



# The Messenger

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
November 2025

## 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.

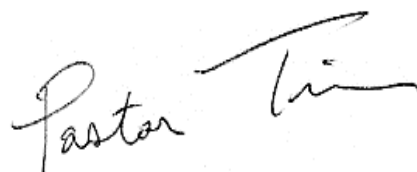
*Continued from pg. 1*

Our Lord has entrusted you with the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ. Both collectively and individually, you have been called by God 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.”



## News from the BoT

### **2026 Budget Planning Underway**

The Board of Trustees has kicked off the 2026 budget process, with a dedicated meeting scheduled for **November 10**. Early projections indicate that most of next year’s income will be directed toward essential expenses: **mortgage, staff salaries, utilities, and insurance**. While we broke even in 2025, we anticipate increased costs in 2026.

### **Budget Presentation & Approval**

The finalized budget recommendation will be presented for review and approval at the **December Voters Meeting**. Members are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and participate in the decision-making process.

### **Kitchen Compliance Project**

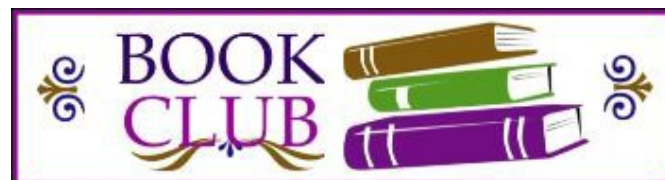
In parallel, plans are moving forward to bring our kitchen up to code—ensuring it’s safe, functional, and compliant with current regulations.

## Stewardship Sunday ~ November 9, 2025

“God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.” Martin Luther

# Upcoming

## EVENTS



11/15/25 (Sun)	Barbershop Quartet 7p
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

**Good Shepherd Book Club**  
**Sunday, November 9, 2025**  
 6:00 pm (LCGS and Zoom)

### Advent

The season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord Jesus Chris.

Nov. 30 – First Sunday in Advent  
 Dec. 7 – Second Sunday in Advent  
 Dec. 14 – Third Sunday in Advent  
           Lessons & Carols  
 Dec. 21 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Mid-Week Advent Devotionals Service**  
 Wednesdays at 7:00 pm  
 December 3, 10, 17

### Christmas 2025

**Christmas Eve**  
 Wednesday, December 24  
 7:00 pm Worship Service

**Christmas Day**  
 Thursday, December 25  
 10:30 am Worship Service

Please join the LCGS Book Club members for our November meeting at church, in room 104. Our meetings begin with a potluck, which is followed by an informal discussion of the month's book. We happily welcome all.

The November book, "Miss Benson's Beetle," by Rachel Joyce, is a novel that begins in 1950s London. The story is about Margery Benson's quest for a beetle that may or may not exist. That quest takes Margery and her assistant to New Caledonia, an archipelago located relatively near Australia/New Zealand and Fiji/Vanuatu. This heart-warming story explores self-discovery and friendship, and reviewers describe it as "uplifting," "witty," and "charming."

We hope to see you there!



### Christmas Poinsettia

Sign-up will be available soon for you to purchase poinsettias.

### ✿ Sponsor Altar Flowers ✿

Would you like to sponsor altar flowers? It's a meaningful way to honor loved ones and celebrate life's special moments — birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, confirmations, memorials, or simply giving thanks for life's blessings.

Each sponsorship will be acknowledged in our weekly announcements.

Please e-mail the Church Office at [office@olneygoodshepherd.org](mailto:office@olneygoodshepherd.org) to reserve a week.

## Thursday Bible Study

JOIN US ON ZOOM

**Time:** 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Study Series:** *102 Fascinating Bible Studies* by Preston A. Taylor

Join us each Thursday morning for a rich time of prayer, fellowship, and engaging Bible study. Guided by *102 Fascinating Bible Studies*, we explore topical questions that lead us through Scripture to discover meaningful answers. The format is relaxed and conversational, with Pastor Tim always ready to listen, clarify, and encourage deeper understanding.

**Open to All:** Whether you're a member or not, male or female, you're warmly invited to participate.

**?** For additional questions, reach out to **Jackie Schulten** 301-452-4983

## FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

**Join us for Food & Fellowship following Worship Service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.**

Please bring something to share — a dish, snack, or treat — and help make our table abundant and welcoming!



Please continue to send your requests to [prayers@olneygoodshepherd.org](mailto: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.

### Dear Members of LCGS,

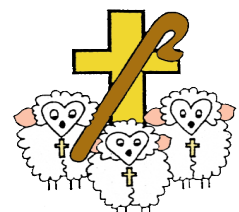
It's hard to believe we've already entered the holiday season! November invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives — including the joy, curiosity, and energy our preschoolers bring each day.

October was a lively and memorable month at Shepherd's Care Children's Center. Our preschoolers enjoyed a delightful field trip to Clark's Elioak Farm, where they petted farm animals, rode a hay wagon through the fields, explored a fun maze, and picked out their very own pumpkins to take home. We also welcomed a visit from the Sandy Spring Fire Department, who taught the children about fire safety and gave them a tour of both a fire truck and an ambulance. The children were captivated as they learned how first responders help people in emergencies.

Looking ahead, LCGS will host a **Breakfast for Preschool Parents** on **Tuesday, November 25, at 9:00 a.m.**, and we warmly invite all members of the church to join us. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, share fellowship, and celebrate the blessings of the season together.

Thank you for keeping our children, families, and staff in your prayers as we continue to grow, learn, and give thanks.

Wishing you a joyful and grateful fall season,  
Sandra Pernie  
Director, Shepherd's Care Children's Center



# November



4<sup>th</sup> – Lili K.  
4<sup>th</sup> – Max K.  
6<sup>th</sup> – Angela B.  
7<sup>th</sup> – Bob W.  
10<sup>th</sup> – Kennen H.  
8<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Tim  
12<sup>th</sup> – Charlie C.  
13<sup>th</sup> – Paula H.  
13<sup>th</sup> – Dominic H  
13<sup>th</sup> – Willian S.  
17<sup>th</sup> – Melissa G.  
20<sup>th</sup> – Joshua F.  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Ron M.  
30<sup>th</sup> – Patrick G.

So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your  
God. I will strengthen you and  
help you; I will uphold you with  
my righteous right hand.

**Isaiah 41:10**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Matt & Gina Q.  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Howard & Deborah H.  
8<sup>th</sup> – Mark & Judi S.



Cate McDonald  
Administrative Assistant | January 2020 – Present

Cate McDonald is a dedicated administrative professional with over five years of experience supporting the mission and operations of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. In her role, Cate provides essential clerical support aligned with the priorities of Pastor Tim and the church leadership.

Her responsibilities include preparing worship bulletins, PowerPoint presentations, and weekly communications such as the "Weekly Word." She also produces the church's monthly newsletter and manages digital outreach through the website and social media platforms. Cate maintains organized

office systems, ensures equipment functionality, and oversees supply ordering and invoice processing.

She is proficient in managing the Shepherd's Staff database, handling data entry, generating reports, and coordinating mailings. As the church's receptionist, Cate warmly welcomes visitors and service providers and compassionately assists walk-in Food Pantry requests. Her role also includes managing correspondence, mail logistics, and performing additional duties as needed to support the church's ministry.

The Board of Trustees adds that Cate is an absolutely essential staff member whose current duties are far more complex than originally envisioned for this position, and are critical in day-to-day church operations. She is instrumental in supporting our church's needs, especially during the December Christmas activities and Easter week, and in assisting the BoT with monthly meetings and Quarterly Voters Meetings.

## Advent Devotionals

available in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 23rd

### A Grand Miracle: Daily Devotions for Advent

Quotes from C. S. Lewis, alongside Scripture, serve as our guides through these daily devotions for Advent. Each day, Lewis' words point to the saving, life-changing aspects of Christ's birth, which he calls "a Grand Miracle." You will then be blessed with reflections by Lewis scholar Joel Heck on the concepts of the incarnation, Immanuel (God with Us), the Christ-figure of Narnia (from The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe) and Jesus' mission to make us his new creation.

### Look Around the Stable: Advent Daily Devotion for Kids

Advent is a time for getting ready. Soon we will celebrate the birth of Christ, and we always look forward to the day when Christ will come again. When Jesus first came to earth, a stable was ready to be his birthplace. The devotions in this book invite you each day to "Look Around the Stable," for so much of what you see there can help you get ready too. Ready? Look around the stable! *Perfect for children ages 3 to 7.*



## November Social Ministry: Meals & Christmas Giving

This November, the Board of Social Ministry will be busy with heartfelt service:

- 🍷 Preparing lunches for the men's emergency shelter
- 🦃 Providing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for 8 local families through grocery store gift cards
- 📦 Coordinating Christmas gifts and deliveries for these families

We'll need volunteers to help with:

- Selecting and donating Christmas gifts
- Providing transportation to deliver the gifts

More details will be shared in the December Newsletter.  
Thank you for being part of this season of generosity and care!

### Spread the Love: Making Sandwiches for the Shelter

The Social Ministry Board will be preparing sandwiches for the Men's Emergency Shelter on Saturday, November 29th—the fifth Saturday of the month.

We need your help with donations of: cheese slices, bread, fruit (e.g. apples), luncheon meat, and juice boxes and a few volunteers to help prepare lunches.

If you cannot bring the food before November 29, please bring the food to church by noon on the 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Please contact Mark Seggel with your donation at [gntower@yahoo.com](mailto:gntower@yahoo.com) or 301 260 0960.



In the spirit of Thanksgiving, please help us restock the Food Pantry with donations from your abundance.

Food will be collected after Worship on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> or bring your donation to the church office.

#### Most needed non-perishable items:

Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Cereal  
Canned Chicken or meats

Canned Tuna  
Fruit cups  
Canned Soup  
Canned green beans

Canned Baked Beans  
Pasta  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned or dried beans

(Please do not donate the large boxes from Costco)

The Board of Social Ministry thanks you for continuing support of Good Shepherd's active Food Pantry

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ~ **1 Thessalonians 5:18**



### 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

8:30 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

Sunday School Singers & Ringers Practice

Thursdays at 6:00 pm

Shepherd's Bells Practice

Thursdays at 6:45 pm

Chancel Choir Practice

Thursdays at 8:00 pm

## Gifts / Offerings

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

## Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

4200 Olney-Laytonsville Rd

Olney, MD 20832

Phone: 301-774-9125

lcgs.church

www.OlneyGoodShepherd.org

### Board of Trustees

**July 1, 2025—June 30, 2026**

President/Trustee	Matt Quinn
President-Elect/Trustee	<b>VACANT</b>
Treasurer/Trustee	Jim Strachan
Treasurer-Elect/Trustee	<b>VACANT</b>
Financial Sec./Trustee	Cory Baumhardt
Financial Sec -Elect/Trustee	<b>VACANT</b>
Recording Secretary/Trustee	Cindy Miezis
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](mailto:pastor@olneygoodshepherd.org)

### Organist & Minister of Music

Maria Sampogna

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

### Administrative Assistant

Cate McDonald

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



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



# The Arts in Harmony

## Olney Good Shepherd

### Upcoming

### Concerts 2025-2026

15

NOVEMBER

Saturday 7:00 PM

***Harmony Express***

*A Barbershop Style Mixed A Cappella Chorus*

[Event Information](#)

7

DECEMBER

Sunday 4:30 PM

***Olney Community Youth Choir***

[Event Information](#)

13

DECEMBER

Saturday 5:00 PM

**Sherwood Community Chamber Choir**  
*Holiday Community Sing w/ Vocal Accord*

[Event Information](#)

14

FEBRUARY

Saturday 7:00 PM

**Fran Vielma Quartet**

[Event Information](#)

Tickets can also be purchased at the door.  
Cash or Credit Card accepted

[www.olneygoodshepherd.org/events](http://www.olneygoodshepherd.org/events)



[Purchase Tickets](#)



# November 2025

October '25							December '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> Reformation Sunday 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 1:00p ICIF Worship	<b>27</b> 7:00p LifeLight 8:00p AA	<b>28</b> 9:00a SCCC Parent Breakfast 5:30p Confirmation Class 7:00p SCCC Board Mtg 7:00p Stephen Ministry Mtg	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p SS Ringers Practice 6:45p Shepherd's Bells 7:00p Narc-Alon 8:00p Chancel Choir	<b>31</b> 8:00pm AA	<b>1</b> 8:00a Men's Group 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
<b>2</b> All Saints' Sunday 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a Food & Fellowship 1:00p ICIF Worship	<b>3</b> 7:00p LifeLight 8:00p AA	<b>4</b> 5:30p Confirmation Class	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p SS Ringers Practice 6:45p Shepherd's Bells 7:00p Narc-Alon 8:00p Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 6:15p Girl Scout Mtg. 8:00pm AA	<b>8</b> 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
<b>9</b> Stewardship Sunday 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 1:00p ICIF Worship 6:00p Book Club	<b>10</b> 8:00p AA	<b>11</b> 5:30p Confirmation Class 7:00p Stephen Ministry Mtg	<b>12</b> 7:00p Board of Elders	<b>13</b> 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p SS Ringers Practice 6:45p Shepherd's Bells 7:00p Narc-Alon 8:00p Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 8:00p AA	<b>15</b> 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA 7:00p Barbershop Quartet
<b>16</b> 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a Food & Fellowship 1:00p ICIF Worship	<b>17</b> 8:00p AA	<b>18</b> 5:30p Confirmation Class	<b>19</b> 7:00p Board of Trustees	<b>20</b> 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p SS Ringers Practice 6:45p Shepherd's Bells 7:00p Narc-Alon 8:00p Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 8:00p AA	<b>22</b> 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
<b>23</b> 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 1:00p ICIF Worship	<b>24</b> 8:00p AA	<b>25</b> 5:30p Confirmation Class 7:00p Stephen Ministry Mtg	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 4:00p ICIF Worship 7:30p Narc-Alon 	<b>28</b> 8:00p AA	<b>29</b> 12n Safe Haven 300p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
<b>30</b> 1st Sunday of Advent 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 1:00p ICIF Worship	<b>1</b> 8:00p AA	<b>Mid-Week Advent Devotionals</b> Wednesdays at 7:00 pm      December 3,10,17  *ICFC = Indonesian Christian Fellowship Church				



THE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH OF THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD

4200 Olney Laytonsville Road, Olney MD 20832 | 301-774-9125