



The Messenger

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Olney, Maryland

October

2021

“Not Guilty”

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. --Romans 3:19-24 (NIV)

Quite a few years ago, while I was attending divinity school, I was called down to the New Haven County Courthouse for jury duty. As it turned out, the trial for which I had been summoned was a murder trial. In the course of the jury selection process, I was made to sit in the witness box in front of a whole courtroom of people—including the judge, court reporters, the accused, etc.—and I had to answer questions from the attorneys: “Do you watch *Law and Order*?” (Yes?) “Do you think you could stand up to a jury full of people who disagree with you?” (Maybe?) Every answer seemed wrong. And by the time it was all over (ending in my dismissal), I felt like my whole insufficiently assertive, *Law and Order*-watching self, had been opened up and exposed for the whole courtroom to see. And I was just a potential jury member! I thought, “What must this be like for the guy who’s actually on trial?”

But that, according to St. Paul, is exactly the spiritual situation we’re in: on trial, taking the stand in our own defense in the cosmic courtroom of God’s justice. And we’re not doing well. When we try to justify ourselves by pointing to all the “good things” we’ve done, the Law of God cross-examines us and exposes all our self-serving motives. It calls to the stand our checkbook, our relationships, even our own conscience to testify against us. They reveal that we love our own comfort better than we love other people. We love our things (and ourselves) more than we love God. We are, as Jesus says, slaves to sin. That, according to Scripture, is our reality: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

But it’s not the end of story, because God’s message to us is ultimately a message of *good* news. So, Paul continues: “And all are justified freely by his grace.” To be *justified* means to be pronounced not guilty of sin, to be acquitted, to be declared in the right. And *that* is the verdict that God delivers about you: Not guilty!

How can this be? This isn’t the verdict we expected! If this were an earthly courtroom, the court would be in chaos. Everyone would be shouting. Cameras would be flashing. The prosecutor would be in tears, screaming about judicial activism. But God’s justice is not like our justice. God’s justice is not merely the justice by which God is just and condemns sin; rather, it’s the justice by which God declares *us* just. It’s the righteousness by which He makes *us* righteous. As St. Paul says, “But now the righteousness of God has been made manifest apart from the law . . . the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

And it’s all a gift.

When we were enemies of God, God chose to be our friend. The Judge of the universe chose to climb down into the mess of human existence, to take on our guilt, and, in exchange, to give us his own righteousness. That means you are not defined by your failures—or, for that matter, by your successes. You are defined by justifying decree of the living God. Your identity is found in the world-creating, life-giving, dead-raising word that declares you to be God’s beloved child and dear friend—the word that declares you *not guilty*.

May you trust in and live by that word, now and to life everlasting.

--Pastor Tim

About People . . .



We continue to pray for:

. . . . God's care for our Good Shepherd family: Jill Ruspi who is recovering from severe leg trauma.

. . . God's care for our relatives and friends: for **Aaron Stillwell**, in the hospital with Covid, (Colette Carter request); and for **Frank Romano** who is recovering from surgery (Steve Gordon request); for **Alice Maxfield** for healing, peace, comfort, wisdom and discernment (Darlene Maxfield request).

. . . Joy and Thanksgiving: **Brianna Hoffman** and her new husband **Justin Ray** who were married on September 18.

. . . New Life - STRACHAN grandchild
Birth of **Brian Ivah McGuire** to Carrie (Strachan) and Dan McGuire on September 26 who are living in Montana. Brian weighed in at 9# 2 oz. His proud grandparents are Jim and Connie Strachan.

. . . 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.); and former member, **Kim Misenheimer** who is serving with the Army in Afghanistan (request by Lu Otto).

. . . those who mourn: For the family of **Bob Gill**, dear friend and member of Good Shepherd, who died on September 12 and is survived by his wife Rose Mary Gill and other family members; Family of **Joanne Gagnon** (coworker of Joyce Kubu's); Family of **Todd Shockley** (family friend of Randall and Carmen Fossum); and for the Family of **Dot Lauck** (Lisa Carpenter's grandmother); For **Dan Lewis**, comfort after the loss of his father, and for **David Lindheim** comfort after the loss of his mother; For the **Frey Family** after the tragic loss of husband and son. Peace and comfort for Jodi and her daughters and grandchild (Maxfield family request).

* *Names used with permission*

Reformation Day on October 31, This Year and Back Then

Why did Martin Luther choose October 31 to post his 95 Theses on the church door? I decided to do some research and found out online that the reason was because he knew the church would be packed full of worshipers the following day, which was All Saints Day.

It said that normally, "If you ask people what holiday they associate with banging on doors and the last day of October, they will likely say 'Halloween'." However, "several groups around the world also recognize another celebration of this date, one that evokes more thought of monks than monsters." The theses Martin Luther posted on the door of the city of Wittenberg's Castle Church, were an exhaustive list of personal grievances he held against the Catholic Church of the time for what he saw as its immoral conduct. But it is believed to have started the Protestant Reformation.

Below is a picture of that door (well an updated version with the words of the theses now printed into the metal door) which I took a picture of on our trip to Germany in 2009.

Nancy Wald



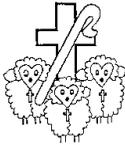


Handbell Choir Needs More Members

If you have ever thought it would be fun to be in the Handbell Choir, this is the time to speak to Maria about joining. She needs willing people who can count and are willing to show up at practice which is from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. Check the church website for more information OR speak to her in person on Sunday morning.

Shepherd's Care Children's Center

Sandra Pernie, Director
301-570-7566



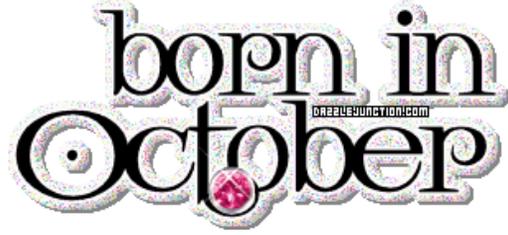
Dear Members of LCGS,

It is so nice to be back at school. We missed our preschoolers and are thrilled to welcome our new students. Each morning the hallway is filled with laughter and excitement. Thank you to our wonderful teachers for creating such a sweet and nurturing home away from home.

All of our preschool children have been very busy making new friends and learning new things. September was a fun and busy month focusing on themes such as "Back to School" and "All about Me".

Thank you for all your support!! It is going to be a great year!!

Sandra Pernie, Director



Ashleigh Cecil
Vicki W.
Colton N.
Jeanne B.
Alex P.
Karin S.
Jude B.
Jill R.
Melody W.
Kenneth H.
David R.
Andie E.
Vivienne M.
Sam K.
Judi S.
Margaret M.
Linda D.
Eli R.
Silas R.
Ryan K.
Jim S.
Henry G.
Sarah M.



Anniversaries in October

Ken & Joyce K.
Paul & Mary F.
Bruce & Nika K.
Ron & Cindy M.
Steve & Barbara G.
Raymond & Rachel V.

Congratulations!!



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

(Saturday Morning LCGS Men's Group)



The Men's Group will meet on **Saturday, October 2 at 8:00 a.m.**

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Pastor Tim's Sunday morning 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. in the Youth Room but can accommodate anyone who would like to Zoom into our classroom. **Contact Steve or Colette with any questions.**

OTHERS

Book Club – Sunday, October 10 at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Women's Bible Class with Pastor Tim on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

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, October 10, 2021

On a Zoom call at 6:00 p.m.

“Out of The Silent Planet”

Written by C.S. Lewis

This is the first book in C.S. Lewis' acclaimed Space Trilogy. “Out of the Silent Planet” begins the adventures of the remarkable Dr. Ransom. After being kidnapped, he gets to travel by spaceship to the planet of.

As a human sacrifice is needed, and Dr. Ransom fits the bill. Thankfully he eludes his captors and it is here that we get to first explore this strange land.

First published in 1943 it remains a mysterious and suspenseful book enjoyed by many. So set the GPS and we will gather via zoom to explore the silent planet. And you will get extra credit if you can name a talking planet!



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

Thanks, Nancy

September sure flew by! OGSLY is grateful to be back in school! They enjoyed one last Thursday night event at Colette's for a spaghetti dinner.



Look for the OGSLY bulletin board in the hallway. It was updated with the 2021 events. A special thank you goes out to Vittoria for helping to organize and create it.



OGSLY fundraising will launch this month to support their travel goals. They are looking into participating in a service project within the US, Europe, or South America. Their plans remain flexible and still dependent upon their ability to travel during Covid.

OGSLY's October service project will occur during Sunday School on October 17th. They invited all of the LCGS youth to help. Together they will create care packages for college students, home bound members, and others. OGSly will also continue work on updating the youth room and they will make baptismal banners as needed.

Sunday School meets at 10:00 in the Youth Room. If requested, we also set up a zoom connection for those who cannot attend in person. The latest Sunday School topic (requested by our youth) is learning about other religions. Mormonism was the first religion studied. That topic led to learning about cults. Next, Scientology will be discussed. It's wonderful to know that our young people are interested in understanding what others believe. This study will aid in growing and solidifying their own faith.

OGSLY continues to be a strong, cohesive, caring group of young people who continue to invite their friends to join. We welcome them, as our Lord would, with loving open arms. We thank you for your kind support and we are grateful that Good Shepherd is a safe place for us to be together. Blessings to you all today and always.

**The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
4200 Olney-Laytonsville Road
P.O. Box 280
Olney, Maryland 20830-0280
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of the Good Shepherd
Olney, Maryland 20830-0280
Telephone: 301-774-9125
FAX: 301-774-9649

www.olneygoodshepherd.org

Pastor: Rev. Tim Boerger
pastor@olneygoodshepherd.org

Office Secretary: Cate McDonald.
office@olneygoodshepherd.org

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Wald
nancy.wald@olneygoodshepherd.org

**The deadline for the November issue is
Monday, October 25, 2021**

Sunday Worship Services
Are live streamed at 11:00 a.m.