Times.