



# The Messenger

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
Olney, Maryland

April

2021

## **“Come to the Feast”**

*Born in Antioch around 347, John Chrysostom (“the Golden-Mouthed”) was the son of an imperial military officer and a Christian mother. John received a first-rate education in rhetoric, but he abandoned hopes of a secular career to become a monk, eventually being ordained a priest in 387. Ten years later, he was elected (against his will) to become archbishop of Constantinople. His powerful preaching and simple living earned the admiration of the common people—and the resentment of the powerful. His preaching against extravagance brought him into conflict with the imperial family, and he was banished in 404. John died in exile, but his influence endures. The liturgy he introduced in Constantinople continues to be used in the Eastern Orthodox churches. The Catholic Church considers him a Doctor of the Church, and his preaching and biblical interpretation were greatly admired by the Protestant Reformers.*

*In the following Easter homily, John draws on Jesus’ parable of the workers in the vineyard as an illustration of God’s unconditional grace. The joy of Easter is Christ’s gift to all: the pious and the careless, the lifelong believer and the last-minute convert, the rich and the poor are all recipients of the Lord’s generosity, and all alike are invited to the feast. And so are you. Whoever you are, whatever you have done or failed to do, may you hear that invitation and accept it, this Easter season and always. —Pastor Tim*

Is there anyone who is a devout lover of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival! Is there anyone who is a grateful servant? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord! Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages! If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward; if any have come after the third hour, let them with gratitude join in the Feast! And he that arrived after the sixth hour, let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss. And if any delayed until the ninth hour, let him not hesitate; but let him come too. And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, as well as to him that toiled from the first. To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows. He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor. The deed He honors and the intention He commends.

Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord! First and last alike receive your reward; rich and poor, rejoice together! Sober and slothful, celebrate the day! You that have kept the fast, and you that have not, rejoice today for the table is richly laden! Feast royally on it; the calf is a fatted one. Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith. Enjoy all the riches of His goodness! Let no one grieve at his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it.

He destroyed Hades when He descended into it. He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he said, “You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below.” Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with. It was in an uproar because it is mocked. It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed. It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated. It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive. Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.

O death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated! Christ is risen, and the evil ones are cast down! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life is liberated! Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen! (St. John Chrysostom, d. 407)



# About People...

We continue to pray for:

## God's care for our relatives and friends:

- for Naomi M., as she was just admitted to the hospital again and for Paul, her caretaker;
- for Alice, Eric M's mother, who suffered a fall earlier this week;
- for Gail (friend of Gina Q.) who fell and fractured her hip in multiple places;
- from Lynn B. in Florida, prayers for her daughter-in-law (Maggie's father) Mike. He has been diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer and will be starting aggressive chemo but may have only six months. Asking for God's healing hands.

... **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

## Friends

A friend is someone we turn to when our spirits need a lift.

A friend is someone we treasure, for our friendship is a gift.

A friend is someone who fills our lives with beauty, joy, and grace.

And makes the whole world we live in a better and happier place.

- Jean Kyler McManus

## Pandemic puts end to Holy Humor Sunday services

For the first time in 25 years, the COVID-19 pandemic put an end last year to the Holy Humor Sunday services many churches have been holding on the Sunday after Easter as an ongoing celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. But not the spirit.

Niantic (CT) Baptist Church celebrated "God's last laugh on the devil" on Holy Humor Sunday via a Zoom meeting. The theme was "change," and Rev. Jill Harvey's sermon, "Buddy, Can You Spare Some Change," focused on "how much we in the church don't like change, how much we've had to change in the past weeks, and what a surprisingly good job we've done of handling all that change."

Rev. Harvey added: "As a bonus, I shared copies of the March-April edition of the Joyful Noiseletter with the entire congregation."

Up to last year, many churches nationwide have been holding Holy Humor Sunday services – a revival of a very old Greek Christian custom going back to the third century. For instance, First Presbyterian church of Winter Haven, FL, celebrated 19 consecutive "Bright Sunday" services on the Sunday after Easter.

You can see how many churches celebrated Holy Humor Sunday through the years by going to JN's website – [www.joyfulnoiseletter.com](http://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com) and clicking on "Holy Humor Sunday." There you will find songs, poems, hilarious skits, jokes, practical jokes, and sermons.

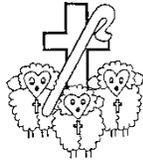
- Joyful Noiseletter March-April 2021

"A good laugh and a long sleep  
Are the two best cures for anything."

Irish proverb



**Shepherd's Care  
Children's Center**  
*Sandra Pernie, Director*  
301-570-7566



Dear LCGS,

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since the Covid -19 pandemic began.

Our preschool has been closed all school year due to this virus. We have extremely loyal families that stayed enrolled in our school in hopes of reopening this school year. Unfortunately, with following the MCPS guidelines and CDC requirements, we did not reopen. We are planning to reopen in the fall and are looking forward to all the new and the returning families. Also, the staff is very anxious to be back in school, helping our children and families to learn and grow.

We hosted an Outdoor Open House at the end of the February, and it was a big success! We gained three new families happy to join our pre-school. Thank you to Maggie and Cory Baumhardt for setting up the outdoor tents for our tables since Mother Nature wasn't cooperating and it was raining that morning. Our fall numbers are looking promising, but we need some help from our community to let local parents know we are open for enrollment for the fall. Our website has all of the information to contact us. Please spread the word about our small, nurturing preschool in hopes of getting full enrollment for the next school year.

Blessings, *Sandra Pernie, Director*



## **Bible Verse to Remember**

**1 John 3:1-3**

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

## **Good Shepherd GRADUATES**



If you will be graduating from a high school or college anywhere this spring, we will have a section in the **June newsletter** about the accomplishments of our graduates. **More specific information will be emailed about what I will need** from you but in general it is a write up about your field of interest, sports you participated in, clubs you were a member of, or awards you received, **plus a wallet size picture** that will be returned to you. The email will be going out to you in the next few weeks since I need extra time to prepare these in addition to the regular newsletter.

Nancy Wald, Newsletter Editor

*Class of*  
**2021**

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# Youth Ministry

## OGSLY

Olney Good Shepherd Lutheran Youth  
(High School)

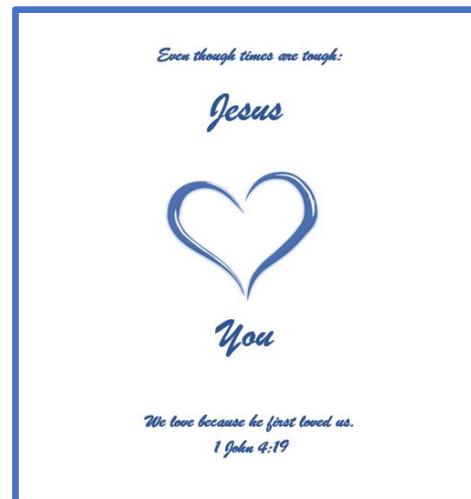
OGSLY continues to meet via Zoom or Google Meet on Tuesdays, Fridays, and every Sunday at 10:00 for Sunday School. For Sunday School we are continuing to discuss Fear. We are using Scripture to guide OGSY in overcoming uncertainties like the fear of making big decisions about their futures.

In anticipation of schools reopening, we finally spread the mulch on the pre-school playground at the beginning of March.



Cindy, Luca, Vittoria, Lena, Colette, Elle, and Alexa are pictured here after the job was done. Yes, Cindy and Alexa's photos were added.

Our most exciting endeavor for March has been preparing for Youth Sunday! The Youth Sunday service is on April 11<sup>th</sup>. 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' was created by our Youth. In addition, most of the service was recorded to encourage maximum participation. T-shirts were ordered and distributed and a new banner with contributions from nearly all of our youth will be up for the service.



Thank you, Lisa, Maria, Steve, Cindy, Eric, Paul, and all of the parents and friends who encouraged our young people to participate in Youth Sunday. Also, thank you, Vittoria, Luca, and Lena for your leadership and technical gifts for creating this special service.

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.



The deadline for the May newsletter is **Sunday, April 25**. Please email articles to [nancy.wald@olneygoodshepherd.org](mailto:nancy.wald@olneygoodshepherd.org). or leave them in the newsletter mailbox in the copier room

Thanks, Nancy

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- 2 – Rick P.
- 4 – Earl H., Violet S, Madigan S.
- 8 – Jordan D., Kathy N.
- 10 – Peyton B., Darlene M.
- 11 – Chris B.
- 12 – Jenni C., Anthony H.
- 13 – Janet M.
- 16 – Erik K., Connie S.
- 18 – Thomas G.
- 21 – Steve G.
- 22 – Elsie W.
- 23 – Carmen F.
- 24 – Janet B., Brooke M.
- 25 – Cindy K.
- 26 – Mark S.
- 27 – Steven S.
- 30 – Paul F.



## IN APRIL

- 16 – Dave & Jean K.
- 18 – Jason & Amy B.
- 24 – Ross & Sarah E.
- 26 – Leslie M & Robert H.
- 30 – Eric & Darlene M.

## *Congratulations*



Thanks so much to the people who have managed to drop off food for the Food Pantry even with the church building often closed. The primary receivers of this ministry have been to Pastor Aurelio Magarino's congregation - Aurelio picks up 6 bags every month.

These are a few items that we always need:

- Peanut butter (prefer smooth)
- Canned fruit
- Cereal
- Dried black beans or rice (1 lb. bags)

### **A few things to consider when you donate food items:**

- We would ask you to not 'over size' the foods (e.g. peanut butter, pasta sauce) as the distribution is 1 grocery size bag per person, and in that bag we put all of the items on the food pantry list (provided we have them) and this will fill the bag.
- Please try to avoid glass containers.
- Please check 'Best by' dates - we do not give out items past this date.

Montgomery County has many food resources for residents in need during this time, but with your continued help, we are able to meet Pastor Magarino's observed need.

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### **Signs & Wonders**

Sign outside First Baptist Church, Monkton, MD

**“Part-time faith, like a part-time job, will not fully support you.”**

Seen on a church sign: **God should be our steering wheel, not our spare tire.”**

- Joyful Noiseletter March-April 2021

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## **An Easter Reflection**

### **Where Did the Pharaohs Go?**

By Cal Samra  
Editor, *The Joyful Noiseletter*

Many years ago, when I was a young know-it-all-who-knew-nothing-at-all newspaper reporter, I visited Egypt and, like so many tourists, was awed by the pyramids built as tombs for the Pharaohs and their consorts. There were 119 massive Egyptian pyramids constructed from 3150 B.C. by thousands of Egyptian laborers who somehow moved and fashioned stones weighing tons.

**Some archaeologists have suggested that the pyramids were designed as a type of “resurrection machine” to expedite the rich and powerful Pharaohs on their journey to the afterlife, to “magically launch the deceased Pharaoh’s soul directly into the abode of the Egyptian gods.”**

But no one ever saw a Pharaoh rise from the dead. Down through the centuries, there never was recorded an eyewitness to a risen pharaoh.

Later, I visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built in 335 A.D. at the traditional site where Jesus was crucified and buried. There was the small Jewish tomb where Jesus was buried and then rose from the dead.

**With his power and charisma, Jesus could have had riches beyond measure, overwhelming political power, and the pick of the most beautiful and desirable women in the Holy Land. But he was nonpolitical, and chose poverty and celibacy. He came humbly in the form of a servant, causing many of his contemporaries to consider him a lunatic.**

Here was a modest tomb of “The Great Physician,” who never attended a Hippocratic medical school, who was a poor man who never owned his own home, and never charged a fee from the many ailing people he healed. He walked everywhere, never carrying a sword on his travels, though the countryside was infested with bandits. He chose a healing ministry to serve others, and finally death on a cross to show us the glory of the Resurrection. Who but God could have done that?

Years later, when I became a Christian and read the New Testament, I was awed by the many testimonials by eyewitnesses to the healings of all kinds of diseases by Jesus and his disciples.

**I was awed by Jesus’ continual exhortations to his followers to be joyful, even at the Last Supper, when he knew he would shortly be humiliated, whipped, beaten, speared, and crucified. “I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete,” he said at that Last Supper (John 15:11). Who but the Messiah could talk about joy under such circumstances?**

I was awed by the many eye-witness accounts of Jesus’ resurrection. *Joyful Noiseletter* consulting editor Dr. Paul L. Maier, a best-selling Lutheran author and pastor, described those resurrection times beautifully in his book, *The Very First Easter*.

Jesus has healed me many times. Was there ever a historical record of a pharaoh healing anybody?

**The Egyptian Pharaohs were confounded – first by Moses, then by Jesus, just as our modern Pharaohs are being confounded**

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

(Saturday Morning LCGS Men's Group)



### 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](mailto: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  
September - Kathy Nicholson

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



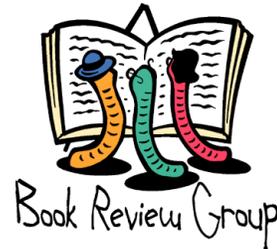
You are invited to join one or more of these  
groups. Call the office at 301-774-9125 for  
information, or to contact the people in charge,  
or email at:

[office@olneygoodshepherd.org](mailto:office@olneygoodshepherd.org)

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### **Tibetan proverb**

“The secret to living well and longer is: eat half,  
walk double, laugh triple, and love without  
measure.”



### **The Good Shepherd Book Club**

will meet on

**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

Conference Video Call at 6:00 p.m.

#### **“Peace Like a River”**

Written by Leif Enger

Reuben Land, an asthmatic eleven-year old believes in miracles. Along with his sister and father finds himself on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been charged with murder. The author shows us how family, love and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, and the most tragic of fates. So, join us online. Marc Gregory will set you up, so you just have to point and click and magically we all become one. Thanks Marc and we hope you will all join us. **For those who like to jump ahead, our next book is "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See.**

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### **God's kids say and do the funniest things**

“I sure am happy to see you grandma.” the little boy said to his grandmother, his mother's mother. “Now maybe Daddy will do the trick he has been promising us.”

“What trick is that?” the grandmother asked.

“I heard him tell Mommy that he would climb the walls if you came to visit,” the boy replied.

- Joyful Noiseletter March-April

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

**The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**  
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The deadline for the May issue is  
Sunday, April 25, 2021

Current Sunday Worship Services  
Are live streamed at 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School – ZOOM classes only  
Check page 7 for times.