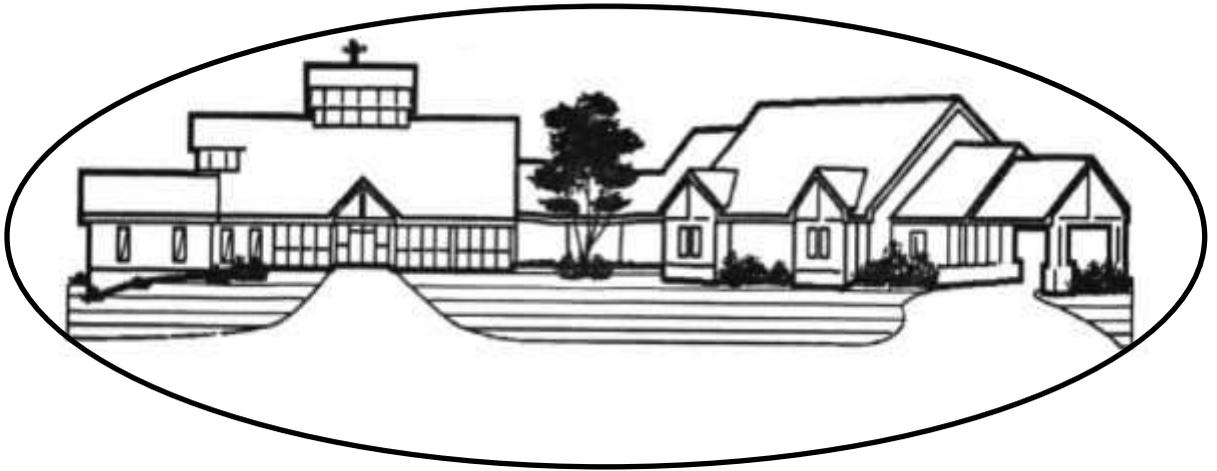


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# Agapegram

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January 2019



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

[www.eternalshepherd.org](http://www.eternalshepherd.org)

[office@eternalshepherd.org](mailto:office@eternalshepherd.org)

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

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



## The Gift, Part 2

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the undeserved gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 EHV*

In the Christmas Day sermon, entitled The Gift, I was emphasizing Christ as the ultimate gift of God to fallen human beings because Jesus brings us the one thing we most need, whether we realize it at first or not: forgiveness before God. Other themes in the message highlighted the fact that this gift gets better in time (listen online at the ESLC website for the whole message if you missed it), but there was one other point I had intended to include in the sermon and somehow forgot. So, here’s part two of that Christmas message, which fits quite nicely into the New Year and the season of Epiphany (the revealing of Jesus).

Another aspect of the Savior Jesus as God’s gift to humankind is that this gift not only gets better with time, but it also gets better as it is shared. To share our faith with others and to “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you” (1Pet.3:15) is an act that strengthens our own faith in the Lord as we put our confession into words. It also adds joy to our lives when we live together in Christian harmony with others who have come to know Christ as we do. This shared faith & fellowship dynamic is what St. Paul spoke of in Philippians 2:2 that would make his joy complete.

A way to consider how the gift of grace in Christ Jesus improves with its sharing is to think back to the beginning of the internet. If you were an early adopter of these trends and acquired one of these new electronic-mail addresses to send people letters through a phone line, it didn’t do you much good to have an e-mail account if none of your friends and family had one of their own. It was only as more and more people adopted the new e-mail trend that one could get the most out of the gift of digital communication. The gospel works similarly. The people who hear it and come to trust in the Lord, the more the Body of Christ grows, the more believers can support each other, and the more effective we become in connecting with the rest of the world. Of course, the Lord’s goal is to see that Good News be proclaimed to the very ends of the earth, so that all might have opportunity to believe and be saved. You have been given the greatest gift. Share freely.

*“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!” 1 Chronicles 16:24 ESV*

*Pastor David*

## Special Thank You's!

Thank you so much for all the Christmas blessings, cards, letters, and gifts from so many members. Your kindness, generosity, and Christmas cheer is a great blessing at a busy time of year! -- Pastor David

THANK YOU from the ESLC staff

Many, many thanks to the Council and to the members of Eternal Shepherd for the wonderful and generous Christmas bonuses given to each of us on staff! Your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated!

*~Rick, Michelle, David, Celeste, Deaconess, & Pastor*

Dear Eternal Shepherd Family,

Thank you so much for all of the beautiful Christmas cards and all of the generous, thoughtful and yummy gifts. Your love and support are more dear than words can convey. Your kindness helped keep me focused on the truth of the kindness and love God showed to us in that first Christmas long ago. *Thank you!*

*~Celeste Entrekin*

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

**This season is a time of quiet reflection upon the past and a reminder that God has, again, been ever so faithful. To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us ... and He has given us everything.**

**Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence a gift of grace.**

**Every blessing is far too precious to ever forget to say "Thank You!"**

**THANK YOU, faithful members, for ALL the ways you have blessed this church and community in the past year. Your prayers, your time, and your many gifts are such a blessing to God and our church.**

***May God bless you as you walk with Him,***

***~Board of Stewardship***



# Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



***A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR OUT GOING COUNCIL MEMBERS  
AND ELDERS***

President *Rudy Carbone*  
Vice President *Don Seigler*  
Treasurer *Rich Hesemann*  
Congregational Secretary *Kyra Carbone*  
Head Elder *Doug Zirbel*  
Stewardship Board Chair *Janet Walker*  
Elders *Lars Helland, Dennis Hippchen & Scott Krueger*

*We thank you for your faithful and dedicated service to our Lord, your church family, and the community. We appreciate your service.*

***WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ELDERS***

President *John Cochell*  
Vice President *Pastor Phil McLain*  
Treasurer *Shannon Cox*  
Congregational Secretary *Debbie Krueger*  
Head Elder *Fred Bell*  
Stewardship Board Chair *Sue Hauser*  
Elders *Rick Cochell, Richard Grotheer, Scott Toussaint & Skip Wakeman*

*We welcome you and look forward to our time of service together.  
Thank you for answering the call.*

**2019 LCMS Life Conference**  
**January 17, 2019 - January 19, 2019**

“Joy:fully Alive — Body & Soul” is the theme of the 2019 LCMS Life Conference, which will be held Jan. 17-19 at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Arlington, VA

Room reservations may be made online, or call 888-627-7076 and ask for the LCMS Life Conference rate.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe but 2019 is here. We thank our outgoing council members for their service and welcome some new members.

Special thanks to Rudy Carbone (Council President), Don Seigler (VP), Kyra Carbone (Council Secretary), Doug Zirbel (Head Elder), Janet Walker (Stewardship), and Rich Hesemann (Treasurer) for their service over their last term(s).

We welcome Pastor Phil McLain (VP), Debbie Kruger (Council Secretary), Fred Bell (Head Elder), Sue Hauser (Stewardship), and Shannon Cox (Treasurer).

In a recent transition meeting, Rudy briefed me on the state of Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church. I'm glad to say that not only is all well, thanks to the Spirit, our church body is alive and vibrant! Some examples of healthy God led ministries and activities are: Missions (Haiti, Honduras, Disaster Relief), Little Lambs, Sunday School, Property, Hospitality, Music & Worship, Finance, Shepherd Group Care, Youth Gathering...

A new outreach ministry that is expected to startup in 2019 is the Comfort Dog Team. Even if you're not a dog lover, you should be excited about this ministry. The Comfort Dog team will be able to take God's love from Eternal Shepherd into areas we could never reach before.

Virtually all of us have been members of other churches. How many of those churches have had excess contributions over the annual budget to deal with? God continues to bless Eternal Shepherd not only through our missions and ministries, but also our financial gifts! **We will hold a congregational meeting on Sunday, February 17 to determine which ministries should receive additional funds.**

Lastly, we are blessed with an amazing preacher, teacher and spiritual leader with Pastor Hammer. Anyone experiencing Pastor's sermons and bible study classes knows his God led insight and knowledge exceeds his years.

I'm honored to serve you, our congregation and our Lord in this next council. Your continued prayers in support of your Council are appreciated.

*In His service,  
John Cochell*

## A Word from Your Elder Team

The Bible, 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:1, talks about being an Elder or one who aspires to “the office of overseer, desiring a notable task”. The term “trustworthy” is used. Scripture states that “an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for “God’s church”?” Being an Elder is truly a notable task and one we take seriously. After all, Elders not only assist the Pastor with the church activities but, more significantly, are charged with the spiritual well-being of our individual Shepherd Groups, and who can argue with the importance of that task. To be an effective Elder, we believe compassion for our fellow men/women is a prerequisite and something to which we strive. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Central Illinois District developed the Pastor-Elder Handbook 1985/2012, designed to provide guidance for Lutheran Elders. It calls this compassion “Loving Care for Souls Redeemed by Jesus Christ” and characterizes a good Elder as follows:

One who recognizes himself as a redeemed child of God; a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ; an “evangelized” man.

One who is regular in attendance at worship and Holy Communion.

One who is involved in regular Bible study.

One who cares about people.

One who is emotionally balanced.

One who can approach people positively.

One who is loyal to the congregation and to the pastor.

One who is often in prayer.

One who has a personal life and language that is above reproach.

One who is teachable and willing to grow.

One who by time and action reveals maturity.

Eternal Shepherd is truly blessed with the outstanding spiritual leadership of Pastor Hammer and Deaconess Holly who provide us excellent role models to be good and effective Elders. Furthermore, our church is somewhat unique in that, as Elders, we call our members with prayer requests each month. Together with the Pastor, we then start our meetings, which occur on the first Tuesday of each month, in the Sanctuary with prayers of praise and petitions. This is one of the most rewarding activities we do, and each of us take our responsibilities, which we consider a blessing, with a great deal of commitment. We strongly encourage and invite you to share your concerns and/or thanksgivings so that we might raise them to the Lord, for Matthew 18:20 states “For where two or three are “gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

So that we might have the strength do our best as your Elders, please keep our Elder Board members in your prayers.

We all look forward to serving you in the upcoming year as your Elder team.

Fred Bell (Head Elder)

Milo Bell (Music and Worship Elder)

Richard Cochell

Tom Eckersley (Visiting Ministry)

Richard Grotheer (Secretary)

Gene Kunkel (pending replacement)

Walt Lindow

Monty Moore (Treasurer)

Scott Toussaint

Skip Wakeman

Henry Watson

Craig Wells (pending replacement)

Paul Wilson

*Please Join Us!*

LADIES

**Thursday Bible Study – Winter / Spring  
Start-up**

You are invited to join us “Round the Table” on Thursdays, starting February 21st. The study will again be held at 4:00 – 5:30 PM each Thursday.

This 6 week study, “In the Middle of the Mess” by Sheila Walsh, includes guided video notes, Bible exploration, and in-between session study materials.

Are you afraid your mess is too big for God? The trials we face in this life can feel overwhelming. Life often seems broken – shattered into a million pieces – and at times we may wonder if our mess is simply “too big” for God. We can convince ourselves we are too far away from God’s grace for it to reach us where we are. God’s power can be made perfect in our weakness. He promises to love us and carry us through to the end.

If you need to order the Study Guide, here is the Amazon link: [https://www.amazon.com/Middle-Mess-Study-Guide-Beautiful/dp/0310089433/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1543566551&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Middle-Mess-Study-Guide-Beautiful/dp/0310089433/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1543566551&sr=8-2)

(The words: “Study Guide” are located at the top of the cover – left side).

Please **SIGN-UP** on the bulletin board at church in January. If you are a member of another church, just reply to this and let us know, if you plan to join us.

The Winter / Spring session will begin on February 21 and will continue thru Thursday, May 9, with Holy Week / Easter Break.

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

## A Reminder and an Update

**Reminder:** As year-end approaches and you/we may be doing some tax planning just a reminder of a simple strategy to lessen your tax burden but increase the churches revenue. If you have not taken your “Required Minimum Distribution” from your IRA’s or 401k’s, consider having a portion sent directly to the church. A good strategy is to estimate the tax you would pay on the total and route that amount to the church. The amount sent will be non-taxable to you and as a result not deductible as a charitable contribution. Your financial planner/ advisor has the necessary IRS form to do this but will need the churches tax ID number to complete it. **NOTE: 401(k) monies must be transferred directly to an IRA in order to take advantage of this strategy.** Going forward, keep this strategy in mind since under the new tax law it is likely most of us will be unable to itemize our tax deductions; however, this will allow us to avoid and lower a portion of our tax liability. If you are on the cusp of retiring this may be a beneficial strategy for any lump sum benefit you may receive. Sincerely consider this and pray about it since it is a “win win” for both you and the church.

**Update:** We have found a location near the corner of Highway 123 and Carson Rd., that the sign manufacturer and contractor agree that the sign can be placed. I have spoken to Mr. Morgan the property owner and he has agreed to allow us to place the sign in this location. Additionally, I confirmed our conversation and his approval by letter. We have been promised a cost estimate in January so we can present the final cost at February’s Voter’s Meeting for congregation approval. Along with all the other prayer needs we have please add this to the list as God continues to bless Eternal Shepherd, its mission, and its members.

**ON-LINE GIVING** Bob Massa, Finance Board Chair  
**Remember you can give on-line. After establishing an account, if you have the QR App on a device, you can use this method to contribute each Sunday using the QR code printed in the Sunday bulletin or the monthly Agapegram.**



*~Thank you for your faithful support.*

# Do WHAT, Lord?

by Kerry Blount

*“Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am My servant will also be.”  
(John 12:26)*

When Jesus walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and called hard men from the fishing fleet to follow Him, He was not asking them to join Him for a pleasant stroll on the beach to check on fish prices or a new boat. When He made His way along the street in Capernaum where He called out to a tax collector to leave his money tables, He was not asking him to tag along to offer financial advice to the well-heeled accountants of a popular new movement.

Each of these men knew that when Jesus said, *“Come and follow Me,”* He was telling them to turn their belief into action, and to trust Him enough to become His disciples. And they knew what a disciple is: one who truly and wholeheartedly follows his Teacher; one who longs to go where his Teacher goes, and who longs to learn to act like, talk like, think like, and serve like the One he follows. The Twelve (except for Judas), and many other disciples beside them, committed themselves *to follow the Messiah*, ultimately spending their lives in a life-long act of commitment that reflects the deepest meaning of those profound words: *Follow Me*.

When Jesus, with the voice of the Holy Spirit, called each of us to follow Him, He was not asking us to think nice thoughts about Him so some day we could go live in a dazzling marble mansion and walk on shady golden streets beside the river of life. Like those He called along the shores of Galilee and in the streets of Capernaum, He calls us, day by day: *Follow Me*.

So how do we follow Jesus? It seems so simple and logical: we just do what Jesus teaches us to do, say the things He teaches us to say, live the way He teaches us to live, and go the places He demonstrates we should go. In its simplest form, He asks His disciples to:

- Speak and act with kindness and love to everyone, according to their needs,
- Serve the poor, the sick, the burdened, the hungry, according to their needs,
- Draw people into relationship with God by Word, example, worship, and service,
- Train disciples to live in the kingdom of God and to follow the Master,

with the intent that “we all attain to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” and “we grow up in every way into Him who is the head, even Christ.” (*Ephesians 4:13 and 15*)

If we’re following Him, it also seems likely that we’ll find we are where He is: in the midst of the sick and poor to minister and heal; in the midst of the “Pharisees and Sadducees” of our day confronting legalism and the distortion and denial of the Truth; in the congregation of God’s people encouraging and serving one another; in the workplace setting an example of integrity, good citizenship, and love for all our neighbors as we labor to support our families.

The evidence of the last 2000 years is that following Jesus is less simple than it may sound at first; less logical as it plays out in our busy and often distracted lives; more challenging in the circumstances shaped by culture and environment and the daily demands of life in this fallen world. But as the angels so often tell us, “Don’t be afraid.” The call to follow is not without a promise, as the One who leads us says with assurance, *“Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me, for I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest unto your souls.”* (*Matthew 11:28*) Follow Him, really follow Him; and you will find what you have been longing for all your life.



# CONCORDIA SEMINARY

## Support future pastors and deaconesses

Today, your support will help our students receive faithful teaching and preparation for a lifetime of ministry. All donations benefit student aid — and will be matched **dollar for dollar up to \$25,000!**

Please make your gift by texting the amount of your donation to 314-207-3998 or give online at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis <advancement@csl.edu>

Help spread the word by sharing the hashtags #PrepareAPastor and #PrepareADeaconess on social media.

Thank you for supporting Concordia Seminary students for the sake of the Gospel!

### Our mailing address is:

Concordia Seminary  
801 Seminary Place  
St Louis, MO 63105

**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 9<sup>th</sup> graders to graduating Seniors in Summer 2019!

Want more information now? Contact Deaconess or visit [lcmsgathering.com](http://lcmsgathering.com)!



## MISSION NEWS

**THANK YOU FROM YOUR HONDURAS TEAM:** We had a great response on our glove drive in November and thank everyone who participated. We received just over \$2500 during the drive and are well on our way to having everything we need for our trip. Because we are a larger team when our three churches are combined we are able to see many more people and provide their basic medical and comfort needs. We estimate that we will provide over \$16,000 in meds for our week, some of which is supplied at no cost by Kingsway Charities. We also provide dental services, concrete floors, water filters, eyeglasses, paint, Bibles, and children's hair supplies.

Each team member is responsible for their own expenses for the week which this year is \$1759 per team member, almost \$23,000. This includes airfare, lodging, food, transportation in Honduras, and translators. The remainder we raise through fundraisers. We have two each year, the first of which is "Helping Hands" which we just completed and the second is filling the trunks which will begin January 13<sup>th</sup> and run through February 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a list with the trunks of the meds that are in great demand and cannot be purchased in Honduras. When in Honduras we repackage all meds into a 30 day package to be given to the people we see. Bibles are also purchased so that anyone who does not have a Bible will leave the site with one.

We could not accomplish this mission without the generous support we receive from our congregation here at ESLC along with the congregations from Trinity, Jacksonville, FL. and Christ the Rock, Rockford, IL. Thank you, thank you, you make it possible for us to "go and make disciples of all nations. Dios te bendiga (God Bless You), Your Honduras Mission Team

**PS** – Found among the many coins in the glove drive was a nickel sized coin with a cross cut through the center and the words "Live His Word" below it. It appears to have been carried for quite some time. If this is yours please contact Pastor Ray.

## ESLC DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM UPDATE

Disaster Response Team 431 (total age of 6 participants) traveled to Lumberton, NC the week of Dec. 2nd. We were to work restoring two houses but regulatory problems stopped us on one. The other was to remove wood paneling damaged by a leaking roof (repaired before we got there) and install new paneling and finish trim which we completed late Thursday afternoon. We were also able to get five members of



our team trained for Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) and chain saw operation. The trip bonus is that we complained to the right people about getting funding for our efforts from the S.E. district. We have been given a \$5000.00 grant for materials, food and a few other trip expenses. Our next trip is scheduled for the week of Feb. 24, 2019 but we are exploring a possible January trip back to Lumberton, NC. To learn more about this ministry or to help please contact Deek Decker.

## *Comfort Dog News*

*“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God” Isaiah 40:1*

The Comfort Dog team is eagerly moving forward as we prepare our hearts and minds toward getting the Comfort Dog hopefully in the spring of 2019. As we wait, we are getting ready by meeting together, working on fundraising efforts, looking at training videos, and praying.

Nine potential handlers have submitted their applications to Lutheran Church Charities (LCC). Two households have submitted applications for caregiver homes. In the near future, LCC will contact us to set up Skype interviews with each candidate. We also have several members who have stepped up to be Ministry partners so the team is really coming together, thanks be to God!

Our fundraising efforts have been blessed by our Lord. We participated in the Belk’s charity sale again this fall and raised close to \$600! Our Howl-Le-Lu-Ya Dog Biscuit sale was a success as well. Lastly, individual gifts of support from you have been received. As a result, the second payment for the dog has been reached. Now we are working toward raising money for handler/caregiver training in Chicago, team shirts, dog supplies and other start up ministry costs.

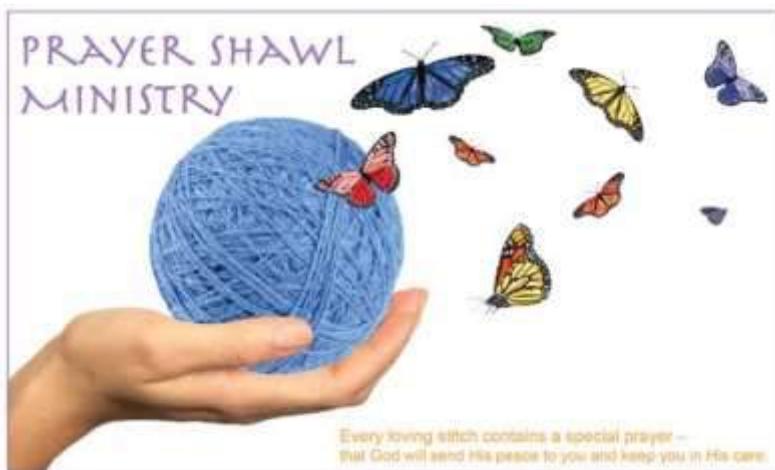
To that end, the Comfort Dog team agreed to take on the Rummage Sale. It is scheduled for May 4, 2019 so be sure to save your unwanted items until then. We appreciate Chris Worthy and her team for all the work they put into the Rummage Sale in past years. Although the Comfort Dog team will oversee the sale, we still need everyone’s help setting up and working the sale, more information to follow as the date gets closer.

As we begin 2019, please pray for God’s wisdom and guidance as He uses us to share “the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need” We expect it will be an exciting year, full of surprises, joy and challenges!

Thank you for your generosity, support and prayers! ~Kyra Carbone, *Top Dog*

**“CALL FOR SERVANTS”** We need help in all areas: acolytes, greeters, **ushers** and readers. It's always a party if you serve! If you can serve please contact Celeste in the front office or contact Lane Wilson. ~*Thank you*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in need of additional volunteers for the Prison Ministry. The Prison Ministry Team makes visits to inmates at the Oconee County Jail every 3 months to pray for them and give them bibles. If you are interested please contact Frank Kieninger or Cecil Murray.



## Do You Know About the Prayer Shawl Ministry?

The Prayer Shawl Ministry consists of individuals, usually women, who donate their knitting and crocheting skills, time, and yarn to create shawls, scarves, lap robes, etc., of any color and any design. While these garments are being created, they pray for the person who will receive the prayer shawls, praying that they will bring comfort and a feeling that God

cares about them personally, that He will be there to sustain them, and that they can bring all their concerns to God and He will hear them. We all know that God will hear our prayers whenever and wherever we pray, but sometimes when one is ill or in a difficult situation, it is nice to have a tangible object for assurance.

This ministry started at Eternal Shepherd approximately four years ago. We have already made over sixty-five prayer shawls which includes the twenty-seven that were made this year. Over a dozen members from the congregation have made these prayer shawls that typically take between 40 and 80 hours to make. It is a labor of love.

**The Prayer Shawl Ministry requests that the members of the ESLC congregation assist in the distribution of these prayer shawls.** You are the eyes and ears of this congregation and you, as individuals, know when someone is hurting and would benefit from this caring gift. Anyone can receive a prayer shawl; they do not need to be a member of ESLC. You do not need to ask anyone for permission to give a prayer shawl.

**If you decide to give a prayer shawl,** you need to go to the self-serve kiosk in the main Fellowship Hall near the closets where a prayer shawl is displayed. Beside the shawl are bins. One bin contains the completed prayer shawls. Select the one that you think the person would like, record your gift on the log inside the bin with your name, the person that will receive the prayer shawl and the date. We request that if you personally present this prayer shawl that you pray with the person. That is all that is required.

Please include this ministry in your prayers praying that there will always be prayer shawls available when they are needed.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Sue Hauser.

**PRAYER SHAWL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR January 13<sup>th</sup> after late church.** We plan to discuss what we have accomplished, review suggestions made during the past year as well as see the generous yarn donations made last fall. If you are a participating member or would like to be, please plan to attend.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BABYREAD**

BabyRead is an early literacy program dedicated to low-income families in Oconee County. Volunteers are needed to read to moms and their babies or toddlers at public or school libraries twice a month for one hour each time. **Become a BabyRead volunteer by emailing Caren at [babyread@charter.net](mailto:babyread@charter.net).** To learn more about BabyRead, go to [www.babyread.org](http://www.babyread.org).



**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. **January's preferred product is "*Canned or Dried Beans*".** **Please place items in one of the trash cans marked Food Bank down by the main Fellowship Hall.** *~Thank you for your generosity and support.*



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Habitat For Humanity is in need of volunteers throughout the organization. Due in a large part to longtime volunteers moving away. There are jobs for men and women in all areas. Please consider helping in this worthwhile organization. If you have any questions contact Henry or Sue Watson.

### **Hospitality Happenings for January**

**January late service schedule:**

**1/06 - Julie Moore**

**1/13 - Colleen Wakeman**

**1/20 - Kate Wells**

**1/27 - Sue Watson**



Thinking about joining the hospitality board? Please see myself or Marlene Bell with any questions. *In his service, Sue Williams*

## FEEDING THE HUNGRY OF SENECA, SAT. JANUARY 12TH

On Saturday, Jan. 12th we'll be serving our hungry friends in Seneca. 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 at Our Daily Bread. Any questions, call my cell at (864) 973-8130. *Thank you all for sharing your love with our neighbors. ~Rich & Colleen Hesemann*



THE NEW 2019 FLOWER CHART is now hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex. There is also an 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!*



**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.*



## SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS



**In *November's* the following gifts were given:**

In loving memory of *Shirley Eckersley*  
the Building Fund received a gift of \$50.00

Other Gifts:

The Capital Campaign Building Fund received gifts of \$80.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$1,306.00  
and a gift of \$230.00 from Thrivent Choice

The Debt Reduction Fund received a gift of \$50.00

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 Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$3,131.50  
for Missionary Travel/Support, and  
Helping Hands for medicine and supplies

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

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$880.00

The Special Missions Fund received a gift of \$20.00

The Toys for Gods Kids Fund received gifts of \$70.00

The Youth Convention Fund received gifts of \$1,380.00

# Little Lambs Tales

*“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:30)*

As we ring in the New Year at Little Lambs Preschool, we are reminded of God’s promises of hope and renewal. After several weeks of rest and relaxation, the teachers and staff are ready to enter into the new year of 2019!

We will be focusing our attention this month of January on the season of Winter! You will see a lot of crafts, songs, and stories that revolve around snowmen, ice castles, animals that hibernate in the winter and anything related to snow!

On January 30th we will be celebrating this month of Winter with our “Frozen” day! What fun we will have! The children will be skating on a pretend ice rink in the playroom, making lava lamps and creating their very own frozen chocolate covered bananas!

As the month of January concludes we will look forward to ushering in the month of February and the theme of love for God and one another.

We will have no school on February 15<sup>th</sup> but will have a snow make up day on February 18<sup>th</sup>! We are renewed and refreshed in the presence of these beautiful children of God and feel God’s continual blessings at work!

Thank you for your constant support and prayers for this most important mission of Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church. Little Lambs Preschool certainly appreciates each and every one of you!

*Blessings to you and your families,  
Gina*



COUNTDOWN TO THE

# New Year

Celebrate the blessings of the previous year and the hope of the New Year with this fun party idea and craft.

### What you need:

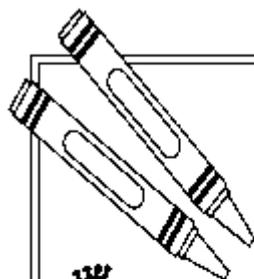
- Brown paper lunch bags or colorful bags
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Stickers (optional)
- Inexpensive prizes or treats (see ideas below)



### What you do:

1. Before New Year's Eve, assemble a bag for every hour before midnight that you plan to celebrate.
2. Use construction paper and markers to make a clock with a different time for each bag.
3. Glue a clock onto each bag.
4. Decorate the bags with stickers or other designs.
5. Fill the bags with inexpensive prizes or treats, each accompanied by a Bible verse. Here are a few suggestions:

- Plastic party-favor watches ("The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore" Psalm 121:8, NIV)
  - Bookmarks ("Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture" 1 Timothy 4:13, NIV)
  - Small notepads and pencils ("Let love and faithfulness never leave you ... write them on the tablet of your heart" Proverbs 3:3, NIV)
  - Sweet treats ("Taste and see that the LORD is good" Psalm 34:8, NIV)
  - Party noisemaker, in a bag to be opened at midnight ("Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth" Psalm 98:1, NRSV)
6. Open each bag at the time shown on its clock.

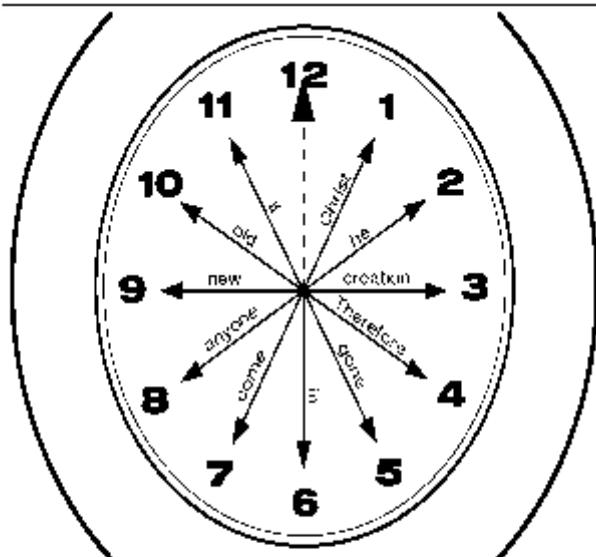


# Just for KIDS

## IN WITH THE NEW

*It's "time" for New Year's resolutions! We should always want to improve ourselves for God, looking to Jesus as our example. God will work with us and through us when we come to him in prayer.*

Using the clock's hour hand, copy each word to help you complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV



"\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_!"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

## **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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