



FOOD FOR THE FLOCK

Thanksgiving Celebration

We once again had an incredible Thanksgiving Feast! Thank you all for really showing up and providing so much wonderful food and fellowship! As we enter Advent Season, let's always remember to share these moments.

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It's all about Family



Lenore and her famous punch!



Chuck - Our Patriarch
Enjoying the feast



David is ready for his close up!



Dan shares his world renowned salmon

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

BY PASTOR NATHAN WONG

The Season of Perpetual Hope

Do you view the holidays the same way? This time of year, many dating women hope to meet the man of their dreams or that said man will finally propose. Many parents hope that their family will feel whole again. Many hard-working people hope that they will finally catch their big break. Some hope that the Christmas season will mend a broken relationship. Why now? Well, 'tis the season of perpetual hope! But when things don't work out the way you wanted, does it leave you feeling hopeless? Then I have glad tidings for you. Your life in Christ is anything but hopeless.

Did you know that Advent is also known as the "season of perpetual hope?" Jesus, the promised Christ, gives unfading hope. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Because Jesus has ransomed you and me from our sins, we have the hope of eternal life! This hope cannot be lost. In every way, the Lord instills a higher and certain hope that remains untouched by life's disappointments. Jesus will keep his promise to take us to into the home he is preparing for us. How could our Lord do such an incredible thing? God described the great work that His Servant would do, long before Jesus was born:

**Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I am well pleased.**

**I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.**

²¹ **And in his name the nations will hope.**

Isaiah 42:18, 21



*"We have been justified freely by his grace
through the redemption that came by Christ
Jesus."*

Romans 3:24

Friends, rejoice! God's Servant has come. We look forward to Christmas Day because Jesus' birth is the start of his justifying work. It began by taking on human nature. Why? So that God's Son could take on the punishment of death and hell in our place. The result is what gives us hope:

**We have been justified freely by his grace
through the redemption that came by Christ
Jesus. Romans 3:24**

Jesus proclaims justice to people like you and me through the voice of the gospel. Faithful believers, like you and me, now serve God's Servant as they proclaim the justice that Jesus has won for all. Dear Christian, Christ is your hope today, this Advent season, and always.



The new
Dads
Grant & Pastor
practice with
their
boys!

We ask for your continued prayers—for wisdom and discernment for our church council as they make decisions about our financial resources, and for the overall financial health of our congregation. May God continue to provide for us so that we may faithfully carry out His work and share the Good News of Christ.

IRA Charitable Giving

One great thing that has resulted from the “Big Beautiful Bill” passed by Congress this year is the establishment of the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) rule. The IRS now allows taxpayers 70 ½ and older to transfer funds directly from their IRA to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity like our church. With a normal charitable contribution, you donate first, keep records of your gifting and then take a deduction on taxes later, but only if you itemize. A QCD, however, never counts as income because they are never deposited into your personal bank account.

Donating through a QCD counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution and is excluded from your income for tax purposes. This helps to reduce your tax bracket and minimize Medicare premium increases, Net Investment Taxes, and Taxes on Social Security benefits. QCD's must be made from private IRA's. Employer sponsored 401(k)'s, such as the Federal TSP, do not qualify. Instead, you would need to withdraw funds from those accounts and set up an IRA for a future QCD. Those withdrawals are considered income, so be careful not to move too much annually. If you are interested, please contact your financial advisor for complete details.



Church Decorating

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with decorating the church on November 30. And a big thank you to Elaine for supplying the pizza and Edie for the poinsettias. We all had a great time as always, and the church looks beautiful!

Baptisms....

Our 4 beautiful new additions to the congregation were baptized this month!

A huge welcome to these littles!



SHEARING TIME, Financial Reports

BY SEAN CASE, TREASURER

Cumulative Activity through	Budgeted	Actual	Delta	Actual vs Budget
Offerings	\$194,849	\$161,823	-\$33,027	-17%
Expenses	\$194,849	\$183,540	-\$11,310	-6%
Net	\$0	-\$21,717		

FOOTPRINTS IN THE FIELD EVENTS HELD IN THE LAST MONTH

SotB Book Club - November 12 at 12 Noon

For October we read **An Irish Country Doctor** by Patrick Taylor

We are taking a break for the busy December holiday season. Enjoy the time with your family and friends!



Join us for discussion
January 28 at 12:00 PM

Leaf Busters



Thank you to those who came to help clean up the fall debris from Chuck's yard
Saturday, November 29th
You guys did a great job!

NEW PASTURES

UPCOMING EVENTS



TONIGHT
December 5
6:00- 8:30 pm
Pizza followed by
Bunco with prizes!

Then a super fun White Elephant exchange. Remember to bring a wrapped gift **FROM** your home. Regifting is encouraged! This is always a great time, and a great start to the holiday season!



Advent by Candlelight
TOMORROW
December 6
5:00 PM

Please bring a finger food or dessert to share.
Please RSVP to Theresa at 505-331-5213



We are starting a
Secret Sisters Ministry
It will run from
December '25 -
December '26

What is a Secret Sister - Women who are interested will complete a short questionnaire and then be matched with another woman in secret. Throughout the year, they will secretly send each other notes, cards, etc. to give words of encouragement and lift each other up. In December 2026 we will have a reveal party where you will learn who your Secret Sister has been through out the year. This is a great way for us to uplift and support each other. If you would like to participate, speak to Jennifer Case.

Words from the Well

Therefore the Lord himself will give you^[a] a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and^[c] will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



Mornings with Mommy isn't preschool, and it isn't childcare, it's something different!



WHAT IS IT: Mornings with Mommy is a fun and easy way for you to enjoy activities with your children and meet other Moms. Educational play-dates with Mommy (or Dads or other caregivers!) for infants through pre-kindergarten. Each session has a different theme:

December 18 - Birthday Party for Jesus

WHERE: *Shepherd of the Bay* @ 9463 HG Trueman Rd, Lusby, Maryland

WHEN: 9:30am to 10:30am

COST: \$5 per family

REGISTRATION: Advance online registration is required
([click here to register!](#))

December Monthly Activities



Adult Bible Study & Sunday School - Sundays 9::30am

Worship - Sundays 10:30am

Communion - 12/7 and 12/21

Catechism - Tuesdays 4:15pm



December Anniversaries

Merranko 12/17 22 years



Special Events

Bunco 12/5 6:00pm

Advent by Candlelight 12/6 5:00pm

Solomon's Christmas Walk 12/13 5:00pm

December Birthdays

Haley Grah 12/3

Abel Kassulke 12/4

Dan Severson 12/7

Daniel Severson 12/16

Sam Holcomb 12/25



Church Council

Ministry Planning Meeting 12/8 6:00pm

Monthly Meeting 12/11 6:00pm



SOLOMON'S CHRISTMAS WALK

Friday, December 13

The Solomons Christmas alk is an annual event where residents get the opportunity to meet organizations and businesses from the area. It has been a great opportunity for us to get out there and engage with the community, give them a little hot chocolate to warm their bellies and some Christian love to warm their souls. It is a low key way to share who we are and encourage people to visit church, and maybe find a new church home during this special time of year. If you would like to volunteer please speak to Grant.



Christmas Services

12/24 - Christmas Eve

6:00pm

12/25 Christmas Day

10:30am



Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with joyful worship, candlelight, and music! Please take some invitations from church and pass them along to friends, neighbors, and anyone else who might be inclined to come to worship.

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.SHEPHERDOFTHEBAY.COM

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church

Pastor Nathan Wong
office: 410-231-2075
cell: 507-995-5978
lusbypastor@gmail.com

**Adult Bible Study & Sunday
School at 9:30am**
Sunday Worship
at 10:30am (livestream)

Christmas Services

12/24 - Christmas Eve
6:00pm

12/25 Christmas Day
10:30am



9463 HG Trueman Road
Lusby, MD 20657

*Growing
Together
in
Faith*