

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 16, 2018 - 10:45 AM



Three weeks ago we heard John's gospel's version of Peter's confession of faith. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

G.I.F.T. Zone Worship-Learning Area For Parents

We offer the parent-friendly G.I.F.T. Zone (in the left-hand transept of the main sanctuary) so that parents may share the worship experience with their children in a meaningful, stress-free way. This parent-friendly worship experience is located in the left-hand side area of the sanctuary. **Every child in the G.I.F.T. Zone should be accompanied by a family adult**—as the purpose is to provide an area for parents to help teach their children the routines and meaning of worship (until they are old enough to worship in the pews for the entire service).

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. Parents and children use guided activities to help our youngest worshippers follow the readings, sermon, hymn, creed, and prayers. This is an awesome way for parents to share the rhythm of worship and have children/ parents engaged together in worship with the whole congregation, while learning the liturgy. At the 10:45 service, our nursery is also available for ages 0 - 3 (for children who have not yet reached the point to focus and benefit from the G.I.F.T. Zone activities).



Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

GATHERING SONG

"Gather Us In"

ELW #532

As we gather, we remain seated and join in singing to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Baptismal Anniversaries: Vickie Crapps (9/18); Rachel Drafts (9/19)

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the ✝ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Source of all life,

People: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn ourselves inward, rather than moving outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be your people powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

Pastor: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✝ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

We face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary. We turn to follow the cross as it enters.

ENTRANCE HYMN

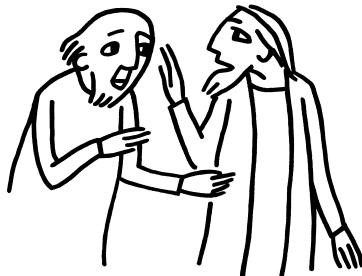
"Lift High the Cross"

ELW #660

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 AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. *(We pause in prayer and then respond)*



Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(We pause in prayer and then respond)*



Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. *(We pause in prayer and then respond)*



Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(We pause in prayer and then respond)*



Lord, have mer - cy.

Pastor: Help, save comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. *(We pause in prayer and then respond)*



A - men.

Pastor: **People:**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jan Berger

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 bucket collection (currently Habitat for Humanity Build). 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 the little children, all the children of the world.

So we gather in His name, offering our love and praise.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

(Tune by C.H. Woolston, Public Domain. Alt. Text by G. Donovan, Jr.)

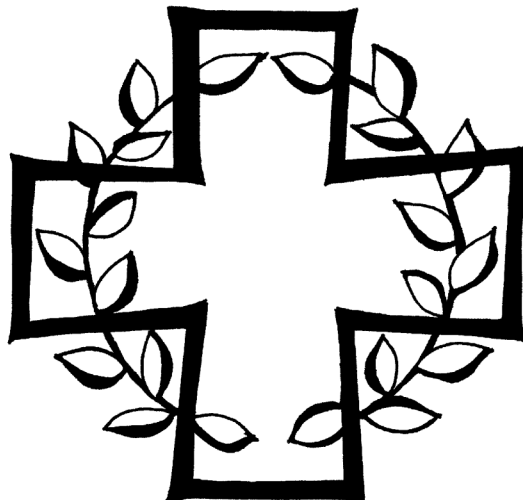
FIRST READING

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? *(Isaiah 50:4-9a)*

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.



PSALM 116:1-9

Lector: I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

People: **for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

Lector: The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

People: **Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."**

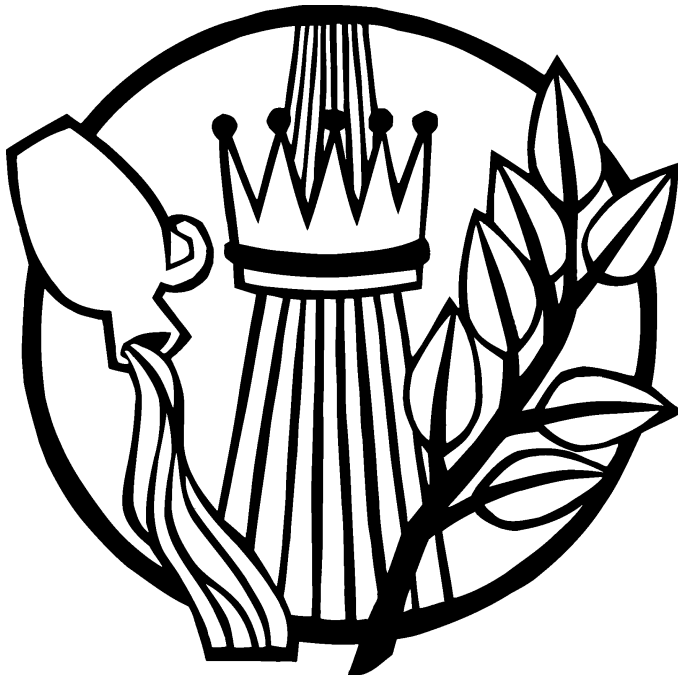
Lector: Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

People: **The LORD watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

Lector: Turn again to your rest, O my soul,
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

People: **For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

Lector: I will walk in the presence of the LORD
People: **in the land of the living.**



SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from James.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. (*James 3:1-12*)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

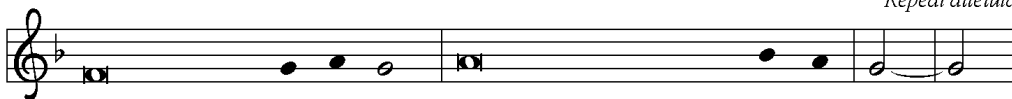


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

Pastor: Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
(Mark 8:27-38)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We are seated

SERMON

Rev. Eric Fink

We stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Summons"

ELW #798



APOSTLES' CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: Gracious God, you call your church to embody the love you have shown us. Raise us up each day to bear witness against sin, death, and the grave. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Creative God, quarks and galaxies bear witness to your imagination. Inspire scientists, naturalists, and conservationists who work to conserve precious natural resources. Grant us the wisdom to be good keepers of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Sovereign God, you bless citizens with the gifts of reason and perseverance. Embolden people around the world to seek the common good, to serve their neighbors, and to delight in freedom. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Loving God, you bless us with an abundant world. When your children wander homeless, naked, and hungry, strengthen us to be your presence as we care for all those in need. We especially pray for: *Helen Tolleson; Patricia Breivik; Bunie Talbert; Anne Ducate; Neva Burley; JoAnn Pulse; Fritz Monroe; Bill Schoenlein; Travis Greene; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Welcoming God, thank you for this congregation where we have found a home. Make us restless as we seek new and creative ways to expand our loving invitation to all people who seek a community. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

+ Additional Petitions are Offered +

Pastor: In every time and in every place, you have raised up examples of loving service, including Cyprian, bishop and martyr, whom we commemorate today. Make us all good and loving witnesses to your extravagant compassion. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

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."

We are seated

THANKSGIVING MOMENT

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

We stand as able

OFFERTORY HYMN

"To God Our Thanks We Give"



Re - a - mo le - bo - ga, re - a - mo le - bo - ga,
To God our thanks we give, to God our thanks we give,



re - a - mo le - bo - ga mo - di - mo wa ro - na.
to God our thanks we give, our thanks to God we give.

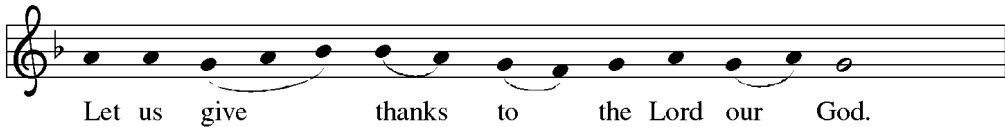
Text: Botswanan traditional, as taught by Daisy Nshakazongwe; tr. I-Loh; Text © 1986 World Council of Churches and the Asian Institute for Liturgy and Music.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering therefore his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Spirit of love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

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

"We Come To The Hungry Feast"

ELW #479



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: Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

People: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

ELW #856

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

DISMISSAL

Assist: Go in peace. Bear the Spirit's fruit. Sound the good news.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



† COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY †

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Baggage

Take any trips this past summer? Did you forget your toothbrush, or did you take everything including the bathroom sink? Packing is always a challenge, but unpacking can be even worse. Finally home, all the bags out of the car, the last thing anyone wants to do is put it all away, yet it's the cross we bear as punishment for going on vacation.

Sound ridiculous? It is, but we tend to think of denying ourselves and taking up the cross as carrying a bag full of punishment for being who and what we are. No one likes lugging around baggage; it weighs us down, hurts our bodies, and destroys our self-esteem. It makes us cranky, causes us to complain, and makes life miserable not just for us but for those around us as well.

The whole point of God sending us Jesus wasn't to make us cranky. Jesus didn't suffer death on the cross so we would have things to complain about, and he didn't call us to discipleship to diminish our self-worth. Denying ourselves isn't giving up chocolate for Lent or putting everyone else's needs above our own to our own detriment. Taking up our crosses isn't living with our own personal suffering or tolerating abuse from others. Jesus doesn't ask us to give up our identities or to carry hardship after hardship on our backs.

Denying ourselves means rejecting those things that keep us from being a part of a larger community. The one piece of baggage Jesus calls us to carry is relationship with others and for others. It won't always be easy to carry, because it leaves us vulnerable. Golgatha wasn't a vacation destination. But following Jesus means life with Jesus—and that means we never carry anything alone.



THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

ASSISTING MINISTER

Jan Berger

LECTOR

Adele Lindberg

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Alison Levitt

Steve Bloss

USHERS

Lauren Bloss

Jeanette Bloss

Karlene Stuart

Adam Woodruff

INSIDE GREETER

Alice Renaud

OUTSIDE GREETER

Mike Davidson

ACOLYTE

Lauren Bloss

CRUCIFER

Pat Bartucca

TORCHBEARERS

Cynthia Edney

Leslie Bloss

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jan Berger

NAME TAGS

Karen Kranz

FLOWERS

Bill & Nancy Franck

MUGGER

Kathy McDonald

COFFEE

Karen Kranz

REFRESHMENTS

Sandra Dixon

ALTAR GUILD

Linda Hayes/Nancy Baldwin

COUNTERS

Adam Woodruff

Ed Brennan

Angie Dyches

COUNCIL DISCIPLE

Jan Berger



Pentecost Seasonal Emphasis

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. - Galatians 5:22-23a

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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E-Mail: contact@livingspringscolumbia.org

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Ministers: People of Living Springs.

Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

Rev. Eric Fink, Senior Pastorpastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org
 George Donovan, Jr., Dir. of Music & Worship.....george@livingspringscolumbia.org
 Deacon Lexanne Graves, Min. of Faith & Life (Children & Families).....lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org
 Christopher Girardeau, Min. of Faith & Life (Sr. Youth & Young Adults)..christopher@livingspringscolumbia.org
 Ellen Girardeau, Associate for Jr. Youth & GIFT Zone Ministries.....ellen@livingspringscolumbia.org
 Tammy Mancuso, Preschool Director.....tmancuso@lslcps.org
 Lisa Petty, Administrative Assistant.....lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org
 Sherry Forsgren, Bookkeeper.....sherry@livingspringscolumbia.org
 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 green 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 GREEN SLIPS - may be completed and placed in the offering plate for prayer requests, God Stories, guest information, address/phone updates, and a record of communing. Please complete at least one slip during 2018 to ensure we have a record of 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 green slip and place in the offering plate (or call/email the office). Please indicate if your request is for public or private prayer.