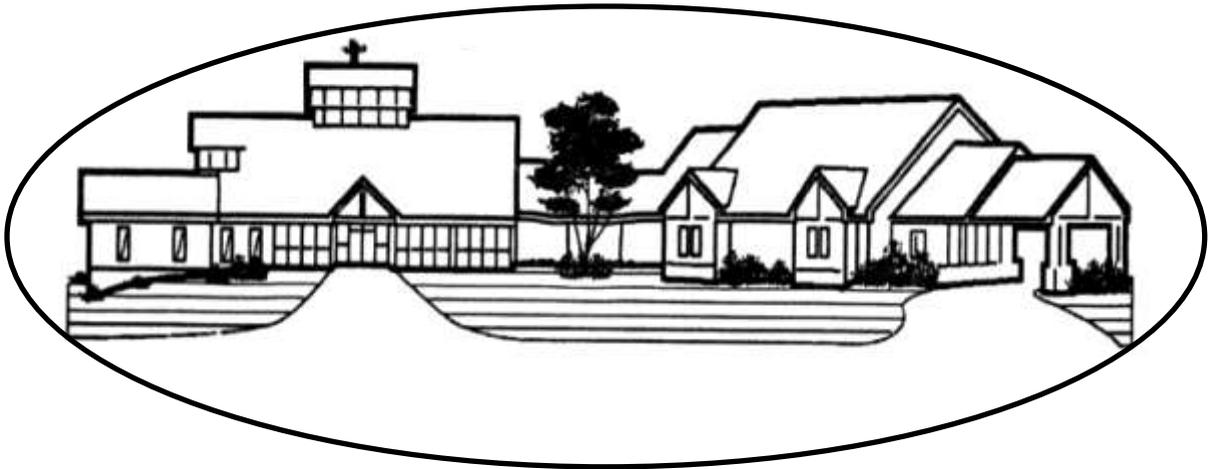


---

# Agapegram

---

October 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



## VDMA: Even More than 500 Years

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Luke 21:33 EHV*

With the arrival of October, we now have a full year of remembering and highlighting the Reformation behind us. A year of celebrating God's authoritative & true Word and the Good News that it brings of forgiveness for Christ's sake. In C.P.H.'s readers edition of the Book of Concord, *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, we are reminded of the letters VDMA

which served as a symbol of God's enduring Word:

*VDMA, standing for the Latin motto **Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum**. This symbol was inscribed on swords, cannons and armor used by the Smalcaldic League which was formed to be a mutual defense organization, against the Catholic princes trying to overthrow the Reformation in the various territories of Germany that had embraced it.*

***The Word of the Lord Endures Forever** is the motto of the Lutheran Reformation, a confident expression of the enduring power and authority of God's Word. The motto is based on Isaiah 40:6-8 quoted by 1 Peter 1:24-25. It first appeared in the court of Frederick the Wise in 1522. He had it sewn onto the right sleeve of the court's official clothing, which was worn by prince and servant alike. It was used by Frederick's successors, his brother John the Steadfast, and his nephew John Frederick the Magnanimous. It became the official motto of the Smalcaldic League and was used on flags, banners, swords, and uniforms as a symbol of the unity of the Lutheran laity who struggled to defend their beliefs, communities, families and lives against those who were intent on destroying them.*

On the one hand, these letters have boldly proclaimed the significance of God's Word for the last half of a millennium. On the other hand, with or without the letters VDMA, God's Word has already endured for millennia since He first spoke the creation into being; and, it will continue to endure into eternity to come.

God's Word is the only thing in this world that truly lasts. It is wise for us to study it, learn it, trust it, and live by it. May the Living Word be found in you today, tomorrow, and forever.

*"The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever." 1 Peter 1:24b-25 EHV*

*Pastor David*



*The Word of the LORD  
endures forever.*

*1 Peter 1:25*



## *Deaconess Musings*

*Jesus Christ: For Now and For Always.*

October 2017. It's finally here. The month where we remember and celebrate what began, albeit unknowingly at the time, those 500 years ago. Martin Luther's *95 Theses* may not be the most exciting read ever, nonetheless, here we stand, direct recipients of what events quickly followed the posting of those statements! The timeless truth of the free Gospel message of *Jesus Christ for you* was ushered back into the Church.

While this past year has been full of celebrations, lectures, recitals, documentaries, it would do us well to remember that the truths we focused on for this past year should remain forefront in our minds. For all time and in all places. The working theme "It's Still All About Jesus," should ring in our hearts for the rest of our God-given days!

This is what we should remember once the festivals and special events have passed us by: that Jesus Christ forgives and is for you. Plain and simple. No real frills are needed. This Gospel message is to be proclaimed to the infant, to the youth, to the aged. To those who are still far off and to those who are near. It is for all times and for all peoples.

For sin is the great equalizer among men, for we all sin and fall short of what God expects. Yet, in great mercy and incomprehensible compassion, Christ came down to save us and grant us His very righteousness. (Romans 3:22b-26)

*Therefore, we must be taught a righteousness that comes completely from the outside and is foreign.* – Martin Luther

We cannot save ourselves, or even attempt to perfect one commandment under our own internal powers. Luther had it right; we must be taught a "foreign" (external, nonnative) righteousness that only comes from Christ.

*The whole root and origin of our salvation lies in who God sends.* – Martin Luther

And that's just it. "Jesus!" That Sunday School answer for everything truly does fit here. In Him do we find what is most needful, pure, beautiful, and true: the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of life eternal in the New Heavens and New Earth. The hope that springs forth from that very promise is the best gift, promise, statement, spoken word, truth...whatever else you may think of.

Because of what Christ has done for you, you freely rest in Christ. This is what was restored to the Church by our Lord through Luther and his fellow reformers. Rest easy, but get to work! There are still those who need to near of Christ's forgiveness of sins for the salvation of their souls. Joyfully greet each day, knowing in whom your true rest lies.

*Be pleasant toward yourself* (Christ has forgiven you), *peaceful toward your neighbor* (Christ died for him too), *righteous before God* (for in Christ you stand).

– Martin Luther (commentary mine)

~Deaconess Holly

# The Tools of the Trade

by Kerry Blount

*Ephesians 6:10-18; II Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 115*

In the 2007 summer film release of “*Evan Almighty*,” a young congressman walks out the front door of his house on a bright morning and crashes into an intriguing wooden box that has been placed on his doorstep. Upon opening the unexpected delivery, he finds a variety of very large woodworking tools: mallets and chisels, planes and saws, and others he doesn’t recognize. The perplexity on his face is priceless; we quickly perceive that he is being equipped (by God) for a task he has not yet been given, while he remains in the dark, at least for a little while. With a chuckle, I realize that Evan Baxter reminds me of myself, in the sense that I have often been perplexed by various preparations God chose to make in my life as well. And like the good-hearted congressman, my perplexity may remain until God identifies the time and place for me to use the tools, abilities, and attitudes *He* has provided for the task *He* chooses in *His* good time.

Consider the experience of our brother, the apostle Peter. As the time approached for Jesus to ascend back to the Father, Peter had already received many of the tools for the service to which his Lord was calling him. He was a natural leader, he was bold, he was confident (or had been), and he had learned the Word of God from the Master Himself. But to the very end of His time on earth, Jesus continued to equip Peter for his future tasks. The last of the tools Jesus provided was humility, as He gently probed the apostle three times about the nature of his love for the Messiah on the shores of Galilee (*John 21:15-17*). That attitude was later crucial in Peter’s response to the request of Cornelius, the Roman centurion who became the first Gentile to accept Jesus as the Christ and to herald through baptism that salvation was for all who would believe.

In *II Timothy 3:16-17*, the transformed Saul of Tarsus—now the apostle Paul—reminds his “son in the faith,” Timothy, that the Word is designed to thoroughly equip the people of God “for every good work.” In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul explains in more detail how God has equipped His people with the armor of truth, righteousness, readiness, faith and salvation as “standard protective equipment” for those who answer His call to service. But Paul also makes it clear that defense is not our only task. God issues us a weapon unmatched by any earthly technology or metallurgy: the sword of the Spirit. Having gifted us with equipment like that, how He must grieve at our tendency to retreat at the first sight or sound of spiritual battle.

As you look back on the experiences of life, how has God equipped you for His service? What knowledge, skills, attitudes and aptitudes have you been given the chance to develop in your education, your work experience, and your relationships with family, friends and even enemies? Are your eyes and heart open for opportunities to use those “tools,” whether one at a time or all together, to honor the name of the One who has called you into the Kingdom of Light?

*Gracious Lord, cover us now with Your mighty shield, so all You intend can be faithfully accomplished. Help us put on the armor You provide so we can stand against the evil one this day. Grant us confidence in the armor and weapon You supply, and strip us of all hindering doubts we continue to wear, so our eyes may be open and our hands ready for every good work You set before us. In the name of the Faithful and True, Jesus the Christ. Amen.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a year this has been celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation! The latest event, a Reformation seminar featuring scholar Dr. Paul Maier was amazing. Over 100 people attended with many familiar and unfamiliar faces in attendance. We sat behind a gentleman who drove from Knoxville, Tenn. to hear Dr. Maier speak. Next to us was a man from our parent church, Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Anderson and there were several members from St. John's Lutheran Church in Walhalla as well. Dr. Maier, although getting up in years, was as sharp, informative and funny as ever. And the lunch provided by Doug and Denise Zirbel of 'Your Pie Pizza' in Clemson was delicious and plentiful... thank you Doug and Denise.

**The next event up is the Bratwurst Dinner on Reformation Day after late service, watch the bulletin for more details.** Unfortunately the Arts and Craft Fair scheduled for this year had to be postponed. Who knew that vendors book all of their year's events in January for the coming year? But the good news is that it has been rescheduled for next year and I am sure it will be something that will bring the community to our church to enjoy the festivities. Thank you Kate Wells and your Reformation committee for all the hard work you have put in to making this Reformation Celebration year one to remember.

I pray that your lives are getting back to normal after the remnants of Tropical Storm Irma rolled through our region. The church was without power until Tuesday night for our regularly scheduled Council meeting. We were optimistic that power would be restored before the meeting but just in case it wasn't, which it wasn't, Kyra brought and lit candles and placed them on the Council tables. Well, at exactly 6:30PM Pastor walked in and asked why we had the candles lit, flipped on the light switch and we had power. I'll never look at Pastor the same way again! I tell you this story to let you know that your hard working Council will not let a little thing like lack of electricity stop us from the work of the church.... Thank you Council for your dedication!

*Yours in Christ,*

*Rudy Carbone  
Council President*



*The Word of the LORD endures forever. 1 Peter 1:25*

***Reformation Sunday  
October 29th***

*Bratwurst Dinner after the late service  
Please see upcoming weekly announcements  
for more details.*

## **END OF SEPTEMBER STATEMENT:**

All members will receive a statement of offerings in early October. This statement will cover the period from 1 January 2017 through 30 September 2017. This is a preliminary statement to prepare us for year ending statements that will go out in January 2018. Your statement will be placed in your church mailbox. Please go over it carefully and contact Grover Stewart, Church Financial Secretary, at 704-603-7092 or [gstewartjr@reagan.com](mailto:gstewartjr@reagan.com) with any questions or concerns.

**FPCC GOLF FOR LIFE** Fundraiser October 14th at Chickasaw Point Golf Course. Please join us for a fun time and wonderful event. Continental breakfast and lunch provided on **Oct. 14th at 9 am**. For more information please contact Jenni at (864) 882-8796~*We look forward to seeing you there.*



## **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes & Packing Party:**



### **National Collection Week is November 13-20!**

Thanks to your wonderful donations, preparations continue for our 3rd Annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party. In the past we've held our party the Saturday prior to collection week. **Tentative dates are the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November in the upstairs Fellowship Hall. Please see weekly announcements for final date.**

Snacks, fun and great fellowship will be had by all! Plan to come and help us fill Shoeboxes until we run out of supplies! We look forward to seeing you there! If you would prefer to take a shoebox home and pack it yourself, you'll find pre-folded shoeboxes in the Fellowship Hall on the Ping Pong table, starting October 1st. They will contain a small wooden toy to get you started. After you fill your box please return it to the Ping Pong table by Nov. 11th. We will include your boxes with those filled at the Packing Party, and remember, your shipping costs are covered! ~ *The Crossing Youth*

## MISSION NEWS

**HONDURAS MISSION 2018:** It's time—time to begin getting ready for this year's mission to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, the capitol of that country. The team is forming with possibly 14-16 missionaries traveling to Honduras this year from our ESLC group. The mission is the same—to provide medical, dental, optical, and pharmaceutical services to people who have no way to get this type of help. Plus we have children's ministry and building opportunities to help as well.

**Our first team meeting is October 8<sup>th</sup>** and if you have an interest but just haven't acted on it as yet, come to the meeting. You will get an idea of what we do and why we do it. If you cannot go but would like to help we will have several fund raising opportunities over the next few months. We use in the area of \$16,000.00 in medicine during our week there and we take it all with us. We also take eyeglasses and children's supplies for those ministries. We plan to again have our fund drive that we call "Helping Hands for Honduras" where we give everyone a gardening glove and ask that you add your change, or dollars or a check so that we can purchase the needed supplies. We normally do this in November and are very thankful for the generosity of this congregation. **But what we value the most is your prayers. We depart Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> and return Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> and we ask for your prayers as we prepare over these next months and while we are there as well.** This is your mission and we could not do it without your help.



*Your Honduras team says  
"Thank You!" in advance and  
"Que Dios te bendiga"—"May  
God Bless You."*

*Your ESLC Honduras Team.*



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*



Photo by Lt. Zachary West, 100th MPAD

*“But God has put the body together . . . If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:24b, 26)*

Dear Friends at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church:

We join you in praying for all those affected by devastating Hurricanes.

When disaster strikes, Christians are among the first to roll up their sleeves and open their wallets – and Thrivent Financial members often look for additional opportunities to help those in need. In addition to relief efforts your church might be involved with, Thrivent members and others in your church can help in the following ways:

- **Donate.** Thrivent will match up to \$3 million on individual personal donations to specific disaster relief organizations.\*
- **Lend a hand.** Learn how Thrivent members can share time and talent to help with recovery efforts by leading a Thrivent Action Team. Eligible members can also direct Choice Dollars®.

Visit the [Disaster Response page on Thrivent.com](#) for details on these opportunities.

If it’s appropriate at your church, would you consider running the following in your newsletter, bulletin and/or on your website?

As the Christian community comes together to pray for and reach out to those who have been affected by the recent disasters, Thrivent Financial is mobilizing its financial resources and members nationwide to help those in need. Thrivent members and others who are interested in ways to help with the recovery efforts are encouraged to visit [www.Thrivent.com](http://www.Thrivent.com) to learn more about the organization’s \$3 million match on individual personal donations and other ways in which they can help.

We thank you and your congregation for continuing to keep storm victims in your prayers and support them as you’re financially or physically able. Your commitment to living generously is appreciated.

## The Crossing Youth News for October 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.***

### FEEDING THE HUNGRY OF SENECA, SAT. OCT. 14TH

On **Saturday, October 14th** we'll be serving our hungry friends in Seneca. We'll plan to meet behind the Market Basket in downtown Seneca (or at Our Daily Bread depending on the weather). Please come and join us the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you're planning on helping prepare the food, meet at church at 9:45am. If you just want to serve, arrive at 11am behind the Market Basket in downtown Seneca. Any questions, call my cell at (770) 331-1300. *Thank you all for sharing your love with our neighbors. ~John Cochell*



Are you tired of "The View"? Had enough "Days of Our Lives" and "As The World Turns"? Get off the couch and deliver Meals on Wheels to Senior Citizens of Oconee County. Debbie at Senior Solutions would love to have you deliver meals once a week, once a month or whenever it fits your schedule. Please consider this satisfying volunteer opportunity. For more information call Don Seigler. Home:(864) 882-3374 or cell: (864) 903-4558

## 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. **October's** preferred product is "***Peanut Butter***" 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 Cards**— Birthday! Get Well! Encouragement! Praying for You! Sympathy! Thinking of You! Cancer/Difficult Times! Anniversary! Baptism! Thanksgiving! Christmas! All these cards have been restocked in the cart in the Fellowship Hall. They are still \$.50 and card and \$5.00 for a whole box. Take a little extra time and check them out.



## 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 *August* the following gifts were given:**

In loving memory of *Barb Hornburg*  
The Choir Fund received gifts of \$412.50  
the General Fund received a gift of \$150.00,  
and the  
Mission Quilt Sewers Fund received gifts of \$287.50

### Other Gifts:

- The Alaska Missions Fund received a gift of \$500.00
- The Capital Campaign Building Fund received gifts of \$2,610.00  
and received a gift of \$50.00 from Thrivent Choice
- The Card Ministry received gifts of \$18.50
- The Comfort Dog Ministry received gifts of 1,200.00
- The Debt Reduction Fund received a gift of \$50.00
- The Elders Fund received a gift of \$85.00
- The Food Bank Fund received a gift of \$20.00
- The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$290.00
- The Honduras Mission Fund received a gift of \$25.00
- The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received a gift of \$25.00
- The Lutheran Bible Translator Fund received gifts of \$59.13
- The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$675.00
- The Toys for God's Kids Fund received a gift of \$50.00

# Little Lambs Tales

*“The earth has yielded its harvest; God, our God, blesses us” Psalm 67:7*

God has blessed us with cooler mornings as we venture forward to enjoy the season of Autumn! We spent the first few weeks of school getting to know one another, learning new routines and of course sampling some fresh apples as we learned all about the letter A!

The children continue their chapel time where they learned about All about Me, All about the World and Noah and the Flood. Thank you to Pastor David and Deaconess Holly for sharing the Good News of our Faith with these young children.

The three and four year old classes started their special classes in September. Ms. Nicole will be sharing her love of Science with the children and Ms. Kate will be singing songs of Spanish! The 4's class continue to be blessed with a special weekly reader; Mr. K. Thank you to all of these wonderful volunteers for their commitment to Little Lambs Preschool!

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, the preschool children will participate in Farm Day where they will have the opportunity to experience various activities that occur on a farm! We will be eating homemade butter and bread, assembling a scarecrow, searching for the hidden pumpkin in deer corn, and learning some square dancing! A visit from the horses, chickens and goats will surely be special! A sincere thank you goes to Senora Kate and Ms. Sara for sharing their animals with us!

We will also be taking our annual trip to the Pumpkin Farm in October where we will be visiting the pumpkin patch and taking a hay ride! Always a memory to be treasured!

As well as our trip to the pumpkin farm, we will be celebrating our Dad's in October with Donuts with Dads and having our school pictures! We continue to ask for your prayers as we go through our Autumn season! The sniffles have started so we ask for prayers of health and wellness for all our children as well as our teachers. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

*Blessings,  
Gina*

# Warm HARVEST COBBLER

These fall flavors will remind you of all the season's goodness.

## What you need:

- An adult to help



## Fruit mixture

- 4 cups apples and/or pears (peeled, cored and diced)
- 2 cups fresh cranberries, halved
- ¼ cup dried cranberries
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 3 Tablespoons cornstarch

## Crumble topping

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup butter

## What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 8" or 9" baking dish.
2. Prepare fruit mixture and place in baking dish.
3. In another bowl, combine dry ingredients. Add in cut butter until it's a crumbly texture. Sprinkle over fruit mixture.
4. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until fruit juices bubble and topping is browned.
5. Optional: Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

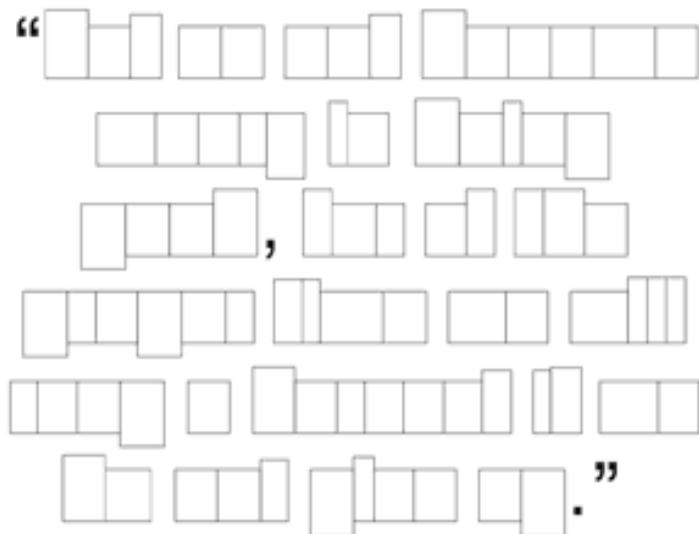


# A HARVEST OF goodness

*All seasons provide reasons for doing good to others.*

Directions: Fit the words into the shapes below to complete Galatians 6:9, NIV.

at a do doing give good become for harvest if in we  
Let not proper not reap the time us up weary we will



GALATIANS 6:9, NIV

Answer: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9, NIV)

## **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