

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 11, 2018 - 10:45 AM



The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

G.I.F.T. Zone Opportunity For Parents & Young Children

We introduce our kid-friendly worship experience, located in the left-hand transept area of the main sanctuary. For families who wish to take advantage of the G.I.F.T. Zone, there is child-friendly worship furniture plus adult chairs for parents. Feel free to sit in the special area throughout the service with your child - or come to the area with your child following the Children's Message. During this middle section of the service, Deacon Lexanne Graves will be in the area to guide parents and children through activities to help our youngest worshipers follow the readings, sermon, hymn, creed, and prayers. This is an awesome way to keep children engaged in worship with the whole congregation - and learn the liturgy until they are able to worship in the pews for the entire service. We offer the G.I.F.T. Zone so that parents may share the worship experience with their children in a meaningful, stress-free way. At the 10:45 service, our nursery is also available for ages 0 - 3 (for those yet unable to benefit from the G.I.F.T. Zone activities.)



Kid Friendly Worship Experience



Growing
In
Faith
Together

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC "Ah, Holy Jesus" arr. Terry Oszman; offered by JuBELLation Handbells
We pause for reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

*Baptismal Anniversaries: Megan Compas (3/12), Lydia Prizer (3/13), Nancy Baldwin (3/17)
(Individuals meet the Pastor at the font for a special blessing in recognition of their anniversary.)*

JUSTICE MINISTRY NETWORK COMMISSIONING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.
(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Merciful God,

People: Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. We were silent when we should have said something. We acted when we knew better. We were still when we know we should have moved. For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.


Pastor: People of God, look to the ☩ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

People: Amen.



ENTRANCE SONG

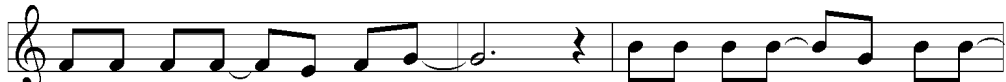
"Only By Grace"



On-ly by grace can we en - ter, on - ly by grace can we stand;



not by our hu - man en - deav - or,



but by the blood of the Lamb. In - to your pres - ence you call




us, you call us to come.



In - to your pres - ence you draw us, and now by your grace we come,



now by your grace we come. *Fine*



Lord, if you mark our trans - gres - sions, who would



stand? Thanks to your grace we are cleansed



by the blood of the Lamb. *D.C. al fine*

Text & Music: Gerrit Gustafson; © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

APOSTOLIC GREETING

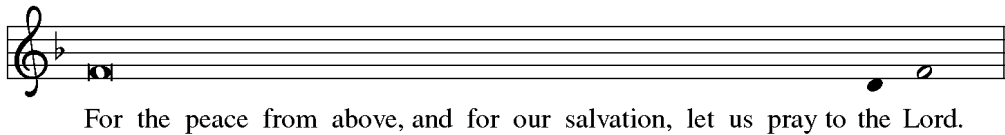
Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

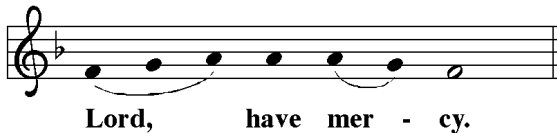
KYRIE



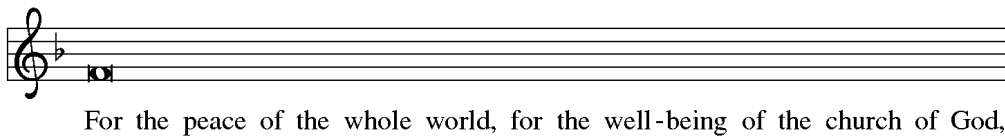
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



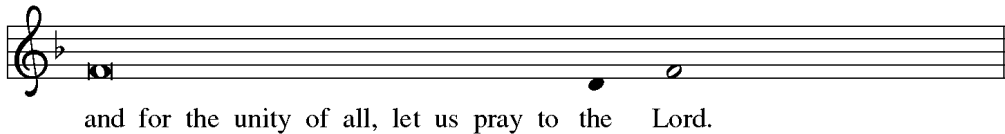
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



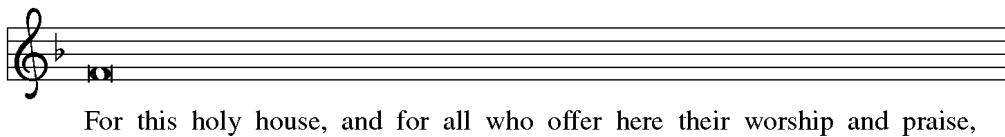
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



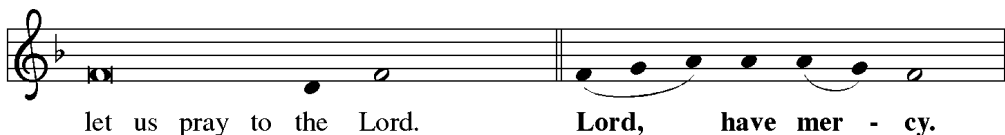
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



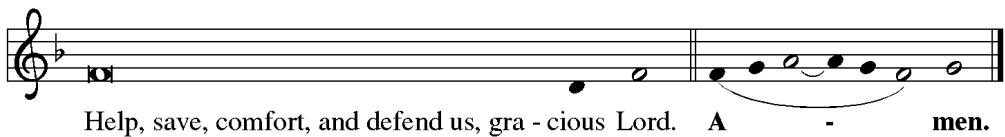
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laura Turnmire

Children and young people gather on the steps. Toddlers may be accompanied by parents. All may bring forward coins or dollars for the Lenten bucket collection (Harvest Hope Food Bank). Following the message, young children and parent(s) are invited to the G.I.F.T. Zone for special activities that help young ones participate in worship through the middle portion of the service. As the children gather, we sing:

*Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.
(Text by Anna B. Warner, ELW 595)*

FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Numbers.

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. (*Numbers 21:4-9*)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Lector: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

**People: Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

Lector: gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**People: Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

Lector: They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

**People: Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

Lector: You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

**People: Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

Lector: Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving

People: and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING

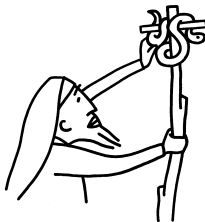
Lector: A reading from Ephesians.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

(Ephesians 2:1-10)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.



We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Pastor: [Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

(John 3:14-21)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We are seated

SERMON

Rev. Eric Fink

At the sounding of the chime, we kneel as able.

CALL TO PRAYER

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé community, adapt.; Music: Hear My Prayer, Jacques Berthier
© 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.

We are seated

SILENT PRAYER

During the time of silent prayer, you are invited to come place a prayer slip in the prayer basket (at the center of the praying congregation). As the chime sounds again, the prayer basket is taken to the prayer station beneath the Lenten cross (formed from wood of the Cross-Oak that once stood at LS entrance). We then continue with the spoken prayers.

We kneel as able

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Pastor: We pray for this assembly gathered in prayer. We lift up the petitions of prayer placed at the cross of your Son this day, as well as all Lenten Prayer Partners. Receive our prayers with your power and love. God of mercy,

People: **Thy will be done.**

Assist: We pray for the church. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. God of mercy,

People: **Thy will be done.**

Assist: We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to all leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful education and those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or recovering, especially *Taralee Bartholomew; Joann Pulse; Bob Jorgensen; Anita Gabbard; Stephanie Joyner; Janet Bate; Bunie Talbert; Sam Gordon; Mary Jane Lind; Sallyann Tracy; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud....* God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: We pray for those who provide hope for others. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. God of mercy,

People: Thy will be done.

Assist: Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

PEACE IS SHARED

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"What Wondrous Love"

arr. Charles Dupree

George Donovan & London Mancuso, Soloists

We are seated

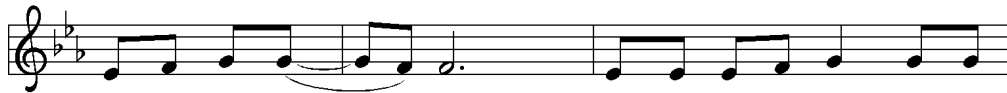
OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

We stand as able

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me



with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me. "

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

We are seated

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*This meal is the Lord's Supper of grace and is open to ALL Christians of any background or denomination. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in **Christ's true presence** in, with, and under the elements. We invite you to have your name tag visible so that the ministers may include **your name** as they offer you the elements. Communion at Living Springs is by **intinction** (bread is dipped into the wine or grape juice). In response to the words, "Body of Christ, given for you. Blood of Christ, shed for you," each worshipper may respond with, "**Amen.**" If you require a **gluten free wafer**, please let your worship assistant know so they can accommodate you. Each chalice contains two compartments: wine is located in the larger compartment, while **alcohol-free grape juice** is located in the smaller compartment for those who require it. After receiving the elements, you are welcome to remain kneeling at the rail for meditation and prayer (others may simply fill in the open spaces). **Children** who have not received communion instruction are invited to come forward for a special blessing. Simply fold your hands to indicate you would like to receive the blessing.*



DISTRIBUTION SONG

"Here I Am To Worship"

1. Light of the world

*You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You*

2. King of all days

*Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor*

Chorus :

*So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

Bridge:

*And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross*

CCLI Song # 3266032; Tim Hughes; © 2000 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

We stand after all have received communion

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING & PRAYER

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

People: Amen

Assist: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

People: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Lift High the Cross"*

ELW 660

(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle.)

DISMISSAL

Assist: Do Justice! Love Kindness! Walk Humbly with God!
Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT:

Sharing the Light

Since earliest times, human beings have gathered around fires for warmth, food, storytelling, and community. It is a special feeling to find yourself gathered with a group of people around a campfire or even a heater on a subway platform. Such gatherings prompt us to see those around us in new ways. We notice the faces of people we otherwise would have overlooked. We experience something common in our need for light and warmth.

Each week the Holy Spirit gathers the church together in many spaces around the world. We gather in a different kind of light, a spiritual light that shines from God's only Son who has come into the world. He came into this world "in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17). In the remembrance of our baptisms, in song, in scripture readings, in prayer, in the meal around the table, the one who is the light of the world is present among us. Jesus calls us to step out of the darkness in our lives and into his life-giving, healing, and sustaining light.

Gathered around Jesus Christ, we are called to invite others in. The light of Christ is there for all who experience darkness in their lives, who feel out in the cold, hungry, without a story or purpose, cut off from others in any way. Jesus' light crowds us in together. Then, sent out by Jesus Christ into our lives, we are called to bring that light with us. Wherever we go, we can show interest in others, listen to them, and seek ways to care for them. We lift up the light we experience each week in community with one another for someone else to see.



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THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

Min. LaVone Griffin

LECTOR

Adele Lindberg

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Audrey Turnmire

Jeanette Bloss

USHERS

Adam Woodruff

Mike Davidson

Steve Padgett

Austin Padgett

INSIDE GREETER

Alice Renaud

OUTSIDE GREETER

Mike Davidson

ACOLYTE

Walker Flores

CRUCIFER

Steve Bloss

TORCHBEARERS

Leslie Bloss

Gail Buchanan

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Laura Turnmire

NAME TAGS

Gay Walter

MUGGER

Charles Tracy

REFRESHMENTS

Saundra Dixon

ALTAR GUILD

Jan Berger

COUNTERS

Sarah Schultz

Karen Kranz

Midge Gunvalson

COUNCIL DISCIPLE

Ann Lynn Caughman



Lent Seasonal Emphasis

Going a little farther, Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."
- Matthew 26:39

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ministry Staff:

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Deac. Lexanne Graves, Min. of Faith & Life (Children & Families) lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org
Christopher Girardeau, Min. of Faith & Life (Sr. Youth & Young Adults).. christopher@livingspringscolumbia.org
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Mark & Laura Cunningham, Food Ministry laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org
Prayer Ministry prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP THIS DAY!

We greet all who worship in the name of the Risen Savior!

*May the Spirit speak to your heart the message of God's redeeming love for everyone,
through the grace shown to the world in Jesus.*

*We gather as a community of disciples. Our center is Jesus Christ,
and we are here to know and share the blessing of his forgiving, healing hand.*

*If you have any questions about our congregation, please call 736-0661,
drop by our office (M - F 8:30-4:30) or visit our website at www.livingspringscolumbia.org.*

WELCOME GUESTS! – We are especially blessed by your presence today and look forward to worshipping with you again. Please take time to fill out the blue slip in your bulletin and/or sign the welcome book in the narthex. New members are always welcome into our congregation. To learn more about becoming part of Christ's family of faith here at Living Springs, please contact the office (736-0661) or Pastor Eric (917-2749).

BULLETIN BLUE SLIPS - may be completed and placed in the offering plate for prayer requests, guest information, address/phone updates, and a record of communing. Members, please complete at least one blue slip during 2018 to ensure we have a record of your communing.

SEASONAL NAME TAG – In order to show hospitality, we ask everyone to stop by the table under the portico and complete a name tag with our seasonal scripture verse. The tags allow everyone to use names as we share the Peace - and allow communion ministers to speak your name (*please make sure your name is visible when you come to the altar rail*).

RESTROOMS – are located in the Administration Building on both levels. Greeters/ushers will be happy to show you the way. Main level restrooms are equipped with diaper changing stations. For your child's safety, please accompany them when they leave the Sanctuary to use the restrooms.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS - are now available, please see an usher or greeter.

HEARING ASSISTANCE – The ushers have headsets which will amplify the sound for you. Please return to an usher or leave in the pew at the conclusion of the service.

GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS & ALCOHOL-FREE GRAPE JUICE– are available during communion, for those who desire either.

G.I.F.T. ZONE - is a special area in our worship space for parents and young children who wish to worship together with more child-friendly furniture and special resources to utilize during worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS – are distributed during the children's sermon.

NURSERY – is available for infants-3 years old during the 10:45 Worship Service; located downstairs in the preschool in the Education Building. Greeters/Ushers will be happy to assist you.

CHILD SAFETY – is very important to us, so we ask at least 1 adult to accompany your child if he/she leaves the Sanctuary during worship. Please do not allow children to play on the playground without parental supervision. During the week, church doors are kept locked to maintain security for our Preschool. Please ring the intercom by the office doors to check in.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP TIME – is held each week following the 8:15 service and prior to the 10:45 service, inside the education building.

OUR PRAYER MINISTRY – As a community of disciples, we pray for one another and others - not just in times of illness, but also for praise, thanksgiving, and forgiveness. If you have a prayer request, simply fill out the bulletin blue sheet and place in the offering plate (or call/email the office). Please indicate if your request is for public or private prayer.