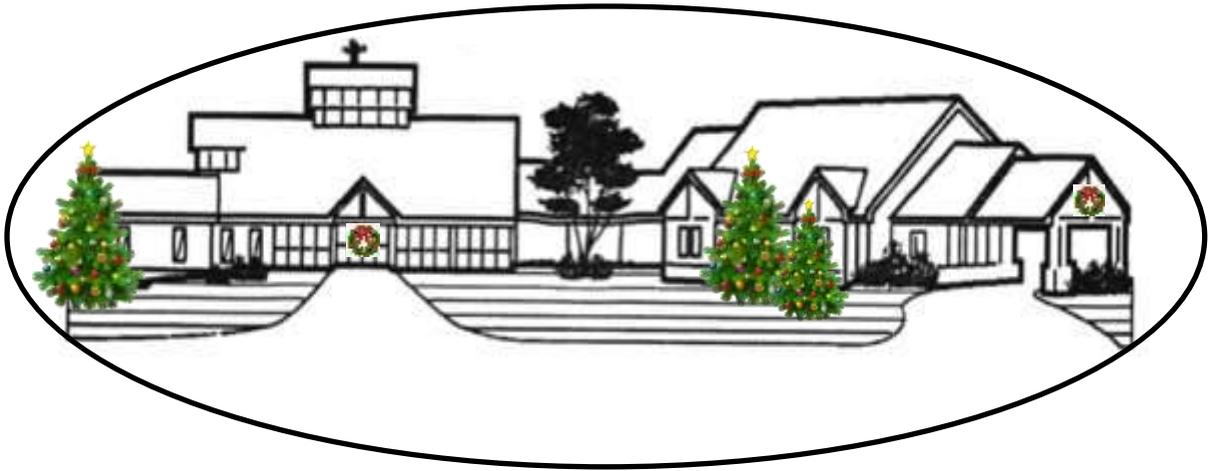

Agapegram

December 2017



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

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

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



Is Christmas a Pagan Day?

Some years ago I shared articles about the false claims of Halloween and Easter being pagan celebrations co-opted by Christians. We've all heard that Christmas is really just the old Roman Saturnalia or a Winter Solstice celebration overlain with a veneer of Jesus. But is this accurate? Rev. Abrahamson writes:

... [T]he Politically Correct way we are told to understand Christmas is that the Romans celebrated the "rebirth of the sun" on December 25th. Then, Christianity... wanted to eliminate the pagan elements and claimed that Christ was born on this same day to pervert the

pagan holiday into a Christian Holy Day.

[To clarify the facts of history] Three main questions [can be asked]:

1) When did the Romans celebrate the winter solstice? *It was the shortest day of the year, in our calendar, December 21 or 22. The Romans didn't use our modern calendar... and... the winter solstice hardly ever occurred on December 25. The **months** were for watching the **Moon**. The winter solstice would occur on a different day each year because it was based on the Sun.*

It is important for us to notice that none of the early Christian writers pointed to the winter solstice as an important religious date. And it is just as important to notice that those early Christian writers wrote that Christ was conceived on what is March 25th in our modern calendar. Nine months later is December 25th.

*The winter solstice was not an issue for the Christians of the first four centuries in our calendar. Christ's conception and birth was. December 25th was celebrated in the early church **because it was nine months after** Christ's conception.*

2) When did the earliest Christians celebrate Christmas? *... Around the year 200 A.D. the Church Father Hippolytus in his Commentary on Daniel 4.23.3 says: "For the first advent of our Lord in the flesh, when he was born in Bethlehem, eight days before the kalends of January [December 25th], the 4th day of the week [Wednesday], while Augustus was in his forty-second year, [2 or 3BC]"*

Clement of Alexandria, who wrote 193-215 AD, in his work entitled "Stromata" writes: "From the birth of Christ, therefore, to the death of Commodus are, in all, 194 years, 1 month, 13 days. And there are those who have determined not only the year of our Savior's genesis, but even the day, which they say took place in the twenty-eighth year of Augustus on the 25th of Pachon..."

Christ's genesis, or conception on the 25th of Pachon was in what our calendar would equate with March 25th. The celebration of Christ's birth would be nine months later: December 25th, in our calendar.

continued on next page...

I want to emphasize that I'm not trying to pin down which day Christ was actually born, but to point out when the earliest Christians actually celebrated the birth of Christ. I am also showing that the choice of that date had nothing to do with any pagan celebration of the winter solstice in Rome.

It was not until much much later that scholars and others would begin to claim that Christians tried to mingle the celebration of Christ's birth with the celebration of the winter solstice.

3) When was Christmas associated with the pagan winter solstice? *In the 18th and 19th centuries some scholars found a manuscript from the 12th century in a marginal note of the writings of the Syriac biblical commentator Dionysius bar-Salibi conjectured that in ancient times the Christmas holiday was actually shifted from January 6 to December 25 so that it fell on the same date as the pagan winter solstice.*

....
Dionysius did not understand why January 6th was chosen nor did he understand why December 25th was chosen. He just wrote what he thought. From that conjecture a great number of unbelieving academics have woven a fictionalized "history" of Christmas and its relationship to the pagan winter solstice.

Neo-paganism reared its head in the late 1960s in Europe and the United States. And the myth of the winter solstice being the source of Christmas has been preached from college professors to four generations of students trying to comply so they could earn their degrees.

....
Christmas is not a pagan holiday. December 25th is not a day stolen by the Christian Church from pagans. It is the day nine months after the early Christians understood when Christ was conceived according to Scripture.

A blessed Advent & a Merry Christmas as we celebrate our Savior's birth!

Pastor David





Deaconess Musings

Incomprehensible Wonder

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say. “Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!”

Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

(LSB 345, Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding st. 1 & 2)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. – Isaiah 60:1-3

See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv’n;

So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.

(LSB 345, st. 3 & 4)

And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. – Isaiah 25:7-8

Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

(LSB 345, st. 5)

It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” – Isaiah 25:9

Advent. A season when we prepare our hearts and minds for the joys of the celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord. Christmas is no minor festival of the Church. It is when we remember and praise God for the Incarnation. God made Man...for you! For the world!

Advent is not simply the time before Christmas Eve and presents, but a long-held season of the Church designed to focus you in on just how “big of a deal” the Incarnation is. God came down and dwelt among us, in the flesh, to save and redeem the very creatures who spurned Him.

This Advent, stop, reflect, and give thanks to God for this gift of His Son’s birth. For His first “advent-ing” into the world assured us the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. And prepare your hearts for His Second Advent, where He will come and make all things new.



~Blessed Advent & Merry Christmas, *Deaconess Holly*

A night scene with a bright star in the sky and a city below. The star is a multi-pointed, glowing white star with a long, narrow beam of light shining down from it. The sky is a deep blue and purple. Below the star, there is a city with buildings and a large, glowing yellow light source. The foreground is dark with some green hills and a group of people at the bottom.

O' Come Let Us Adore Him!

Midweek Advent Services

Wed., Dec. 6th at 7:00 pm

Wed., Dec. 13th at 7:00 pm

Wed., Dec. 20th at 7:00 pm

Family Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec. 24th at 10 am

Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship Service w/Communion

Monday, Dec. 25th at 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Worship

Sunday, Dec. 31st

8:30 am & 11:00 am

No evening service

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I can say we have placed another Congregational meeting in the books, that is, once our Council Secretary writes up the minutes. Thank you to those who were able to attend. For those who could not attend, let me summarize the business that was attended to.

The 2018 church budget was presented by Rich Hesemann and subsequently approved. The Finance committee again did an outstanding job providing for the anticipated funding necessary to sustain the church operation and in doing so, only increased the overall budget by 0.45%.

Several hard working Council and Elder members were thanked for their years of faithful service and their replacements were recommended and approved.

Grover Stewart gave us a final analysis of the 3 year capital campaign pledge appeal and encouraged us to continue to give throughout the years ahead to reduce the interest amount we owe. Over all, I think that we as a congregation should be proud of our financial success to date since the \$400,000 goal was an ambitious one and it was almost completed within the 3 year time frame. Thanks be to God!

Pastor and John Cochell explained what we have been doing to improve the security of our building to ensure the safety of all our members especially during the worship service time and our preschool hours.

Deaconess Holly Lustila spoke about the new Member Care Ministry she is heading up for those members in need. If you know of someone who needs assistance after surgery or other life changing event, please contact her first and she will coordinate and enlist the help needed.

Pastor also reminded us about the two email lists that are sent to the congregation, one being the prayer list which Deaconess Holly Lustila handles and the other he handles for church announcements. Be sure to let him or Deaconess know of any corrections to email addresses or if you need to be added to either email list. He also cautioned us not to unsubscribe to the congregational list but rather delete any unwanted messages. If you unsubscribe you will be permanently removed from the master email list and reinstatement is difficult.

And finally Kyra and Pastor updated us on our Comfort Dog ministry effort. Everything that can be done to this point has been done except the deposit money needed to secure a dog. We are approximately half way to the necessary \$7500. Kyra will be asking for interested folks to come forward to help make dog treats that will be sold at Christmas to help raise funds for this effort.

The bag lunch that was served at the meeting was well received by all and many thanks go to the efforts of our Hospitality board for their work in preparing it for us to enjoy.

As we approach the season of celebrating our Lord's birth, may we stay focused on the greatest gift of all, Jesus our Savior! To help you stay focused, be sure to attend as many Advent services, Sunday services, Christmas services that you can and invite a friend! Let the light of Christ shine brightly from you as a witness to those who walk in darkness! And blessed Christmas to all!

Rejoice!



*In His service,
Rudy Carbone
Council President*

I Bring You Glad Tidings: Luke 2:10-11

by Kerry Blount

When my two daughters were in elementary school, our family was friends with the Chadwicks, who attended church with us in Great Falls, Virginia. Bruce and Norleen also had two children, a daughter seven and a son, Daniel, who was four. In the intense hustle and bustle of the Christmas season of 1987, our families finally found some time to get together, and we convened at the Chadwicks' house late Saturday afternoon the week before Christmas.

The children quickly ran off to play in the playroom, and the adults gravitated to the den to commiserate about the state of the world, the state of the economy, and the needs and fears of our families. There was plenty to be fearful about. Bruce was preparing to argue a case before the Supreme Court for the Red Cross; his law firm was trying to recover from the effects of the October 1987 stock market crash; and he was in the middle of testing for a debilitating disease his doctors could not pinpoint. In my world as an intelligence officer, the Soviet empire was coming apart in unexpected ways; the South Korean presidential election looked like it might devolve into a military coup; and I was pressing to finish a new study on Soviet strategy that was due to senior Army leaders right after Christmas. We had a lot to worry about.

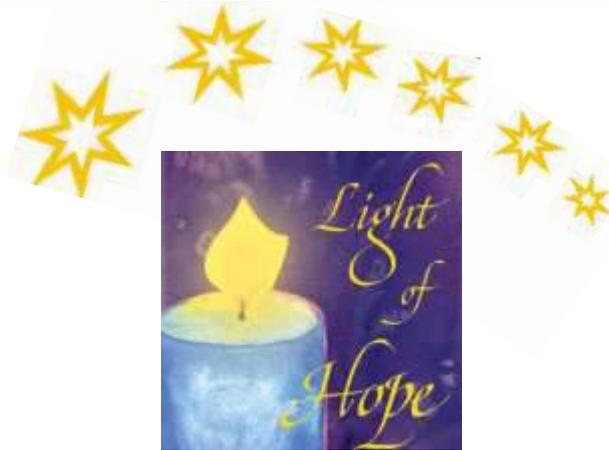
After an hour or so, just as it was getting to be dusk, my oldest daughter, Tanis, came into the den and stood there quietly, not interrupting. When I noticed, I asked her what she needed. She said, "Daddy, the children would like to do a play for everyone if it's all right!" (She really did speak this way as a child.) We all quickly agreed, happy for the diversion from our "adult talk," and a bit surprised at their initiative. Tanis disappeared, and within a minute or two, the children, costumed with towels and bath mats and anything else they could find, began to come in to tell various parts of the Christmas story from their children's perspective. They had decided that Daniel, as the only boy, needed to be the Angel Gabriel, and he appeared to announce that Mary (Bruce's daughter), would soon have a child. "You WILL have a child," he adamantly declared, "for NOTHING is impossible for God." And so the story they had learned so well in Sunday School and at home continued to unfold, as four parents watched with bemused pride.

For the finale, my youngest daughter came out to announce that the baby Jesus had been born in a stable in Bethlehem, and finished with the admonition that we, the "audience," were now the shepherds. "So listen up," she said. Tow-headed Daniel then appeared with a white towel over his shoulders. He lifted his angelic, little-boy face confidently, looked directly at us, and in a strong, clear voice said: ***"Don't be afraid. I bring you glad tidings of great joy! For unto you this day in the city of David is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."***

Those inspired words hit us poor shepherds with the force of an angelic chorus, speaking a joy, a comfort, and a peace to our hearts rare among the distractions, fears, and turbulence of this world. Words we desperately needed—and need—to be reminded of, time and again:

Don't be afraid. The Savior is with you. This very day.





Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 3rd at 9:45 am during the Sunday School hour, the Board of Christian Education will host our annual Advent Workshop for Sunday School youth, children, friends and their families. We will have lots of fun as we prepare for the birth of Jesus, and will enjoy making crafts, doing fun activities, and having refreshments. What a great way to kick off the Advent season. *All ages are welcome, so please join us!*

The workshop will be held downstairs in the old Fellowship Hall at 9:45AM until 10:45AM and will be held instead of regular Sunday School classes for youth and children. Adult classes will be held as usual. **Please use the sign up sheet in the narthex and be sure to sign your family up so we have enough supplies for everyone.**

~We look forward to seeing you there!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - beginning **Sunday, December 3rd** the poinsettia sign up sheet will be on display in the Narthex. Please take a moment to fill it in remembering to fill out an individual line for each plant. There may not be enough plants for everyone to take one home so please be aware that they are on a "first come, first serve" basis for pick up after the Christmas Day service. The price remains at \$10.00 per plant this year. *Thank you!*

The Crossing Youth News for December 2017

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



**Come Join
the Fun!
Youth Lock-in**

**Friday,
Dec. 15th
@ 6:00 PM**

**Pick-up is Sat.
Dec. 16th at 10am**

Welcome Our Newest Member

Welcome, Garner Sorrell!

After living 35 years in Glen Rock PA, Garner makes his home now, with Sarah, in Seneca. They claim 3 children, 4 grandchildren. Garner works as a Safety Engineer for an automotive company. He is also pursuing a degree in Industrial Health and Safety. This busy man enjoys motorcycling, golfing, traveling, and most of all, spending time with his wife (c:





3rd Annual Christmas Card Drive!

Christmas cards provide wonderful greetings and tidings of the
celebration of Christ's birth for all Mankind.

For those who, for various reasons, cannot actively participate in the Church's preparations and celebrations, the Youth are running our 3rd Annual "Christmas Card Drive" and are asking for your help!

From now until Friday, December 15th, there will be cards and names of our home-bound and nursing home members available for you to take, fill out, and return.

*These cards will be hand delivered by the Youth during our
Christmas Lock-in on Dec. 15th.*

Please look in the Narthex for the basket of cards + names and join us in sharing the message of the Word made flesh with those who cannot join us this Advent/Christmas time.

*The drop-off basket will be located by
Deaconess Holly's office!

~ESLC Youth

*You may certainly purchase your own cards and drop them off for a personal delivery by our Youth!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry consists of individuals, usually woman, who donate their knitting and crocheting skills, time, and yarn to create shawls, scarfs, lap robes, etc., of any color and any design. While these garments are being created, they pray for the person who will receive the prayer shawls, praying that they will bring comfort and a feeling that God cares about them personally, that He will be there to sustain them, and that they can bring all their concerns to God and He will hear them. We all know that God will hear our prayers whenever and wherever we pray, but sometimes when one is ill or in a difficult situation, it is nice to have a tangible object for assurance.

This ministry started at Eternal Shepherd approximately three years ago. We have already made over forty prayer shawls with more than thirty-five have being distributed. Over a dozen members from the congregation have made these prayer shawls that typically take between 40 and 80 hours to make. It is a labor of love.

How can you assist?

Donate old yarn that you no longer will use.

Join the current people that are making prayer shawls. Patterns and yarn are available to begin your project. This is a service that can be done at home.

If you would like to make prayer shawls, but you do not knit or crochet or you need a refresher course, a group of woman often meet at 3 pm on Thursdays before the Women's Bible Study to practice or learn. This is an on request event.

But another way that you can assist is to give a prayer shawl to a friend or relative that you feel would benefit from such a gift. We request that you pray with the recipient if you personally deliver it.

The prayer shawl group is also introducing a new "pocket prayer" shawl that can be carried in a pocket or purse. It is a reminder to take all your cares and concerns to the Lord. They are in limited supply but available to anyone that wants one. People have suggested that they are great for people traveling, in any difficult situation, sitting through a loved one's surgery, etc.

Prayer Shawls as well as the new Pocket Prayer Shawls are available in a self-service type kiosk. Bins are located in the Fellowship Hall near the storage closets. Prayer shawls can be given by any member of the congregation to anyone in need; they do not need to be a member to ESLC. If you are selecting a prayer shawl, we request that you sign the log specifying the date, your name and the person that you are giving it to. There is currently no log for the "pocket pray shawls".

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Hauser.



Pocket Prayer Shawl

ESLC LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW

One day wandering around in the Christian bookstore, I found a wonderful little treasure on the Bargain shelf. It was “Book Lover’s Devotional” What We Learn About Life From Sixty Great Works Of Literature.

Imagine my surprise when on Day 21, there was a book called, “In His Steps”, by Charles M. Sheldon, published in 1896! Why was that such an astonishment? Remember the 1990’s (OK, I know some of you won’t remember!) marketing boom of WWJD, What Would Jesus Do? This concept was not the brainchild of some New York avenue adman. In fact, it was published in Mr. Sheldon’s novel of 1896.

“In His Steps” tells of a fictional Midwestern church where the Pastor challenges his congregation to ask what Jesus would do before making any decision – however small or large – and see what difference the answer would make in their lives. Thus begins a life changing journey for the Pastor and many members of his congregation.

This Christmas may be just the right time to gift someone with an audiobook, electronic book, or a blast from the past, a hard copy volume of your favorite book. Sharing God’s message can occur in many different ways, even in the pages of a great book!



HOWL-LE-LU-YA Dog Treat Sale

To raise funds for the Comfort Dog Ministry
Sale Dates:

**December 10 between services in the nar-
thex**

**December 17 between services in the nar-
thex**

\$5 a bag

Do you have a furry pup at home you would like to buy a Christmas present for? What about a neighbor’s dog that you want to make friends with? Any grand dogs out there? How about a gift for the dogs at the local animal shelter?

These treats will be healthy, all natural dog biscuits made with love! Ingredients and expiration will be on the label.

PS- I need dog biscuit bakers! We will meet Thursday December 7 in the kitchen from 12-4pm (before Women’s Bible Study). Please join us! Contact Kyra Carbone if you can help at 864-886-1229 or rckc91@bellsouth.net

MISSION NEWS

HONDURAS MISSION 2018 – Our Helping Hands for Honduras drive has been running several weeks now with, what looks to be, very good results. We've taken in lots of gloves and will have the final figures in a few weeks. Without these funds we would not be able to bring the medicine, eyeglasses and other items we need to do our ministry there. **We also have our 2nd team meeting Dec. 3rd at 12:30 after the late service. We will meet in room #301 where we will focus on Evangelism training.** Everyone, whether in medical, dental, optical, children's ministry, etc., are doing Evangelism. We are all witnesses of the love of Christ working in our lives. Additionally each day, 6 – 8 team members are assigned to the Evangelism station where they, with the help of a translator, will share the gospel with our Honduran friends. Many have not heard the message of God's grace and love and we are blessed to be able to share this with them. Please keep the team in your prayers as we prepare and as we are finally on our way at the end of February. Pardon us if we greet each other or you in Spanish, we are just preparing for our mission. ~*Gracias (Thank You), for your support—Your Honduras Team.*



Haiti Mission – Bringing the Love of Jesus

Pastor Walta Clercius of Port-au-Prince, Haiti came to visit Eternal Shepherd – Thanking us for our support of Church, School, and the Village of Laotchikit in the Central Plateau of Haiti. Following the earthquake and devastation in 2010, Pastor Walta went to Laotchikit to “help”. On his first day he brought one person to Christ. The following day a dozen came forward. Today they have over 600 members in the newly built Lutheran church in Laotchikit. They also have a school – simple as it may be. They have a safe house for young boys and girls abandoned by their parents. The success of this is largely because of our sister LCMS congregation Mt Pisgah, where Pastor Phil has been vacancy pastor for the last couple of years. We at Eternal Shepherd have supported the effort with donations – and recently money to purchase 24 beds – complete with mattress and headboard. Our ESLC Quilters will be working to supply covers for those beds. Are you interested in going to Haiti? The next trip is scheduled for January 11th, returning the 14th. So far we have three going from ESLC. Pastor McLain will be conducting classes to seminarians in the area; Lars Helland and Rick Kruse are reviewing the list of opportunities. Opportunities include teaching some basic woodworking skills and craft ideas to create items they can sell. Ask Lars about the “anti-gravity device” we will be making. There are trees to plant, brick ovens to create while teaching others how to make them. We will join team leader, Dr. Jim Volt, and others from Mt Pisgah. Your hotel room in a nearby city as well as all meals is provided. More information is in the brochure and newsletter in our narthex or contact Lars.

Desiré and the Yo-Yo



I remember walking every day to school when I was young. Most of the time I went without any lunch because my parents couldn't afford to feed all of us a lunch. I was one of seven children, and we lived in a very poor area of Burkina Faso. It was hard to even earn enough money for food, and nobody had money for gifts at Christmas. My parents did not buy things like toys or even many books to read.

When I received my first gift, it was in an Operation Christmas Child shoebox, and it was a real blessing for me. We also listened to a presentation of the Gospel, and I received a copy of the Greatest Gift booklet. Though I had already accepted Christ a couple years earlier and grown up in church, I was excited to read that book over and over to learn more about Him.

I couldn't wait to see what was inside my shoebox, but I also looked forward to what God was going to do in my life. We did not open our boxes at the event. We wanted to share the experience with our family.

When I got home I opened the box up and saw all those wonderful gifts. There were toys and books, and what I especially enjoyed was my yo-yo. It was a special yo-yo, because at night it would just light up my dark neighborhood.

I wasn't just excited about having new toys and new things, though. I was also excited because I was surprised to receive a gift from people I didn't know and might never meet. Honestly, I had never received a gift in my life, and I never expected it. So, when Operation Christmas Child told me that people from the other side of the world cared about me, it helped me to experience even more thankfulness for God's faithfulness toward me. Who would ever think that God would use a simple light-up yo-yo in a shoebox to remind me of His love? I think back to that Saturday morning and to all the ways God has continued to be faithful to me since then. God has even used me to share His love with others in my country.

A few years after receiving that shoebox I began another journey I didn't expect. When I was 12 years old I started a children's ministry in my neighborhood to teach others about Jesus Christ. Since then I've been able to share the love of God throughout my neighborhood and in many villages in Burkina Faso.

More recently, I've been involved in evangelism and discipleship as part of Operation Christmas Child. As I've taught The Greatest Journey discipleship program throughout my country, I have seen God change the hearts of many children. I've seen nine churches started as a result of Gospel seeds planted through The Greatest Journey project. "Through one of these simple gifts God opened more of my heart to Him and to telling others about Him."

Today I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where I attend Bible college and am learning to be an even better teacher of God's Word. I am so grateful to the many, many people who pack Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, because through one of these simple gifts God opened more of my heart to Him and to telling others about Him. And thank you for praying for God to work through Operation Christmas Child and for praying for kids to become disciples and disciplemakers like He made me.

****Yo-yo's are just one of the items we put into our shoeboxes here at Eternal Shepherd, but it is so gratifying to hear what a huge blessing it is for those who receive shoeboxes. This year we were able to pack 222 boxes, sending the love of Christ to 222 children. If you haven't yet joined us in this wonderful ministry, please pray about joining with us next year. God continues to bless and grow our efforts in this amazing outreach ministry!**

MISSIONARY JOANNA JOHNSON

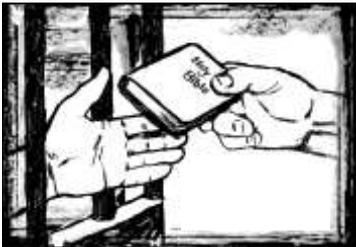
This summer both the Youth Sunday School Class and Adult Bible Study were visited by Joanna Johnson. Ms Johnson was preparing to leave for Taiwan as a GEO (globally engaged in outreach) Missionary. She will be teaching both English and Bible classes to elementary and middle school students. In addition to her teaching skills, she plays several musical instruments. Joanna is the daughter of an LCMS Pastor, her home church is St John's in Conover NC. Joanna will be also involved with a local congregation giving her the the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with local people.

Keep Joanna in your prayers. Her Birthday is September 7th. We will plan a big mailing of BD cards next Fall. You can learn more about Joanna and her work on facebook.com/JohnsoninTaiwan and lcms.org/joanna.johnson.

She was a delight in both SS Classes this summer, again remember to keep her in your prayers.



DETENTION CENTER OUTREACH MINISTRY:



Saturday, Dec. 9th ESLC is planning a visit to the Men's and the Women's sides of the Detention Center in Walhalla. A **sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board** for either the Men's or Women's sides of the Center, as well as Christmas cookie bakers (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., December 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 Cecil Murray and **Christmas cookie angels please contact Elaine Grotheer.**



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. **December's** preferred product is "*Stewed Tomato's*" 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 a 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 Christmas 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 *October* the following gifts were given:

In loving memory of *Barb Hornburg*
the Choir Fund received a gift of \$100.00
the Debt Reduction Fund received a gift of \$50.00
and

In loving memory of *Jean Lindgren*
the Choir Fund received a gift of \$50.00
and

In loving memory of *Don Robertson*
the Choir Fund received gifts of \$965.00

Other Gifts:

The Alaska Mission Fund received a gift of \$500.00

The FPCC Baby Bottle Drive received gifts of \$4,286.15

The Capital Campaign Building Fund received gifts of \$2,065.00

The Disaster Relief Trailer Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$76.00

The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$362.50

The Honduras Fund received gifts of \$1,508.00

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The Mission Fund received a gift of \$40.00

The Special Missions Fund received gifts of \$765.00

The Youth Fund received a gift of \$25.00



Little Lambs Tales

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6

Imagine being able to experience the season of Christmas through the eyes of a child. The wonder and awe! The anticipation of the birth of baby Jesus! The excitement and joy awaiting Santa and the presents under the Christmas tree!

We here at Little Lambs Preschool are blessed to be able to participate in this season through the eyes of our beautiful children. Our Christmas celebration begins on December 6th with our annual candy house making. This event will be held in the Fellowship Hall where the parents and grandparents will spend time with their child creating a beautiful candy house masterpiece made out of candy and frosting!

This year we have two assistant teachers who are expecting a baby in January! So, on December 8th we will be having a baby shower for both of them! The shower will take place in the Fellowship Hall where there is sure to be lots of pink.....they are both expecting girls! On December 15th the children will share their musical gifts during our annual Christmas Program. Following the program, our families will proceed to the Fellowship Hall for a light reception.

We will be out of school from December 18th through January 1st for our Christmas vacation and our classes resume on January 2nd!

Thank you for all your support for our preschool ministry! May Peace and Happiness reign in your home this Christmas and may the New Year be loaded with blessings for you and your family.



*In Christ,
Gina*

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

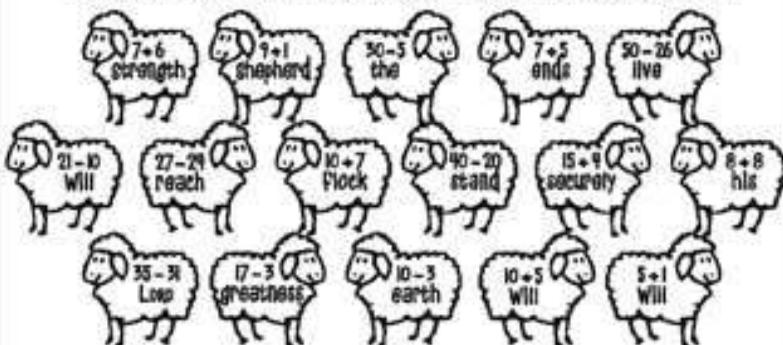
1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.



A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He _____ and _____ his _____
15 20 10 17

in the _____ of the _____ ... And they _____
13 4 11 24

_____, for then _____
18 16 14 8

_____ to the _____ of _____."
3 12 20 7

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord ... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to

the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, 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

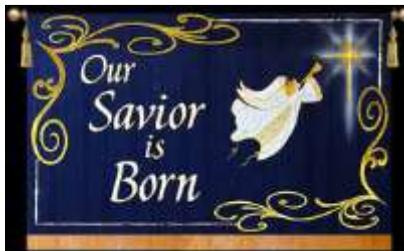
Joanna Johnson, Taiwan

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



Merry Christmas!