

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22, 2018 - 10:45 AM



The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

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

GATHERING MUSIC

"Improvisation on Resignation"

arr. George Donovan, Jr.

We pause for reflection to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

*Baptismal Anniversaries: Ryan Bottar (4/22), Patrick O'Donnell (4/22), Pierce O'Donnell (4/22),
Laura Turnmire (4/23), Mallory Padgett (4/24), Judy Lawrence (4/25), Dylann Keppery (4/26),
Betsy Shank (4/26), Austin Padgett (4/28)*

(Individuals meet the Pastor at the font for a special blessing in recognition of their anniversary.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK - JUSTICE MINISTRY

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: Just as God's work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain and snow, for lakes and ponds.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.

Pastor: We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman's thirst with living water.

People: We give you thanks for your salvation through water.

Pastor: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

People: We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.

Pastor: We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus' death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

People: We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Pastor: O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Adam Woodruff

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited to gather on the steps for a special message. 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:

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia! Praise ye the Lord!

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia! Praise ye the Lord!

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord!

FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Acts.

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (*Acts 4:5-12*)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

Lector: The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**People: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

Lector: You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**People: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

Lector: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

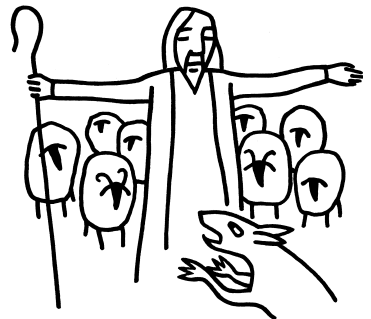
SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from 1 John.

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. *(1 John 3:16-24)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.



NICENE CREED

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: Bless all who shepherd your sheep and guide them in their serving. We pray for church custodians, office managers, Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, baptismal sponsors, seminarians, deacons, pastors, youth workers, and bishops.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Restore natural environments damaged by our hands. We pray for river valleys and grassy plains, coral reefs and arctic ice, mountains, deserts, and marshlands.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Protect and guide first responders. Bring mercy and justice with their presence. We pray for military personnel, firefighters, paramedics, and police officers, and for disaster relief and crisis intervention teams. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Heal and renew all who ache for a better tomorrow. We pray for the unemployed and underemployed, the forgotten, the nameless, and the outcasts; for our enemies; and for our loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Give to all who are restless, reckless, or uncertain the peace you promise that is deeper and richer than anything we can imagine. We pray for all who live with chronic pain, who live with anxiety, who are grieving, and who are ill or hospitalized, especially: *the Turnmire/Curtis family; Chuck Kowalski, Tara Bartholomew; Stephanie Joyner; Bunie Talbert; Brian Donovan; Douglas Laskey; Doris Brennan; Sarah Daniels; Pat Basquill; Mincey family; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud....* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Nourish us with the testimony of all the disciples who have gone before us. We give thanks for the faithful departed and their witness in every age. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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." 7

We are seated

THANKSGIVING MOMENT

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Let Us Walk This Road Together"

arr. John Carter

We stand as able

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"*

4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be - to the
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. 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, full of your glo-ry. Ho-



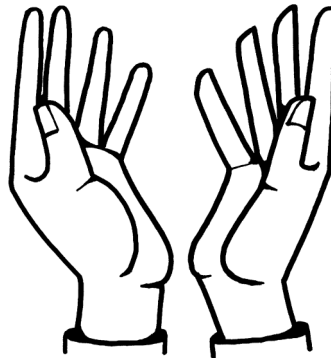
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

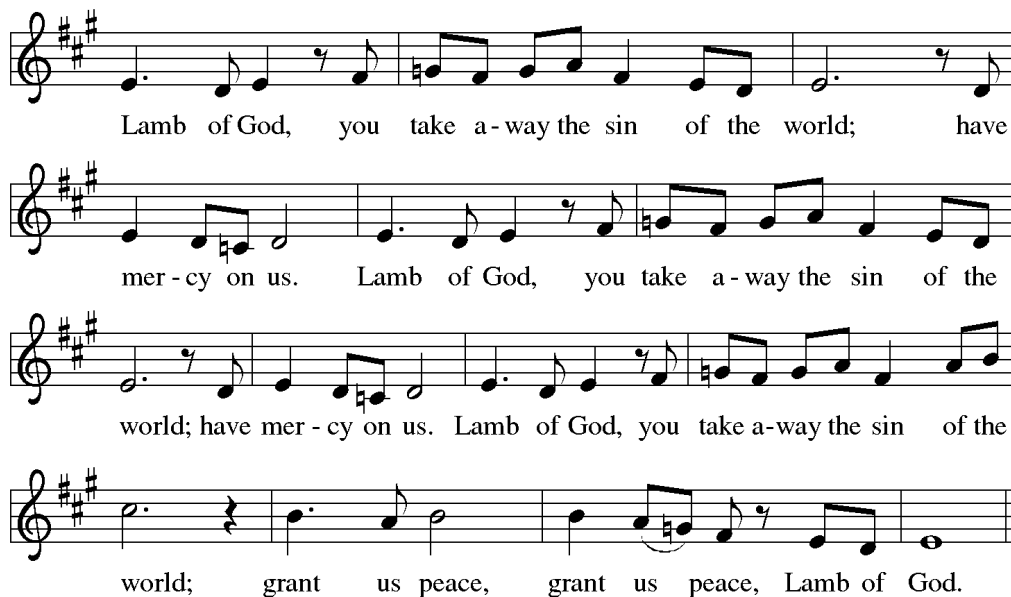
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

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 "The Table"

Verse 1

*I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore at His table (Repeat)*

Chorus

*Come all you weary come and find
His yoke is easy His burden is light
He is able He will restore
At the table of the Lord*

Verse 2

*There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won't worry anymore at His table*

Verse 3

*There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table (Chorus)*

Bridge

*I know He has a place for me
Oh what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God (Chorus)*

Verse 4

*I'm invited to the table of the Lord
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
He says come just as you are to His table*



CCLI Song # 7028956
Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Wayne Jolley
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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: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

People: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

ELW #536

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

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Assist: Do Justice! Love Kindness! Walk Humbly with God!
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

For the Love of Sheep

Children's Bibles and Sunday school lessons always include stories of Jesus healing people, doing miracles, and being loving and kind to others. They also typically include the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. It can be confusing, especially to young children, why anyone would put such a good person to death. "Why did he die?" children (and youth and adults!) often ask.

Why did he die?

Jesus himself answers this question in today's gospel when he says three times that he, unlike the hired hand, "lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11-18). He has committed himself fully to his vulnerable flock, and in the moment of their vulnerability he chooses to stand between them and the wolves. He dies because when you stand by a vulnerable flock without any weapons, you risk death by wolf.

Just before Jesus calls himself the good shepherd, he was caught in an exchange with some religious leaders over the healing of a blind man on the sabbath (John 9). Remember that story? Jesus approaches the blind man, and that man listens to Jesus' voice even before he receives his sight and can physically see Jesus. He is one of the vulnerable sheep of Christ's flock. But the Shepherd's care of such a vulnerable sheep draws much attention from the religious authorities. As these leaders repeatedly question and attack the now-seeing man, Jesus does not abandon him but attends to him and cares for him. This care further provokes the anger of the religious authorities.

Why did he die?

He died because of his steadfast insistence on caring for sheep such as the once-blind man. Even now he continues to stand between the sheep and the wolves, between all of humanity and the sin to which we cling.



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THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

Jeff Day

LECTOR

Cathy Lowman

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Audrey Turnmire

Pat Bartucca

USHERS

Jan Berger

Lauren Bloss

Leslie Bloss

Laura Stuart

INSIDE GREETER

Austin Padgett

OUTSIDE GREETER

Steve Padgett

ACOLYTE

Steve Bloss

CRUCIFER

Wes Levitt

TORCHBEARERS

Jan Berger

Trish Davidson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Adam Woodruff

NAME TAGS

Ashley Ramsey

FLOWERS

Judy Lawrence

MUGGER

Charles Tracy

REFRESHMENTS

Sue Hyman

ALTAR GUILD

Kathy Brennan

Sue Loveless

COUNTERS

Jan Berger

Leslie Bloss

Laura Turnmire

COUNCIL DISCIPLE

Gay Walter



Easter Seasonal Emphasis

Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised, he is not here! Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell

Mark 16:6-7a

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ministry Staff:

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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.