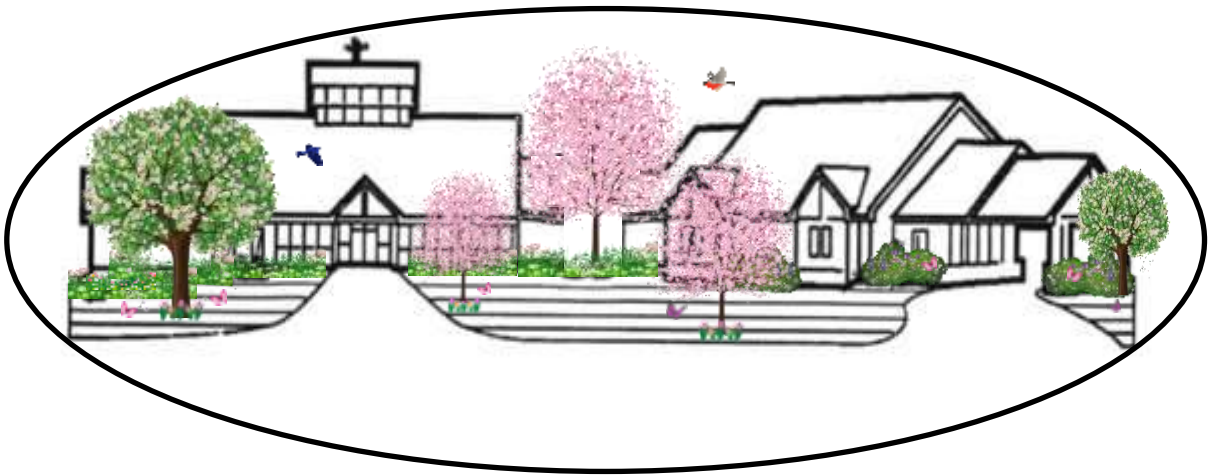


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# Agapegram

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April 2023



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Seneca, South Carolina 29678

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Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



## Christ Is Risen. He Is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

The season of Easter has arrived, turning our focus with full attention to Christ's triumph over sin, death, and the devil and His resurrection to life. This is God's plan to save a fallen humanity. This is the turning point of human history. This is our hope, our joy, and our future! *"If we have been united with him like in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection."* Rom. 6:5 EHV

If you think the forgiveness of sins is great stuff and having hope for each day is wonderful, just wait until we rise as Christ rose, because things are really going to get exciting then! New bodies; a perfect world; eternity to enjoy each other and to enjoy the presence of our Lord who redeemed us from destruction. That is Good News—news to be shared!

Over the years, I've shared the writings of Rev. Joe Abrahamson and his "Who's Lying?" series from the Diatheke blog regarding the truth about Christian holidays. In more recent years, we've reflected on Christmas, Lent, and Halloween, but it was 10 years ago since we last considered Easter. As the misleading headlines and urban legends will soon be flowing about our High Holy Day, we turn again to Pastor Abrahamson's detailed research about the truth of Easter. An abridged version of his article follows:

### ***Who's lying about Christian Holidays? Easter***

*...We'll look at the word "Easter" and how it has been misunderstood and its meaning re-invented by neo-pagans [and] the origin of Easter eggs...*

#### ***The name of the day: "Easter"***

*One of the main claims against Christians is that the very name "Easter" is taken from a Germanic pagan goddess who was celebrated in the spring. The first person to conjecture that this might be so was the Christian historian and theologian St. Bede of Northumbria, England in the year 725. There was no mention of this "goddess" in any other surviving literature or traditional folk lore.*

*And there was no mention of this "goddess" from the time of Bede until Jacob Grimm (editor of Grimm's Fairy Tales) referred to Bede's conjecture in the late 1800s. Grimm tried to find evidence for some name in German tradition that might refer to this conjectured "goddess" who's name was Easter or Eostre. But there was nothing.*

*Grimm's research was not able to demonstrate that the Germans or the Anglo-Saxons ever knew of such a goddess by that name. But he conjectured that if she existed, the old Germans would probably have called her Ostara. A name which Jacob Grimm invented as a conjecture about the etymology of a word. The word Ostara does not occur in any ancient German literature or oral folk lore. (Grimm's Teutonic Mythology, Vol. 1, p. 290)*

*However, neo-pagan and wiccan authors of the 20th century and later have gladly made-up all kinds of so-called "history" about this goddess that never existed. The*

*literature from these wiccan and neo-pagan sources has been so influential that popular society assumes that this fiction is true...*

### ***So where are we with real history for “Easter”?***

*The word Easter comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word meaning “to shine” and was used to describe the months of the year when the sun began to get brighter and higher during the day. In 1525 William Tyndale was the first to translate the Bible into English. He used the Middle-English word “ester” = “Easter” as a translation for Passover and the day of Christ’s Resurrection. The word had already been long used and understood as referring to the day of Christ’s Resurrection when Tyndale made his translation. Despite what modern pagans and wiccans wish the past might have been, there were no known pagan or wiccan celebrations of a pagan-easter in England or northern Europe in the period from the Middle Ages through the Reformation and up to the late 1800s...*

### ***Where did the Easter Egg come from?***

*...First: In the celebration of the Passover meal, which Christ celebrated the night before He was crucified, a roasted whole egg is placed as one of six food items on the Passover plate. The egg, called Beitzah symbolizes the Passover sacrifice that was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem and was then eaten as part of the meal on Seder night...*

*Early Christians in the first and second century continued to celebrate the Passover along with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Primarily the Passover was celebrated because of Christ’s institution of the Lord’s Supper.*

*Second: the season preceding Easter is called Lent. The season of Lent is a fast. In both the eastern and western Church this meant fasting from meat and fowl-- including eggs. Eggs were used to break the Lenten fast on Easter Morning. In preparation for this breaking of the fast the eggs were decorated to commemorate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the Paschal Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. The breaking of the shell became a symbol of Christ’s rending of the tomb.*

*Indeed, the use of decorated eggs to celebrate Christ’s resurrection on Easter morning is so widespread across the world and so closely tied with the spread of Christianity that one cannot call it anything but a Christian tradition. But that doesn’t keep the neo-pagans and modern commentators from trying to claim that Christian’s “stole” this so-called “pagan” tradition...*

[For more information about the Christian connection between bunnies and Easter see the full article at: <http://diatheke.blogspot.com/2011/01/word-of-week-for-january-2011-week-2.html> ]

Christians have celebrated Easter (called “Pascha” in most of the world, for its link to Passover) long before the faith spread to Germany or England. We celebrate because, as the hymn writer says, “*Jesus lives! The victory’s Won!*”

*Pastor David*



## *Deaconess' Musings*

### *Easter...Eternally*

*But the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' Are My ways not right, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right? 'Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct,' declares the Lord God.*

~Ezekiel 18:29, 30a NASB

Strong words. Words of judgement and condemnation to a people who were not adhering to the words of the Lord. The nation of Israel had yet again turned away from following the commands of God and had fallen into sin and error, resulting in the Lord allowing their current exile in Babylon. Through the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord calls out the people and their insistence on following their own hearts and minds, believing that their ways are better and more just than the Lord's Will. However, as He had done in the past, God promises Israel salvation and rescue and does not leave them without hope.

The Lord continues through Ezekiel, "*Cast away from all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,*" declares the Lord God. "*Therefore repent and live.*" (Ezekiel 18:31-32 NASB)

A call to repent and live. Here we see just one of many of such calls to the ancient Israelites, and yet these words find their echo today in the Church and her members. How often have we, ourselves, declared the Lord's ways to not be right, or just? How often have you, yourself, considered your own flawed, sinful thinking to be above reproach? We, like the Israelites of old, are constantly turning away and foregoing the Lord's good and perfect Will for thoughts and deeds that only lead to corruption. To sin. To death. To eternal separation from our Creator.

Thanks be to God! Through Christ's Passion and death on Good Friday to His resurrection on Easter morning, God proved that "*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" (Romans 5:8) For without Good Friday and Easter, where would our hope be found? In our own ways? The world has disproved that countless and countless times. Let our hope always be found in that bright, shining eternal Easter morning. For Christ had died, but now lives forever! We have been forever united with Christ in His death and resurrection! So, repent, live, and rejoice!

Rejoice for your God has paid your price. Rejoice for your Christ is not dead, but eternally alive. Rejoice for the Holy Spirit leaves you not alone, but filled with new life.

Easter is not one Sunday, but your entire life, the now and the yet to come. Christ arose and brings blessings eternal to you and the world.

*Blessed Eastertide!  
Deaconess Holly*



# ***Come, Let Us Worship Our King!***

## ***Easter Worship Schedule***

***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***



***“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”***

***1 Peter 1:3-5***

***Happy Easter!***

## April 2023 Council Update

The Council Team met on March 14<sup>h</sup>. Following are some highlights from your Council:

**Treasurer's Report:** Our finances are looking good, especially for this early in the year. Bill Smith reports that contributions are approximately \$10,000 ahead of the "aggressive" 2023 budget. \$100,000 has been moved to an annuity account to take advantage of favorable rates of return.

**Property Improvement Plans:** Monty Moore went over a long list of things he is doing to improve the building and grounds. Some of his projects are:

**New sign for ESLC entrance:** Monty is working on installation of a new sign for the entrance to ESLC. Meetings are on-going with sign companies to explore our options.

**Replacing steps on the east side of the building:** These steps require replacement due to incidents of tripping in the past. Monty has been working on this issue and the current plan is to have two flights of steps with a landing between them. A ramp was once considered but due to the steep slope it was not feasible. Work will not occur while Little Lambs Preschool is in session or during Vacation Bible School. There will be further information provided to the congregation once plans for improvement are finalized for construction.

**Mulch for the play areas:** The special mulch needed for play areas has been delivered and is starting to be spread. Monty thanked Wayne Gugel and Pastor Barthel for their work in keeping our grounds well maintained and beautiful.

**Request for ESLC to be Drop Off Center for Operation Christmas Child:** Ann Miller reported that Terri Baumann, chair of our Operation Christmas Child Program, has requested that ESLC be the drop off location for shoe boxes. The dates would be from November 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. Times will be set so that our normal activities would not be impacted by the drop off. Terri and others will be in the building. This could become an annual event. The Council approved this request.

**Welcoming New Repeat Visitors:** Ann reported that this program, which was suspended during Covid, has resumed. Teams have been set up and a process developed. Modifications to the process will be made, as necessary. Seven repeat guests have been identified, but many with incomplete information. Pastor noted that more than seven families have been worshipping with us. He asked that Council members greet visitors and encourage them to fill out the guest book with complete information.

**New Member to the Board of Altar Care:** Tracy Cochell moved that Glenda Krabbe and Elaine Randles be approved to serve on this board and Council passed this request unanimously.

**Little Lambs Preschool Spaghetti Supper:** Jane Fireovid reminded members that reservations for this fund raiser are due by April 12<sup>th</sup>. If anyone knows of a business which would make a donation to the silent auction, please let Gina Cote or herself know.

**ESLC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** It was noted that 2024 will mark our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we look forward to an exciting celebration to reflect 40 years of God's blessings. Please give prayerful thought to being part of the planning committee for this momentous event and stay tuned for celebratory plans.

**LWML a GREAT Success:** While not part of the Council meeting, we want to take this opportunity to give a big shout-out of appreciation to Kathy Bergeson and her team for a very successful LWML Rally held at ESLC on Saturday, 18 March. Well Done!!!

In His service,  
Fred Bell

## **Do You Know** **By Bob Massa, Head Elder**

This April it will be four years that Seth's ministry has been a part of Eternal Shepherd. Lutheran Church Charities trains and names all the dogs. Every dog is given a Biblical name and a corresponding Bible verse. Our fellow Seth (whose name sounds like the Hebrew word for "appointed") is appropriately named since it fits his role and personality perfectly. Many biblical scholars believe that Seth was born shortly after the death of Abel and was sent by God to comfort Adam and Eve's heartbreak.

Adam at 130 years old fathered his third son Seth who fathered Enosh when he was 105. (Genesis 5:3-7). According to Luke 3 the genealogy of Jesus is through the lineage of Seth. That genealogy also includes Methuselah and his grandson Noah! Hence, we are all descendants of Seth since everyone except Noah and his family perished in the flood.

As an aside, non-Israelites had a Seth. He was a patron god of the pharaohs, especially Ramses the Great. They believed he protected the dead on the way to the Afterlife and usually was depicted as a dog like character.

You can help us celebrate Seth's ministry's fourth anniversary by remembering his Bible verse: **"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 4:6-7)

**Hospitality** has become an important ministry in our church since our church believes that fellowship with other Christians is vital. We always remain committed to our church and are always looking for new members. Since the conclusion of the Pandemic, we are increasingly utilizing this ministry more and more. We would love to have more people involved: 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.

Also, on Sundays, we are involved with treats for Bible study between 1<sup>st</sup>. And 2<sup>nd</sup>. services. This again can be as much or as little as you want. Providing the coffee and any treats that can be homemade, store bought or packaged. If you sign up and are not sure how to proceed, just let me (Colleen Wakeman) know and I will help you learn the ropes (which is not difficult). It will allow you to get to know more people and is great fun.



If you are interested, please let me know and I will happily add you to our list. *Many blessings, Colleen Wakeman*

## If He Cares for the Sparrows...

*“Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins?  
And not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight.”*

*Luke 12:6 EHV*

The New Testament Scriptures are very sparse in mentioning animals during Jesus’ sojourn here on Earth. There are a few references to birds, pigs, dogs, and donkeys. There are a few mentions of bulls and sheep and goats, doves and eagles and ravens, and the occasional viper. But there are no scenes of Jesus frolicking with a friendly dog at Lazarus’s house, or worrying about whether His weight is too much for the donkey He rides triumphantly into Jerusalem. Not once does He admonish the apostles to “Be careful how you treat the animals!”

Perhaps He didn’t feel the need to say much about them. His simple remark that even the sparrows—each one of them—are known to their Creator should be enough to impress upon us the need to treat them, one and all, as creatures over whom He has placed us in authority as *stewards* of His creation. *Stewards*. Caretakers, husbandmen, shepherds designated by God to be responsible for the appropriate care and protection of the profusion of life that He designed to share this lovely planet with us. And He created us and them in such a way that we not only can have, but should have, relationships with them. And those relationships enrich our lives, just as the Creator intended.

The ESLC Comfort Dog team is blessed to experience this throughout the year. Each time they pick up Seth’s leash to bring him to a new visit, each time they walk beside him to greet a smiling face and an outstretched hand, may they be reminded that the Creator of the universe makes this possible because He shaped humans and dogs for relationship and companionship. And though the world is large and there are many good dogs in it, our God is not too busy to attend and bless each of Seth’s special moments of connection, just as He notices every sparrow on the wing.

*Most Holy Father, we praise You for Your creative power, and for the unsurpassed wisdom with which You wield it. We thank You for the love you shower upon your creation, and the amazing and unexpected ways in which You do it. We thank You for the animals You have placed in our care, and ask that You would help us be stewards that assist our animal companions in demonstrating Your love and goodness. In Jesus’ name, amen.*





# *Easter Breakfast*

## YOU'RE INVITED

ESLC Youth invite you to our annual **Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am!** **Come join our ESLC Youth** as we celebrate our Risen Lord with food and fellowship!

Breakfast Casseroles (gluten-free!), fruit, pastries, pancakes, orange juice, coffee.....we have it all!

Gluten-free and Dairy-free food options will also be made available for those with dietary restrictions.

*Please make plans to attend. We hope to see you there! ~ESLC Youth*



***“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” 1 Corinthians 15:20-22***

## **Easter Lilies**

The Easter Lily sign-up sheet **is in the Narthex, last Sunday for sign-up is April 2nd.** Please take a moment to fill it in remembering to fill out an individual line for each plant. The price remains at \$15.00 per plant . *Thank you!*



## *Comfort Dog Team News*

In celebration of 4 years of the Comfort Dog ministry with Seth here at Eternal Shepherd, the Comfort Dog Team will be hosting our **3<sup>rd</sup> annual blood drive in the parking lot at Eternal Shepherd on April 29 from 8:00am-12:00noon.** *The Blood Connection (TBC)* will bring their blood mobile and staff to service us that day. Did you know that one unit of blood can save up to three lives? And right now, *TBC* is in dire need of blood products. To donate blood, you must be in good health, at least 16 years of age and weigh over 110 lbs. There are also certain restrictions as far as medications or overseas travel which may prevent you from donating. If you are interested in donating a unit of blood or have any questions regarding those restrictions, please email Kyra Carbone at [topdogeslc@outlook.com](mailto:topdogeslc@outlook.com) or call/text at 864-932-8308 by April 22.

Also, in celebration of this 4th year anniversary, the Comfort Dog Team will be hosting the Coffee Hour on April 30 between services in the Fellowship Hall. Come on down and give Seth a pat on the head to thank him for the work he does in our community and beyond. While you are there, grab a goodie, a cup of coffee and join us for Bible Study.

On behalf of the Comfort Dog Team, thank you to all of you for your faithful encouragement, financial support and the love you show to our sweet pup Seth! Onto the next 4 years as God wills and allows!

To Him be the Glory,  
Kyra Carbone, Top Dog

**OUTREACH (REACHING OUT) NEWS:** The Prison Ministry Group visited the Oconee County Detention Center last week to share a devotional and receive prayer requests. The requests will be submitted to the prayer chain and published in the weekly bulletin for your prayers. This was my first visit, and the first visit of the ministry since the beginning of the pandemic. Some inmates mentioned how much they appreciated our visit. Many inmates responded favorably, and it was obvious some had knowledge of the Bible. I too was blessed both days when hearing the message that was given to the cell blocks. On March 10th Frank Kieninger and I visited the cell blocks to distribute copies of the Bibles which includes the New Testament, Psalms, Proverbs and concordance called the "Life Reference Manual." We walked around gifting Bibles and cookies and interacted with the groups, which is really important. Frank explained how they could use their new Bible to explore the word of God and shared a message of repentance. We returned the following day with Lois and Lars Helland, Ann Miller, and Pastor Barthel, and separated into three groups to share a short devotional and to receive prayer requests. The inmates who chose to attend the devotional seemed sincere and receptive. The experience made me realize how important the Prison Ministry is. Foreign mission work is much needed, but if you don't have the opportunity or ability to travel afar, we have opportunities to minister to those in need right here at our doorstep. *Delane Duker*

If you have any questions or would like to serve in any of our important ministries please contact Ann Miller at (864) 637-8353 or [asjohn315@gmail.com](mailto:asjohn315@gmail.com).

**Next Outreach opportunity for Feed the Hungry Ministry will be on Sat., July 8th.**

# Little Lambs Preschool Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction

at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church  
in the Fellowship Hall  
220 Carson Rd. Seneca, SC 29678

**Sat., April 22nd  
4:30pm to 7:00pm**

**All Meals \$15.00 each**

**Meal Order Forms are in your church mailbox or  
on the table in the front entryway.**

**(Order forms also available in on ESLC website)**

**Please return your completed order form by April 12th.**

Join us for a joyous time of food, fun, fellowship, and fundraising! The Meal begins at 4:30pm and silent auction bidding continue through approximately 6pm. Entertainment provided by Little Lambs preschoolers with auction results to follow. If you cannot attend, you can donate online at [www.eternalshepherd.org](http://www.eternalshepherd.org) and click on the blue **online giving** tab. Scroll down to Little Lambs box and make a donation! You can also donate Thrivent dollars or just write a check to Little Lambs Preschool.



**~We thank you for your support!**

*All proceeds help support our littlest lambs.*

## Haiti Mission News

### **AN ETERNAL INVESTMENT Isaiah 54:13 “All your children shall be taught by the Lord and great shall be the peace of your children.”**

In response to the members of Eternal Shepherd who voted to send \$5,000.00 from the 2022 Budget Excess to Trinity HOPE to support our school, Pas Bonbon, in the Central Plateau of Haiti, we received the following from Pastor Walta:



*I am glad you will be able to send money to Trinity Hope. Effectively, Trinity Hope is doing a very good job in Central-Plateau by feeding thousands of children. By that also, more people come to Christ and are more educated. Our youths now stay at school and not become pregnant earlier at 13 or 14 years old. God is good all the time. He will continue to bless you and Trinity Hope for all you are doing for Central-Plateau. Sincerely, Walta*

Many of you have asked about the safety of the children in the Central Plateau, since the news is filled with the riots and gangs in the Port au Prince area. Fortunately, the Central Plateau is isolated from that turmoil but the effect is far reaching. From Trinity HOPE we received the following:

*The political climate in Haiti has had a significant impact on the Haitian economy. Haitians have seen over 50% inflation in the last 9 months. Because of the increased prices, and the decrease in access to food and gasoline, we have seen some fluctuation in meal cost. In the past, our cost per meal has always averaged about a quarter. This year we have seen prices fluctuate and are averaging close to \$0.40 per meal. Your continued, loyal support has meant that, as children continue to come to school, we have had no interruption in feeding them. THANK YOU!*

*While these changes may impact future growth, we are thus far able to maintain and even add a few more schools to the Feeding Program. As we begin to see prices come down and stabilize, we are praying that we will be back to our benchmark of meals costing about a quarter by the time school starts next year.*

We at Eternal Shepherd are feeding 400 children a day at Pas Bonbon. **Thank You All!** For more information on our various missions and missionary support contact Lars Helland at [Lars.Helland@edgewaterautomation.com](mailto:Lars.Helland@edgewaterautomation.com) or 706-244-4544



## Honduras News - April 2023

We have returned from a very successful Mission Trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras the last week in February. Our host, World Gospel Outreach, is gearing back up after two years of waiting out the pandemic and seeing the Mission House empty. This was a difficult time for them as they depend on mission teams to keep everything running. The number of people at the Mission House is greatly scaled back but we were warmly greeted and welcomed for the week with great meals and great care.

We (ESLC) were able to help with Care Pay support and support for WGOKids during this time and many at our church continue to support the children at Rancho Ebenezer. We visited the Ranch on Wednesday, our day off, so if you would like to know more about that part of their ministry please talk with one of the team members about their experience there.

During our four Brigade days we saw over 1,425 people and were able to help them with medical, dental, optical, pharmacy, water filters and children's ministry. Of course we talked with all adults about the gospel and taught the children the gospel story with the salvation bracelets that you helped to make here at church.

We who traveled to Honduras were blessed beyond measure by our experience and will happily share our experiences with anyone who asks, and probably a few who don't ask. Thank you again for your support and prayers; we are blessed to be part of such a caring congregation.

*Dios te bendiga, (God Bless You), Your Honduras Mission Team.*





**UPDATE ON OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:** 2023 saw the ministry deliver its 200 millionth Shoebox! To celebrate this milestone, Elizabeth Groff, who received a shoebox years ago in an orphanage in Ukraine, traveled to different drop-off locations and processing centers with the shoebox gift to encourage people to continue packing shoeboxes. She said, “There are so many children out there just like me who have never heard of Jesus or experienced His everlasting love. I know the impact a single shoebox can make. It absolutely changed my life. There’s no greater reward than being able to serve through this ministry.” The shoebox made several stops, collecting items along the way and wrapped up in North Carolina at the Charlotte Processing Center where Franklin Graham, prayerfully dedicated it. Here is a picture of Natalya, an orphan in Ukraine, as she receives the box:



Since 1993 shoeboxes have been delivered to children in 175 countries and territories since the project started. 10.6 million boxes were packed in 2022. The 303 Shoeboxes ELSC packed in 2022 were shipped to the countries of Benin and South Africa.

### **BEGINNING IN 2023 AT ESLC:**

The Church Council has approved the request by Samaritan’s Purse for our church to become a Community Drop-off center! Now the process begins as we apply to that program and begin the training. If you’re interested in plugging into this ministry, helping with this endeavor would be a great place to start. National Collection Week will be November 13-20. Please watch for more information to follow as I receive updates from Samaritan’s Purse.

God continues to bless this ministry, here at Eternal Shepherd, and all around the world! Please contact me with any questions.

Terri Baumann (864)882-4386

### **Fresh Flowers on the Wooden Cross Easter Sunday.**

On Easter Sunday (April 9<sup>th</sup>), the big wooden Cross on the Altar will have wire added for fresh flowers. **You may bring flowers from your garden or purchase flowers. Please bring your flowers before each service on Easter Sunday and come to the Altar and add them to the cross.** We want to have a beautiful cross loaded with fresh flowers this Easter! If you have any questions, contact Tracy Cochell at 404-433-7338.



## **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).*



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



**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.*



**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 April

4/2 – ???

4/9 – ???

4/16 – ???

4/23 – Monty & Julie Moore

4/30 – Comfort Dog Ministry Team



**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**

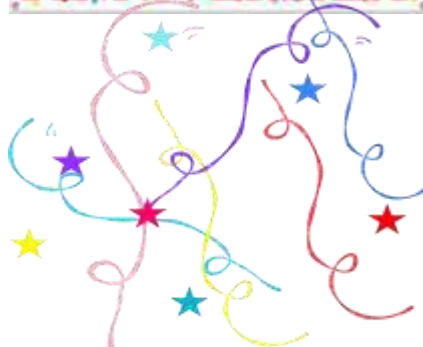
### April Birthdays

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 - Teresa Todd     | 18 – James Lusk      |
| Tammy Wood          | 19 – Charlotte Beyer |
| 4 – Sandy Kunkel    | 20 – Jim Zwahlen     |
| Jonette Stupke      | 21 – Linda Nichelson |
| 5 – Shannon Cox     | 22 – Harold Coale    |
| 6 – Rudy Carbone    | 23 – Craig Bergeson  |
| Leo Rebholz         | 24 – Dan Arkfeld     |
| 7 - Capt. Bert Wise | Jim Bluhm            |
| Joanne Smith        | Bob Massa            |
| 9 – Adam Beitz      | 25 - Sherwood Drexel |
| 11 – Fred Bell      | 26 – Arline Ray      |
| 12 – Patsy Drexel   | 27 – Jean Dombi      |
| Katharine Dunlap    | Kristin Morriss      |
| 15 - Sue Peterson   | 28 - John Cochell    |
| 16 – Suzanne Lucas  | 30 – Joe Louderback  |
| Jim Walker          |                      |



### April Anniversaries

- 6 - Rev. Ray & Alice Ramsburg
- 7 - Mike & Joyce Dittmer  
Fred & Angie Munzenmaier
- 24 - Al & Jill Roeder
- 26 - Westly & Vicki Tramble
- 27 - Paul & Susan Sherman
- 29 – Harold & Shirley Coale
- 30 – Curtis & Jean Dombi



## **SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS**

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

**In loving memory of *Richard Hull*  
the Elders Fund received gifts of \$50.00,  
and the Senior Member Care Fund (*based on Galatians 6:10*) received a gift of \$200.00**

**In loving memory of *Bob Krabbe*  
the Choir Fund received a gift of \$25.00,  
and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund received a gift of \$50.00**

**In loving memory of *Micky Louderback*  
the General Fund received a gifts of \$23.51**

**In loving memory of *Sarah Wanthal*  
the General Fund received a gifts of \$25.00**

**In loving memory of *Chris Worthy*  
the General Fund received a gifts of \$23.84**

### **Other Gifts:**

**The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$238.40,  
and a gift of \$507.00 from Thrivent Choice**

**The Disaster Response Team Fund received a gift of \$50.00**

**The Elders Fund received gifts of \$188.41**

**The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$120.50**

**The Foothills Care Center Fund received a gift of \$24.22**

**The General Fund received a gift of \$800.00 from Blessings Shared Grant**

**The Haiti Missions Fund received gifts of \$604.22**

**The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$274.22**

**The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$145.14**

**The Lutheran Witness Magazine Fund received gifts of \$36.00**

**The LWML Fund received a gift of \$48.43**

**The Operation Christmas Child Fund received a gift of \$370.00**

**The Pastor's Discretionary Fund received a gift of \$50.00**

**The Property Contingency Fund received a gift of \$5,000.00,  
and a gift of \$600.00 from CCCF Giving Thanks Grant**

**The Wheelchair Ramp Fund c/o Outreach received a gift of \$1,500.00 from Scrip Gift**

# Little Lambs Tales

*“As the earth brings forth its shoots, and a garden makes its seeds spring up, so will the Lord God make justice spring up, and praise before all nations” (Isaiah 61:11)*

Spring is a wonderful season in which we celebrate birth and new life. It reminds us that winters are temporary, and that cold winds will always give way to warm air and summer breezes. Spring is a time for hope and the promise of new beginnings. All of us here at Little Lambs Preschool are ready to shed the jackets and spend much of our time outdoors celebrating God’s beautiful creation.

As we enter our final few months of this school year, we like to reflect on the ways in which our children have grown throughout the year. In the 2’s class the students didn’t want to share their toys or play with one another at the beginning of the school year. They were not vocal and had trouble communicating using words. Sitting on the mat to listen to a lesson was a near impossibility. Today, they not only share with one another (most of the time!) but enjoy playing with each other and are now able to sit on the mat for an extended period listening to a story read and singing songs. They are communicative and use words to tell their teachers lots of stories. And I am sure Pastor David and Deaconess Holly appreciate the way they are now able to sit still and listen during Chapel time!

Our children in the 3’s class have grown in so many ways. From expanding their vocabulary to learning their letter sounds through zoo phonics they are more than ready to enter our pre-kindergarten program. They have also matured in their kindness and love for one another. They love doing crafts and sitting around the teacher table engaged in art and drawing! They may have started the school year shy and unsure but now practically run into school ready for the day.

Our pre-K class love their chapel time where they have the privilege of being the accolades. They take this job seriously showing reverence and love of God. When they started the school year they knew some letter sounds but today some of the children are already reading! Wow! Such growth!

None of this would be possible without the dedication and love from all our staff. And a special thank you to Pastor David and Deaconess Holly as they support our school so lovingly day in and day out.

**A special reminder that our Spaghetti Supper/Silent Auction will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>!** We look forward to many of our preschool families joining with our ESLC community to not only support and raise funds for this important ministry but also to spend time in Fellowship! Our preschool children will be performing a few special songs for everyone at the end of the evening, so we hope to see all of you there!

We are very fortunate to be involved in a Christian ministry where we share God’s gifts with so many. Thank you for your continued prayers for our school and faith community.

*Blessings in Christ,  
Gina*



# HOT CROSS BUNS

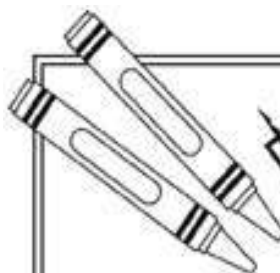
Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you.

## What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (½ cup) butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1½ Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help

## What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!



# PUZZLE

## FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.



- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. Jesus      | 5. cross   |
| 2. weary      | 6. endured |
| 3. endured    | 7. scorned |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame   |



- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus   | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose    | 6. him       |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith     |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand      |



- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes  | 5. right  |
| 2. us    | 6. grow   |
| 3. joy   | 7. God    |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. For the \_\_\_\_\_ set before \_\_\_\_\_  
 he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, its \_\_\_\_\_, and  
 sat down at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Consider \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ such \_\_\_\_\_  
 from \_\_\_\_\_, so that you will not \_\_\_\_\_  
 and \_\_\_\_\_." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV

## **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



*“No one is holy like the LORD,  
For there is none beside You.  
Nor is there any rock like our God.”*

*1 Samuel 2:2*

*Happy Easter!*