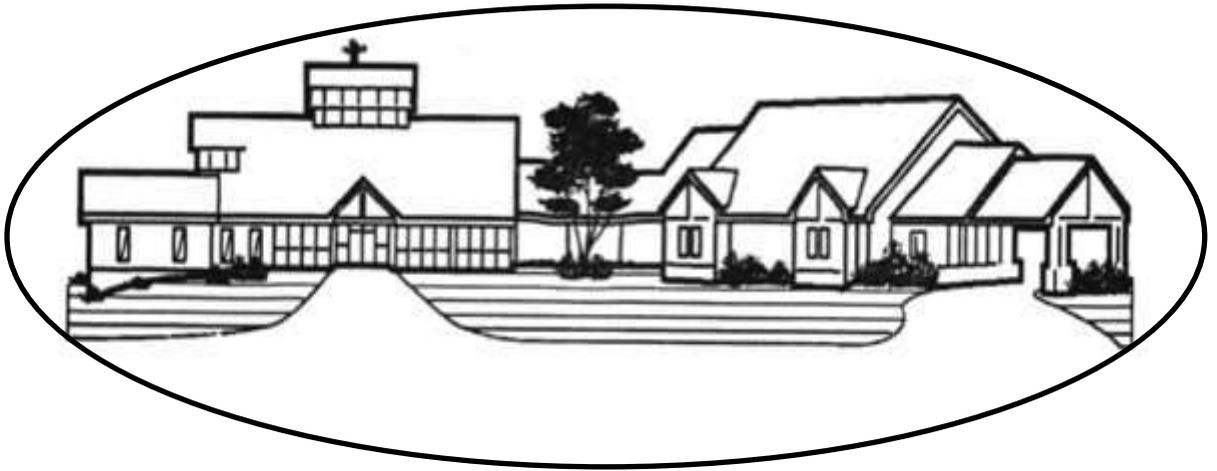

Agapegram

February 2018



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Seneca, South Carolina 29678

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

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



Repent and Believe

On our journey through the season of Epiphany, we hear this text from the Gospel of Mark on the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany: *Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. "The time is fulfilled," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel."* In this passage, we see Jesus doing what he later commissions his followers to continue doing in the world: proclaiming God's kingdom and calling people to faith in our Savior's work.

Lutherans in particular should be comfortable with Jesus' words here as this brief summary of his message shows the need for our familiar themes of Law and Gospel.

This is the message that the world needs to hear. Not just the world in an abstract sense, but the people in the world right around us. Friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, and whomever the Lord may bring across our paths. They too need to hear "repent and believe". The Law and Gospel of God's word. They need to hear their sins are real and have eternal damning consequences; and, that those sins must be humbly confessed in repentance. And then, right upon the heels of such an admission, they also need to know that God's kingdom brings with it hope and promise. That this gospel is something that truly can be believed. The world needs to know that despite the depth of human sin, there is good news. God has sent Jesus as our sacrifice and the reconciler of the world. That means that his sacrifice brings gracious forgiveness and that sinners can know and trust that this gift is given freely to them for Christ's sake.

While these truths are nothing new, it is good to be reminded of Jesus' words, repent and believe, as we enter the season of Lent. These words aren't just for the world around us, but are for our ears, too. Jesus' kingdom call is also very fitting to hear as we prepare for Lent. In fact, the back to back seasons of Lent and Easter are the liturgical match to Jesus' call to repent and to believe. One season focuses on our sin and need for grace while the other points us to a triumphant risen Savior whose atonement on our behalf can be believed and trusted.

As you begin this journey through Lent, let the theme of Repent and Believe, guide your reflections and your times of prayer. Hear again God's call to humble yourself before the Lord. Hear also, the invitation that God's kingdom is for you because of the work of our Messiah Jesus. At the same time as you let Jesus' words fill your own thoughts, pray that God would open your eyes to opportunities to share with those around you Jesus' call to repentance and the trustworthy good news of forgiveness and hope that he brings.

"I did not shrink back from declaring anything that was helpful to you as I taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews and Greeks alike about repentance to God and faith in our Lord Jesus." Acts 20:20-21 EHV

Pastor David

Easter Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday Service w/Communion Wed, Feb. 14th - 7pm

Wednesday Night Lenten Worship Services

February 21st - 7:00 pm

February 28th - 7:00 pm

March 7th - 7:00 pm

March 14th - 7:00 pm

March 21st - 7:00 pm

Lenten Meals at 6:00 pm

February 21st hosted by the Comfort Dog Ministry

March 7th hosted by the Honduras Mission Team

March 14th hosted by the Altar Care Committee

March 21st hosted by "The Crossing" Youth

Palm Sunday March 25th

8:30 am & 11:00 am Communion both services

Maundy Thursday March 29th - 7:00pm

Good Friday March 30th - 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 1st

8:30 am & 11:00 am Communion Both Services



Deaconess Musings

Sober Blessedness

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.
~Ecclesiastes 3:1*

February. 2018. Already(!).

Another year, and yet another rotation through the Church seasons. It can seem monotonous at times, with the same hymns, similar sounding Scripture readings, and the usual [insert option here]. It can seem a tad depressing, with many hymns sounding “sad” or “dark.” It can seem never-ending – it is a forty-day season after all. I mean, we willingly allow ashes to mark our foreheads to “kick-off” the season. Some intentionally fast from meals/activities. Hardly seems like a grand time for the Church.

Yet in these facets, these various characteristics and traditions of Lent, we can see deep symbolic meaning and a deliberate intention to return to reality: we are indeed sin-filled creatures in need of a Savior, of a Redeemer. We become so focused on ourselves, our internal problems and cravings, that we quickly turn from a “fear, love, and trust” of our Lord to fleeting trends and attitudes, confident that we can find God and solve our problems.

This, I believe, is why we still observe Lent. Why we still insist on having those ashes affixed to our foreheads. Why we still sing those unrelenting hymns. Observing Lent is meant to take all the focus and glory we attach to ourselves and to place our sorrows, failures, and grievous sins at the feet of our Savior. We are confronted with the rightful penalty of our sins, humanity’s sins – death. We are made to take a deep and sometimes uncomfortable look at ourselves, and admit that we are not all that and a bag of chips. We are dust, and to dust shall we return.

Uneasy as this season can make one feel, there is a greater purpose. Without the seemingly distressful sway of Lent, Easter Morning loses its most glorious, golden celebrations. The grand and exuberant reality of the Resurrection is made all the more tremendous as we take time to sit, stop, and reflect during Lent. The cries and rending of Lent and the pain your sin causes now gives way to the permeating balm of the Gospel and “unreal” realness of the forgiveness of your sins.

So, this Lent slow down. Embrace the Lent-ness of Lent, but don’t get too hung up. Allow this season to influence your preparations for Easter. Add a family devotional or two (*Lutheran Hour Ministries at lhm.org/lent is a great option*), and/or intentionally refrain from something. Be in the Word and gladly receive it in the proclamation of Word and Sacrament.

Lent may be one of my favorite seasons, and it may be only so because I know that the sublime Easter greeting awaits just on the other side of forty days. For our sorrows, sins, and death are swallowed up in that loud and shining truth: “Christ is Risen!”

Indeed, He is Risen – *for you*. Blessed Lent to you all.

Deaconess Holly

Congregational Meeting & Potluck Lunch

*Sunday, February 25th
after the late service*

*Please make plans to attend this important meeting
and join us for great food and fellowship.*

~We look forward to seeing you there.

Please bring your favorite dish to share.



THE NEW 2018 FLOWER CHART is now hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex. There is also a new, eye-catching, yellow information sheet above the calendar which hopefully will answer any questions you have about how it all works. Please check it out and feel free to sign up on any of the Sundays listed through the end of the year. Thank you!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The second Agapegram article of the New Year... is it just me, or does time seem to be going faster than it used to? Kyra tells me this is a very common occurrence, and happens as you age. Maybe you have noticed time passing by quickly as well and I am not the only one aging!

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a quick Council update to keep you informed of what is going on. The new 2018 Council met for the first time January 13 for our annual retreat. Once again the Backwater Landing Community was gracious enough to let us use their clubhouse for the day. What a beautiful setting it was to discuss the plans for the next year. The clubhouse overlooks the lake, is filled with comfy furniture and features a big stone fireplace. It made us all feel like we traveled to the mountains for the day. Nevertheless, this hard working group stayed on task and we finished right after lunch at 1:30pm. Typically at the Council Retreat, the boards present their goals for the coming year and discuss any additional business. Prior to the retreat, each board has discussed the goals with their members. Three new Council Board chairs joined us this year and they all did a great job preparing goals and input for discussion. We all left excited to get started with the work God has in store for us this year.

I would like to encourage everyone to read Council meeting minutes not only for the retreat but also for our regular Council meetings. They are posted on the bulletin board near the mailboxes in the Narthex. You may also request a copy from the office if you prefer. In reading the minutes, you will find all the details concerning Board's activities as well as the goals for the coming year. Each board always welcomes new members to join them in the Lord's work. Please prayerfully consider where the Holy Spirit maybe leading you to serve and if you are interested in a particular area, please feel free to approach that board chair to get specifics of what a particular task may involve. As always, if you have any questions concerning what you read, don't hesitate to ask a council member for clarification.

On a final note, **we will be having a Congregational Meeting with potluck on February 25, 2018 after late service.** God has blessed us with generous offerings last year so we will be voting on Council recommended areas that these excess funds may best be used. In addition, we will discuss any other congregational business. Please make plans to attend to join in fellowship with other church members as we all try to keep informed of what is going on at church. Your encouragement, prayers and support for your Council would mean a lot to us as we move forward discerning God's will for His church in this place.

In His Service,

*Rudy Carbone
Council President*

Hospitality "Happenings"

Please join us for Lenten Soup Suppers which will begin at 6 pm and will be hosted by:
Comfort Dog Ministries- February 21
Honduras Mission Team- March 7
Altar Care- March 14
Youth Program- March 21

There will be a potluck lunch held during the Congregational meeting after late service on February 25th. Please bring your favorite dish to share. *If you would like to volunteer with set up or clean up please contact me.*



Please feel free to contact me anytime with hospitality/fellowship questions, concerns or ideas. *~To God be the Glory, Sue Williams*

Why God Gives to Us

Giving is a natural expression of love. Friends do it. Parents do it. Even children do it. We give presents to those we love.

The Bible says that “God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things,” so that “In Him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:25, 28). A psalmist says, “O Lord, how manifold are Your works! ... The earth is full of Your creatures ... They all look to You to give them their food in due season ... When You open Your hands, they are filled with good things” (Psalm 104:27-28). Jesus says that the Father in heaven gives “good things to those who ask Him” (Matthew 7:11).

The word for this “giving” is *grace*. Jesus gives His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). Eternal life is a gift of God (Romans 6:23). So is the faith necessary to receive it (Ephesians 2:8).

Why does God give these things to us? Because God loves us and there is a connection between giving and love. A well-loved verse of the Bible says, “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son ...*” (John 3:16).

God gives because God loves. God gives to *us* because God loves *us*. And when we give our offerings to God as an act of worship, we reflect that love. We love God back.

Paul Tournier puts it this way: “There comes a day when we understand that all is of grace, that the whole world is a gift of God, a completely generous gift. We see each flower, each drop of water, each minute of our life as a gift of God. He gives them to all.”

... and we respond with a thankful heart.

O Lord, thou who has given us so many things. Thou who has blessed our lives in so many ways. Give us, one thing more ... *a thankful heart. Amen ~Board of Stewardship*

Solitude

by Kerry Blount

Reflect for a moment on how your last two weeks have been going. Are you busy? Are there too many things to be done in too little time? Is your week already picking up speed with no hope of slowing down as the flurry of weekend chores and family activities looms ahead? Do you sometimes wish you could slow down just a little, but you feel a real drive to save your company, save the children, save the environment, save the nation, or just save some money? After all, we all want to spend our precious time on the things that really matter. And even as Christians, we have to deal with life as it really is!

In the context of your understanding of “how life really is,” listen for a moment to the voice of a man who knew something about the task of saving a nation: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength; but you would have none of it.” (*Isaiah 30:15*)

Keeping in mind your concept of “how life really is,” listen for a moment to the example of someone who was given the task of saving not just a nation but the world, and actually carried it out:

When he heard of the political execution of his cousin, “he withdrew to a solitary place.” (*Matthew 14:13*)

When he had spent all day teaching and overseeing the feeding of over 5,000 people, “he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.” (*Matthew 14:23*)

When he had been conducting a medical mission late into the night, “he got up very early, while it was still dark, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” (*Mark 1:35*)

When large crowds came for counseling and brought the sick and lame and blind to be treated, “he often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” (*Luke 5:15-16*)

When he was preparing for a crucial meeting with major significance for the future of his task, “he went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent all night in prayer to God.” (*Luke 6:12*)

When he was preparing himself and his followers for the most challenging confrontation of his life, knowing that the ultimate success of his mission was at stake, “he went out each evening and spent the night” in a quiet place on a mountain overlooking Jerusalem. (*Luke 21:37*)

What was Jesus doing out there? No thronging crowds to impress, no one to hear his vital, world-saving message, no fearful and broken people to be healed and comforted and led to the way of truth. What was he doing out there? I think he internalized the meaning and value of Isaiah’s words enough to live them: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.” Though he had no need for repentance, he did need connection with the Father in a quiet place apart. Even being one with God, he routinely sought rest, quietness and prayer to renew his strength for the tasks set before him.

Many often claim to want to follow the example of the Christ. No one has any claim to be busier than Jesus was, or to have a more important task in life. If we truly want to follow his example, we need to find our own mountainside, garden, or other refuge of quietness and prayer, and make our way there often. If our Lord found it of such obvious value for his connection to the Father, how much more might we be blessed and our strength renewed by regular, recurring periods of refreshing solitude with our God?

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is staid on Thee,
because he trusteth in Thee.” Isaiah 26:3(KJV)*

Oberammergau Passion Play/River Cruise- Not Too Early to Register

Here is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the world renown *Oberammergau Passion Play*, held only every ten years. As with the 500th Reformation Cruise this past Fall, EO Travel is chartering the entire AMA Waterways ship for our Lutheran members and friends. This 12 day all inclusive land and river cruise trip, starting in southern Bavaria, Oberammergau and then 7 days cruising through Austria, Slovakia and Hungary, embarks **September 10, 2020**. There are only 79 staterooms available, and the trip is being advertized throughout our church body, so early registration is important. **Brochures** with all the important details and registration forms will be available soon. If you have any questions and/or would like to receive a brochure, please feel free to contact **Pastor Art and Charlotte Beyer**, artchar@bellsouth.net, or (864) 760-3272 or 3277.



Little Lambs Preschool Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction

Saturday, Feb. 10th
5:00 - 6:30 pm
at

Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church
220 Carson Road Seneca, SC 29678

Tickets: \$8.00 Adults and \$3.00 Children
Lots of fun, great auction items.
All proceeds help support our Little Lambs

*Tickets are on sale now. Please see Roberta Port,
Gina Cote -Preschool Director or any Preschool
Board Member.*

We look forward to seeing you there!



Meet our Newest Members

Welcome Don Lundquist

Don begins his prayer life with “Dad....” there is quite a story there (thanks to a wise granny who raised him). This 20 year Marine (MSgt) was tapped to become Security Coordinator for the Oconee Nuclear Site while he was living in Hendersonville NC, precisely for his Marine expertise. He commuted for several years, then moved to Liberty, Pickens County. He and his late wife have two sons who live in Fountain Inn (SC) and Boston. A former Cattle Rancher and Radio Shack Manager, Don now enjoys serving on a number of Boards: United Way, Salvation Army, Carolina Youth Symphony, Foothills Theater Youth Board and on School Improvement Councils, as “they do a lot of good!” Ask Don about his story regarding Divine Intervention, as it has truly impacted his life. Welcome Don!

Meet the Morriss Family!

Bob, Kris, Drew & Kip moved to Keowee Key this past summer from Fairfax Station VA (outside DC). Bob works 5 states as a consultant with community banks and credit unions, while Kris “keeps the home fires burning”. Older son Drew is in his first year at Becker College studying Game Development & Programming. Kip is a junior at Seneca High with hopes of getting into Engineering. All enjoy boating on the lake!

Foodie Bob travels half the time, appreciating wife Kris's great cooking while home. Kris is interested in the comfort dog ministry & enjoys working with dog rescue. They have two such, hounds “Boomer” 10 yrs., 70 #, and mutt “Rocco” 4 yrs., 18 #.

Active members of a Lutheran church since marriage 30 yrs back, most recently at Prince of Peace in Springfield VA. Both grew up in active church-going families. Bob was chair of the finance committee for many yrs. Kris taught kindergarten SS and helped with crafts for VBS. They plan on getting to know ESLC better (already enjoying Pastor David's sermons) and then decide where best to fit in. Welcome, Morriss Family!

Welcome Charlene & Jerry Seiff

“We found that Eternal Shepherd felt like ‘home’ from the moment we walked through the doors. Everyone was so welcoming every time we visited that we could hardly wait to transfer our membership from FL so we could be part of the ESLC Family!” Unlike many of us who move South to retire, the Seiffs moved North, after decades in Naples FL. Charlene recently retired from teaching middle school Geography & US History, whereas Jerry had been in business & the theater. Between them they claim 3 daughters, 2 sons & 6 grand-daughters. The Seiffs love to travel, look forward to fishing Lake Keowee and to getting active in our community. Welcome, Seiffs (c:

continued on next page...

Meet Larry & Jan Snyder

This adventurous couple grew up on farms within 3 miles of one another in MI. After their 1967 marriage, they moved to Traverse City where they lived until moving here. Larry worked for the Interlochen Center for 40+ years, as financial controller and then IT operations. Jan's focus is in Family Life Education, working directly with kids and programs that focus on parenting. Their 3 sons & 1 granddaughter live in the Northeast. Jan & Larry are outdoor folks, so they like to RV, hike, mountain bike, kayak, backpack. Interested in genealogy research, singing old hymns & photography, they gave over 20 boxes of books away when they moved. Learning how to garden in the south, woodworking & staying fit take priority presently. Both did stints as volunteer probation officers for the probate court system and have served on career-related boards. Their recent decision to simplify life found them checking out SC as an option to AL...something they researched some 8 yrs back brought them here. "Once we visited Eternal Shepherd it became clear that Seneca & ESLC was indeed the place we needed to be. The rest is history for here we are!" Welcome Snyder's!



Lutheran Marriage Encounter - Winter 2018

God Is Dedicated to Your Congregation's Marriages
Help Married Husbands & Wives Enhance Their Communication!

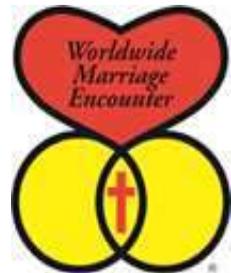
Lutheran Marriage Encounter helps married husbands and wives celebrate their special relationship - and provides them with unique insights and tools to improve their communication for the long haul. The experience is a whole weekend away from chores, jobs, and kids to celebrate their love, learn a delightful new method of communication, and reap joyful long-term rewards for them, their family, and their faith journey.

**Your Relationship Deserves
Lutheran Marriage Encounter
March 2 - 4, 2018**

Clarion Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC
Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org!

Questions? Contact Dean & Marcia Redman
dmredman251@gmail.com or 919-797-0501

Pre-registration is required - don't miss out!



Mission Trip January 11th - 15th to the Lutheran Churches in Laotchikit and Pas Bonbon.

Pastor Phil McLain has been filling in as a vacancy Pastor at Mt Pisgah Hendersonville for quite a while. About a year ago he suggested we get involved with their efforts in Haiti. The Mt Pisgah mission team came to Eternal Shepherd and we shared what we are currently doing as a mission committee, and how we can work together. Part of that has included our Quilters making Covers for the orphan's beds, and the 12 beds we supplied. We provided financial support so Circuit Pastor Mura could purchase a motorcycle instead of walking to each remote church. When Pastor Walta came to visit Mt Pisgah last summer, he came to visit us so he could personally thank us for our support. Pastor Phil was scheduled to teach Homiletics to the seminarians in January, so we took that opportunity to visit the Plateau area of Haiti and see first-hand what was done and what remains to be done. Pastor Phil, Katie Baumann, Rick Kruse, and I joined six from Mt Pisgah. In our Narthex is a booklet with the history of the joint efforts of Pastor Walta, Mt. Pisgah, and Hope Trinity. The earthquake of 2010 killed 230,000 and some survivors moved to the remote plateau of Haiti now called Laotchikit. In 2011 Pastor Walta, his wife and family started the church. Today, they have 650 members with 400 children. The day school provides a meal through Trinity Hope - often the only meal those children get. The church service we attended was incredible - basically our LCMS format with the exception of two (2) weddings. The picture below shows the choir of 25 as they sang while bringing in the offerings. I have many pictures and videos to be shared on the Mission Committees Narthex monitor over the coming weeks.



continued on next page...

The seminar on Homiletics was presented by Pastor McLain to a mix of 25 seminarians and teachers. Pastor Walta was the interpreter and the first day seminar went 7 hours with only one ten minute break. After the first day of the seminar I met Pastor Samuel - he was "glowing" and insisted we come to his home and see the church he built. Pastor Phil, Pastor Walta, and I went to Pas Bonbon a nearby area with many homes and children. It is too far to walk to Laotchikit, but many do. Pastor Samuel built the church by hand next to his very humble home. The picture below shows the interior where they have services every Sunday. In the congregation are 25 children. He would like to follow the path of expansion proven by Pastor Walta in Laotchikit. That path includes starting a school - getting a teacher and nurse hired - providing meals through Hope Trinity - and growth to include the many families who currently have no church, no school, and hungry for a meaning in life. Pastor Samuel believes he can grow the school to 95 children in one year. As Pastor Walta, Pastor Samuel, Pastor Phil, two of his church leaders and I sat in the front of the church and discussed this, it became very obvious to me why I came to Haiti.



The first question I asked was "how much will it take to get the school started?" The quick answer is \$5,000. Paperwork has to be started with the government, a simple open air building with a roof, no sides, chalk board, and desks. Pastor Phil has the link to Hope Trinity to get them involved in providing the meals - a cost of twenty six cents per day per child. If you are interested in helping to support this Lutheran church and school, please contact me.

*In His Service
Lars Helland, Chair - ESLC Mission Committee*

Mission News

Honduras News: We are entering the home stretch for our mission to Honduras at the end of this month. We, as a team, are so very thankful for the response of all of the folks here at Eternal Shepherd. Your support makes this trip possible and you are truly part of this team. We have two more activities that we would like to invite you to be part of before we depart on Feb. 24th. **First, we will be making Salvation Bracelets to give to the children when we minister to them as their parents are seeing our doctors and nurses. The bracelet tells the story of God's relationship with his people from creation to eternal life. We will meet after the late service on Feb. 4th in the Fellowship Hall to assemble several hundred bracelets.** This should not take long if we have a good gathering.

Second, we will be packing our trunks with all of the medicine and medical supplies we have received. We will do this on Feb. 17th at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We have to unbox much of the medicine we have received from Kingsway Charities to save on weight, so we welcome the extra help. We will be filling 14 trunks, so come and see what you have made possible. After that, all that's left is to pray for our team as we serve the people of Honduras. *Thanks and Dios te bendiga (God Bless You). ~Your Honduras Team*



Outreach=Reaching Out

SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH SONG AND,

Each month captain Bert and I visit two assisted living homes. We visit **Park Place in Seneca and Foothills in Walhalla**. I bring my CD player and a recorded CD of 30's, 40's and 50's music. Bert and I play the CD, tell stories and jokes, visit with the residents and present a short, positive Bible inspired message. These visits are usually on a Thursday afternoon around two or three PM. All members of Eternal Shepherd are invited to join us at Park Place and Foothills to have a friendly visit with these senior citizens. You will be amazed at the jobs and adventures the residents can tell you about. If you would like to be a part of this ministry please contact me. **Other ways to extend support to the community are:** Helping a child with their reading, spelling or math at **Fair-Oak Elementary School** in the Oakway area of the county. Right now there are four members of ESLC at Fair-Oak; *Sara Gugel, Joe Louderback, Tom Eckersley* and myself. Ask us how we enjoy Fair-Oak! Also, *Debbie Cobb* at the Senior Solutions Center in Seneca can always use drivers to deliver **Meals on Wheels**. Please let me know if you would like to participate in any of these three programs. *Thank you and God bless Eternal Shepherd. ~Don Seigler*

Comfort Dog News

Just a quick update to keep you informed of where we are in discerning God's will in pursuing the Comfort Dog Ministry at ESLC. If you recall, at our July 23, 2017 Congregational meeting, we approved to move forward with the initial steps of acquiring our own Comfort Dog. Since that meeting, almost all of the initial steps have been completed. We have submitted the Comfort Dog Application and Ministry plan. Pastor Hammer and the President of Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) have discussed the possibility of a Comfort Dog at ESLC. I have attended Top Dog training in Chicago. The last step to proceed is to submit the initial deposit of \$7500 to LCC. As of this writing, \$6832 has been raised and only \$668 is remaining to start the process of obtaining a dog. Wow!

Several of us who are interested in this ministry met on January 14 to discuss what the ministry would look like in our community and beyond. In addition, we discussed the various areas of service within the ministry. We will meet again March 11 as we move forward in developing a team. Please see me if you have any questions or are interested in learning more about this compassionate ministry. I am always ready and excited to discuss! *Kyra Carbone, Top Dog*



FIANACE BOARD VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

The month of January saw several of our needs met. A congregational member has stepped forward to be trained as a back-up to our financial secretary and three members have graciously agreed to assist with the churches annual review. A retired partner in a CPA firm will act as the manager in charge of the review and two individuals have agreed to help perform the review. However, we still need two individuals to complete the review team to ease the work load and make it faster to complete. Also, we still need a willing member to assume the role of back-up to our treasurer. If you are interested in any of these roles in our congregation please speak to myself, Rich Hesemann, our Treasurer, or Rudy Carbone, Congregational President. Thank you

Bob Massa
Chair, Finance 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. **February's** preferred product is "**Canned Soup**" (Please place items in the big blue trash can marked Food Bank down by the main Fellowship Hall). ~*Thank you for your generosity and support.*

*Please Note Sunday, Feb. 4th we will be celebrating **Souper Bowl Sunday** so please be sure to bring your soup cans for this event and place your donations in the big blue trash can marked Food Bank* by the coat rack down by the Fellowship Hall ~Thank you



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 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 December the following gifts were given:

In loving memory of *Bill Johnston*
the Choir Fund received gifts of \$125.00

Other Gifts:

The Alaska Mission Fund received a gift of \$500.00
from the Augustus J. Pleuthner Foundation

The Capital Campaign Building Fund received gifts of \$11,590.00
and a gift of \$36.00 for Thrivent Choice Dollars

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$1,235.00
and a gift of \$220.00 from Thrivent Choice Dollars
and the Comfort Dog Biscuit Fundraiser received gifts of \$1066.00

The Disaster Relief Trailer Fund received a gift of \$25.00
and a gift of \$500.00 from the Augustus J. Pleuthner Foundation

The Elders Fund received gifts of \$471.00

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$220.00

The General Fund received a gift of \$400.00

The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$1,901.56

The Honduras Fund received gifts of \$13,104.00
and a gift of \$500.00 for supplies from the Augustus J. Pleuthner Foundation
and the Helping Hands for Honduras received gifts of \$2,344.38

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$1961.82

The Lutheran Bible Translators Fund received gifts of \$94.69

The Lutheran Witness received a gift of \$45.00

The Pastor Discretionary Fund received a gift of \$500.00

The Special Missions Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The Youth Fund received gifts of \$135.00

Little Lambs Tales

*"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."
1 John 4:16*

We begin the month of February with love in our hearts as we remember that God is love. The children at our school are true witnesses to the love of God that they hold in their hearts. Not a day passes by where we do not see the children sharing their toys with one another, speaking kind words and lifting each other up through acts of kindness and love. When there are squabbles, the children are quick to admit their errors and give a humble sorry and a warm and loving hug to their friend who they have wronged.

Just by watching these beautiful children of God, we are reminded that God created us to be there for one another through the gift of His love. In the month of February we begin our Registration for the 2018-2019 school year. Currently enrolled families and church members will begin registration February 1st and then on February 15th Registration will be open to the public. If you have any questions about Registration or what our Preschool program is all about, please stop by the Preschool office at any time and I would be happy to assist you!

On February 10th we hope all of you can join us at the Spaghetti Supper as we raise money for our much needed Scholarship Fund. What a gift of love to be able to give families financial support to send their children to our preschool. As we close out the month of February, our children will be getting ready for warmer weather, longer days and preparing for March and Dr. Seuss Day!

All of us at Little Lambs Preschool thank you for your continued support and prayers for this ministry of our church. We continue to bless God for giving us the opportunity to care and love these beautiful children and watch them grow in their relationship with the Lord.

*Blessings to you and your families!
Gina*

PIECES OF LOVE



Send special reminders of your love by creating messages that people can assemble and enjoy.

What you need:

- Large wooden craft sticks
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Scissors
- Zippered sandwich baggies

What you do:

1. Make a rectangle out of seven craft sticks by placing them next to one another, long side against long side.
2. Tape the sticks together.
3. Turn the sticks over and draw a special picture or message. You can include this Bible verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, NIV).
4. Cut through the tape to separate each craft stick.
5. Put all the sticks in a baggie.
6. Give your special messages to family members, friends or teachers — along with directions for viewing them.

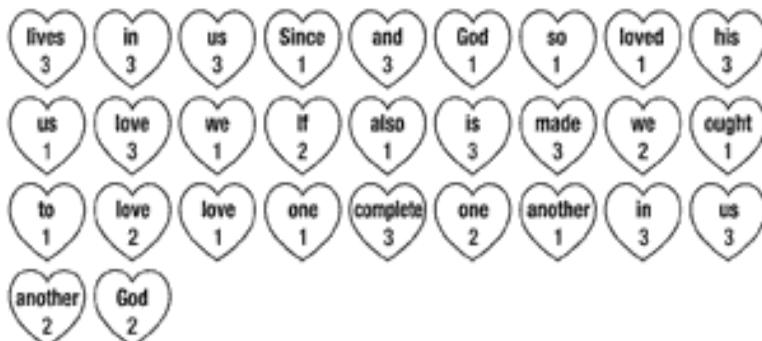


PUZZLE

A Love Letter

In the New Testament, John writes a letter about God's love and the love we should show to other people.

DIRECTIONS: Working from left to right, write down all the 1's in the word blanks. Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's. Then read about love, from 1 John 4:11-12, NIV.



1 John 4:11-12, NIV

Answers: Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

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

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