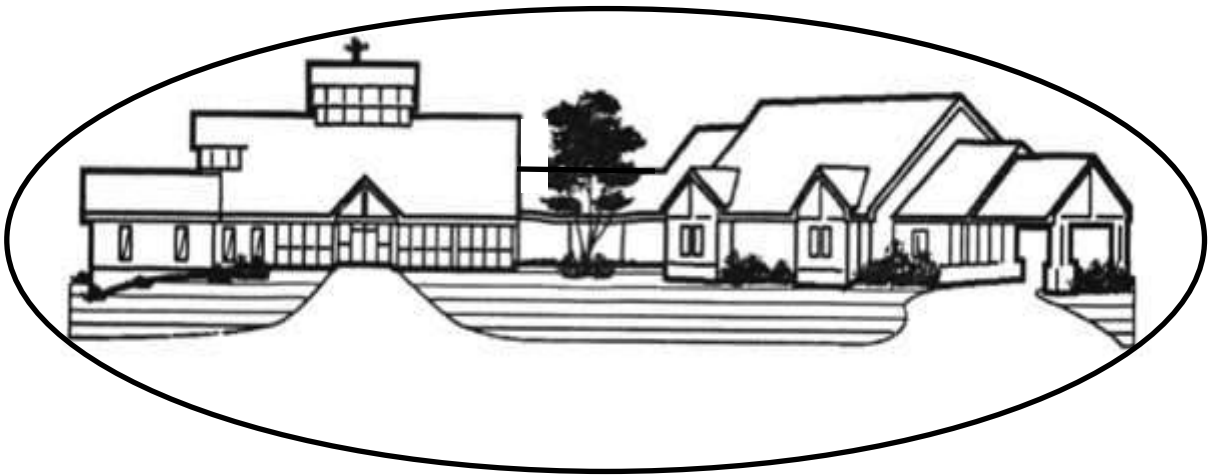

Agapegram

March 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



Lenten Theme: The Hand of the Lord

Let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great.

2 Samuel 24:14 EHV

Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called them the instrument of instruments. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender, and on and on. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as “Lend a hand,” “Things are out of hand,” “Working together hand in glove,” and “Close at hand.” Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding “hand” as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments.

It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God’s Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord’s hand is referred to over two hundred times in the Old Testament. The Lord’s hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and salvation. The hand of the Lord was upon Ezekiel when He gave him a vision (Ezekiel 3:22), and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the “hand of the Lord” are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus’s daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus.

continued next page...

On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was “delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.

May our reflections upon the Hand of the Lord this Lenten season both humble and encourage us.

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 EHV



Pastor David



Ash Wednesday Service
March 5th
7:00 pm

Please join us for this special
service w/Communion



Deaconess' Musings

Where Did the Alleluias Go?

*Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluia, our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.
~ Alleluia, Song of Gladness, LSB 417 verse 3*

The Church now enters the season of Lent, turning solemn, repentant eyes towards our sin. We take time to stop, draw back, and recognize the part we, all humanity, played in condemning Christ to the cross. Christ Jesus, God-Incarnate, was born into this world for this very purpose: death. This tremendous act of redemption calls the redeemed to reflect. Pause. And express penitential thankfulness to our Lord God.

Our sanctuary also bears the change of season: deep violet colors, more somber and introspective hymnody, and a glaring omission of the Alleluias from the liturgy.

Why omit the Alleluias? It is, at its core, a word of praise spoken, chanted, and sung by the people of God in response to our Lord and Savior. However, as mentioned above, the introspective nature of Lent calls us to forgo the joys of the Alleluias for a time. We purposefully and consciously refrain. The Church now moves in contemplation of the gravity of Christ's suffering and death to atone for our, your, my very sin. To wholly remove that endless chasm that would separate us from the love of our Creator.



While somber and pensive, the season of Lent never loses sight of the hope that is found in Jesus Christ and His cross. In its own restrained manner, Lent prepares us not only for the events of Holy Week and our Lord's Passion, but for the immensely joyful morning of Eastertide, when the Alleluias return in grand victory and triumph. After forty days of not singing or speaking them, on Easter Morning those Alleluias sound all the sweeter. But for now, soon to begin this journey through the Lenten season, we intentionally reflect and refrain, turning our faces toward the grandest celebration of the Church: our Savior's glorious Resurrection.

Blessed Lent to All.

Deaconess Holly



Lent/Easter Service Schedule

***Ash Wednesday Service w/Communion
March 5th - 7:00 pm***

Midweek Lenten Suppers at 6:00 pm

Wed., March 12th hosted by the Honduras Mission Team

Wed., March 19th hosted by the Comfort Dog Ministry Team

Wed., March 26th hosted by the Youth

Wed., April 2nd hosted by the Board of Elders or Hospitality Bd.

Wed., April 9th hosted by the Altar Care Committee

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesday, March 12th - 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 19th- 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 26th- 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 2nd- 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 9th- 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday April 13th

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

Maundy Thursday Service April 17th - 7:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 18th - 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 20th

8:30 am & 11:00 am Communion Both Services

9:45 am Easter Breakfast hosted by ESLC Youth

Lent - Walking With The Lord (Elder's Path)

Lent is way to close to Christmas. The trip from the manger to the cross is just a few weeks.



Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and preparation...

As much as Jesus told them...

The disciples were not prepared for the crucifixion.

The disciples were not prepared for the resurrection.

If our goal is preparation...

Giving up something for 40 days is way too little.

A better path may be spending the 40 days of Lent getting closer to Jesus.

Oh God, Whatever I can give up for Lent will never match what you gave. As I clear away distractions, hear my prayer of gratitude. Thank you for the ultimate sacrifice of your only Son, Jesus, so that I can know that no matter what the world tempts me with...there is power to overcome. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nail'd him to the cross?

Were you there when they nail'd him to the cross?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

SCRIPS

The ESLC Scrip program has been in existence for over 25 years. It consists of gift cards which are purchased at discounted prices and sold to members of our congregation at face value. The profits received from the sale of these gift cards are allowed to accumulate until they are used for various special projects around the church. In the most recent years, they have been used to assist with the carpeting in the fellowship hall and assisting with ramp building.

There is an updated listing of the gift cards available in the front of the scrip box with the orange lid. It is just beside the left door when you exit the main entrance of the church.

The scrip lady, as identified at the top inside of the announcements, has Ingles, Publix and WalMart gift cards available each Sunday for purchase. In the past, we have had Food Lion gift cards available. **If you would like us to provide Food Lion gift cards again, please let Sue Hauser know.** The easiest way to support scrips is using these gift cards to buy groceries.

Some of the regular users of these gift cards currently email or call the scrip lady during the week to pre arrange for the gift card delivery.

Thank you for supporting this program. If you have any questions or comments, please let Sue Hauser know.





Join Us for Lenten Supper
Wednesdays at 6 pm

March 12th *hosted by the Honduras Mission Team*

March 19th *hosted by the Comfort Dog Ministry Team*

March 26th *hosted by the Youth*

April 2nd *hosted by the Altar Care Committee*

April 9th *hosted by the Board of Elders or Hospitality Bd.*



We look forward to seeing you.

Altar Care Needs New Members

Altar Care will be the Ministry of the Month on the Narthex Bulletin Board. We need new members to join the team. We are short 2 people for the calendar this year. List of Altar Care Activities will be posted on the Bulletin Board. Please prayerfully consider joining the team! Contact Tracy Cochell if you are interested or have questions.



FRESH FLOWERS ON THE WOODEN CROSS EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday (April 20), the big wooden Cross at the front of the church will have wire for fresh flowers. Please bring flowers from your garden or purchase flowers. Before each service on Easter Sunday, bring your flowers and add them to the cross. Please add your flowers no later than 20 minutes before service out of respect for the congregation.

If you have any questions, contact Tracy Cochell at 404-433-7338.



LWML Carolinas District Joy Event

Saturday, March 8, 2025

**Abiding Savor Lutheran Church
1905 E. Greenville St.
Anderson, SC 29621**



**All ESLC ladies are invited
and encouraged to attend.**

We are assisting Anderson as a Western Zone sister congregation!

Jean Dombi has once again offered to drive our bus for those who prefer to travel as a group, to *meet at ESLC, by 7:30 Mar 8th; first-come availability.*

Seth + Top Dog have also registered. Bring a friend along...!

Registration forms are on the white table in the narthex. For more information please contact Kathy Bergeson at [**bergesonemail@gmail.com**](mailto:bergesonemail@gmail.com)

Comfort Dog News

We are enjoying more and more visits to Clemson recently since the University has discovered Seth! We often visit Fikes Recreation Center during exam time and recently have been asked to visit the Cooper Learning Commons library once a month. Time and time again, we hear how much these students miss their own dogs, their families and hometown friends. We hope bringing Seth will ease any homesickness or stress that these young people may be experiencing. As we visit, we share Seth's business card and often mention his Bible verse (Philippians 4:6-7) which is so appropriate as these young adults navigate life away from home, complete stressful studies/projects, and often experience loneliness. We are so thankful God has opened this door for us to share His light to these students. We never know how God is at work in their lives, so we just go and share His love and leave the rest up to Him!

"Let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

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



Clemson University Fikes Recreation Center

PRAYER SHAW MINISTRY

Do you know people that would benefit from the gift of a prayer shawl? There are so many people that need this loving gift that are not receiving them. **WE NEED YOUR HELP IN GIVING THESE PRAYER SHAWLS!** Anyone can receive a prayer shawl; they do not need to be a member of Eternal Shepherd.

These prayer shawls come in many different color and styles. While these garments are being made, they are prayed over – praying that they will bring comfort and a feeling that God personally cares for them, etc.

The prayer shawls are available through a self-service kiosk which is available in the fellowship hall by the closets. You will see a prayer shawl displayed. We request that you select a prayer shawl of your choice from the two bins, then you will enter your name, the date, and the person that you will be giving it to on the sign up sheet above the bins. You do not need anyone's permission to give them.

Four prayer shawls were given last month and we have given over 200 prayer shawls since this program begun. The people that have received them are listed under the sign-up sheet. There are 17 prayer shawls available to be given.

If you have any questions, please see Sue Hauser.



Wrapped in Love



*Every loving stitch contains a special prayer—
that you will feel God's comfort and His peace,
and know you are always in His care.*



Update on Haiti

I just received an email from Pastor Walta regarding a very serious situation in the Port au Prince area and how he was able to direct the group of girls to safety in the Central Plateau and the safe house at Laotchikit – very close to Pas Bonbon. The gangs break into homes at gunpoint and steal what others have, rape the women and young girls, and killing is a common form of “comply or die”. When Pastor Phil and I were in the Central Plateau, we delivered the quilts from ESLC and helped set up the frame beds and mattress for the girls “safe house”. That safe house had 12 beds and was expanding. They somehow managed to bring in the girls from Port au Prince this week and give them peace, comfort, food, and fellowship. They will attend school and church as long as it takes for the country to get back in order, or until their families can join them in the safety of the Central Plateau. The picture below is from our visit to Laotchikit delivering the beds, and quilts to the girl’s safe house. The restroom with plumbing is now completed, the accommodations increased substantially. When I get more information on this serious situation, I will put it on the Narthex TV Monitor.



A special Thank You to everyone at Eternal Shepherd for the support shown during the recent congregational meeting. The \$9,000.00 from the 2024 excess funds will go to Trinity Hope to help subsidize the feeding of the 320 children at Pas Bonbon. The meal cost has increased to 38 cents per meal largely as the result of getting the supplies from the United States to the Central Plateau.

**The Operation Christmas Child
Foothills-SC Area Team
Invites you to a
Celebration and Beyond the Box Event**

God has moved in a mighty way in the Carolinas, and we have seen many moments where He has done “immeasurably more beyond what we can ask or imagine”!

Come join us as we take you **Beyond the Box** to hear the first-hand stories of how God is working through Operation Christmas Child in proclaiming the gospel to children worldwide!

Date: Friday, March 14, 2025

Time: 6:30 – 8:30pm

**Location: Crosspoint Church
1019 Tiger Blvd, Clemson, Room 145**

RSVP: JudithPEdwards@outlook.com

**For any questions, please contact: Judy Edwards
Light Refreshments will be served**



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.*

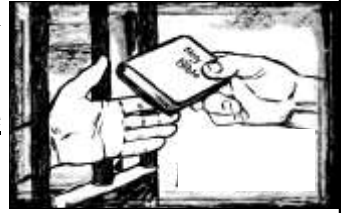


Scrip Cards are available and make great gifts as well as earn money for Eternal Shepherd at the same time.

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.*



DETENTION CENTER MINISTRY: The next prison ministry will be at 11am on Sat., March 15th at the Oconee County Detention Center in Walhalla. Life Reference Bibles will be handed out on Friday, March 14th. **Attention Cookie Bakers:** As in the past we would like to provide the inmates with a bag of 4 cookies along with devotions on Saturday. As of the last head count provided there were 92 inmates at the prison. **This would require 30 dozen cookies.** If you can help out, please let Ann Miller (8646378353) know along with how many cookies you plan to make. They will need to be bagged in baggies with 4 cookies each. All cookies will need to be at the Church no later than 10:00 am on Saturday March 15th. *Thank you so much for your help and your support of this ministry. If you are interested in serving our Lord in this important ministry, or have any questions please contact Ann Miller at (864) 637-8353 or asjohn315@gmail.com. ~Thank you*



FEEDING THE HUNGRY MINISTRY

Our next Feeding the Hungry Ministry Event is Saturday, March 29th. To prepare for this event, we need 4-8 volunteers to help assemble the sandwiches and pack the lunches. We will meet at church in the Fellowship Hall at 7pm on Friday 3/28/2025. It will take approximately one hour to complete this task. Then on Saturday, 3/29/2025, we will need 4-6 volunteers to assist with the delivery, set-up, and handout of the lunches to the Our Daily Bread home. We need to be there by 11am. If you would like to volunteer for either of these times, please call Mark Kunkel at (248) 766-8002 and let me know? *Thank you for your support!*



FOOD BANK NEWS: Please help us in collecting preferred needed canned, or boxed grocery items each month to help restock the Golden Corner Food Pantry's shelves. **March's** preferred product is "**Canned Tuna**" (Please place your items in the containers marked Food Bank down by the Fellowship Hall). *~Thank you for your generosity and support.*



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 March

3/2 — ?

3/9 — Mary Ann McKay

3/16 — ?

3/23 — ?

3/30 — ?



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 Hesemann

March Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 - David Broderdorf
Pastor David
Hammer | 15 - Sue Watson
24 – Monica Del Priore
Joyce Krueger |
| 3 - Rocki Van Heusen | 25 – Lou Jolley |
| 7 – Alan Van Heusen | 29 – Wayne Gugel |
| 8 – Lois Helland
Robin Yoffee | 30 – Michele Schaefer |
| 10 – Scottie
Fredrickson | |
| 13 – Carol King | |
| 14 – Cyra Phelan
Lexi Presley
Jack Presley | |



March Anniversaries

- 1 – Ben & Lynne Smith
- 9 – Don & Evelyn Seigler
- 21 - John & Cindy Munro
- 23 - Derrick & Barbara Fischer
- 30 - Scott & Debbie Krueger



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

In January the following gifts were given:

**In loving memory of *Bill Findlay*
the Memorial Fund received a gift of \$48.13**

**In loving memory of *Rick Kruse*
the Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$100.00,
and the Honduras Helping Hands Fund received a gift of \$25.00**

**In loving memory of *Herb Schmidt*
the Choir Fund received a gift of \$100.00**

Other Gifts:

The Church Bus Fund received a gift of \$100.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$1,910.18

The Disaster Response Team Fund received gifts of \$1,967.20

The Elders Fund received a gift of \$150.00

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$344.86

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

The Haiti Mission Fund received a gift of \$200.00

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$655.00

**The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received a gift of \$96.71,
and the LLP C.A.R.E. Scholarship Fund received a gift of \$25.00**

The Lutheran Witness Magazine Fund received gifts of \$115.00

The LWML Fund received a gift of \$50.00

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

The Safety Committee Fund received a gift of \$48.13

The Toys for God's Kids Fund received gifts of \$300.00

The Youth Fund received a gift of \$125.00 for the National Gathering

Little Lambs Tales

*"See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."
Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

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

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

As always Dr. Seuss Day is on March 2nd and we will spend the first week of March celebrating everything Dr. Seuss. We will have Silly Sock Day, Whacky Wednesday, Green Eggs and Ham Day (even sample some green eggs)!



Our school will be closed March 17-21 for Spring Break!

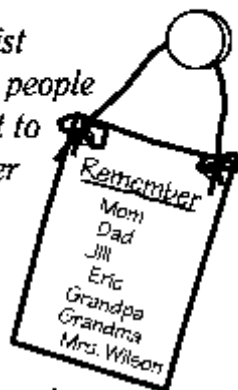
As always we appreciate your continued support and prayers for this ministry of our church!

Blessings to you and your families!
Gina



Make a Prayer List

Make a list of all the people you want to remember in your prayers.



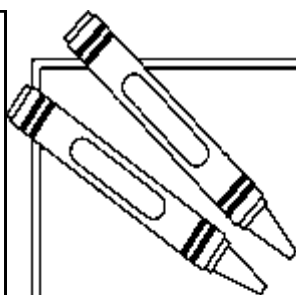
You will need:

- piece of poster board (approx. 9" x 12")
- markers or crayons
- yarn or ribbon (approx. 10")
- paper-punch

How to make it:

- Punch a hole in the top corners of the cardboard.
- Tie the ribbon or yarn to the holes to make a hanger.
- Write the names of people you care about on the cardboard.
- Decorate with markers or crayons.

Hang your list near your bed, so you can see it when you say your prayers at night.



Just for **KIDS**

Jesus Teaches Us to Pray

In Luke 11 Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

"Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

In the puzzle below, find and circle the words from the prayer above. (Note: If a word is in the prayer more than one time, it is used only once in the puzzle.) → ↓

G	K	A	G	A	I	N	S	T	D	T	O
I	U	F	O	R	D	F	A	T	H	E	R
V	D	A	Y	E	A	C	H	S	T	W	W
E	A	I	B	E	N	L	S	C	E	G	S
H	I	O	R	E	S	E	Y	O	M	H	F
O	L	U	K	V	I	A	O	M	P	A	O
U	Y	S	I	E	N	D	U	E	T	L	R
R	B	N	N	R	S	N	R	A	A	L	G
W	R	O	G	Y	S	A	A	L	T	O	I
H	E	T	D	O	B	M	N	S	I	W	V
O	A	W	O	N	O	E	D	O	O	E	E
F	D	E	M	E	I	N	T	O	N	D	B

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