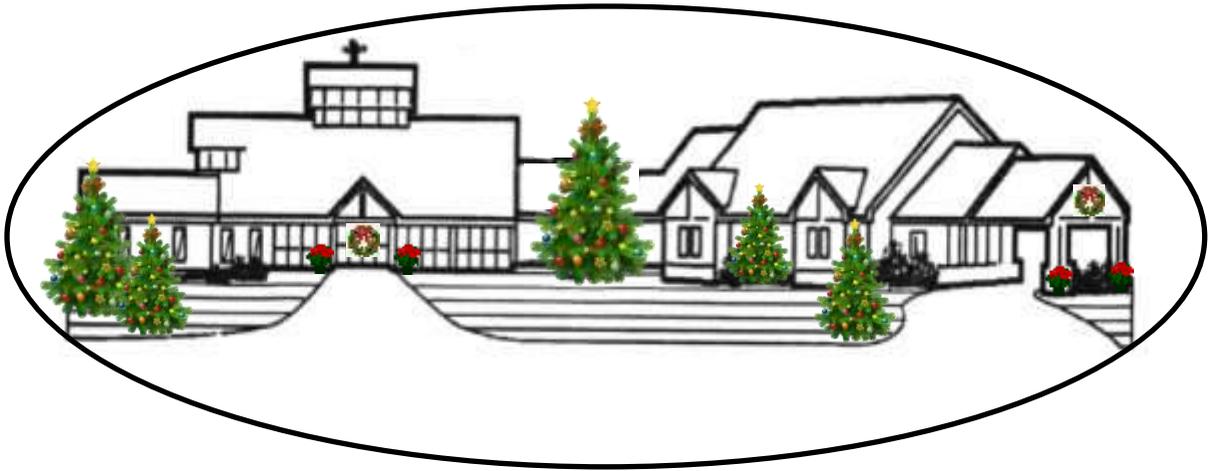

Agapegram

December 2018



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Seneca, South Carolina 29678

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Who Is Jesus?

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 ESV

The busy season of life, both in general and in the church year, is now upon us. Parties and planning, purchases and preparations will fill many of our days over the next month. With all the extra activities to keep busy with, it is easy to lose track of “the reason for the season.” And, so, since we are all going to be busier with added tasks anyway, I encourage you to make the effort to add a little more to your church activity as well. Prioritize and carve out the time to meet together in worship on Sunday and also for our midweek Advent services. We know there would be no Advent & Christmas without Jesus. Our goal this Advent is to know him better. The sermon series I will be using for our Advent and Christmas Eve themes describes it this way:

Since the dawn of time, billions and billions of people have walked on Planet Earth. Of those countless billions, only a handful have made any real, lasting impression. In that handful of people, one stands far above all of the others. His name is Jesus.

This series for our midweek services throughout Advent and leading into Christmas, developed by biblical scholar and pastor Rev. Reed Lessing, will help us explore the answer to the question “Who is Jesus?” The insights will be found by focusing on the genealogy of Mary’s son as found in Matthew 1:1-17.

There is much to consider about our Lord Jesus and just who it is that came into this world for us. As we deepen our understanding of Jesus by looking at him in relation to his lineage, we will end up with a better understanding of him as it relates to what we already know: Jesus is the savior from sin & death that humanity desperately needs. Getting to know again this gracious Savior will be our focus this Advent. I pray it will be meaningful and faith-strengthening for you.

Pastor David

Advent & Christmas Series: Who Is Jesus?

Midweek 1: Jesus Is the Son of David

Midweek 2: Jesus Is the Son of Abraham

Midweek 3: Jesus Is the Son of Solomon

Christmas Eve Family Service (“What Child Is This”): Jesus Is the Son of Mary

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Jesus Is the Son of Sinners



*“She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people
from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 EHV*

Merry Christmas!

Elders’ Fund & Pastor’s Fund

For added clarity, let me repeat what was shared in the congregational meeting. Eternal Shepherd currently has two funds with potentially confusing purposes.

Elders’ Fund – A donation funded account that is used to help ESLC members and friends of the congregation with financial needs in times of hardship.

Pastor’s Fund – A catch-all fund that some have chosen to support that allows me to purchase various items that may fall outside the usual budget. (New theology books, tech equipment, new office furniture, other resources, etc. While it has occasionally provided monetary help to people in need, that is not its normal use).

In conclusion:

Thank you very much to those who have generously given to the Pastor’s Fund!
(Note also that it is more than sufficiently funded right now).

If you are going to give to one, please give to the Elder’s Fund. Helping members & friends in need is more important than my next bible commentary.

Since I suspect some didn’t know the distinction, I will be donating a portion of the Pastor’s Fund to the Elders’ Fund.



Deaconess Musings

The Dawn Cannot be Far

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! (Zechariah 9:9b, alt; Psalm 118:25)

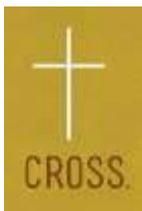
The night will soon be ending; the dawn cannot be far. Let songs of praise ascending now greet the Morning Star! All you whom darkness frightens with guilt or grief or pain, God's radiant Star now brightens and bids you sing again. (*The Night Will Soon Be Ending* LSB 337, st. 1)



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD. (Ps. 118:26)

The One whom angels tended comes near, a child to serve; thus God, the judge offended, bears all our sins deserve. The guilty need not cower, for God has reconciled through His redemptive power all those who trust this child. (LSB 337, st. 2)

The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! (Ps. 118:27)



The earth in sure rotation will soon bring morning bright, so run where God's salvation glows in a stable's light. As old as sin's perversion is mercy's vast design: God brings a new creation – this child its seal and sign.

Yet nights will bring their sadness and rob our hearts of peace, and sin in all its madness around us may increase. But now one Star is beaming whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for our redeeming from sin's oppressive might. (LSB 337, sts. 3 & 4)

You are my God, and I will give you thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. (Ps. 118:28)

God dwells with us in darkness and makes the night as day; yet we resist the brightness and turn from God away. But grace does not forsake us, however far we run. God claims us still as children through Mary's infant Son. (LSB 337, st. 5)



Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. (Zech. 9:9b, alt.)

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

As we begin this Advent journey towards Christ's Nativity on Christmas and ultimately His cross and Easter morning, may our stubborn minds and hard-heartedness ever continue to be broken down and changed by the Light of Christ's Advent into this world for our salvation. And may we ever look to that great Last Day, when Christ shall come again to complete what was began all those years ago.

~Deaconess Holly

O' Come Let Us Adore Him!

Midweek Advent Services

Wed., Dec. 5th at 7:00 pm

Wed., Dec. 12th at 7:00 pm

Wed., Dec. 19th at 7:00 pm

Family Christmas Eve Service

Monday, Dec. 24th at 4 pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Monday, Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship Service w/Communion

Tuesday, Dec. 25th at 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Worship

Monday, Dec. 31st at 7:00 pm



*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”
John 1:14a*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my last Agapegram article as Council President. It just seems like yesterday that Barry Voeltz asked me to succeed him in this position. I must be honest, it took a lot of prayer on my part before I accepted, not only because of the time commitment and the responsibility associated with this position but also my fear of not being able to fulfill the role as well as the men who came before me. In a word, I was scared. But after several sleepless nights for both me and Kyra, I felt the call to serve in this role. It is my fervent prayer that I did not disappoint God or you. Four years is a long time but I did my best and ESLC is still here, thanks be to God. I will not say that the total experience was enjoyable, nor will I say that I was sorry I accepted the call. But I will say I felt totally blessed to have served God and work with faithful Christian men and woman these last four years. I thank each and every one of them for their love, encouragement and support. I look forward to helping the next council as they continue to serve our Lord and lead our congregation into the future. I love this church and the people in it and thank God for His blessing in this regard everyday.

It would be impossible to thank everyone for their help and support and I know I would miss someone by accident, so let me thank the few that this journey would have been impossible without. First and foremost, I thank God for giving me the courage to say yes to serve in this position. Next, I want to thank our church secretary, Celeste who was always ready to type/post all my last minute requests and answer just about any question I had about church schedules and procedures. And how could I have ever gotten through without the support of Pastor David. He always made time for me and gently guided me with advice and an encouraging word. And lastly, you may have figured this out already but this job has been very much a team effort. I mean this with all my heart. I would never have been able to do this job without the love and support of my wife, Kyra. She was my sounding board, my calmer-downer and when necessary, my cheerleader. She was always in my corner and came along side me when needed. Oh hey, she was a pretty good council secretary as well!

But now it is time to hand the reins over to the next Council President, John Cochell, and ask God's blessing be upon him as he leads us into the next chapter of ESLC. I pray you all will support and encourage him as you have done for me.

I pray that you all had a safe and blessed Thanksgiving with friends and family and may I be the first to wish you God's blessing on the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.



Luke 2:10-11

May God bless you all,

Rudy Carbone

Church Council President

Second Chances

by Kerry Blount

The accounts of Jesus' earthly ministry of healing are brimming with promise. A woman restored from a life of debilitating pain and ostracism (*Luke 8:43-48*); a man released from a life of immobility (*Luke 5:18-25*); a man granted the gifts of hearing and speech (*Mark 7:31-37*); a servant spared the agony of disfigurement (*Luke 22:50-51*); others granted the light of physical sight instead of perpetual darkness (*Luke 18:35-43*). One wonders what became of them. How did those encounters with His power change their livelihoods, their attitudes, and their relationships with their families, their neighbors, and their God?

Yet there are Biblical accounts of second chances even more fascinating than those associated with Jesus' healing. While "the Word was flesh and dwelt among us," on three separate occasions He chose to intervene to restore life to a human body whose spirit had departed. One was the twelve-year-old daughter of devout and distraught Jewish parents; she died as Jesus was healing others while on his way to minister to the child (*Luke 8:41-56*). One was a young man, the only son of his widowed mother; whose body had been prepared for burial and was being carried from his hometown to a cemetery outside the village as his mother mourned alongside the bier (*Luke 7:11-15*). One was a close friend of Jesus who fell ill while Jesus was out of town; he died and was interred before Jesus returned, as his sisters wondered why Jesus had not come back earlier to heal their beloved brother (*John 11:1-44*). In all three cases, Jesus spoke directly to the dead person, and they heard and obeyed His call to life.

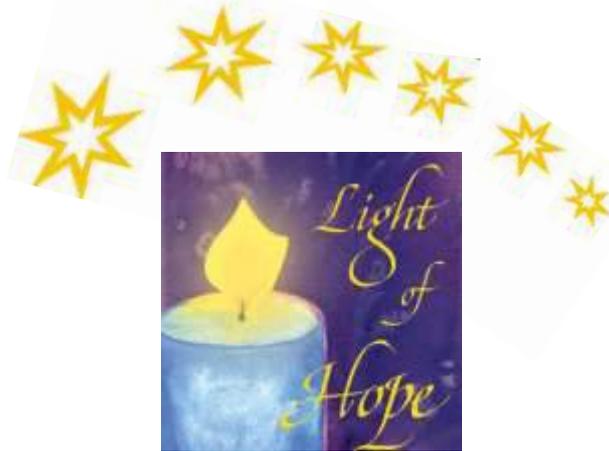
Though all three remained subject to the impending curse of physical death after Jesus' life-giving intervention, each of them now had opportunities that had previously been cut short. The young girl would celebrate her coming of age as a Jewish woman and all the promise that entailed. The young man would have opportunities for a vocation, and for service to his mother, his community, and perhaps a marriage partner. Jesus' friend would have opportunity to again serve the One he had already come to know as the Messiah, to care for his sisters, and perhaps serve the Christian community in its infancy after Jesus' ascension. How their second chances played out is not revealed to us, but each of their stories is filled with expectant hope. My heart tells me they did not waste their second chance to seize the opportunities of a new life.

"I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, A TIME IS COMING AND HAS NOW COME WHEN THE DEAD WILL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD AND THOSE WHO HEAR WILL LIVE." (*John 5:25*) We who have been brought to faith in God's Son have heard His voice and have answered His call to a new life greater far than that granted to those He raised from physical death. We, who were dead in our sins, have been raised by the power of the everlasting God to the life He intended for us from the beginning: eternal life with Him. Just think of the endless opportunities! A second chance for worship, for commitment, for service, for love, and for joy. Today, tomorrow, and forever.

Rejoice!

"He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25





Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 2nd 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.**



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS—sometime during the week of 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!*

4th 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 Sunday, December 16th, 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. 20th.



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!

2019 SUNDAY FLOWER CHART - This chart will go up on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex sometime mid-December. Tiger Lily of Clemson has continued to do a beautiful job with their arrangements without raising the price. It remains at \$25.00 per vase. You can sign up for as many Sundays as you want during the whole year for the dates that have special meanings for you or your family. Directions are posted above the chart.

CARD MINISTRY - Don't forget to check out the Card Ministry Display in the Fellowship Hall for a small selection of beautiful Christmas Cards with matching envelopes to send to family or friends. While you're there looking at those special cards, browse some of the other categories to see if you might think of someone who would find comfort from receiving one of those. All cards remain at \$.50 a piece. Hard to find a better bargain!



HOWL-LE-LU-YA Dog Biscuit Sale

To raise funds for the Comfort Dog
Ministry

Sale Dates: December 16 & December
23rd between services in the narthex

\$5 a bag

(5 large or 12 small biscuits per 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 doggies 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. If you would like to preorder or have any questions, let me know. *Kyra Carbone*, rckc91@bellsouth.net or topdogeslc@outlook.com, or 864-932-8308

Dear friends,

Thank you for offering to share your time, talent and gifts in the service of Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church. Our Christian mission is lived through each of you.

Our ministries happen because people give of themselves – through being part of a board or committee, working with our many programs or praying for the needs of fellow members and for our church.

By your giving, you are being a disciple and following in Jesus' footsteps.

As Martin Luther so beautifully stated, "Once you have experienced the grace of God, the rest of life is thanksgiving."

~Thank you for all you do for our church!

*In His Name and for His Service,
Your Stewardship Board*

THE GIFT

Submitted by Len Woike

It was Christmas Eve and he had to work. A young man from the East coast attending college in the Northwest.

He rose early, turned on the radio, heard the weather forecast. “Looks like a white Christmas,” the announcer said. He put on his boots, jacket, and hat, and grabbed his gloves and coffee bottle. Then he headed to the campus cafe, a small diner about four blocks away.

“Morning, Carl. Hi, Ann. Merry Christmas.” He nodded at a few ‘regulars,’ “Merry Christmas to you too.” “Same to you,” one of them said.

He sat at the counter. Ann took his bottle and washed it. “Just black, right?” She filled his bottle and put it on the counter with a small sack. “Couple of brownies I baked,” she said.

“Good. Thanks.”

“Where you gonna’ be working?” Carl asked.

“On the school forest; got some seed traps to check.”

“Seed traps? Middle of winter?” Carl said.

“Yeah, we want to see if they’re still falling and still viable. New one on me,” he answered.

He paid Ann. “That includes the brownies.”

“No, that’s a gift.”

“Thanks, very thoughtful. Gonna stay open for lunch?”

“Not sure, depends on business and the weather. Supposed to snow big time. You be careful.”

“I will. If I don’t see you, have a Merry Christmas.”

“Thanks. Merry Christmas to you too!”

He headed to the motor pool garage at the lower end of the campus. He checked the car and log book, then he headed towards the school forest. As he climbed into the hills, it began spitting snow. “Hope the worst holds off,” he thought.

His mind wandered home. Dad would have the day off. He usually took some of his vacation time during the holidays. He’d have long since milked the cows and done the chores. Mom and his younger sister would be busy with last-minute preparations. In a few hours, that house would be overflowing with his brothers, sisters, in-laws and their children—lots of togetherness. Christmastime was a big day for his family.

He stopped at the forest entrance, unlocked the chain, pulled the car through and re-locked the chain. The snow was increasing slightly. He checked a couple of traps and took a break for coffee. Boy, Ann’s brownies were good! Before he checked his last trap, it started snowing hard. “Might as well get it now; might be awhile before I get back.” He checked that last trap, drank the last of his coffee, and headed out.

As he dropped into the valley the snow eased a little. He parked the car in the motor pool garage and headed across campus. “Hope they’re still open,” he thought. He rounded the corner of the Engineering building; the diner lights were on. “Great!” he said to himself.

“You were right, Ann. Here he is,” Carl called out when he came in.

“Is it too late to get some eats?” he asked.

“Nope,” Carl said. “Ann’s been expecting you.”

Ann came out of the kitchen with a full plate; she pushed it towards him. “Figured you’d be hungry,” she said. She took his coffee bottle. “Boy, you really pulled on this.”

“Yeah, it was really raw. Those brownies were great!”

“Good, I’ll give you some more for this evening,” she said as she washed and refilled his bottle.

“Supposed to really snow this evening,” Carl said.

continued on next page...

“Yeah, radio said eight inches.”

“Well, folks who want a white Christmas will get it.”

“Yeah, sure will.”

Ann came around the counter and sat on the stool next to him. “Where are you going to eat dinner tomorrow?” She was so sweet he wanted to hug her. “My Pastor has invited me to eat with him.”

“Oh, good!”

“You’re very sweet, Ann. Thank you. Well, I’d better be gettin’. It’s coming down big-time. How much do I owe you?”

“Can’t charge for leftovers,” Carl said.

“You guys. Thank you very much!” He took his coffee bottle; it was full. There was also a bag of brownies. “You two are something else. Thank you.”

“You’re welcome and Merry Christmas to you,” they said.

“Merry Christmas to both of you,” he said as he left.

It was really coming down now. As he passed the Methodist church, the Rector was fine-tuning the chorale bells.

“Gonna’ have services tonight?” he asked.

“No, had to call them off,” the Rector said. “I believe all the churches have cancelled services tonight.”

“I don’t blame them.”

“These chimes should be working, I hope.”

“I’ll be listening for ‘em,” he said. “Merry Christmas.”

“Thanks, Merry Christmas to you too.”

He walked the two blocks to his room, shook the snow off his jacket, stomped and brushed his boots. He turned on the radio. “Won’t let up for awhile,” the announcer said. “Expect at least eight inches,” he added.

He looked at his watch; a little after four. Things should be warming up back home, he thought. “Think I’ll call.” Well I’ll be—went through first try. “Merry Christmas from the snowy Northwest,” he said.

“Merry Christmas from the cold, dry Northeast,” his sister answered. “You getting snow?”

“Big time,” he said.

“It’s Bob. It’s snowing there,” he heard her say over her shoulder. He heard the shuffle of feet; everyone wanted to talk.

When the call finally ended, he sat on the bed, drained. He was really low.

He donned his coat and hat and went outside. He walked down the steps, around the house, and up the street to the main drag. The few cars out rolled by muffled by the snow like ghosts in a fog.

He scrunched into the boughs of a big fir tree and lit his pipe. He heard the bells of the Methodist church chiming out Christmas carols. As each carol rang out, he recited each verse in his mind. The longer he stood, the more lonely he got. In all the years he’d been away from home, he’d never felt so alone.

Then, as he rehearsed one carol, his mood lifted. “Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, God is not dead nor doth He sleep. The wrong shall fail; the right prevail; with peace on earth, good will to men.”

He thought, “How many people would love to be here; college town on Christmas Eve, snowing, with Christmas carols chiming from a nearby church. Like a scene from Currier and Ives.”

Nearly two thousand years earlier, God had given the world His Son as a gift. Tonight he opened his eyes and gave him contentment and, yes, companionship. His loneliness began to fade. As it faded, he hunkered more deeply into the fir tree, lit his pipe, and savored “The Gift.”



MISSION NEWS

HAITI MISSION NEWS: During Pastor Walta's visit we learned the truth about what we have been calling the Orphanage. The 12 girls staying in Laotchikit were taken from abusive homes by Pastor Walta or Pastor Mura – and placed in what is really a Safe House. Currently the showers and toilets are having water connected thanks to all of you at Eternal Shepherd. Thank YOU!



CHARACTER UNDER CONSTRUCTION

As some of you may know, Eternal Shepherd assisted sending Daniel Connelly, with *Character Under Construction*, to Chevak and the surrounding villages last year. Daniel has since been meeting with various administrators, pushing the introduction of this program into schools in the area, and has been quite successful. Thanks be to God! Here is some information regarding *Character Under Construction* and Daniel's progress so far: ***Character Under Construction*** is a public school program that designed for elementary, middle, and high school application. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of various character traits with a goal of reducing incarceration among troubled teens. We felt this would be an excellent program to introduce to Chevak and its neighboring villages, due to the prevalence of alcoholism, drug abuse, and related violence. Some examples of lesson topics taught through *Character Under Construction* include: (1.)Selfishness, Self Esteem, Desires, (2.)Depression, Suicide, (3.)Self Improvement, Prejudice, Sin, (4.)Integrity, Misunderstandings, Forgiveness, and (5.)Marriage, Commitment, Ardent love.

The program has already started in Bethel's middle school. Bethel's junior high, high, and alternative schools will be starting the program soon. Daniel has met with the principal and guidance counselor in Chevak, and classes were scheduled to begin in November as of the last correspondence. Daniel is very excited to see the Lord work through these classes. Keep Chevak in your prayers as they introduce this incredible curriculum.

God bless, Shannon Cox

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thank you to everyone who came out to help us fill shoe-boxes on Nov. 10th! We were able to fill 218 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. That means that 218 more children will not only receive toys and gifts this Christmas, but they will also hear the Gospel! Last year Operation Christmas Child gave out over 11 million shoe-box gifts to children all around the world. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing through this wonderful ministry that is changing hearts one shoe-box at a time!! ~*The Crossing Youth*

HELP NEEDED: We have many in our community who can not get proper meals due to age, illness and other circumstances. Please help us deliver nutritious meals to those in need. For questions or to help please contact Don Seigler or Lane Wilson. *Thank you*

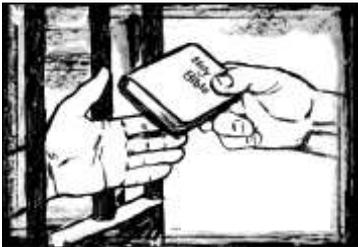


Honduras Mission Team News:

Our team meetings have begun and 13 short-term missionaries are preparing to travel to Honduras to be about the work of making disciples of all nations. We do this thru sharing the love of Christ with the people of Honduras by providing things that they have no access to in their day to day life. Things like medical, dental, and optical services. We bring medicine and eyeglasses and a whole lot of love. We pour concrete floors, paint houses, and install water filters. We also love on the children with songs, games, toy cars, coloring books and the washing of their hair, things that they don't have and don't experience. And we can do all of this because of the support we receive from the people of ESLC and other friends. Without this support we would not be able to complete the work we are called to do.

As you read this we will be wrapping up our "Helping Hands for Honduras" fund drive which is one of the ways we are able to purchase the supplies we need. We would like to send a great big "THANK YOU!" from the entire team. This is God's mission through the church and all of ESLC is part of our mission team. *Thank you. Your 2019 Honduras Mission Team.*

DETENTION CENTER OUTREACH MINISTRY:



Saturday, Dec. 8th 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 8th 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 *Paul Messenger*
the Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received a gift of \$100.00
and

In loving memory of *Alex Richards*
the Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$225.00

Other Gifts:

The Capital Campaign Building Fund received gifts of \$110.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$481.50

The Debt Reduction Fund received a gift of \$50.00

The Disaster Relief Trailer Fund received gifts of \$365.00

The FPCC Baby Bottle Drive received gifts of \$4,870.72

The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$290.00

The Honduras Fund received gifts of \$800.00

The Hospitality Fund received a gift of \$25.00

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

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$360.00

The Special Missions Fund received gifts of \$130.00

The Toys for God's Kids Fund received a gift of \$20.00

The Youth NYG Fund received gifts of \$750.00



PLEASE NOTE: The November and December meetings of the **DINNER @ 6:30** group will be combined because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. We plan to meet on **Tuesday, December 11th at Red Bowl Restaurant in Clemson.** Please use the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. *We look forward to seeing you there.*

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S: Altar Care would like to thank *Marie Schmidt, Herb Schmidt, and Pat Milz* for the beautiful new Advent Banner. It is very similar to the one we had many years ago, and it will beautify our Altar for many years to come!

I wanted to thank you all for your support, encouragement, kindness and the love you have given me these past ten years. It is an honor and a blessing to have you in my life. I have learned much about our Lord's unfailing love through you. Thank you for the cards, gifts and cake. I am sorry that due to illness I missed the celebrations. *Thank you again for your love and support. ~Celeste Entrekin, ESLC Office*

Little Lambs Tales

Upcoming December Events

**Little Lambs Preschool Christmas Program
Wednesday, December 19th
11:00 am at ESLC in the sanctuary**

**Little Lambs Preschool Closed for Christmas
Classes resume Thursday, January 3rd.**



Merry Christmas!

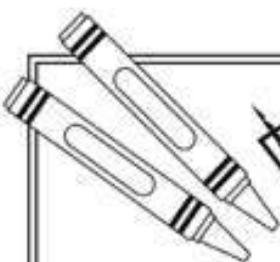
PEACE Wreath

What you need:

- Paint (blue and green)
- Paint brush
- Embroidery hoop
- 24 wooden clothespins
- Scissors
- Craft foam (white, red and green)
- Glue
- 3 white feathers
- Floral wire (two pieces)

What you do:

1. Paint the hoop blue and the clothespins green. When dry, attach clothespins around the hoop.
2. Cut a dove shape (slightly wider than the hoop's diameter) out of white foam. Glue on feathers.
3. Pierce the beak with a scissors tip. Slide a piece of wire through the slit to make an olive branch.
4. From green foam, cut out two leaves. Attach them to each end of the wire.
5. From red foam, cut out the letters P E A C E. Glue them onto clothespins.
6. Place dove in center of hoop. Glue its head and tail to clothespins.
7. Attach wire to the back and hang up your wreath.



PUZZLE

A Child is Born

Jesus received many different names — even before he was born. Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) prophesies about four of these names.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the name tags below. (Hint: The first letter is capitalized.)

MY
NAME IS

gyhMti

dGo

MY NAME IS

lerWnofud

esnruooCl

MY NAME IS
vrelEnsitga

eahFrt

MY
NAME IS

niPcre

aPcee

of



Answers: Mighty God, Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

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



*“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11*
Merry Christmas!