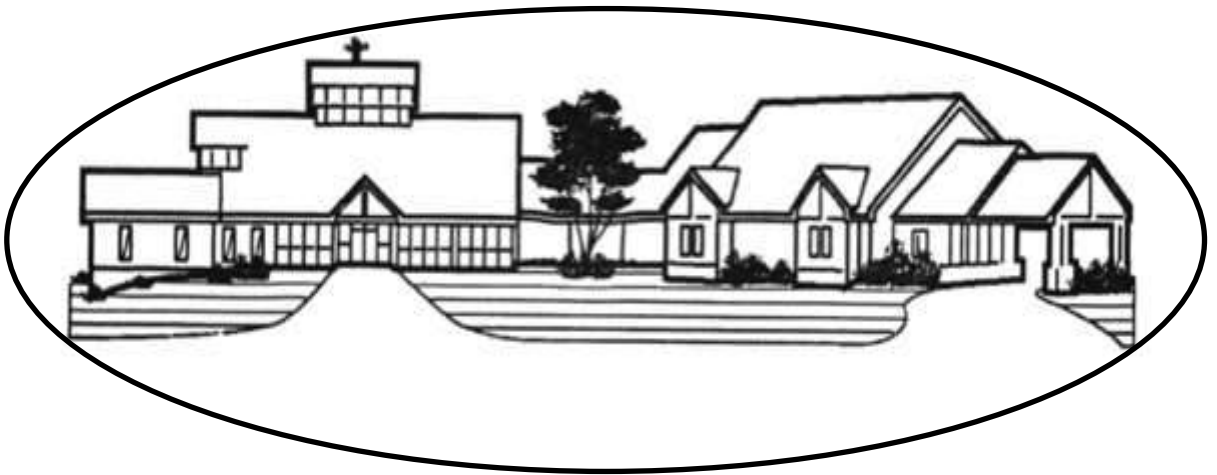


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# Agapegram

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February 2023



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

[www.eternalshepherd.org](http://www.eternalshepherd.org)

[office@eternalshepherd.org](mailto:office@eternalshepherd.org)

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

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202

## Praying for a Persecuted People



*Indeed, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted... 2 Tim. 3:12 EHV*

What began in 1955 as one man smuggling bibles into Eastern Europe became the now international ministry of Open Doors that supports persecuted Christians around the world. Each year Open Doors releases its World Watch List that shows which countries have the highest levels of persecution occurring as well as other facts. The reality is that persecution of Christians has been rising over the past 30 years and is now at the highest level it has been since being tracked. While we see discrimination rising in our own land (one of the most recent examples being the street preacher who was kicked out of the Mall of America last week because his shirt that said “Jesus is the only way” offended some shoppers), extreme persecution in the forms of imprisonment, physical abuse and torture, and even execution are rising around the globe.



### In the Last Year:

2110 Churches and Christian buildings attacked  
5259 Christians abducted  
5621 Christians murdered

### The Most Extreme Persecution:

North Korea  
Somalia  
Yemen  
Eritrea  
Libya  
Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Iran  
Afghanistan  
Sudan  
India

**continued on next page...**



These realities, while still very removed from most of our daily experiences, are the norm for many of God’s people around the world and down through time. The cruel and unjust nature of persecution against our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ is one of the reasons we are called to pray for them. There is another reason, too: we should also pray for the *good* that God promises to work out of these persecutions. In Ephesians 6, St Paul invites us, “*Stay alert for the same reason, always persevering in your intercession for all the saints. Pray for me also, that when I open my mouth a message will be given to me that boldly reveals the mystery of the gospel...*” When the Church is mistreated, the saints give witness and the Gospel is proclaimed. Where the Good News is announced, the Holy Spirit is at work creating faith in Christ, hearts are changed, and God’s Kingdom grows with eternal results! Keep your family around the world in prayer.

*Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Matthew 5:11 EHV*

*Pastor David*



## *Deaconess' Musings*

### *Sober Blessedness*

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. ~Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Another year, and while it seems like we just put away Christmas...here comes Lent. It can seem monotonous at times, with the same hymns, similar sounding Scripture readings, and the usual [insert option here]. It can seem a tad depressing, with many hymns sounding “sad” or “dark.” It can seem never-ending – it is a forty-day season after all. I mean, we willingly allow ashes to mark our foreheads to “kick-off” the season. Some intentionally fast from meals/activities. Hardly seems like a grand time for the Church.

Yet in these facets, these various characteristics and traditions of Lent, we can see deep symbolic meaning and a deliberate intention to return to reality: we are indeed sin-filled creatures in need of a Savior, of a Redeemer. We become so focused on ourselves, our internal problems and cravings, that we quickly turn from a “fear, love, and trust” of our Lord to fleeting trends and attitudes, confident that we can find God and solve our problems.

This, I believe, is why we still observe Lent. Why we still insist on having those ashes affixed to our foreheads. Why we still sing those unrelenting hymns. Observing Lent is meant to take all the focus and glory we attach to ourselves and to place our sorrows, failures, and grievous sins at the feet of our Savior. We are confronted with the rightful penalty of our sins, humanity’s sins – death. We are made to take a deep and sometimes uncomfortable look at ourselves, and admit that we are not all that and a bag of chips. We are dust, and to dust shall we return.

Uneasy as this season can make one feel, there is a greater purpose. Without the seemingly distressful sway of Lent, Easter Morning loses its most glorious, golden celebrations. The grand and exuberant reality of the Resurrection is made all the more tremendous as we take time to sit, stop, and reflect during Lent. The cries and rending of Lent and the pain your sin causes now gives way to the permeating balm of the Gospel and “unreal” realness of the forgiveness of your sins.

So, this Lent slow down. Embrace the Lent-ness of Lent, but don’t get too hung up. Allow this season to influence your preparations for Easter. Add a family devotional or two (*Lutheran Hour Ministries at [lh.m.org/lent](http://lh.m.org/lent) is a great option*), and/or intentionally refrain from something. Be in the Word and gladly receive it in the proclamation of Word and Sacrament.

Lent may be one of my favorite seasons, and it may be only so because I know that the sublime Easter greeting awaits just on the other side of forty days. For our sorrows, sins, and death are swallowed up in that loud and shining truth: “Christ is Risen!”

Indeed, He is Risen – *for you*. Blessed Lent to you all. ~*Deaconess Holly*

CONGREGATIONAL  
**MEETING**

**Sunday, February 26th**  
**after the late service**  
**in the Fellowship Hall**

*Please make plans to attend this important meeting.*



**ASH**  
WEDNESDAY



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**February 22nd**  
**7:00 pm**

Please join us for this special  
service w/Communion

# February 2023 Council Update

The Council Team met on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Following are some highlights from your Council:

## **Advent and Christmas:**

Special thanks were given to:

Pastor, Deaconess, Altar Care, choir, and brass for all their work on the Advent and Christmas services and Rick Schmidt for setting up and decorating the Christmas Tree.

## **Comfort Dog Blood Drive**

The Council approved the Comfort Dog Ministry's request that they be allowed to host a blood drive at Eternal Shepherd on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 8-12 noon.

## **Missions**

Pastor informed the group that the Honduras Team is on track for its February mission trip.

## **Pastor Annual Report**

Worship attendance has recovered from pandemic levels and is higher than ever before. 25 people joined Eternal Shepherd in 2022. Membership stands at 399

## **2022 Budget Surplus**

ESLC is truly blessed with generous member contributions. Bill Smith (Treasurer) reported that we will have another substantial surplus from 2022. The Finance Board led by Jim Zwahlen is preparing a recommendation for our **congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** to decide the best use of this surplus. A discussion followed on ways to make sure that our funds are used, the desirability of not letting them "sit", but also respecting the wishes of donors. Our budget is aggressive because of anticipated infrastructure needs. Money needs to go to the general fund.

## **ESLC Safety Committee**

Dan Arkfeld (Safety Committee Chair), Paul Frederickson (Safety Response Team) and Kerry Blount (Safety Monitors) were approved to the above positions, Dan Arkfeld updated Council on Committee progress and future plans. He then presented the SRT Authority and Responsibility Policy which was discussed and approved by Council.

## **2022 Year in Review**

The Council will share a Year in Review document that will describe the activities from our Boards and Committees serving our Lord at Eternal Shepherd over the last year. Expect to receive this document in early February via email. Printed copies will be available as well for those without email.

**Lenten Suppers:** Colleen Wakeman is looking for groups to serve Lenten suppers. March 1 and March 8 have been claimed already by the Comfort Dog Ministry and the Honduras Mission Team. Youth offered to take March 22 and have a chili/soup night.

**Little Lambs Preschool Fundraiser:** Jane Fireovid asked if it was alright if she reaches out to the Seneca High School Madrigal Singers to have them sing for a fundraiser. Council felt that she should pursue it.

In His service,  
Fred Bell

# *Easter Worship Schedule*

*Ash Wednesday Service w/Communion Wed, Feb. 22nd - 7pm*

## *Midweek Lenten Worship Services*

Wednesday, March 1st - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 8th - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 15th - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 22nd - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 29th - 7:00 pm

## *Midweek Lenten Suppers at 6:00 pm*

Wed., March 1st hosted by the *Honduras Mission Team*

Wed., March 8th hosted by the *Comfort Dog Ministry Team*

Wed., March 15th hosted by ???

Wed., March 22nd hosted by *ESLC Youth—Chili/Soup Night*

Wed., March 29th hosted by ???

## *Palm Sunday April 2nd*

*8:30 am & 11:00 am Communion both services*

## *Maundy Thursday April 6th - 7:00pm*

*Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 7th - 7:00 pm*

## *Easter Sunday April 9th*

*8:30 am & 11:00 am Communion Both Services*

*9:45 am Easter Breakfast hosted by ESLC Youth*

*“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5*



## **Easter is When** **By Bob Massa Head Elder**

**2024**-March 31, **2025**-April 20, **2026**-April 5, **2027**- March 28, **2028**-April 16, **2029**-April 1, **2030**-April 21. These are the dates for Easter for the next seven years following this year's date of April 9<sup>th</sup>. How are these dates determined? This was a problem for the early church because how do you date the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus?

We know he was crucified on a Friday and rose again on a Sunday. However, Sunday's dates vary, so a system to calculate the date had to be devised. From the middle of the second century, Christians calculated Easter using one of two ways. The date was calculated using either the Quartodecimans (or fourteenthers), celebrated the death and resurrection of Jesus according to the "14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan" – the day of the Jewish Passover (Lev. 23:5). Because this date was always different it did not always fall on a Sunday. The remainder of churches celebrated Good Friday and Easter via a different formula that always placed Easter on a Sunday.

The Ecumenical Council of Nicea in A.D. 325 attempted to resolve this difference by agreeing on the rule: Easter Day shall always fall on the Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. Settled, right? Wrong! Eastern Orthodox Churches use the Julian Calendar to determine the spring equinox. Lutherans in the Western Church celebrate Easter since 1582 using the Gregorian Calendar.

Hence, the eastern celebration generally follows the western celebration by a week to several weeks. There have been proposals to unify this date using a modern, scientific astronomical calculation for the spring equinox. Especially, since our more accurate Gregorian calendar was off this year with the spring equinox occurring on March 20<sup>th</sup> and not the traditional March 21. Using this method would require most of the changes to be from the Eastern Church which probably won't happen.



Therefore, the above dates are accurate.

A blessed Lent and Easter to you all, Bob Massa



## **DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT COULD USE A PRAYER SHAWL?**

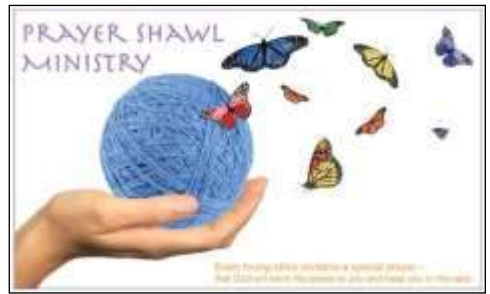
Remember that the members of ESLC – namely YOU – are helping us to distribute these prayer shawls. Anyone can receive a prayer shawl, they do not need to be a member of Eternal Shepherd

These prayer shawls come in many different colors and styles. While these garments are being created, the knitter/crocheter prays for the person who will receive the prayer shawls, praying the shawl will bring comfort and a feeling that God cares about them personally, that He will be there to sustain them, and that they can bring all their concerns to God and he will hear them. We all know that God will hear our prayers whenever and wherever we pray, but sometimes when one is ill or in a difficult situation, it is nice to have a tangible object for assurance.

There are now two types of prayer shawls – the regular prayer shawl and a small pocket size prayer shawl that you can carry in your pocket or purse. You can give either kind; whatever you feel is more appropriate. These pocket prayer shawls can be included in a card that you send. If you would like a pocket prayer shawl for yourself, please choose one.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is provided through a self-service kiosk which is available in the fellowship hall in plastic bins along the far closet wall. We request that if you select a full size prayer shawl that you enter your name, the date, and the person that you give it to on the sign out sheet. If you select a pocket prayer shawl, no sign out is needed.

We request that if you give the prayer shawl in person, that you pray with them as you give it. If you are interested in creating these prayer shawls (which can be created at home) or donating yarn, please contact Sue Hauser.



## **Operation Christmas Child Update:**

This month the request to become an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox drop-off Center for our community will be submitted to the Church Council, along with a report stating what's involved in making that idea a reality. Samaritan's Purse has asked Eternal Shepherd to make a decision by the beginning of April. It's exciting to see how God is blessing the ministry of OCC in this place. Stay tuned to find out where the 303 Shoeboxes we packed in November were sent! If you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Terri Baumann at 864-882-4386.



## *Comfort Dog News*

Seth has started the year off with a full schedule of visits after a nice rest over the Christmas holiday. He truly loves to “work” and gets a little restless after a day of rest. Of course, Seth couldn’t go on all the visits he does without his team! The beauty of this ministry is that he can work 6 days a week with any of the 8 handlers and any of the 11 ministry partners on the team. In this article, I would like to feature what a handler does and then in next month’s newsletter I will describe the job of a Ministry Partner.

### **Handler:**

A handler is trained by Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) in Northbrook, IL for 2 ½ days to learn and execute the commands Seth was taught during his training of 18 months. After completing the training and being certified by LCC, the handler routinely trains with Seth reviewing all the commands, so Seth feels safe and secure knowing what the handler wants him to do.

On a visit, the handler is always aware of what Seth is doing and ensures Seth’s behavior is appropriate and redirects him if needed. The Handler also uses commands to get Seth into the right position for ease of visiting. For example, suppose there are two ladies at a senior living facility in chairs and both want to pet Seth. The handler tells Seth “Front”, so he is facing the handler and then says “Back” so Seth scoots himself back. Now he is between the two ladies for easy petting. Suppose a resident is in a chair but can’t bend over to pet Seth. The handler tells Seth “Lap” and Seth brings his upper body across the person’s front legs making sure his elbows are between the person’s legs, so they don’t dig into the person’s legs. Now suppose a patient is in a hospital bed and can’t pet Seth due to limited mobility. When Seth hears his handler say, “Rise”, he brings his upper body on the bed and the person can pet Seth’s head easily. Of course, we always ask permission from the person or caregiver first to make sure it is okay. There are many other commands (30 of them!) that handlers may use daily that shows Seth that the handler is the alpha. This helps him feel safe and secure. Here are a few pictures showing Seth’s positioning and the corresponding command.



*continued on next page...*

Front and back command



Lap command



Rise command

I think I can speak for all our handlers that it is a joy to work with Seth when he responds to the commands we give. It is even more joyful when we see the look on a person's face when Seth is well behaved, calm and can get up close and personal with each person no matter if they are bedridden, in a wheelchair or limited by any physical ability.

Stay tuned for next month's Ministry Partner feature.

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



## Join the Youth February 11th at 2:00 for a Cookie Swap for our shut-ins!



Please bring 2 dozen cookies to share. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall to lay out the cookies. We will have a special focus on our shut-ins, the youth will prepare plates for each of them. Then the rest of us will share cookies and the youth will head out to deliver these special treats. What a wonderful way to share the love in our community with each other and those at home. Please join us! The more participation we have, the more we can bless those who may be feeling alone this Valentine's Day. *We look forward to seeing you!*

**HONDURAS MISSION 2023:** When you read this your Honduras Team of 18 missionaries will be just weeks away from departing for Tegucigalpa, Honduras for a week of serving Christ through serving the people of Honduras. This will be our first trip in three years due to the COVID-19 interruption and it will be exciting to return for many of us who have made previous trips. We cannot take trunks as before as no donations are allowed at present however **we can take Salvation bracelets for the children. We will be making those after worship on February 5 and invite the congregation to join us after the late service in the Fellowship Hall to help.**



We will still be providing medical, dental, and optical services along with a pharmacy for medicine for the people. We provide water filters for 8 families plus we have fun with the children by playing games, washing hair, and telling them about Jesus. All adults who visit the brigade site will spend time with a missionary who will share the gospel.

**Please pray for your team. We depart February 18 and return February 25 after a tiring but uplifting week. Team Members are:**

John Cochell	Tracy Cochell	Dcs. Holly Cox	Judy Hammer
Evie Hammer	Mike Hauser	Joe Johnsonwall	Niki Johnsonwall
Jocelyn Johnsonwall	Frank Kieninger	Mark Kunkel	Pr. Ray Ramsburg
Alice Ramsburg	Madison Ranalli	Megan Ranalli	Anne Robertson
Jacob Boy	Jim Zwahlen		

**Join us as we host the Lenten supper on March 1<sup>st</sup> and we will share our stories with you.**

*Dios te bendiga (God Bless You), Your Honduras team*



## PAS BONBON HAITI NEWS

The school year is at the half way point, following the break for the Christmas Holiday. The school continues to grow, and so do the students! First through Sixth Grade classes continue to grow. I would assume a new teacher will be added in the fall to start a Seventh Grade class. I will put pictures in the Narthex showing the class sizes and the teachers as the Agapegram has limited space. I have included a copy of the monthly staff salaries. One thing I did notice was the “cooker” who has kept the same salary since the school began with 19 students 5 years ago. Now she is preparing the Trinity HOPE meal for over 300 children at Pas Bonbon. We at ESLC funded the construction of a kitchen. Now Silianise can cook inside a well ventilated building and not be concerned with rain and wind. I will ask if Silianise can get an increase in pay and we will support it. Prepare and cleanup 6,000 meals a month for \$50.00 is difficult to comprehend. Below is a picture from the December 24<sup>th</sup> wedding – Principal and Teacher Accilien Louithene. Any questions regarding Eternal Shepherd and our Missions, please contact me at [Lars.Helland@edgewaterautomation.com](mailto:Lars.Helland@edgewaterautomation.com) text or call 706-244-4544.

SAMUEL SIMEUS	PASTOR/FOUNDER/TEACHER	170
ACCILIE LOUITHENE	PRINCIPAL AND TEACHER 4th GRADE	170
JOSEPH MACORTON	TEACHER 3RD GRADE	100
JOSEPH JAMESLEY	TEACHER 5TH GRADE	100
ANDO MIMOSE	TEACHER PRESCHOOL	120
ETIENNE WILGENSON	TEACHER 2 <sup>ND</sup> GRADE	100
PERALTE JUNEL	TEACHER 6 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	100
SAMUEL'S WIFE SILIANISE	COOKER	50
SCHOOL NEEDS BASIC	SCHOOL NEEDS BASIC	50
AMOS SIMEUS	GATE KEEPER	50
HERMANN AUGUSTIN	LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL SUPERVISOR /STAFF	50
SHARE SUPPORT TRINITY HOPE	FEEDING PROGRAM/ FEES AND FOOD TRANSPORTATION	40
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1100 USD</b>



**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. **February's** preferred product is "***Canned Soup***" (Please place your items in the containers marked Food Bank down by the Fellowship Hall). *~Thank you for your generosity and support.*

**\*Please Note\*** Sunday, Feb 12th we will be celebrating **Souper Bowl Sunday** so please be sure to bring your soup cans for this event and place your items in the containers marked Food Bank down by the Fellowship Hall  
*~Thank you*



## **STARLIGHT AT TAMASSEE**

We are a residential program for mothers with elementary age children (8 and under upon admission), who are currently in recovery from substance use with a duration of 18-24 months. We can accept women who currently have their children, are pregnant, or seeking to gain custody of their children. During the program, moms will work through Christ-based curriculum in a faith centered program. The first year will be focused on healing, parenting, and fostering a strong bond with their children. The second year will be focused on education and job skills while moms learn budgeting, save for the next step, and life skills. Children will attend our on-site day care or academy for school aged children. For more information contact us.



Ina Doyle, LBSW  
Family Advocate and Case Manager  
Starlight Program  
Tamassee DAR School  
864-944-1390, ext. 111  
Email: [idoyle@tdarschool.org](mailto:idoyle@tdarschool.org)  
[starlight.tdarschool.org](http://starlight.tdarschool.org)



**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.*



## **Volunteers Needed for BabyRead**

*BabyRead is an early literacy program dedicated to low-income families in Oconee County. Volunteers are needed to read one-on-one to moms and their babies or toddlers at public venues twice a month for one hour each time. Covid options are available which don't require face-to-face contact. We are, also, looking for volunteers in management, leadership, and administrative positions. To become a BabyRead volunteer, call (864) 643-8083 or visit [www.babyread.org](http://www.babyread.org).*



**ripple of one** We empower families to move beyond public assistance and into their full God-given potential.

# Start Empowering.

For more info go to <https://www.rippleofone.org>

**Scrip Cards** are available and make great 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



**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 February

2/5 – Rev. Phil & Margi McLain & Sue McCart

2/12 – Alice Ramsburg & Sue Hauser

2/19 – Dan & Jeanne Arkfeld & Beckie Rau

2/26 – ???



**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**

### February Birthdays

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Chad Hamilton     | 20 - Mory Ranck      |
| 2 - Spence Cornine    | 22 - Paula Rigoni    |
| 3 - Aaron Lucas       | 23 - Susan Sherman   |
| Laina Rebholz         | Ryan Sitler          |
| 5 - Karen Schmidt     | 25 - Zach Sitler     |
| 10 - Kyra Carbone     | Skyler Wood          |
| Genevieve Toussaint   | 27 - Rick Kruse      |
| 11 - Carolyn Lindow   | Betty Schilling      |
| Becky Stroul          | Abby Zirbel          |
| 13 - Fred Munzenmaier | 28 - Sue Hauser      |
| Malcolm Williams      | Lars Helland         |
| 14 - Ned Renfroe      | Joanne Markley       |
| Harlan Swift          | Monty Moore          |
| 16—Henry Gambrell     | Charlene Schubert    |
| Jan Snyder            | 29 - Madison Ranalli |
| 17 - David Bucy       | Megan Ranalli        |
| 18 - Cier Beck        |                      |
| Eleanor Crouse        |                      |
| John Olenyn           |                      |



### February Anniversaries

- 7 - Greg & Christine Davis
- 9 - Scott & Patty Kaltrider
- Scott & Susan Robirds
- 14 - Bill & Karen Findlay
- 20 - Neal & Cier Beck
- 25 - John & Nicole Beattie
- William & Mildred Harth



## SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

### In December the following gifts were given:

In loving memory of *Janet Arnold*  
the Little Lambs Preschool Scholarship Fund received a gift of \$48.13

In loving memory of *Richard Hull*  
the Senior Member Care Fund received a gift of \$50.00



In loving memory of *Bob Krabbe*  
the Elders Fund received a gift of \$25.00

In loving memory of *Richard Kulper*  
the General Fund received a gift of \$48.13,  
the Property Contingency Fund received gifts of \$4,000.00,  
and the Senior Member Care Fund received a gift of \$50.00

In loving memory of *Bill Richards*  
the Organ Fund received a gift of \$2,545.97

In loving memory of *Skip Wakeman*  
the Comfort Dog Minsitry Fund received gifts of \$125.00,  
the Elders Fund received a gift of \$75.00  
and the General Fund received gifts of \$50.00,  
and the Senior Member Care Fund received a gifts of \$50.00

#### Other Gifts:

The Choir Fund received a gift of \$200.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$1,483.50,  
and gifts of \$1,306.00 from the Comfort Dog Biscuit Fundraiser

The Disaster Response Team Fund received a gift of \$48.35

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

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$144.69

The General Fund received a gift of \$800.00 from Blessings Shared Grant,  
and a gift of \$150.00 from the "Stitching Friends" Quilting Group

The Haiti Missions Fund received gifts of \$580.00

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$13,136.06, and a gift of \$1,000.00 from Blessings Shared Grant

The Hospitality Fund received gifts of \$450.00

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$196.71

The LWML Fund received gifts of \$847.00

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$96.56

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund received a gift of \$600.00

The Property Contingency Fund received gifts of \$720.00

The Safety Committee received a gift of \$1,400.00

The Toys for Gods Kids Fund received a gift of \$24.07

# Little Lambs Tales

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.  
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."  
1 John 4:16

It is the month of February and we are reminded of God's great love for each one of us and the demonstration of His love through these beautiful children of Little Lambs Preschool.

We ended the month of January with our annual Frozen Day! This is always a fun day as we participate in all types of winter activities! The children had a "snowball" fight, drank frozen hot chocolate, created a melted snowman, participated in some cool science activities with Mrs. Harriett and this year had a very special visit from Elsa and Anna from Frozen! Two mothers dressed up in full costume and provided reading time with the children. A very special treat!

**On February 10<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating our 100 days of school!** It is hard to believe we have already been in school for that long but look forward to this day with excitement! We will have many fun 100-day activities on this day and will end with our 100 day parade!! ***Please be aware that the driveway outside of the preschool will be closed on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-11:30am.***

Registration for our 2023-2024 school year will begin on February 1<sup>st</sup> with our current families. Registration for the public will start on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are on our website or you can pick one up at the preschool during school hours.

As we close out the month of February, our children will be getting ready for warmer weather, longer days and preparing for March and Dr. Seuss Day! All of us at Little Lambs Preschool thank you for your continued support and prayers for this ministry of our church. We continue to praise God for giving us the opportunity to care and love these beautiful children and watch them grow in their relationship with the Lord.



Blessings to you and your families!  
Gina

\* A JAR OF \*  
**Love and  
Appreciation**



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

**What you need:**

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

**What you do:**

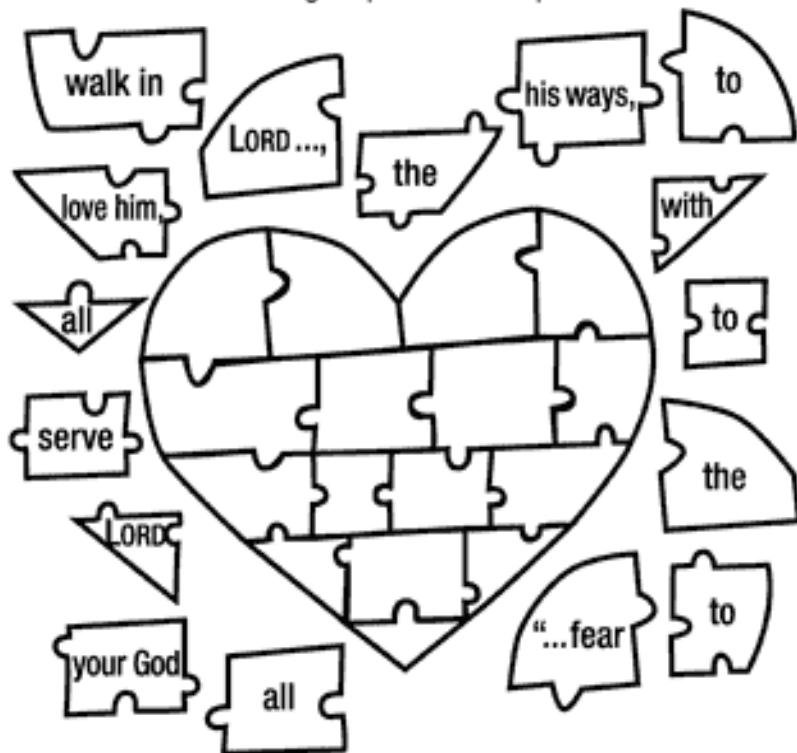
1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!



*Our first love*

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



*... your heart and with all your soul ..."*

Answer:  
"... fear the LORD ..." to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

## **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