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# Agapegram

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December 2021



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Seneca, South Carolina 29678

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## Symbols of Salvation: Foretelling Christ's Birth

*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.* Micah 5:2 <sup>EHV</sup>

Ordinarily, when we think of Old Testament prophecies of the birth of Christ, we have in mind specific verses such as, “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son” (Isa. 7:14); “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Isa. 9:6); etc. These direct prophecies point clearly to the coming of Jesus as the Savior Messiah.

But Jesus teaches us that the entire Old Testament prophecies about Him—“Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, [Jesus] explained to them what was said in *all the Scriptures* concerning *himself*.” (Lk. 24:27, emphasis added). All of the Bible is about Jesus. From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus’ advent among us in the flesh.

Old Testament events serve as symbols that point to Jesus. He is the perfect Israel and the culmination of its divinely given institutions. He is the embodiment of the Scriptures, for “the Word became flesh and dwelled among us” (Jn. 1:14). The Old Testament is not just a historical record; it was and continues to be the active, Spirit-filled Word of God that proclaims Christ to us.

The midweek sermons this Advent focus on three particular Old Testament narratives that serve as symbols of Jesus’ coming to share in our humanity: the burning bush, the cloud in the tabernacle, and the call of Gideon. Each foretelling Jesus who came in the flesh to save us whose flesh is plagued by sin. All of Scripture finds its culmination and fulfillment in Him. Join us Wednesdays at 7pm (live or livestreamed) and may God the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, bless our meditation this season on Him who is the Word made flesh!

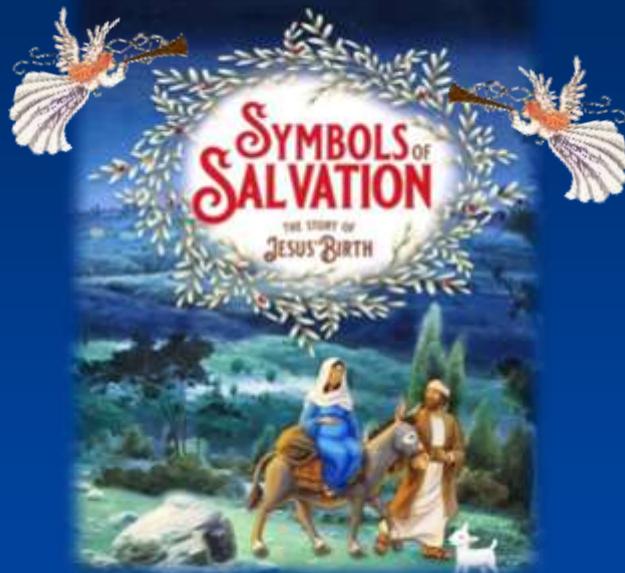
*We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.*

1 John 4:14 <sup>EHV</sup>



*Pastor David*

# Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church Family Christmas Eve Service



Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE  
**CANDLELIGHT**  
SERVICE



**Eternal Shepherd  
Lutheran Church**

**Friday, Dec. 24th  
at 7:00 pm**

*Please make plans to  
attend this special Service.*



## Deaconess' Musings

### *Incomprehensible Wonder*

**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say. “Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!”**

**Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.**

*(LSB 345, Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding st. 1 & 2)*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. – Isaiah 60:1-3*

**See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n;**

**So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.**

*(LSB 345, st. 3 & 4)*

*And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. – Isaiah 25:7-8*

**Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!**

*(LSB 345, st. 5)*

*It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” – Isaiah 25:9*

Advent. A season when we prepare our hearts and minds for the joys of celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord. Christmas is no minor festival of the Church. It is when we remember and praise God for the Incarnation. God made Man...for you! For the world!

Advent is not simply the time before Christmas Eve and presents, but a long-held season of the Church designed to focus you in on just how “big of a deal” the Incarnation is. God came down and dwelt among us, in the flesh, to save and redeem the very creatures who spurned Him.

This Advent, stop, reflect, and give thanks to God for this gift of His Son's birth. For His first “advent-ing” into the world assured us the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. And prepare your hearts for His Second Advent, where He will come and make all things new.

~Blessed Advent & Merry Christmas, *Deaconess Holly*

**ESLC CHRISTMAS EVENTS**  
***O' COME LET US ADORE HIM!***

***Midweek Advent Services***

Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 8th at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 15th at 7:00 pm

***ESLC Youth Lock-In***

Friday, Dec. 17th at 6:00 pm

***Christmas Eve Family Service***

Friday, Dec. 24th at 4:00 pm

***Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight Service***

Friday, Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm

***No Christmas Day Service***

***New Year's Eve Worship***

Friday, Dec. 31st at 7:00 pm

**Please note the church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve, and will be closed on Monday, Dec. 27th and Monday, Jan. 3rd**

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** - The poinsettia sign-up sheet is on display in the Narthex. Please take a moment to fill it in remembering to fill out an individual line for each plant. There may not be enough plants for everyone to take one home so please be aware that they are on a "first come, first serve" basis after the service. The price is \$10.00 per plant. ~Thank you!



**2022 SUNDAY FLOWER CHART** - The sign-up chart is on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. Tiger Lily of Clemson has continued to do a beautiful job with their arrangements without raising the price which will remain at \$25.00 per vase. You can sign up for as many Sundays as you want during the whole year for the dates that have special meanings for you and your family. **Directions are posted above the chart.**



# YOUTH LOCK in

At Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Friday, Dec. 17th @ 6:00 PM

**Come Join the Fun!**

**Scrip Cards** are available and make great Christmas gifts as well as earn money for Eternal Shepherd at the same time. Please note we have Publix, Ingles and Walmart gift cards available. For orders please contact **Beckie Rau** at (864) 944-6096. 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.



## A Wonderful Holiday

As a young boy Christmas was my favorite holiday. The gifts, the gathering of loved ones, the holiday festivities. There seemed to be an attitude of optimism and excitement among people. As a young child in a protected environment, I was oblivious to the fact that there are also people who for a variety of reasons feel quite the opposite. The holiday frenzy or financial pressures or fractured relationships make some feel anxious or depressed. It can become difficult to stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. As we prepare for Christmas let us also keep in mind those around us who could use a boost of encouragement and good cheer. The ESLC Shoebox Ministry is one thing that brings good cheer to young people. It may seem like a small thing to many of us who have so much but it brightens the lives of the recipient.

As an adult I still love Christmas. I love it for some of the same reasons I did as a child but the birth of our savior has more significance to me as an adult. This year we are able to celebrate at our home with our daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren and we look forward to all being together.

Many people in this world have no relationship with Jesus Christ so to them Christmas is just another holiday. As I have matured in my faith the spiritual aspect of the holiday has become more important to me. It is good to celebrate Christ's birth. Jesus' life was short but His impact on the world is unmatched. His impact on our eternal life is also unmatched. I thank God often for the gift of His Son. I do so intentionally because it defies logic. Why would someone give up their life as a sacrifice for my sin? The answer seems too simple. The Gospel of John tells us: God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) We are an Easter people. Without Christmas and the birth of Christ there could be no Easter.

Let us strive to keep our hearts and minds on the true meaning of Christmas. Let us look for opportunities to share what Christ means to us personally. Let us also look for opportunities to be Christians for those who are struggling during the Christmas season. Perhaps there is something we can do to show Christ to another person. As Pastor David said in Sunday School recently quoting Pastor Art Beyer, "Let's keep the main thing, the main thing."

Moving to Seneca has been a good thing for Jeanne and I for a multitude of reasons. The Christmas decorations with the fabulous light show in the business district is wonderful. The lighting ceremony for the big Christmas tree is quite a celebration. Mayor Dan Alexander leads those gathered in prayer and actually speaks the name of Jesus. This is such a refreshing change to have a home where Christians still publicly proclaim Jesus as Lord. I hope this always remains true.

*Merry Christmas from the Board of Elders!*  
*Dan Arkfeld – Head Elder*



***"I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people."***

## Meet our Newest Members

### **Meet the Beck Sixsome**

The military saw to it that the Becks lived in AK for a decade, which is where son Tyler (17) was born. His sister Alivia (13) was born in MO and Kane (1) in England. The older two look forward to the Youth Conference this summer and a Confirmation shortly. Dog "Llama" is helping raise Kane, as she did. trying to make friends with a moose & her calf in AK (c: Neal, recently retired from the Air Force (last station Salt Lake City) is now an electrician and Cier an at-home mom. Neal is handy, and Cier a reader; he likes to build things and she builds her family. Time together, playing games and campfires rule for the Becks. Living awhile in the North Pole, then in England, along with travel gave them some eye opening and humbling experiences with different cultures. Cier will assist with Hospitality & enjoys God Loves Moms' Bible Study. Closing our interview, Cier commented, "We have gone on some great adventures, but none seemed 'unusual'. Just seemed like us!"

### **Meet the Getchell's**

Hailing from MD & NH, this couple happily expects their first baby in July. Katie can be seen working for Walmart stocking groceries and Christian at Lift Technologies as a technical writer. Katie has hiked 30 miles on the Appalachian Trail, and up a 4422" NH Mt. She participates in charity distance walks. Christian likes to collect retro game consoles; in 2017 he toured the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. He remembers visiting an elderly woman who moved back to the zone as elderly are not removed due to age. Basically, this desolate area has been reclaimed by plant & animal life, becoming a sanctuary for many wild animals, including wild dogs and foxes that came up to the group in search of food. Many books, artwork & dolls still remain in Pripyat. Christian likes working with the elderly, both look forward to making connections with their age group. Katie loves animals and working with children. Coming from other denominations with their doubts and questions, Pastor Hammer took the time to understand and answer everything. They were pleased to find ESLC as, "a more formal & substantive church."

### **Meet Alice Mercer**

This lovely lady is Debbie Bell's mother! Besides Debbie, Alice claims a son in Nashville and three step-children back in Nebraska, where she had lived all her life. These brought her 12 grandchildren and 21 greats. Can anyone beat that? Moving here in 2020 she commented, "I am really enjoying the beautiful area and looking forward to making new friendships". Alice retired from an insurance agency as bookkeeper and in sales. She was active in her prior church, and with LWML. She enjoys baking, gardening and reading. Welcome aboard.

*~continued on next page...*

## Meet the Millers

Pennsylvanians Ann (Chem Engineer) & Larry (Electronics) met in Oil City PA where both worked for Pennzoil. They moved to Asheville in '89 where she worked for BASF and he for VME. Ann transferred to Central where they now live. As Larry was teaching at a tech school in Asheville then, he commuted until retirement. They have 3 sons, 15 grands & 1 great! Ann is a runner & enjoys races. She likes working with kids & cooking. Attn: Rick - Ann has sung in choirs though not sure she can keep up anymore. Larry collects coins & is a golfer. He also likes studying & teaching the Bible. Animal lovers, they have 4 dogs, 3 birds and a cat (not Larry's favorite) Her closing comment "We used to white water raft, backpack & rock climb, but we are trying to behave in our old age!" Shall we alert your Eder? (-;

## Welcome to the Wennermarks

Transferring from Our Redeemer Lutheran in Providence RI to ESLC, Kim and Sue are returning South, now living in Pendleton. Good move! Kim is a recent retiree from the VA, as a vocational rehabilitation counselor (helping disabled vets get back to work). Sue continues work with Intuit as an online tax expert for TurboTax. Both enjoy motorcycling which includes cross country trips in the US and Canada. They have a daughter and grandkids living in San Diego. "Having been very active in church while raising their family, they look forward to now simply participating in worship!"

## Welcome to the Wolbers!

Amanda and children (Eli 13 & Lydia 10) moved back to SC to assist siblings with the care of her mother who is in early dementia. Their father died last year of Covid. Amanda works from home in Logistics, a good thing, as the kids are home-schooled! Now that takes coordination. A niece is part of that process. Husband Daniel, as nuclear chief petty officer-electronics tech is a submariner on sea duty on the USS Michigan. Elijah enjoys gaming & learning Japanese, his sport is JuJitsu whereas Lydia swims competitively with Clemson Aquatics Team and enjoys multimedia arts. Amanda likes volunteering and traveling. Last but not least is their Pyrenees, Lab, Boxer mix "Tucker". The Wolbers live in Easley.

**CARD CART NEWS!** - If you have a chance, stop by the **Card Cart Ministry Display in the Fellowship Hall**. You might find a card that is just perfect for someone you know! There is a wide variety for all kinds of occasions and the price is perfect!!! \$.50 for all cards and \$5.00 for a box of 12 found on the bottom of the cart.



## *Comfort Dog News*

As we near the end of 2021, I would like to recap Seth and his team's activities this year. The beginning of the year was off to a slow start as we were still limited in where we could visit due to Covid-19. Fortunately, with the vaccine roll out we were able to increase our visitations as the year went on. As of this writing, Seth and his team have shared the love of Christ by completing 240 visits at various locations with an expected 20+ visits in December. This couldn't be done without our faithful team of 8 handlers and 12 ministry partners. Many thanks to all who serve on the team!

Another aspect of the ministry is Seth's social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. On these platforms, "Seth" tells his followers where he has been, who he has visited and often includes a Bible verse as appropriate. "Seth" answers as many comments as "he" can and engages with those who follow him. If you haven't checked out his presence on social media, go to **SethComfortDog** for Facebook and **lckk9seth** for Instagram.

Did you know that each year "Seth" sends over 200 Christmas cards to those who are hurting, lonely or in need? This endeavor engages 38 Comfort Dog teams across the country who send cards to people who have been identified as needing a bit of Christmas cheer and love. Christmas can be so hard to many who have lost loved ones or who are going through difficult times. Receiving a card from the dogs can mean so much and offer a bit of K-9 comfort!

Lastly, please know that **we will be holding our annual "Howl-Le-Lu-Ya" dog biscuit sale once again this year! Please see the separate announcement regarding dates of sale and donation list.** The donations received will go towards the Comfort Dog Ministry here at ESLC with 10% of proceeds to be donated to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Miami, FL. This church was the host church for the Surfside condo collapse deployment in July of this year. The Miami community have suffered greatly from Covid and one Haitian family who are members at Holy Cross has a great need of financial assistance. Since they were so hospitable and helpful to the Comfort Dog teams that deployed, we wanted to give back to help this family in need. In addition, we will be donating bags of dog food to the Oconee Humane Society with leftover funds received by a Thrivent Action Team card which will help us purchase the supplies and ingredients needed for the dog biscuit sale.



God is so good to us and has opened so many doors for us to do His work and for that I say Amen and God be praised!

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



## **2021 BABY BOTTLE DRIVE FOR THE FOOTHILLS CARE CENTER**

Thank you to all who supported the 2021 Baby Bottle Drive to benefit the Foothills Care Center (FCC) this year. Elaine and I presented the Eternal Shepard check to FCC for \$11,693.37. While Elaine and I were at Foothills, we met a client. She told us Foothills saved her life. She was depressed during her pregnancy and did not know where to turn. Her friend found Foothills on the Internet and had an appointment for her within 3 days. She said Foothills gave her the love and support she needed at a critical time. A heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generosity, faithfulness, and commitment to this wonderful ministry. Your continued support enables FCC to fulfill their mission *“To glorify God the Creator, by protecting and promoting the value of all human life”*. What a blessing to be part of this God pleasing ministry!

*Many thanks to Celeste, Pastor, Grover, Bill, and Jim for their help throughout this campaign to support FCC. On behalf of FCC, thank you and God bless! ~Tracy Cochell*



***“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only  
begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”***

***John 1:14***

***Merry Christmas!***

## Honduras News

I would like to express a hearty thank you to our ESLC members who signed on to sponsor a child at Rancho Ebenezer. Located in the mountains just outside of the capitol city of Tegucigalpa, Rancho Ebenezer is a community of family-style homes that has been developed as a place of healing and growth for at-risk children in Honduras. If you would like to help support WGO's efforts to raise these at-risk children just pick up a WGOKids brochure and it will walk you through the steps of sponsoring a child. If you need more information or help please see Pastor Ray Ramsburg for assistance, call 904-583-1214. Rancho Ebenezer differs from other programs in the country in that it is complete. Complete in that everything is provided for the child to become a responsible member of Honduran society. All the child's needs are met, i.e., all meals, housing, clothing, medical care, professional counseling, spiritual development and a bilingual education.

Child sponsorship usually comes about through the Serve Teams that travel to serve with WGO but because of the pandemic the teams are not traveling. Churches that sent these teams are therefore turning to their congregations to seek sponsorship for the children at the ranch and to enable WGO to bring in additional at-risk children. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of this ministry.

The country of Honduras is far behind the U.S. in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and so we will probably not be sending a Serve Team down until late in 2022. If you would be interested in learning more about a short-term mission trip to Honduras please see Pastor Ray Ramsburg or Mike Hauser.

*May God Bless You,  
Pastor Ray*



## Operation Christmas Child Update:

This year we dropped off 301 shoeboxes full of school supplies, hygiene items and toys!



### Several firsts for the ministry this year include:

- We met our goal of sending 300 boxes!
- Purchasing colorful pencil bags for the school supplies!
- Soapboxes for the soap, and beautiful toiletry bags to pack them in.
- Toothbrush holders for 300 donated toothbrushes. Thanks to Dentist Josh Murphy of Family Dentistry of Seneca, who has happily donated our toothbrushes for the last 6 years!
- We sent wooden jigsaw puzzles and musical instruments to all of the 2-4 year old children.
- We also sent waterproof hygiene bags to the oldest girls (10-14 years) that included reusable feminine pads, clothesline and clothespins to allow them to stay in school during their monthly cycles.
- We were able to purchase regulation soccer balls and pumps for all of the boys ages 5-14, and Dolls for all of the girls!

Expenditures for the ministry exceeded \$6,300.00 this year. That is broken down into shipping costs, which totaled \$2,700.00, and the items that went into the boxes cost about \$3,600.00. Many thanks go out to all those who continue to donate to the ministry throughout the year. That allows me to buy items when they go on sale and saves so much money! Your generous support of this ministry means that 301 more children will receive the best gift of all this year, and that is the Good News of the Gospel! Thanks also to those who helped us pack the shoeboxes. We simply couldn't do it without the help from all of you! We'll let you know what countries received our shoeboxes as soon as Samaritan's Purse tells us. Here's to looking forward to 2022 and a packing event to remember!



*Bless you!!  
Terri Baumann*

**MISSION QUILTER NEWS** -- You have probably noticed several quilts that have been displayed in the narthex and hallway leading to the fellowship hall. These quilts are shipped to 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries like Ukraine, Serbia, Honduras, etc. The Mission Quilter group is comprised of ladies that cut backing and batting material before combining these units to make the quilts. There is no sewing involved. We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday once a month from 9:30 to 12:30. If you are interested in learning more about this endeavor, contact Marlene Bell at 864-710-8947



## HOWL-LE-LU-YA Dog Biscuit Sale and More!

To raise funds for the Comfort Dog Ministry  
and to benefit Holy Cross Lutheran Church Miami, FL - Covid Relief  
(10% of proceeds)



Sale Dates: December 12 after services in the Narthex  
December 19 after services in the Narthex

\$5 bag of dog biscuits (12 small or 5 large)

\$14 Seth Stuffie

\$8 Seth mug (limited supply)

The dog biscuits will be healthy, all natural and made with love! Seth Stuffie is soft and cuddly, perfect for the kids! A Seth mug is a great gift for that coffee or tea drinker!



**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>.

**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. **December's** preferred product is **"Stewed Tomatoes or Tomato Sauce"** (Please place items in one of the trash cans marked Food Bank down by the Fellowship Hall). ~Thank you for your generosity and support.



### **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](http://www.rippleofone.org)  
For more information, email Ria Dawkins at: [ripple.terria@gmail.com](mailto:ripple.terria@gmail.com)



### **CHURCH VOLUNTEER APPEAL FOR BABYREAD**

***Volunteers Needed for BabyRead during the 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.*

***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).***



## Hospitality Happenings for December

*Thank you to those who have signed up for the Sunday school coffee hour in the upcoming weeks. If you would like to serve you may sign up on the wall calendar hanging behind the coffee machine in the Fellowship Hall. ~Sue Williams*

**\*Please Do Not** leave recyclable items in the kitchen.\*

Thinking about joining the hospitality board?

Please see myself or Marlene Bell with any questions. *~In His service, Sue Williams*



*Merry Christmas!*

**ON-LINE GIVING** Remember you can give on-line.

Just go to our church website at [www.eternalshepherd.org](http://www.eternalshepherd.org) and click on the On-line Giving bar in the top right corner on the homepage. *~Thank you for your faithful support.*



### December Birthdays

1 – Libby Dunlap	16 – Joan Kan
2 – Berniece Richards	Tom Markley
Brad Schneider	Elaine Randles
4 – Deek Decker	Jon Wilken
5 – Evie Hammer	18 – Beth Cornine
Jon Tyner	20 – Al Roeder
9 – Colleen Hesemann	22 - Richard Hull
10 - Harriet Murphy	25 - Jeanne Arkfeld
11 – Edric Griffin	26 – John Beattie
Jim Randles	Mary Fireovid
Anderson Scott	27 - Heather Ray
Donna Tisi	29 – Beckie Rau
15– Fred Massa	30 – Marge Heintz
	31 - Rich Hesemann



### December Anniversaries

9 – Scott & Andrea Toussaint
22 – Chuck & Beckie Rau
24 – Lars & Lois Helland
27 – Ken & Katharine Dunlap
28 – Don & Monica Del Priore
Rev. Phil & Margi McLain
31 – Paul & Scottie Fredrickson



## SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

**In October the following gifts were given:**



In loving memory of *Penny Klein*  
the Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$75.00,  
the Elders Fund received a gift of \$25.00,  
the General Fund received a gift of \$130.00,  
and the Senior Members Care Fund (*based on Galatians 6:10*) received a gift of \$50.00

In loving memory of *Ralph Milz*  
the Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received a gift of \$1,000.00

In loving memory of *Jean Seeley*  
the Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received a gift of \$25.00

Other Gifts:

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received a gift of \$20.00

The Church Bus Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The Debt Reduction Fund received a gift of \$600.00 from CCCF Grant,  
and a gift of \$50.00

The Disaster Response Team Fund received a gift of \$200.00

The Elders Fund received gifts of \$319.00

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

The Haiti Missions Fund received gifts of \$1,160.00

The Honduras Mission Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The LWML Fund received gifts of \$1,137.12

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$370.00

The Youth Fund for National Gathering 2022 received gifts of \$600.00

The Special Missions Fund received gifts of \$235.00

# Little Lambs Tales

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6*

We just ended our wonderful month of November where we spent time in thanksgiving for all our wonderful blessings! Our Thanksgiving Feast with the children and our fun Thanksgiving Parade were a hit! The weather was perfect as the children paraded down the driveway outside of the preschool to the adoration of their parents and grandparents. So much fun! And now we are beginning one of our favorite times of the year as we prepare for Christmas. Imagine being able to experience the season of Christmas through the eyes of a child. The wonder and awe! The anticipation of the birth of baby Jesus! The excitement and joy awaiting Santa and the presents under the Christmas tree!

We here at Little Lambs Preschool are blessed to be able to participate in this season through the eyes of our beautiful children. Our Christmas celebration begins on December 8<sup>th</sup> with our annual candy house making. This event will be held downstairs in the big playroom of the preschool where the parents and grandparents will spend time with their child creating beautiful candy house masterpieces made from candy and frosting! This will certainly put all of us into the Christmas Spirit!

**On December 17<sup>th</sup> the children will share their musical gifts during our Christmas Program. This program will be held in the Sanctuary at 11:00am.** We will dismiss our families following the program with a bag full of goodies!

**We will be out of school from December 20<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup> for our Christmas vacation. The students return to school on January 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**Thank you for all your support for our preschool ministry!** *May Peace and Happiness reign in your home this Christmas and may the New Year be loaded with blessings for you and your family.*

*In Christ,  
Gina*



**Star of wonder, star of light,  
star of royal beauty bright!**

**Merry Christmas!**

# PAPER BAG LUMINARIAS

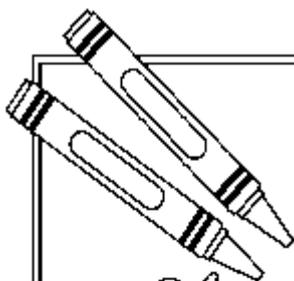
Lead your family and friends to your house this holiday with luminarias celebrating Jesus' birth.

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pencil
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Hole punch, tack or pushpin
- Sand
- Votive candles or tea lights

## WHAT YOU DO:

- 1 Draw a simple picture, word or symbol of Jesus' birth on the bag; for example, a star, a manger, a heart, a lamb, a wise man or the word "JOY."
- 2 Using a hole punch or pushpin, punch holes along the drawing, leaving a little space between each hole. Punch all the way through both sides of the bag so you end up with the same design on both sides when the bag is opened. When using a pin, place a piece of cardboard under the bag or work on carpet so nothing gets damaged.
- 3 Open the bag and fill each luminaria with about two inches of sand. Then sink a votive candle or tea light in the center of the sand.
- 4 Place the luminarias along a walk, patio or porch. Have an adult light the candles.



Just for **KIDS**

## The Son of the Highest

A new baby brings joy and the anticipation of what he or she will grow up to become. Jesus' birth was miraculous, but His life was prophesied and planned by God.

Unscramble the words below, matching them to their correct spelling. Then use the numbers to fill in the correct words to complete Luke 1:32-33 (NIV).

12. taerg	he	2. noS	forever
8. eh	Jacob	11. seouh	end
13. gHhi	father	5. northe	Son
7. aDvid	give	1. roevefr	house
10. bocJa	great	6. dingmok	throne
3. reafth	High	9. den	kingdom
4. vieg	David		

"He will be \_\_\_\_\_<sub>12</sub> and will be called the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub>  
of the Most \_\_\_\_\_<sub>13</sub>. The Lord God will \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub>  
him the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> of his \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>7</sub>,  
and \_\_\_\_\_<sub>8</sub> will reign over the \_\_\_\_\_<sub>11</sub>  
of \_\_\_\_\_<sub>10</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub>; his \_\_\_\_\_<sub>6</sub> will  
never \_\_\_\_\_<sub>9</sub>."

*Luke 1:32-33, NIV*

Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. throne 6. kingdom 7. David 8. the 9. end 10. Jacob 11. house 12. great 13. High

## **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 Cox

Secretary: Celeste Entrekin

Preschool Director: Gina Cote

Choir Director: Rick Schmidt

Choir Accompanist: Michelle Rowland

Organist: David Phillips

## **MISSIONARIES**

Joanna Johnson, Taiwan

Nate Esala, Lutheran Bible Translators

David & Dr. Arianna Shirk, Kenya

S.E.D. Missionaries to Peru

Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church  
220 Carson Rd.  
Seneca, SC 29678



*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have  
eternal life.” John 3:16*

***Merry Christmas!***