

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)



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

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

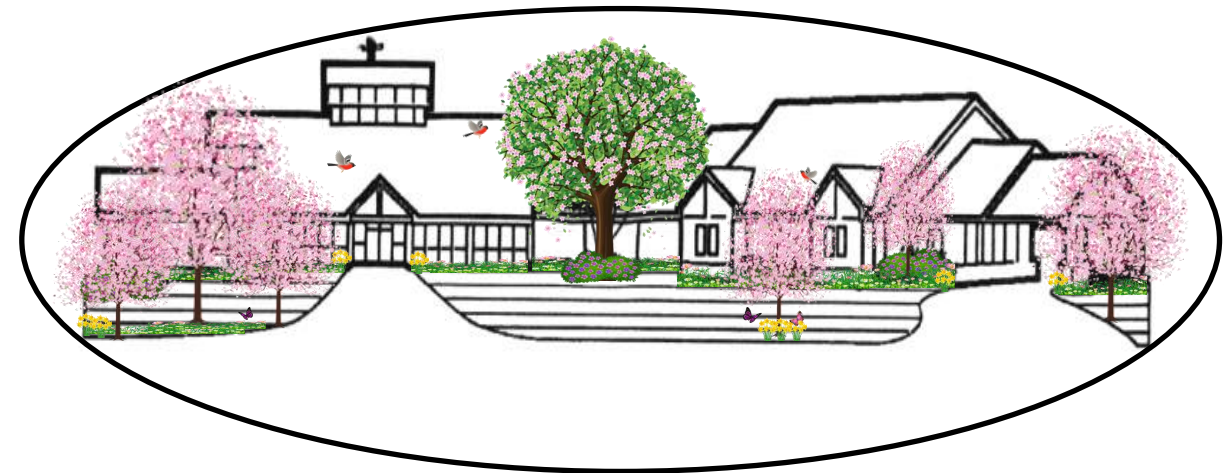
Nate Esala, Lutheran Bible Translators

David & Dr. Arianna Shirk, Kenya

S.E.D. Missionaries to Peru

Agapegram

March 2024



“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” Happy Easter!

ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

www.eternalshepherd.org

office@eternalshepherd.org

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

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



Let Lent Linger

...If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Mark 8:34 EHV

We are quickly moving into and through the season of Lent. Lutheran pastor Todd A Peperkorn writes in a 2014 Federalist article entitled *Why Lent Should Matter to Everyone* these words to encourage us to invest ourselves in this season while it lasts:

... Lent (which basically means “spring”) is a time when Christians all over the world prepare for Jesus Christ’s resurrection of the dead. ... Historically, there are three practices associated with Lent: Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving or works of mercy. It is a time when Christians mourn over their sin (called repentance) and learn again to trust in their Savior, Jesus Christ. Just like you don’t only go to a doctor once, in the same way a Christian can benefit from a “checkup” on their faith, to remind them who they are as baptized children of God.

In connection with this, Lent can be a time of great focus for the Christian. Our culture is inundated with input. ... But in order to focus more on one thing, one must also learn to focus less on other things. ... In Christian terms, this is really why we “give up” things for Lent. ... By giving up something that is a regular part of your life (e.g. a kind of food or drink, games, or maybe even Facebook), this allows you to focus more on one thing. For the Christian, that one thing is Jesus Christ, who gave up everything for us, even life itself. So Lent can become a time of beautiful simplicity, hearing again the words of the Bible, and coming to God in repentant joy for what He has done for us.

... It is possible [that] practices such as fasting or prayer or acts of charity might lead to works righteousness, or trying to get to heaven by what we do, rather than by what we believe. If I do these things in order to show off how good a Christian I am, then they really are of no benefit to me or anyone else.

This is why in the historic Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday [Matthew 6], ... Jesus exhorts us not to do these things as a show. There is no room in the Christian faith for works righteousness. But Jesus does assume that the Christian will be doing these things.

In my experience, the greatest danger today lies in rejecting these ancient practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, because I think I know better than thousands of years of Christian and pre-Christian history.

continued on next page...

Easter Crosses

Make this craft to remember what Jesus did for us. Hang it in your room to look at all year long.

What you need:

- Two 8" paper plates (white)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Crayons, paints or felt markers
- Stapler, glue stick or glue
- Paper punch
- Yarn, string or ribbon (about 10" or 12")

What you do:

1. With your pencil draw a slight curved line all the way across the center of one plate. This will be a hill.

2. Draw three crosses on the hill. Make the center one a little bigger than the others.

3. Color the hill green and the crosses brown. Or color the hill and crosses black to look like a silhouette.

4. Cut out the hill and crosses as one piece.


5. Color the top half of the other plate with red, orange and yellow to look like an evening sky.

6. Staple or glue the hill-and-crosses plate onto the sky plate. Make sure you line up the bottom edges of the plates, and staple or glue just along the curved edges where the plates meet.

7. Punch a hole near the top of the sky plate.

8. Tie a loop of yarn, string or ribbon through the hole.

9. Hang your scene on your doorknob or on something else in your room.



Something Important to Remember Always

Romans 5:8, NIV, tells us how great God's love is for us. Use the grid to complete this verse.

	a	b	c				
1	F	U	N				
2	♥	B	♥				
3	M	V	H				
4	♥	♥	A	W	O	♥	♥
5	♥	♥	♥	G	♥	♥	♥
6	E	T	C				
7	L	♥	R				
8	♥	D	♥				
9	I	♥	S				

“
2b 1b 6b 5b 4c 8b 8b 6a 3a 4c 1c 9c 6b 7c 4a 6b 6a 9c
3c 9a 9c 4c 4b 1c 7a 4c 3b 6a 1a 4c 7c 1b 9c 9a 1c
6b 3c 9a 9c 4b 3c 9a 7a 6a 4b 6a 4b 6a 7c 6a
9c 6b 9a 7a 7a 9c 9a 1c 1c 6a 7c 9c 6c 3c 7c 9a 9c 6b
8b 9a 6a 8b 1a 4c 7c 1b 9c”
”

Answer:
“BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.”

Little Lambs Tales

"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

As we finish out our winter season and enter into the season of Spring, we are renewed and refreshed; reveling in the warmer temperatures and the beginnings of Springtime. It is a time of teaching God's awesome power and glory in all His creation.

At Little Lambs Preschool we are blessed to be able to share with our children the wonders of our Heavenly Father and teach our students about God! Each week we share a new bible story with our students based on the curriculum set up through Concordia Press. These stories are also shared during our weekly chapel visit with Pastor David and Deaconess Holly. We are always so appreciative of their willingness to teach our students.

As always Dr. Seuss Day is on March 2nd and we will spend the last week of February celebrating everything Dr. Seuss. We will have Silly Sock Day, Whacky Wednesday, Green Eggs and Ham Day (even sample some green eggs) and conclude our week with our very own Dr. Seuss parade! Teachers and students will parade through the hallways of Little Lambs Preschool dressed as our favorite Dr. Seuss character!



Our school will be closed March 11-18 for Spring Break (classes resume Tues. March 19th) as well as March 29th (Good Friday) and April 1 (Easter Monday). We wish all of you a blessed Easter! Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this ministry of our church!

Blessings to you and your families!
Gina



American culture is much more inclined to overindulgence and entitlement than we are to works righteousness. ... I'm going to go out on a limb and say that for most of us, we could use a little less indulgence, and a little more discipline in our lives.

... Try focusing more by doing less. Don't take the second helping. Drink less. Give your eyes a break from the glowing rectangles. Pray more. Give to those in need. By doing less, you may find that your focus sharpens and you can see more clearly.

For the Christian, that means focusing on the One who gave His life as a ransom for the whole world. That seems like a pretty good focus to me.

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Cor. 2:2 NIV

Pastor David



"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!



Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily sign-up sheet will be on display in the Narthex soon. 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 this year. *Thank you!*

Reflections and Aspirations – Doug Zirbel

We are all so very blessed by the incredible talent and resources that surround us at Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church. Known so well in our community as the “Church of the Relocated”, we also form an awesome melting pot of people with incredible backgrounds and experience. Every week, we welcome new visitors to worship with us, with the hopes they will eventually join our church family. Our collective membership forms the foundation for doing “God’s Work” and creates an environment where we actively grow and nurture God’s kingdom of believers.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a summary of the highlights, detailing the accomplishments of the various boards of our congregation in 2023. While we have many actively engaged in the activity of our congregational goals and objectives, several needs remain unfilled. Have you thought about how you will make a difference in the upcoming year? What has God inspired you to do to help further his kingdom?

- Have you considered working as a member of the property board, to support the maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful church building and landscaping?
- Do you have talents in computers/software to help us keep our equipment, software, and network systems in safe and working order?
- How about offering your support and expertise in the direction of Christian Education?
- Do you love cooking or preparing food, and providing for an incredible fellowship experience?

The aforementioned areas are just a few where additional resources are needed. 1 Peter 4:10 “Every good thing we have is ours only by God’s grace and intended to be used for His purpose”. I prayerfully request that you consider engaging in a way that you feel aligns with your God given talents.

You will see the incredible work of our many congregational boards. Please review it not only to see what great works have been accomplished, but also for the nugget you believe best fits you and your God given talents.

As we move into 2024, we also want to recognize and thank those that have retired from their previous leadership roles over their past terms;

- Bob Massa – Head Elder**
- Monty Moore – Property Board**
- Dan Arkfeld – SRT**
- Fred Bell – Congregational President**
- Departing Elders – Lars Helland, Paul Wilson, Fred Massa, Dan Arkfeld**
- Amy Rebholz – Board of Education**

Also, a special thank to Monty Moore, who has invested significant personal time to improve the maintenance of our equipment and facilities and to develop long range plans for expenditures that will prolong the life of our beautiful property.

SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS



In January the following gifts were given:

**In loving memory of *Susan Goeckel*
the Altar Care Flower Fund received a gift of \$30.00**

Other Gifts:

Christ Central Ministries (Feed the Hungry) received a gift of \$3,000.00

The Board of Christian Ed. received a gift of \$70.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$2,209.61

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$120.33

**The General Fund received a gift of \$800.00 from Blessings Shared Grant,
and a gift of \$2,000.00 from Schwab Charitable Grant**

The Haiti Mission Fund received a gift of \$200.00

**The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$4,700.37,
and the WGO Rancho Ebenezer for Kids Fund received a gift of \$3,000.00**

**The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received a gift of \$196.71,
and a gift of \$1,000.00 from Schwab Charitable Grant**

The Lutheran Witness Fund received gifts of \$309.06

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received a gift of \$100.00



Hospitality Happenings for March

3/3 — Paul & Susan Sherman
3/10 — Fred & Debbie Bell & Alice Mercer
3/17 — Rev. Ray & Alice Ramsburg
3/24 — ???
3/31 — Easter Breakfast hosted by ESLC Youth



Hospitality is going full speed. We provide 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 interested in any of these, please contact me at 864-784-0421 and I will gladly help. ~Colleen Wakeman

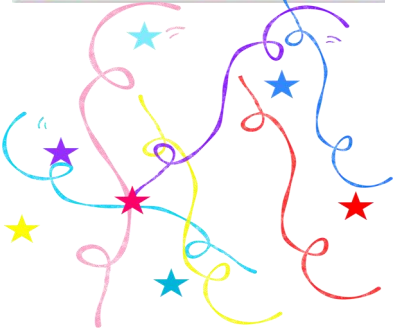
March Birthdays

2 - David Broderdorf Pastor David Hammer	15 - Collins Hamilton Sue Watson
3 - Rocki Van Heusen	18 - Christopher Beitz
7 - Alan Van Heusen	23 - (Jodene Baker)
8 - Lois Helland Rick Stockman Robin Yoffee	24 - Monica Del Priore Joyce Krueger
10 - Scottie Fredrickson Barry Voeltz	25 - Lou Jolley
12 - Angie Munzenmaier	29 - Wayne Gugel
13 - Carol King	30 - Michele Schaefer
14 - Cyra Phelan	



March Anniversaries

1 - Ben & Lynne Smith
3 - Herb & Marie Schmidt
9 - Don & Evelyn Seigler
15 - Dave & Jane Smith
19 - Paul & Lane Wilson
21 - John & Cindy Munro
30 - Scott & Debbie Krueger



Easter Worship Schedule

Midweek Lenten Suppers at 6:00 pm

Wed., March 6th hosted by the *Board of Elders*
Wed., March 13th hosted by *Honduras Mission Team*
Wed., March 20th hosted by *Altar Care Committee*

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesday, March 6th - 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 13th - 7:00 pm
Wednesday, March 20th - 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday March 24th

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

Maundy Thursday Service March 28th - 7:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service March 29th - 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday March 31st

8:30 am & 11:00 am Communion Both Services
9:45 am Easter Breakfast hosted by ESLC Youth

Fresh Flowers on the Wooden Cross Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday (March 31st), the big wooden Cross at the front of the church will have wire for fresh flowers. Please bring flowers from your garden or purchase flowers. Before each service on Easter Sunday, bring your flowers 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.



ESLC EASTER PRAYER VIGIL



Whether you pray aloud or silently, using the provided materials and prayers or your own personal petitions, or simply sit and contemplate the great sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prayer Vigil provides you opportunity for reflection and an additional enrichment of your Lenten devotional life.

The Vigil begins immediately following the Good Friday evening service (around 8pm) and continues without interruption until 7:00am on Easter Morning.

A sign-up sheet, with one hour time slots, will be placed in the Narthex beginning on March 10th, and you may sign-up as individuals, couples, groups/families. If you would like petitions to be offered confidentially on your behalf, prayer requests will also be near the sign-up sheet. **Please submit your requests prior to the Maundy Thursday evening service.** Time slots fill up quickly, so reserve your preferred time slot as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Deaconess Holly.

Volunteers Needed for BabyRead

*BabyRead desperately needs volunteers to read one-on-one to moms and their babies or toddlers at public venues twice a month for one hour each time. We currently have 10 new families who are waiting for a volunteer reader. All of our current readers are assigned to other families. **To become a BabyRead volunteer, visit www.babyread.org. Please consider serving in this ministry.***



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 pick up an order form from the Scrip Box or please contact **Beckie Rau** at (864) 944-6096. After the order is received one of the Scrip ladies will contact you to make arrangements for delivery. Scrip Card Team: **Beckie Rau, Libby Dunlap, Elisabeth Baker & Sue Hauser.** ~Thank you for your support.



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.



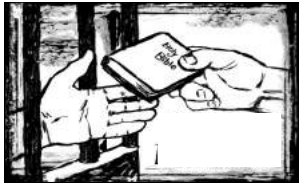
As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. Our Vision Statement: The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness. For more information about this inspiring group please contact Kathy Bergeson at (901) 508-0936.



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>.

DETENTION CENTER OUTREACH MINISTRY:

Saturday, March 9th ESLC is planning a visit to the Men's and the Women's sides of the Detention Center in Walhalla. **We will need cookies for this ministry** (30 baggies with regular cookies – 4 cookies to a bag). Please have your cookies to the church by 9am Sat., March 9th. *These cookies are a small way of sharing God's love and are much appreciated by those who receive them.* We will meet at ESLC Sat., March 9th 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.* If you are interested in serving our Lord in the important ministry, or have any questions please contact Ann Miller at (864) 637-8353 or asjohn315@gmail.com. ~Thank you



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



Needs Mentors!

Our mission is to empower children to reach their full God-given potential and to break generational poverty.

Mentors are needed for 3rd-12th graders. Come

and share life changing skills with our children! For more information see the contact info listed below.

Visit our website at www.rippleofone.org
For more information, email Ria Dawkins at: ripple.terria@gmail.com



ESLC CARD CART!

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!!! \$0.50 for all cards and \$5.00 for a box of 12 found on the bottom of the cart.



Easter Breakfast

YOU'RE INVITED

ESLC Youth invite you to our annual **Easter Breakfast** on **Sunday, March 31st 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



spring forward

**Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 10th**

Please be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on Sat., March 9th before going to bed as we spring forward into Daylight Saving Time.



Hollow or Hallow

by Scott Krueger, Head Elder

Hollow: Not solid, empty. Without real or significant worth.

Hallow: To make holy, sanctify, consecrate.

I’d like to see an Easter basket packed around the edge with all the usual stuff, eggs, jelly beans, marshmallow treats, candy, toys. Then, in the middle, larger than all the other things, a chocolate Jesus on the cross. The stuff around the edge representing worldly goodies. Some things we can enjoy, but shouldn’t over indulge in. Things we shouldn’t over do to the distraction of why God put us here. Christ states it clearly in Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Now, for the chocolate Jesus. Take a bite, I love chocolate. Was it hollow? Boy, that’s a disappointment. Somehow a hollow chocolate is never fully satisfying. In the back of my mind I feel cheated, incomplete. Now, take another bite. Was it solid chocolate? That’s the best. Everything I want from chocolate, thick, satisfying, full of flavor, worthy. A huge improvement over hollow.

How’s your Jesus? Solid and satisfying or empty and lacking. The Messiah made us hallow for a reason. We are sanctified, made holy through his death and resurrection, to go into the world as solid Christians, discipling, baptizing, teaching. This Lenten season remember Jesus went to the cross hallow, with a divine purpose. Let’s be like him, solidly doing the Father’s will.

Feeding the students at Pas Bonbon through Trinity Hope and Eternal Shepherd



Schools We Feed

God has called Trinity HOPE to be His instrument to reach thousands of hungry children in Haiti and give them HOPE. By providing a nutritious meal during the school day, we not only fill their stomachs with life-sustaining food, we also enable them to be fed spiritually in Christian schools. A common phrase in Haiti is “An empty stomach has no ears.” At Trinity HOPE we understand this, and work very hard to give children a better future.

We work in 265 Christian schools all over Haiti. The map to the left shows the number of schools in each region.

School	Fed Daily	Year Started Feeding Prog	Sponsor
District CEN - Central Continued			
Laotchikit - Le Reformateur	511	Sep-2012	In Memory of Dr. Jurgen Killius, TN (Partial)
			Jeff, Lori Buck and Family, TN (Partial)
			St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN (Partial)
			Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson Station, TN (Partial)
Maissade	131	Sep-2022	Christ Community Church, Johnson City, TN
Martin Luther	52	Sep-2009	Our Savior /Annual Garage Sale
Pas Bonbon	308	Sep-2018	Eternal Shepherd LCMS, Seneca, SC
Paul et Isabelle	414	Sep-2019	National LWML Two Year Grant
Pierre Cesar	190	Sep-2022	SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE
Reformateur de Hinche	61	Sep-2019	Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, NC (Partial)
			Bill Kroemer, Portland, TN (Partial)
Rendez Joie	35	Sep-2009	"Michigan Girl"
Savane Haleine	100	Sep-2019	Anonymous
Savane à Palmes	202	Sep-2022	SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE
Savann Plate	171	Sep-2019	Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN
St. Jean Baptiste Caille-Epin	348	Sep-2022	Joe and Sharon Kemper
St. Sauveur Excelsior	366	Oct-2017	Joe and Sharon Kemper
Village de L'Espérance	123	Sep-2022	SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Following a Mission Trip to Laotchikit in January 2018, we worked with Pastor Walta to establish a new school at Pas Bonbon – on the property of then seminarian Samuel now Pastor Samuel. The school started with 19 students. At 34 cents per meal per child this is a bit of a challenge. In years past we got additional help through the excess funds (under budget). This year ESLC had no excess funds. Designated funds to Missions/Pas Bonbon will carry us through much of the year. We are blessed to be a Blessing! Lars Helland, Mission Committee Chairman

Honduras Mission News

When you receive this newsletter your 2024 Mission Team will be in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. We simply ask that you keep us in your prayers this week as we serve the people of Honduras.



Pray for: Brooke Bowman, John Cochell, Tracy Cochell, Robert Cochell, River Edwards, Evie Hammer, Judy Hammer, Matthew Hammer, Celeste Hubbard, Dean Hubbard, Noelle Hubbard, Joe Johnsonwall, Niki Johnsonwall, Jocelyn Johnsonwall, Frank Kieninger, Hannah-Grace Lowe, Margi McLain, Alice Ramsburg, Ray Ramsburg, Anne Robertson, Jim Zwahlen, Colleen Wakeman. *Thank you for your prayers.*

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

SAVE the DATE for Little Lambs Preschool

Spaghetti Supper/Auction 2024 Saturday, April 20, 5:00-7:00pm

Join us for a joyous time of food, fun, fellowship, and fundraising! Little Lambs Preschool needs your help to continue our ministry of bringing God's love to the little children in our community. Come and enjoy a great meal and take home some useful items for yourself or as gifts, while supporting the preschool. **All tickets are \$15.** You will have a healthy portion of spaghetti, homemade sauce, bread, fresh salad, drinks, and dessert! Plus, some silent auction fun! Can't make the supper/auction, but you still want to donate? No problem. Fill out an order form, but don't order a meal. Just check the donation section and send your check payable to LLP to the address on the form.

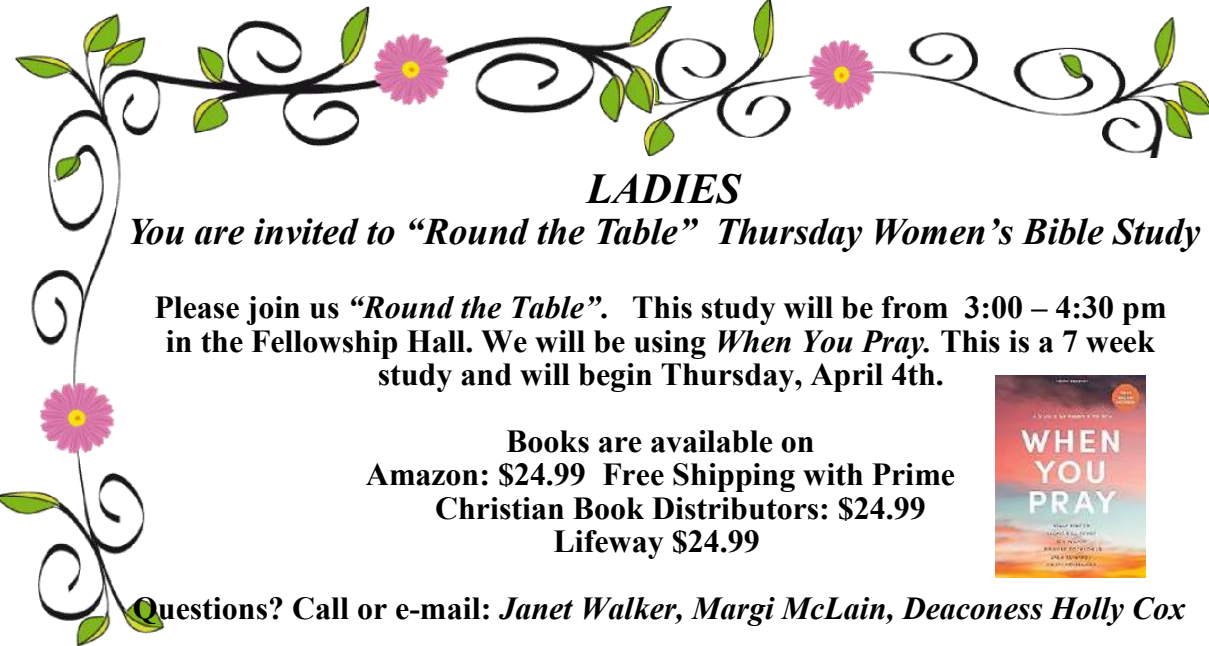
OR

Make a donation online on the church website www.eternalshepherd.org Click on ONLINE GIVING and scroll down to Little Lambs Preschool and click on Contribute. Thank you!

And don't forget about Thrivent Choice Dollars if you have an account! Now is the time to designate Little Lambs Preschool.

Order forms will be in church mailboxes on March 1.





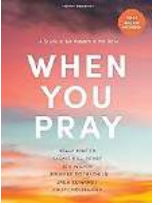
LADIES

You are invited to "Round the Table" Thursday Women's Bible Study

Please join us "Round the Table". This study will be from 3:00 – 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be using *When You Pray*. This is a 7 week study and will begin Thursday, April 4th.

Books are available on
Amazon: \$24.99 Free Shipping with Prime
Christian Book Distributors: \$24.99
Lifeway \$24.99

Questions? Call or e-mail: *Janet Walker, Margi McLain, Deaconess Holly Cox*



Operation Christmas Child: GET READY! An amazing time of celebrating what God is doing with the ministry of Operation Christmas Child is just around the corner! Join us on Thursday, March 7th from 6-7:30pm at Crosspoint Church, which is located at 1019 Tiger Blvd. on Hwy 123 in Clemson. Signs at the church will direct you to the event space where light refreshments will be served.

"Discover how God Used an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in my life..." When asked her newborn son's name, the mother responded: Marvellous. She praised God for how He has helped her family through many struggles. Marvellous, the youngest of four children, grew up in a part of Central Africa where Christians are persecuted for their faith. His family had to resettle in another area because of this. Finding it difficult to secure new jobs, Marvellous' parents couldn't afford to send their children to school. At age 8, Marvellous received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. Come and hear how this continues to remind him of God's love and care for him.



Marvellous Okonne

If you've never had the privilege to hear from a Shoebox gift recipient before, I strongly encourage you to attend this wonderful event. The 2023 ministry statistics will also be shared. Come and hear all the ways that God is working within the Ministry of Operation Christmas Child. This even is free to the public, but please RSVP so they know how many guests to prepare for. **If you want to attend, please RSVP BY FEBRUARY 29th to Judy Edwards at occfoothills@gmail.com, or call/text her at (864) 915-3351.**

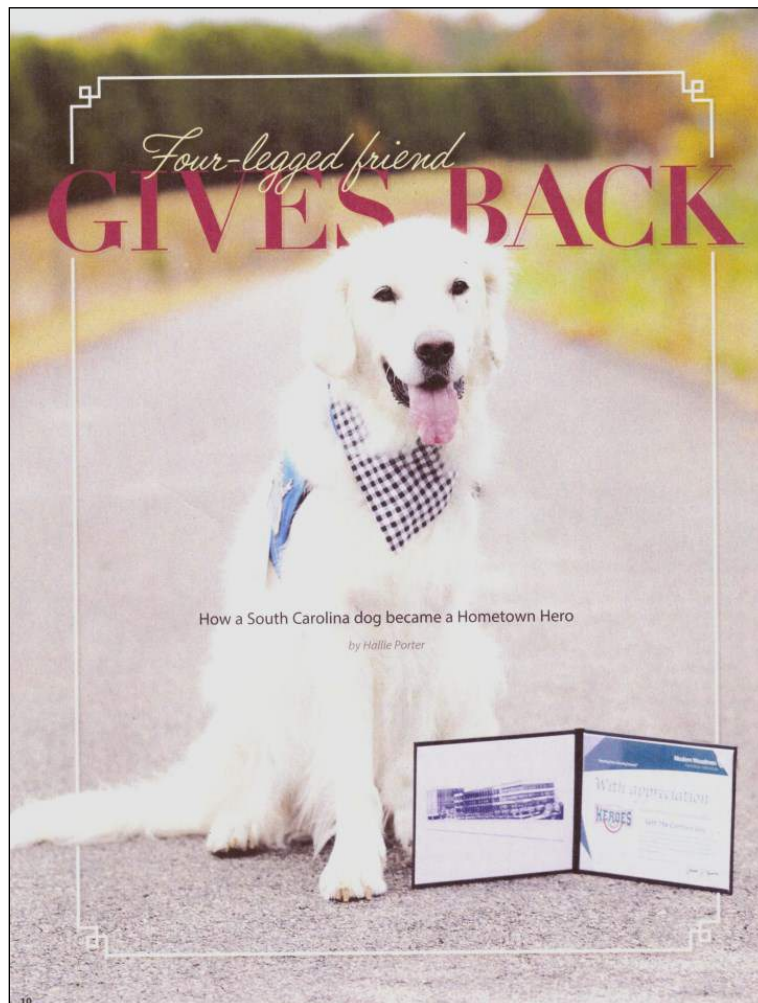
COME AND BE BLESSED!

Contact Terri Baumann at (864) 482-1243 with any questions.

Comfort Dog News

Several months ago, Seth received the “Hometown Hero” award from The Modern Woodmen of America Financial Institution. In their Winter of 2024 quarterly magazine, they featured Seth and wrote a nice article about him along with a few pictures. The article is included below. We are very proud of Seth and the work he does serving our local community. Of course, he needs his team to walk alongside him (and drive him places!). We are blessed with a great team, and I am personally so thankful for their faithfulness and dedication to this ministry. Of course, all the glory goes to God who led us down this path, sustains us along the way and blesses us with abundant gifts of love from those we serve!

To God be the Glory,
Kyra Carbone, Top Dog



At just 8 weeks old, a young golden retriever is chosen to help people. For the next two years, he receives the training he needs.

Once ready, he's sent off into the world to start his mission: Be a hero that provides comfort in times of need.

Seth the comfort dog makes an impact in human lives every day. He's one of 130 dogs trained by Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry. Based in Northbrook, Illinois, the organization has sent dogs to serve in 27 states, comforting people of all ages and circumstances.

Seth came to the close-knit community of Seneca, South Carolina, in April 2019. Since then, he's touched many lives.

Becoming a Hometown Hero

When Modern Woodmen member Denise Rozman first met Seth, he was visiting her grandson's preschool.

"When I saw all those smiles, my heart was touched," Denise recalls.

That's why, when her local Modern Woodmen chapter needed to choose their annual Hometown Hero, Seth came to mind. He represents everything a Hometown Hero should be – someone who does outstanding service in the community.

"Of course, Seth can't drive himself to all the places he goes," Denise says. "I felt compelled to let his caregiver know what an impact Seth and his handlers are making in the community. Seneca is better for Seth being in it."

As part of the Hometown Hero Award, Modern Woodmen donates money to a charity on the hero's behalf. The honorees chose a recipient that would further their mission of animals helping humans – Wild Hearts Equestrian Therapy, a local nonprofit that works with horses and people with special needs.

Want to see more of Seth? Find him on Facebook at SethComfortDog. (He has 2.5K followers!)

Comforting the community

Seth's impact is felt by many. And with his fluffy white coat and comforting presence, it's easy to see how. He visits cancer centers, hospitals, hospice centers, assisted living homes, local schools and more. He has specific individuals he visits regularly, including two veterans in hospice.

Like many heroes, Seth had to go through training before he could help others. This included learning 30 different commands – things like how to be calm, how to approach someone in a hospital and more. He's trained to the level of a service dog, but instead of serving just one person, he serves a whole community.

Claire Muzal, another member of the Seneca Modern Woodmen chapter, is impressed with Seth's work ethic.

"I was surprised by how much he does!" she says. "He works six days a week, around the clock. It really is a full-time job."

Claire has personal experience seeing the impact dogs can have on humans. She previously had a service animal herself and is glad her chapter chose to honor Seth.

"The event was amazing," she says. "It was inspiring to be able to meet all of Seth's different handlers. He's a real sweet dog."

Seth's mission is to provide comfort to those in need. And the work he and his handlers do truly make them Hometown Heroes. Uplifting people's spirits during difficult times ... animal or human – that's a true superpower.

Nominate a
HOMETOWN HERO
in your community

Talk to your local
chapter or youth
service club leader.



Not your typical hero. Modern Woodmen chapter members from Seneca, S.C., chose Seth the comfort dog as their Hometown Hero last fall. The golden retriever has been helping humans since he was just 2 years old. More than 100 people attended Seth's award ceremony, showing how large of an impact he's made on the community.