
Agapegram

April 2024



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



Living in Light of Easter

...You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! ... Mark 16:6 EHV

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! After the refocusing repentance of Lent, we celebrate again the joys of Easter and our Lord's resurrection victory over the power of sin, death, and the devil. A victory in which we share through faith and by our baptism into Christ! Soon, the celebrations of the

Easter season will turn to a remembrance of the Ascension, the rehearing of the Great Commission, and the expectation of Christ's return. But what about life in this increasingly broken world while we wait? Are we just to tolerate its sin and confusion while we try to bring the Gospel to the lost? Or does our original human calling to be caretakers of this world still have a role to play? Journalist Elle Purnell speaks to the issue in a 2022 article entitled, *It's Because of the Resurrection that the Culture War Matters*. She writes:

Gone are the days when politics focused mostly on arguments about defense budgets, tax cuts, or the gold standard. Today, it seems like each new hot-button political issue is infused with more and more spiritual significance — and spiritual threat.

Left and right aren't just debating whether kids would benefit from government-subsidized preschool; they're waging a war over whether children should be groomed to hate their divinely designed bodies and biological telos and reject both for deceitful promises that mutilating their organs will bring self-satisfaction.

In tandem, society is grappling with whether children should be raised and disciplined by their parents or by representatives of the state. ... We're fighting over whether a mother should be legally allowed and socially encouraged to kill her baby — and the pro-abortion side is no longer chanting "safe, legal, and rare" but openly trying to legalize the murder of full-term babies who survive botched abortions.

We're embattled with a false gospel that says the evils of this world are not caused by the rebellion of mankind against his Creator but by "inequities" that could be solved with enough reverse discrimination. ...

We do well to remember that our fight is not for earthly power — nor is it against earthly powers. But we make a similarly grave mistake if we let our own salvation coddle us out of caring for the souls around us.

Our great commission is to evangelize, to bring the gospel to all people. No cultural-political fight should ever replace that calling. Yet part of proliferating that gospel is defending parents' freedom to instruct their own children in it. It's ensuring that a baby gets the opportunity to be born, to experience a human demonstration of God's love from his parents, and to allow the knowledge of Christ to live in his heart. It's advocating for pastors' ability to speak the truth to their flocks.

It's protecting children, the likes of whom Christ himself took into his arms and blessed, from lies that rejecting your sex and deforming your body will fix your soul. That lie is straight from hell, as is anything that promises to offer what only Christ can give.

continued next page...

It's speaking out against false gospels and false prophets, who say that our sin stems not from rebellion against God but from the Marxist power struggle of man against his fellow man, and can be redeemed not by God's sacrificial mercy but only by racial reparations and self-flagellating.

It's true that Christ's death & resurrection have secured our salvation and a future in The Age to Come and that this Gospel must be proclaimed. It is also true that the power of Christ's resurrection, life, and love makes all the difference in this world, too. We are still stewards of God's good creation; we are still called to bring true justice into this world; we are called to live a life doing good as God defines it and that means being salt and light in a bitter and dark world. It means living our lives in light of Easter and letting the love of Christ drive us to seek the good, stand for truth, and help our neighbors know Christ their savior.

For the love of Christ compels us... he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again. 2 Cor. 5:14-15 EHV

Pastor David

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! Order forms are in your church mailbox!

More info please see ad on previous page.



Deaconess' Musings

Our Living and Resurrected Confidence

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me; Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me. Brighter scenes will then commence; this shall be my confidence. (LSB 490:1)

Death. The final enemy (1 Cor. 15:26). One that once held us captive with no release in sight. Caused by Mankind's sinful desire to exalt their own will above their Creator's, and death was the consequence. No longer to live in perfect harmony with our Creator God, with creation, with each other. But to be saturated with sin and cut off from our Creator.

However, we know how the story continues. We are not left believing that there is nothing our God did to right this situation we placed ourselves in. Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world, was promised immediately following that fall into death. Death, God promised, would not reign for eternity. It would seem like he would, but in truth, Christ, the Seed of the Woman, crushed and destroyed Death's power to forever separate us from God.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne high above all things is given. I shall go where He is gone, live and reign with Him in heaven. God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died, hence will I, to Jesus living, pure in heart and act abide, praise to Him and glory giving. All I need God will dispense; this shall be my confidence. (LSB 490:2,3)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. --Romans 6:3-5

Jesus lives! I know full well nothing me from Him shall sever. Neither death nor pow'rs of hell part me now from Christ forever. God will be my sure defense; this shall be my confidence. (LSB 490:4)

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angles nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ~Romans 8:38-39

Jesus lives! And now is death but the gate to live immortal; this shall calm my trembling breath when I pass its gloomy portal. Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence! (LSB 490:5)

continued on next page...

Death. No longer that dark specter hanging over our heads. Christ has triumphed over Death and his grave. Because of the living Christ, we are a people of hope. We await, in hope, the Resurrection of the Dead and the joyous reunion with our Savior and the saints gone before us. May our eyes be ever turned to our Living and Resurrected Savior. For He is our confidence.

Blessed Easter, *Deaconess Holly*



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.

What is Truth?

by Scott Krueger
Head Elder

You may have heard John 18:37-38 during Holy Week. Pilate is questioning Jesus, trying to find something, anything, he can, to find Him guilty of. “Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’ Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’.....”

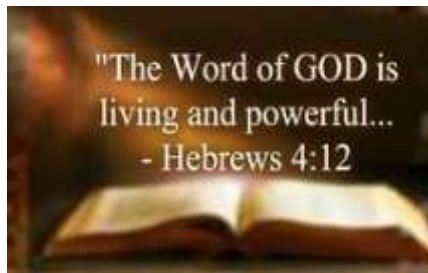
Most of the time we take lengthy effort to understand and making clear what kind of king Jesus is and what kind of king humans mistake Him for. Let’s skip that for this article. Look at the rest of the message. Jesus’ whole purpose on earth was to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.

So, how did Jesus bear witness? Now look back a few chapters in John to 14:6 Jesus said to Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Let’s break that down. The life is the gift God is giving us, eternal life with Him in Heaven. The way was Jesus’ path. Suffering and dying for our sins, and then rising from the dead. His path consecrates us and makes us holy. There is no other way to the Father. Christ bore witness to the world by walking His walk and talking His talk to the cross.

Who is of the truth? I am, you are, if you are a believer. Believe in Christ’s way and promise of salvation and you are of the truth.

To answer Pilate’s question, what is truth, it was right in front of him. The Messiah, living, breathing, and speaking. Pilate wanted to release Jesus, maybe he heard and saw the truth, maybe he didn’t.

God gave His Son, His truth to the world. The truth is in the Bible, it’s right in front of us. We should read it and listen to it.



Comfort Dog News

Five years ago this month, we acquired Seth here at Eternal Shepherd to serve the people in our local community and beyond. It has been an amazing 5 years of many beautiful encounters with people of all ages, circumstances, and conditions. For me personally, it has been a time of spiritual growth, comfort zone stretching and a committed perseverance to this ministry with God always leading and spurring me on.

Seth has been such a great dog to serve alongside and I can't even explain the beauty of watching people as they pet him... we have witnessed the smiles, the tears, and the release of stress of those we visit. We have been blessed to share Seth's Bible verse, pray, and offer words of comfort to those who are struggling or in need. I am always amazed how God can use a dog like Seth to be the bridge for sharing God's love with so many hurting souls. My prayer is that we can continue this work with Seth and possibly a second dog in the future.

The Comfort Dog Team will be hosting the Coffee Hour between services on April 21 to thank you, our church family, for your support and love throughout these 5 years. *Please join us for a snack and coffee before Bible study starts!*

To God be the Glory,
Kyra Carbone, Top Dog



Wonderful Wednesday's starting again soon!

Please watch for information on our starting of Wonderful Wednesday Potluck Dinners. It is always a great time of fellowship and good food.
~We look forward to seeing you there.



DO YOU KNOW

Eternal Shepherd provides prayer shawls **FOR YOU** to give to family and friends that are struggling, no matter the reason.

These prayer shawls are made by women in our congregation who pray over them as they are being made.

Typically a prayer shawl takes 40 to 80 hours to make.

The prayer shawls come in all kinds of colors, patterns and shapes.

Many people that should receive prayer shawls are not receiving them.

No approval is needed to give these prayer shawls. They are available in a self-service kiosk in the Fellowship Hall by the closets. Look for the displayed prayer shawl.



HOW TO GIVE A PRAYER SHAWL

There are two bins full of prayer shawls that are ready to give. Please select the one that you think the person would like to receive.

Please give us your name, the date, and the person that you are giving it to on the sheet above the bin. That is all that is required.

We request that you pray with the person that you give it to or by a note if you send it.

It is that easy to give a prayer shawl.

Thank you for helping us make sure that the people who need these prayer shawls receive them.

We have given over 175 prayer shawls.

Online Giving Update

Vanco, our online giving administrator, has made it possible for donors to edit recurring transactions within their profile. To edit/change your recurring transactions, go to the Eternal Shepherd Website and click on the Online Giving Button in the upper right of the page. Login to your account and go to your Profile.

Navigate to Scheduled Transactions and click the Edit Button on the recurring transaction you wish to update. Once you have selected the Edit Button, you can make the following changes to your offerings:

Frequency, (Next)start date, End Date, Transaction Amount, Payment Method, Tile/Fund Choice

Please contact Grover Stewart, 704-603-7092 or Teri Massa, 803-447-9895 for any online giving assistance needed.





LADIES

You are invited to Thursday Women's Bible Study

Please join us “Round the Table”

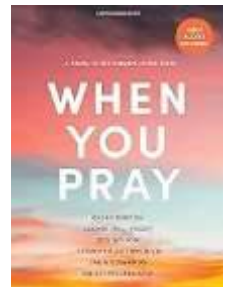
**Beginning Thursday, April 4th
from 3:00 – 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

When You Pray.

Please join us for this wonderful study on prayer. Prayer, simply put, is talking with God. It is designed by God to be a beautiful gift of communication between the Creator and the children created in His image. In this study we will study prayers of the Bible and learn that prayer is so much more than asking God for things. It's about a never-ending conversation with our heavenly Father. As we examine six great prayers of the Bible through a group of beloved Bible teachers we will look at examples of petition, praise, lament, intercession, and unity. Please join us for this seven week study!

The book is available on Amazon.

Please contact Margi McLain at margimclain@gmail.com or 615-293-2211 or Janet Walker at janetwalker111@gmail.com if you have any questions.



HAITI IN CHAOS AND OUR MISSION AT PAS BONBON

The line in the box on the map shows the area around the capitol city Port-au-Prince as the area of utter confusion and disorder. Inside the white box is number of schools served by Trinity Hope, the resource we use for feeding 308 students every day. Pastor Walta's home is in Port-au-Prince, and he is now staying in Quebec City, Canada with his wife Dafne, son Brian (13) and daughter Sara (3). His younger brother, Dimitry, works for Trinity Hope and delivers the bags of rice and beans throughout the Central Plateau CEN-25. I have met many who live there and although they are safe, they are impacted by gang activity and fewer ways to make money to feed their families. They focus on survival each day, unable to think beyond the current need. In addition to the feeding program, we support the staff. The staff consists of six Teachers, Principle/Director, Gatekeeper Security, and the Cook. I will place a copy of the last six months payroll in the Narthex – most teachers earn \$100.00 per month.



Although the country is in turmoil, I have verification that the wire transfer is safe and each staff member gets paid to their secure account. Wire Transfers occur the middle of every other month – which is the current month and the next month. The lunch is 34 cents per day per child, which adds up to \$523.60 per week (308 students). That total per year is over \$25,000.00. Many of the students only get that lunch as their meal for the day. Fortunately, the fruit trees we supplied a few years ago (over 100) are bearing fruit and complement the meals. We instituted a VBS in the summer to keep the school open. The Lutheran church and school at Pas Bonbon are in fellowship with the LCMS. Each student has a Bible and Luther's Small Catechism in either French or Creole. The grades compete with teams in a challenge to recite answers to various "what does this mean" questions. Support for our Mission at Pas Bonbon is greatly appreciated.



Any questions on any of our Missions, contact Lars at 706-244-4544 or email Lars.Helland48@gmail.com.

Honduras Mission News



ESLC 2024 Honduras Mission Trip: Your Honduras Mission Team has returned after a successful week of serving in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. This year's team of 22 missionaries made their way to Honduras the last week of February to bring the gospel to the people. Our team of 22 was made up of 10 first-timers, 5 youth and the rest were repeaters. We brought medical, dental, optical, pharmacy, children's ministry, water filters, rice & beans, evangelism and love, and the greatest of these is love. Over 1500 Hondurans came to the brigades where we did our best to help make their lives a little better with goods and a lot better with the Gospel. None of this could have happened without the support of the people of Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church.

I would like to break out what such a trip costs for a team to bring some relief to people who live in a poverty that is difficult for us to understand. All told this year's mission cost just over \$52,000.00. You probably saw this from week to week in the bulletin but that is not a complete picture. Each missionary is responsible for raising his or her individual support for travel and lodging, (airfare and ground fee). This amounts to approximately \$33,000.00. The remainder is raised through fund-raisers and gifts to the Honduras Mission Fund which is where you, the people of ESLC step in. Without these gifts we would not be able to do the ministry that we are called to do. You provide not just medical help but the goods that go with such ministry; medicine, eyeglasses, water filters, tooth brushes and tooth paste, salvation bracelets and shampoo for children's hair and most of all Bibles. You purchased 4 cases of New Testaments and 2 cases of full Bibles to give out to the people. And they are so very thankful for you as are we, your mission team.

I encourage you to seek out a team member and ask them about this year's trip and after they have shared with you about the fantastic week of serving in Honduras, get them to tell you about the 36 hours in airports getting home. You could not make this up. *Again, thank you for your support of your ESLC Honduras Mission Team.*



Operation Christmas Child Update:

The stats for 2023 are in and the numbers are truly impressive!

Number of shoeboxes collected by the Foothills-SC team (Which includes Oconee, Pickens and the upper 1/3 of Anderson Counties):	24,226
Number collected from the Carolinas:	1,095,091
Number collected from the United States:	10,051,091
Number collected from 10 other Nations:	1,279,035
Number collected Globally:	11,330,126
Number of children who participated in the Greatest Journey:	5.1 million
Number of Decisions made for Christ:	2.9 million



Because we packed shoeboxes, 5.1 MILLION children heard the Gospel, and 2.9 MILLION children responded by believing in Christ! And since God's word never comes back void, just imagine how many more will come to faith as a result of His work in their lives going forward.

And what about the shoeboxes WE packed? They were sent to Ecuador and Peru last year. And while you may not have visited those countries in person last year, you made a difference there for God by sending the Gospel message in a shoebox! Since 2016, our shoeboxes have been sent to 10 different countries.

"God continues to be faithful to use Operation Christmas Child and The Greatest Journey to open doors for Gospel outreach in places that have never heard about the eternal hope of Christ. Boys and girls worldwide are coming to faith in Jesus and sharing the Good News with family and friends. As they do, communities are being transformed by God's love, and churches are being started. This ministry would not be possible without the thousands of volunteers and church partners who faithfully serve the Lord and are committed to bringing the Gospel to children and families. We are thankful for their dedication to serving in Jesus' Name and to helping boys and girls experience the peace and joy of Christ. What a blessing it is when people come to Christ as children. But how can they hear this message without someone to tell them?"

~ Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse

"To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations."
EPHESIANS 3:21

Hospitality

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. We are increasingly utilizing this ministry more and more with each passing day. 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. If you are interested in joining our ministry, please contact Colleen Wakeman.

We are proceeding again with little containers of cream. It is necessary to **SHAKE HARD** each container before pouring into the coffee. If this is not done, the cream will appear to be outdated and looking curdled. A note has been put on the container that holds them as a reminder.

Also, on Sundays, we are involved with treats for Bible study between 1st. And 2nd. 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.

In addition to addressing problems between 1st. and 2nd. services, I have offered a remedy to getting specific pumps with the pumper pots. They are now color coated. Match color to color and they will work.

Helping with "Wonderful Wednesday" Potlucks continues after Easter is over. Along with sign up for Sundays, you can also sign up on the Wednesdays on the same calendar. This will allow not to have certain people always clean up.

Thanks to all who do so much to further our "hospitality" ministry.
Blessings, Colleen

Save the Date!

Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School

Mon., June 3rd—Fri., June 7th
from 9am to 12 pm

For AGES 2yrs.(age 2 by June 3rd)
thru completed 5th Grade



REGISTER YOUR KIDS at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/eslc>
or visit our Facebook page.

FEED THE HUNGRY MINISTRY

Our next **Feeding the Hungry Ministry Event** is **Saturday, April 13th**. To prepare for this event, we need 4-8 volunteers to help assemble the sandwiches and pack the lunches. We will meet at church in the Fellowship Hall at 7pm on Friday 4/12/24. It will take approximately one hour to complete this task. **Then on Saturday, 4/13/24, we will need 2-3 volunteers to assist with the delivery, set-up, and handout of the lunches to the Our Daily Bread home. We need to be there by 11am.** If you would like to volunteer for either of these times, please call Lars Helland 706-244-4544 or email Lars.Helland48@gmail.com and let me know? *Thank you for your support.*



FOOD BANK NEWS: Please help us in collecting preferred needed canned, or boxed grocery items each month to help restock the Golden Corner Food Pantry's shelves. **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.*



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>.

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!!! \$.50 for all cards and \$5.00 for a box of 12 found on the bottom of the cart.



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.



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>

Hospitality Happenings for April

4/7 — ???

4/14 — Jim & Carole Bluhm & Mike & Sue Hauser

4/21 — Comfort Dog Team

4/28 — Cyra Phelan & Laura Scott



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

April Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Wayne Parrish | 18 – James Lusk |
| 2 - Teresa Todd | 19 – Charlotte Beyer |
| Tammy Wood | 20 – Jim Zwahlen |
| 4 – Sandy Kunkel | 21 – Linda Nichelson |
| Jonette Stupke | 22 – Harold Coale |
| 5 – Shannon Cox | 23 – Craig Bergeson |
| 6 – Rudy Carbone | 24 – Dan Arkfeld |
| Leo Rebholz | Jim Bluhm |
| 7 - Capt. Bert Wise | Bob Massa |
| 8 - Joanne Smith | 25 - Sherwood Drexel |
| 9 – Adam Beitz | 26 – Arline Ray |
| 11 – Fred Bell | 27 – Jean Dombi |
| 12 – Patsy Drexel | Kristin Morriss |
| Katharine Dunlap | 28 - John Cochell |
| 15 - Sue Peterson | 30 – Joe Louderback |
| 16 – Suzanne Lucas | |
| 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
Carlos & Bobbi Hagler



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

In February the following gifts were given:



**In loving memory of *Colleen Hesemann*
the Disaster Response Team Fund received a gift of \$150.00,
the Elders Fund received a gift of \$350.00,
and the Hospitality Fund received a gift of \$150.00**

Other Gifts:

The Church Bus Fund received a gift of \$24.23

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$613.53

The Disaster Response Team Fund received a gift of \$742.45

The Elders Fund received gifts of \$1,513.77

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$194.33

**The General Fund received a gift of \$800.00 from Blessings Shared Grant,
and a gift of \$36.00 from Thrivent Choice**

The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$574.23

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$1,081.27

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$620.55

The LWML Fund received gifts of \$124.14

The Lutheran Witness Fund received gifts of \$55.00

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$650.00

The Property Contingency Fund received a gift of \$2,000.00

**The Youth Fund received a gift of \$24.14,
and gifts of \$816.23 from Lenten Supper**



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.

We ended March with the celebration of Easter and begin April looking ahead toward the end of our school year. We have seen a lot of change and growth with all of our children at Little Lambs Preschool. 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 (for the most part!) 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 beginning to learn their letter sounds they are more than ready to enter our prekindergarten program. They have also grown 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.

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*

No matter our age, we all have opportunities to "preach" by how we live. And everyone can tell about God and his love. Use this activity to raise money for your church's mission efforts.

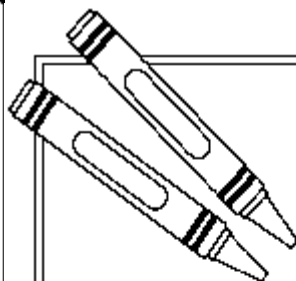
- Large bowl
- Quart- or snack-size zippered baggies
- Snacks that spell PRELACH

Suggestions include:

- P** - Pretzels
- R** - Raisins
- E** - Extra (add extra of your favorite snack)
- A** = Almonds
- C** - Chex cereal
- H** = Honey Nut Cheerios

- 8.5" x 5.5" paper (one sheet for each bag made)
- Crayons or markers
- Stapler
- Stickers

1. Mix all your "PREACH" ingredients in a bowl.
2. Fill baggies with the snacks.
3. Fold your paper in half. On one side, write the ingredient acronym and a Bible verse. For example: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15, NIV).
4. On the other side, write a thank you to the snack's purchaser and mention which activity it's supporting.
5. Staple the paper to the baggie.
6. Decorate baggies with stickers.
7. With adult help, price the baggies and decide when and how to sell them. Afterward, deliver earnings to the appropriate people.



Just for

Many people read their local newspapers, but Jesus says we should read and share God's Word daily! Below, hidden among the words **READ YOUR BIBLE**, is a message from Jesus recorded in Mark 1:15, NIV. Circle those words and write them on the lines below. (For extra fun, count how many times the word "Bible" appears in the article!)

TECHNIQUES

READ YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR
BIBLE TIME I AS READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE
READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE COME READ
YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE THE
READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE
KINGDOM READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ Y
BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE GOD READ YOUR BIBLE READ Y
BIBLE NEAR READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE READ
BIBLE REPENT READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE AND
YOUR BIBLE BELIEVE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIB
YOUR BIBLE THE READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE R
YOUR BIBLE GOOD READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE
YOUR BIBLE NEWS READ YOUR BIBLE READ YOUR BIBLE



16

■ ■ ■ ■

135

MARK 1:15, NIV

Answers:
 "The time has come ... The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"
 Bible: 18 times

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