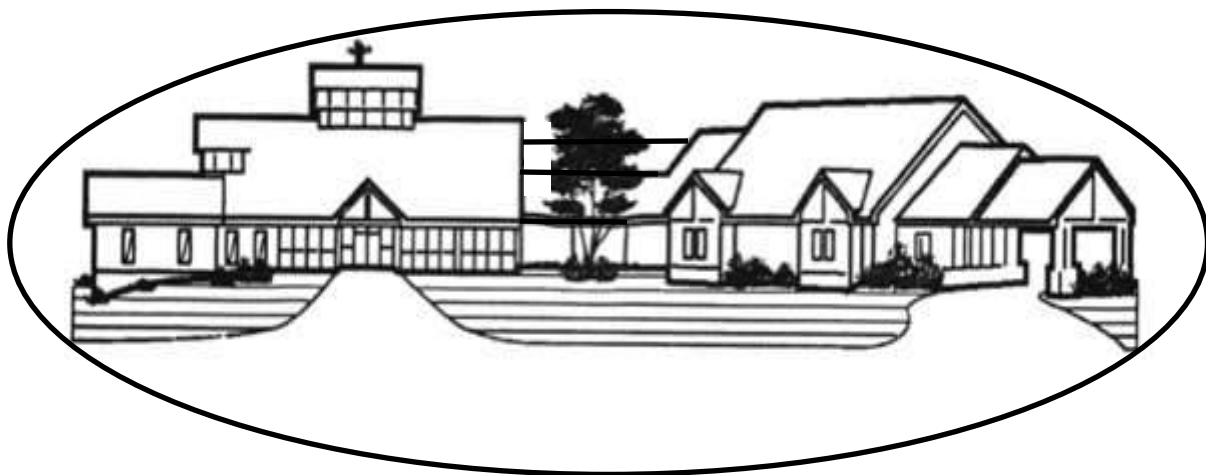

Agapegram

August 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

2025 SERVICE NUMBERS

 **MERCY MEALS 160,704**

6,700 RESOURCE KITS  **567**

 **PEOPLE SERVING OFFSITE 3,380**

2,000 BACKPACKS & HEALTH KITS  **PINTS**

 **652 INCHES OF HAIR DONATED**

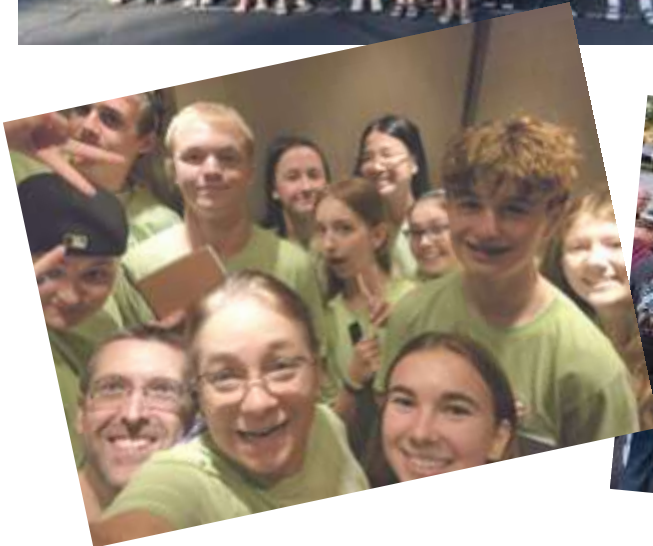
BRaille BOOKS MADE 320+ 

 **450 DIAPERS SEWN**



ENDURE
2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING
HEBREWS 12:1-3

The Gathering group is back!
Ask a youth about their time in
New Orleans learning how we
ENDURE in Jesus!



One Step Closer Signposts On The Way To Heaven (Elder's Journey)

Hoarding For Heaven

Sign
Post #4

One day our daughter asked....

"Why am I keeping all this stuff? Am I a hoarder?"

Dear daughter, you may be a hoarder,
but I suspect the "stuff" you are hoarding is a physical memory.

- The Dutch wooden shoe.
- The marathon ribbon.
- Five baby dolls.
- The space blanket that went to the top of the mountain.
- The tear jar from the Holy Land.

The value is not in the object, the value is in the memory.

Our house is full of 70+ years of memories.

Why are we keeping this Mackinaw Island Foot Patch?

It makes us smile and reminds us of family Labor Day Bridge walks.

Why are we keeping these old hiking boots?

They remind us of our honeymoon hike in the Porcupine Mountains.

Why is there a Bible on the table?

It's grandma's Bible. It reminds me of a woman of faith who kneaded home made bread and shared precious Bible stories with her grandson.

Why is there a cross on the wall?

It reminds me of my eternal hope for my heavenly home.

Physical "stuff" that connects us with both our past and our future.

Pray With Me (cjbluhm@gmail.com):

Dear Father,

Thank you that, because of Jesus, we can look towards heaven, knowing we have been given the gift of eternal life. As we leave our earthly memories behind, prepare us for the heavenly treasures that await us. Help us to lead others to look towards heaven, too, by inviting them to accept the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION: On Sunday, August 3rd during the late service we will Recognize Deaconess Holly Cox's 10 years of service. A Potluck Luncheon will Follow in the Fellowship Hall. Barbeque sandwiches will be provided, **please bring your favorite side dish. No Desserts please**, a celebration cake will be provided.





Deaconess' Musings

No Good Found...Except in Christ

*Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my LORD;
I have no good apart from you." ~Psalm 16:1-2*

Often times we find ourselves unsure. Unsure of the world. Unsure of our nation. Unsure of ourselves. Unsure of what is yet to come. Unsure of _____ (you fill it in). We feel the need to find assurance in things, people, places, and experiences claiming to solve all our problems and fears. We take actions that further seek to find confidence in ourselves, and to rely on personal feelings and thoughts as justification. And the result? We fail. Time and time again. That once shining and gleaming assurance turns to rotten and rusty despair or pride. And the vicious cycle begins again.

However, David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, writes in the psalm that in the Lord alone is found refuge and good. That sure and certain confidence we yearn for is found in the Lord, in Christ alone. Turning away from our idols of others, things, and ourselves, we see our failings and sins against our God. In His gracious mercy, our God does not leave us mired in the deep pit of our sin. Christ stoops down and picks us up, dusts us off, and proclaims the words we need to hear the most, "Your sins are forgiven. You are mine. I died for you. I rose for you. I will keep you forever."

That, my brothers and sisters, is sure confidence. Your faith, given to you in your baptism and sustained by Holy Communion, is in that same Christ. In no other place is your confidence found. He upholds your faith, strengthens it, and keeps it firm. Do not doubt it. For if Christ, our Creator and Redeemer, promises to keep you, it is done. Finalized over two-thousand years ago across the sea.

There is no good apart from Christ. But in Him, there is the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. Amen.



~Deaconess Holly

Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child



You're Invited!

Date: Friday, September 12, 2025
Time: 6:30 – 8:30pm
Location: Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church, 220 Carson Road, Seneca SC
RSVP: Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to fill out the RSVP form.*
***RSVP deadline is September 1st.**



Join us at this free event for Project Leaders and everyone who loves Operation Christmas Child and shoeboxes! Hear from the Foothills-SC Area Team about important OCC updates, participate in a mock shoebox distribution, and hear about a member's vision trip to Africa. **Dinner is included, and shoeboxes will be given to each church, community group, school, and individual who attends.**

We look forward to seeing you!

~ The Foothills-SC Area OCC Team

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DATES TO REMEMBER:

Aug. 10th - Assembling Toiletry bags in the Fellowship Hall following late service.

Aug. 17th - Assembling School Supply Bags in the Fellowship Hall following late service.

Please join us as many hands make light work!

Thank you, Terri Baumann and the OCC Committee

Comfort Dog News

Seth and 9 members of his team recently returned from the Lutheran Church Charities 2025 K9 Comfort Dog Conference July 16-18 held in Northbrook, Illinois and what a wonderful event it was! We were joined by close to 100 K9's and their teams and the Hilton hotel was brimming with excitement and beautiful goldens! The theme verse was "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." Isaiah 40:1. We learned not only how to comfort others but also how to receive God's comfort for ourselves when the hurts of this world overwhelm us. For me, it was just the right mix of learning, caring, comfort, and refreshment for my soul. I think I can speak for all 9 of us, that the keynote speakers were amazing, the breakout sessions informative and the worship uplifting. All around, it was a blessing indeed!

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



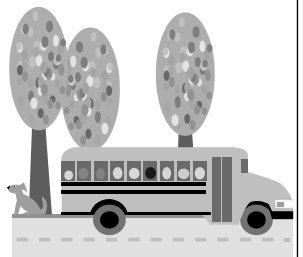
All the attendees at the conference!

continued next page...



Seth and his team!

CAUTION—PLEASE NOTE—Little Lambs Preschool
classes will begin Tuesday, August 12th. Please make sure
to drive slowly when driving around the church between
the hours of 8:00 am and 12:00 pm Monday through
Friday. Thank you for helping keep our Littlest Lambs safe.



Honduras Mission News

It's that time again folks, time to pray about God calling you to go and serve in Honduras with our ESLC Mission Team. This has become an annual trek to that country to bring a small measure of relief to a people who have very little and who have no means to find help other than that which is brought by teams such as ours. While your participation with the mission team will be a great blessing to the people of Honduras, you will also find that your life will be greatly blessed as well. If you would be interested in being part of such a mission please contact John Cochell or Pastor Ray Ramsburg for more information.

This year's mission is scheduled for Feb. 21 to 28, 2026.

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



Pas Bonbon Summer in Haiti



The picture above is a trio singing How Great Thou Art – In English. The school we support continues to exceed all expectations. These children – 320 in number, continue school during the summer. They have a mix of French and Creole language, and now learning English. Each morning they sing the Apostles Creed in Creole and their studies focus on Jesus.

The Ministry of the Month in August is our Mission Committee and there will be pictures and videos on the Narthex TV as well as posters showing our various missions. Our Mission in Haiti includes the monthly salary of the staff, the Trinity HOPE Feeding program, and making sure each student has a copy of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, in both French and Creole. The schools in Haiti are under the leadership of Pastor Walta, and the list of schools is incredible. The Lutheran Church in Haiti is in fellowship with the LCMS. The country is extremely poor, and the government remains in chaos. The staff members not only support their immediate family, they are also the support for their extended family – mother, father, and siblings.

Each day the school children give thanks for us, Eternal Shepherd, for our generosity and encouragement. Yes, ESLC is blessed to be a blessing. Thank You!

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. Included in this is now the "Melamine Dishes".

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

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, Walmart and Food Lion 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:

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



ESLC CARD CART

Come check out our new assortment of cards.

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.



Hospitality Happenings for August

8/3 — Bob & Teri Massa

8/10 — Paul & Susan Sherman

8/17 — Norm & Delane Dukes

8/24 — Kerry & Sue Blount

8/31— The Presley Family



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

August Birthdays

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 – Bruce Overby
Jeff Williams | 15 – Rev. George Coffman
Emily Compton |
| 2 – Rob Reese
Marie Schmidt
Laura Scott | Rick Lucas |
| 3 - Barbara Fisher
Alice Ramsburg | 16 – Nicole Beattie
Beverly Zwahlen |
| 4 – Amelia Bunning
Cassidy Ray | 17 – Nancy Hucker |
| 5 – Delane Dukes
Glenda Krabbe
Rev. Phil McLain | 18 - Neal Beck |
| 6 - Joshua Madden | 19 – Lois Kieninger |
| 8 – Phyllis Wells | 20 – Dian Opfer |
| 10 – Bobbi Hagler
Joshua Hammer | 21 – Amanda Wolber |
| 11 – Tracy Keefer | 24 – Alec Todd
Denise Zirbel |
| 12 – Bryan Beerman | 27 - Matt Wilson |
| 13 - Carlos Hagler | 28 – Mac McCrary
Matt Wells |
| 14 - Ginger Barthel
Steve Christensen | 29 – Christian Getchell |
| | 30 – Lauren Alexander
Jason Stupke
Ray Wyatt |



August Anniversaries

- 3 – Bill & Joanne Smith
4 – Norman & Delane Dukes
6 – Jerry & Charlene Seiff
7 – Joe & Carol Nicholson
9 - John & Tracy Cochell
Leo & Amy Rebholz
12 -Wayne & Sara Gugel
Jim & Beverly Zwahlen
13 -Gary & Patty Smith
20 - Mike & Laura Scott
21 - Bill & Ginger Barthel
Gary & Lisa Lehmann
Jim & Jody McKibben
23 – Jon & Barbara Wilken
28 – Frank & Lois Kieninger
31 – Jim & Janet Walker



SPECIAL GIFTS/MEMORIALS

In June the following gifts were given:



**In loving memory of *Westly Tramble*
the Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$445.00**

**In loving memory of *Len Woike*
the Disaster Response Fund received a gift of \$500.00**

Other Gifts:

The Alaska Missions Fund received a gift of \$175.00

The Comfort Dog Ministry Fund received gifts of \$813.05

The Disaster Response Team Fund received gifts of \$525.00

The Elders Fund received gifts of \$1,198.36

The Food Bank Fund received gifts of \$743.73

The Foothills Care Center Baby Bottle Drive received gifts of \$1,704.27

**The General Fund received a gift of \$800.00 from Blessings Shared Grant,
and a gift of \$227.75 from DAFgiving 360 Grant,
and a gift \$30.00 from Thrivent Choice**

The Haiti Missions Fund received gifts of \$493.98

The Honduras Mission Fund received gifts of \$275.00

**The Little Lambs Preschool Fund received gifts of \$197.14,
and gifts of \$49.06 for the LLP C.A.R.E. Scholarship Fund**

The Operation Christmas Child Fund received gifts of \$1,070.00

The Property Contingency Fund received a gift of \$2,100.00

The Safety Committee Fund received a gift of \$48.13

**The Youth Fund received a gift of \$500.00,
and gifts of \$404.15 for the National Gathering**

Little Lambs Tales

*“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”
Proverbs 22:6*

As we enter another school year at Little Lambs Preschool, we are reminded of this verse that has been the foundation of the preschool ministry of Eternal Shepherd Lutheran Church. Our desire is to instill in these little children the love of Jesus and share with them the story of our salvation in Christ. We know that this foundation in faith will carry them throughout their lives, in the good times and the bad.

Below are some important dates to be aware of as we start this new school year.

August 5th-8th Teacher Work Days

August 11th : Open House 5:00-6:30pm

August 12th: First day of school

Just a reminder that Little Lambs Preschool operates Monday through Friday from 8:30am until 11:30am. Please remember to drive slowly through the parking lot as our little children are often outdoors playing.

Do you shop at Ingles? Do you use a printer? If so, you can help our school! Connect your Ingles card to Little Lambs Preschool. You can do this by signing the sheet that will be at Celeste's Desk.

Please be aware that you must sign up for the Ingles Tools for Schools Program every year.

When your printer cartridge runs empty, bring it to the church and you will find a box to place those in on the wooden stand across from the open stairwell in the narthex. It is amazing how these little things that you can do can be such a benefit to our preschool program!!

Most especially, we ask for your prayers as we begin this school year. We appreciate all the support you continue to give us and know that it is because of this that Little Lambs Preschool continues to thrive!



Blessings in Christ,
Gina

Make a Postcard Puzzle



*What adventures
did you have this summer?
Share your travels with your
friends and family.*

Here's what you need:

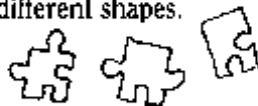
A postcard or picture from
your summer adventures

- pencil or pen
- scissors
- envelope
- pieces of paper



Here's how to make it:

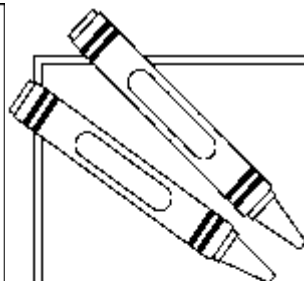
1. Cut your postcard or
picture into 8 or 10 pieces
of different shapes.



2. On a piece of paper, write
a note telling about your trip
or draw a picture of your
favorite part of your summer.

3. Put the puzzle pieces and
the note into an envelope.

4. Mail or give the envelope
to a friend or family mem-
ber. If you need to mail
it, make sure you have the
right address and the correct
postage stamp. (A grownup
can help.)



Just for

KIDS

Postcards from Paul

The Apostle Paul went on many
journeys. He wrote many letters
to his friends and to churches he
had visited.



▶▶▶▶▶ Unscramble the letters to find
some of the places Paul visited

WORD BANK

ANTIOCH
ATHENS

CYPRUS
EPHESUS

TARSUS
ROME

PERGA
PHILIPPI

CORINTH
ICONIUM

G R E A P H I P L I P P I C H A N T I O

— — — — — □ — — — — — ○ — — — — — △ — — — — —

R I O T C H N S E S H U E P Y U S C P R

— — — — — ↑ — — — — — ♡ — — — — — ♥ — — — — —

M O N I C U R U S S A T

— — — — — ○ — — — — — ☆ — — — — —

T H E N A S M E O R

— — — — — ♣ — — — — — — — — — — ▽ — — — — —



What did Paul do on his journeys?

“ — — — — — the kingdom of God, and
— — — — — those things which concern the
— — — — — Lord Jesus Christ”
— Acts 28:31, *KJV*

Answers: PERGA, PHILIPPI, ANTIOCH, CORINTH, EPHESUS, CYPRUS,
ICONIUM, TARSUS, ATHENS, ROME, PREACHING, TEACHING

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