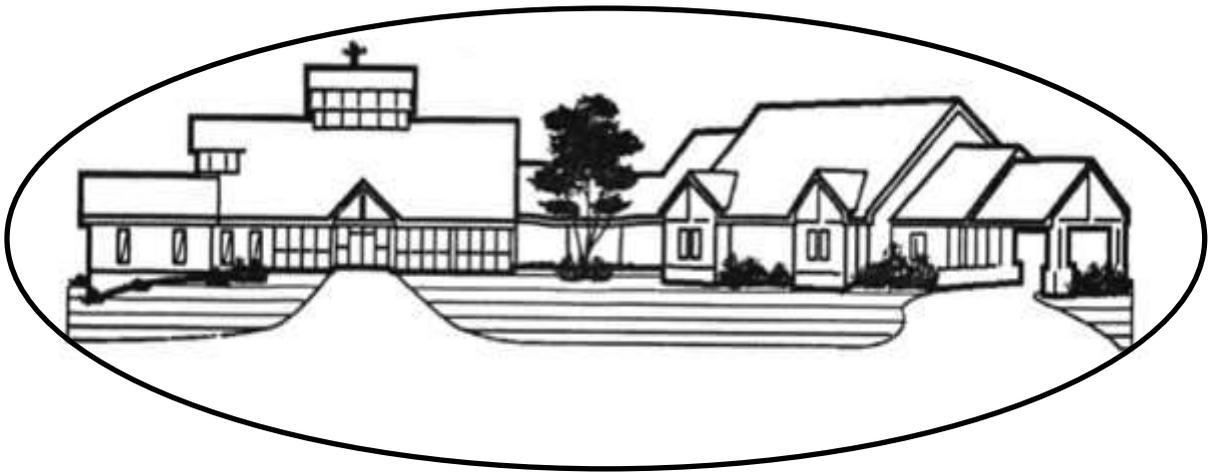

Agapegram

May 2021



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Bible, Part I: The Word of God to Us

Your testimonies are right forever. Give me understanding, and I will live. Ps. 119:144 EHV

Confusion reigns among Christian denominations and in the minds of individual believers. Errors arise when we ignore God's Word, pick and choose which words we will believe, misinterpret those words, or just doubt them.

If we get the bible wrong, our doctrines, beliefs, and behaviors will be wrong, too. Over the next few months, we'll refresh our memory on the basics of the bible using past LCMS President, Rev. Dr. A.L. Barry's What About pamphlet on The Bible:

What is the Bible?

The word "Bible" is from a Greek word that means "book." What is this "good book"? That question has a two-part answer.

First, the Bible is actually a collection of books—66 of them to be exact—from the first book, Genesis, to the last, Revelation. These books cover thousands of years and were written in either Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek. There are many different kinds of writing in the Bible: historical narrative, prophecy, poetry, speeches, letters, and so on. From a merely human perspective, there is no question that the Bible is a masterpiece of literature.

Second, the much more important answer to the question, "What is the Bible?" is this: The Bible is the Word of God. The Bible is the collection of the thoughts—even the very words—that God gave to the authors of the Biblical books. The Bible is a gift God has given to His church. It is not a collection of ancient fables and myths. The Bible is the sure and certain means that God the Holy Spirit uses to communicate God's Word to us today.

How did we receive the Bible?

The Bible itself explains how we received it. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). We read elsewhere that, "Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet.1:21).

Because people knew that the Bible was the actual Word of God, it was copied and re-copied with painstaking care and attention to detail, letter by letter, word by word. Though today we no longer possess the actual, original text of the Bible, we can be certain that the Holy Spirit has preserved the Word of God for us. Careful study of the many thousands of copies of the New Testament reveals that though there are minor differences between the various copies, there is no place where any key teaching of the Bible is contradicted.

continued on next page...

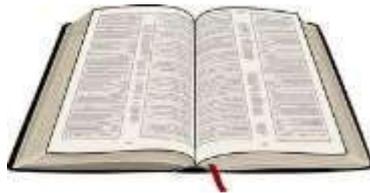
Our English Bibles are translations from the original languages. When we use reliable translations, we can be sure that we have the true Word of God. Whatever the Word of God is in Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek, it is also the Word of God in English, or in any other language, as long as the translation is faithful to the original languages. Reliable translations include the King James Version, the New King James Version, [the English Standard Version, the Evangelical Heritage Version], and the New American Standard Bible.

Next Month: Why Is the Bible So Important?

Until then, read your bible and trust God's Holy Word.

The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. Ps. 119:160 NKJV

Pastor David



Meet Our Newest Members

Welcome Laura & David Broderdorf!

Hailing from Orchard Park NY this student group travel -planner and her int'l airline pilot husband (who also does student tour guiding) claim two married sons giving them five granddaughters! What fun is planned when they visit!! Golf is a favorite pastime for Laura and David who enjoy all sports.. The latter spent the last 20 years serving as Congregational President at Trinity Lutheran Church & School in West Seneca NY along with serving as

Chairman of the Financial Community & Property & Grounds Community. He has also served as a Church Consultant for the Eastern District. They lived in OP (south of Buffalo) for 35 years; accumulating so much stuff in those years meant the move was a tough one! The warm welcome (in spite of Covid restrictions) from ESLC helped make them feel at home. In past years both have served in "just about every position we were called to do" from hot lunch lady to Congregation Chair. The Broderdorfs look forward to serving God and to meeting more of the congregation in the near future.



May 2021 Council Update

The Council Team met on April 13th. Following are the latest updates from your Council:

Lenten Season, Holy Week and Easter:

I'd like to recognize all the groups and people who made our second pandemic Lenten season so special. Special thank you to:

Music and Worship committee (Lars Helland - Lead) and musicians. Especially David Phillips and our brass musicians on Easter.

Altar Care Team (Tracy Cochell – Chair) for the all the parament changes, lilies, banners, Holy Week services...

Deaconess and Kerry Blount for leading the Youth Easter bags

Evie Hammer for being acolyte on Good Friday service

Fred Bell for organizing our videographers for all the additional services

Celeste Entrekin for all her back-office preparation

Deaconess for filling all the gaps and coordination of different groups

Pastor for all his service preparations and continued meaningful and inciteful messages

Time and Talent Survey Updated:

It's been almost 2 years since Sue Hauser and Janet Walker created the first version of the Time and Talent Survey. The survey has been extremely valuable to uncover members gifts and experiences where they can serve at Eternal Shepherd. Since the original survey was created, we've added some new teams and groups (Comfort Dog, Bus Ministry, Videographers, Child Security...) that weren't represented. Special thanks to Sue and Janet for updating the survey to include these new teams.

Financial Organization:

Special thanks again to Bill Smith (Treasurer) for all his many long hours to understand, organize and implement measures to make our accounting procedures more efficient. One example of his excellent work was his creation of the new Payment / Transfer Request Form. This new form will ensure that all payment requests are implemented correctly. Additionally, Jim Zwahlen (Finance Chair) is leading his team to find a new church accounting system. Benefits of this new system should drastically streamline our accounting process. The new system is targeted for implementation at the end of this calendar year.

*In His service,
John Cochell*

MUSIC & WORSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS



In the near future we will be sending out a survey to the congregation requesting your top five (5) hymns. This is something we did years ago, and after compiling we make an effort to include “favorites” into the worship service. If you need to borrow a hymnal, we have plenty available!

Next – since you are wondering why the picture of all the instruments is shown. If you have musical instrument talent and want to be considered for “special music” during the Prelude, Offertory, Postlude, or with a hymn please let me know. We will work with David and/or Michelle to rehearse.

In addition, if we get enough interest, we might want to consider a “rehearsal band”. More frequently these are called “Jazz Bands” and put together for the purpose of being part of a group once again – Tommy Dorsey style. Our sanctuary isn’t conducive to a large “brass choir” but ensembles are great. For more information contact Lars Helland (Lars.Helland@edgewaterautomation.com)

Your Current Thoughts about the Pandemic?

Be on the lookout for an upcoming survey to obtain your input and level of comfort on easing some of the pandemic required restrictions at ESLC. The “Homecoming Committee” has had a couple of meetings and is made up of the following members: Ginger Barthel, Angie Hamilton, Pastor David, Deaconess Holly, John Cochell (Co-Chair), and Dan Arkfeld (Co-Chair). Now that the Covid 19 immunity is getting high many of us are eager to open things up and get back to normal (or new normal). We intend to make adjustments slowly and examine the impact of easing each restriction. We are formulating the survey questions in an effort to gauge the perceptions of the congregation. We value your input and hope there is wide participation in the survey.

Dan Arkfeld
Co-Chair, Homecoming Committee

John Cochell
Co-Chair, Homecoming Committee

Always a Parent, not always Apparent

I have been blessed with three tremendous daughters. In my daily prayers I thank God for this wonderful gift. They are adults now and all are successful in their chosen fields. For this I am also thankful. A recent visit to the home of one of our children however gave me pause. I love my daughter very much and it was wonderful to spend time with her and her husband. As we conversed however the importance of God in her life was not apparent. I don't know with certainty what is in my daughter's heart. I couldn't help but wonder however if her secular world view had overshadowed the view that God's desires for this world are what matters. Like so many younger adults these days she is very accepting of those who choose alternate lifestyles. Social norms proclaim that any choice a person makes is acceptable. Homosexuality is acceptable in her eyes. While it's not for her she also does not think it should be condemned in other people.

As Christians we know that God provides guidance through His inspired word. God's word provides absolute truth about how we are to act and how we are to relate to others. The world would like us to believe there is no such thing as absolute truth. Our media and entertainment outlets bombard us with images and ideas that pose temptations for us all. How do we keep a proper perspective? Unless we make an effort to stay connected to God we can find our self being pulled away in unhealthy directions. Efforts to stay connected include daily devotions, reading God's Word, regular worship attendance, and our relations with fellow Christians who challenge us when we start to get off track. *"The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm."* (Proverbs 19:23)

Are there times you miss an opportunity to speak up when it comes to being a witness for Christ? This applies not only to our loved ones but others we encounter in our daily interactions with people. I don't know about you but I think I tend to make it more complicated in my mind than it needs to be. So I say nothing. When I observe a person falling prey to the deceits of this world how do I respond? How do I persuade them in a way that illustrates that it is not my rule but that their view is contrary to God's will. *"In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"*. (1 Peter 3:15)

Matthew 6:34 tells us *"Do not be anxious about tomorrow for tomorrow will be anxious for itself."* Even as our children become adults and make their own way in the world we never cease to be a parent. We are always concerned about the welfare of our children. This includes their physical health, their spiritual health, their safety and their happiness. I take some comfort in knowing that a Christian foundation was built during her early years and cling to the hope that she will one day find Christ is an anchor in her life too. *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."* (Proverbs 22:6) In my younger years I too drifted away for a time but God eventually chased me down. Like you, my relationship with God plays a vital role in my life. It is my desire to follow God's will for my life. I look to him for guidance and strive to make my actions reflect God's guidance. Our prayer is that at some point in her life our daughter will once again realize the significance of having God in her life.

Dan Arkfeld
Head Elder

Wrapped in Love



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

DO YOU KNOW that ESLC has a Prayer Shawl Ministry?

DO YOU KNOW that these Prayer Shawls come in many different colors and sizes?

DO YOU KNOW that while these Prayer Shawls are knitted or crocheted that the women creating them are praying for the people that will receive them?

DO YOU KNOW anyone who is ill or stressed who could use a visible sign someone cares about them and especially that God loves them and that He will provide and support them through their difficulties?

DO YOU KNOW that you are critical part of this Prayer Shawl Ministry?

DO YOU KNOW that anyone can give a Prayer Shawl?

DO YOU KNOW that anyone can receive a prayer shawl? They do not need to be an ESLC member.

DO YOU KNOW that during the COVID pandemic fifty Prayer Shawls were made?

DO YOU KNOW that there are thirty Prayer Shawls available to be given?

DO YOU KNOW where to select a Prayer Shawl to give?

Prayer Shawls are found in a self-service kiosk in the Fellowship Hall along the closet wall. There are three large bins with Prayer Shawls of many different sizes, shapes, and colors. Select the one that you would like to give. The Prayer Shawl will have an Eternal Shepherd Tag attached. Please use the sign out sheet to identify who is giving the Prayer Shawl, who will be receiving the Prayer Shawl and the date.

DO YOU KNOW that we request that you pray with the person receiving it if you present it in person?

DO YOU KNOW that if you have any questions about Prayer Shawls that you can contact Sue Hauser?

FOOTHILLS CARE CENTER BABY BOTTLE DRIVE IS BACK!



It is time for our annual Baby Bottle Drive to benefit the Foothills Care Center! Eternal Shepherd has been supporting FCC for over 11 years with the baby bottle drive and other donations. Once again we will collect baby bottles lovingly filled with your loose change. **The Baby Bottle Drive will begin on Mother's Day, May 9th and run through the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, September 5th.**

Your generosity throughout the years has been greatly appreciated by FCC and the clients who frequent the center for hope, assistance, guidance, and love. Most importantly, precious baby's lives are saved! May you prayerfully consider supporting the Baby Bottle Drive this year by selecting a baby bottle or two from the basket in the Narthex. Please write your name on the sign-up sheet with your bottle # and fill it with your loose change over the summer months. If you would prefer to donate by check, please make it out to Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, write "Baby Bottle Drive" on the memo line and place the check in your numbered baby bottle. We will donate the money we collect to the Care Center after Labor Day. For questions or more information call Tracy Cochell at 404-433-7338.



A fountain pen with a gold nib is shown writing the words "Thank you" in a cursive script on a white background.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU: Patsy and I would like to thank the congregation for all of the touching and beautiful sympathy cards we received recently for my sister Shirley' passing. They were all so appreciated and timely. Those cards helped to soften the blow since we were unable to travel to Pennsylvania for her funeral. *Thank you. ~Sherwood & Patsy Drexel*

Comfort Dog News

Zooming Seth and more!

Did you know Seth does Zoom visits with followers across the country? Since the pandemic began in 2020, Seth has done 23 virtual visits! Some of the visits are with individuals and others are with groups of students learning about the Comfort Dogs and their ministry. The pandemic has been a challenge for so many ministries but God has enabled other avenues for us to reach out like Zoom visits which truly has expanded our outreach! Not to mention Seth's Facebook page where "he" engages with many followers across the country and world (i.e. Taiwan and Sweden)!

Here is a recap of recent activities of Seth and his team:

- Hosted a mobile blood drive at church with 18 donors
- Attended a wedding of a faithful supporter of Seth and his ministry
- Participated in a virtual Run 4 Respect 5k walk to support a Life Skills Class (special needs) in Pontiac, IL
- Coordinated with the Sunday School class (ages 3-10) to bring our shut-ins Easter cards and gifts
- Participated in a few Veteran Last Patrol honor ceremonies
- Visited staff at Oconee Memorial Hospital on Fridays
- Visited an accounting firm in Anderson to offer stress relief during tax season
- Continued weekly visits to a dear lady in Walhalla who is in hospice care
- Visited assisted living facilities in person where we had been doing window visits

If you want to learn more or keep up with Seth's activities be sure to visit his Facebook page @SethComfortDog. I hope you "like" his page as well. He has close to 1600 likes so wouldn't it be fun to see if we can reach 2000 likes by his birthday in July?!

Lastly, can you believe it has been 2 years since Seth joined our church? Since that time, Seth and team have completed a total of **525** visits which often included multiple interactions with precious people who God has placed in our path! Praise God!

To God be the Glory,
Kyra Carbone, Top Dog
topdogeslc@outlook.com, 864-932-8308



Seth after finishing the 5k Walk for the Run For Respect Event

Lutheran School in Pas Bonbon Haiti 2021



This is the 3rd school year at Pas Bonbon. We at ESLC started this school in hopes of drawing 19 children to class (just look how it's grown). The church on the far left doubles as classrooms. Pastor Samuel's house has the green railings. On either side of the house are simple covered areas which are also classrooms. The Kitchen, restrooms with running water, school supplies, Bibles in French, and Luther's Small Catechism in both French and Creole were all funded through Eternal Shepherd. In addition, through Trinity HOPE we are feeding all of these children lunch every day! The children enter the school yard and go first to the Washing Stations to prevent Covid. Then they gather together for the Opening Devotion and Prayer. The current classes are first through fifth grade, and in August they will be starting a Sixth Grade Class. The uniforms are made for the children through the women at the school in Laotchikit. Our sister congregation, Mt Pisgah LCMS Henderson, NC donated sewing machines and supplied the material for the uniforms at both schools. The original staff included Pastor Samuel as Founder and Teacher, Accilien Louithene, Principle and Teacher, and Samuel's wife Olibrice as the cook. Today that initial staff has grown to include four additional teachers and a Gate Keeper. The total Monthly Salary for the staff of 8 men and women is \$880.00. We at ESLC are paying the staff at both Pas Bonbon and Rocky Road. Next month the Agapegram article will focus on Rocky Road.

For more information on the churches and schools in Haiti please contact Lars Helland. For more information on our Honduras Mission, please contact Pastor Ray Ramsburg. If you have a mission you want Eternal Shepherd to consider, please contact any of the following also serving on the Mission Committee: *Richard Grotheer, Pastor Bill Barthel, Milo Bell, Deek Decker, and yes, both Pastor David and Deaconess Holly.* Eternal Shepherd is Blessed to be a Blessing!

Honduras Mission News:

With many new families at the church and with no mission trips to report, I thought it would be helpful to share a bit about ESLC's seven years of doing ministry in Tegucigalpa, the Capitol of Honduras. Before I do however, I would like to thank all of you who have supported World Gospel Outreach during this time of Pandemic so that we can continue the ministry in the future. Your generosity has enabled the continued distribution of food and medicine to the people as the Gospel continues to be proclaimed.

We began our mission trips to Honduras in February 2014 and have made week-long trips each year through February 2020. It is a medical mission with an evangelistic outcome, meaning we provide medical, dental, and optical services along with children's ministry and installing concrete floors. There is also a pharmacy from which we will dispense, on the average, \$16,000.00 worth of medicine during the week. Once the person has been seen in one of these areas they then go to an Evangelism station where they sit with a team member to hear the gospel being proclaimed. A team will see 2500 to 3000 people in a week of ministry with 400 to 500 of them being children. It is this personal contact that makes this ministry so special and so life-changing, both for the Honduran and for the North American believer. Relationships are built on the reality that one day we will all be one—that day when we gather with our Lord in Heaven. As we proclaim this someone usually adds that we will all be speaking Spanish.

We go to Honduras with medicine and other aid so that the people of Honduras can live fruitful lives in their own country. Many of our translators have lived in the U.S. but have returned because Honduras is home. Hondurans are a wonderful, happy people, most of whom have Christ at the center of their lives, and those who do not have Christ as Lord and Savior will have the opportunity to learn how from a loving, friendly North American.

We plan to return as soon as the all clear is sounded from the Pandemic and possibly sooner if the situation allows. Please join us for a future trip. Just ask me or one of the 30 plus members who have been part of our teams.

~Dios te bendiga (God Bless You)! Pastor Ray



Operation Christmas Child News

A CHURCH WAS STARTED AMONG AN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF A LOCAL PASTOR IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.



La Laguna village in remote Mexico, home to the Nahuatl people, was once unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one in the mountain community had ever heard the name of Jesus, been told that God loves them or how they could have a personal relationship with the Living Savior. No one had a Bible. Now, because of one pastor's obedience to share the Gospel and his vision for reaching children through Operation Christmas Child, the Good News has come to La Laguna and the community will never be the same.

Pastor Jose Benitez has had polio since age 2 and uses a scooter to get around since he can't walk. He wears a glove on the one hand that he uses to push the scooter. "This has not been an impediment in any way to take the Gospel to those who need it. God has given us the strength to take His Word," he said. "It's God who brought me to this place." Edward Graham spent time encouraging and praying with Pastor Jose, calling him a "true champion for Christ." "In the eyes of the world, maybe he has an excuse to say 'I can't do that.' But he hasn't let that hold him back," Graham said. "It's not his feet moving, it's Jesus taking him. He's being obedient to the Gospel."

continued on next page....

Operation Christmas Child and The Greatest Journey marked the turning point in Pastor Jose's ministry. He was already pastoring a church in a town several hours away when, through his radio broadcast, a listener from La Laguna named Eusebia wrote a letter explaining that she wanted to know more about God. Pastor Jose traveled to the village to meet with Eusebia and he rejoiced when she became a follower of Christ. For the next 20 years, he made the arduous trek up the mountain, along a dangerous road that's often flooded, to preach and teach as often as possible. But the spiritual fruit did not come. People were not coming to faith as Eusebia had done. They were not interested in the things of God. Yet, he didn't give up. He continued praying and sharing the Good News. And when dozens of children came to faith through Operation Christmas Child, Pastor Jose didn't stop there. He taught The Greatest Journey under a mango tree and began praying even then for a house of worship in La Laguna.

On Oct. 22, children, parents, school teachers, and friends from the area gathered for a special worship service to dedicate the first ever church building in La Laguna. The church was birthed after children came to faith in Christ during an Operation Christmas Child outreach event and in the weeks following during The Greatest Journey discipleship program. The children shared with their parents what they learned about God and the Bible through the discipleship lessons, and as a result, many adults in La Laguna are now also Christians.

The Next Generation:

The dedication service also included a time of baptism for several children, all who are graduates of The Greatest Journey. Jonathan, Eusebia's grandson, said he wanted to be baptized because he wanted to "follow the way of the Lord." Jonathan still remembers the day he received his shoebox gift—his favorite gifts were the markers and colored pencils. Jonathan's mother was among the first Christians in the village and she said people often criticized her for believing in Jesus. "I am very happy now seeing more people coming to Christ," she said.

Alexandra, whose daughter Lidia was also baptized, said her family knew nothing about God before they met Pastor Jose. Even though Lidia had to walk 30 minutes from their home in order to attend The Greatest Journey, she did so willingly and continues to cross the mountain when Pastor Jose comes to teach.

"Ever since he has come, the way the kids here behave is totally different. They want to go forward and follow the Lord," Alexandra said. She has eight children and four were of the appropriate age to receive Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts.

"It was the most special thing they had ever gotten. I can't give my kids things like that," she said. "We're very grateful to people in other places who pack the gift boxes and send them to us."

Please pray for the children in La Laguna, that they will grow in the knowledge of God and share their faith with others. Pray that this new church building will be a place where many more people will hear and respond in faith to the Word of God.

BOARD OF OUTREACH NEWS



One of the organizations supported by our Board of Outreach is Dot's Kitchen of Westminster, SC.

Dot's Kitchen is a total volunteer run organization that operates out of the American Legion building in Westminster. They have over 100 volunteers who are divided into teams. Each team has a captain who is responsible for planning the menu for the day and gathering the supplies. The team for any given day arrives at 8--8:30 in the morning to start cooking and preparations. They serve a meal for homeless and indigent people at 11:30 —12:30 Monday thru Friday.

After serving they eat and cleanup. Each team spends about 6—7 hours per day working. They used to serve the meal in the legion but since Covid they have been preparing the meals to go and their clients pick them up.

Each day they cook for 80 people and serve between 60 to 80. Don Seigler and Captain Bert Wise from our congregation are two of the more than 100 volunteers. To learn more about this ministry see Dot's Kitchen on Facebook or speak with a member of our Bd. of Outreach.

~Al Roeder—Board of Christian Outreach

DISASTER RESPONSE



Help those in need

After some conversations with Camp Rockfish in Lumberton, NC, we have learned that they are having difficulties hiring workers. They have several projects that they need help finishing.

Preliminary thoughts are that our next mission trip the week of June 6th will be to go help them. Please consider service in this important ministry. For more information please contact Deek Decker.



Needs Mentors!

Our mission is to empower children to reach their full God-given potential and to break generational poverty.

Mentors are needed for 3rd-12th graders. Come and share life changing skills with our children!

Visit our website at www.rippleofone.org
For more information, email Ria Dawkins at: ripple.terria@gmail.com



Greeting Cards— Birthday! Get Well! Encouragement! Praying for You! Sympathy! Thinking of You! Difficult Times! Anniversary! Baptism! Thanksgiving! Christmas! All these cards are available in the card cart located in the main Fellowship Hall. They are \$.50 a card and \$5.00 for a whole box. Take some time and check them out.

FOOD BANK NEWS: Please help us in collecting preferred needed canned, or boxed grocery items each month to help restock the Golden Corner Food Pantry's shelves. **May's** preferred product is **"Rice or Spaghetti Noddles"** (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.*



Hospitality Happenings for May

No in house hospitality happenings at this time due to current restrictions.

As always we thank you for your support and look forward to the day we can once again join together at ESLC in fellowship.

Thinking about joining the hospitality board? Please see myself



ON-LINE GIVING 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.*



May Birthdays

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 – Diane Williams | 17 – Pastor Justin Pahl |
| 4 – Jean Feldt
Mildred Harth | 22 – Caroline Scott |
| 5 – Debbie Krueger | 23 – Teri Massa |
| 6 – Marlene Ranck
Thomas Wood | 24 – Vicki Tramble |
| 7 - Don Del Priore | 25 – Joyce Dittmer
Cindy Gibson |
| 8 – Harold Koeplin | 26 - Pat Jacques |
| 10 – Lauren McCrary
Sarah Sorrell | 27 – Mike Dittmer
Lynne Smith |
| 11 - Austin Chenault
Cara Murray | 28 – Micky Louderback |
| 13 – Skip Wakeman | 29 – Betty Terry |
| 14 – Jill Roeder | 30 – Rowan Bunning
Barb Swift |
| 16 – Kathy Bergeson
Chris Gibson
Kyle McKibben
Laura Thoma | 31 – Katherine Sitler |



May Anniversaries

- 4 - Grover & Delores Stewart
- 5 - David & Laura Broderdorf
- 8 - Jim & Jane Fireovid
- 9 - Bob & Teri Massa
- 11 - Bryan & Sara Thibeault
- 13 – Michael & Sami Johnson
- 14 - Richard & Elaine Grotheer
- 16 - Craig & Terri Baumann
- 19 - Craig & Kate Wells
- 22 – Tom & Karen Eckersley
- 23 – Brian & Tracy Keefer
- 24 – Harold & Lucille Koeplin
- 27 – Barry & Peggy Voeltz
- 28 - Rich & Colleen Hesemann
Dan & Linda Huth



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS



In March the following gifts were given:

Error correction from 7 February Tab Report:
Fidelity Charitable Grant in Memory of Gene and Theresa Kunkel - \$1000

In loving memory of *Gene Kunkel*
the Elders Fund received a gift of \$100.00,
the Memorial Fund received a gift of \$50.00,
and the Ripple of One Fund received a gift of \$100.00

Other Gifts:

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$826.28

The Debt Reduction Fund received a gift of \$600.00 from CCCF Grant

The Disaster Response Team Fund received gifts of \$400.00

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$125.00

The Food Bank Fund received a gift of \$200.00

The General Fund received a gift of \$32.00

The Haiti Missions Fund received gifts of \$538.47

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$100.00

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received a gift of \$48.48

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$580.00

Little Lambs Tales

Now learn the parable from the fig tree. When its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. Matthew 24:32

Summer is near! It is hard to believe that we are in our last month of school at Little Lambs Preschool!

From awaiting the transformation of our caterpillars into butterflies and spending our time admiring God's beautiful creation in the varying colors of all the landscape surrounding the church; the children and staff at Little Lambs are enjoying this time of year!

On May 5th we will be holding our first Spring Program. This will be held in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am where all our children will be performing songs for our parent community. We hope this will be an event that will continue through the years.

Our last day of school is on May 26th! On this final day we will be celebrating the end of our successful school year with a picnic for our families. **Our picnic will be held outside at Little Lambs Preschool!** **Please be aware that between 10:00-12:00 the lower parking area will be closed off to car traffic.**



On May 28th at 9:30am we will be sending off our 4's as we hold our annual Graduation program. As these beautiful children of God fly their wings into kindergarten please join us in congratulating them! We pray that God continues to watch over them in their faith journey through life.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our Preschool ministry! All the staff at Little Lambs Preschool feel blessed to be here surrounded by such a loving and faithful community of faith. *We wish all of you a blessed and peaceful summer!*

*In Christ,
Gina*



A HEART FOR Mom

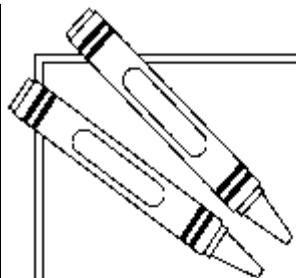
Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



Just for KIDS

A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

- 1 "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (v. 10).
- 2 "She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life" (v. 12).
- 3 "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" (v. 13).
- 4 "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (v. 17).
- 5 "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" (v. 20).
- 6 "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet" (v. 21).
- 7 "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (v. 30).

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| ___ Caring | ___ Godly | ___ Prepared |
| ___ Hardworking | ___ Hearty | ___ Priceless |
| | ___ Kind | |

Answers: 1, priceless; 2, kind; 3, hardworking; 4, hearty; 5, caring; 6, prepared; 7, godly.

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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