



The Messenger

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
September 2025

The Renewing of Your Mind

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

--Romans 12:1–2 (ESV)

Since September is the time of year when we turn our attention to the matter of education, it seems an appropriate occasion to reflect upon Romans 12:1-2, in which St. Paul urges us to be transformed by the renewal of our *minds*. According to Paul, what God wants of us is not a burnt offering of lambs or goats or doves, but rather a *living* offering of ourselves, of our whole life. Worship, says the Apostle, is not just what we do on Sunday morning, important as that is (and we'll come back to that later); rather, worship is meant to be what we do with every moment of our lives—as we pursue our jobs, as we study in school, and as we live together in this community, with the fellow members of the body of Christ. What we do in those places is our offering to God.

Paul calls this activity our “spiritual worship” (τὴν λογικὴν λατρείαν in Greek). Now, that’s a tricky expression to translate. Those of you who grew up with the King James Version may recall that it says, “This is your reasonable service,” which I like better. I might go with, “This is your rational worship.” In any case, it seems to mean something like, “This is the right way to worship with your mind.” I think what Paul is saying is that loving God with all your mind is not just a matter of having the right ideas about God but of carefully thinking through how to serve God and our neighbor with our bodily actions, because the body is controlled by the mind.

But if we are going to take up the rational worship of offering ourselves as living sacrifices to God, we need to be properly equipped. And so Paul says, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed, by the renewal of your minds.” Do not let yourself be shaped according to the pattern of this passing age, but be changed from the inside out.

St. Paul presents a serious challenge to us middle-class American Christians. We are all too quick to shape ourselves according to the values of this age. Too often we are uncritical consumers of a culture that is profoundly at odd with the priorities of Christ. We can hardly avoid it; after all, we live surrounded by a pervasive and powerful cacophony of advertising and political messaging, molding our desires and fears and our sense of self to sell us things or monetize our attention or persuade our vote. Now, I’m not suggesting that we need to shun “secular” culture—as if that were really even possible. I firmly believe that Christians ought to engage the culture around us rather than run away from it. But we do need to test and to discern. We need to be aware of ourselves and of the influence that the media and the surrounding culture and our social circles have on our attitudes and ideas. To do that, our minds need to be transformed. Our intellects need to be re-shaped after the pattern of God’s wisdom.

Which is why we need to be students of Holy Scripture. Notice that Paul doesn’t say, “transform

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yourselves”; rather, he says, “be transformed,” in the passive voice. It’s something we can’t do for ourselves. Only God can bring about the transformation we need, and it is in his Word that we encounter God’s transforming power.

That is why it is so important to be present in worship, where the community of God’s people gathers around the proclamation of the Word. And that is why we take our children to Sunday School and encourage adults to participate in a Bible Class, so that young and old alike can grow in their knowledge of Scripture. And that is why it is so valuable to set aside time for personal reading of the Bible, so that “every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord” might become your daily bread.

Because only God’s Word tells you who you truly are and how much God loves you. Everything Paul urges us to do in Romans 12 flows out of what God has already done for us. The only reason that we can even contemplate offering ourselves to God, is that, in Jesus, God already offered himself for us. Our living sacrifice is not a sacrifice to earn God’s favor, but it is an offering of thanksgiving because God has already shown us favor. The renewal of our minds is not the path to knowing God, but it is the result of God making himself known. And we are transformed not to become acceptable to God, but because God has already accepted us. You see, we never move beyond our reliance on God’s mercy, which is the foundation of everything that we do.

So, as another school year begins, let us return once again to the school of God’s mercy, the school in which we were enrolled at our baptism. I encourage you to take every opportunity to open the Scriptures and sit again at the feet of your Teacher and learn from him, for he is gentle and lowly of heart. And, then, follow him as you live your life each day. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

Pastor Tim

VOTERS’ MEETING

Congregational Voters' Meeting

Sunday, September 14, 2025

9:00 am

Hybrid (Room 104 and Zoom)



Saturday, September 27th!
More details coming soon!

Upcoming
EVENTS

09/27/25 (Sat)	Octoberfest 5p
10/19/25 (Sun)	Mike Kamuf Little Big Band 5p
12/07/25 (Sun)	Voters’ Meeting
12/07/25 (Sun)	Olney Youth Community Choir 4:30p
12/13/25 (Sat)	Holiday Community Singers 7p
12/14/25 (Sun)	Lessons & Carols 10:30a



Birthdays

Anniversaries

7th – Nadine B.
 10th – Joan R.
 17th – Jim R.
 18th – Kamryn M.
 18th – Rachel V.
 19th – Jeremiah R.

22nd – Phil N.
 22nd – Mary R.
 28th – Sophie B.
 29th – Gaetan B.
 30th – Brianna R.

I can do all things through him
 who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

18th – Brianna & Justin R.
 21st – Andy & Lisa C.
 24th – Anthony & Angela H.
 25th – Robin & Aric R.
 28th – Joshua & Sasha F.
 30th – Tom & Kim L.



Food & Fellowship

Food & Fellowship will follow
 Worship Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Please bring something to share.



The Good Shepherd Book Club will meet on
Sunday, September 14, 2025

Hybrid Meeting at 6:00 pm.
 (LCGS and Zoom)

September's Book: **The Grey Wolf by Louise Penny**

Please Join the LCGS Book Club on October 12, 2025

Author Kathleen Grissom will join us!

The LCGS Book Club is pleased that Kathleen Grissom, the author of “Crow Mary” will, via Zoom, join our book discussion Sunday October 12, 2025, at 6 P.M. We’d love to have you also join us to welcome her to our group. A large turnout of book lovers at this meeting would show our appreciation for her spending time with us.

“Crow Mary” is a story, based on fact, of the experiences of a young indigenous woman from the Crow tribe. In 1872 she married a white fur trader. This story touches on the history of the late 1800s, cultural conflicts, and the struggle for survival.

Our meeting will begin with a potluck at 5:30 in the church building, with Kathleen Grissom joining us at 6:00 via ZOOM for the book discussion. All our meetings include in-person and ZOOM participation. Please help welcome our special guest by joining us for our Sunday, October 12 meeting.

MEMBER *Spotlight*

This month we are profiling Alex Predoehl.

Alex was baptized at LCGS as the last official act of Pastor Hellmers, prior to the arrival of Pr. Don Schaefer. He attended Sunday School while the current FLW was under construction.

In Middle School in 1988 Alex broke his femur and was laid up for quite a while. Shortly after, he joined the Boy Scouts, and achieved his Eagle Scout badge with some active “encouragement” from his Scoutmaster and his Dad, Martin. His mother Louise passed away from breast cancer just as Alex started high school at Sherwood. Not a great way to start that phase of his education.

After high school Alex followed his brother Andrew to Virginia Tech. Andrew introduced him to the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship group known locally as IV, which was very influential in Alex’s young life. He eventually became a Bible study leader, which was a highlight of his time at VT. He did have a strong conversion moment in the spring of 1996 and became fascinated with the Bible. He earned his BS degree in Chemistry-BioChemistry. As a senior at VT he decided to attend Seminary rather than pursue a graduate degree in Chemistry. He applied and was accepted at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia, an inter denominational Seminary. Alex later realized he loved Bible study more than the Pastoral program and earned a four-year Master’s degree in Christian Studies. Following graduation Alex took a month-long road trip home, visiting many beautiful parks and sites. He arrived back at Good Shepherd as our church was being renovated and recalls worship services temporarily located at Rosa Parks Middle School.

Fast forward to Alex’s recent years at Good Shepherd. Not long after his return, Martin began heading Facilities and Alex quickly became helpful with all those various tasks at our church. He became very actively involved in church youth groups and ended up chairing the Board of Youth. He also joined the church choir around 2010. He became a confirmation tutor around that time, and then was asked by Mike Hillhouse to become Treasurer-Elect and help out with Treasurer duties and attend BoT meetings, where he stayed active until last year.

We all know and love Alex, as we did Martin. Alex continues his ever-present involvement with all aspects of LCGS activities and ministries to this day. He hangs the drape on the Cross each Easter, has fixed broken banner brackets when Jim Strachan knocks them down, teaches Confirmation, sings in the Choir, helps paint new stripes in the parking lot, leads summer Sunday bible study, offers messages during Pastor’s absence, and is always available to help set up or take down tables/chairs, etc. for church functions. This past summer he began working with SCCC as Treasurer. He is a great example of our church family and a mainstay at LCGS.

We would just like to say...THANK YOU ALEX!!!



Hello LCGS!

Some of you have expressed curiosity as to what goes into being the Minister of Music at Good Shepherd. Here is a little description of the things I do on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.

My responsibilities can be broken into 3 different categories:

1. The overall direction of the music program,
2. the week-to-week responsibilities of ensuring quality and harmonious music for Sunday services, and
3. The care and concern for music ministry members and for the congregation.

The overall direction of the music program entails knowing the resources that are available and maximizing their use to promote the spiritual life of the congregation, enhance the worship experience for our congregation, and enable worshipers to express their faith in worship and song. This includes planning the seasons of the church year, especially during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Through the past 12 years there have been many changes at LCGS. Kids grow up, music ministry members come and go, and we even had a period of quarantine and distancing, all of which required a recalibration of the music program. Currently, there are fifty members involved in the music ministry (and we are looking for more), making for many volunteers to coordinate throughout the seasons of the church year! I also have the wonderful nitty gritty of the management of the music program budget and maintaining musical instruments and resources.

The daily/weekly aspects of my position take up the bulk of my time. The objective is to enrich and elevate the worship experience at Good Shepherd through music. It entails study and reflection of scripture to choose music appropriate for any Sunday or service, ascertaining the difficulty and signability of a song or hymn, and knowing the capabilities of the choir and congregation. This analysis, which is more an art than a science, is even more involved for the choirs, as I have to keep abreast of choral and handbell music as well. And, speaking of the choirs, I spend quite a bit of time in rehearsals and preparing for rehearsals with the choirs. This includes creating practice recordings for choir members, writing and arranging music, training of music techniques, and fostering musical growth among members. I also meet with Pastor and the Elders, working closely with them to ensure that the music supports the church's ministry goals.

And, finally, the ministry portion of my position. While all aspects of my position are a ministry, I do give a specialized focus and attention to this portion. I always say there is no capital "I" in choir. Being a part of the music ministry at Good Shepherd means that you are part of a team, a brother or sister in Christ who draws closer to Him and to each other through music. We rely on each other to produce the most beautiful sound we can, to the Glory of God. As part of the music ministry, members have care and concern for one another. It is up to me to foster this fellowship and community. This also extends to the congregation by supporting the singing and the offering of opportunities for reflective and prayerful musical experiences.

As a PS, I am also the organist and have to practice a lot!

I think that is most everything. If you want to know more, please just ask me. You are warmly invited to join the music ministry at LCGS, there is a place for you!

Maria Sampogna, Minister of Music at LCGS

Board of Social Ministry:

As many of you know the church has been collecting clothes for Interfaith Works. They can also use many other items as baby supplies, cleaning supplies, dishes, cookware, China, blankets, pillows, towels, luggage in good condition, small kitchen appliances, snack bars, toiletries and feminine hygiene products, toys, water bottles in addition to clothes.

You can bring your donation to the chart in the FLW. Volunteers are also needed to deliver the donations. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway with instructions for delivery

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
Ecclesiastes 3:1

FROM THE BoT...

September is here, and it's time to kick off the LCGS 2026 budget development cycle, AND our annual stewardship campaign. From our perspective, we've had a great year of worship and community ministry, SCCC, music, concerts, open mics, and fellowship. Our congregation with Pastor Tim and family is one of our greatest strengths in our worship, and well, just the closeness of our extended church family.

Fact is, as we kick off our 2026 budget process, we can say that we are basically holding our own with normal annual expenses, albeit at the expense of needed additional investment for future high cost needs, e.g. roof and major HVAC replacement. We are allocating \$2K per month to Capital Replacement, but based on the value of our property our goal should be about \$3.3K per month. If we cannot afford these costs (and at the present time we cannot) we would need to finance all or part of these costs.

We also have periodic building maintenance that needs to be done, often at significant expense. We just paid \$5,800 to have our tile floors in the FLW, Narthex, and Sanctuary stripped and sealed. We had the church exterior painted in the past year. Our kitchen has a new refrigerator.

We have wonderful staff in Pr. Tim, Maria, and Cate. We'd like to be able to offer them appropriate pay raises to keep up with economic challenges.

In summary, as we start our annual budget process and you think about your plans for supporting our church, please prayerfully consider how you may help financially and/or with your time and talents. We have strong worship, church family, and community ministries going well here. Let's keep it that way.

Dear Members of LCGS,

As summer comes to a close, we are excited to welcome a brand-new school year at Shepherd's Care Children's Center! Our teachers have been busy preparing classrooms and lesson plans to create a nurturing and supportive environment for our children.

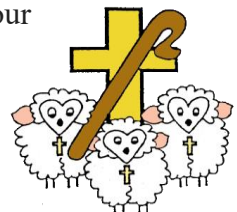
This year, we are delighted to have two preschool classes, each with 10 outstanding students. We still have openings available and would love to welcome more families into our community. If you know of any new families moving into the area who may be searching for a caring preschool, please help us spread the word.

Starting Monday, October 6, we are thrilled to introduce a brand-new STEM Enrichment Program for our students! Each class will enjoy one hour per week of hands-on STEM learning led by Ms. Collins, who has joined our team to bring this exciting opportunity. Our STEM program will engage children in scientific inquiry, creative exploration, and problem-solving projects designed to spark curiosity and confidence. Through play, experimentation, and observation, children will develop critical thinking and teamwork skills while having fun!

We warmly invite all church members to join us for our
"Breakfast on the Go" event on September 30.

We look forward to a fantastic year of learning, growing, and building connections with our children and families.

Warm regards,
Sandra Pernie
Director, Shepherd's Care Children's Center





Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study

9:15 am

Hybrid: Zoom and in person in room 104.

Children's Sunday School

9:15 am

In the Family Life Wing

Thursday Bible Study

10:30 am via Zoom

Small Groups

Men's Group

First Saturday of the month

8:00 am

Book Club

2nd Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm.

Confirmation Class

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm

Sundays at 9:15 am

LifeLight Bible Class

Mondays at 7:00pm

Music Ministry

On Summer Break



Please continue to send your requests to
prayers@olneygoodshepherd.org.

With assistance from the Worship Assistants, Pastor Tim will compile your requests to share in Worship during the "Prayers of the Church" and with the Board of Elders.

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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Board of Trustees

July 1, 2025—June 30, 2026

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Elder/Trustee	Marc Gregory

Board of Elders

Marc Gregory (Head Elder)

Steve Gordon

Tim Leydig

Gina Quinn

Jackie Schulten

Pastor

Rev. Timothy Boerger

pastor@olneygoodshepherd.org

Organist & Minister of Music

Maria Sampogna

maria@olneygoodshepherd.org

Administrative Assistant

Cate McDonald

office@olneygoodshepherd.org

Gifts / Offerings

**You can contribute your support of
Good Shepherd by.....**


1. On-line (via the website) Click [Donate](#)
2. Drop in the collection plate during worship.
3. Mail to:

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

P.O. Box 280 Olney, MD 20830-0280

September 2025

August '25							October '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	
31													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Ice Cream Social 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a Ice Cream Social	1 8:00p AA 	2 9:00a SCCC First Day	3	4 7:00p Narc-Alon 7:00p Narc-Alon	5 6:15p Girl Scout Mtg. 8:00pm AA	6 8:00a Men's Group 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
7 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a Food & Fellowship 1:00p ICIF Worship	8 6:00p Open Mic Night 7:00p LifeLight 8:00pm AA	9 5:30p Confirmation Class 7:00p Stephen Ministry Mtg	10 7:00p Board of Elders	11 10:30a Bible Study	12 8:00p AA	13 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
14 Book Club 9:00a Voters's Meeting 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 6:00p Book Club	15 7:00p LifeLight 8:00pm AA	16 5:30p Confirmation Class	17 7:00p Board of Trustees	18 10:30a Bible Study 7:00p Narc-Alon	19 8:00p AA	20 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
21 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 11:45a Food & Fellowship 1:00p ICIF Worship	22 7:00p LifeLight 8:00pm AA	23 5:30p Confirmation Class 7:00p SCCC Board Mtg 7:00p Stephen Ministry Mtg	24	25 10:30a Bible Study 7:00p Narc-Alon	26 8:00p AA	27 3:00p ICFC Practice 5:00p Oktoberfest 6:00p AA
28 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 1:00p ICIF Worship	29 7:00p LifeLight 8:00pm AA	30 5:30p Confirmation Class	1	2 10:30a Bible Study 7:00p Narc-Alon	3 8:00pm AA	4 8:00a Men's Group 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
5 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a Food & Fellowship 1:00p ICIF Worship	6 7:00p LifeLight 8:00pm AA	*ICFC = Indonesian Christian Fellowship Church				



THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD

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