
Agapegram

December 2022



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Advent: Preparation & Proclamation



The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD..." Isaiah 40:3 NKJV

Scripture tells us that this call to preparation was fulfilled with John the Baptizer's preaching. John's words frame our celebrations of Advent as a season of preparation for the Coming of Christ. As LCMS theologian John T. Pless writes:

In his postil for Advent 2 (based on Luke 21:25-33), Luther exhorts his hearers: "There is no one so well prepared for the Last Day as he who desires to be without sin" (AE 75:104). On this side of the Lord's return to judge the living and the dead, believers are still tormented by sin and continue to struggle against it in repentance and faith. Sin will not forever define the life of those who cling to Christ. In this life, we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment to paraphrase the Catechism. But it will not always be so. The dear Last Day will mean believers in Christ will be forever divorced from their sin.

But our preparation is not just for Christ's return, it is for our hearing of His promises of comfort now. Advent also prepares us for Christmas and the first coming of our Lord so we might take comfort in what has already been done for us. In elaborating on Advent, Rev. Pless reminds us that this season is also about proclamation. Luther says it this way:

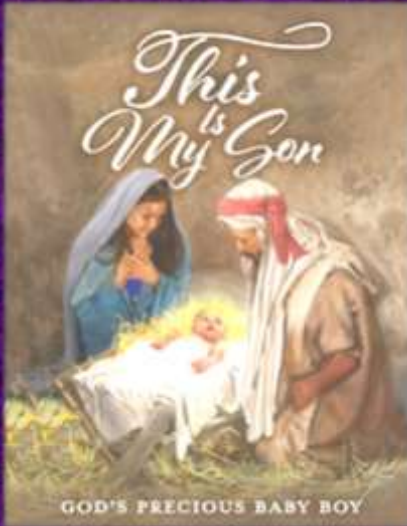
"Now, if you can believe this voice of John is true, and if you can follow his finger and recognize the Lamb of God carrying your sin, then you have gained the victory, then you are a Christian, a master of sin, death, hell, and all things. Then your conscience will rejoice and become heartily fond of this gentle Lamb of God. Then will you love, praise, and give thanks to our heavenly Father for this unfathomable wealth of His mercy, preached by John and given in Christ. You will become willing to do His divine will, as best you can, with all your strength. For what more comforting and delightful message can be heard than that our sins are not ours anymore, that they no more lie on us, but on the Lamb of God? How can sin condemn such an innocent Lamb? [Sin] must be vanquished and blotted out by Him, and likewise death and hell (the reward of sin) must also be vanquished. See what God our Father has given us in Christ!" (AE 75:186).

Pless and Luther quotes from: [Heads Up: A Primer from Luther for Advent Preaching \(1517.org\)](https://www.1517.org)

...O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Isaiah 40:9 NKJV

Pastor David

Christmas Eve Family Service



**Saturday,
December 24th**

4:00 pm

**Come join us at Eternal
Shepherd Lutheran
church as we celebrate the
birth of our Savior.**

~We look forward to seeing you there..

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE



**Eternal Shepherd
Lutheran Church**

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

*Please make plans to attend this
special Service.*



Deaconess' Musings

Hymn Intrigues: The Great “O” Antiphons

Used during the days leading up to December 25th, the Great “O” Antiphons find their origin in early Church/Benedictine Monk liturgies from December 17th through December 23rd. Each verse, sung or recited, on their respective day corresponds to not only a given title of the Messiah/Christ, but also to prophecies found in Isaiah.

So, why the intrigue? Not only is it pretty awesome, quite frankly, to be able to sing or recite a text/hymn that is well over 1000 years old, but one that is so closely connected to the Word of God. However, there is more than sheer history and continuity in play with these particular texts. As we read or sing these Great “O” Antiphons (or sing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”), we may say that we are alike the past generations of the Old Testament in our hopeful waiting and anticipation. While we have the fullness of God revealed to us in His Son, Jesus Christ, we are still in position of waiting. But our period of waiting is one of hope and peace, never ceasing to proclaim the saving name of Christ and the never ending mercies and forgiveness of sins that accompany His name. May we ever endeavor to proclaim Christ until He comes again at His Second Coming.

*All Scripture reverences below are from Isaiah. Text from LSB #357 right-hand page.

December 17

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of prudence. (*Isaiah 11:2-3, 28:29*)

December 18

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai:

Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us. (*11:4-5, 33:22*)

December 19

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:

Come quickly to deliver us. (*11:1,10*)

December 20

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open:

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death. (*22:22, 9:7*)

December 21

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. (*9:2*)

December 22

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay. (*9:6, 2:4*)

December 23

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, O Lord our God. (*7:14*)

ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
O' Come Let Us Adore Him!

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday, Dec. 7th at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 14th at 7:00 pm

Tidings of Joy! Christmas Concert
featuring Michelle Rowland & David Phillips

Sunday, Dec. 11th at 3:00 pm

ESLC Youth Lock-In

Tuesday, Dec. 20th at 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Family Service

Saturday, Dec. 24th at 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, Dec. 24th at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Service w/Communion

Sunday, Dec. 25th at 10:00 am

(Please note there is only one Christmas Day service)

No New Year's Eve Service

New Year's Day Service w/Communion

Sunday, January 1st at 10:00 am

(Please note there is only one New Year's Day service)

Tidings of Joy

Christmas Concert

Featuring
Michelle Rowland & David Phillips

December 11 at 3:00 pm

**Join us at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran
Church for an afternoon of music *as we*
*celebrate with tidings of joy!***

*Merry
Christmas*



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - The poinsettia sign-up sheet will be 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!*



Also please note the 2023 Altar Flower Chart is on the bulletin board. The price of Altar flowers will increase Jan. 2023 to \$30 per vase due to extra delivery charges. Any questions please contact Julie Moore.

December 2022 Council Update

The Council Team met on November 8th and the Congregational Voters Meeting was held on November 20th. Following are some updates:

2022 and 2023 Council Position Changes:

Elaine Rich (Outreach) has relocated to North Carolina along with Sue Hauser (Stewardship) and John Cochell (President) terms are ending in December '22. Thanks to both Sue and Elaine for their service. The Voters approved Ann Miller (Outreach Chair), Sue Blount (Stewardship Chair) and Fred Bell as the new President. All terms will begin January '23.

Voters Approve the Formation of a Safety Response Team:

The Congregation passed the Council's recommendation to form a Safety Response Team by 68 Yes votes, 6 No votes and 1 Abstaining vote. The motion reads as follows:

Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church establish and implement an armed Safety Response Team (SRT) whose goal is to keep members safe. SRT members would qualify, participate in ongoing training, and regularly be certified to maintain proficiency as recommended by our Certified Consultant in conjunction with the recommendations of our insurance company.

Special thanks to Dan Arkfeld's leadership and the entire Safety Committee whose work created the SRT idea. The Safety Team members are:

Dan Arkfeld (Chair)
Capt Ken Washington (Security Consultant)
Tom Eckersley
Nicole Beattie
Woo Wagner
Pastor David
John Cochell

*Wishing you all a blessed Christmas
and Happy New Year!*

*In His service,
John Cochell*



*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6*



**Come Join
the Fun!**

YOUTH LACKin

**at Eternal Shepherd
Tues., Dec. 20th @ 6:00 PM**

**Pick-up time Wed.,
Dec. 21st @ 10:00 am**

Meet Our Newest Members

Meet Lisa & Charles Hill

Lisa, temporarily wheelchair bound, and Charlie come to us from Pickens...before that, Charleston, where their grandson lives. She was a stay-at-home mom for their son & daughter, then did Real Estate & administrative work. Charlie is an Electrical Engineer, worked for Amoco & BP Chemicals for 33 years, in Maintenance & Engineering management. This meant moving around some. Rome, Italy, was the most interesting place they lived - like being on a European vacation even though work sometimes got in the way of fun (c: The most interesting thing they have done was take a motorhome across the country & back..."amazing seeing the different landscapes of prairie, deserts and mountains". Being needed at home right now is somewhat limiting, but Charlie would ultimately like to sing with the choir and also serve as a Lector. "We have had the opportunity to travel much of the world & there is no place like the USA!" Well said, Hills!

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Meet Our Newest Members continued...

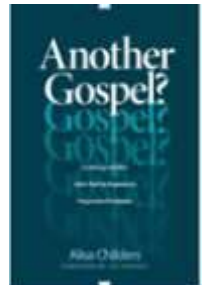
Meet Joann Smith

Joann recently moved to Seneca to be near her son Bill (& Joanne), after living in Bowling Green, KY for 38 years. She & her late husband (Bill sr.) also raised two daughters. While members of Bethlehem Lutheran in Fort Wayne, she taught 3 year old Sunday school for many, many years. Bethlehem at the time was a very large congregation. She often had more than 30 busy 3 year olds in her class! Joann loves dogs and always has at least one dachshund in her family! After Bill retired, they enjoyed traveling (especially visiting Civil War battlefields), growing roses and visiting family. Joann was an avid reader and active in local book clubs. Joann is very happy in her new apartment at the Residences at Park Place and to be a member of Eternal Shepherd. Welcome Joann!

A 6-WEEK GROUP STUDY AND DISCUSSION BEGINNING JANUARY 4

Another Gospel? A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity

Author and speaker, Alisa Childers was a lifelong Christian...until her deeply held beliefs were picked apart and challenged-by a pastor, who claimed to be a “hopeful agnostic.” As she began to drown in a sea of doubt, losing faith in all that she once believed to be true, God sent her a lifeboat. As we read through Alisa’s journey from deconstruction to reconstruction, we will learn how to defend true, biblical Christianity from the false teachings of “progressive Christianity” that are growing more and more popular throughout the church today.



Join Amy Rebholz and Kerry Blount beginning on January 4, 2023 in Room 210 at 6:30 pm (after Wonderful Wednesdays potluck). A copy of *Another Gospel?* By Alisa Childers* is strongly recommended but not required to participate. Each class will consist of a short video, discussion questions, Scripture reading, prayer, and optional outside reading. A few copies of the book will be on loan from the church’s library. Sign up in Narthex (sheet on the bulletin board) or email Amy at stamping13@hotmail.com or text at 412-327-7621.

- † Discover the awe-inspiring truths of historic Christian beliefs
- † Use discernment and base your beliefs on the truth revealed in Scripture
- † Learn to challenge the persuasive messages of progressive Christianity
- † Help others who may be experiencing doubts about the Christian faith

*Book is available on Amazon for \$13.59

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP – MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

The first thought that comes to mind when we say ‘Stewardship’ is using God’s gifts wisely whether it is our wealth, time and/or talents. However, the Board of Stewardship at ESLC is also responsible for:

The **Bus Ministry** which has been used by the Comfort Dog Ministry, the Youth, the Disaster Relief Team, Veteran’s Last Patrols, etc. It has been underutilized because of the Covid pandemic that started just as we received the bus, but hopefully its usage will increase in the near future.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** which includes the making and giving of prayer shawls and pocket prayer shawls. While these are being made the crafter prays for the person that will receive them. We have given 22 prayer shawls so far this year and we have given almost 150 since this ministry began. Anyone in this congregation can give a prayer shawl to anyone they feel would benefit from it. Pocket prayer shawls are also available to the congregation, but Seth, our Comfort Dog, is the prime distributor of these on his visits.

The **Scripts Program** which allows you to buy gift cards for yourself or friends. Ingles, WalMart and Publix are always available, but many other types of cards can be ordered. ESLC buys these gift cards at a discounted price. The price difference goes to ESLC and is used for miscellaneous projects around the church. In recent years, it helped to buy new choir robes and helped to replace the carpet in the fellowship hall. These gift cards can be purchased from the Scrip Ladies: Beckie Rau, Elisabeth Baker, Sue Hauser, and Libby Dunlap.

The **Time and Talent Survey**, now taken electronically, allows members to specify their areas of interest, work experience and time available to serve the congregation. This information is then available to help find suitable candidates when volunteers are needed within the ESLC community. There are many very talented and gifted people that serve regularly and diligently within this church.

The **Assimilation Committee** helps to welcome new members into the ESLC family. They assign sponsors to help the new members meet other people within the congregation, introduce them to various Bible studies and activities and hopefully facilitate the new members’ sense of belonging. New member interviews often appear in the Agapegram to introduce them to the congregation also.

A **Financial Seminar**, with a wide range of topics, is held every few years and is sponsored by the Stewardship Committee. The pandemic has caused this to be delayed the last three years. The acknowledgement and thank yous for Memorial Donations are also performed under this board.

The members of the Stewardship Board are Chairman *Sue Hauser, Janet Walker, LuWanna Johnson, Maril Robertson and Chris Christensen*. **Sue Blount will become chairman in 2023.**



BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU

We want to express a huge thank you to the congregation and to the Prayer Ministry for all the generous support that you provided to Seth and the Comfort Dog Team for their special visit to Lutheran Towers in Mid-Town Atlanta on November 18th. The Bus Ministry's 'Stuff the Bus' campaign to provide needed household, cleaning, and personal supplies to the residents was most generously supported by the congregation and the amount we were able to give beyond expectations. It was a great gift and blessing to the residents. Thank you to Jean Dombi who organized, packed and loaded all our gifts and drove the bus with some of the Comfort Dog Team to Atlanta.



We want to also thank the Prayer Shawl Ministry group and other members of this congregation who in just four or five weeks were able to crochet or knit 225 pocket prayer shawls for Seth to give.

Another thank you needs to go out to the Comfort Dog Team who on a daily basis donates hours to show care and concern for all the people that they visit.

Again, thank you to all of you who made this visit to Lutheran Towers such a success and blessing.



Sue Hauser, Stewardship Chairman

Year End 2022

We are quickly approaching the end of 2022. This is just a reminder to get all offerings for the church completed by 31 December 2022. There are only two exceptions, according to our friends at the IRS.

1. Checks received by mail after 31 December 2022 and postmarked before the end of the year may be counted in 2022.
2. Credit card offerings processed on or before 31 December 2022 may be counted in 2022 even though your credit card bill may not be paid until January 2023.

Don't forget about your **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)**. If you are now required to take an RMD annually, you must take the RMD for 2022 by 31 December. The use of your RMD is a great way to give to our church, or any charitable organization. Donations from an RMD can be deducted from your gross income at tax time. If questions, please call Grover Stewart at 704-603-7092 or Teri Massa at 803-447-9895.

Comfort Dog News

As I write this article, I am recalling what a wonderful visit we had at Lutheran Towers Residential Home on November 18. A bus full of your generous donations traveled to Atlanta with team members, Jean Dombi (driver), Bob Massa, Carrie Haenggi, Sue McCart and Beth Renfro. Rudy and I drove Seth separately in our car with over 225 pocket prayer shawls made by the knitters/crocheters of our church family and many sweet cards made by our Sunday School students. We were joined by Hope Comfort Dog and their team from Marietta, GA. The residents were absolutely overjoyed with it all. We saw tears, smiles, and love pouring out of these precious seniors for us and the gifts we brought. I think I can speak for those who went, that we were blessed beyond measure! Thanks to Sue McCart who organized our visit, to Sue Hauser for advertising the “Stuff the Bus” and for Jean Dombi for driving the bus and for collecting everything each week to stuff the bus! Lastly, thanks to all of you who gave so generously with household items so greatly needed by these seniors who are on a fixed income.



Hope Comfort Dog Team and Seth Comfort Dog Team at Lutheran Towers

Christmas is coming and the Comfort Dog Team will be holding our 5th annual “Howl-Le-Lu-Ya Dog Biscuit Sale”! This not only serves as a fundraiser for this ministry but also provides you all with yummy gifts to give your own dog, your grand dog or neighborhood friend. The dog biscuits are made with all natural ingredients and love. Be sure to pick up a bag or two for the dogs you love. We will also be selling our Seth stuffies and Seth mugs along with the dog biscuits. Sale dates are listed below with requested donation amounts. Thrivent has blessed us with an Action Team card to help purchase the ingredients and supplies needed for this endeavor. We will be using any leftover monies to buy bags of dog food for the Oconee Humane Society as we have done in years past. We will also be donating 10% of the proceeds to Project K-9 Hero. Project K-9 Project Hero houses, rehomes, and rehabilitates our nation’s retired Military Working Dogs and Police K-9s. Before this organization was formed Military Dogs or K9 Police dogs were often euthanized after serving our country if a home was unavailable for them. Project K-9 Hero takes these dogs, provides them with a home and a good quality of life in appreciation for their service to our nation. Donations help with medical costs, food, rehabilitation, adoption, and end of duty services for these working dogs.

**Sale Dates: December 11 after services in the Narthex
December 18 after services in the Narthex**

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

\$14 Seth Stuffie

\$8 Seth mug (limited supply)



Thank you for your support of the Comfort Dog Ministry!

To God be the Glory, Kyra Carbone, Top Dog

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who came to our Shoebox Packing Party! It was very successful as well as informative. Tonya Sawyer, the Logistics Coordinator for Western SC, talked to us about what's involved in becoming a Drop-off Center, something we were asked to consider doing as a church back in the Spring. After hearing what's involved, myself and others feel like it's a job we could handle just fine, thanks to the willingness of members to step up and help. I'll be submitting the idea to the new Council in the new year. Everyone, including Seth, enjoyed good fellowship and lots of laughter as we packed 300 Shoeboxes in about an hour!



The support of Eternal Shepherd for this Gospel Outreach Ministry is such a blessing! Because of our efforts, and Paul Frederickson's willingness to donate the use of his trailer to get them to the Drop-off center, 303 more children will get to hear the Gospel this year, while also receiving many needed items and lots of toys. God continues to bless this ministry for His glory and the benefit of children around the world. Stay tuned for the update that says where our boxes were sent this year. *Thanks again everyone!*



In His Service ~ Terri Baumann, Project

DETENTION CENTER OUTREACH MINISTRY:



Cookies Needed for the Next Prison Ministry

The next prison ministry will be at **11am on December 10th at the Oconee County Detention Center in Walhalla.** As in the past we would like to provide the inmates with a bag of 4 cookies. As of the last head count provided there were 80 inmates at the prison. This would require 26 dozen cookies. If you can help out, please let Ann Miller (864) 637-8353 know along with how many cookies you plan to make. **They will need to be bagged in baggies with 4 cookies each. If you provide any sugar free cookies, please label the bags as such so the inmates know they are sugar free. All cookies will need to be at the Church no later than 9am on Saturday December 10th. Thank you so much for your help.**

We will meet at ESLC Sat., December 10th at 10:00 AM for logistics & prayer and then on to the Center to make our 11:00 AM appointment. *~Thank you for your support of this ministry.*

Questions, about this ministry or about becoming a Christmas cookie angel please contact Ann Miller.



FROM HAITI TO ETERNAL SHEPHERD



By the time you read this Agapegram, Thanksgiving will be over, but the children are truly thankful all year long for your support for their school and Staff of Pas Bonbon. Soon it will be Christmas, and they are eager to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For these children and their parents, Christmas is a celebration at church. Then, at home it is a full meal, followed by the opening of a gift. So, what does a child look forward to receiving as a gift. For a boy, it is typically a small toy car or truck. For a girl it is typically a doll. They receive a single gift. What do these children give to their parents and family for Christmas? Typically, it will be something they made, such as a picture or maybe just a note that says "Merry Christmas. I love you". What does "typically" mean to you and your family? The week after Christmas we bring in the New Year. If you want to start off the New Year with something Unique and Special, consider the many opportunities to serve. Contact Lars Helland Missions Committee Chairman; Pastor Ray Ramsburg Honduras Mission, and Deek Decker Disaster Response travel schedule. Interested in our Mission in Alaska? Do you have a mission you would like to initiate? Let me know. Lars Helland

ON-LINE GIVING Remember you can give on-line. Just go to our church website at 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.



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 "Canned Tomatoes" (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.



Scrip Cards Make Great Christmas Gifts

Dear Friends, At this time of year we are giving thanks for our blessings but it is also a time we are looking forward to Christmas. And, we are planning our list of gifts for our loved ones. This is a great opportunity to take advantage of our Scrip Program.

If you haven't ordered gift cards previously let me help you become acquainted with the ease of the process. We have order forms available in the Narthex at the Scrip box. Please take the time to pick up the form and see how many cards are available. You will mark the form and return it to a committee member with a check for the full amount. Each of those cards is purchased by our church at a discount but sold to you at the face value. All that is required of you is some advance planning. In almost every case we will return your order to you in one week or less. We are aware that these cards are available in many stores but the difference is—if you purchase them at a store, the store reaps the profit. If you purchase them from us the full profit goes to Eternal Shepherd. It is a very easy way to be a good steward of our gifts.



On the order form the stores listed are ones that are available in this area for the most part. We also are able to obtain cards for stores that are in other parts of the country. If you'd like to purchase something that isn't listed please contact one of us.

For that question and any others you may have about this program please contact me or another member. Scrip members are Elisabeth Baker, Libby Dunlap, Sue Hauser, and Beckie Rau.



*Thank you,
Beckie Rau
(864) 944-6096*



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>.

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.



Hospitality Happenings for December

12/4 – Kerry & Sue Blount

12/11 – Laura Scott

12/18 – Sue Hauser

12/25 – *Merry Christmas!*



Merry Christmas!

Hospitality is going forward full speed since the conclusion of the Pandemic. We have provided for Memorial Services and Sunday Bible Study. We always remain committed to our church and are always looking for new members. This requires as little or as much as you would like to help with: providing food, set-up, serving and clean-up.

All these are helpful and needed.

If you are new to any of these, please contact me at 864-784-0421 and I will gladly help. ~Colleen Wakeman

December Birthdays

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



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 *Lily Bartle* the Youth Fund received a gift of \$50.00

In loving memory of *Rein Brueggeman*
the Property Maintenance Fund received gifts of \$1,180.00,
and the Toys for God's Kids received a gift of \$50.00



In loving memory of *Sami Johnson* the LWML Fund received gifts of \$125.00

In loving memory of *Harold Krueger* the Elders Fund received a gift of \$50.00,
and the General Fund received gifts of \$74.23

In loving memory of *Micky Louderback* the LWML Fund received a gift of \$125.00

In loving memory of *Jeffery Martin* the General Fund received a gift of 75.00

In loving memory of *Gloria Shealy* the LWML Fund received a gift of \$125.00

In loving memory of *Nancy Stockman* the General Fund received a gift of \$120.00

In loving memory of *Sarah Wanthal* the Choir Fund received a gift of \$100.00,
and the General Fund received a gift of \$50.00

In loving memory of *Henry Watson*
the Comfort Dog Minsitry Fund received a gift of \$96.93,
the Elders Fund received gifts of \$125.00,
and the General Fund received gifts of \$175.00

Other Gifts:

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$239.27

The Disaster Response Team Fund received gifts of \$48.30

The Elders Fund received gifts of \$124.06,
and a gift of \$600.00 from CCCF Giving Thanks Grant

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$96.41

The General Fund received a gift of \$42.00,
and a gift of \$500.00 from Blessings Shared Grant

The Haiti Missions Fund received gifts of \$777.58

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$2,898.52

The Hospitality Fund received gifts of \$225.00

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$169.27

The LWML Fund received gifts of \$866.14

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$577.94

The Special Missions Fund received gifts of \$100.00

The Youth Fund received a gift of \$48.49

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 are almost finished with our month of November where we have spent time in thanksgiving for all our many blessings! The great news is that we can have our Thanksgiving Feast once again in the Fellowship Hall with all of our students and families. We expect to have over 150 people attend and we are looking forward to this time of fun and fellowship! The children will be parading into the room with all their Thanksgiving cheer and we anticipate a fantastic celebration! This is a potluck affair where parents, teachers and the preschool board all participate in the meal. A true Thanksgiving for Little Lambs Preschool. And then we begin 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 7th 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 a beautiful candy house masterpiece made from graham crackers, frosting and candy! This will certainly put all of us into the Christmas Spirit!

On December 16th the children will share their musical gifts during our annual Christmas Program. This program will be held in the Sanctuary at 9:00am. We will hold a light reception with cookies following the program.

We will be out of school from December 19th through January 3rd for our Christmas vacation. The teachers will have a work day on January 3rd and the students return to school on January 4th.

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 families.



*In Christ,
Gina*

Countdown of Giving

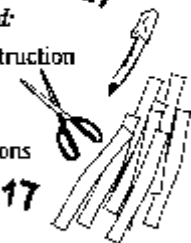
25 24 23

As people remember the gift of Christ, let's remember those around us with little acts of giving.

Make an Advent paper chain to count down the days until Christmas.

What you will need:

- 5 sheets of construction paper (8" x 11")
- scissors
- markers or crayons
- tape or glue



Here's what to do:

1. Cut the construction paper into 1" x 11" strips (You will need 25 strips but you will have extra.)

2. Have fun thinking of 25 different acts of giving you can do for others. (Here are just a few suggestions: Make and send a card; draw a picture; make an ornament; give a hug or a smile; have a cheerful attitude (all day); call someone you haven't seen for awhile or send the person an e-mail; bake cookies to share. The possibilities are endless!)

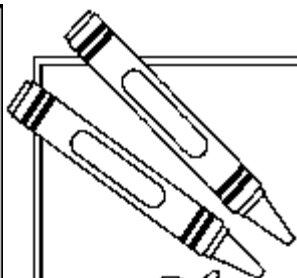
3. Number each strip with one number, numbering them 1-25.

4. Write one giving idea on each strip. You can repeat some.

5. Tape or glue strips into a paper chain, with number 25 first, counting backwards to 1.

6. Start on December 1 and give the gift on link 25. The next day give gift 24. Continue until you reach gift 1 on Christmas!

7. When you give your gifts, remember God's greatest gift to us — *His Son Jesus.*



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. roevfr | house |
| 10. bocla | great | 6. dingmok | throne |
| 3. reafth | High | 9. den | kingdom |
| 4. vieg | David | | |

"He will be _____ and will be called the _____
of the Most _____. The Lord God will _____
him the _____ of his _____,
and _____ will reign over the _____
of _____; his _____ will
never _____."

Luke 1:32-33, NIV

Answers: 1. forever 2. Son 3. father 4. give 5. house 6. throne 7. David 8. he 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 there is born to you this day in the
city of David a Savior, who is Christ the
Lord.” Luke 2:11*

Merry Christmas!

