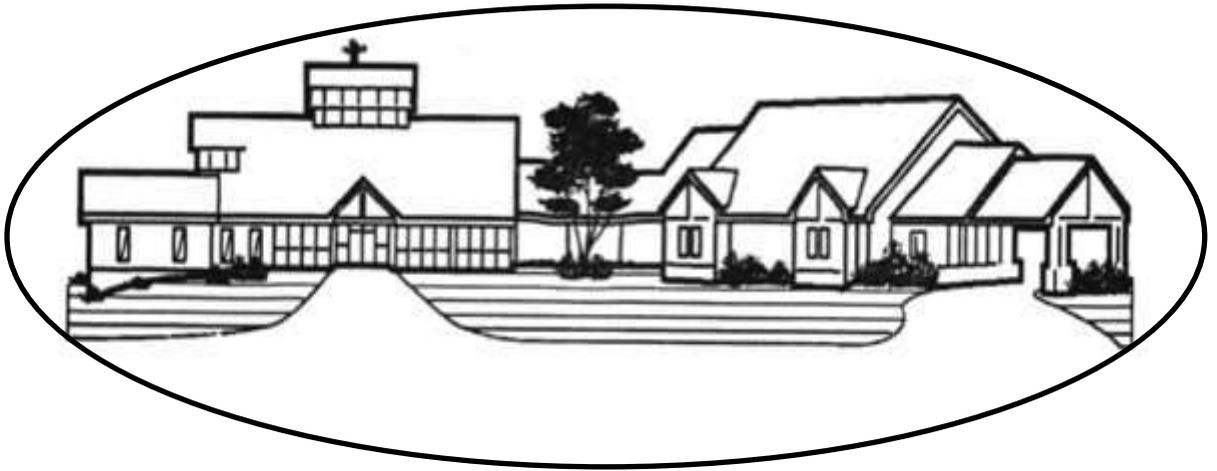


---

# Agapegram

---

June 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



## Unicorns and a True Bible

**“Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee...?”** Job 39:9 King James Version

When the same question comes up 2-3 times in a week, it may be worth sharing more broadly. And, so, we mention unicorns. A favorite way for skeptics to mock the bible is to point out that it teaches the existence of unicorns. (Yes, search the King James translation and you will find the word 9 times).

Since we believe the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, does that mean unicorns are real and we must believe they once existed? Well, Yes and No. The KJV translation of the Scriptures do speak of unicorns. They do so, because they are following the ancient Greek translation and, to some extent, the Latin Vulgate. The ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament speaks of an animal called the monokeros (literally, **“one-horn”**). **This isn't claiming the existence of the one-horned horse-like animal we imagine when speaking of unicorns today.** It is describing an animal that has a single horn which could include any of the various examples that exist: narwhal whale, unicornfish, Indian rhinoceros, Texas unicorn mantis, etc. So, which one does the Bible refer to? Well, the Latin Vulgate sometimes translates monokeros as rhinoceros, which helps us know what the early (but not inspired) bible translators believed about the animal being described.

In contrast to the idea of a single-horned animal, however, stands the context of **scripture itself. Almost every reference to this animal (Re'em, in Hebrew) speaks of horns in the plural, not singular.** It is also a wild animal of great strength and size, sometimes associated with oxen or cattle in the parallelisms of the verse. Between **the contextual clues from the bible and the Hebrew word's similarity to a cognate in related Akkadian, which means wild ox, most scholars today conclude that Re'em** (aka, monokeros or unicorn) is some type of wild oxen such as the now extinct Aurochs, likely ancestor of modern domestic cattle.

So, whether wild ox or rhinoceros, the bible correctly and accurately describes a real, **wild, horned, ancient animal of great strength that reminds us of God's power.** Thanks be to God for his gloriously diverse creation and that He uses His great power **to conquer sin, death, & the devil through Christ's atonement!**

*“The Word of the LORD proves true...”* 2 Samuel 22:31 ESV

*Pastor David*



**Sunday, June 9th**  
**Join hosts *Marlene Bell***  
**and**  
***Ed & Jean Seeley***  
**for ice cream**  
***after the late service in the***  
***main Fellowship Hall***



**2019 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

*Gabe Sitrler*

*Jacob Zirbel*



## Deaconess Musings

### Why Are You Here?

*“Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?”*

*(Rite of Confirmation & Reception of Members, Lutheran Service Book)*

Hold on a minute. What’s so special about *this* confession and why do I need to say that I’m willing to face death for it? That sounds so...unrelenting and inflexible. I mean, I *like* what is said at church. Well, for now that is. Until something more interesting comes up. Then I’m not so sure about this whole *confession* and “dying-for-it” thing. Does this sound familiar? It does to me and my own thoughts. We’ve all thought it one way or another.

We are not called to live a confession that is mushy or blasé, but one that is sure and confident in the knowledge of the faith given to us by Christ. Even throughout the world as trends and social media hashtags can change faster than winds change, the confession that Jesus is Lord, and what that means, does not and never will.

What does this unrelenting confession that Jesus is Lord mean? It is one that is sure of what is taught clearly in Scripture. For where do we find Jesus? Not in our own thoughts and experiences, but only in the clear words of God’s Word. So now knowing that, we confidently seek to read and comprehend more and more, using the brains and understanding God gives us. We cannot allow ourselves to become complacent in our Christian life. You need to know what you believe and why. Why do you believe that Jesus is Lord? Because He’s given you that super awesome car/house/pet/friend/whatever? Or is it because He died and rose from the dead for you, and has claimed you as His own through Baptism and the forgiveness of sins?

Why do you come to a Lutheran church? Because of the food? The fellowship? Or is it because we claim that to be Lutheran is to follow Jesus and proclaim His Gospel message of forgiveness? Why? Why are you here? Do you only come because it seems like the “right” thing to do, that this what you’ve done for as long as you can remember, or has being a Christian Lutheran become something you only are when you *feel* like it?

Or do you come to confess and acknowledge your sins and hear that those sins have been/are forgiven? Do you come to hear the preaching of God’s Law and how you cannot keep it, but that Christ came and did what you could not and that He bought you back from sin, death, and the devil with His death and resurrection? Do you come to hear, study, and grow in that faith planted inside you by the Holy Spirit?

Being a Christian, and a Lutheran at that, does not mean we allow ourselves to become apathetic and unmoved by the Word. We boldly and firmly confess that Jesus is Lord. That confession then impacts *everything* about us – including our lives “outside” church.

So. Why are you here? I’m here because I need the word of forgiveness continually spoken over and to me. I need the Law preached to my Old Adam so that I can fully rejoice in the comforting message of Christ’s Gospel. I need the forgiveness and strength given at the rail, in the body and blood of our Savior. I am here, not because I want to be here, but because I *need* to be here.

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. *Mark 9:24*

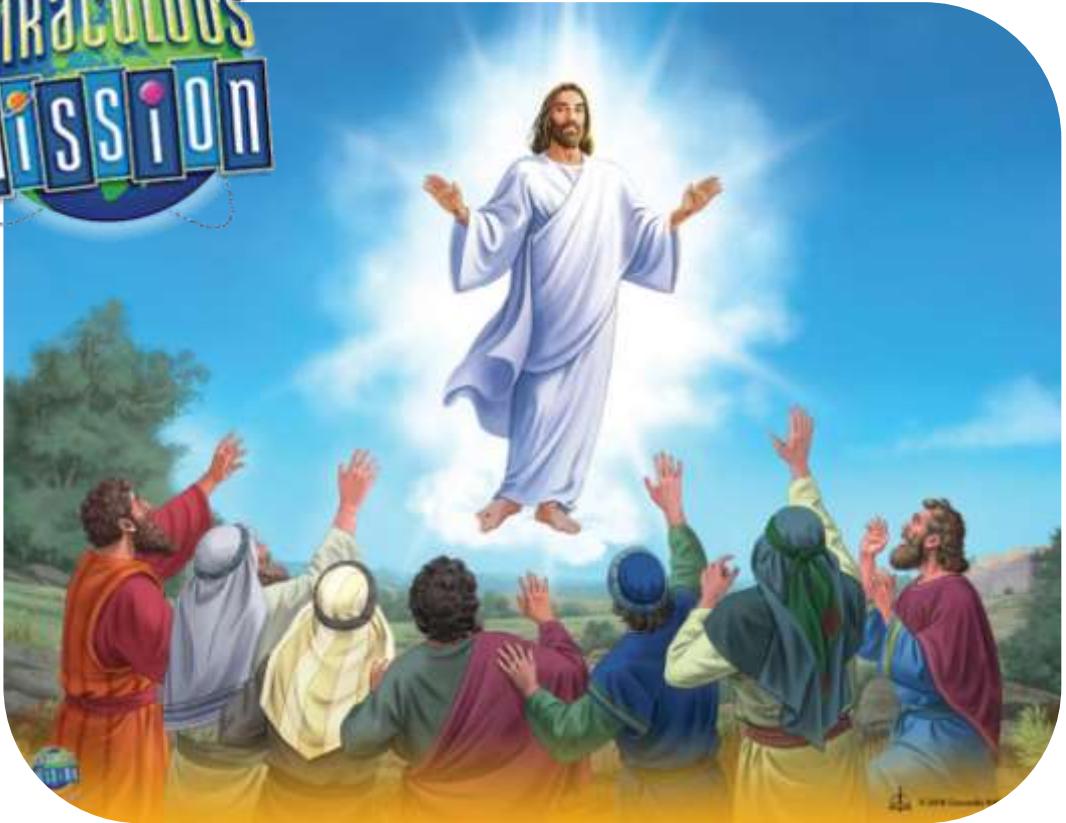
~Deaconess Holly

**Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Vacation Bible School**

**June 17th—21st**

**9am to 12pm**

**Ages: 4 to 12**



You may register your children online at [vbsmate.com/ESLCvbs](http://vbsmate.com/ESLCvbs)  
or pick up a registration form at the front desk.

All hands on deck. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is listed on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please consider helping us with this important ministry and sign up today.

For questions or more information contact Deaconess Holly.

*Thank You!*

On behalf of Theresa, myself, and our family, I am pleased to thank everyone at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church for your prayers, words of comfort and peace, cards, flowers, gifts, and good things to eat. Our family is thankful and appreciative for

all your support and remembrances of Theresa. We are all blessed to have a loving and caring church. Although hearts are broken, there is peace and comfort knowing that Theresa is eternally with her Lord and Savior in Heaven. Pray with me that our hearts will be filled with the love and peace of our Heavenly Father and that His presence will lead and guide each of us each day along the path He has laid before us.

~Gene and the family

*A Special Thank You For Your Ministry Of Caring For Thursa Lautenschlager:* Thanks Pastor Hammer for your Pastoral ministry. Deaconess Holly for your diaconal ministry. David Phillips for your musical ministry, and to everyone for your prayers, personal presence, cards, emails and phone calls. May God bless you as you continue this ministry of caring for others.

~Rev. Paul Lautenschlager and Family

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped with this year's rummage sale. It was a huge success and raised approximately \$1800! Many compliments were received from shoppers who said the event was very well organized and they could not believe the reasonable prices we were offering items for. Our annual Rummage Sale not only benefits the community in this way but this year we raised funds to support the work of the Comfort Dog Ministry in our community and throughout the country. Once again thank you all, it was fun working with you! ~On behalf of the Comfort Dog ministry, Rudy

## Hospitality Happenings for June

### June late service schedule:

**6/02 - Chris Christensen**

**6/09 - Sundae Sunday/Marlene Bell & Ed & Jean Seeley**

**6/16 - Karen Findlay, Linda Nichelson & Arline Ray**

**6/23 - Maril Robertson**

**6/30 - Sue Williams**



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

# Thinking about Eden

by Kerry Blount

Eden has been on my mind lately. I find myself thinking about a river-watered garden in rolling hills, with trees, plants and flowers of virtually every kind suitable for the climate in that place, growing profusely in accordance with the master plan of the Creator. I think about an abundant variety of animals living in peace with one another under the stewardship of the man the Creator designated to name them all. I find myself picturing Adam and Eve exploring the garden, encountering animals of various kinds, and greeting each affectionately by name: “Hail, Lion! Where is the pride today?” or “Good morning, Gazelle! Where will you be grazing this morning?” I ponder how Adam must have marveled at the diversity of the creatures God had made as he strode among them in fearless confidence. I find myself wondering how God Himself displayed His love for the animals and birds and fish He had so lovingly created as He moved among them through the forests, glades and rivers of Eden.

Perhaps most of all I find myself thinking about Adam and Eve, who had come to know the audible signature of God in the garden, anticipating with joy the sound of His presence with them in the cool of the evening in the time *before the Fall* (*Gen 3:8*). I think how they must have been thrilled at His voice as He welcomed them with love and joy and acknowledged their smiles of greeting. I find myself wondering if God smiled back, what that must have looked like, and what that must have felt like for Adam and Eve. I tremble as I think of the awe that must have overcome them in His presence, and yet how conscious they must have been that their Creator acknowledged them as good, like all the rest of His marvelous work. I find myself thinking about how natural and certain it must have seemed to them to continuously experience the full and immediate presence of God, with nothing—absolutely nothing—to hinder or distort or sadden the relationship in any way. I find myself thinking that must be like heaven, and it sounds remarkably good. Heartbreakingly good. Unreachably good.

And then I close my eyes and remember the vision of my brother John (*Rev 22:1-5*):

*“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”*

And I remember that not only will our God “make all things new,” but we will once again live with Him without death, mourning, crying or pain. Remarkably and heartbreakingly good. But *not* “unreachably” good. Just the precious, unfathomable gift of the God who loves you.

## ALASKA MISSIONS

I would like to take the time to thank the congregation for donating to the Alaska mission trip and also for praying for me while I am there. Thanks to all of you, I have recently received my plane tickets and I will be departing on June 20<sup>th</sup> from GSP and my first plane stop will be in Charlotte. From there I will travel to Los Angeles and then all the way to Anchorage, Alaska where I will be meeting up with the rest of the team. We will all stay the night at a church and in the morning take a plane to Bethel and then finally to Chevak. I will be departing Chevak on Jun 28<sup>th</sup> to head to Bethel and then to Anchorage where I will stay the night again. Then from Anchorage I will go to Phoenix, then to Charlotte, then to Greenville. I know that God has amazing things in store for not only me but also the many kids I will be doing VBS with this year and I cannot thank all of you enough for your support.

*Blessings,  
Madison Ranalli*

## NEWS FROM OUR MISSION IN HAITI

**142 BIBLES and 150 LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM** were purchased and distributed to families in Laotchikit, Pas Bonbon, and Rocky Road Lutheran Churches in May. They are in French and Creole, depending on the church. Thanks to all who support this ministry throughout the year. This July we will be sending funds for Lutheran school supplies – with 1,000 Students scheduled to start in September, 700 in Laotchikit and 300 in Pas Bonbon. For more information, contact *Lars Helland or Pastor Phil McLain.*



# Comfort Dog Ministry News

Seth has only been at Eternal Shepherd for about a month and a half as of this writing and so far he and his team have been quite busy. Think about it... he was moved to a new area with new people and a totally different environment/climate! So for the first couple of weeks our 8 handlers spent time training with him and helping him get used to his new home and church family. As part of his training, Seth and his handlers went to Home Depot, Walmart, Zone 7, Lowe's and Ram Cat Alley. During every outing each handler reviewed many of his 30+ commands with him as well as getting him used to the sights, sounds and residents of Seneca! Believe it or not, it was a challenge to get him used to each handler's car! We have had our ups and downs and it has been a bit of a difficult process but we all have come a long way in the learning process!

Recently, Seth, his handlers and Ministry Partners have visited or attended the following places:

- \* Residences at Park Place
- \* Keowee Place Assisted Living
- \* Funeral visitation for a boy named Seth
- \* LWML Zone Rally
- \* Wilderness Girls Camp
- \* Passing of the Vest ceremony
- \* City Hall
- \* Home Hospice interview
- \* Foothills Care Center
- \* Church services
- \* Greeting the shoppers at the Rummage Sale

Upcoming visits will include:

- \* Veterans Home Visit on Memorial Day
- \* Marine Corp League Meeting
- \* Nursing home visits
- \* LCC Regional Meeting Alpharetta, GA
- \* Jazz on the Alley June 6

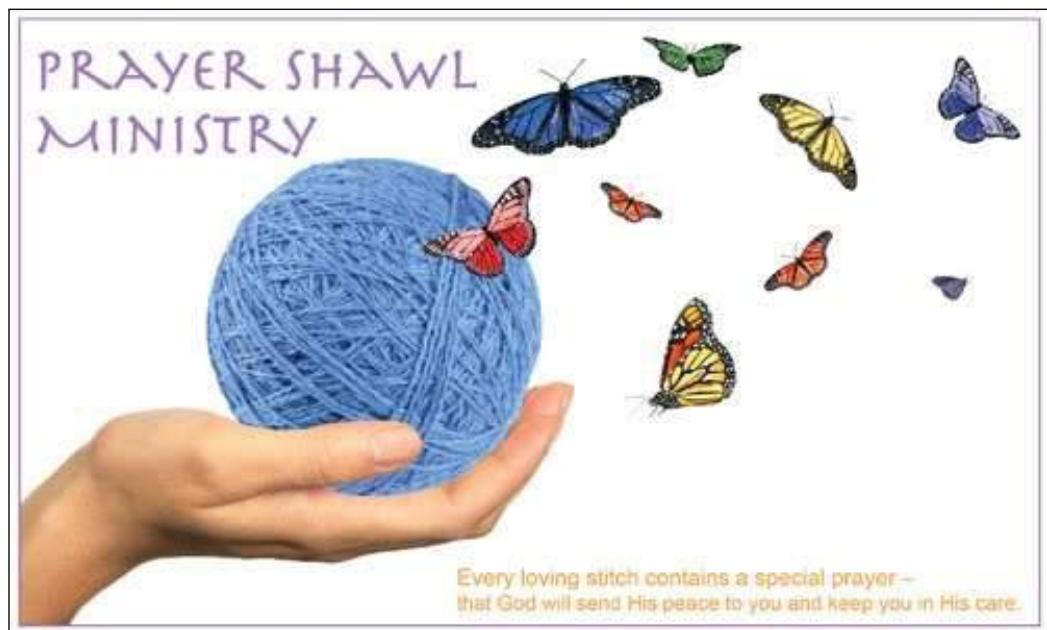
You can follow Seth's weekly activities on Facebook, just search SethComfort Dog. Please "Like" his page, he has almost 1,000 likes already!

We expect the ministry to fully enfold over the course of the next few months as more people become aware of Seth and his ministry team's ability to be that presence of mercy and comfort to those suffering and in need. We continue to pray God will lead us where He wants us to go. Thank you Eternal Shepherd for your love, encouragement and support!

*To God be the Glory,  
Kyra Carbone, Top Dog*



to



Nine (full) size prayer shawls have been given to our friends and family who have been hurting so far this year.

Is there someone that you are praying and concerned about? Would you like to give them a prayer shawl or a pocket prayer shawl.

It is easy. The prayer shawls are available in a self-service kiosk near the closets in the Fellowship Hall. There are two bins of full size prayer shawls for your selection. Just find the one that you want to give, sign your name on the sign out sheet with the date as well as the person that you will be giving it to. We request that if you give it to them in person, please say a prayer with and for them. That's it.

Please note that there is a list behind the sign-out sheet that contains the names of the people that have already received a prayer shawl. If you want to give a pocket prayer shawl, there is a small plastic box with them. Again, just select the one you want. No sign out is necessary. Please take one for yourself also.

The prayer shawl group has also started making pocket prayer shawls for the comfort dog ministry to give when Seth makes his visits.

If you are interested in making prayer shawls or pocket prayer shawls, please contact *Sue Hauser or Colleen Wakeman.*

## WHAT IS THE SCRIP PROGRAM?

It is a program within Eternal Shepherd where gift cards may be purchased at full price and the difference between the discounted and full price is given to the church for various special projects. Last month, the scrips profits were able to assist in the fellowship hall carpeting by providing just over 25% of the cost. A few years ago, they purchased the new tables for the fellowship hall and before that helped contribute to the new choir robes.

Every Sunday, after early service, before and after late service, a scrip lady is available by the left exit door. Both Ingles and WalMart gift cards are immediately available in \$100 donations for your purchase. But hundreds of gift cards are also available in various denominations; a list for you to take is also available at the Scrip box in the narthex. When special gift cards are desired, just fill out the form and write a check for the purchase price. The gift cards will be delivered the following Sunday.

The scrip program has existed at ESLC for over 20 years. If you would like more information, please ask one of the **Scrip ladies: *Beckie Rau, Elisabeth Baker, Libby Dunlap, or Sue Hauser.***

### Operation Christmas Child Update:

In 2018, Samaritan's Purse sent out 10,623,776 shoeboxes through Operation Christmas Child to 112 countries (plus 24 hard-to-reach countries not named for security reasons)! And every child that received a box also received the Gospel. Talk about changing the world one heart at a time!!



God is doing amazing things through this ministry, and Eternal Shepherd is blessed to be a part of that blessing. Our annual fund raiser for our packing party will take place next month during our "Christmas in July" month long campaign. Our goal is to raise \$4,000.00, and \$1,800.00 of that will be to cover shipping alone. Please prayerfully consider how you might help us reach our goal of packing and shipping 200 boxes (or more!) again this year. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Baumann.

Thanks, and we'll see you round the Christmas tree!

## **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. **June's preferred product is "Canned Fruit". 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.*



**THE FLOWER CHART** is hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex. There is also an eye-catching, yellow information sheet above the calendar which will answer any questions you have about how it 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 card 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 *April* the following gifts were given:**



The Alaska Mission Fund received gifts of \$245.00

The Capital Campaign Building Fund received gifts of \$40.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$284.00  
and a gift of \$213.00 from Thrivent Choice

The Debt Reduction Fund received a gift of \$50.00

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$30.00

The Fellowship Hall Carpet Fund received gifts of \$423.00

The Food Bank Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The General Fund received a gift of \$509.00 from Thrivent Choice

The Haiti Missions Fund received a gift of \$350.00

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$100.00

The Hospitality Fund received gifts of \$58.00

The Mission Quilt Sewers Fund received a gift of \$50.00

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$400.00

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The Senior Member Care Fund received a gift of \$1,168.00

The Youth Convention Fund received gifts of \$569.00

The Youth Fund received a gift of \$20.00

# Little Lambs Tales

*“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20*

As we ended our school year the last days of May, we watched as our 4 year old class marched down the aisle of the sanctuary in their graduation gowns and caps ready to step out into the world heading for kindergarten. We also shared with the other young children the excitement as they anticipate the summer ahead.

With some sadness we shared our final prayer as a staff as we all head in different directions for the summer. We will miss this time of prayer that we have participated in each morning at 8:15 am. We prayed for our Little Lambs families, we prayed for one another, and we prayed for friends and family.

Our prayer circle included the teachers, sometimes volunteers who happened to be there during that time, once in awhile a Little Lambs family who had to come in early to use the restroom. Whoever was in our hallway those early mornings were welcome to join our prayer circle and we prayed.

We found that by starting our day with prayer, we were able to focus our attention on what our true ministry is; bringing Christ to all of our families at Little Lambs Preschool.

During our summer months we will continue to pray. We will be praying for the **United Way Ministry as they hold their Read and Feed Program in our Preschool**. Our prayers will be with all the counselors and administration that provide such a wonderful Christ-centered program to families in need in our community. **Please be aware that this program will begin on June 10<sup>th</sup> and will be in operation through July 26<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9:00am-2:00pm.**

The families will be dropping off and picking up their children at the door by the big playroom as well as using the blacktop as they play basketball. **Therefore we ask for caution as you drive around the church facility during the summer months.**

Little Lambs Preschool will be back in session in August. The teachers will arrive the second week in August to set up their classrooms and our first day of Preschool will be on August 21<sup>st</sup>. All of us here at Little Lambs Preschool wish you a relaxing and blessed summer!

*~In Christ,  
Gina*

# A Verse Frame

Make this special gift for your dad, uncle, grandfather or father-figure. It is nice to be reminded of our heavenly Father's love for us.

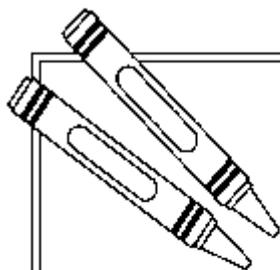
## What you need:

- Piece of craft foam (8½" x 11", any color)
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Piece of paper (8½" x 11", any color)
- Pencil, crayons or marker
- Foam shapes, stickers (optional)
- Glue
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn



## What you do:

1. Use your ruler to measure a rectangle inside the piece of craft foam. Draw the rectangle, and then cut it out. Your foam should now look like a frame.
2. Place the piece of paper under the foam frame, and trace the shape of the frame's window onto the paper.
3. Choose a verse to write inside the rectangle on your paper. (Your frame can go horizontally or vertically.) Suggested verses include 1 Corinthians 8:6, Philippians 4:20 and 1 John 3:1.
4. Turn the frame over (face down), and put glue around the edge. Lay the verse face down on the back of the frame, and let it dry.
5. Decorate the outside of the frame with foam shapes, stickers or drawings.
6. Use your hole punch to punch two holes at the top of the frame. Tie a piece of ribbon or yarn through the holes to hang the frame.



# Just for KIDS

## Remember Our Heavenly Father

Father's Day is a time to thank our dads, who work hard to keep the family fed, safe and loved. Let us also remember God, our heavenly Father, who gives life to us all.

Use the grid to fill in the blanks below. To find the letter for each number, look down the column to the dot, and then go to the left to the letter. Write the letter on the appropriate blank.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A																				
B																				
C																				
D																				
E																				
F																				
G																				
H																				
I																				
J																				
K																				
L																				
M																				
N																				
O																				
P																				
Q																				
R																				
S																				
T																				
U																				
V																				
W																				

" \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 15 16 10 5 17 6 3 13 20 3 1 17 14 15 2 17  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 1 17 8 6 3 1 17 5 1 6 20 14 6 2 13 20 1 17 7  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 15 18 4 20 3 1 6 3 16 17 20 1 15 4 14 7 9 17  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 11 6 14 14 17 7 11 1 13 14 7 5 17 18 15 8 10 15 7

1 John 3:1, NIV

HOW GREAT IS THE LOVE THE FATHER HAS LAVISHED ON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD!

## **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