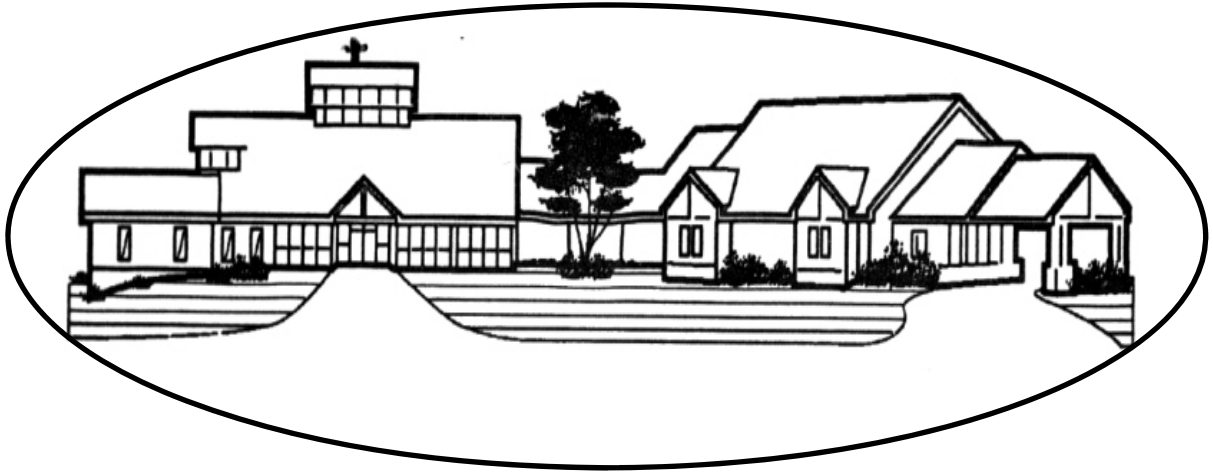

Agapegram

July 2010



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

www.eternalshepherd.org

office@eternalshepherd.org

Office: 864-882-3209 or 864-882-5512

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202

“Pastor, I Have A Question...”



Summer is upon us and I'm going to take a break from making you think hard about what I write in this column. Instead, I want to share some of the passing questions I'm asked on Sunday morning or on any given day in the office. Some of these are frequently asked, while others are those I think might be worth sharing more broadly.

Why Didn't We Read a Gospel Reading on Sunday? As many of you know, we have a lectionary, or list of appointed readings, that provides a recommended reading from the Old Testament, an Epistle (one of the New Testament letters), and a reading from one of the four Gospels. There is a three year cycle to the lectionary after which the readings are repeated, so we won't hear Nathan say to David, "You are the man!" from the lectern until June of 2013. The vast majority of the time (but not always) I use this lectionary for our Sunday readings and for my sermon. Once I come up with the initial direction or idea for my sermon topic (see below for a question about sermon topics), I will often select only the texts for the week that emphasize the message. If the Epistle and the Gospel fit my theme, but the Old Testament reading speaks to a different issue, I may omit it to keep the service focused on one particular theme. Likewise, if the OT and the Epistle fit, but the Gospel doesn't, it may be dropped that week. The lectionary is a guide, but there is no rule about which passages of Holy Scripture must be read on a given Sunday.

Also, Why Is the Gospel Sometimes Read By the Lector and Sometimes Pastor? While Lutherans have a tradition of the lector reading the Old Testament and the Epistle readings and the pastor reading the Gospel, it is only a custom. Strictly speaking, there isn't some special difference between one part of God's inspired Holy Word and another that requires one person to read or not read that portion. In fact, the reason behind the variation is much more practical than theological. I like to read the scriptures, too, but I don't want to cut our weekly readers out of the process. Instead, if we are using two readings that week, I let the lector read them both, Gospel reading or otherwise. If I've used all three of the lectionary readings that week, I read the third one, which just happens to be the Gospel in most cases.

That Sermon Spoke to Me. How Did You Know What I'm Experiencing? Or, "Did you really preach a whole sermon about the issue I mentioned to you yesterday?" No, I'm neither that good, nor, probably, that bold. We have to credit this phenomenon to the Holy Spirit. As mentioned above, I select sermon themes and topics ahead of time, as much as a month before they are delivered.

Continued...

If it happens to speak to you and your current events, that is merely the Holy Spirit doing His thing through the Word of God. Obviously, I try to connect the Word to our common human experience, so in a general sense every sermon is intended for each one of you. The few times in years gone by when I prepared an entire sermon toward a specific need or situation, the person or people to whom it applied didn't show up for worship that day. However, someone unrelated and unaware of what I was trying to speak to mentioned how appropriate the message was to their life that week. That was a reminder that God's Word works and the Spirit doesn't need my "help".

Where Does the Church Keep...Staples/Markers/Radios/Whatchamacallits/Etc?

This one comes up from time to time and the answer really depends on the item. Some items that belong to Eternal Shepherd are purchased by the specific boards or committees that use them and could be found in any number of storage areas. The board chairpersons would most likely know the location and would want to know if items they are responsible for are being used or used up. So, if applicable, check with the board or committee head. Other items, especially consumable supplies, tend to be kept track of by the front office. Celeste does a great job of paying attention to the kinds of items the church needs to conduct business and she can point you in the right direction when there is a church project in need of additional resources. But, be sure to keep Celeste informed of any supplies that are being taken or used so we aren't caught empty handed. Not only does the front office have a finite budget for the year, but, the office won't know to order more whatchamacallits if you don't tell anyone that you used all but the last one. Basically, the office needs your help in order to enable you to successfully continue the work of ESLC.

Pastor David

P.S. If this was informative, I've got more questions for a future article!

Give a Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Gayle Baker

Sherri Baker

(& daughter Megan, baptized here on Mother's Day)

Larry & Jean Eschbach

Rick Kruse

Ryan & Deb Merrill

Jim & Gerry Walton

And honorable mention to Rev. Paul & Thursa Lautenschlager. Like Pastor & Gloria Shealy, they are regularly in our midst, just not officially transferring membership.

Greetings!

It has been great meeting all of you and beginning to plug into the life of Eternal Shepherd. I shared with you on my first Sunday that I was going to be working with the Junior and Senior High groups, but that is far from my only responsibility. One aspect of my role as a DCE intern will be to help in the area of family ministry. This is a huge umbrella of ages, so I want to begin to describe what my approach to this area of ministry is.

My first and most important task is to encourage parents and grandparents in the education of their children. God commanded the Israelites in Deuteronomy 11:18-21 to:

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth. (NIV)

For that group of people, passing down the stories and testimonies of God's saving work to their children was a priority. This passage even gives us some good ideas on how to teach our children and grandchildren today. Making constant reminders, posting helpful passages, as well as having good old-fashioned conversations with your kids can all be helpful. I am excited to encourage your spiritual growth and the passing on of your faith to your children and grandchildren.

Family members are the most important teachers. Each and every parent gets more time throughout their child's life than Pastor or I will. Your instruction to them is of the utmost importance. It is so important that Luther felt the need to write about five of the Six Chief Parts in his Small Catechism, "As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household (11)." I am so happy and excited to aid in your efforts this year, and I am sure God will bless our teaching!

~To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (Jude 24-25 NIV)

~Dan Huth

President's Message **July 2010**

June was a very exciting month. Our new DCE Intern arrived. Dan, we are so glad to have you in our congregation.

Congratulations to our high school graduates. This is a very exciting time starting out on new ventures into the real world. May God's blessings follow you wherever you go.

I guess all of you who read the message last month are asking the question, "Where are the holes in the ceiling Ray mentioned?" Well, unfortunately, insurance companies move at a very slow pace at times and getting companies to complete work is not easy. To help move this project forward Chuck Rau has agreed to help Harry Hornburg with the negotiations with our insurance company. Harry, we appreciate all the efforts you have put forth getting this project completed. I hope that next month I will be able to say we have conclusion to these long, drawn-out repairs.

I hope everyone looks at our financials in the weekly bulletin. All church committees are keeping close watch on our budget. As soon as we can complete the work in the Sanctuary related to the mold, we will have a better grasp on getting some other projects started.

Our blessings go out to all those traveling this summer. Be safe and remember our church in your prayers.

All Glory Be To God and in His Service,

Ray Wyatt

ELDER'S CORNER

Boy is it getting HOT or what? The heat index is already topping the 100-degree mark as I write this. After last winter I guess we should be grateful for the warmer weather. Now that school is out for another year, I have had a little more time for reflection. And what I have become more aware of over the past few weeks is how fortunate we are to have Pastor Hammer as our shepherd. I don't mean he is just good but probably one of the best I have ever been blessed to know. I think for me the whole crisis with the Madden family made me realize this even more than before. His dedication to his flock is truly a calling he takes very seriously. I was at church one morning that week and after he filled me in with the latest update on Katrina. I asked him how he was doing since the dark circles under his eyes told me he was in need of some rest. He told me that he woke that morning and the first thing he did was thank God for the non-phone call he thought might come from the hospital that night. And then I had to laugh when the e-mail came the next day saying he was taking the day off to baby-sit Ben and his kids! I know he would be the first to say he was only doing what God has called him to do, but he does it with such care, love and compassion. For all this and more we give him our thanks and love. And now let the people of Eternal Shepherd say, Amen!

For those of you traveling this summer please be careful and return to us safely. I ask God to watch over you and your loved ones and ask that He bless your summer fun.

*In His service,
Rudy Carbone
Head Elder*



Good Stewardship

Stewardship: the dictionary defines stewardship as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

I'm sure no one reading this article isn't well aware of the word stewardship, and most of us probably think first of monetary giving. The bible makes many references to financial giving; such as Leviticus 27: 30–32 where tithing is defined; Deuteronomy 16: 17, where Moses, in giving the law, says one "must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you;" and I Corinthians 16: 1-2, where St. Paul reminds the people in Corinth that each one "should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income."

I'm also quite certain that many of us also associate stewardship with the "3 T's," Time, Talent and Treasure. And rightfully so, as good stewardship also means giving of our time and talent. But good stewardship goes way beyond that.

Just recently we were reminded of that during Pastor David's study of the book of Genesis. In the very first chapter, God instructed man to rule over, and care for His entire creation. That is a huge responsibility, and brings us right back to the dictionary's explanation. That includes everything – the environment, all living things, our neighbors, our bodies, and of utmost importance, spreading the message of God's love in the sending of His Son to redeem fallen mankind.

May we all strive and seek the Lord's help
to practice Good Stewardship.

*For the Board of Stewardship,
Bob Lindgren*



CARSON ROAD OUTREACH

On Saturday June 12, 2010, sixteen members of ESLC divided up into five teams to visit our neighborhood. We passed out 9-volt batteries (for smoke detectors), left them handouts of the salvation message, gave them ESLC information and dates for our upcoming VBS, and where appropriate, we asked if they had any prayer requests. Pastor David, Kathy Amirkhanian, John & Nicole Beattie, Pastor Art & Charlotte Beyer. Diane Elliott, Dan Huth, Frank Kieninger, Roberta Port, Marlene Ranck, Diane Sember, Dave Schultz, Bill Thraves, Barry Voeltz, and Bert Wise participated in taking the Gospel to every man, woman & child (who were home) in the geographic area surrounding ESLC. If you have an inquiring mind about the reaction of team members to this outreach, please feel free to contact any of the above individuals for their feedback of Saturday morning from our worship service, to logistics, to training, to timing, to personal observations, to plans for future outreach events, etc.

MINISTRY STAMPS

If you shop at the Family Christian Bookstore please remember to ask for "Ministry Stamps" to give to the ESLC Board of Christian Education.

For every \$5.00 spent at Family Christian Stores, they will issue one Ministry Builder Stamp. Our church can redeem these stamps for free products!

We will get \$5.00 worth of free product for every twenty stamps we collect!

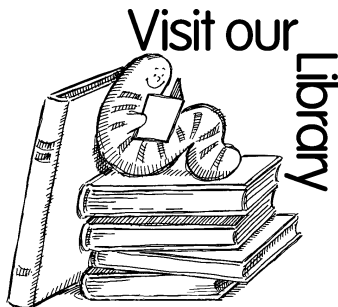
Library News

I am happy to report that the library software program, ResourceMate has arrived and is ready to be installed on the library computer as of this writing. Thanks to Jim Jacques, the library computer is up and running with great speed and new memory! We are very grateful for Jim's efforts and also for Jason Fireovid for installing Internet access on the computer. Thank you both for your hard work!

As some of you may have noticed, we have a new library themed table set up in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall. The theme is "Summer Reading Fun". There are many books for various age groups that you are encouraged to check out as you go to the beach or the mountains for vacation. Just sign the book out on the log sheet and return it to the library when you are done. We hope you find this "mobile" library an easy way to check out books for your summer reading. Of course, if you need a larger selection to choose from, head to the library for additional books, videos and even some games for the kids.

Well, swimsuit weather is already here so it might be a little late to firm up and lose weight for the summer season, but at the same time isn't it always a good time to start exercising? Check out a new DVD to the library called, "Power Praise Moves". This DVD is produced by Laurette Willis, a Women's Fitness Specialist and certified personal trainer who is also a Christian. She has developed a high-energy workout of yoga poses (renamed using biblical references) to coincide with scriptural verses. Not only is it a workout of the body, it will turn your workout into worship. If you always wanted to try yoga but were worried about the spiritual dangers and mysticism of it, you must try this video. The work out will increase your energy and flexibility; will ease your stress, nurture your prayer life and enhance your scripture knowledge. Wow, you can't beat that combination!

Until next time, God bless and I look forward to seeing you in the library!



Kyra Carbone

Insights on the Faith

The Third Commandment

Large Catechism, paragraphs 80-84, 87-89, 91, 98, 96, 102



You are to hallow the day of rest.

...In the Old Testament, God set apart the seventh day, appointed it for rest, and commanded it to be kept holy above all other days. As far as outward observance is concerned, the commandment was given to the Jews alone...

Therefore, according to its outward meaning, this commandment does not concern us Christians. It is an entirely external matter, like the other regulations of the Old Testament associated with particular customs, persons, times, and places, from all of which we are now set free through Christ. But to give a Christian interpretation... of what God requires of us in this commandment... we observe [days of rest], first, because our bodies need them... Second and most important, we observe them so that people will have time and opportunity... to attend worship services, that is, so that they may assemble to hear and discuss God's Word and then to offer praise, song, and prayer to God...

Accordingly, when you are asked what "you are to hallow the day of rest" means, answer: "Hallowing the day of rest means to keep it holy." What is meant by "keeping it holy"? Nothing else than devoting it to holy words, holy works, and holy living. The day itself does not need to be made holy, for it was created holy. But God wants it to be holy for you. So it becomes holy or unholy on your account, depending on whether you spend it doing something holy or unholy...

Truly, we Christians ought to make every day such a holy day and devote ourselves only to holy things, that is, to occupy ourselves daily with God's Word and carry it in our hearts and on our lips. However, as we have said, because we all do not have the time and leisure, we must set aside... a day for the whole community, when we can concentrate only on these matters... and thus regulate our entire life and being in accordance with God's Word... For the Word of God is... the only [holy object] we Christians know and have.

Therefore this commandment is violated not only by those who grossly misuse and desecrate the holy day... It is also violated by that other crowd who listen to God's Word as they would to any other entertainment, who only from force of habit go to hear the sermon and leave again with as little knowledge at the end of the year as at the beginning.

Remember, then, that you must be concerned not only about hearing the Word, but also about learning it and retaining it... For this Word is not idle or dead, but effective and living... and everyone should be motivated by the realization that through the Word the devil is cast out and put to flight, this commandment is fulfilled, and God [is pleased.]

HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP



We would love your help! If you have joined us in the past, you know the wonderful spirit and joy that prevails at our Hospitality/Fellowship Time after late service. This seems to be the perfect place for members to enjoy each other's company and get better acquainted. It is also the perfect place to bring any new faces for all of us to greet. Please see the sign up sheets on the bulletin board!

~To God be the Glory, Roberta and Marlene

CARSON ROAD OUTREACH

On Saturday June 12, 2010, sixteen members of ESLC divided up into five teams to visit our neighborhood. We passed out 9-volt batteries (for smoke detectors), left them handouts of the salvation message, gave them ESLC I information and dates for our upcoming VBS, and where appropriate, we asked if they had any prayer requests. **Pastor David, Kathy Amirkhanian, John & Nicole Beattie, Pastor Art & Charlotte Beyer. Diane Elliott, Dan Huth, Frank Kieninger, Roberta Port, Marlene Ranck, Diane Sember, Dave Schultz, Bill Thraves, Barry Voeltz, and Bert Wise** participated in taking the Gospel to every man, woman & child (who were home) in the geographic area surrounding ESLC. If you have an inquiring mind about the reaction of team members to this outreach, please feel free to contact any of the above individuals for their feedback of Saturday morning from our worship service, to logistics, to training, to timing, to personal observations, to plans for future outreach events, etc...

WORK DAY: I need help on Saturday, July 10th from 8am to 12 noon. We will be spreading mulch for the preschool school play lot, trimming trees, and weed removal. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Any questions, see Harry Hornburg or call at 864-944-7273.



Tips for Sharing the Faith *from the LHM Equipping Newsletter*

Forgiveness is one of the most primary characteristics of God. His forgiveness is ongoing.

As Christians, we are called to be as God is, which means we are called to forgive ... and forgive ... and forgive. After all, it's God's love and kindness that leads us to repentance.

This week, ask God to help you release unforgiveness and to replace it with God-like love and kindness in your injured relationship.

..... **Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for removing us from darkness and for bringing us into Your wonderful light. Help us radiate Your light and shine on those still living in darkness. May Your name be glorified in all that we do. In Jesus Holy Name we pray, Amen.

..... **Thought of the Day**

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill can't be hidden. People don't light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people in such a way that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:14-16

Please remember to check out our Card Ministry to help celebrate any occasion.



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS



In May the Choir Fund received a \$100.00 gift

The Elder Fund received:

\$50.00 in loving memory of Pastor Shealy
and a

\$25.00 in loving memory of Emil Enders

Little Lambs Tales

Summer Fun is here at Little Lambs Preschool! After a hectic end of the school year, including a picnic at Barrett's Place in Pendleton and an uplifting graduation ceremony for the fours, we were finally able to take a short breather before summer school began on June 15th.

We are excited to have a wonderful staff of summer teachers as well as 35 children attending our second Summer Fun program. We are actually at the point where some of our summer classes are full! Thanks so much to Harriet Murphy, Roberta Port, Janet Arnold and Kathy Amirkhanian for offering to help out as needed over the summer. We are especially appreciative of the Amirkhanian's who donated a beautiful canopy for shade on the little ones' playground. As you probably can tell, Harry Hornburg helped get our preschool vegetable garden off to a good start. Why is it that the vegetables he planted have grown so much bigger than the ones the three-year-olds planted – and the pumpkin plants he donated are gigantic! Maybe we will actually have a real pumpkin patch this year. (Last year I had to buy pumpkins to hide in our pretend "pumpkin patch" for Farm Day.)

During the coming school year, we would love to welcome more volunteers from Eternal Shepherd to help guide the preschool "flock" of little lambs. There are so many instances where an extra hand would be helpful. Won't you please consider volunteering your time? Here are just a few of the volunteer possibilities: Helping one day a week in a classroom, arts and crafts activities, helping Janet Arnold with Science, baking for special events, teaching a foreign language or sign language, teaching children how to use the computers, assisting Nicole Beattie with the Spaghetti Supper Silent Auction, manning the kitchen during the Spaghetti Supper, gardening with the children during Farm Day or when we plant our vegetable garden in the spring, substitute teaching in an emergency, assisting Nicole in music if she needs to be absent, or coordinating sign-up for Ingles Tools for Schools, Bi-Lo Bonus Card program, or Bloom Breeze program. If you are interested in becoming involved in Little Lambs in any way, please call or e-mail me. I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Speaking of the new school year, we still have openings in all classes except the three-day and five-day threes. If you know someone who might be interested, please have them give me a call. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of our classes could be full this year!

You all are a blessing to us. Thank you for your support. We couldn't have a successful preschool program without you.

~Leslie

FROSTY FRESH GRAPE POPS

Jesus is our vine, and we are to be his fruitful branches. Have "bunches" of fun making this refreshing grape snack.

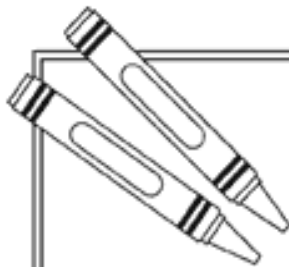
What you need:

- An adult to help
- 4 1/2 cups seedless grapes (red, green or black)
- Food processor
- Plastic spatula
- Strainer
- Mixing bowl
- Whisk
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Food coloring (red, green or blue; optional)
- 5 oz. paper cups
- Aluminum foil
- Popsicle or craft sticks
- Another 2 cups grapes, halved (optional)

What you do:

1. Blend grapes in a food processor until smooth.
2. With a plastic spatula, press mixture through a strainer into a mixing bowl. Discard skins and skim foam off the top.
3. Whisk sugar into juice until dissolved. Add a few drops of food coloring, if desired.
4. Fill cups with juice, spooning most of the foam off the top. (If using additional grapes, put 1/2-cup halved grapes into each cup.)
5. Cover each cup with foil and insert a wooden stick into the center of the foil.
6. Place cups in freezer.
7. To remove pops, take off foil and tear away cup. Enjoy!

Variation: To make layered juice pops, make two batches of mix from different-colored grapes. Fill cups half full with one color, cover and then insert the stick and freeze. Then fill with the remaining color and freeze again.

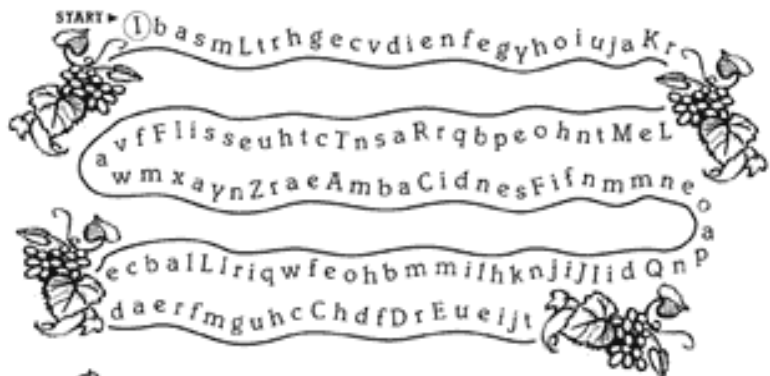


Just for KIDS

The true vine

In a vineyard, the vine gives life to the branches, which, in turn, produce the grapes. Follow the puzzle directions below to learn about our special relationship with Jesus, our true vine.

Directions: Circle every other letter and then write them in order on the lines below.



“↓ _____; _____

 _____; _____
 _____; _____

apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5. NIV

Answer: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.”

SERVICE TIMES

8:00 a.m. Worship Service
(Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
& Adult Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
(Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)



THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor, Rev. David Hammer
DCE Intern, Daniel Huth
Preschool Director, Leslie Schalkoff
Secretary, Celeste Entrekin
Choir Director, Rick Schmidt
Choir Accompanist, Michelle Rowland
Organist, Cecil Rigby

MISSIONARIES

Wycliffe Bible Translators, Jim Pohlig

Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church
220 Carson Rd.
Seneca, SC 29678