



The Messenger

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Olney, Maryland

November

2021

Entrusted with the Kingdom

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' —Matthew 25:21

There's an old story floating around Lutheran circles that's probably not true, but it's a good story, so it bears retelling. Supposedly, one day, Martin Luther was working in his garden, planting an apple tree. One of his students came by to ask him a question: "Dr. Luther, what would you do if you knew that the world was going to end tomorrow?" Luther, stops his digging and wipes the sweat off his forehead and says, "If I knew the world was going to end tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree today." And then he goes back to work. As I said, this story probably isn't true (a friend once told me he heard the same story in Catholic school about Thomas Aquinas), but it raises for us an important question for us: If Jesus were to return tomorrow, what would you do today? How should we spend out time until Jesus returns?

That question is the focus of Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), which tells the story of a rich man (representing Jesus himself) who leaves on a long journey and entrusts his wealth to three servants: five talents to one servant, two talents to another, and one talent to the third. (A talent was a weight of silver worth about 20 years' wages).

The parable begins, "For [the kingdom of heaven] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted them with his property." This verse reminds us of an extraordinary thing. The master in the story entrusts his property to his servants—which is to say that our Lord has entrusted to us what belongs to him. Think about that for a moment. How ready are we to entrust our belongings to others—especially if they are fragile or valuable or have personal significance? Not very. And yet here we see that our Lord unhesitatingly gives into our care that which belongs to him: the world he created and died to save, the good news of his salvation, the kingdom that he is establishing. All these things, these fragile, complex, immensely valuable things he has entrusted to us.

The divine property with which we have been entrusted includes our families. Parents, this is especially important for you to remember—that your families are part of the Kingdom of God entrusted into your care, and you are the most important missionaries and ministers in your children's lives. But regardless of whether we are parents or children or spouses or siblings, there is no place where we have more opportunity to share God's love on a daily basis than within our own families.

We've been entrusted with this community of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. This gathering is an outpost and embassy of the Christian Church—God's holy community, where the people of God are born and fed through his life-giving gospel. And that means the responsibilities and—more importantly—the relationships that we have in this place are a direct participation in the kingdom of God. Each of you is God's gift to one another, called to build one another in preparation for our Lord's return and to join together to become a beacon of God's love shining in a sin-darkened world.

Our Lord has entrusted you with the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ. Both collectively and individually, you have been God has called you to be his messengers to a dying world. As Paul says, "We are ambassadors for Christ." The way you live your life, the integrity with which you undertake your work, your attitude toward others—for good or bad, these things paint a picture of Christ to those around you. In many cases, all they know about Jesus will be what they see in you.

Now at this point, you may be feeling the weight of your master's talents in your hand, and thinking, "That's a lot of responsibility. I'm not sure I'm really up to that. What's plan B?"

At times, when we look at ourselves and consider our own inadequacy in the face of this enormous responsibility, we may be afraid. We may be tempted to bury our responsibility and go do something less momentous. But that's because we are looking in the wrong place. We are considering our own weakness rather than God's mighty power. Because ultimately it is God who gives growth to his kingdom. We serve the One who brought the whole universe into being out of nothing. If he entrusts to us a portion of his kingdom, we know that he has the power to make it grow.

So, do not be afraid. Christ has called you to be stewards of his kingdom. That is our task as we await his return. There is work to be done. That work may consist of loving our families, sharing the gospel, supporting the work of the Church, encouraging one another, or maybe even planting an apple tree. Whatever talents we've been given, whatever tasks we've been called to, we can undertake them, confident that Jesus will multiply our efforts for the sake of his kingdom and confident that on the day of his return, we will hear him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

—Pastor Tim

OGSLY

Olney Good Shepherd Lutheran Youth
(High School)

For November

In October OGSly met at 10:00 for Sunday School in the Youth Room or at the Shepherd's Care playground to spread mulch. After two mulch sessions, not only does the playground look great, but the mulch pile is nearly gone. OGSly looks forward to finishing the job in November.



On November 7th, OGSly will welcome three guests who will share their experiences about being a teen mom. Our Sunday School study of other religions will continue on November 14th.

Care packages for college students, home bound members, and other will be created on November 7th after the church service. OGSly will also continue work on updating the youth room and baptismal banners will be made. OGSly just learned that Servant Event will occur from July 16th – 28th.

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.

About People...



We continue to pray for:

... **God's care for our Good Shepherd family:** for **Jill Ruspi** (severe leg pain); **Barbara Gordon** for healing and comfort.

... **God's care for our relatives and friends:** for **Alice Maxfield** for healing, peace, comfort, wisdom and discernment (Darlene Maxfield request); **Jeff Smith** (nephew of Gail Hinds) diabetes with many complications; for his mother, **Cadel Smith** concern for son, and just diagnosed with Covid (Gail Hinds request); **Susanna Alberta Ruspi**, back pain; **Alberta Peugeot** (Jim Ruspi request); **Jim Smith** (Jim Ruspi request)

... **Moms-to-be:** Sylvia (Schaefer) and husband who are expecting their second child in January. Karin Wuertz Schaefer is the grandmother.

... **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:** **Barbara Davis** (close friend of Lisa and Andy Carpenter); we pray especially for her son, Walt and grandson Will; **Vivi Lester** (Jean Krueger's aunt) who passed away on Oct 17th in Denmark.

* *Names used with permission*

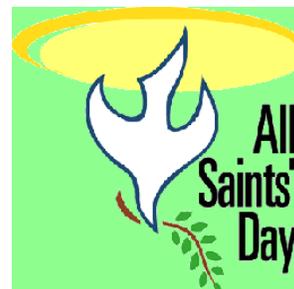
For medical professionals who serve on the front lines of the pandemic:

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)	



The family of Bob Gill thanks the LCGS congregation for the support and help extended to us after the sad passing of our beloved husband and father.

Rose Mary Gill, Beth Gill and Bob Gill, Jr.



All Saints' Observance

On **Sunday, November 7th 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.

Signs and Wonders

Sign outside South Seminole Church of Christ in Winter Park, Florida:

"A Christian is a right-side-up person in an upside-down world."

- Joyful Noiseletter, November 2016



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.



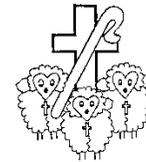
Matt & Gina Q.
Howard & Debrah H.
Charles & Mary L.
Mark & Judi S.
Andrew & Jennifer K.

Congratulations!!



**Shepherd's Care
Children's Center**

Sandra Pernie, Director
301-570-7566



Dear LCGS members,

I cannot believe we are into the holiday season. We have settled into our routine and the children have become comfortable in our classrooms and have made many new friends.

With all Covid restrictions we still managed to have a successful Costume Parade. We had a pizza party, yummy goodies and a parade around the church.

This year we had "**Candence Living Olney Senior Living Center**" hosting a Trunk or Treat for our students. It was so much FUN!

We have a very busy November planned in our Preschool. November is a time to reflect on everything we are thankful for.
God bless you every day.

Sincerely,

Sandra Pernie,
Director





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

(Saturday Morning LCGS Men's Group)



The Men's Group will meet on **Saturday, November 6 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 – Steve Gordon

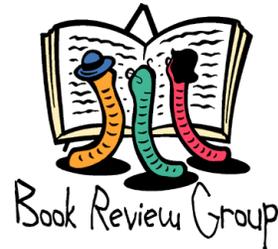
OGSLY meets Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room but can accommodate anyone who would like to Zoom into our classroom. **Contact Steve or Colette with any questions.**

OTHERS

Book Club – Sunday, November 14 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



The Good Shepherd Book Club

will meet on

Sunday, November 14, 2021

On Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

“The Book of Lost Names”

Written by Kristin Harmel

Eva Abrams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida, eyes locked onto a photograph in a local newspaper of a book she has not seen in 65 years. It is the "The Book of Lost Names."

Eva was forced to flee Paris in 1942 after the arrest of her father, a Polish Jew. She found refuge in a small mountain town in the Free Zone where she begins to forge documents for Jewish children fleeing to Switzerland.

She decides she must preserve the real names of the children who are too young to remember who they are.

As the Germans close in, Eva records a last, vital message in the book. Decades later she must decide if she has enough strength to reunite those lost during the war. So, practice your forgery skills and dial in to zoom so that we can all almost be together.

The book for December is "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.





SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Food Pantry still
needs your help

We thank you for continuing support of Good Shepherd's active Food Pantry.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, please help us restock the Food Pantry with donations from your abundance.

After the November 7 and 14 services, we will distribute bags to be filled and returned to church on November 21.

We also will have a box outside the back door on November 13 or November 20 between the hours of 10 and 2 for anyone who cannot come to church before Thanksgiving.

Below is a list of items that are needed.

Peanut Butter	Canned Meat
Jelly	Canned Fruit
Canned Soup	Canned Vegetables
Cereal	Canned Beans
Macaroni & Cheese	Tuna
Spaghetti	Spaghetti Sauce
Jello	Rice

Thanks again, Bob Wolter, Social Ministry

Thanksgiving Potpourri

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

*And 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 hart rejoice,*

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

Author Unknown – Joyful Noiseletter

Thanksgiving Thoughts

Thanksgiving should be:

More of an attitude than an observance;
More a way of life than a day apart;
More of a spirit of gratitude than a time of feasting

At Thanksgiving time, Pastor Tom Getchell-Lacey of First United Methodist Church, Gilford, NY, was talking to the children and asked them if they liked turkey. "One "little boy replied that he didn't like turkey, but liked the "bread the turkey ate."

"Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day, which must be done, whether you like it or not.

- Joyful Noiseletter



November 6th, 2021. Remember to turn **BACK** your clocks one hour on **Saturday night, November 6th.**



The deadline for the December newsletter is **Wednesday, November 24.** Please email articles to nancy.wald@olneygoodshepherd.org. or leave them in the newsletter mailbox in the copier room.

Thanks, Nancy

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**The deadline for the December issue is
Wednesday, November 24, 2021**

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