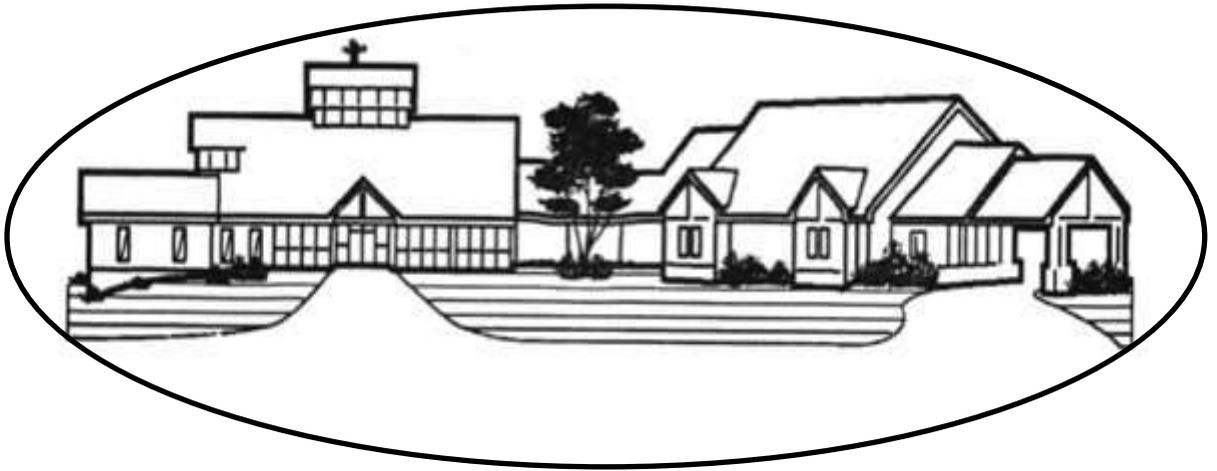

Agapegram

July 2018



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

www.eternalshepherd.org

office@eternalshepherd.org

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

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



No Better Time

"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." Jeremiah 33:3 ESV

It's a source of great pastoral frustration, a never ending source of angst.

We live in a time of history in which our access to the Word of God is unsurpassed. In no other time have as many people had as much access to the Holy Scriptures. People of every station of life can read, listen to, and even watch movies of the bible. And, not only the Scriptures themselves, but with access to digital technology we now have access to the greatest theological writings of every century of Christian history.

And, yet, in this time of great blessing and opportunity, we see fewer and fewer people confessing the Christian faith. We see those who are professing Christians knowing less about their beliefs than past generations who had access to much less. Worse still, we see the so called "New Atheists" with their aggressive antagonism out in force at the very same time as we find Christianity divided and fractured about the very inspiration and authority of God's Word.

It is a great frustration to see so many Christians doubting their faith and God's Holy Word at the one time that we not only have more accessibility, but also more evidence. Right now, there is more supporting proof than ever before that the Bible is historically accurate and reliable. Of course, faith itself is a gift of God, but it is rooted in the real world and in history because these things really happened. While you will never hear it in the major media outlets or even in most institutions of higher education, these historical connections are clearer than ever.

Besides the many manuscript copies that show us the reliability of the text over time, research into cultural anthropology and into archaeology both increasingly show that the stories of the Bible fit their time, place, and context just as they should. They are real historical records of real historical people. Times, places, dates, and customs were all recorded by the people who actually lived it.

continued on next page...

Academia, the media, and much of modern culture have bought into the lies and errors of German rationalists for the last two centuries; and, yet, with every new discovery, those popular claims and supposed truths are repeatedly shown to be muddled thinking and an agenda driven school of thought that is a total failure.

Ease your pastor's frustrations: Be encouraged about your faith. Trust the Bible. Know that God's Word does prove true. There is no better time to be confident in your faith. Hold fast to the truth. Trust the Word.

"Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."
Proverbs 30:5 ESV

Pastor David

Congregational Meeting & Potluck Lunch

***Sunday, July 15th
after the late service***

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

~We look forward to seeing you there.





Deaconess Musings

Faith.

It is not something achieved or earned. Faith is given.

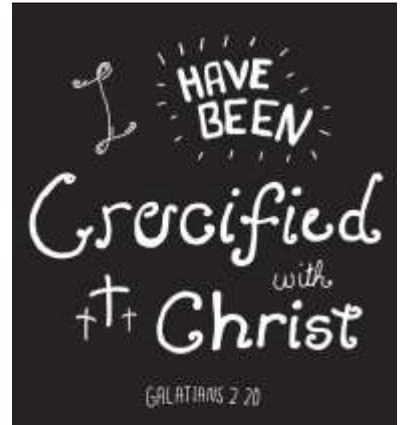
It never operates by itself. Faith always has an object it clings to.

It is not something that we, as sinful humanity, could be granted outside of Christ.

Faith is grounded in Christ.

*For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, **but Christ who lives in me.** And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith **in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:19-20)*

Our faith has an object. That object is Christ. Our faith and hope cling to His pure work of keeping the Law, the very Law that we could never hope to fully and faithfully keep. Our faith clings to the forgiveness of sins that He won for us, that right standing before our Creator and Maker. For when we will breathe our last and stand before the Almighty God, it is not our sinful humanity that God will see and condemn, but the pure, lovely, and holy blood of Christ in our stead that claimed us at our baptisms.



Our faith is a gift, only granted by the One who is powerful enough to save a wretched one like me. Christ alone gives us the strength to stand in the faith He grants us. May Christ continually strengthen our faith in Him, through the hearing of His Word and the gifts of His Holy Sacraments.

~Deaconess Holly



GET READY, GET SET....It's Here!

The Crossing Youth Group's "Christmas in July" Fundraiser Benefiting Operation Christmas Child!



This year our goal is to raise enough money to ship 200 shoe boxes. Because we've already collected some packing supplies through donations, we've been able to reduce the cost to sponsor a box. Even though the cost of shipping the boxes increased from \$7 to \$9 this year, we believe we can fill and ship the boxes for just \$20.00/box instead of the \$30.00 it was last year.

If you want to help:

Simply remove as many ornaments from the tree as you'd like to sponsor. Then, write the number(s) of the ornaments you've taken next to your name in the binder on the table, and drop your ornaments, and your check, in the shoebox located next to the binder. For example: If you remove 2 ornaments from the tree, then you will write the numbers written on the ornaments next to your name in the binder, then drop those ornaments and your check for \$40.00 (2 ornaments @ \$20.00 each) in the shoebox on the table. It's that easy!

Please fill out your check in the following manner:

Make your check out to ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, and write Operation Christmas Child on the memo line.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to purchase the items used for packing shoeboxes at the Shoebox Packing Party in November, and also for shipping all the boxes that we pack.

Thank you for your continued support of The Crossing Youth, and also of Operation Christmas Child! Please consider how God would have you partner with us. Together, with Samaritan's Purse, we can change the lives of those we reach with the Gospel. *Thank you in advance for your support!*

~ The Crossing Youth

If you have any questions, please contact Terri Baumann or Deaconess Holly Lustila.



Finance Seminar

Saturday, October 6

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch Included

Invite your friends!

Details and Sign-up to follow soon!

****** sponsored by Board of Stewardship***

LADIES

Thursday Bible Study – Fall, 2018 - Start-up

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

We will be using *1 PETER, A Living Hope in Christ*, a study by Jen Wilkin.

Peter, a man of faith and flaws and an eyewitness to the life of Christ, challenges us to look beyond our current circumstances to a future inheritance. Peter describes our true identity as believers and points us to humility and submission.

We hope you will join us as we grow in the Word and in our faith. *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

Colossians 3:16

Please keep this study in prayer as we prepare for it. Prayers are also appreciated for all those attending.

This is a 9 week study. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board.

Books are available on www.amazon.com or www.christianbook.com.

A baby-sitter will be available for this study.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust you all are enjoying the lazy, hazy days of summer in this beautiful part of the country! Although summertime may include days of rest and relaxation, the church continues to press on with the work the Lord has entrusted to us. On that note, I would like to remind you all that our next Congregational meeting is scheduled for July 15 after late service with a potluck lunch. There are several important issues that will be discussed which I will summarize below.

- 2018/2019 Little Lambs Preschool budget - the LLPS Board has presented a proposed budget and the Council has unanimously voted in favor of its adoption. This budget will now require congregational ratification.
- Church Sign - Bob Massa has been working hard to make the church sign on SC123 a reality and he will give a status on the progress to date.
- Constitution/By-Law Revision Update – Each board has been assigned the task to review its By-law information for accuracy and to edit where appropriate to reflect current practices. Don Seigler has been compiling these changes and will give them over to Deaconess Holly Lustila to format. Once the revision work up is complete, it will be approved by the Council and then presented to you all at the November congregational meeting for approval.
- Child Safety Policy – the Council has been working on a policy to ensure the safety of our children and youth. This policy will most likely involve a volunteer background check and a training procedure. A current policy exists for all called and staff personnel, but unfortunately because of the state of the world we live in, the Council felt that a procedure was needed across the board for all individuals, to include volunteers, who are entrusted with the safety and well being of our children and young adults. The rationale behind this effort will be discussed at the meeting and as always, we would welcome your concerns and questions.

Potluck – you don't want to miss all the delectable dishes our church members cook up so please mark your calendars **now** so you remember to come to this important meeting. See you there!

*In His service,
Rudy Carbone
Council President*

Fellowship in Body of Christ

by Kerry Blount

“Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” Colossian 3:11

Do you have a favorite communion hymn that you love to hear, but that chokes you up every time? “One Bread, One Body” speaks so simply yet deeply of the fellowship of the saints in the body and blood of our Savior that emotion always overwhelms me. The faces of brothers and sisters around the world who have joined me at Christ’s table of grace flood my heart, and the love and joy of our shared faith is almost too much to bear. The reverent participation of the brothers and sisters with whom I now worship in Seneca, South Carolina, is an inextricable element of this experience, reminding me each time of the unity of the body of Christ throughout the ages. *“And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.”*

For those of us with hospitable parents, experiences with foreign missionaries sometimes offered early lessons in the diversity of the body of Christ. My parents had a habit of inviting a wide variety of visitors to our home for Sunday lunch after services. I vividly remember the afternoon a Korean missionary who had taken the Western name Ding Dong Bell (I kid you not!) joined us for lunch and an afternoon of fascinating stories about his childhood, how he had come to Christ, and the little churches he was planting in rural South Korea. I was only about 10, but my concept of the body of Christ was enlarged as a result of that visit, even at that young age.

Opportunities to worship with Polynesian Christians in Honolulu, German Christians in Munich, Russians in Siberia, Hondurans in Tegucigalpa, and English, Irish, African, and Indian Christians in London continued to expand my understanding of the phrase “one in Christ.” Firsthand accounts of other members of the body such as my mother’s experiences in Papua New Guinea, my oldest daughter’s in Japan, David and Adrianna Shirk’s in Kenya; Joanna Johnson’s in Taiwan; the Alaska mission crew among native Americans, and the Honduras mission team among the people of Honduras enhanced it further. The words of the children’s song, “Red and yellow, black and white, They are precious in His sight,” are borne out daily by the beauty of the faith, hope, and love we witness again and again in Christians of “every tribe and language and people and nation” (*Revelation 5:9*). When next you sing “One Bread, One Body,” may your heart overflow in thankfulness for the kinship granted us through the precious blood of Christ.

Most Holy Father, we praise you for the family of God across the earth with whom we are joined together in Our Savior. We thank you for revealing that You do not show favoritism by race or nationality, nor by wealth or position, but accept all who come to faith in Your Anointed Son. Strengthen our love for every member of the body of Christ, and give us hearts that long to serve them in their need. In the Name of the Head of the one body, Jesus the Christ, Lord of all. Amen.

“[We] are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundations of the apostles and prophets, with Christ himself as the chief cornerstone. And in Him, [we] too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22

Meet our Newest Members

Meet Jonathan Pitts !

A 3rd-generation South Carolinian, a first-time Lutheran, Jonathan finds ES a most “welcoming congregation.” Pastor answered his many questions which helped lead him to join the Luth’n faith. This young man was actually baptized “in a river” by his grandfather! Katie Baumann invited him to ES when both worked at Keowee Key. He now is employed at Saluda Pet Supply. He lives in Salem with “Gizmo” his dog, and a litter of kittens (available for adoption). Jonathan enjoys drawing and writing, along with landscaping and carpentry (committees take note!) Eventually his hopes are to continue schooling toward massage therapy or guidance counseling. Presently he looks forward to the Mission Trip to Alaska, and “helping wherever needed.” Welcome Jonathan Pitts (c:



From the Board of Stewardship

The story is told about the Apostle John that when he was very old and was carried in to speak to the congregation, he repeated one sentence over and over in a frail voice: “Little children, love one another. Little children, love one another.”

This is the kind of Christianity that turned the world upside down. The message we learn from the world is that love is conditional - “I will love you IF ...” But unconditional love is the Christian’s powerful gift and witness.

In Morton Kelsey’s book, CARING, he says that in terms of the life and needs of a congregation there is no subject more crucial and more important than the nature and practice of loving and caring.

This year, our Stewardship Board: Sue Hauser, LuWanna Johnson, Donna Lang, Marilyn Robertson and I are looking at Discipleship. Our prayer is that our members will “grow in our relationship with Jesus through the use of time, talents, and finances that God has entrusted to us.”

Through Discipleship, our prayer is that each of us will grow in our love for Jesus and for each other.

“Little children, love one another.”

Janet Walker
Stewardship Board



Update on the Kitchen in Pas Bonbon, Haiti



Hello Lars and Pastor McLain - I hope your summer is off to a good start. I was in Haiti last week and specifically went to the Central Plateau the second half of the week. While we were there, we went to the location where your new school is going to be and inspected the work that is being done on the new kitchen and storage area. WOW! I was incredibly impressed. I've included some pictures that I took while I was there so you can see their progress. I can honestly tell you that this will probably be the nicest kitchen of any school we've seen. The guys were doing a great job and the workmanship looked excellent. Pastor Walta told me the total cost was \$3,500 (maybe \$3,800, I don't remember exactly). That was actually lower than I would have expected. Anyway, I wanted to share the pictures with you and let you know how good it's looking. We're very excited to start the school feeding program next year and will certainly be talking before school begins. God's Blessings! Keith Logan Trinity HOPE June 8, 2018

Eternal Shepherd and Mt Pisgah are working together on future needs in the Central Plateau of Haiti. Laotchikit still cooks school meals on outside fires. We currently have funds to complete the purchase of the Bibles in French, and will be ordering Luther's Small Catechism - also in French. Our quilters are working on an additional 19 quilts for the orphans. By the grace of God we are also starting the funding for several other projects. Below is from Pastor Walta in response to my question of "needs". Lars notes are in parenthesis.

The wells (currently jugs filled at community pump and hand carried back)

Our wells in Laotchikit continue to give water. One of them is broken and needs to be repaired. But, we do not have a well yet in the church of Pas Bonbon. In fact, as I explained to Brother Lars, one well like our well in Laotchikit will cost 1100 dollars. But, a well like the well you know in iron will cost 7500 dollars.

Water tanks (essential for potable water and toilets. Flushing toilets is in the "future")

We were checking the price of the big water tanks of 400 gallons or 800 gallons for Laotchikit and Pas Bonbon. Tanks of 400 gallons for 400 dollars. Tanks of 800 gallons for 800 dollars. A big pump for water will cost 776 dollars.

The kitchens

We thank you for the kitchen that we are building in Pas Bonbon. It will be the best kitchen in the Lutherans schools in Haiti. Brother Keith Logan was so happy to see it. Now, we pray for one kitchen in Laotchikit for the church and schools: 3,500.00. Thank you!

For more information on the Lutheran Church of Haiti contact Lars Helland
THANK YOU ETERNAL SHEPHERD! YOU ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING.

MISSION NEWS

Honduras Mission 2019:

Last month in the Agapegram I asked any that were inclined toward a short-term mission trip to pray about our Honduras opportunity. Well, I hope you have been praying because I have already had to commit to holding seats for the trip. Now is the time to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and become part of a wonderfully meaningful mission to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, the capitol.

In case you have forgotten **the dates are: Feb. 23 to Mar. 2, 2019**. Trip cost is approximately \$1800.00 which includes airfare, lodging, meals, transportation, and translators. The mission is medical with an evangelistic outcome and no special talent is needed—just the desire to help someone in need. If you would like more information just ask me or anyone who has gone before. The pictures are on the glass enclosed bulletin board so that you can identify them. Come join us in reaching out in love to the people of Honduras.

Que Dios te bendiga, (May God Bless You),
Pastor Ray

COMFORT DOG NEWS

The Comfort Dog Team has several events scheduled over the summer as we try to spread the word in our community about Eternal Shepherd's upcoming compassionate ministry. Although we won't be meeting as a group, there are many opportunities for us to work together in preparation for the following events. We invite you to support, encourage and most importantly pray for us as we get out into the community and interact with our neighbors.



- **Friday July 6, 6pm-9pm Westminster Music on Main** – we will have a booth and will offer our famous homemade dog biscuits and handmade bandanas. We also plan on handing out our brochures about the ministry. Come visit us and also hear some good music!
- **August 1 - Presentation at Seneca Woman's Club** by Sue Blount and myself
- **September 5 - Presentation at Rotary Club** by Sue Blount and myself
- **September 7-8, Westminster Apple Festival** – we will have a booth and will again offer our famous homemade dog biscuits, handmade bandanas and beanie babies. We also plan on handing out our brochures about the ministry. This is always a fun event so plan on coming out to say *Hi!* and to also enjoy the festivities!

Over the summer, I will be meeting with potential caregivers and handlers to discuss the responsibilities of each position. If you haven't contacted me already concerning your desire to be involved in any aspect of this ministry, please let me know. *Kyra Carbone, Top Dog*, 864-932-8308 or rckc91@bellsouth.net

FEEDING THE HUNGRY OF SENECA, SAT. JULY 14TH

On **Saturday, July 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



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 **July's** preferred product is "**Macaroni & Cheese**" (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.*



Greeting Cards— Birthday! Get Well! Encouragement! Praying for You! Sympathy! Thinking of You! Cancer/Difficult Times! Anniversary! Baptism! Thanksgiving! Christmas! Please be sure to check out the cart in the Fellowship Hall. They are still \$.50 a card and \$5.00 for a whole box. Thank you for your support.

SCRIP CARDS

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



PLEASE NOTE the following address change in your church phone directory.

Deaconess Holly Lustila
1500 S. Oak St.
APT 523
Seneca, SC 29678



Let the Countdown Start!

July 11-15, 2019 over 20,000 Lutheran Teens and Adult Leaders will gather in Minneapolis, Minnesota for the **2019 LCMS Youth Gathering!**

Who is eligible?

Those youth who are rising 9th graders to graduating Seniors in Summer 2019!

A short promo video and basic information will be shared at the Congregational Meeting on July 15th! Join us for the first informational meeting about the 2019 Gathering in late August!

Want more information now? Contact Deaconess or visit lcmsgathering.com!

SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

In *May* the following gifts were given:

In loving memory of *Chuck Giordano*
the Memorial Fund received a gift of \$25.00

Other Gifts:

The Capital Campaign Building Fund received gifts of \$70.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$105.00,
gifts of \$114.00 from the Beanie Baby Sale,
gifts of \$562.15 from the Belk Sale,
and a gift of \$222.00 from Thrivent Choice

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The Food Bank Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$290.00

The Mission Quilt Sewers Fund received a gift of \$25.00



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SNACKS

Bring joy to a friend by sharing a "peace" of this yummy dessert!

What you need:

- adult help
- two 8" cake pans
- cooking spray
- 9 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 tablespoons butter
- food coloring (green and red)
- 9 cups crisp rice cereal
- mini chocolate chips



What you do:

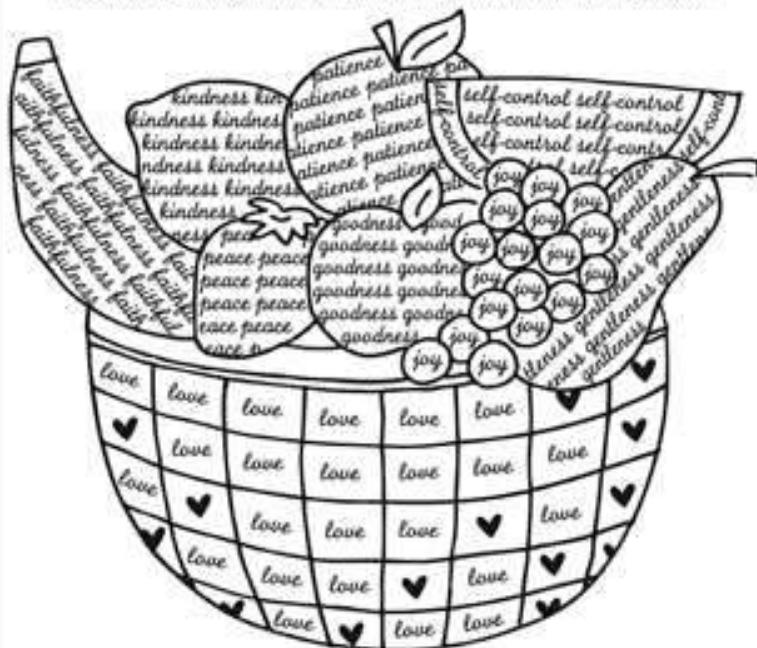
1. Spray cake pans.
2. Melt 4 cups marshmallows and 2 T. butter in microwave or on stove top. Add green food coloring. Stir.
3. Pour 4 cups cereal into bowl. Add green mixture. Stir with buttered spatula.
4. Put half into each pan and press along the sides with buttered hands.
5. Repeat using 5 cups marshmallows, 4 T. butter, 5 cups cereal and red food coloring.
6. Press half into the center of each pan, leaving a narrow outside border of green. Smooth the top.
7. Press mini chocolate chips into the red mixture.
8. Let cool. Then cut into wedges. Enjoy!



Seasonal Fruit

Although some fruit is seasonal, God encourages us to share the fruit of the Spirit with other people all year long. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruits we should give away.

Directions: Count each fruit (full words only) and write the numbers below.



Love= ___ Joy= ___ Peace= ___ Patience= ___ Kindness= ___

Goodness= ___ Faithfulness= ___ Gentleness= ___ Self-control= ___

Answers: Love=24, Joy=18, Peace=7, Patience=7, Kindness=7, Goodness=6, Faithfulness=6, Gentleness=6, Self-control=5

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