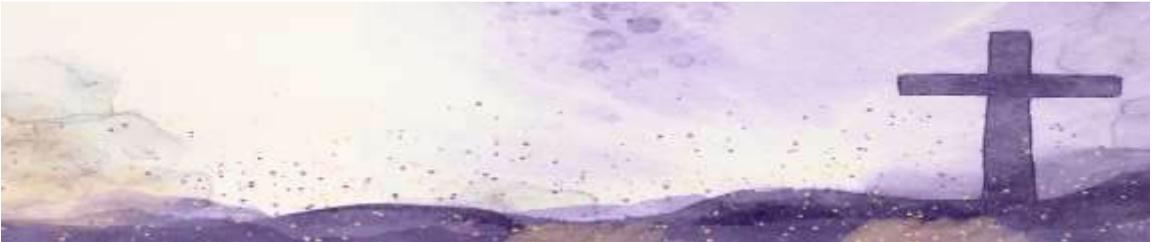


---

# Agapegram

---

March 2026



ETERNAL SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

220 Carson Road

Seneca, South Carolina 29678

[www.eternalshepherd.org](http://www.eternalshepherd.org)

[office@eternalshepherd.org](mailto:office@eternalshepherd.org)

Office: 864-882-3209 or 864-882-5512

Little Lambs Preschool: 864-882-3202



## For Us

*He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24 EHV*

Some reflections upon our Lenten series this year:

Some hymns tell a story, others teach, and still others create pictures in our minds of the great works of God. Some hymns do all three, weaving together a tapestry that is beautiful yet simple, wondrous yet easy to understand.

**“O Love, How Deep”** (*LSB* 544) is that kind of hymn.

It was written in the fifteenth century by an unknown follower of the *Devotio moderna*, or **“Modern Devotion.”** **This movement started in the Netherlands in the fourteenth century.** The most notable followers of this movement were probably Thomas á Kempis and Erasmus of Rotterdam. The clearest expression of this movement was a monastic order for both laity and clergy called the Brethren of the Common Life. Martin Luther himself was influenced by this movement, so it is a part of our history as Christians of the Lutheran Confessions.

During the Middle Ages, many Christians followed the life of Christ, who **was the focal point for their piety and prayers. Beginning with our Lord’s birth, Jesus’ life is traced all the way to the cross and the resurrection. Sometimes** emphasis is on the penitence of the Christians, but the very best of this kind of poetry points us to Jesus as the one who serves, saves, and continues to give us His salutary gifts.

**The series hymn “O Love, How Deep” was originally a twenty-three-stanza poem.** In the nineteenth century, an Anglican cleric named Benjamin Webb translated the hymn into English and then chose six stanzas for use in English hymnody. The doxological stanza was added later.

Although it does not appear in the first stanza, the most pointed and beautiful language in the hymn is expressed in the phrase “for us.” The phrase, which is *pro nobis* in Latin, is reminiscent of the language of the Nicene Creed: “Who *for us men* and for our salvation came down from heaven.”

“For us” is not simply a pithy line to use because it is easy to repeat. It is a confession of who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand *why* God would send His Son to die for us.

The phrase “for us” also captures much of the Reformation’s theological emphasis—and Luther’s understanding of Scripture in particular. Luther went from searching for a righteous God and finding only stern rebuke to seeing God in the form of a little baby and as the one who became one of us *for us* so that we might become like Him.

*Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.* 1 Peter 3:18 EHV

*Pastor David*





## *Deaconess' Musings*



### *An Uncomplaining Sacrifice*

*When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation. (Psalm 91:15-16)*

**A Lamb goes uncomplaining forth, the guilt of sinners bearing and, laden with the sins of earth, none else the burden sharing; goes patient on, grows weak and faint, to slaughter led without compliant, that spotless life to offer, He bears the stripes, the wounds, the lies, the mockery, and yet replies, “All this I gladly suffer.” (A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth LSB 438, stanza 1)**

*Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. (Psalm 91:9-10)*

**This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, the Lamb of God, our Savior, whom God the Father chose to send to gain for us His favor. “Go forth, My Son,” the Father said, “And free my children from their dread of guilt and condemnation. The wrath and stripes are hard to bear, but by Your passion they will share the fruit of Your salvation.” (LSB 438, stz. 2)**

*For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, let you strike your foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:11-12)*

**“Yes, Father, yes, most willingly I'll bear what You command Me. My will conforms to Your decree, I'll do what You have asked Me.” O wondrous Love, what have You done! The Father offers up His Son, desiring our salvation. O Love, how strong You are to save! You lay the One into the grave who built the earth's foundation. (LSB 438, stz. 3)**

*You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. (Psalm 91:13)*

**Lord, when Your glory I shall see and taste Your kingdom's pleasure, Your blood my royal robe shall be, my joy beyond all measure! When I appear before Your throne, Your righteousness shall be my crown; with these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought, as Your own bride shall we be brought to stand in joy beside You. (LSB 438, stz. 4)**

*When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation. (Psalm 91:15-16)*

**O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*~Collect for the First Sunday in Lent*

As we begin these Forty Days of Lent, may the Father grant us peace and a renewed spirit to continuously seek after His grace and mercy, bought with the Son's sacrifice and resurrection, and granted to us by the Holy Spirit by faith.

*~Deaconess Holly*

# **Lent/Easter Service Schedule**

## **Midweek Lenten Suppers at 5:45pm**

**February 25**

**Hosted by The Comfort Dog Team**

**March 4th**

**Hosted by The Elders**

**March 11th**

**Hosted by The Youth**

**March 18th**

**Hosted by The LWML**

**March 25th**

**Hosted by the Honduras Mission Team**

## **Midweek Lenten Services**

**Ash Wednesday Feb. 18th -7:00pm**

**Feb. 25th - 7:00pm**

**March 4th - 7:00pm**

**March 11th -7:00pm**

**March 18th - 7:00pm**

**March 25th - 7:00pm**

**Palm Sunday March 29th**

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

**Maundy Thursday Service April 2nd - 7:00pm**

**Good Friday Tenebrae Service April 3rd - 7:00 pm**

**Easter Sunday April 5th**

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

**9:45 am Easter Breakfast hosted by ESLC Youth**

## ESLC EASTER PRAYER VIGIL



Whether you pray aloud or silently, using the provided materials and prayers or your own personal petitions, or simply sit and contemplate the great sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prayer Vigil provides you opportunity for reflection and an additional enrichment of your Lenten devotional life.

**The Vigil begins immediately following the Good Friday evening service (around 8pm) and continues without interruption until 7:00am on Easter Morning.**

**A sign-up sheet, with one hour time slots, will be in the Narthex on Sunday, March 30th, and you may sign-up as individuals, couples, groups/families.** If you would like petitions to be offered confidentially on your behalf, prayer requests will also be near the sign-up sheet. **Please submit your requests prior to the Maundy Thursday evening service.** Time slots fill up quickly, so reserve your preferred time slot as soon as possible.

## Comfort Dog News

We were so happy we could attend the Southeastern District (SED) of the LCMS Disaster Response Conference with Seth early February in Myrtle Beach. We were invited by the district to share how the LCC Comfort Dogs can be the “comfort” team for those who have suffered or lost much after a crisis or disaster. We were joined by Zoara Comfort Dog and her handlers, Cathy Beste and Lorie Smith, from Island Lutheran Church, Hilton Head Island. Together, we not only shared the ministry with attendees but also offered a bit of downtime comfort and love when participants needed a break. We were blessed to receive a “Certificate of Appreciation” from the SED following our service in the communities of Asheville following Hurricane Helene.

We were so proud to come alongside our own Disaster Response team and together as a group, we represented Eternal Shepherd well. I think we had the biggest team there. Well, done ESLC! We especially enjoyed hearing about the Ramp Building Ministry as presented by Deek Decker and John Beattie. It was an excellent presentation and sure made us proud of our ramp building team.

As March approaches, our prayers are with Judy Reese, Top Dog for Comfort Dog 2 as she starts canvassing the congregation for potential team members and holds meetings to discern interest. This will be an ongoing process that God will lead us through. If you are interested in joining the next team or just want to learn more about the Comfort Dog Ministry, you may contact her at 618-980-1134 or email her at [topdog2eslc.com](mailto:topdog2eslc.com)

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grant you His peace, love, and comfort during the Lenten season.

To God be the Glory,  
*Kyra Carbone, Top Dog*



## **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

We give thanks for the great participation in the Voters' Assembly meeting last month. Would you consider donating some of your time to fulfill some of ESLC service needs?

The JOBS, Joyous Opportunities for Believers, lists new and continuing chances to serve with in the Eternal Shepherd family. If you would consider filling any of the positions, please contact the person identified for additional information. One reason that Eternal Shepherd is such a great community of believers is because of all the service that we freely give within the church and in the community. Thank you for seriously considering fulfilling some of our needs.

Sue Hauser, Stewardship

### **Eternal Shepherd J.O.B. Board Joyous Opportunities for Believers**

#### **Ushers and Readers.**

If you are interested in servicing during worship services, please contact the church office at 864-882-3209 or email [office@eternalshepherd.org](mailto:office@eternalshepherd.org).

#### **Handicap Ramp Building Assistance**

If you like to build things, please join the team that builds ramps throughout the community. Please contact Deek Decker at 864-356-2135 for more information..

#### **Church Website Webmaster**

The webmaster manages and maintains the Eternal Shepherd's website. Key responsibilities include ensuring that the site is running smoothly, updating contents, maintaining security and troubleshooting technical issue. Please contact Pastor Hammer or Terri Baumann at 864-882-3209.

#### **Little Lambs Preschool**

If you have an accounting or bookkeeping background and would like to assist the preschool , please contact Jon Tyner at 513-600-1329 for more information.

#### **Property Management Volunteers**

If you are concerned about the upkeep and maintenance of the church facility and property, please consider assisting with special projects or on as need basis. Please contact Paul Sherman at 864-602-3262 for more information.

#### **Altar Care Members**

Serve as a member of the Altar Care team. Timeframe is one month a year and training is provided.. The main duties include preparing the altar before the service and changing paraments during the assigned month. Please contact Tracy Cochell at 404-433-7338 for more information..

## **Eternal Shepherd J.O.B. Board Joyous Opportunities for Believers**

### **Hospitality Members**

If you like cook or entertain, please join the team that assists in the kitchen preparing food for various church functions, please contact Colleen Hesemann at 864-784-0421.

### **Toys for Gods Kids Volunteers**

Help is needed in cutting out the car bodies using a scroll saw or band saw. If this is something that you would like to do, please contact Pastor Ray Ramsburg at 904-583-1214 or Mike Hauser at 864-719-0474 for more information.-

### **Christian Outreach Volunteers**

If you are interested in evangelism and charitable services within our community, please consider joining this team. Please contact Ann Miller at 864-637-8353.

## **ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING!**

Learn English Country Dancing taught by Evie Hammer and Jocelyn Johnsonwall in the fellowship hall. This is a social dance that is taught and walked through by a caller where you are in lines or circles while walking, skipping, and doing simple turns. It is traditionally danced with couple pairs who are sorted into groups or circles.

**Times:** 6:30-8pm.

**Dates:** Thursdays: Mar 5 & 19, Apr 9 & 23, May 7 & 21

On May 21st we will have our final dance with a potluck to celebrate. All ages and skill levels invited! We cannot wait to see you there!

- Evie and Jocelyn

## **Music and Worship Committee Information**

The Music and Worship Committee invites interested members to serve as ushers. This role is an important part of our ministry to the congregation, helping to create a welcoming and orderly worship experience. A handbook outlining the guidelines is provided, and the Elder Liaison to the committee is available to offer individual guidance and support.

In addition, we are seeking additional readers for both worship services. Proclaiming God's Word is a vital and meaningful part of each service. Readers are given advance notice, and we are happy to assist anyone who would like more information or encouragement in this role. Our congregation is strengthened through the generous sharing of time and talents by our members. We prayerfully encourage you to consider how you might serve in these important ministries.

# THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN A FINANCIAL SEMINAR AT ESLC!

We want to make sure that we have enough interest to justify the time and energy required by the presenters to put on this seminar since the last two seminars were poorly attended.

If you are interested, please answer this short questionnaire using the displayed QR code or this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SDTMQBB>

to help us determine the interest level and the topics you would like to have covered. Thank you! ~ Sue Hauser, Stewardship.



Thrivent Financial  
"Choice Dollars"

## ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!

Now is the time to direct your **Choice Dollars** to the charity of your choice. Thrivent allows donations to thousands of charities including Eternal Shepherd. You have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to donate these funds as you prefer. If you received an email, all you have to do is click on the 'log in to direct' box and it will bring you to the Direct Now screen, or you can log into your Thrivent account to donate or call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and specify your Thrivent Choice.

**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 "**Tuna**" (Please place your items in the containers marked Food Bank down by the Fellowship Hall).  
~Thank you for your generosity and support.



## Feed The Hungry Dates in 2026

Saturday, January 17

Saturday, April 11

Saturday, July 11

Saturday, October 10

Please add these dates to your calendar and remember that we will also need cookie bakers for those dates as well. If you would like to volunteer please call Mark Kunkel at (248)766-8002. Thank you

## **DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT COULD USE A PRAYER SHAWL?**

Remember that the members of ESLC – namely YOU – are helping us to distribute 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 colors and styles. While these garments are being created, the knitter/crocheter prays for the person who will receive the prayer shawls, praying that they will bring comfort and a feeling that God cares about them personally, that He will be there to sustain them, and that they can bring all their concerns to God and He will hear them. We all know that God will hear our prayers whenever and wherever we pray, but sometimes when one is ill or in a difficult situation, it is nice to have a tangible object for assurance.

There are two types of prayer shawls – the regular prayer shawl and a small pocket size prayer shawl that you can carry in your pocket or purse. You can give either kind; whatever you feel is more appropriate. If you would like a pocket prayer shawl for yourself, please choose one.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is provided through a self-service kiosk which is available in the fellowship hall in plastic bins along the far closet wall. We request that if you select a full size prayer shawl that you enter your name, the date, and the person that you give it to on the sign out sheet. Behind the sign-out sheet is a list to people that have already received prayer shawls – above 200. If you select a pocket prayer shawl, no sign out is needed.

We request that if you give the prayer shawl in person, that you pray with them as you give it.

If you are interested in creating these prayer shawls (which can be created at home) or donating yarn or have any questions, please contact Sue Hauser.

## **COMING MARCH 17th**

Nicole Beattie will be teaching a *Red Cross Infant/Child First Aid and Stop the Bleed* Class for those interested from 1:00pm - 4:00pm. For more information please contact Nicole Beattie.



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD NEWS



## **The ESLC Operation Christmas Child Committee and The 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 from a Full Circle Speaker from a Hard-to-reach country who received a shoebox when he was a child. Total Shoebox numbers will be shared and you'll hear how God is working through Operation Christmas Child in proclaiming the gospel to children worldwide! Come & be blessed!!

**Date: Friday, April 17, 2026**

**Time: 6:30 – 8:30pm**

**Location: Forthcoming**

**RSVP: [JudithPEdwards@outlook.com](mailto:JudithPEdwards@outlook.com)**

**For any questions, please contact: Judy Edwards**

**Light Refreshments will be served**



**DO YOU WANT TO LEARN HOW TO CROCHET?** Then it's your lucky day! Crochet classes are being offered the hour before the Spring Ladies Bible classes at 1:45 pm, and continuing before each subsequent Spring class. Just arrive early and you will be taught! Sue Hauser will once again share her expertise with us. All crochet hooks and yarn will be supplied. Please let Sue know if you are interested in joining this class or please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you!



**Mark Your Calendar for the Little Lambs Preschool's  
Annual Spaghetti Supper & Auction  
Saturday, April 18, 5:00pm - 7:00pm**



Join us for an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and fundraising! Little Lambs Preschool celebrates 24 years of bringing God's love to the little children in our community. We need your help to continue this important ministry. Come and enjoy a great meal and bid on some incredible auction items! If you have any empty baskets from last year's auction, we would appreciate it if you brought them to the church workroom for recycling in this year's auction.

Look for the Spaghetti Supper order forms in your church mailbox on Sunday, March 8th! All proceeds benefit our littlest lambs.

# 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 2:11-12I*

As we finish 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.

We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss Day on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and spend the entire week engaged in many fun activities surrounding this theme! On Monday our theme is Red Fish Blue Fish and we will all be dressing in red and blue. Tuesday is Silly Sock Day where we will all be wearing some silly socks. Wednesday is Whacky Wednesday and we will be dressed in anything whacky! Thursday is Green Eggs & Ham day and not only will be wearing green but also sampling some home-made green eggs and ham! Friday is Thing 1 Thing 2 Day! This week is always a favorite at our school not only for the students but teachers as well!

Our Spring Program will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be gathering as a school in the Sanctuary at 10:30 where the students will be performing some songs for the preschool families. After the program we will have a light cookie reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Our school will be closed March 16-20 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

### March Birthdays

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

### March Anniversaries

1 - Rob & Judy Reese  
Ben & Lynne Smith  
9 - Don & Evelyn Seigler  
23 - Derrick & Barbara Fisher  
30 - Jim & Cathy Daly  
Scott & Debbie Krueger



## **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: Terri Baumann

Preschool Director: Gina Cote

Choir Director: Rick Schmidt

Choir Accompanist: David Phillips

Organist: David Phillips

## **MISSIONARIES**

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