

GOOD SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



HAPPENING NOW

- Janice Swinford on vacation through June 10
- Two-Can Sunday, June 4
- Give-A-Kid-A – Chance Back Pack Assembly, 9:30 a.m., June 4
- Yarn Angels, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m., June 4
- Needlework Friends, 11 a.m., June 10
- Middle School Mission Trip to Savannah, June 11—16
- Church Council Meeting, 7 p.m., June 13
- Kristin Brenneman on Vacation June 11—16; June 19—28
- Kathy Gunn on vacation, June 14—21
- Youth-Led Services, June 18
- Faith Formation Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., June 19
- Ladies Night Out, 7 p.m., June 20
- VBS Volunteer Meeting, 6 p.m., June 21
- Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m.—Noon, June 26-30

# News You Can “Ewes”

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2017

## Southeastern Synod Assembly *by Paul Christensen*

This year’s ELCA Southeastern Synod assembly took place in Chattanooga, Tennessee over Memorial Day weekend. The assembly brings voting members of its member congregations



together with Synod staff to conduct

*Left to right, Kristin Freeman, Cynthia Christensen, Paul Christensen, Pastor Paul Baumgartner, Debbie Baumgartner*

business, hold workshops, share worship, word, and sacrament, and generally stir up the Holy Spirit! It brings together many speakers, exhibitors, visitors, volunteers, and church members in a whirlwind, real-life example of this year’s assembly theme: “We are church for the sake of the world.”

The first “plenary” (whole group) session began Friday. Sessions included reports on activities of the Synod, resolutions, elections, celebrations, consecrations, and ministry funding - to name only a few topics of business. Every plenary session included prayer and Bible study, and each day of the assembly presented opportunities for meaningful worship and fellowship.

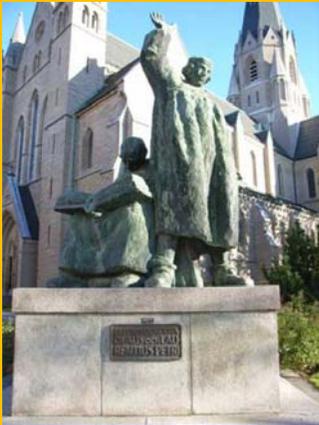
Joining Pastor Paul, GSLC’s lay voting members were Kristen Freeman, and Paul and Cynthia Christensen. Other GSLC members also attended: Trevor Freeman went as a visitor, Debbie Baumgartner volunteered at assembly sessions and was nominated and elected to serve on Synod council, Paulette Alderfer worked as a synod office volunteer, and Michelle Angalet, Assistant to the Bishop, played an important role in planning, preparation, and execution of this year’s assembly, including serving at worship services.

Last year’s assembly declared 2017 the Year for Care for Creation in our Synod; a theme displayed by initiatives and many programs and ways that we can become personally involved in caring for creation. From joining a “Green Team”, to disaster ministry, suicide prevention, advocacy teams, and much more; there is a place for all to contribute and grow.

Words can’t fully express how a synod assembly changes those who attend. As we were leaving, in a conversation with the outgoing secretary of the synod, she said, “There is really nothing quite like a synod assembly.” To get a sense of the experience, I encourage you to Google “2017 ELCA Southeastern Synod Assembly on Guidebook” and follow your nose through the agenda, information, and resources there, or simply go to “elca-ses.org” - the website of the Southeastern synod, to view the wide variety of programs and activities that are available for each of us to personally express that “We are church for the sake of the world”.

## ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

## The Reformation Spreads in Europe



Statue of Olavus and  
Laurentius Petri

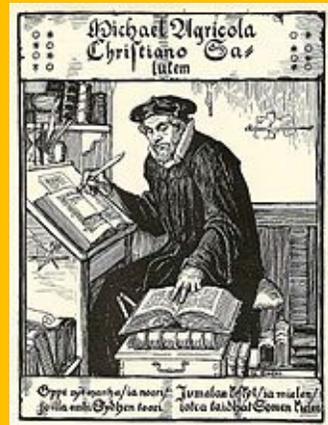
Martin Luther is, deservedly, receiving most of the attention as we mark the beginning of the Reformation in Saxony. But with remarkable speed, those teachings spread to other countries in Europe. How did that occur? Largely through the work of some courageous leaders. Let's look at how the Reformation came to a few countries whose descendants have helped shape the ELCA.

In Sweden, two brothers, Olavus and Laurentius Petri, spearheaded the Reformation. Both had studied theology with Luther in Wittenberg. They returned to Sweden around the same time King Gustav I Vasa was creating an independent nation. He made Olavus pastor of the city church in Stockholm, where he translated the New Testament into Swedish, created a catechism, published an order of worship, and provided a Swedish hymnal. Meanwhile his younger brother, Laurentius, was made the first Lutheran archbishop of Sweden; he and Olavus jointly produced a complete Bible in Swedish.

In Denmark, too, the Reformation came early. As in Sweden, it was led by a young man who had studied under Luther in Wittenberg—Hans Tausen. The ruler at the time, Frederick I, was formally opposed to Reformation ideas, but he protected Tausen and tolerated Lutheran writings. The next king, Christian III, stripped the Roman Catholic Church of its wealth, and Luther's pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen, made a journey from Wittenberg to crown the king and help organize the Danish church. Norway was, at the time, ruled by Denmark, and initially the spread of the Reformation there was slower. Christian III tried to encourage its growth there, but at first there wasn't much popular support; it was more of a topdown reformation. Nevertheless, pastors such as Jorgen Eriksson, who would become bishop of Stavanger, preached Lutheran teachings, and the Reformation gradually took hold.

Mikael Agricola was yet another student of Luther, and it was he who led the Reformation in Finland. At that time, Finland was ruled by Sweden. The first Lutheran bishop of Turku (and thus of Finland), Martinus Skytte, left most Roman Catholic orders in place. Agricola's ministry as the next bishop, though, mirrored much of Luther's: he translated the New Testament into Finnish, and in the process created the Finnish literary language. He prepared a prayer book in Finnish, created a vernacular order of communion, and collected Finnish hymns. He was also the first married bishop of Turku.

Moving southeast from Wittenberg, Slovakia is another area where the Reformation took hold. Two visionary people must receive much of the credit. Jan Hus lived about a century before Luther and ministered in neighboring Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), but his reforming teachings influenced Slovak Christians, as they did Martin Luther himself. So the way was prepared for the Reformation from Wittenberg. And in the early seventeenth century, another graduate of the University of Wittenberg, Jir̃\_1 (or Juraj) Tr̃\_1novský, helped cement the Reformation in Slovakia by translating many hymns and collecting them into a hymnal called Cithara Sanctorum ("Lyre of the Saints").



Mikael Agricola

Lutherans from these lands and many others came to America, establishing first separate enclaves, but gradually merging with other Lutherans into church bodies, including our current Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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## Caring for Creation, Luther-style



Lutherans around the world are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Simultaneously, the Southeastern Synod is also celebrating 2017 as the "Year for Care for Creation". As part of these celebrations, the Southeastern Synod Green Team is lifting up Luther's commitment to creation. He taught us to care for creation through his writings and the explanation of the First Article to the Apostle's Creed (below).

The First Article: Creation: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.** *What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true. — Martin Luther*

To assist in this awareness, the SE Synod Green Team has developed "95 Theses of Creation Care." Ten of these theses will be published each month in our Good Shepherd Newsletter. Here are the next ten:

### 95 Theses for Creation Care (31-41)

31. Creation groans out of frustration to be set free.
32. Caring for creation is partnering with Christ for freedom.
33. The love of God requires our need to die to self.
34. Dying to self opens us to God's love.
35. The love of God opens us to care for creation.
36. The presence of God requires our need to lose our life.
37. Keeping the earth has a higher moral value than the self-interest of a nation.
38. Misusing the earth for a nation's self-interest morally bankrupts a nation.
39. Misusing the earth demeans those who depend upon it.
40. National leaders are called by God to keep the earth.
41. National leaders that permit, overtly or covertly, the misuse of God's creation are doing it out of self-interest and not for the benefit of the nation as a whole.



## Two-Can Sunday!

Don't forget the first Sunday of every month is designated as Two-Can Sunday. Bring your Two-Cans on **June 4**

## Caretakers of Community

For the month of June we will focus our Caretakers of Our Community collection efforts on Good Shepherd's Vacation Bible School and MUST Summer Lunch programs. Some of the needed supplies are:

### **MUST Summer Lunch:**

Peanutbutter  
 Jelly  
 Juiceboxes  
 Sealable sandwich bags  
 Sealable snack bags  
 Paper lunch sacks  
 Food preparation gloves (non latex)

### **VBS Supplies:**

100 New White tagless Men's undershirts size S  
 30 pair of New men's white crew socks size 6-12  
 30 Colorful Fine Point Sharpie Markers

VBS has also requested additional items but in small quantities. There is sign up list of these additional items located in the entryway as well.

All items can be dropped off in the designated bins in the church entryway during the month of June. All **VBS items will be needed by June 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**God's work.  
 Our hands.**

## Back Pack Assembly Day

Thank you to everyone who donated funds to the Give-a-Kid-A-Chance Backpack program. Thanks to your generosity we once again reached our goal of being able to provide 150 backpacks to this wonderful organization. And thanks to Vic and Deborah Johnson for applying for a Thrivent Action Team sponsorship, we now have \$250 extra dollars to spend on this worthy organization. Returning this year is a backpack assembly day so you can see your donated dollars in action. We invite you to join us on Sunday June 4th to stop by the Fellowship Hall during the Fellowship hour between services to help pack a backpack with all the necessary goodies needed for a successful school year. We will have all the necessary supplies on hand, in assembly line fashion for you to assemble. This is a project all ages can help with and will only take a few minutes of your time.

## MUST Summer Lunch Assembly

**MUST Summer Lunch Assembly is just around the corner.** Plan to join us as we assemble 2,500 sack lunches for the food insecure children of Cherokee County. This is a perfect family service opportunity and all ages are welcome!

**Assembly will be the week of July 10-14 in the Fellowship Hall  
 8:30 – 10 a.m.**

**This year we will also have an individual snack assortment day on Thursday, July 6 from 8:30 – 10 a.m.**

On this day, we will prepackage the donated snacks we received from the preschool, in order to better plan our menu.

Drivers are also needed to deliver the food to New Life Church on Exit 14 in Holly Springs. Look for Sign Up Sheets at Sign Up Central in the weeks to come.

# Last Day of Sunday School Was a Zoo!

GSLC celebrated the last day of Sunday School on Sunday, May 14. The Sunday School classes again collected money (\$330 this year!) for ELCA Good Gifts, allowing us to purchase 200 chicks, two roosters and two goats, so we brought in a petting zoo to celebrate. In Fellowship Hall the Middle School class kept those not petting the animals entertained with games such as limbo and musical chairs. Thank you to all the teachers and assistants that made this year run smoothly. We look forward to starting a new Sunday School year on **August 13**. Have a great summer!

*Right - Justin Debranski pets the popular piglet.*



*Far right, Jessica Corley and Carter Hutchison spend time petting, and discussing this Highland Cow.*



*Below (back to front), Jonah Kish and Mark Corley, left, along with Carter Hutchison, Benjamin Finney, Gwen Meyers and Lily Champion, right, spend time with the ponies.*



*Above, Middle School Sunday School classes help entertain the younger kids.*



*Left: Jonah Kish isn't chicken to hold a rooster!*

## Empty Nesters Event, Saturday, June 17

The Empty Nesters travel to the Marietta Cobb Museum of Art and Stockyard Burgers and Bones on **Saturday, June 17**. The day begins at 3 p.m. and features museum exhibits followed by dinner at Stockyard Burgers and Bones and the plan is to be back at church around 8 p.m. Please sign up at Sign up Genius: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4ab2da3fa7-marietta>. If you have difficulties, contact Karen Yerkes at [yerkesk@comcast.net](mailto:yerkesk@comcast.net). The group needs to know if you plan to go and if you need a ride or are driving. Thanks everyone!

## Get Active in a Group...

**Yarn Angels** meet **Sunday, June 4** from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. in Room 120.

**Needlework Friends** meets on **Saturday, June 10** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the home of Jennifer Taylor for needlework and fellowship. Bring your projects, learn something new, teach or help another friend. Light refreshments provided. Contact Jennifer at 678-880-2842 or [jennifer3094@windstream.net](mailto:jennifer3094@windstream.net).

**Ladies Night Out** meets at Corner Bistro Riverstone in Canton at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, June 20**. Sign up at Sign-Up Central and leave your cell phone number. Thank you!

## Council Update, May 2017

### Discussions

- Financial Secretary, Jaime Escamilla reported that April giving was \$12,332.25 lower than this time last year.
- Appointed Treasurer, Ray Smith reported that expenses were below budgeted figures.
- A revised job description and salary structure was approved, based upon the budget approval at the recent Congregational meeting, for the Youth Leader position. Personnel is currently reviewing several candidates.
- The Mortgage Task Force has submitted recommendations to Council for consideration. Conversations are ongoing regarding this.

### Accolades

- Many thanks to the Fellowship Committee for the wonderful Easter Day Brunch and all those who brought in items for the brunch.
- Many thanks to everyone who coordinated, donated, and served the Habitat for Humanity build lunch, especially Linda Kronau, Jennifer Taylor, Susan & Max Epling and Michael Epstein.
- Thank you to all our wonderful Confirmation Leaders, Prefects, and parent volunteers – your willingness to participate in the faith formation of our youth is appreciated.
- Thank you to all the Teachers and Assistants who served during this past Sunday School year. Your involvement in the education of the youth of Good Shepherd is a blessing.

## Being In Need Doesn't Take a Vacation

The GSLC Emergency Fund has been depleted. If you can spare any money for a donation, or if you would consider contributing grocery or gas cards, please do so! You can drop off a check or the cards in the locked box in the administration hallway. Thank you for helping our members, and community members, in need!



*Thanks everyone who donated items for the Empty Nesters to provide lunch for the Habitat for Humanity Build in May. Pictured in photo left, from left to right are: Michael Epstein, Paul Kronau, Linda Kronau, Jennifer Taylor, Max Epling, Susan Epling and Steve Frink.*

## Still Time to Build!

The Lutheran Coalition's Habitat for Humanity Spring build is still going strong! This year's project has a very close tie to Good Shepherd as the home is being built for Angela Scheitlin and her two children. Angela is the granddaughter of Good Shepherd members Bob and Barbara Scheitlin.

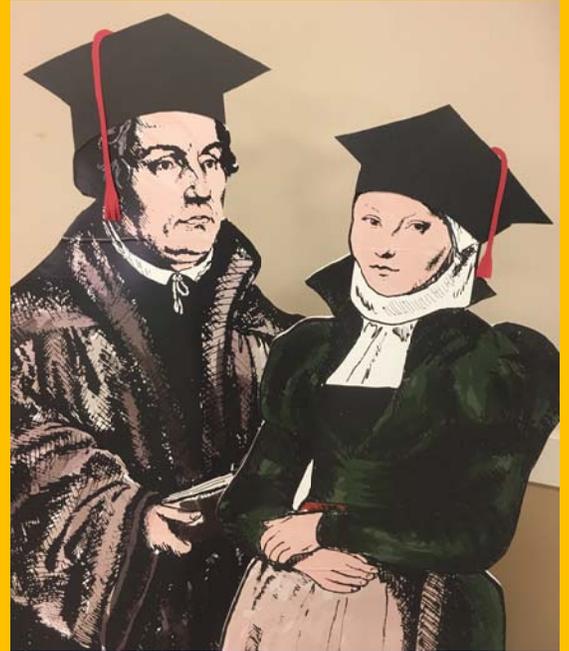
The build takes place nearby in Acworth and Good Shepherd was responsible for providing lunch and breakfast on two of the build days. The build began on March 25 and goes through July 15. The complete schedule is posted on the Outreach Board in the administrative hallway. We are hoping for a strong turnout this year in show of our support for this very worthwhile project and family. Registration is online so if you are interested in participating in the build, please sign up at Sign Up Central and registration instructions will be forwarded to you. Volunteers must be 16 years or older with the exception of Youth Landscaping day on **June 24**. This day is open to all ages.

### REMAINING DATES

**JUNE 3,10,17, 24 (YOUTH DAY)**

**DEDICATION – SATURDAY, JULY 15TH**

**SATURDAY HOURS ARE 8 AM TO 4 PM  
AND YOU CAN WORK IN HALF DAY  
SHIFTS.**



*Martin and Katie say...  
Congratulations to Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church's Graduates!*

*AJ Condra*

*Mallory Cromer*

*Jaxson Cromwell*

*Tyler Garges*

*Kailey Gustafson*

*Jared Homer*

*Johnbill Kuria*

*Jaylin Lucier*

*Pete McCoy*

*Bryce Porter*

*Dalton Trampnau*

*Avery Waclawski*

## Share the Story...

The Middle School Youth invite you to a Continental Breakfast with juice, coffee, muffins and donuts on **Sunday, June 18** during the Sunday School hour, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. They'll share slides of their mission trip and tell of their experiences. Join them!

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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AN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA) CONGREGATION  
SERVING NORTH COBB AND CHEROKEE COUNTY COMMUNITIES. JOIN US!  
8:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL  
9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL (ON BREAK FOR THE SUMMER)  
10:45 A.M. PRAISE

"WELCOME ONE ANOTHER, THEREFORE,  
AS CHRIST HAS WELCOMED YOU."

ROMANS 15:7

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES PEOPLE OF ANY AGE,  
RACE, NATIONALITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, LIFE CIRCUMSTANCE,  
AND PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CAPABILITY.

## Save the Date (s)!

### Saturday, July 8

Empty Nesters Event:  
Drivin' N Cryin' with  
Special Guest: The Steppin' Stones

7:30 p.m. at the Woodstock Amphitheatre

More information will follow, as the date gets closer. Contact Karen Yerkes for information.

### Saturday, July 22

Lutheran Coalition for Habitat  
Wine Tasting Fundraiser!  
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Vino 100

131 S. Main, Alpharetta, 30009  
\$10 (50% to Habitat)

Music, Tastings, Light Snacks, Silent Auction!  
Contact Max Epling for information.



## Don't Miss Hero Central!

VBS 2017

**Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God.**  
**June 26-30, 9 a.m.—Noon**

You can still register Pre-K (age 4 by 9-1-17) through 5th grade children to attend this year's free Vacation Bible School at GSLC, "Hero Central". Visit [gslutheran.org](http://gslutheran.org) to follow the registration link today!

Volunteers are still needed. Contact Kristin Freeman if you'd like to help! There will be a VBS Volunteer meeting on Wednesday, June 21 from 6-8 p.m., dinner included! Thanks everyone!