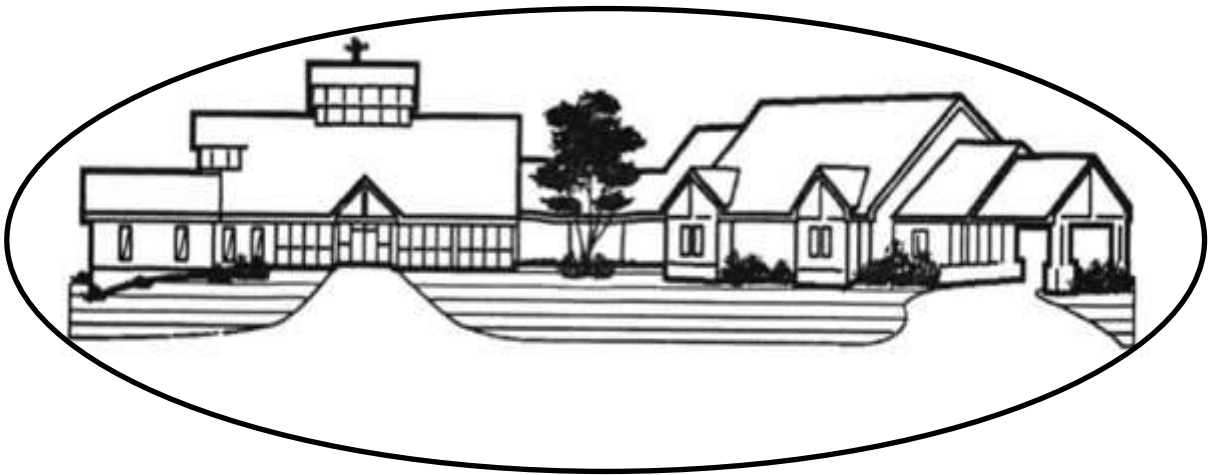

Agapegram

May 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



Church Doors & Kingdom Growth

Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Heb. 10:25 EHV

An article in the Fall 2023 issue of Redeeming the Time entitled *The Closing of Church Doors* by Brad K. Gsell reads:

In our travels, it is always sad to see church buildings either being torn down, or "repurposed" as bars, night clubs, restaurants, museums, apartments, and so forth. ... Hymnwriter Isaac Watts once penned the sentiment of all true Christians: "We long to see Thy churches full / That all the chosen race / May, with one voice and heart and soul / Sing Thy redeeming grace." ...

When we see the closure of church buildings, it is only a symptom of some troubling trends:

- 1. Our society is plummeting headlong into wickedness, and away from God.*
- 2. The mainline churches have largely fallen into apostasy and decay. People leave because they are being served rocks for bread.*
- 3. Many evangelical churches have adopted a surface, feel-good religion of self help and entertainment, which lacks solid Biblical nourishment.*
- 4. Members of Bible-honoring churches have far too often become lukewarm and complacent. Young people have left the church in droves.*

May we "Rise up, O men of God! / Have done with lesser things. / Give heart and mind and soul and strength / to serve the King of kings."

The church is NOT the building. It is we, as "living stones," that make up Christ's church.

Let us never forget, that no matter what, Christ promises us: "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"! (Mt.16:18)

Thanks be to God that Eternal Shepherd is not at risk, although our own Missouri Synod is losing members and continues to close churches each year. By God's grace, the Lord continues to bring a steady stream of new visitors to ESLC and a regular influx of new members to serve with us in the Lord's kingdom. We don't, however, want to rest too contentedly on our own success.

In recent months, conversations are ongoing around ESLC about how we can work to see the kingdom expand. Some are investigating different options of Christian education or supporting families in other educational settings that we could pursue as a congregation. Others are reflecting on how to help keep church doors open by supporting pastor and church worker formation, supporting mission churches, and looking at our own growth opportunities either onsite or via a mission plant. All these conversations are tentative and in early stages but the goal is continue working in the harvest fields and see God's kingdom grow. Pray for wisdom and the Spirit's leading as we look to the future.

[The Church] grew in numbers as it lived in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Acts 9:31 EHV

Pastor David



Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School



Monday, June 3rd—Friday, June 7th
from 9am to 12 pm

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.

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



Deaconess' Musings ***I am... Confessional & Creedal***

*Why does the Creed begin with the words "I believe"??**

The English word *creed* comes from the Latin word *credo* – "I believe." A creed is a statement of faith, a statement of what I believe. To say "I believe" is to say what God has done *for me*. "I am convinced that God has made *me*, redeemed *me*, and sanctified *me*."

We all believe in one true God, who created earth and heaven, the Father, who to us in love has the right of children given. He in soul and body feeds us; all we need His hand provides us; through all snares and perils leads us, watching that no harm betide us. He cares for us by day and night; all things are governed by His might.

– *We All Believe in One True God, LSB 954:1*

*What distinguishes the Father, Son, and Spirit from one another?**

A. In their relationship to one another, they are distinguished by their interactions with one another. The Father *begets* the Son from eternity; the Son is *begotten* of the Father from all eternity; the Holy Spirit from eternity *proceeds* from the Father and the Son.

We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing an equal God-head, throne, and might, source of ev'ry grace and blessing; born of Mary, virgin mother, by the power of the Spirit, Word made flesh, our elder brother; that the lost might life inherit, was crucified for all our sin and raised by God to life again. – *LSB 954:2*

B. In their relationship to us, they are distinguished by their works for us. The Scriptures ordinarily speak of the Father as *creating* us, the Son *redeeming* us, and the Holy Spirit *sanctifying* us.

We all confess the Holy Ghost, who, in highest heaven dwelling with God the Father and the Son, comforts us beyond all telling; who the Church, His own creation, keeps in unity of spirit. Here forgiveness and salvation daily come through Jesus' merit. All flesh shall rise, and we shall be in bliss with God eternally. – *LSB 954:3*

*What unites the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as one God?**

A. In their relationship to one another, the three persons find their unity as one divine being called God. The Father, Son, and Spirit are alike almighty, alike Creator, alike Redeemer.

B. In their relationship to us, the three persons find their unity in the Father as both the source and goal of their work. Out of love, the Father sends the Son, and together they send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings us to Christ, who in turn shows us the Father's love.

I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity by invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three. Of whom all nature has creation, Eternal Father, Spirit, Word. Praise to the Lord of my salvation; Salvation is of Christ the Lord!

– *I Bind unto Myself Today, LSB 604:5*

*Portions taken from the Explanation to *Luther's Small Catechism*, CPH, 2017, pages 130-132

~Deaconess Holly

SEEKING THE SEEKER

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.” — Luke 19:10
by Scott Krueger, Head Elder

I was thinking about our kids this week, and I started wondering if our SC schools are helping their relationship with Jesus. Since 1995 SC has mandated a minute of silence at the beginning of every school day. Well, that can be used for prayer, but it seems insufficient to me.

Then I thought about Young Life. I support a charitable event they hold each year, so I dug into how they help. Their mission: “We go to kids, build bridges of authentic friendship, and introduce them to Jesus Christ.” Young Life is in every High School in the Tri-County area. I don’t want to turn this into a poster to go fund Young Life, however they do nice work.

To illustrate their methods I borrowed (and edited slightly) the following statement on their website written by one of their leaders, Jeff Chesemore:

There’s a truth we know beyond a doubt: Adolescents without Jesus (like adults without Jesus) are lost. Remember the last time you were lost? How did you feel? Disoriented, fearful, confused, uncertain, out of place, possibly even in danger?

Now imagine these feelings in the life of an adolescent. Kids have always been searching for connection, meaning, and purpose. Sadly, we know firsthand far too many who’ve looked for these in the wrong places.

The joy of every Christian leader is to point kids to the One who’s pursuing them. The Luke 19:10 verse comes from Jesus’ encounter with Zacchaeus, a short man who is short on friends due to his profession as a tax collector. Working for the despised Romans, he charges extra money from his fellow Jews to line his personal pockets. Zacchaeus has heard of Jesus and wants to get a look at him, so he climbs a tree (literally goes out on a limb!) to see him. Here’s what happens next:

“When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly” (Luke 19:5-6).

How does Jesus respond to the one the townspeople call “a sinner”? He ...

Stops and initiates the encounter. He doesn’t make Zacchaeus run after him.

Looks up — no one ever looks up (in any sense of the word!) to Zacchaeus, only down.

Calls him by name — Jesus knows about the man’s reputation, but is warm anyway!

Invites himself to Zacchaeus’s home — a sign of friendship.

Says he *must* stay at his house today — implying this encounter has God’s fingerprints on it.

Up until now Zacchaeus believed he’d been chasing Jesus; **really, it’s the Savior who’s been the pursuer all along.** The lonely tax collector has never felt such joy, and as a result, acknowledges Jesus as Lord. He vows to make things right with those he’s cheated. He’s been found.

We can take our cues from Jesus. Initiate with kids, see them, call them by name, build friendships, and share Jesus with them. We can say without reservation that Jesus is the hope of every adolescent. And we should walk alongside each generation as they seek the One who is already seeking them.

FOOTHILLS CARE CENTER BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

It is time for our annual Baby Bottle Drive to benefit the Foothills Care Center (FCC)! Eternal Shepherd has been supporting FCC for over 12 years with the baby bottle drive and other donations. We will provide an envelope for the donations. **The Baby Bottle Drive will begin on Mother's Day, May 12th and run through July 31st.**



Your generosity throughout the years has been greatly appreciated by FCC and the clients that frequent the center for hope, assistance, guidance, and love. Most importantly, precious baby's lives are saved! Please prayerfully consider supporting the Baby Bottle Drive this year.

Special envelopes will be placed in your church mailbox. Please make checks out to Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, write "Baby Bottle Drive" on the memo line. If you prefer to donate online, use your existing Eternal Shephard online account. Then select the Foothills Care Center tile.

We will donate the money we collect to the Foothills Care Center after Labor Day. For questions or more information call Tracy Cochell at 404-433-7338.

Church Picnic with a Heart!

Come join us Saturday, May 18th at 3:00 pm for a church picnic! There will be food, fun, and fellowship, along with a special First Aid presentation. As part of the festivities there will be an opportunity to raise funds for CPR training and certification. Our aim is to help cover Red Cross training costs for anyone in the congregation to attend later certification classes. Being ready and trained for emergencies is a great way to serve as God's hands in our community at large!



BBQ will be provided, check the Bulletin Board to sign up for sides and/or desserts. Please bring your own lawn chairs! Any questions can be directed to Debbie Bell or any member of the Safety Committee. Picnic address is 135 Slippery Rock Drive, Pickens, SC 29671. Hope to see you there!

If you are unable to attend in person but would still like to help in the fundraiser you can donate at ESLC Church Picnic or <https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/952092/detail>

Sponsored by the Safety Committee and Thrivent Financial

From the Board of Christian Ed.

To the parents of young children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house.

Sit towards the front where it's easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the service.

Sing, pray, and voice responses. Children learn by copying your involvement!

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but come back! As Jesus said, "let the little children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home here.



To the members of our congregation:

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents!"

Let's encourage parents in their sincere efforts to bring children to Christ!



**Monday, May 27th
Church Office Closed.**

PRAYER MEETINGS

The Board of Christian Outreach has suggested that Eternal Shepherd start weekly prayer meetings. We will start on May 2nd which is the National Day of Prayer. This prayer meeting will be in the sanctuary for 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. ESLC will then hold weekly prayer meetings in the sanctuary from 10 am to 11am each Thursday. Please make plans to join us for these weekly prayer sessions.



FROM LITTLE LAMBS PRESCHOOL AND BOARD

The 2024 Little Lambs Spaghetti Supper and Auction fundraiser was a great success thanks to ESLC members, friends and preschool families who contributed to keep this important ministry of the church going strong.



Around 208 dinners, along with additional much appreciated donations and auction items, brought our proceeds to approximately \$15,000.

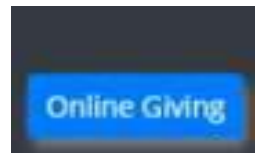
Donations will support the program with needed supplies, equipment, and scholarships funds. The children also benefit from the excellent and developmentally appropriate education program through the very dedicated and talented teachers.

Little Lambs director, Gina Cote and the LLP board are also very thankful for the wonderful volunteer teams who cooked, chopped, sliced and buttered, stirred, served, and cleaned up the kitchen. Many thanks to the volunteers who organized, documented, and transported auction baskets, and those who kept track of all the orders and incoming donations. A huge thanks to the very strong teachers' husbands and preschool dads who transported and set up all those heavy old tables for the auction items.

~Little Lambs Love to All!

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.

Comfort Dog News

This month several members of the Comfort Dog Team are heading to Savannah, GA for a Lutheran Church Charities Southeast Regional Conference! We will be joined by LCC Staff Trainers and the following teams:



Faith Comfort Dog, St Stephens Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC

Hope Comfort Dog, Faith Lutheran Church, Marietta, GA

Jemimah Comfort Dog, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Boca Raton, FL

Job Comfort Dog, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Lizzie Comfort Dog, Trinity Lutheran Church, Savannah, GA - HOST Church

Moriah Comfort Dog, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL

Peace Comfort Dog, Trinity Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL

Seth Comfort Dog, Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, Seneca, SC

Zoara Comfort Dog, Island Lutheran Church, Hilton Head, SC

We are excited to get together to attend Spiritual Aid Training, staff led Comfort Dog training, team networking, fellowship and prayer! We look forward to sharing our insights and experience with you when we return!

Please note, Seth will not be attending ESLC worship service on Sunday, May 19 but will be attending Trinity Lutheran Church in Savannah with the other teams who are attending the conference. Seth will see you on May 26!

To God be the Glory,
Kyra Carbone, Top Dog

What an Honor and Surprise!

Our thanks to LCC Hearts of Mercy and Compassion for honoring us for leading mission trips to Honduras for 15 years with this beautiful signed heart. We could not have done it without the financial, prayer and ongoing support from this congregation. How blessed we are to have served the people of Honduras on your behalf for so many years.

We love you, Alice & Ray



Children of Pas Bonbon and Eternal Shepherd Unite

Last month I was informed that the Sunday School Children of our church voted to use their offering to support the children of Pas Bonbon, Haiti. In response, I presented a PowerPoint to the class covering:

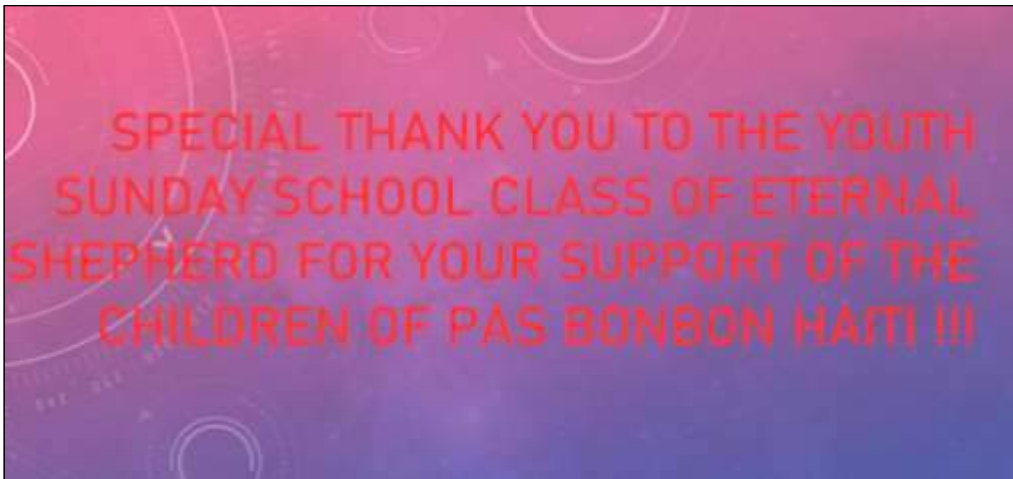
Where is Pas Bonbon

History of our involvement in the Central Plateau of Haiti

Why are we involved in this mission?

I try to put an article in the Agapegram each month – specific to Haiti. Yes, the civil unrest in Haiti continues, but fortunately it is focused in the Port-au-Prince area and not the Central Plateau where the schools are located. I am working with Pastor Walt and Pastor Samuel to exchange Cards and drawings from the children of Pas Bonbon to our Youth Sunday School class.

Since the PowerPoint is rather detailed, I have placed a few copies in the Narthex for members to read. The cover looks like the screen shot below.



If you have any questions about the various missions we support at ESLC, please contact me. If you have a mission you want the Mission Committee to consider, please contact me. If you want to physically help, please consider being a volunteer to our Disaster Response Team.

In His Service and to His Glory

Lars Helland, Mission Committee Chair 706-244-4544

Email (in our new directory) Lars.Helland48@gmail.com

Honduras Mission News

We travel to Honduras each year to bring the gospel to many people who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior. We do this through providing medical help to a people who do not have access to these services. This year we were blessed to have as our optometrist a doctor that I have known for 15 years. Augustine has a heart for his country and gives much of himself to see that they are cared for. As people are seen in Optical some are identified as needing cataract surgery which Augustine is able to set up through his clinic contacts in Tegucigalpa. The surgery costs \$50.00 which the people do not have so many of our team members stepped in to cover the surgeries. We were able to provide the surgery for 10 of the Hondurans who visited our site. We thank our team members who provided the funds and thank Augustine who saw that they were transported to the surgery site at his expense. This caring nature of the Honduras people is why we return year after year to hopefully provide a better life for them. A picture of several of the people we helped is attached.

Please pray for our church and team as we look forward to preparing for another week of serving in 2025.

~Your Honduran Mission Team



Operation Christmas Child:

I love packing OCC Shoeboxes because they are all about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a child who may not yet know Him. I haven't felt the call to go to faraway places on mission trips, but packing shoeboxes allows me to make a difference in the lives of children all over the world.



The following letter was received from the uncle of an 11-year-old boy in Mexico, and he explains perfectly the reason we pack boxes!

"There were many children. Mexican children have a very different upbringing than U.S. children, they grow up in hostile and violent environments. We handed out many flyers to invite many children. Many children asked why they were given gifts by people who do not know them, and we mentioned to them that they were gifts thanks to God, that it is because God is in the hearts of many good people. They asked us from where they were sent and we told them where, and they were still surprised. The dynamic we did was not only to invite the children of our church, but to invite the children who do not attend any church yet and bring them closer to the way of God. The children of our church were notified and they knew the mission very well, and with great pleasure they themselves said, if we don't get gifts it doesn't matter, it is better to win souls for God, Glory to God! It is so beautiful to participate in these activities! We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your actions! At the end of the activity, many children were very interested in meeting and showed great interest in learning more about God. Mateo said his box gave him a lot of feeling to know that there were brothers from another church that took the time to prepare his little box."

Something new is coming:

This year it will be possible for you to custom pack shoeboxes online on our very own page, and have them added to the total number of boxes packed by Eternal Shepherd here in the building. Information on this new endeavor will be detailed next month. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about the Ministry of Operation Christmas Child here at Eternal Shepherd, please call me at (864) 882-4386, or stop me in the hall on any Sunday. *I'm always eager to talk about shoeboxes!*



~Terri Baumann

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. 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

Wonderful Wednesday's will continue through May!

Please note and make plans to attend our Wonderful Wednesday Potluck Dinners which will continue through May. It is always a great time of fellowship and good food. ~We look forward to seeing you there.



RESTAURANT MINISTRY OUTREACH:

May is Restaurant Ministry Month. Please consider sharing ESLC's reputation for showing love to a member of our community by patronizing a local eatery, sometime in May and chat with your server/order-taker, taking time to observe their name tag. When leaving the restaurant or when picking up your order write a short thank-you note on the back of an ESLC business card which are on the front desk in the church office. Leave that thank-you card with your tip or hand the card to your order-taker. Thank you for sharing His love.



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



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.



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. **May's preferred product is "Rice or Spaghetti Noodles"** (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 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 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.



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.

Hospitality Happenings for May

- 5/5 — Cara Murray & Woo & Lisa Wagner
5/12 — Elisabeth Baker & Gerry Walton
5/19 — Mark & Sandy Kunkel &
Rev. Ray & Alice Ramsburg
5/26 — Tony & Sandy Alford
& Sue McCart & Vendo Toming



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

May Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Diane Williams | 21 – Carole Bluhm |
| 2 – Vendo Toming | 22 – Caroline Scott |
| 4 – Jean Feldt | 23 – Teri Massa |
| Mildred Harth | 24 – Vicki Tramble |
| 5 – Debbie Krueger | 25 – Joyce Dittmer |
| 6 – Marlene Ranck | Cindy Gibson |
| Thomas Wood | 26 - Pat Jacques |
| 7 - Don Del Priore | Lydia Wolber |
| 8 – Harold Koeplin | 27 – Mike Dittmer |
| 9 – Alice Mercer | Lynne Smith |
| Larry Miller | 29 – Betty Terry |
| 10 – Lauren McCrary | 30 – Rowan Bunning |
| 11 - Cara Murray | Barb Swift |
| 14 – Jill Roeder | 31 – Katherine Sitler |
| 15 – Paul Sherman | |
| 16 – Kathy Bergeson | |
| Chris Gibson | |
| Kyle McKibben | |
| Laura Thoma | |



May Anniversaries

- 4 - Grover & Delores Stewart
5 - David & Laura Broderdorf
8 - Jim & Jane Fireovid
9 - Bob & Teri Massa
14 - Richard & Elaine Grotheer
16 - Craig & Terri Baumann
19 - Craig & Kate Wells
21 - Mark & Sandy Kunkel
22 – Tom & Karen Eckersley
23 – Brian & Tracy Keefer
27 – Barry & Peggy Voeltz



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

In March the following gifts were given:

**In loving memory of *Susan Goeckel*
the General Fund received a gift of \$20.00**



Other Gifts:

The Altar Care Fund received gifts of \$213.00

**The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$1,816.30,
and a gift of \$549.00 from Thrivent Choice**

The Elders Fund received gifts of \$250.00

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$320.18

**The General Fund received a gift of \$800.00 from Blessings Shared Grant,
and a gift of \$344.00 from Thrivent Choice**

The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$750.00

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$306.00

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$338.05

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

The Stitching Friends Quilting Group received a gift of \$150.00



Little Lambs Tales

Now learn the parable from the fig tree. When its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. Matthew 24:32

Summer is near! It is hard to believe that we are in our last month of school at Little Lambs Preschool!

From awaiting the transformation of our caterpillars into butterflies and spending our time admiring God's beautiful creation in the varying colors of all the landscape surrounding the church; the children and staff at Little Lambs are enjoying this time of year! We ended our month of April with our successful Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction! What a wonderful time of fellowship with our school and church community! We had a record amount of people attend and successfully raised the necessary funds to support our ministry of Little Lambs Preschool. We extend our many thanks for helping us in this effort!

On May 3rd we will be holding our annual Spring Program. This will be held in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am where all our children will be performing songs for our parent community. We also will be honoring a preschool family that has been attending Little Lambs Preschool for 15 years!! Their oldest son is now 18 and began at Little Lambs when he was 3 years old. Their youngest daughter is in our 4K program. It is bittersweet for them and us....I tried to convince mom to have another child but to no avail!

We will be holding our final day of school on May 15th with a school picnic! Our picnic will be held outside at Little Lambs Preschool! Please be aware that between 10:00-12:00 the lower parking area will be closed off to car traffic.

On May 17th at 10:00am we will be sending off our 4's as we hold our annual Graduation program. As these beautiful children of God fly their wings into kindergarten, please join us in congratulating them! We pray that God continues to watch over them and guide them as they continue on their life journey.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our preschool ministry. We are blessed to be a part of this warm and welcoming family of God.

We wish all of you a blessed and peaceful summer!



~In Christ, Gina

Cloud Cookies

Jesus was "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, NRSV).

When you make these cloud cookies, remember what the angels said to his apostles: "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (verse 11).



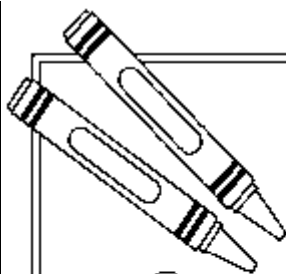
What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 white cake mix
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 container (6 oz.) of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3 cups powdered sugar



What you do:

1. Combine cake mix and egg.
2. Fold in whipped topping.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto powdered sugar and coat well.
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until tops are firm.



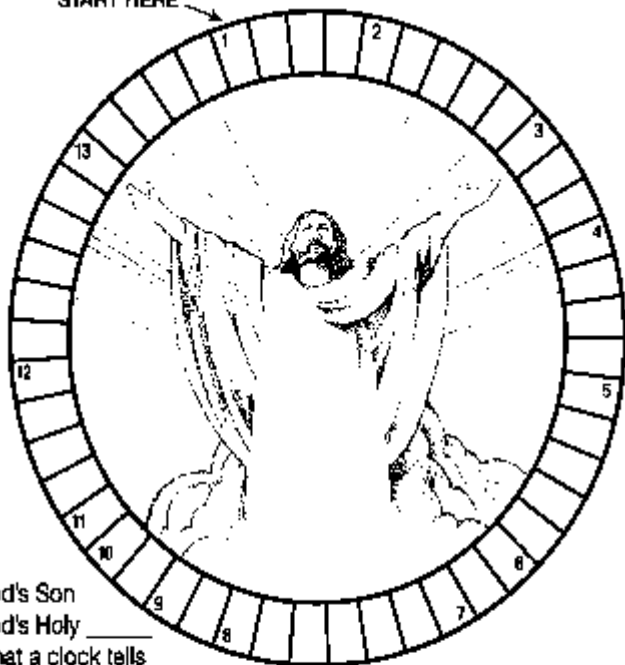
Just for KIDS

Ascension of the Lord

On the day Jesus left his disciples and went up in a cloud to heaven, he said to them, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18, KJV).

Read the clues below. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next word.

START HERE



1. God's Son
2. God's Holy _____
3. What a clock tells
4. Our planet
5. Where Jesus is now
6. Opposite of Old Testament
7. An onlooker
8. Place to see clouds
9. Modern word for thee
10. Opposite of down
11. Authority or strength
12. Comes back
13. Searches for

Answers: 1) Jesus; 2) Spirit; 3) time; 4) Earth; 5) heaven; 6) new; 7) witness; 8) sky; 9) you; 10) up; 11) power; 12) return; 13) seek

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

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