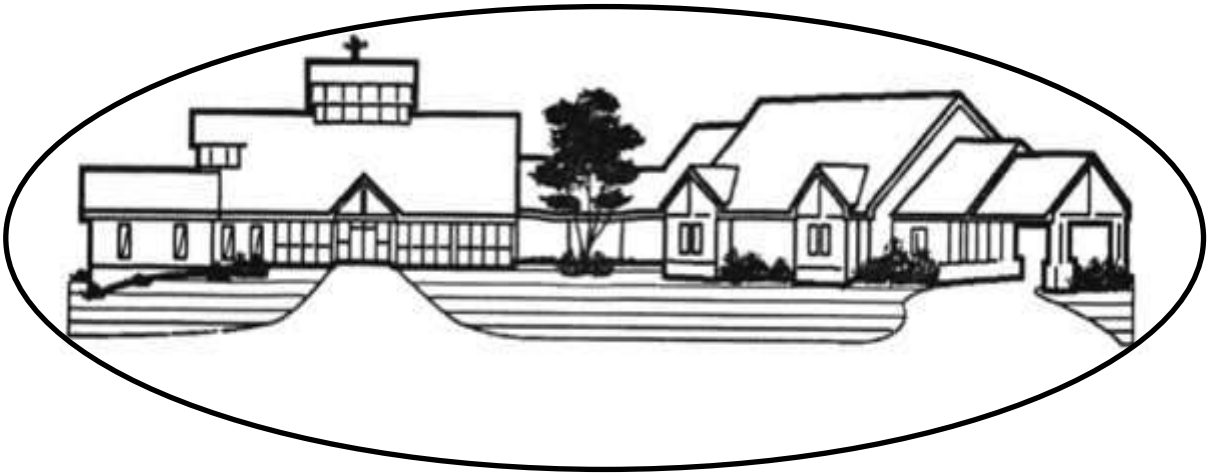

Agapegram

June 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

God is Light in Our Darkness



The LORD is God, and he makes his light shine on us.
Ps. 118:27 EHV

Spring has been upon us for months. The sun is shining, the plants are growing, daylight lengthens, and children are already splashing in lakes and pools. But no matter how bright it is outside not everyone feels the cheeriness of the surroundings. Sometimes our own worries, sadness, pain, or depression overclouds the light. LCMS pastor, Rev. Elder McCants speaks to this in his devotional entitled *Loved*. He writes:

“What strength do I have, that I should hope? And what is my end, that I should prolong my life?” (Job 6:11)

Depression can have many causes, but when it comes, it can sap our will to live. We don't feel like doing anything. Everything seems hopeless, dark, and no bright future ahead. If there is a physical disability that leaves you with little strength or bedridden, the depression is hard to cope with.

If you or I feel there is no reason to live or we may desire to depart this life to be with God in Heaven, [we must remember that] God is not done with us on earth. He has a bright and hopeful future for us in this life under His Grace. He promised to never leave us in our depression (Hebrews 13:5&6).

Jesus, the Son of God, was depressed in the Garden of Gethsemane with the sins of the whole world loaded on Him. He prayed, “Father if it be Your will, remove this cup of suffering from me, not my will but Your will be done” (Matthew 26). What was God's will? Jesus had to die to save you and me from hell. His Father raised His Son from death with His power. The same power God used to raise Jesus from death is available to you and me when we are depressed. The power of God gives us hope to live by Christian faith in the risen Savior, Jesus. No matter how dark it is outside, the sun is still shining. The sunshine of God's grace and mercy is shining to lift you out of your depression. God's grace is good enough to sustain you.

Depressed, feel sad, and gloomy, look to Jesus. He lives to pray for us. God has not forgotten about you or me. He is right there beside us to love and help.

Prayer: *Lord, have mercy on the depressed and broken-hearted. Give them hope, peace, and a bright future. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.*

continued next page...

Pastor McCants reminds us that the Father is there sustaining us even when we don't feel it. Jesus brings hope for a brighter future by His forgiveness and His grace. The power of the Holy Spirit is there for us in our times of need. Look to the Lord.

For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness.

Ps 18:28 ESV

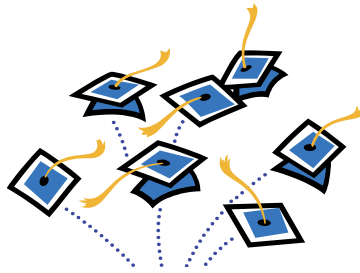


Pastor David

Congratulations Graduates 2024!

College

Abigail Zirbel





Deaconess' Musings

Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum

“The Word of the Lord Endures Forever.”

With its anacronym (VDMA) imprinted into the front cover of my desk Bible, this Latin phrase is deceptively simple yet packs quite the punch. Daily am I confronted with the Law & my sins, yet I am comforted by the balm of the Word of forgiveness.

Originating from 1 Peter 1:24-25, “*All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever.*” *And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*

As the world continues its seemingly never-ending maelstrom of confusion and chaos, the bought and baptized Children of Christ have been given an anchor that does not move. The very Word of God, the person of Jesus Christ, in whom we have the forgiveness of sins for eternal life, does not change. He, that very Word, remains our refuge and strength.

When all others turn away and cannot provide that peace and relief we most cry out for, there again comes that *good news that was preached to you*; that although you have stumbled and failed, sinned grievously against your Creator, and have rightly acknowledged your sinful failings, He has redeemed you. Bought you out of that swirling, dark and wretched place at the price of His own blood. Into this world Christ Jesus came, perfect and holy as no other human could ever be, and won you back. Through His death and resurrection, you now have forgiveness.

...but the word of the Lord endures forever.

Perhaps with the limited understanding we have on this side of eternity, the scope of the forgiveness of sins and the breadth of the Father’s love for His forgiven children are simply too much to grasp. But there is a beautiful simplicity about the Gospel message that transcends time and ages. What was accomplished for us all those years ago, holds true for this current age, and will always ring clear through the end of time.

For us who still walk this earth, take courage. Know and trust that your Savior has redeemed you. Find relief in His Gospel. Rest in His unchanging and forever enduring Word.

*Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
Till earth’s brief journey ends.
(LSB 829:4)*

~Deaconess Holly

Summer Sunday School Opportunities for Children and Youth

Summer Sunday School will run June 2 through August 4 and we have some new offerings for our youth!

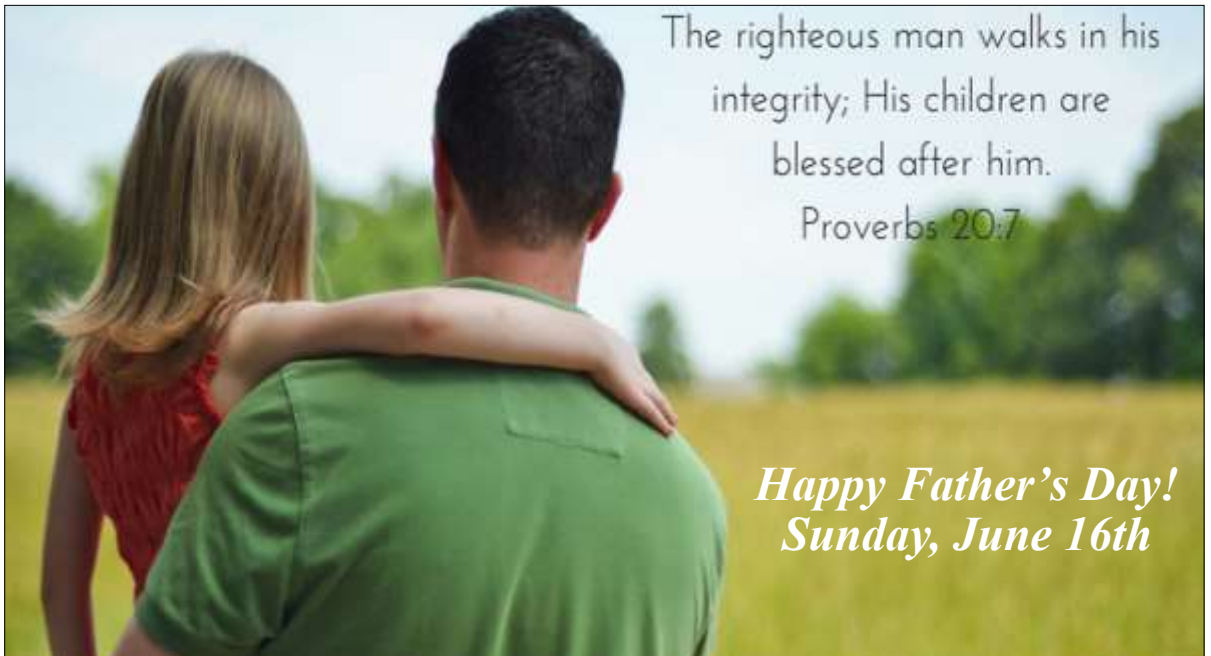
Join us each Sunday from 9:45am-10:45am

Rising 10th-12th graders: Studying Angels and other invisible creatures of the Bible. Meet in the Youth room with Deaconess Holly

Rising 6th-9th graders: P.R.A.Y. God and Church Award program. Room 301 with Cyra Phelan, Amy Rebholz, and Cara Murray

Rising 5th grade and under The Fruits of the Spirit. Room 300 with Judy Hammer

Please contact a member of the Board of Christian Education if you would like volunteer!



The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.
Proverbs 20:7

*Happy Father's Day!
Sunday, June 16th*

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

Need Help Praying?

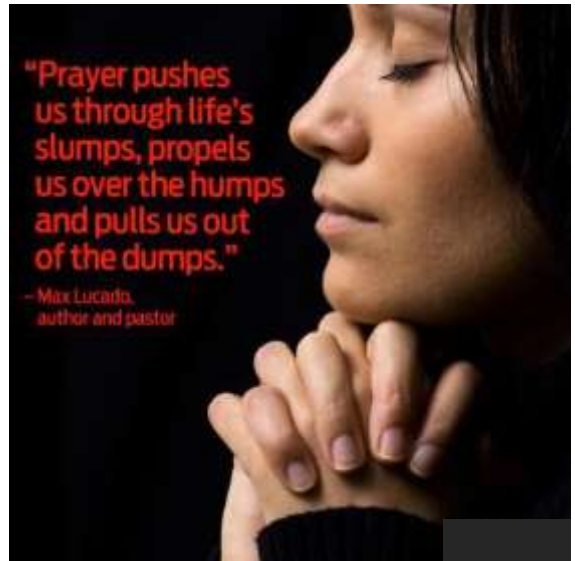
By Scott Krueger
Head Elder

God tells us he hears all our prayers. He says pray unceasingly for all things. Ephesians 6:18 “ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16 “Be joyful always, pray continually.”

There is power in prayer. James 5:16 “Therefore confess your sins to each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

As a human being I fail to pray powerfully and unceasingly for all things. What if I had help? I believe there is power in prayer and I believe there is more power when many people pray with you. How about 12 Christian friends praying your prayers. The next time your Elder calls to ask for your prayers, answer. You'll have power!

Note: There are other ways that ESLC can help with prayer, try the Prayer chain and Thursday prayer sessions.



WEEKLY PRAYER MEETINGS

The Board of Christian Outreach of Eternal Shepherd invites you to our weekly prayer meetings. **ESLC is now holding weekly prayer meetings in the sanctuary from 10 am to 11am each Thursday. Please make plans to join us for these weekly prayer sessions.**



Comfort Dog News

In case you hadn't heard, Seth and three other Comfort Dogs (Faith from Hickory, Zoara from Hilton Head, and Peace from Orlando) were deployed to Charlotte, NC after the 4 police officers were shot and killed on April 29, 2024. Rudy, Seth and I left on May 1 and returned on May 4. We were invited by Pastor Steve Newberg of Ascension Lutheran Church in Charlotte to serve the community and to use the church as a meeting place.

Eternal Shepherd had 5 Hearts of Mercy and Compassion stored in the basement for such an event as this, so we were asked to bring them to Charlotte. Each Heart of Mercy and Compassion (HMC) had the name of one of the officers killed and the Bible verse, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9" written on the fish symbol in the center of the heart. People were encouraged to write thoughtful notes of love and support on the hearts which will be given to the families of the deceased. The first night we were there, we attended a Prayer Vigil which was held at a local park and we placed the HMC there for people to sign. The next day, we transported the HMC's to the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Police Headquarters in front of the fallen officer statue. Bouquets of flowers were already placed in honor of the fallen officers and the HMC were placed at this temporary memorial site.

Our time in Charlotte consisted of attending the prayer vigil, visiting police stations, fire stations, 911 call center, EMS, Crime Scene Investigation – covering each shift of staff from early morning to late at night. On Friday, we greeted those attending the funeral for police officer Joshua Eyer. Over 4 days, we visited countless people who were devastated by this loss of life. We know the Comfort Dogs and their teams could not take away the pain but just showing up and caring for them made a difference. We heard so many comments of appreciation from those we visited with. LCC has a new motto this year – "Be There". That is what we did, we were there in their time of grief, we showed we cared, we supported them, we loved them, even when words were not spoken.

Overall, it was an exhausting and heartbreaking experience, but we are so glad we went. To see the smiles of those we visited and even the tears, we feel God used us to help this community to heal and move forward, at least that is our hope and prayer.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be Top Dog/Comfort Dog Informational Meeting held after late service on June 9 in Room 301. If you have any questions or want to know more about what the Comfort Dog team does or perhaps are interested in becoming the Top Dog for a possible 2nd dog, please come and learn more about it! And if for some reason, you can't make the meeting, I am always willing and available to share my experience with you!

To God be the Glory,
Kyra Carbone, Top Dog

continued next page...



Zoara, Faith, Peace and Seth at Prayer Vigil with HMC (L to R)



Police officer with Seth, 6:00 am Roll Call at the precinct of the fallen officer on first day back to work.

MISSIONS AND ETERNAL SHEPHERD LCMS SENECA

Our Mission Statement: In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is **vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.**

The Mission Committee in our church is currently supporting various missions both financially and through Mission Trips. This includes Lutheran Bible Translators – Nathan Esala and family; David and Dr. Arianna (McLain) Shirk and the girls, serving in Kijabe, Kenya; Disaster Response ESLC Team (includes Ramp Builders); the school we created in Pas Bonbon, Haiti; our Honduras Mission Team; and Chevak Alaska Mission Team.

Our Board of Christian Outreach (BOCO) is mainly focused in Oconee County, SC and our Mission Committee is everything outside Oconee County – insert Buzz Lightyear quote “To Infinity and Beyond” so, the opportunities are endless.

Our first Mission Trips were in Saltillo Mexico and Corpus Christi - teamed up with Can-Do Missions out of Concordia Austin, Texas. We had several of our youth with us, and they decided to join the Can-Do Chevak Alaska Team – resulting in several trips to Alaska. Currently we need an adult leader to head up that mission, with the next trip with Can-Do Austin in July 2025. Basically, that trip will be centered around a VBS program each day, and evening fellowship with many of the local youth.

For more information or to request consideration in a New Mission contact:

Lars Helland – Mission Committee Chair and Haiti Mission Contact

Pastor Ray Ramsburg- Honduras Mission Info and Toys for God's Kids (making wooden cars)

John Beattie and Deek Decker – Disaster Response and Ramp building (SE Trips coming soon)

Richard Grotheer – Secretary/Treasurer and advisor for potential New Missions

Milo Bell – Disaster Response and Mission Quilters (Marlene Bell)

Pastor Bill Barthel – Disaster Response Chainsaw team leader.

Our Church is definitely an example of His Love and Our Response. We are without a doubt, Blessed to Be A Blessing!


*In His Service and to His Glory,
Lars Helland*

Honduras Mission News

As we head into the summer months it's that time of year when we need to begin praying for God's guidance in participating in the ESLC 2025 Mission Trip to Honduras. This year's dates are February 22, to March 1, 2025. We pick this time of year because the weather is the best for both travel and ministry, allowing us to complete our mission without obstacles. Our mission remains the same as previous years with providing medical, dental, optical and pharmaceutical services along with children's ministry and installing water filters. If you have thought about a short-term mission trip, or have contemplated missionary work this is an ideal opportunity to be introduced to serving the Lord in another country.

This may seem a bit early to be thinking about a February 2025 mission trip but our initial team deposit is due next month and after that there are many plans to be made. An important part of that planning is the number of missionaries that will be on the team. The larger the team the more people that will be seen which translates to more supplies and Bibles needed for the mission which also means more funds to raise. So there is no time like the present to begin your planning.

Please let John Cochell or Pastor Ray know if you are interested in being part of the 2025 Mission Team for Honduras. Remember, Christ is counting on YOU.

A photograph of a young child sitting on a bed, looking towards the camera. The child is wearing a dark-colored shirt. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a bedspread or wall. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Meeting The Physical Needs Of People, And
Using That Opportunity To Share The Gospel.**

Operation Christmas Child Update:

Last month I told you that something new was coming to the Ministry of Operation Christmas Child (OCC), and this month I'm going to share with you exactly what that new thing is. Our church wide Shoebox Packing Party happens every year in our Fellowship Hall, and starting this year, we'll also be able to pack shoeboxes online at our very own Build a Shoebox Online Church Goal webpage! Check it out here: (<https://sampur.se/49LhsPQ>)



Shoebox gifts built online go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places – whether deep jungles, city slums, steep mountainsides, or one of the more than 1,000 remote Pacific Islands. Many of these areas are resistant to the Gospel, for cultural or religious reasons, and are home to numerous unreached people groups, some of whom have never heard the Name of Jesus Christ. When you Build a Shoebox Online, it provides believers in remote regions a creative way to share the Good News in a culturally sensitive manner. Online boxes are carefully prepared, abiding by strict customs regulations to safeguard partners who will deliver the gifts, as well as the boys and girls who receive them.

Shoeboxes packed online cost \$25.00 each and that includes the cost of shipping. They are carefully filled with the items you choose and are sent in plain brown boxes. AND.... If you build the box online at our church's online goal page, they will count toward our church's yearly total of packed shoeboxes as well!

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). Help fulfill the Great Commission and take the Gospel to the ends of the earth by building a shoebox online today at Eternal Shepherd's very own Build a Shoebox Online Church Goal website, which can be found here: <https://sampur.se/49LhsPQ>

Thank you for your support!
Terri Baumann
(864)882-4386



Hospitality



Hospitality continues as 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.**

The small containers of cream seem to be working well now that we are vigorously shaking them before pouring.

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.

Due to Cier Beck's heavy schedule, Sue Sherman has volunteered to take over as vice chair on hospitality. Thank you Sue.

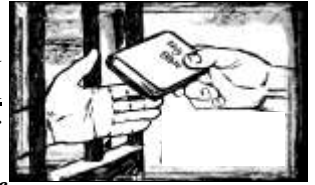
Wonderful Wednesday's will resume in the Fall!

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



DETENTION CENTER OUTREACH MINISTRY:

Saturday, June 8th 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 9 am Sat., June 8th. *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., June 8th 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**



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. **June's** preferred product is **"Canned Fruit"** (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 June

- 6/2 — Elisabeth Baker & Sue Watson
6/9 — Monty & Julie Moore
6/16 — Kerry Blount
6/23 — Ginger Barthel & Kathy Bergeson
6/30 — ???



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

June Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Colleen Wakeman | 15 - Oliver Scott |
| 2 - Bill Barthel | Jane Smith |
| Cecil Murray | 16 – Kelly Bunning |
| 4 - Sue Blount | 18 – Renee Beitz |
| Brian Bunning | Cash Hamilton |
| Westly Tramble | Kendall Hamilton |
| 6 – Cheryl Clack | Diane Schember |
| Shirley Coale | Ben Smith |
| 7 - Bonnie Franzen | 19 – David Smith |
| Sue Kunce | 21 – Jody McKibben |
| 8 - Alana Madden | 22 – Sara Gugel |
| Tanisha Wood | Andrea Toussaint |
| 9 – Debbie Bell | 24 – Ben Kan |
| Marlene Bell | 25 – Kane Beck |
| 10 – Justin Beitz | Barbara Wilken |
| Marilyn Shockley | Lane Wilson |
| 11 – Rev. Paul Lautenschlager | 27 – Harry Hornburg |
| Maril Robertson | Emily Wells |
| 13 - Jennifer Pahl | 28 – Tony Alford |
| 14 –Cassie Davis | 30 - Andrew Zirbel |



June Anniversaries

- 9 – Jim & Cheryl Clack
Mory & Marlene Ranck
Jon & Susan Tyner
11 - Rick & Ann Cochell
David & Beth Phillips
14 - Lucas & Lindsay McKay
15 – Woo & Lisa Wagner
17 - Charlie & Lisa Hill
Matt & Jacquie Wilson
20 – Walt & Carolyn Lindow
22 - Ned & Beth Renfroe
David & Jonette Stupke
23 - Harlan & Barb Swift
24 - Jim & Pat Jacques
Keith & Cyra Phelan
25 - Dan & Jeanne Arkfeld
26 – David & Lee Smith
28 - Brian & Kelly Bunning



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

In April the following gifts were given:

The Church Bus Fund received a gift of \$100.00

**The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$239.39,
and a gift of \$147.00 from Thrivent Choice**

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$171.97

**The General Fund received a gift of \$800.00 from Blessings Shared Grant,
and a gift of \$393.00 from Thrivent Choice**

The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$350.00

The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$1,846.32

The Lutheran Witness Magazine Fund received a gift of \$20.00

The LWML receive a gift of \$50.00

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

**The Senior Member Card Fund (*based on Galatians 6:10*)
received a gift of \$708.00 from Thrivent Choice**

**The Youth Fund received gifts of \$124.06.
and gifts of \$683.00 from Easter Breakfast**



Little Lambs Tales



Mark Your Calendars for these
Upcoming LLP Events

Tues., August 6th from 5 pm to 6:30 pm
Little Lambs Preschool Open House

Wed., August 7th—8:30 am
LLP Classes Begin



MAKE A
"walking snack"

Summer is a great time to take long walks with friends to look at the beauty of God's world. Make an easy "Walking Snack" to take with you on your walk.



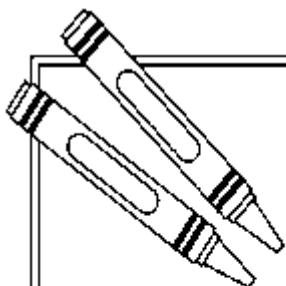
Here's what you need:

- apple
- peanut butter
- chocolate chips
- mini-marshmallows
- knife



Here's how to make it:

1. Ask a grownup to help you with this recipe.
2. Hollow out the apple from the top. Remove most of the core, but leave the bottom of the apple uncut.
3. Put some peanut butter into the apple. Fill the hole about halfway.
4. Add some chocolate chips, but leave room for marshmallows.
5. Finish filling the apple with marshmallows.
6. Make another one for a friend.
7. Take the apple snacks along with you when you take a walk with your friend.

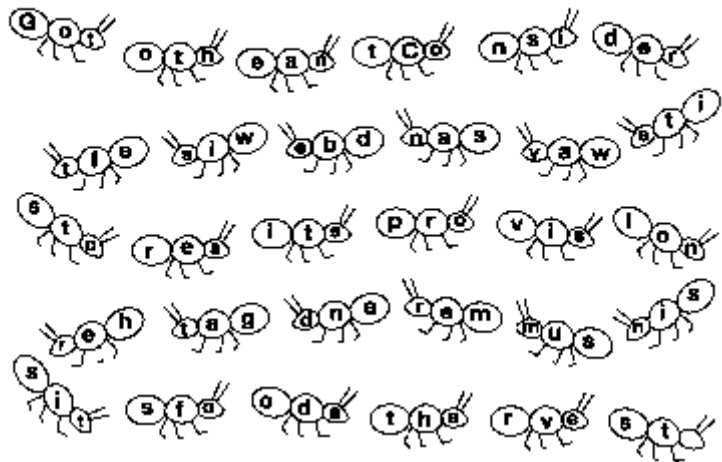


Just for **KIDS**

Do Good Works Unto the Lord!

The Bible tells us that ants are good workers and we can learn from them. Make a list of things you can do this summer to keep busy like the ants. You can help your family, your neighbors, your friends and your church. Get your friends together to think of projects you can do as a group.

Fill in the blanks below with the letters from the ants. Follow the ants back and forth, and write the letters in the order they appear.



Proverbs 6:6-8, NIV

SERVICE TIMES

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
(Communion 2nd & 4th Sundays)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
& Adult Bible Study

11:00 a.m. Worship Service
(Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)



THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor: David Hammer

Deaconess: Holly Cox

Secretary: Celeste Entrekin

Preschool Director: Gina Cote

Choir Director: Rick Schmidt

Choir Accompanist: Michelle Rowland

Organist: David Phillips

MISSIONARIES

Joanna Johnson, Taiwan

Nate Esala, Lutheran Bible Translators

David & Dr. Arianna Shirk, Kenya

S.E.D. Missionaries to Peru

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