



The Messenger

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
December 2025

Coming Soon

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelation 22:12-13)

I am writing on Thanksgiving Eve, as the smells of good cooking waft their way up the stairs up to my third-floor study, heralding the full arrival of the holiday season. But signs of the season are everywhere. In Mount Airy, where I live, the town Christmas tree is up next to the old train station and wreaths adorn the lamp posts and telephone poles. Twinkling lights are beginning to appear on neighboring houses, and peppermint-flavored treats have returned to the menu of Starbucks and Chick-Fil-A. The December calendar is already bulging with concerts and school activities and general busy-ness. It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas. In truth, it’s been looking a lot like Christmas since the day after Halloween. Amid our culture’s rush into “the Holidays” it’s easy to forget that, in the Christian calendar, the Christmas season does not actually begin until Christmas Eve. In the church’s way of keeping time, December is, in fact, dominated by an entirely different season—the time of Advent.

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” The first season of the church year, comprising the four Sundays prior to Christmas, Advent originally functioned as the pre-Christmas fast (much like Lent in relation to Easter), a time of prayer and self-denial in anticipation of the coming feast. But Advent is more than pre-Christmas. Advent reminds us that, just as the Son of God once came into the world in the lowliness of a human infant, so now he continues to come to us now, hidden beneath the means of grace. He will, moreover, come again—not in lowliness and hiddenness, but in glory and majesty to judge the world and to make all things new. So our observance of Advent is not merely a matter of rehearsing events that happened someplace else long ago. Rather, in remembering Israel’s mournful centuries of captivity and waiting, in hearing again the Baptist’s cry, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord,” in recounting the Angel Gabriel’s unexpected promise to a young woman named Mary, we are invited to recognize our own captivity and called to turn back to our God, and—above all—reminded that the promises of God are for us, too. The Savior comes! “Behold, I stand at the door and knock,” says Jesus. Are you ready?

Consequently, there is a strongly eschatological character to Advent—it turns our attention to the last things, the end of the world and the return of Christ. The first Advent of the Lord prepares us for that second and greater Advent, and the babe in the manger is the antidote to our fears for the future. I love how this is expressed in one of the historic prayers for Christmas Day: “Grant that, as we, who joyfully receive [Christ] as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our judge.”

I encourage you to take time amidst the business of the season to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Come to church, set aside time for Bible study and prayer with your family, keep an eye out for those in need physically or emotionally. Above all, remember that the Baby on the manger is also the Savior who is with you every day. And he is the King who is coming to reign. May he reign in your heart this holiday season—and to life everlasting.

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

VOTERS' MEETING

Sunday, December 7, 2025

9:00 am

Hybrid: Room 104 and Zoom

You will be asked to vote on the proposed 2026 Church Budget at the meeting.



Advent

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

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 ~ Death & Judgment

December 10 ~ Heaven & Hell

December 17 ~ Time of Remembrance & Hope

Christmas 2025

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 pm Worship Service

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

10:30 am Worship Service



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.



Birthdays

Anniversaries

12/1 – Jeanne Z.
12/4 – Tim L.
12/7 – James M.
12/8 – Kyle E.
12/8 – Shelly B.
12/11 – Jake W.
12/14 – Sarah S.
12/16 – Jennifer L.
12/20 – Robert B.
12/20 – Kevin W.
12/25 – Lora B.
12/29 – Adam H.
12/29 – Christina

12/14 – Heberto & Shawna R.
12/18 – Nathan & Dawn M.
12/22 – Kyle & Carlos E.
12/30 – Cheryl & John M.

Rejoice with those who
rejoice; mourn with those
who mourn.

Romans 12:15

Thursday Bible Study

JOIN US ON ZOOM

Thursday, December 4th
10:30 am – 12noon via Zoom

After our December 4th meeting, Thursday Bible Study will be on Winter break until 1/8/2026

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!

Social Ministry: Christmas Giving

This December, the Board of Social Ministry will be busy with heartfelt service: Providing Christmas meals for eight families with Christmas dinners and gifts for their children.

We'll need volunteers to help with:

- sponsor approximately 23 children and their parent(s). Posted in the narthex are the age and sex of the individual children.
- Providing transportation to deliver the gifts

This is a wonderful way to share joy and generosity with families in need. Thank you for helping us make the season brighter for these children and their parents!

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Church for Christmas!

We have opportunities for members to help decorate for the Christmas season.

We'd love to invite people to come, lend their time, and enjoy the fellowship.

Decorating the Sanctuary

Friday, December 12th
10:00 am

Decorating the Narthex


Thursday, December 11th
10:00 am

Beautify the Sanctuary with Poinsettias!!

Help us celebrate the joy of Christmas by adorning our Sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias.

Each plant is \$20, and your contribution will help create a festive and welcoming atmosphere for our Christmas services.

After our worship service on December 25th, those who ordered poinsettias are welcome to take them home and continue the celebration.

 Order Today! Reserve your poinsettia now to be part of this meaningful tradition.

Link to order: <https://forms.gle/6dM21dTBBAbRt76u7>

Payment: Vanco: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8FC/home>
or mail a check to LCGS with a memo indicating that it is for poinsettias.



Advent Devotionals

available in the Narthex

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.*

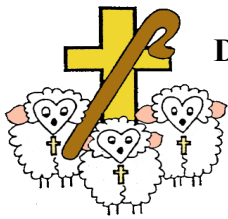


Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus' love has done!



Join the Olney Community Youth Choir's Cavatina & Crescendo choirs as they unite with Sherwood High School's Chamber Singers for "Voice of a New Day." Don't miss this incredible concert where students from grades 4 through 12 join together in song to ring in the winter season!

Tickets: <https://givebutter.com/OCYCDec7?s=bc28kg>



Dear LCGS members,

This past month, our children explored the wonders of autumn—creating leaf collages, studying the changing seasons, and celebrating together during our Costume Parade. They had a wonderful time enjoying a pizza party and proudly parading around the church.

In December, we're excited to dive into holiday traditions from around the globe. We'll be crafting Christmas art, singing festive songs, and enjoying yummy holiday treats. Our book of the month is *The Legend of the Candy Cane* by Lori Walburg.

A big thank-you to Ms. Sandy from Little Hands for helping us prepare all the wonderful songs for our Christmas Program. The program will be held on **December 19 at 10 a.m.**, and all LCGS members are warmly invited to join us.

- December 2 – SCCC Parents Breakfast :
Sponsored by LCGS members and joined by Dentistry for Children of Ashton, who will provide a free grab-and-go breakfast, share helpful dental health tips, and show appreciation for our wonderful parents.
- December 16 – Santa Steve's Christmas Reading
We'll welcome Santa Steve (Stephen Schreurs), a local author, for a special Christmas book reading for our children.

We are so grateful for your continued love, support, and prayers for our preschool staff and families as we learn, grow, and celebrate this joyful season together.

Wishing you peace, joy, and love this holiday season!

Sincerely,
Sandra Pernie

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.



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

Every gift, large or small, helps us continue our mission of compassion, worship, and community. Thank you for your generosity!

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

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Pastor

Rev. Timothy Boerger

pastor@olneygoodshepherd.org

Organist & Minister of Music

Maria Sampogna

maria@olneygoodshepherd.org

Administrative Assistant

Cate McDonald



office@olneygoodshepherd.org



1. On-line (via the website) Click [Donate](#)
2. Drop in the collection plate during worship.
3. Mail a check to:
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.
P.O. Box 280 Olney, MD 20830-0280

December 2025

November '25							January '26						
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30													

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 1st Sunday of Advent 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 1:00p ICIF Worship	1 8:00p AA	2 9:00a SCCC Parent Breakfast 5:30p Confirmation Class	3 7:00p Advent Devotional	4 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p SS Ringers Practice 6:45p Shepherd's Bells 7:00p Narc-Alon 8:00p Chancel Choir	5 9:00a SCCC Teacher Conf. 8:00p AA	6 8:00a Men's Group 12:30p SSS Practice 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00a Voters' Meeting 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 1:00p ICIF Worship 4:30p Olney Youth Choir	8 8:00p AA	9 5:30p Confirmation Class 7:00p Stephen Ministry Mtg	10 7:00p Advent Devotional 7:45p BoE Meeting	11 10:00a Decorate the Narthex 6:00p SS Ringers Practice 6:45p Shepherd's Bells 7:00p Narc-Alon 8:00p Chancel Choir	12 10:00a Decorate Sanctuary 8:00p AA	13 3:00p ICFC Practice 5:00p Olney Community Sing 6:00p AA
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Lessons & Carols 1:00p ICIF Worship	15 8:00p AA	16 5:30p Confirmation Class	17 7:00p Advent Devotional 7:45p BoT Meeting	18 6:00p SS Ringers Practice 6:45p Shepherd's Bells 7:00p Narc-Alon 8:00p Chancel Choir	19 10:00a SCCC Christmas Pagent 8:00p AA	20 3:00p ICFC Christmas Celebrati 6:00p AA 6:00p AA
21 4th Sunday of Advent 9:15a Adult Bible Study 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a Food & Fellowship	22 8:00p AA	23 5:30p Confirmation Class 7:00p Stephen Ministry Mtg	24 7:00p Christmas Worship 7:30p ICFC Worship	25 10:30a Christmas Worship	26 8:00p AA	27 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
28 10:30a Worship 1:00p ICIF Worship	29 8:00p AA	30	31 8:00p ICFC NYE Worship	1 7:30p Narc-Alon	2 8:00pm AA	3 8:00a Men's Group 3:00p ICFC Practice 6:00p AA
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