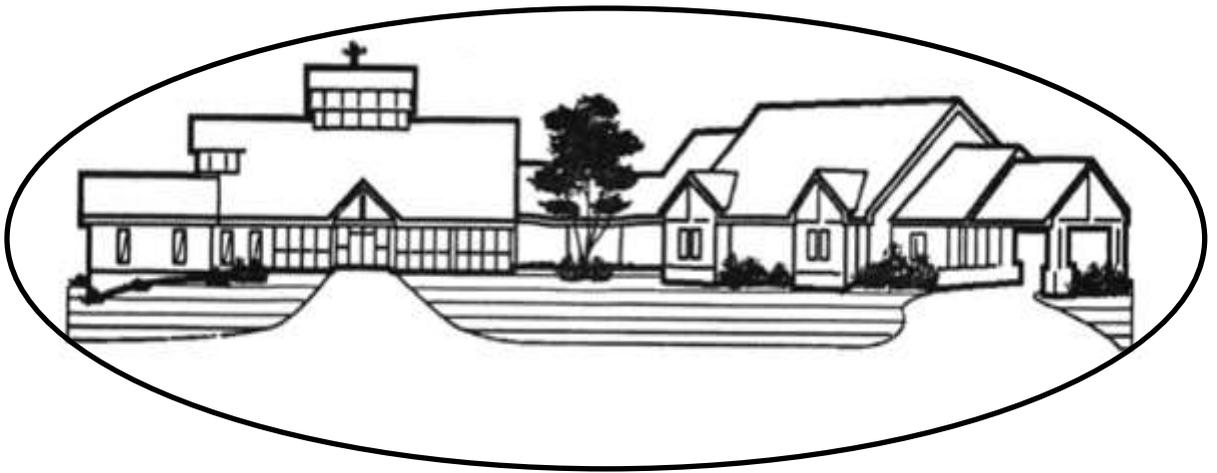

Agapegram

July 2021



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

www.eternalshepherd.org

office@eternalshepherd.org

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

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



The Bible, Part III: God's Gift for Our Faith & Life

Make known to me your ways, O LORD. Teach me your paths. Psalm 25:4 EHV

We conclude our journey through past LCMS President, Rev. Dr. A.L. Barry's What About pamphlet on The Bible:

How Do We Use the Bible?

The Bible is foundational for the church's ministry. The Bible was never intended to stand alone or apart from the community of faith we call the Christian church. It is sad when some people think that, if they just read the Bible, they can stay away from church. We receive our Lord's gifts with joy and do not say, "We want this, but not that." It would be misleading if our high respect for the Scriptures was used to drive a wedge between the Bible and the church. The church is the gathering of God's people around the Lord's Word and Sacraments. The Scriptures are the sure and certain revelation of God's Word and thus are to be read, studied, and meditated on by Christians at church and at home.

We Lutherans realize that Scripture must be interpreted according to the central truth of the Bible, the Gospel, not picked apart and made to teach things that actually conflict with the Gospel. Therefore, we pay close attention to the grammar and words of the Bible, seeking out the intended meaning, which is the plain sense of the text. We recognize that God the Holy Spirit works through the Scriptures to create and sustain the church as it comes together around the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments.

Whenever the Word of God is preached, taught, studied, read, learned, or meditated on, the Holy Spirit is actively turning people from their sin and drawing them to Christ for their salvation. Thus, we will want to be in the Word daily. At home, we read and meditate on the Word through our private and family devotions. At church, our hymns and liturgy are anchored in the Word of God. Our pastors preach to us on the basis of the Scripture lessons appointed for each Sunday in the church year. Our school teachers lead our children into a deeper knowledge of the Word of God. In Sunday school, children learn the biblical accounts and thus have a foundation for their lives. In youth and adult Bible studies, the Scriptures are studied in a variety of ways so they can inform and enlighten us and help us understand how we live out our lives as God's people.

What a blessed gift the Holy Scriptures are to us and to all people! Everything God wants us to know about Himself is contained in His Word.

continued on next page...

Through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit reveals the truth about our sinful condition and the joyful news of God's saving work for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Truly, God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path (Ps.119:105). For that reason, we pray, "Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word."

It is written: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4 EHV

Pastor David



And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

*"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,*

To set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

*Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them,
"Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:17-21*



Deaconess' Musings

Endless & Unceasing

"Any day now would be great, Lord!"

That frequent phrase has quickly become a daily refrain.

"Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly and bring about the New Age."

Well. He hasn't answered me just yet, so there must still be work left to do. People to reach. The Gospel of the forgiveness of sins to ring throughout the world. The softening of my own heart for others who do not know what they do.

Events of the past weeks, months, and years, and the seemingly never-ending perversion of anger and evil within Mankind presents cause for reflection.

This anger. This hate. This evil. It does not just live within those "other people."

It lives inside all of us. Name it – SIN is that anger. SIN is that hate. SIN is that evil.

Do not try and talk yourself out of it. *"But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement.; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."* (Matt. 5:22)

All people struggle with this, no matter what their various beliefs are or what line they tow. All. People. For all people sin. No one is wholly perfect – not even us believers.

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:8, 10)

However. This is not the end of our story. God, without any assistance or input from us, in His great mercy sent Christ to take that very sin that lives inside all of us. God became man and dwelt among His own fallen creation. To save them. To redeem them.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

He saw all of that anger, all of that hate, and all of that evil – and yet died for the whole world. For those who would believe and even for those who would spurn and reject His Son.

We who now stand and live in that righteousness of Jesus Christ now stand in that forgiveness of sins. While we continue to struggle against our old sinful nature, we stand as redeemed Children of God. Through Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit within our hearts and minds, we are called to the other. As forgiven, baptized Children of God, the other amongst us now becomes our focus. Essentially, any one "other" than yourself.

We have been redeemed from our old condemned nature. We are continually sanctified by the Holy Spirit to continually look outside of ourselves and to the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection for those sins so very evident within the world and ourselves.

This world is full of sorrows – seen and unseen to us. Pray unceasingly and unceasingly proclaim Christ. Seek the lost and love the enemy. And rejoice that Christ has not forgotten you, for you are His redeemed Child.

~Deaconess Holly

Sometimes Our Battles Pick Us

Choose your battles wisely. This statement has a great deal of merit. It bears fruit when it comes to our parenting decisions. One of my daughters as a very young girl had definite ideas about what she would wear for the day and insisted she be allowed to pick out her attire. Sometimes the outfit did not match and we attempted to provide wardrobe guidance. It wasn't that she chose to wear something that was immodest. It just didn't go together. It was a hill we chose not to die on.

In our adult interactions it sometimes makes more sense to bite our tongue rather than enter a heated argument with a friend or coworker. Don't sweat the small stuff. There are other times however when we must stand our ground and do or say what we believe is right and just.

The month of June was designated by our "Woke" society as Gay Pride month. Some businesses have jumped on the band wagon to offer support to the LGBTQ community. For example, Burger King not only supports the LGBTQ community but also took a not so subtle crack at its competitor with Christian roots, Chick-fil-A. When you buy a chicken sandwich at Burger King "even on Sundays" the company donates 40 cents to an LGBTQ advocacy group. During June, Chipotle had two marketing campaigns to benefit the LGBTQ community, "Chipotle Queen of Pride" and "Chipotle Drag Lunch" on YouTube channel. These are two current examples but there are many companies who follow the whims of man rather than the will of God. Nike, Disney, Hollywood and other entities also push the boundaries of what is good and wholesome.

As Independence Day rapidly approaches it is good to reflect on the significance of this day. I wonder how many Americans consider the history of our country. There appears to be a lack of patriotism in American society these days. Independence Day is more than a long weekend. The price we paid for our Independence was indeed quite high. In the early years of our country people came to America seeking religious freedom. There was a desire for self-government and the freedom to worship God without government dictating what to believe. When our independence from Great Britain was achieved, our forefathers thanked God for this victory. God's hand in this American struggle was acknowledged. In the succeeding 245 years it has been necessary to go to war to defend our sovereignty as a nation. This decision carried a tremendous cost in pain, suffering, and death.

America was predominately a Christian nation for her first 200 years or so. That is no longer the case. We live in an era of cancel culture with Christian values coming under greater and greater attack. We Christians must choose our battles wisely however there are times when we are targeted and our battles choose us. How do we respond?

Let us celebrate America's birthday and thank God for the liberties granted to us. We pray the Holy Spirit enables our leaders in government and our business leaders to make wise decisions. We also pray for our religious leaders. We ask God's guidance for ourselves that we make wise choices. Help us to boldly share our beliefs and to stand up for what is right and just. We still have that right in America. "Choose this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

Dan Arkfeld, Head Elder

July 2021 Council Update

The Council Team met on June 8th. Following is some of the latest updates from your Council:

Homecoming Committee:

By now our congregation will have hopefully settled into our rotating “Full Precaution” and “Reduced Precaution” (RP) services. As active COVID cases continue to diminish in Oconee County and South Carolina, and members continue to feel more comfortable given the vaccine and other factors, the RP service will evolve toward normalcy. Thanks to all members for their consideration of others during these transitional times.

Records Retention Process:

Is it necessary to keep utility bills from 10 years ago? How about communion records from years ago? With consultation from Synod, an effort is underway to update and implement our records retention process for all our historical documents. Additionally, using our updated computer infrastructure, keeping electronic copies of records versus paper offer many benefits (disaster proof, physical space reduction, key word searches...). Special thanks to Susan Tyner (Council Secretary) for leading this effort with help from Deaconess and Debbie Krueger.

In His service,
John Cochell



Music and Worship Committee SPECIAL NOTICE/INVITATION

In the next few weeks we will be sending out a Survey for your reply.

This is a request for you to submit your top five (5) hymns. Why? So we can incorporate as many as possible into the worship service – Opening hymn, Sermon Hymn, Closing Hymn. Do the lyrics of the song ring in your ears....”*That kinda music just soothes the soul, I reminisce about the days of old....*” OK so that was a song from Bob Seger’s song “Old Time Rock & Roll”, but if those hymns “soothe” your soul and compliment the worship service, please submit your favorites. If you have any other comments to discuss regarding our Music and/or our Worship service, please contact Lars Helland – 706-244-4544 cell/text, or Lars.Helland@edgewaterautomation.com

To Serve and Protect

The children and youth at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church are two of the most precious components of the body of Christ in this place. *(Luke 18:16)* God expects us to nurture and protect them, and our Children and Youth Safety and Safety Monitor programs are a concrete response to this Divine expectation. These two programs, established by the congregation in 2018, are in urgent need of additional *PROTECTORS*—women and men who are willing to serve as Secure Volunteers and/or Safety Monitors, keeping a loving and protective eye on our children, our youth, and our facilities when they are in our care.

Secure Volunteers (age 18+)

Undergo a background check
Receive Secure Volunteer training
Serve as teachers, group leaders, assistants, observers, and “sheep herders”
Essential to implementing the “two-person” rule

Safety Monitors (age 18+)

Undergo a background check
Receive Safety Monitor training
Monitor the facilities whenever children are on site (Sunday School, VBS, activities)
Provide emergency response when needed

Multiple opportunities for training in both programs are being offered in July and August, as we prepare for the beginning of a new year of Bible school in the Fall. Mark your calendars now! The more who join us, the less the burden in frequency of service in these programs.

Secure Volunteer Training

Monday, July 19 at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm
Thursday, July 22 at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm
Monday, Aug 9 at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm
Thursday, Aug 12 at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm

Safety Monitor Training

Tuesday, July 20 at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm
Saturday, July 24 at 10:30 am
Tuesday, Aug 10 at 10:30 am
Saturday, Aug 14 at 10:30 am

To initiate your background check (you can do this before or after training), please fill out a request (available at the front desk) and place it in Kerry Blount’s box in the narthex or hand it to him personally. He is also available to answer any questions about these programs by calling (719) 660-2381 or by e-mail at kerry9464@att.net.

The children and youth at ESLC deserve to have every opportunity to experience the Word of God and the love of the family of God conducted in a safe environment. Won’t you help us forge a “dome of protection” for them as they learn to *“live, and move, and have their very being”* in the Kingdom of God? *(Acts 17:28)* Your service can make an eternal difference.

Most Holy Father, thank you for the gift of the many children who worship at Eternal Shepherd. Grant us strength, courage and motivation to serve and protect them. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Comfort Dog News!

Guess what? Seth is having a birthday in July! He will turn 4 years old on July 10 and to celebrate the Comfort Dog Team will be making a special treat for each member on Sunday, July 11 after each service! We not only celebrate Seth and the work he does, we also want to thank all of you for your love, support and encouragement of this ministry over the last 2+ years. Be sure to get your treat from one of our team members as you leave church on July 11, it will be yummy!

Things are really picking up for the team with more facilities opening their doors to us. We have returned to several of the places we have gone in the past such as Keowee Place, Foothills Assisted Living, Brookdale Assisted Living, Clemson Downs Health Center, and the Willows Assisted Living but we also have added Dominion Assisted Living and Pruitt Hospice. We are cleared to begin visiting Oconee Memorial Hospital and Cottingham Hospice House which is good news as the staff and patients always welcome us with lots of love! We have also visited several of our Eternal Shepherd members at their residences as our schedule allows. In addition, we try and participate in the veteran honor ceremonies that are held for veterans in hospice care with Veterans Last Patrol.

On June 13 we were invited to attend the ordination of Vicar Andrew Wrasman at Oak Road Lutheran Church in Lilburn, GA. We were joined by two other Comfort Dogs – Hope from Marietta, GA and Lizzie from Savannah, GA. It was a beautiful service and we were blessed to attend.

On June 20, we were also invited to Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Anderson to share the Comfort Dog Ministry to the members there. We welcome invitations like these as it is always a joy to talk about this ministry!

As you can see, Seth is one busy pup! But he takes it all in stride and loves being back to work. His team is happy too!

To God be the Glory,
Kyra Carbone
Top Dog



Seth, Lizzie and Hope and their handlers



Pastor Wrasman, his family and the Comfort Dogs!

Operation Christmas Child's "Christmas in July" Fundraiser

It is wonderful to restore another bit of normalcy to the congregation by once again hosting our annual "Christmas in July" fundraiser for Operation Christmas Child. Since 2016, prior to the arrival of COVID, Eternal Shepherd has adopted the practice of raising money in July that goes specifically toward purchasing the necessary items to pack and ship shoebox gifts as part of our participation in the shoebox ministry of Samaritan's Purse. This year we've stepped out in faith to ship 300 shoeboxes! The shipping alone for such an endeavor will be \$2,700.00!

Due to your faithful support throughout the year, most of the supplies have already been purchased. We do still need to buy the socks and underwear that we usually include in our boxes, and also pay for the shipping of the boxes, which is \$9.00 per box.

Please check out the display in the Narthex. We are grateful for the large wooden display cross that holds our shoeboxes. It was built by our own Mike Hauser! On the table you'll see a sample of the items we've already purchased in preparation for our 6th Annual Shoebox Packing Party in November. Each year millions of children hear the Gospel through this ministry. It is truly changing the world one heart at a time, and we hope you'll join with us to reach children with the love of Christ!

If you would like to help:

Simply contribute through your normal offering, by writing "Operation Christmas Child" on the memo line of your check, which should be made out to "Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church". Or, if you contribute online, simply earmark part of your donation to go to Operation Christmas Child, which is listed among the options for giving.

THANK YOU for partnering with God to touch the lives of millions of children across the globe this year.

~ Terri Baumann



Honduras Mission News:

Our news from Honduras this month is from WGOKids at Rancho Ebenezer. A huge congratulations to our 6th grade and 1st grade graduates at Ebenezer Academy. They have accomplished what many in Honduras cannot because of their living conditions. Thanks to all who support the children at the ranch. If you are interested in supporting these children go to wgoreach.org and go to WGOKids or ask a Honduras team member.

Thanks and God Bless You, Pastor Ray and your Honduras Team



CHURCH VOLUNTEER APPEAL FOR BABYREAD

Volunteers Needed for BabyRead during Pandemic
BabyRead volunteers continue to stay in touch with families by texting, phoning and dropping off books once a month. We need volunteers more than ever to provide our moms and babies with books and moral support during this time of isolation. Become a BabyRead volunteer by emailing Caren at babyread@charter.net.



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



Scrip Cards are available and make *great gifts* as well as earn money for Eternal Shepherd at the same time. Please note we now have Publix gift cards available. For orders please contact **Libby Dunlap** by phone (864) 944-7477 or by email at robertwd@bellsouth.net. After the order is received one of the Scrip ladies will contact you to make arrangements for delivery. Scrip Card Team: **Beckie Rau, Libby Dunlap, Elisabeth Baker & Sue Hauser.** ~Thank you for your support.



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

No in house hospitality happenings at this time.

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 or Marlene Bell with any questions. *In His service, Sue Williams*



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.*



July Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Betty Brueggeman | 16 - Tracy Cochell |
| Mary Coffman | Walt Lindow |
| 3 – Rick Schmidt | 17 – Lucille Koeplin |
| Sam Woike | 18 – Griffin Eslinger |
| 6 - Jane Fireovid | Dan Franzen |
| 7- Julie Gambrell | 20 – Don Seigler |
| Barbara Willbrant | 21 – Marilyn Bode |
| 8 – Stephen Beitz | James Wells |
| Emilie Hammer | Stephen Wells |
| 9 – Jenna Zirbel | 22 - Curt Dombi |
| 10 – John Munro | 25 – Karen Findlay |
| David Phillips | 26 – Katie Baumann |
| 14 – Marian Abramovitch | 27 - Julie Moore |
| Paul Fredrickson | Elaine Rich |
| Beth Phillips | 28 – Charlene Seiff |
| Janet Walker | 29 – Brian Keefer |
| 15 - Mike Kunce | Vivienne Scott |
| | 30 – Sami Johnson |



July Anniversaries

- 1 - Dennis & Jean Hippchen
(Pr. Justin & Jennifer Pahl)
- 5 - Steve & Chris Christensen
Roy & Judi Graham
- 6 – Rudy & Kyra Carbone
- 9 – Bob & Kristin Morriss
- 10 - Rev. George & Mary Coffman
- 14 – Tom & Joanne Markley
- 15 – Ken & Sue Schneider
- 16 – Al & LuWanna Johnson
- 22 – Stephen & Renee Beitz
- 26 – Fred & Elaine Massa
- 27 – Glenn & Carolyn Croteau
- 28 – Harold & Joyce Krueger
Henry & Sue Watson
- 29 – Jeff & Diane Williams



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

In May the following gifts were given:

In loving memory of *Rev. Art Beyer*
the Memorial Fund received a gift of \$50.00

In loving memory of *Gene Kunkel*
the Memorial Fund received a gift of \$25.00

Other Gifts:

The Church Bus Fund Received a gift of \$225.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$109.07

The Debt Reduction Fund received gifts of \$75.00,
and a gift of \$600.00 from CCCF Grant

The Disaster Response Team Fund received gifts of \$200.00

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$125.00

The Foothills Care Center Fund received gifts of \$148.39

The General Fund received a gift of \$ 400.00 from AEF Grant

The Haiti Missions Fund received gifts of \$290.00

The Honduras Mission Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The Lutheran Witness Magazine Fund received gifts of \$30.00

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$625.00

The Special Missions Fund received a gift of \$50.00

The Toys for Gods Kids Fund received a gift of \$100.00

Independence Day!



Sunday, July 4th

***“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.”
Psalm 33:12***



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Habitat For Humanity is in need of volunteers throughout the organization. There are jobs for men and women in all areas. Please consider helping in this worthwhile organization. Find out more about serving with us at <https://www.oconeehabitat.org>.



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.

THERE IS NO ROCK LIKE OUR GOD

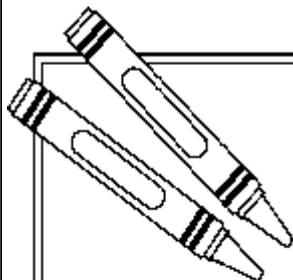
Try this fun summer craft that transforms rocks into beautiful waxy jewels! This craft can remind you that "there is no Rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2).

What you need:

- Smooth flat rocks
- Aluminum foil
- Oven mitt
- Newspapers
- Old crayons
- Cookie sheet
- Black permanent marker (optional)*
- An adult to help

What you do:

1. Clean off the rocks.
2. With an adult's help, set the oven to 225 degrees and bake your rocks for 15 minutes on a foil-lined cookie sheet.
3. While the rocks bake, remove the paper wrappers from the old crayons.
4. With an adult's help, use an oven mitt to remove the rocks from the stove and set them on a pad of newspapers. The rocks will be VERY HOT, so be careful!
5. Draw on the stones with the crayons. The heat will melt the crayons into vibrant liquid wax. For a swirl effect, hold each crayon against the rock in one place to create a puddle of color, and continue to swirl the color around with the end of the crayon.
6. *After the rock cools, use the marker to write "God Rocks," "The LORD is my Rock" or "My God is my Rock."



Just for

KIDS

THE LORD IS MY ROCK

Skipping stones, rock climbing and hiking are all fun summer activities. What do they all have in common? Rocks! Look at Psalm 18:2 to see the strength in the ONE rock we can depend upon.

Search the puzzle for the **BOLD** words from Psalm 18:2, and circle them. The words **MY** and **ROCK** only need to be found once.

"The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, **MY FORTRESS** and **MY DELIVERER**; **MY GOD** is **MY ROCK**, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is **MY SHIELD** and the **HORN** of **MY SALVATION**, **MY STRONGHOLD**."

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| O | L | O | B | K | I | E | Y | E | J | S | A |
| R | E | F | U | G | E | I | Y | N | T | V | L |
| R | O | G | H | A | R | L | Q | R | A | Y | V |
| S | X | C | T | T | I | M | T | K | K | M | A |
| H | O | R | N | C | E | Y | R | A | E | D | T |
| I | G | F | V | L | O | L | K | E | N | S | I |
| E | N | F | O | R | T | R | E | S | S | G | O |
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| D | C | D | E | L | I | V | E | R | E | R | E |
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| X | H | X | A | R | K | L | R | C | N | H | Y |
| G | O | D | T | D | K | A | D | K | U | D | X |

GOD ROCKS.

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