

A Little Book on JOY



The Secret of
LIVING A GOOD NEWS LIFE
in a Bad News World

About the Author

- Pastor in Iowa and Indiana
- Missionary in Alaska
- Executive Director of LCMS World Relief & Human Care, 2001-2010
- Newly installed President of the LCMS

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Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

- LSB 556
- Sing Stanzas 1-5
- Luther's Manifesto Hymn of Faith and Joy
- How does Luther use the word joy or "rejoice" in this hymn?
- What is the cause of this joy?

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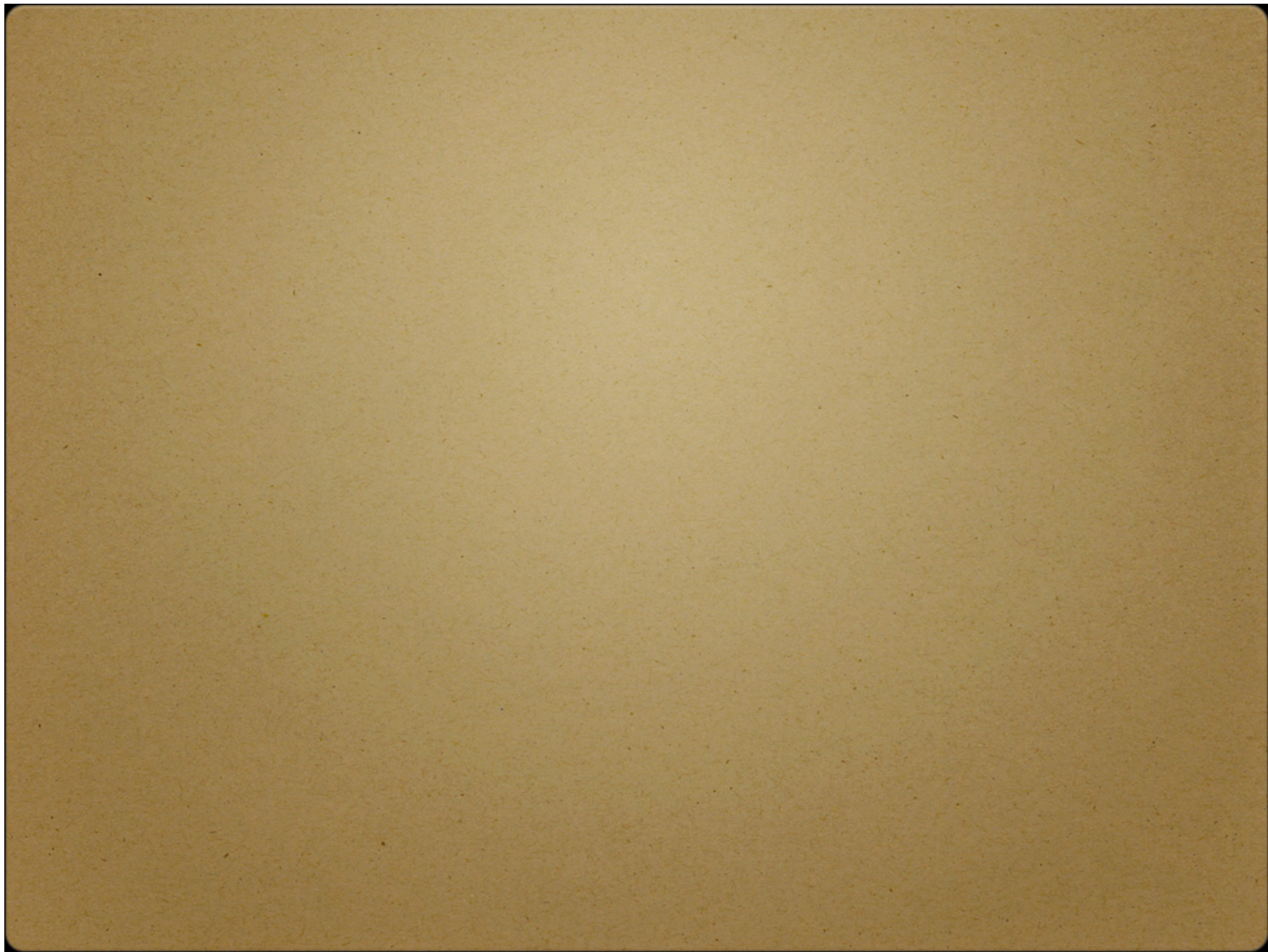
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- Maybe our approach has not been helpful...



“Some of the most depressing sermons I’ve ever heard have been harangues on joyfulness.”

(p.2)

From Hermann Sasse

We need this joy now more than ever. The world needs it, and Christendom needs it. If ever this joyful news was necessary for the world, then [it is] in our century of great wars and mass death. But how should we, servants of the Gospel, announce this joy to the world if we ourselves do not have it? What is missing in the churches of Christendom today is the measure of joy which the old church possessed. We all stand in great danger of having the fearful seriousness of our time, the concerns in the church and in the parsonage, even the concerns about the church which are commanded to us, not allow the great joy to arise, or kill it. This is especially true of those among us who work in “dead” congregations, who perhaps must preach in empty churches, and upon whom too much work has been placed. But it is true there, too, where the congregations are rich, sometimes too rich, where the ecclesiastical life seems to bloom and the Christian faith is in no way attacked from the outside. There it is worldly joy, the secularized substitute for the true joy of the Gospel, which threatens to destroy Christ’s joy.

HERMANN SASSE, THE CHURCH’S TIME OF REJOICING

Mount
Kilimanjaro,
Tanzania

Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania



Galatians 5:22

- Read the verse out loud together, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...”**
- How does this measure up with Harrison’s statement about joy, **“There is no forcing it, no coercing it, no measuring it, no cooking it up”**

How is
joy like
the
kingdom
of God
itself?



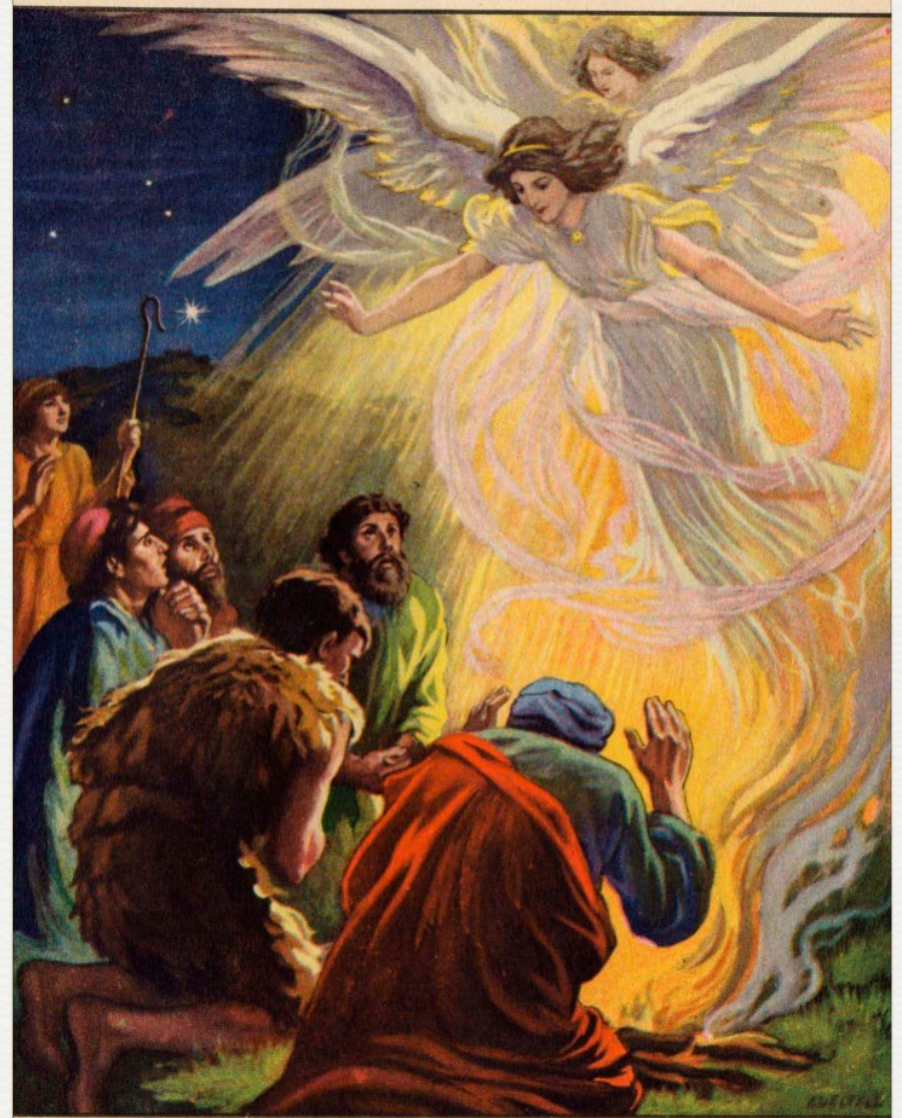
John William Waterhouse:
The Annunciation - 1914

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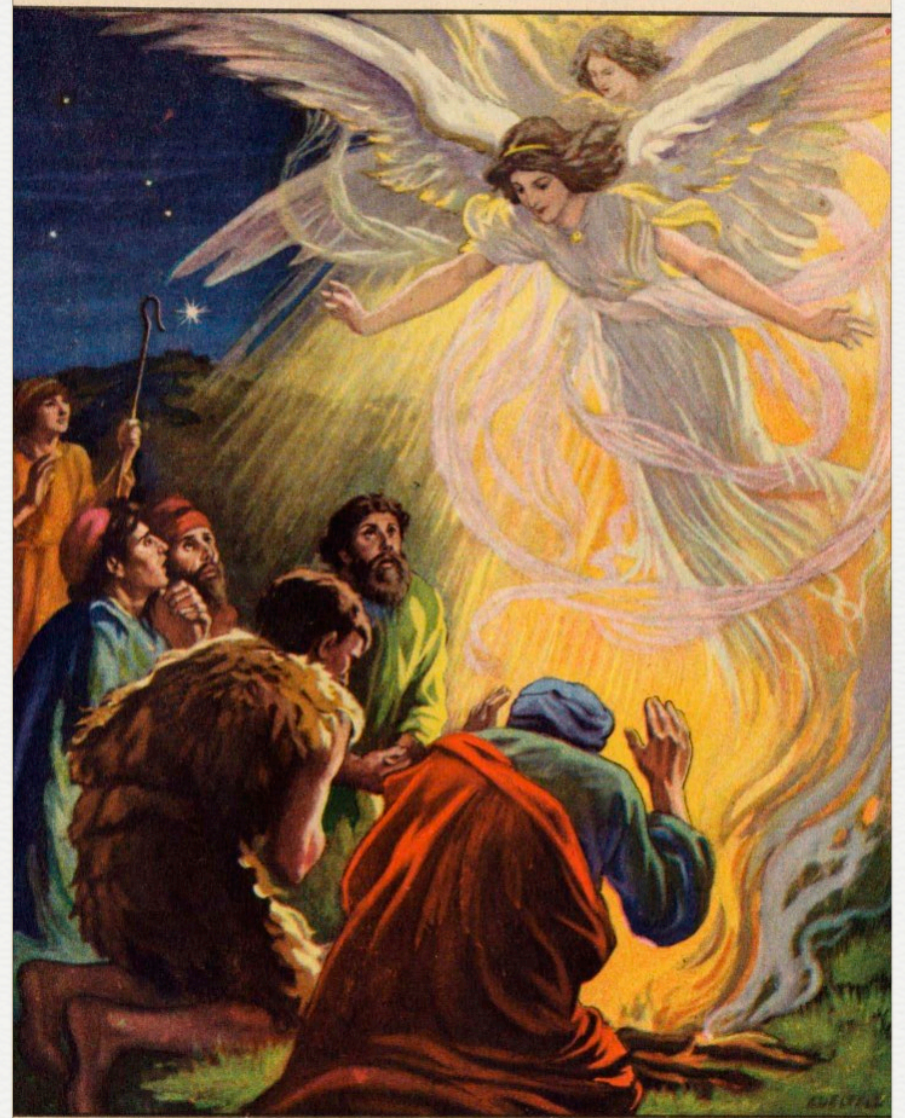


THE ANGELS' SONG AND THE SHEPHERDS' VISIT

How does God give us joy?

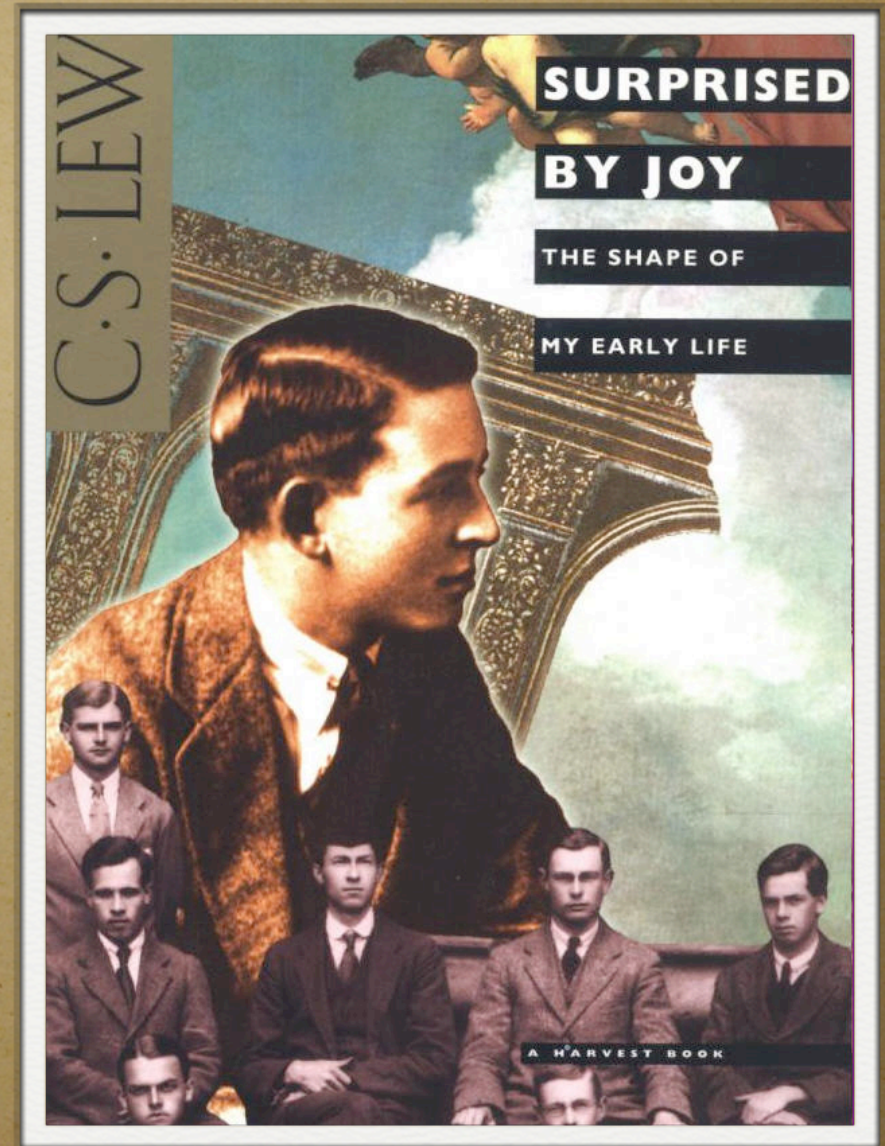
Luke 2:1-11

Where do you
hear this message
today?



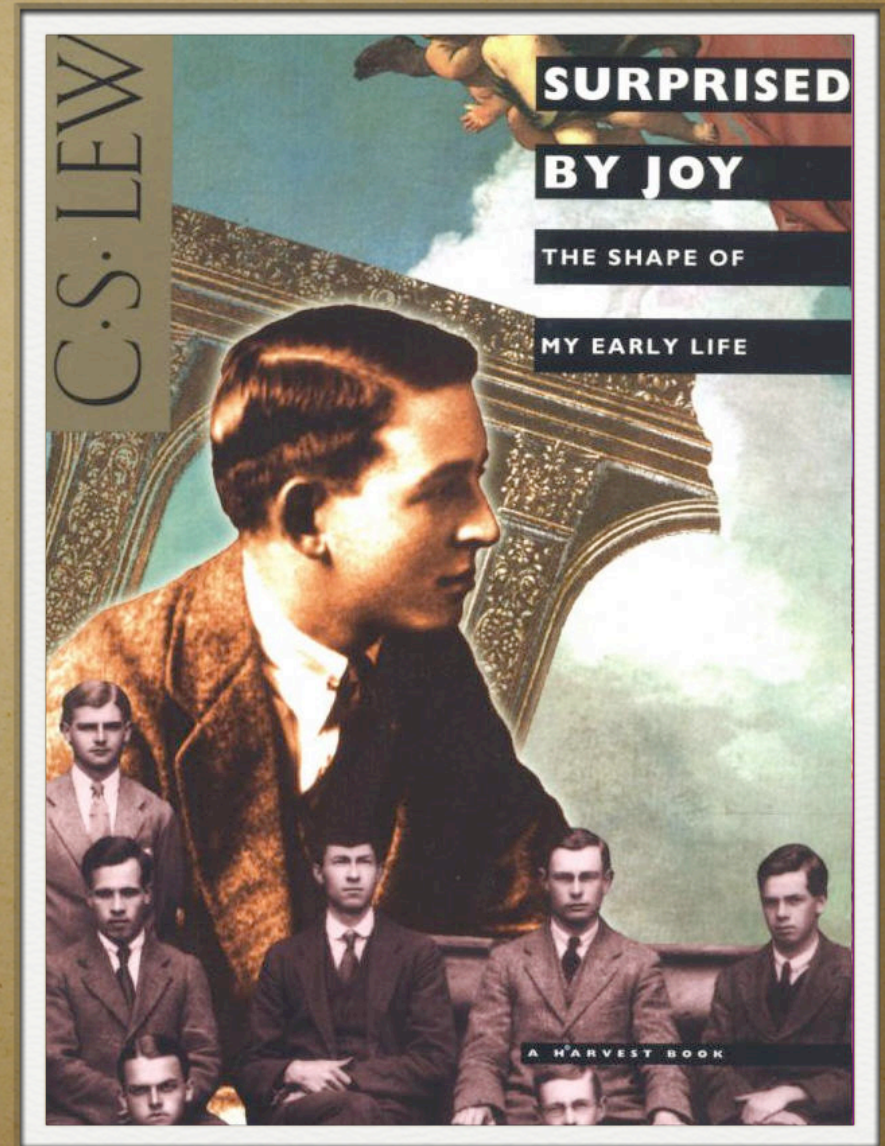
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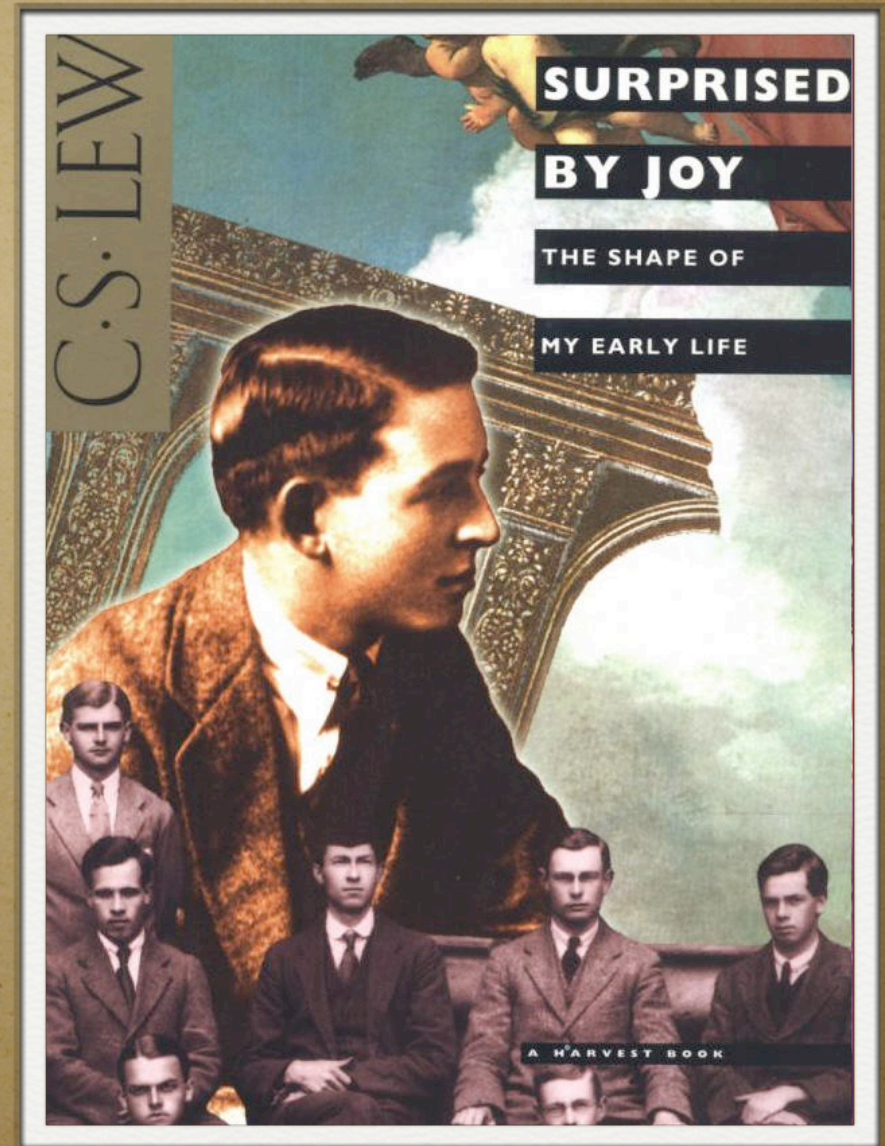
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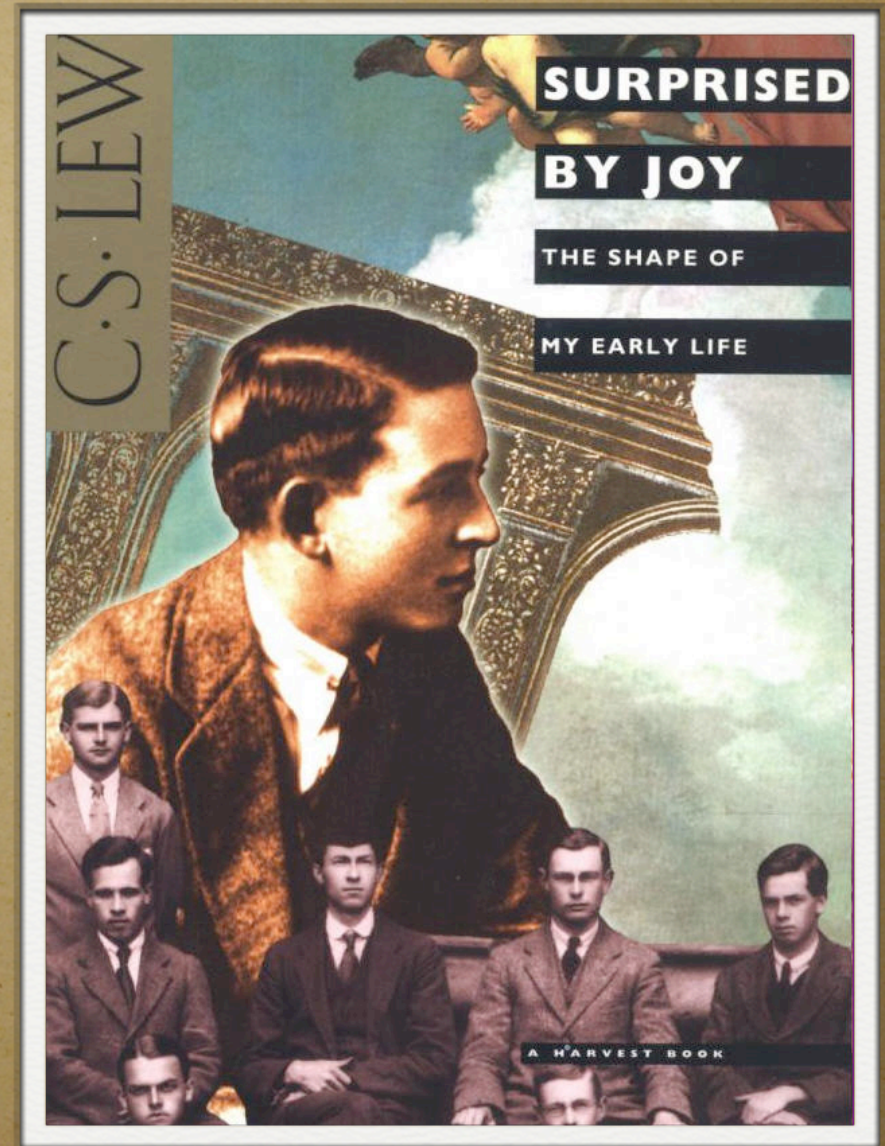
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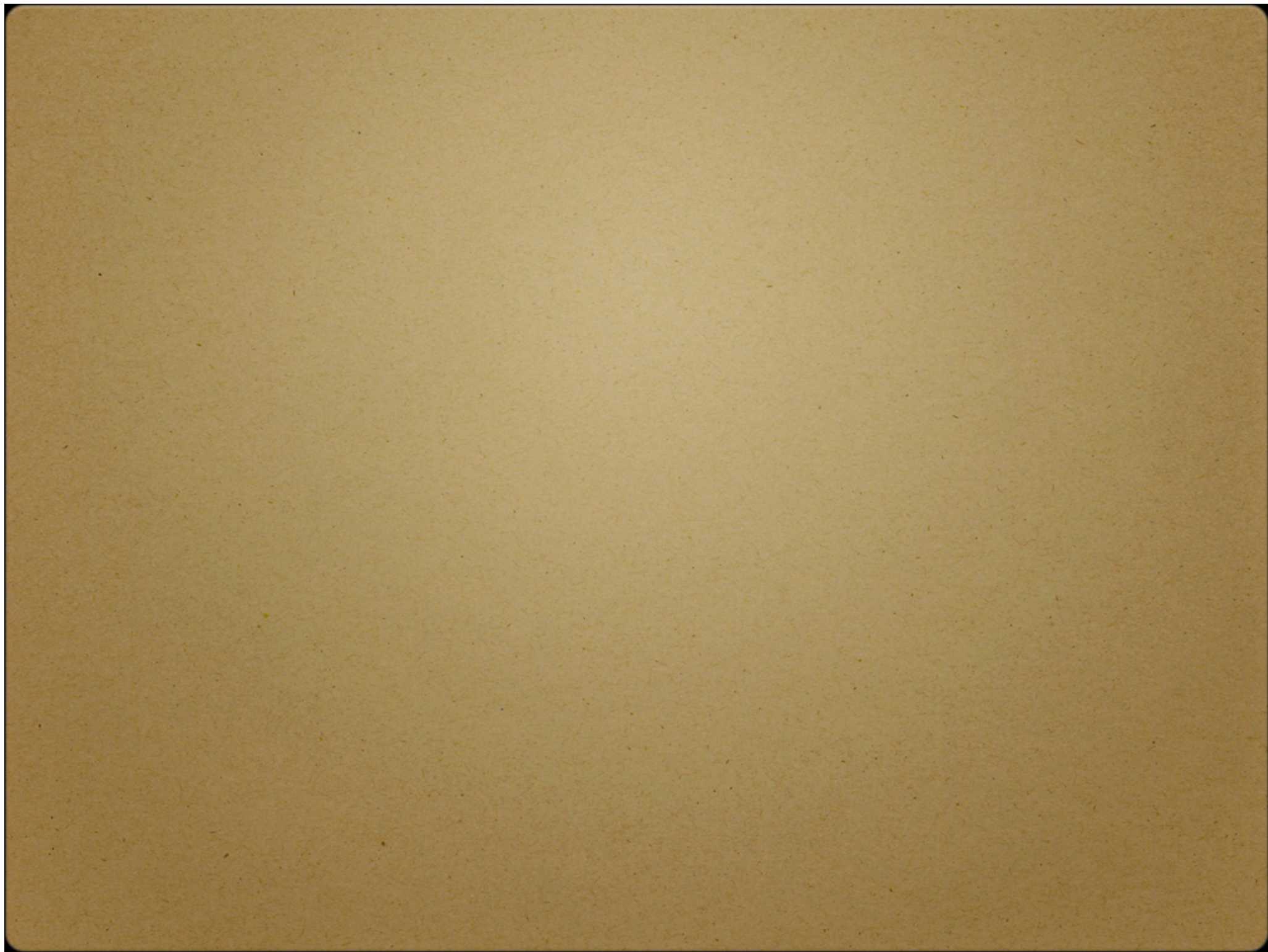


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What is so
surprising about it?







Where does God give us
“joy in the mud”?

Pray the
Offertory
Together

Lutheran
Service Book,
p. 192



Congregation at Prayer (Week of Sept. 13)

- Small Catechism, Fifth and Sixth Commandments (p. 321)
- “For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” (Romans 5:19 ESV)
- 818 In Thee is gladness