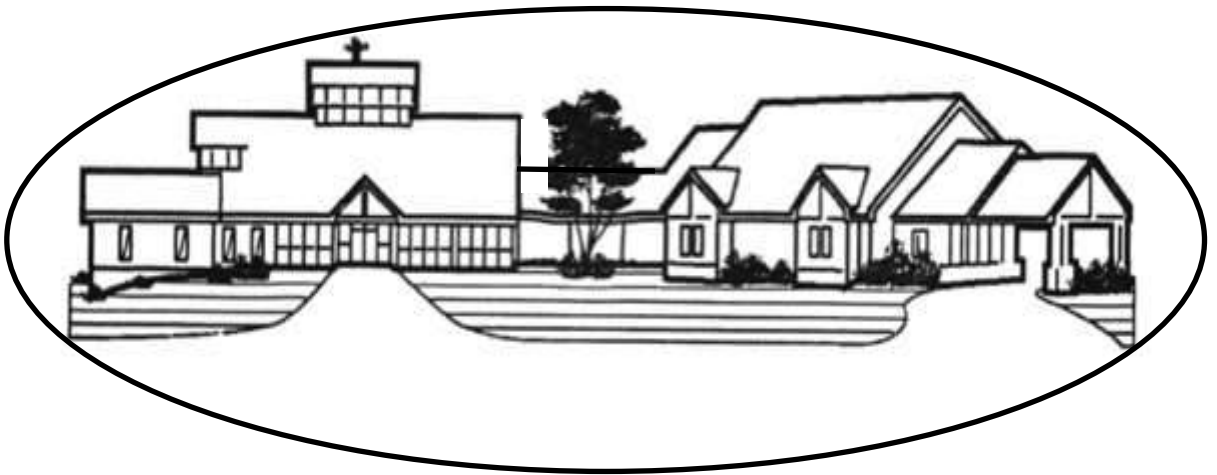

Agapegram

February 2025



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

He Calms Our Fears



Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 EHV

Lutheran pastor Rev. Larry Peter writes the following interesting reflection on stress, fear, and their solution in Christ in a blog post entitled "The burden of our times". He writes:

In his little book on *Temptation*, Bonhoeffer addresses the typical problems and then shifts to a discussion of desperation and despair. These are certainly the cause of much temptation in our age of uncertainty. We are ever so quick to complain and complain loudly upon social media. We are also quick to lament the stresses and pressures upon us. Indeed, as someone rightly has observed, "Everyone I know has PSD!" [*I'm presuming the author intended to write "PTSD" here*]. Don't we all! I wonder if many of our stresses are due to the times and not solely due to the problems and troubles of our age. I wonder if we find ourselves stressed because we have the illusion of control but not its reality.

Hearing my grandparents and parents speak of life in the Great Depression, I did not hear the litany of complaints you would expect of them. In fact, one of my grandmothers actually recalled not the want of the times but the way people pulled together, pooled their resources, and worked to make a way despite the lack of so many things. She contrasted that to the modern age so rich in things and so poor in our ability to get along and cooperate for something bigger than ourselves. I think she was on to something.

Our stress today is not from manual labor but from weary minds. We are weary because, for all our thinking, we find ourselves less able to control what happens to us or to those whom we love. Yet despite this we live in an age in which we are told we are in control of our lives -- much more so than the generations who went before us. Could it be that our stress and the ills of body and mind such stress causes us is due to the fact that we are dizzied by the constant changes and by our inability to do much except catch up to it as it passes us? I fear that this is in part why we suffer so from stress related psychological and physical ills. We are literally worrying ourselves into an early death but for all our worries we have nothing much to show for it other than doctor bills.

continued next page...

I grew up in a farming area and, at that time, farmers did not seem as stressed as they are today. Of course, they lived in dependence upon the Lord (or nature, if you do not believe).

They did not have irrigation then or the herbicides or combines that calculated the moisture content of the crop and, especially important, its value on today's market. They just did what they could and left the rest until tomorrow. It is probably true of most occupations today. Our marvelous technology has left us with the illusion that we control things and therefore it is hard to shake our sense of responsibility over just about everything. Helicopter parenting is how this works in the home. Parents seek to control just about everything their children come in contact with (except they have a strange trust over media and screens that I find hard to get). We work less with our bodies but cannot seem to stop our minds and in those minds fear seems to be the most powerful force. It has created a pandemic of depression and angst that pills cannot solve. There is a cost to making yourself the center of things.

Christianity does not offer a fairy tale happy ending but the reality of a God who fights for you and with you. "You are not alone" is one of the most powerful statements of Scripture. The most oft repeated phrase of the Bible is "Do not be afraid." Technology has not solved the loneliness problem nor has it solved the fear problem. We are prisoners to our screens, to our need for safety, to our quest for security, and to our desire to control just about everything. It is no wonder we are unhappy. "Come to Me," says the Lord, "and I will give you rest." More than any other need in this modern age, we need His rest to end our fears and answer our depression with hope.

Thanks to Pastor Peters for this food for thought and for pointing us again to our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let
your heart be troubled, and do not let it be
afraid.* John 14:27 EHV

Pastor David





Deaconess' Musings

Rest Won and Assured

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God... Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.” ~ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 7

To comfort and to be comforted; such is the life of the Christian believer. As those forgiven and made anew in Christ Jesus, the Gospel becomes our sure comfort of our soul's salvation. We rejoice and thank God for His glorious grace and love, all the while grounding our hope in His never-failing Word. In turn, we also serve our fellow believer and neighbor in giving the very same comfort and promise. By faith granted, we trust that what He says is true, is in fact truth, and will endure forever and forever.

Empires and cultures will rise and fall; we will endure things unexpected and undesired; those around us will remain confused as to why we continue to trust and hope in our Lord and Savior. Through all of this world's changing and frivolous ways, we have a sure, steadfast, and unmoving assurance of where our comfort and relief finds its origin. Christ Jesus is our hope, our relief, our comfort. He is the *“Father of mercies and God of all comfort,”* and for all the world. We dare not keep this to ourselves.

Surrounding us, there are those who lack this comfort and continue trudging through the darkness of this world, but there are also those who know this Great Comforter who have become caught up in the cares of this fleeting age. Do not lose sight of these precious children of God; seek to recount the saving grace of God; speak of the forgiveness of sins for them specifically; love them in their time of need. Who can use a bit of comfort today? We all can. Thanks be to God forever that He has become our comfort and relief.

~ Deaconess Holly

*Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.*

~ LSB 421, Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing stanza 4

We have new Sunday school classes this year! Look below to see which one is right for you and your family.



Nursery –for ages 0 – 2 years old led by Nicole Beattie in the Nursery room.

Preschool – A special class designed especially for ages 2 -Kindergarten led by our own Little Lambs Preschool teacher, Cyra Phelan. Meet in room 300.

Elementary School – For the rest of the month of January, the senior youth girls are planning some fun lessons and activities for kids 1st—5th grade. Judy Hammer will assist in room 301. The class will be led by Debbie Bell and Susan Sherman beginning in February.

Confirmation – For students in 6th – 9th grade, led by Amy Rebholz & Kate Wells in room 302.

Youth – For 10th – 12th graders. All students are invited to participate in the adult Bible study for the month of January. **In February, the Youth will restart bible study with Deaconess Holly Cox in the youth room.**

Adult Bible Study – Led by Pastor David Hammer in Fellowship Hall.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To God Be The Glory For the Great Things He has done in my life this past year. For me to say *Thank You* to my church family seems like so little for all that has been done out of love for me. I am most **grateful** and **thankful** for all that has been done. ***One Big Thank You*** for all the Get Well, Christmas Cards, Notes of Encouragement, Special Scriptures, and Gifts. All has been of great encouragement and uplifting of my spirit. I am especially grateful for all the prayers you have prayed and how wonderful God has answered them. I hesitate to mention names, lest I forget someone, but I must mention my Elder, Stephen Beitz, who was so faithful in praying and contacting me. He has been an excellent servant of the Lord keeping in touch, and also our wonderful Pastor in such a busy season with all the extras and loved ones passing, I am so thankful for Celeste, answering my calls, Janet, with her many written prayer requests. Also, my new Elder, what a wonderful Body Of Christ we have here in ESLC. I am sorry that I have not been able to send cards like I want to, but I tire very easily, yet, I am on the road of recovery and even though there are some rough curves in the road I will make it with your prayers, God's daily provision and His faithfulness, ***TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO IN MY LIFE, AND THAT OF ETERNAL SHEPHERD.***
~In Christian Love and Prayer, Berniece

We Need Your Leadership!

At Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, we are blessed with so many wonderful talents! And now more than ever, there are opportunities for you to serve our congregation with your talents.

1 Peter 4:10-11 "Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well."

We are actively looking to replace the following board positions as we begin the new year. Please take a quick look at the specific roles and responsibilities and let us know if you would like to pursue any of them!

Thank you for all that you do to help us further the Kingdom of God!

***Doug Zirbel
Your President***

Little Lambs Preschool Board Leader

The Little Lambs Preschool Board leader is responsible for guiding and directing the activity, resources, and budget for the Preschool. This role leads the LLP Board and is the primary support resource for the Preschool Director and is a member of the Church Council.

Duties include: Support the development of enrollment and resourcing plans for each school year; Develop budget plans that align with resourcing needs and are approved by the congregation; Facilitate fund raising programs and initiatives to support enrollees in need and to help meet the overall budget goals.

If you are interested in being the LLP Board Leader or if you would like more information, please contact Jane Fireovid at 518-527-7448.

Finance Board Chair

The Finance Board Chair leads the Finance Board and sits on the ESLC Church Council. The chair is elected for a two (2) year term and may succeed himself/herself only once.

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The main duties of the chair include: Oversee the actual receipt and deposit of all monies received into the church accounts with help of the Finance Secretary, ensure maintenance, accurate and confidential recording of all contributions, memorial gifts and contributors, and annually develop a proposed budget for presentation to the Church Council. Busiest time for the Finance Chair is during budgeting season August-November of each year.

See Article VI section F. of ESLC Constitution & By-Laws for a more detailed description of this role.

If you are interested in helping ESLC perform this critical work or if you would like more information, please contact Jim Zwahlen at 281-543-4354.

ESLC Treasurer

The Treasurer is an officer of ESLC and church council member who is responsible for maintaining an accurate accounting of all church funds received and disbursed; making payments for all properly approved expenditures; and issuing monthly financial statements. See Article IV section D. of ESLC Constitution & By-Laws for a more detailed description of this role. Eternal Shepherd uses Quick Books accounting software and employs H&R Block as our bookkeeper. Each week the Treasurer applies the appropriate account code to ESLC's receipts and payments. These documents are delivered to H&R Block's office in West Union (next to Ingles) for payment and entry into Quick Books. At month end, the Treasurer issues the financial statements from Quick Books.

While prior experience in Accounting, Finance or Bookkeeping is a plus, anyone with a business background using cost reports can successfully perform these tasks.

If you are interested in helping ESLC perform this critical work or if you would like more information, please contact Bill Smith at 814 470 2430.





and presenting sponsor
invites you to our 4th



Star Chefs

Denim & Diamonds
Tasting & Auction

Wednesday, May 21, 2025  5:30 PM

LAKESIDE LODGE
13500 Clemson Blvd, Seneca

A Special Thank You

From all of us at Miracle Hill Ministries, we want to thank each and every one of you who participated in "Jesus' birthday celebration".

Your generosity totaled \$735.00 that was used to care for the hurting this holiday season. Bless you brothers and sisters, praying that you had a very Merry Christmas!

For the Kingdom,

Candace Fritz Director of Engagement/Administrative Office—Miracle Hill Ministries



Miracle Hill
MINISTRIES

PLEASE HELP ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

**There will be a sale to benefit Capt. Bert Wise on February 8th from 10 am - 4 pm.
Address is 110 Poplar Ridge Drive
Westminster, SC 29693**

Capt. Bert is in an assisted living facility in Anderson, SC. Please attend and help out with Bert's expenses.

What items are not sold will be donated. Reasonable offers accepted.

Questions? Please contact Don Seigler at (864) 903-4558

Also, Will Someone Give Gracie A Home? Gracie is a beautiful girl. She is loving, affectionate, no health issues, up to date on her shots, and lonely. Since the passing of her friend Nick, she lives in a big house all by herself. Oh! by the way, did I mention Gracie is a cat. Gracie's human Captain Bert Wise is in a memory care facility in Anderson, SC and he can not care for her. Please consider giving this precious animal a loving home. Any questions, call Don Seigler at (864) 903-4558 ~*Thank you*



HONDURAS MISSION 2025 NEWS:

When this month of February begins we will be 3 weeks and a wake-up away from being on our way to serve the people of Honduras. We have 5 – 6 months of preparation behind us and what lies ahead we are ready to face as we serve our Lord. We are called to “go and make disciples of all nations” and for a week in February the nation will be Honduras. We spend the week serving beside church workers and translators and serving probably 1500 to 2000 Hondurans who come to the site for assistance. The Gospel is shared with all. It is this personal contact that touches us so deeply. We are with a people whose poverty is almost unbelievable yet we find in them a loving and caring that is not often seen elsewhere. And as for the team response I believe most will stand with Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40; “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” We make friends during that time there knowing full well that we may not see them again until we are all together with our Lord in heaven. But what a blessing that time together is both for them and our team.

We have just a few wrap-up items and we will be on our way. We make Salvation Bracelets for the children on Feb. 9 after the late service and all are invited to help and be part of this mission. And we will commission the team during worship on Feb. 16. Please continue to pray for Team Leaders, John and Tracy Cochell and for the entire Honduras 2025 team as they are about our Lord and Savior's work in Honduras.

Dios te bendiga, (God Bless You), Your 2025 Honduras Mission Team

Comfort Dog News

The year is off to a busy start with Seth's regular scheduled visits resuming after the holidays and another deployment back to Asheville, NC mid-January. We are thankful Seth continues to want to work and is in healthy condition. Nevertheless, we are still looking ahead as we know Seth will eventually retire.

To that end, we are praying faithfully that a member of the congregation will step up and be willing to be the next Top Dog for this ministry to continue. So many in our community love Seth and his team and if it all ends when Seth retires, they will be disappointed for sure.

Maybe God is calling you to be the leader for the next Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dog and you are wondering exactly what is required with being the Top Dog?

Top Dog Job Description

Has a heart for God and His people

Will lead the K9 ministry team at Eternal Shepherd

Will be the point person of communication with Lutheran Church Charities

Will be the point person for the team regarding visits/event scheduling

Will schedule monthly team meetings

Will make sure the dog is being well taken care of to include vet visits and exercise

Will be a good steward of the Comfort Dog Ministry fund

Will keep the congregation informed of team activities via Agapegram articles and any other means of communication

“If God has called you to lead, let nothing stand in the way of the privilege you have to serve Him and to serve His people through applying the gift, the resources and the opportunity He has provided to you.” George Barna

If you think God is calling you to this ministry, please speak to me! I am more than willing to answer any questions you may have and share with you the joy and blessings of serving the Lord and His people through this incredible ministry!

“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

To God be the Glory,
Kyra Carbone, Top Dog
864-932-8308

see photo on next page...



**Asheville, NC Deployment – January 2025
Peace, Seth and Zoara Comfort Dogs**

**Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 16th
after the late service in the Fellowship Hall**

*Please make plans to attend
this important meeting.*



Missions Summary 2024 and our New Year

- In 2024 we received the following funds:
- Began the year with \$36,642.82 in Designated Funds.
- Received \$24,000 in budget money.
- Received \$89,376.50 in contributions and grants.
- Ended the year with \$29,277.57 in Designated Funds and zero budget money remaining.
- **We “invested” approximately \$120,741.75 in our Mission projects:**
- For Mission Team support (e.g., travel, tools, supplies, etc.) we spent \$85,821.75.
- For Direct support to missions (e.g. Haiti, Shirk, Navigator, some Honduras, etc.) we spent \$34,920.00.

Overall, 80% of our Mission “investments” (expenditures) were from direct contributions, and only 20% was from Budget. An amazing testament to our members’ generosity and faithfulness to Missions.

Money is not the only thing our members invested in our Missions. An amazing percentage of our members invested time and energy in our Mission efforts: We had over 60 people directly working on our Mission projects (not counting behind-the-scenes support people). A number of these people worked on more than one Mission.

Direct participants “invested” over 6,500 hours (total time away from home), and They spent over 3,000 hours actively working on the missions (e.g., repairing houses, making quilts, providing medical help, etc.).

Note: Assuming we have approximately 180 members who worship regularly, that means that as many as one in every three worshippers on any Sunday in 2024 could have directly participated in Missions in 2024!!!

We can never know the spiritual impact of our Mission efforts, but we have some idea of the tangible results of our efforts. **Our combined Mission investment (money and hours) directly touched over 5,000 people.**

- Our **Haiti Mission** provided over 75,000 meals to 320 school children and funded the salaries of 9 teachers and staff.
- Our **Disaster Response Mission** repaired 3 homes/facilities and removed over 40 storm damaged trees in 10 locations.
- Our **Honduras Mission Team** provided medical and spiritual support to over 1,500 children and adults during their annual trip.
- Our **Toys for God’s Kids team** built and distributed over 3,200 wooden toy cars to support various outreach projects around the world.
- The **Mission Quilt Sewers team** sewed MANY quilts and distributed them to numerous mission efforts here and abroad. Hours at home and at church for 16 members involved is a total of 790 hours for 2024!
- In addition, we provided direct financial support to the Shirk Family Medical Mission in Kenya, Africa, and the Navigators Student Ministry in Alabama (Dylan Chamberlain)

Contact Lars Helland for more information on Mission Opportunities

ETERNAL SHEPHERD IS CERTAINLY BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

Operation Christmas Child Update:

The first meeting of the OCC Committee took place on January 19, with 8 people in attendance. Discussions included the schedule of events for this year, jobs needing to be completed, and the total of shoeboxes packed for our area in 2024. We exceeded our area goal of 26,000 by packing 26,887. To God be the glory!



This year the OCC Committee would like to highlight a new side to the Shoebox Ministry. Packing shoeboxes online. The 2025 Build A Shoebox Online (BASBO) goal page for Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church is up and running. If you would like to see your shoeboxes sent to some of the hardest to reach and most dangerous countries in the world, which remain unnamed due to their hostile environments, then this option for packing shoeboxes is tailor made for you! And if you pack them by going to our own page through the link below, Eternal Shepherd gets the credit in our shoebox totals for the year! We love sending the Gospel to countries around the world, but we also understand that sending it into these specific unnamed locations is also extremely important. If the idea of sending shoeboxes into countries that desperately need to hear the Gospel appeals to you and your family, please follow the link, or QR code below to Eternal Shepherd's page and choose the sex, age and items you'd like to have packed into your shoebox online. Each shoebox packed online costs \$25.00. The hardest to reach countries only receive shoeboxes that are packed online. Those boxes are packaged in plain brown boxes without ministry advertisement. In 2024, we packed 3 boxes online that were sent to a country that is not named, due to the dangerous environment in that country.

BASBO Link: <https://sampur.se/3DDtpwy>



QR Code:

Please help us reach our goal of seeing 50 shoeboxes packed online in 2025 and sent to those countries whose environment and culture are extremely hostile to the Gospel.

Eternal Shepherd will be hosting 2 packing parties this year. One virtual, and one in person as we've done in previous years. Please watch for details on these important ministry initiatives in the coming months.

Thank you! ~ The OCC Committee

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 at certain functions. All these are helpful and needed. If you are interested in joining our ministry, please contact Colleen Hesemann.



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, having the coffee made and any treats that can be homemade, store bought or packaged: Emphasis being put on amount...it need not be large quantities...working with other families is often helpful. If you sign up and are not sure how to proceed, just let Colleen Hesemann know and she will help you learn the ropes (which is not difficult). It will allow you to get to know more people and is great fun. The pumper pots are now color coated...matching color to color and they will work.

Hospitality has worked to "organize" the kitchen. Items have been removed and they are currently in the basement. If you feel that any of these items be returned, please let hospitality know. Many of these items have taken up shelving space and have not been used for the last two years.

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

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.*



RESTAURANT MINISTRY OUTREACH:

February 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 February 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.



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

Please Note Sunday, Feb 9th we will be celebrating **Souper Bowl Sunday** so please be sure to bring your canned soup for this event and place your items in the containers marked Food Bank down by the Fellowship Hall. ~Thank you



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>.

Hospitality Happenings for February

2/2 — Tony & Sandy Alford & Rev. Phil & Margi McLain

2/9 — Tony & Sandy Alford & Mark & Sandy Kunkel

2/16 — Kerry & Sue Blount & Woo & Lisa Wagner

2/23 — Norman & Delane Dukes



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 Hesemann

February Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3 - Mary Ann McKay
Laina Rebholz | 23 - Susan Sherman
Ryan Sitler |
| 4 - Isabella Kirchner | 25 - Mary Compton
Zach Sitler |
| 6 - Dave Goeckel | Skyler Wood |
| 8 - Vincent Presley | 26 - Fran Port |
| 10 - Kyra Carbone | 27 - Betty Schilling
Abby Zirbel |
| 13 - Malcolm Williams | 28 - Sue Hauser
Lars Helland |
| 14 - Gary Lehmann
Ned Renfroe
Harlan Swift | Joanne Markley
Monty Moore |
| 16—Henry Gambrell | 29 - Madison Ranalli
Megan Ranalli |
| 17 - David Bucy | |
| 18 - Cier Beck
John Olenyn | |
| 22 - Paula Rigoni | |



February Anniversaries

- 7 - Greg & Christine Davis
- 9 - Scott & Patty Kaltrider
Scott & Susan Robirds
- 20 - Neal & Cier Beck
- 25 - John & Nicole Beattie
William & Mildred Harth



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

In December the following gifts were given:

**In loving memory of *Rick Kruse*
the Haiti Mission Fund received a gift of \$100.00,
and the Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$1,250.00,
and the Honduras Helping Hands Fund received gifts of \$473.53**

**In loving memory of *Bill Richards*
the Pipe Organ Fund received a gift of \$2,649.13**

Other Gifts:

The Choir Fund received a gift of \$25.00

The Christmas Poinsettia Fund received a gift of \$48.47

**The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$579.81,
and a gift of \$566.00 from Thrivent Choice**

The Disaster Response Team Fund received gifts of \$1,173.99

The Elders Fund received gifts of \$394.27

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$455.16

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

The Haiti Mission Fund received gifts of \$992.83

**The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$10,472.75 for Team 2025 travel,
and Helping Hands for Honduras received gifts of \$1,230.27**

The Hospitality Fund received a gift of \$100.00

**The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$315.09,
and the LLP C.A.R.E. Scholarship Fund received gifts of \$124.24**

The Lutheran Witness Magazine Fund received a gift of \$50.00

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$234.84

The Safe Harbor Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The Safety Committee Fund received a gift of \$48.13

The Wheelchair Ramp Fund received gifts of \$600.00

The Youth Gathering Fund received gifts of \$1,096.84

Little Lambs Tales

*"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."
1 John 4:16*

It is the month of February, and we are reminded of God's great love for each one of us and the demonstration of His love through these beautiful children of Little Lambs Preschool.

We are excited to begin our month with our annual Frozen Day on February 6th. This is always a fun day as we participate in all types of winter activities! The children will have a "snowball" fight, decorate snowflake cookies, create a melted snowman, and experience some cool Science experiments with ice! It should be great!

Registration for our 2025-2026 school year will begin February 18th for our current families with open registration beginning March 3rd. Registration forms are on our website or you can pick one up at the preschool during school hours.

As we close out the month of February, our children will be getting ready for warmer weather, longer days and preparing for March and Dr. Seuss Day!

All of us at Little Lambs Preschool thank you for your continued support and prayers for this ministry of our church. We continue to bless God for giving us the opportunity to care and love these beautiful children and watch them grow in their relationship with the Lord.

*Blessings to you and your families!
Gina*

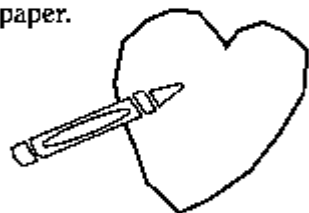
Send an Invisible Valentine to Someone You Love!

Here's what you'll need:

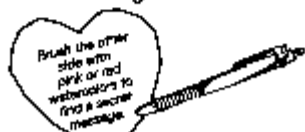
- Scissors
- White construction paper
- White crayon
- Pen
- Pink or red watercolor

Here's how to make an invisible Valentine:

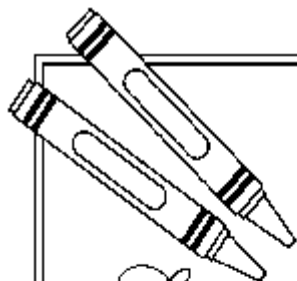
1. Cut a heart shape out of the white construction paper.



2. Use the white crayon to decorate the heart with designs and a message. Press hard!
3. On the back, use the pen to write: "Brush the other side with pink or red watercolor to find a secret message."



4. Give the valentine to someone you love. When the person paints the "blank" side, your secret message will be revealed!

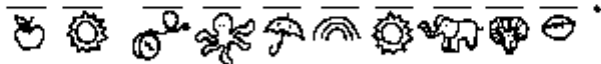
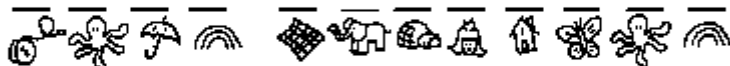
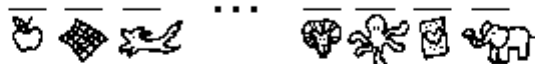
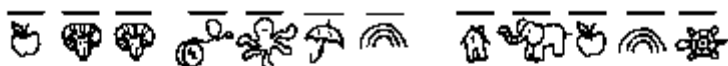
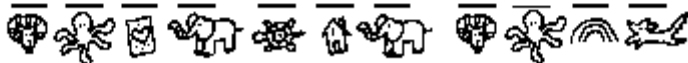


Just for KIDS

Love is the greatest commandment!

What did Jesus say when asked about the greatest commandment of God?

Write the first letter of each picture on the lines below.



Mark 12:30-31

Answers: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and ... Love your neighbor as yourself.

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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