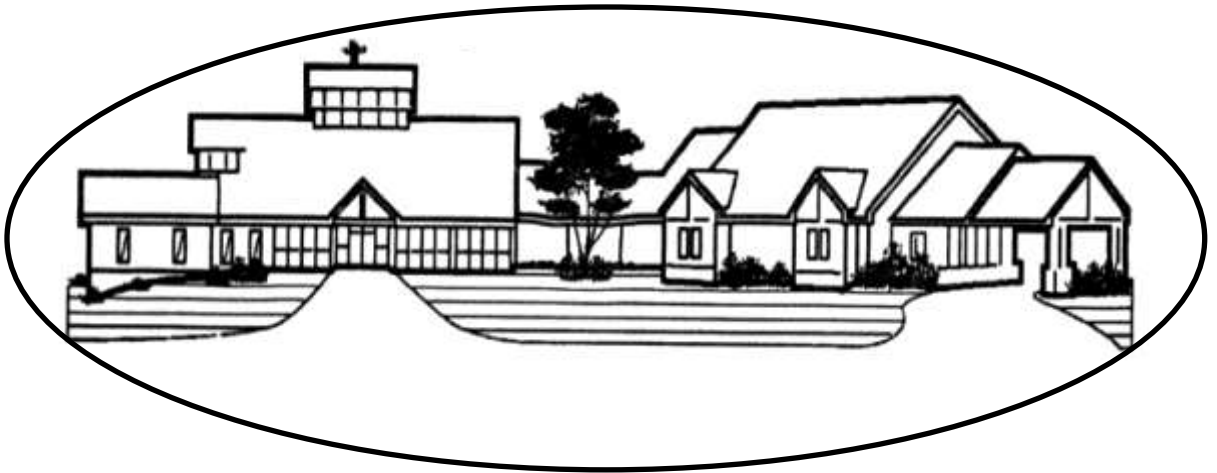


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# Agapegram

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September 2017



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

[www.eternalshepherd.org](http://www.eternalshepherd.org)

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

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

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



## Scripture Alone and Its Fruit

*"You are mistaken... since you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God." Matthew 22:29 EHV*

We continue toward the date that marks 500 years since the Reformation began. Since last October, we have been highlighting and celebrating the truth of the Gospel and the Reformation themes that include a salvation of forgiveness that is by God's *grace alone*, held by *faith alone* in our Savior Jesus Christ, and proclaimed to us in His holy *scripture alone*.

Along the way this past year we've highlighted these Reformation themes in bible study (Studying the text itself in Revelation, applying the scriptures to issues of the day like immigration, seeing the reliability of the text in our Jericho study, and most recently reflecting on the teaching of the bible in our Formula of Concord study); we've hosted two screenings of the Martin Luther documentary in town; and, we've enjoyed a beautiful organ concert reminding us of the artistic fruit and musical inspiration that the true Gospel brings to God's people.

And we are not done highlighting the Good News of forgiveness in Christ and the authority of His Word. We have a bible study on Luther in September that coincides with the September 16<sup>th</sup> presentation by Dr. Paul Maier on Luther and the Reformation; this study will be followed by an honest look at the hard passages & teachings of the bible; and, we will have some time to share time together and celebrate the Reformation and the fruit it produces.

The heart of the Reformation's message is the Gospel message found in God's Word: *"I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."* 1 Jn. 5:13 This same Good News also produces our lives, as John reminds us of another role of Scripture: *"I write these things to you so that you will not sin."* 1 Jn. 2:1

And that fruit is desperately needed today in our culture. The ever-reliable Word of God needs to heal our hearts and our culture. As Luther says, "God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity."

Recent events show the need for God's Word applied as we've seen the presence of racism still alive and well in our country. It manifests in hate groups that boldly speak of the superiority of some over others and in more subtle forms from those who view every issue in light of someone's skin-tone or ancestry. As if that weren't bad enough, people are quick to accuse others of harboring such sins and use those charges as a weapon.

*continued on next page...*

The authoritative Word of God speaks to these issues (and so many others), if we will just listen. The problem of labeling and accusing is easy as it made the “Top Ten”: Do not bear false witness against your neighbor. God’s people have no business tearing others down, even if they are opponents. On racism, one has to read more broadly in Scripture, but for those who do, it becomes quite obvious fairly quickly.

From one man, He made every nation of mankind, Acts 17:26

There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is

Lord of all, Rom. 10:12

God does not show favoritism, Rom. 2:11

Do not judge by appearances, John 7:24

And on and on they go. God made us all and we are all related. God desires us all to be saved and sent Jesus to die for the sins of all. All need the Gospel and we should desire their salvation. There is only one race and it is the human race. The Word of God is true and wise, if we will only listen. Partisan perspectives and cultural opinions will fail us. Just as God’s true and perfect word brings us the Gospel of eternal life, it can also guide us through the issues of this life.

*“All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work..” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 EHV*

*Pastor David*





## Deaconess Musings

### Endless & Unceasing

*“Any day now would be great, Lord!”*

That frequent phrase has quickly become a daily refrain.

*“Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly and bring about the New Age.”*

Well. He hasn't answered me just yet, so there must still be work left to do. People to reach.

The Gospel of the forgiveness of sins to ring throughout the world. The softening of my own heart for others who do not know what they do.

Events of the past weeks, months, and years, and the seemingly never-ending perversion of anger and evil within Mankind presents cause for reflection.

This anger. This hate. This evil. It does not just live within those “other people.”

It lives inside all of us. Name it – SIN is that anger. SIN is that hate. SIN is that evil.

Do not try and talk yourself out of it. *“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement.; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”* (Matt. 5:22 ESV)

All people struggle with this, no matter what their various beliefs are or what line they tow. All. People. For all people sin. No one is wholly perfect – not even us believers.

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”* (1 John 1:8, 10 ESV)

However. This is not the end of our story. God, without any assistance or input from us, in His great mercy sent Christ to take that very sin that lives inside all of us. God became man and dwelt among His own fallen creation. To save them. To redeem them.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:9 ESV)

He saw all of that anger, all of that hate, and all of that evil – and yet died for the whole world. For those who would believe and even for those who would spurn and reject His Son. We who now stand and live in that righteousness of Jesus Christ now stand in that forgiveness of sins. While we continue to struggle against our old sinful nature, we stand as redeemed Children of God. Through Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit within our hearts and minds, we are called to the other. As forgiven, baptized Children of God, the other amongst us now becomes our focus. Essentially, any one “other” than yourself.

We have been redeemed from our old condemned nature. We are continually sanctified by the Holy Spirit to continually look outside of ourselves and to the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection for those sins so very evident within the world and ourselves.

This world is full of sorrows – seen and unseen to us. Pray unceasingly and unceasingly proclaim Christ. Seek the lost and love the enemy. And rejoice that Christ has not forgotten you, for you are His redeemed Child.

*~Deaconess Holly*

## REFORMATION CELEBRATION "PAUL MAIER SEMINAR"

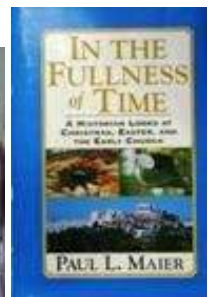
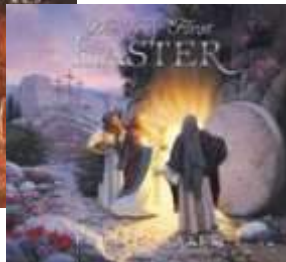
We are pleased to announce that on **September 16th, from 9 am—3pm (lunch included)** Dr. Paul Maier will be coming to Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church to present a seminar on *Martin Luther and the Reformation*. **Tickets for the event are for sale, at \$20 per person (lunch included).** If you would like to reserve your seats at this seminar, please see Kate Wells. **Please purchase your tickets by Sept. 8th.** Checks should be made payable to **Eternal Shepherd**, please put "Seminar" in the memo line.



Dr. Paul L. Maier is Professor of Ancient History (emeritus) at Western Michigan University, a four-term Vice President of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, and a much-published author of both scholarly and popular works. His novels include two historical documentaries: *Pontius Pilate* and *The Flames of Rome*, as well as a theological thriller that became # 1 national bestseller in religious fiction, *A Skeleton in God's Closet*. The sequels, *More Than a Skeleton* and *The Constantine Codex* completed the trilogy.

His non-fiction works include *In the Fullness of Time*, a book that correlates sacred with secular evidence from the ancient world impinging on Jesus and early Christianity; *Josephus -- The Essential Works*, a new translation/commentary on writings of the first-century Jewish historian; and *Eusebius -- The Church History*, a similar book on the first Christian historian. Maier's most recent work is a fresh edition of *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, the famous record of Christian martyrdom from Nero to the Reformation era. More than five million Maier books are now in print in twenty languages, as well as over 300 scholarly articles and reviews in professional journals.

Dr. Maier lectures widely, appears frequently in national radio, television, and newspaper interviews, and has received numerous awards. He has also penned seven children's books, and hosted six video series dealing with Jesus, St. Paul, the early church, the Bible, and current Christianity. Dr. Maier married his wife Joan in 1967, and they have four daughters.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are in the 'dog days' of summer and most people slow down when the temperature rises, but not your hard working church Council. Last month's meeting was no exception and we covered a lot of ground. Here are highlights of what was discussed and items that we will be moving forward with in the near future....

Hand rails for the handicap ramp will be fabricated and installed to provide the necessary support to safely enter and exit our church for those requiring this assistance.

2 additional handicap parking spaces will be placed near the church front entrance to help folks who have mobility issues reach our entrance in the shortest distance possible. Please remember to park as far from the front and side entrance, if you are able, to allow for our seniors who also need spaces close to the entrances.

The church sign indicating our presence on Carson Rd is still being worked on. It will probably be placed off highway 123 on the Seneca side of Carson road and be imprinted on both sides so it can be viewed when traveling in from Clemson as well. Lighting the sign so it can be seen at night is also being considered.

Our visitor process is being reviewed to make sure those folks who are attending our church for the first time are followed up with, to thank them for their visit, invite them to return and answer any questions they may have concerning our church.

And finally the Council approved additional wording to the Memorial Garden document to state that any exceptions to purchasing a niche will be reviewed by Council on a case by case basis.

As you can see your Council continues to do their best to oversee and improve our church in ways that will benefit all our members and advance the word of Christ both internal as well as into the community. Next time you see a Council member make sure to thank them for their continued faithful service.

*In His service,  
Rudy Carbone  
Council President*

# LADIES

## Thursday Bible Study Fall, 2017 - Start-up

You are invited to join us  
“Round the Table” on Thursdays,  
starting on September 14 in Fellowship  
Hall. The study will again be held at  
4:00 – 5:30 PM each Thursday.

We will be using TRAVELING LIGHT, a study by Max Lucado.

With the 23<sup>rd</sup> PSALM as our guide, we will release some of the  
burdens that we were never intended to carry. Burdens such as, Fear,  
Worry, and Discontent.

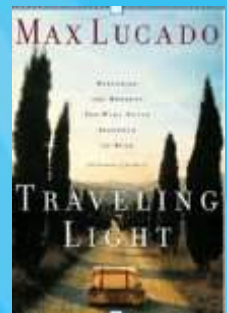
Please pray that God will use the 23 verses of this Psalm to remind us  
to release those many burdens that often fill our lives.

We hope you will join us as we grow in the Word and in our faith.

When ordering the book, purchase the paper back and NOT the hard-  
back. The questions for the study are *only* in the back of the paper-  
back.

\*\*\* There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board, in  
the narthex, at church. Please let us know if you plan  
to attend. Any guests are also more than welcome to  
attend. Invite your friends!

Questions? Call or e-mail: Janet Walker  
Char Beyer  
Margi McLain



*“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” Psalm 23:1*

# FOOTHILLS PREGNANCY BABY BOTTLE DRIVE BOTTLES DUE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD!

Eternal Shepherd has been supporting FPCC for over 8 years with the baby bottle drive and other donations. We have been collecting baby bottles all summer that have been lovingly filled with your loose change. **All Baby Bottles are due on Sunday September 3rd. ~Thank you for your support.**



If you would prefer to make a donation by check, please make it out to Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, write "Baby Bottle Drive" on the memo line and place the check in your numbered baby bottle. We will donate the money we collect to the Pregnancy Center after Labor Day. For questions or more information call Tracy Cochell at 404-433-7338.

## Honduras Mission 2018:

Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19&20) For the past four years a team from ESLC has done just that as we have traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to minister to the people with, medical, dental, optical and pharmaceutical services as well as children's ministry. We also paint churches, build concrete floors and install water purification systems. Last but not least, we share the Word of God with everyone we meet.

Our host is World Gospel Outreach who provides all of the coordination to ensure that the mission can be completed. WGO's vision is: *To impact the faith of Christ's followers through serving and evangelizing children and the poor.*

Our team is made up of folks who have a desire to serve others. Many go every year and others are new to this type of ministry. All are short-term missionaries whose lives are touched by this sharing of the love of Christ. This year's dates are February 24, to March 3, 2018. The team is forming and there is room for more to join. If you are interested or curious, please see Pastor Ray and other team members in the Fellowship Hall after the late service on September 10. We will have information material to share with anyone who would like to know more. Join us—team meetings begin next month.

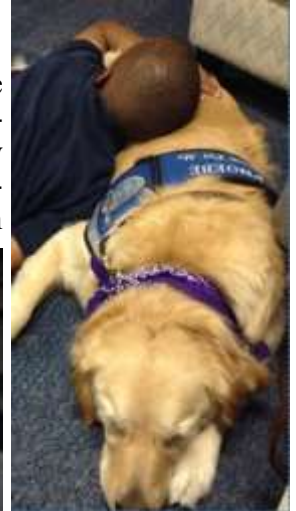
*Pastor Ray*



# MISSION NEWS

## COMFORT DOG NEWS

We have begun the initial steps moving forward with the Comfort Dog Ministry and want to keep you updated on the progress we have made so far. We have submitted the Comfort Dog Application and Ministry Plan to Lutheran Church Charities. I was approved by Council to be the “Top Dog” (Coordinator of the Ministry) and will attend training in the near future if all goes according to plan. The next step is to raise the refundable \$7500 deposit. To date, there is a Comfort Dog fund started with \$200 of donations already. If anyone would like to donate to this fund, checks can be made out to ESLC with Comfort Dog written in the memo line. We plan to hold a “Howl-le-lu-ya” fund raiser at Christmas time consisting of homemade dog biscuits for sale for that special puppy in your family! Rudy and I will be visiting Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alpharetta, GA on September 3 as they welcome into ministry their Comfort Dog, Luke. We have heard there will be several other Comfort Dogs from other states to welcome this handsome fella (we suspect Sasha will be there)! You can see just how handsome he is on Facebook (search Luke Comfort Dog) as he begins his ministry in Alpharetta. For us, this journey has just begun and if God wills we hope to carry it on to having our own Comfort Dog to work in our community and beyond. I just love talking about this ministry so please see me if you have any questions or want to know more about it! *Kyra Carbon 864-932-8308, or contact me via email at [rkc91@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkc91@bellsouth.net)*



**NEIGHBORS IN NEED:** Disaster relief is planning another trip to Lumberton NC. We will be leaving from Church after the second service on Sunday September 17th. We will return on Friday September 22nd. There are still many people that cannot occupy their homes after the flood a year ago. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please contact Monty Moore or Richard Grotheer if you have any questions.



# New Beginnings

by Kerry Blount

Tens of thousands of young Christian men and women, first-year college students, have recently left or will soon be leaving home for an extended period for the first time in their lives. Tens of thousands of their parents who have not previously had a son or daughter leave for college will experience the unsettling combination of excitement and anxiety that comes with seeing them off to a new beginning... without being there to observe, manage and *advise*. These feelings are movingly portrayed in a passage from *The Crown and the Crucible*, by Michael Phillips and Judith Pella, as Anna prepares to depart her peasant village in the hinterlands of Russia for education in St. Petersburg.

“Lord,” prayed poor, simple, faithful Yevno Burenin, “bring her to fair womanhood by Your gentle and loving hand. Let her heart belong always to You, so that You might protect her and love her and fill her with the gladness of being alive. Nurture Your life in her; sprout it and make it grow, even as You bring the rain and sun to nourish the stalks of grain in the fields with which we make our bread. Water her with the people You will send to encourage and strengthen her. Make the soil of her heart rich and fertile. Give her Your world and Your word and the teachings of Your faithful servants and Your own self to feed on in her heart and soul. Deepen the roots of her faith. Ah, God, take the precious child whom You gave Sophia and me—take her beyond what this simple old father of hers will ever be. Be Father to her, more than I will or can ever become....”

When Yevno lay back down on the bed several minutes later, with the pleasurable satisfaction of hearing his entire family sleeping peacefully, his prayers had extended from his own daughter Anna and her brother to the very ends of the universe.

Even if the simple logic of his brain could not have formulated the notion in words, he knew that the Creator of the universe, a God more huge, more powerful than all the trains and bears and blizzards in Russia, made His home not merely in some distant place in the sky the priests called heaven, but in a quiet corner of his own heart. That same God lived in Anna’s heart, too. And when he bid her farewell the following morning, Yevno knew that the Father of all creation would be holding her hand.

A very similar understanding of these kinds of new beginnings is reflected in the popular musical *“Fiddler on the Roof.”* When Hodel feels the calling to follow the young man she loves to Siberia, Tevye sees her off at a lonely train stop in the middle of the vast steppe. After tenderly explaining to her father why she must go, she remarks, “Only God knows when I shall see you again.” Tevye, with a prayer for her in his heart, replies in his deep voice, “Then we will leave it in His hands.” Then or now, that’s a plan worth following. Let us offer up every new beginning to His tender care, and leave it in His hands.

***I am always with You; You hold me by my right hand.  
You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will take me into glory.  
(Psalm 73:23-34)***

## The Crossing Youth News for September 2017



*Please join us Sunday's in room 213 at 9:45am  
Friends are always welcome!*

- **Youth Group on Sunday Afternoons** meets at 2:00 every Sunday afternoon at MoeJoe Coffee House in Clemson. This will be going on a trial basis up until school starts back late August. If it is successful, we will continue through the school year as well.

**\*Our new study is called "Love & Lawttes - A Look at Hipster Christianity"**

Schedule for youth group:

\*2:00 - 2:30 is hang out time

\*2:30 - 3:30 is Bible Study

We will be making an attempt to always use the upstairs space at the coffee house, unless it is already occupied.

*Friends are always welcome!!! And, carpooling is available if kids need a ride to the coffee shop.*

### DETENTION CENTER OUTREACH MINISTRY:



**Saturday, September 9th** ESLC is planning a visit to the Men's and the Women's sides of the Detention Center in Walhalla. **We will need cookies for this ministry** (30 baggies with regular cookies – 4 cookies to a bag). These cookies are a small way of sharing God's love and are much appreciated by those who receive the goodies. **We will meet at ESLC Sat., September 9th at 10:00 AM** for logistics & prayer and then on to the Center to make our 11:00 AM appointment. *Thank you for your support of this ministry.* Questions, contact Frank Kieninger and **cookie angels please contact Elaine Grotheer.** The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.



## FOOD BANK NEWS:

Please help us in collecting preferred needed canned, or boxed grocery items each month. These items will help restock the Golden Corner Food Pantry's shelves. Each month we will have a different preferred product featured. **September's** preferred product is **"Canned Vegetables"** Please help us overload the collection box (the big blue trash can marked Food Bank down by the main Fellowship Hall). *~Thank you for your generosity and support.*



## Greeting Card Ministry

In need of a card for a special occasion or friend. Need to send a birthday note or words of encouragement. Look no farther than the ESLC card cart located in the main fellowship hall. Plenty of cards to choose from at a very affordable price. *As always we thank you for your support!*



## SCRIP CARDS

Please remember that **Scrip cards make great gifts and earn money for Eternal Shepherd at the same time.** Please see your scrip ladies today or pick up an order form located by the Scrip box in the narthex. *~Thank you for your support.*



## SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS



**In *July* the following gifts were given:**

In loving memory of *Dr. Vil Griffin*  
the Memorial Fund received a gift of \$50.00

Other Gifts:

The Alaska Missions Fund received a gift of \$500.00

The Capital Campaign Building Fund received gifts of \$7,895.00

The Debt Reduction Fund received a gift of \$50.00

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$72.00

The Food Bank Fund received a gift of \$20.00

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$646.00

The Hospitality Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$300.00

The Mission Fund received a gift of \$11.00

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$1,565.00

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund received a gift of \$50.00

The Rummage Sale Fund received gifts of \$39.22

The Vacation Bible School Fund received gifts of \$50.00

The Youth Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The Youth Museum Trip Fund received gifts of \$440.00

# Little Lambs Tales

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12*

As we begin our new school year on September 6<sup>th</sup>, I am once again reminded how even though our preschool children are so young, they set a great example for us on how to live as Christians.

They love one another without bias. They speak words of kindness to one another and encourage us to likewise use encouraging words. As they listen to the Chapel message, they listen with an open heart, trust and have faith in the message they are hearing.

We are blessed here at Little Lambs Preschool to be using the Concordia Press Curriculum materials which will guide our lessons through the messages we hear during our Chapel time each week. How fortunate to be able to base our academic lessons on our Christian faith. It is such a gift and we love to share this gift with our beautiful children.

A special thank you goes out to all of the volunteers that worked countless hours getting Little Lambs Preschool ready for our new school year! Cleaning, scrubbing, repairing, painting, working on the bulletin boards.....we could not have done all of it without you! THANK YOU!!

**Some dates to keep in mind for September:**

- **Sept 5 Open House 6:30 pm—8:30 pm**  
**Sept 6 First Day of Preschool**  
**September 27 Farm Day**

Do you shop at Ingles? Do you use a printer? If so, you have the ability to help our Preschool! Connect your Ingles card to Little Lambs. You can do this online at Ingles Tools for Schools or by signing the sheet in the Narthex. Our school ID number is 11415. If you need help with this process please stop by the Preschool Office and I can help you or see Roberta Port after church service for assistance. ***Please be aware that you must sign up for the Ingles Tools for Schools Program every year.***

When your printer cartridge runs empty, bring it to the church and you will find a box to place those in as well.

It is amazing how these little things that you can do provide a great benefit to our Preschool program.

Most especially, we ask for your prayers as we begin this school year. We appreciate all the support you continue to give to us and know that it is because of your support that Little Lambs Preschool continues to thrive!

*Blessings in Christ,  
Gina*

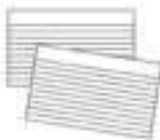


# Keepsake BOOK

With your grandparents, create a special book to preserve cherished memories.

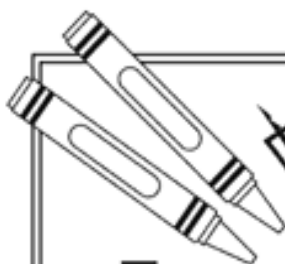
### What you need:

- Index cards
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Binder ring (or yarn)
- Crayons or markers



### What you do:

1. Brainstorm questions to ask one or more of your grandparents (topics can include their childhoods, favorites and advice). Write one question on each index card.
2. Ask your grandparent to write his or her answers on the blank sides of the cards.
3. Make a cover by decorating one index card.
4. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each card.
5. Use a binder ring or string yarn through the holes and tie to secure the cards together.



# PUZZLE

## From generation to **GENERATION**

Grandparents are a bridge of love for future generations. The greatest heritage they can pass on is their faith and love for God.

*Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.*

JOEL 1:3, NIV

Directions: List as many words as you can create from the letters in **GENERATIONS**. You may want to challenge a grandparent to this!

2-letter words

3-letter words

4-letter words

5+ letters

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Add up the total number of words you found. >>>

Answers will vary.

## **SERVICE TIMES**

8:30 a.m. Worship Service  
(Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
& Adult Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
(Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)



## **THOSE WHO SERVE**

Pastor: David Hammer

Deaconess: Holly Lustila

Secretary: Celeste Entrekin

Preschool Director: Gina Cote

Choir Director: Rick Schmidt

Choir Accompanist: Michelle Rowland

Organist: David Phillips

## **MISSIONARIES**

Joanna Johnson, Taiwan

Nate Esala, Lutheran Bible Translators

David & Dr. Arianna Shirk, Kenya

S.E.D. Missionaries to Peru

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