# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 23, 2018 - 10:45 AM



Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

### **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 childfriendly 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 worshipers follow the readings, sermon, hymn, creed, and

point to focus and benefit from the G.I.F.T. Zone activities).

Growing 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

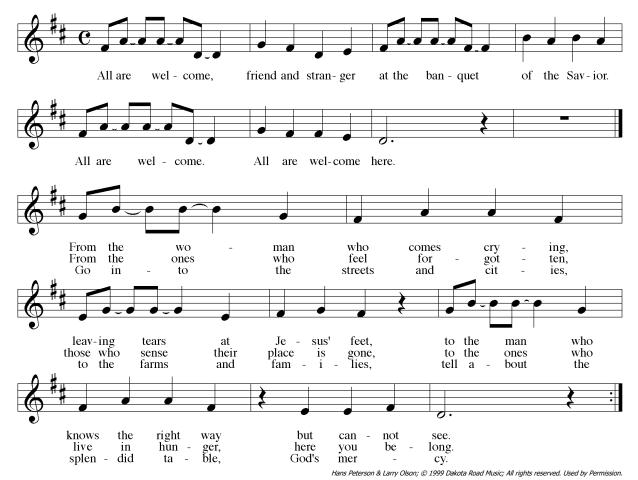
Kid Friendly Worship Experience

# Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223 www.livingspringscolumbia.org

As we gather, we remain seated and join in singing to prepare our hearts and minds for worship. Baptismal Anniversaries: Mike Davidson (9/24), Susan Bradham (9/25), Gail Buchanan (9/25), |
Bryson Lav (9/26), Jeffery Brouwer (9/28)

(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** "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW #843

### **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: Let us pray.

People: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us

as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Eric Fink & 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 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 Jeremiah.

It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have

committed my cause. (Jeremiah 11:18-20)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 54** 

Lector: Save me, O God, by your name;

in your might, defend my cause.

People: Hear my prayer, O God;

give ear to the words of my mouth.

Lector: For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,

those who have no regard for God.

People: Behold, God is my helper;

it is the Lord who sustains my life.

Lector: Render evil to those who spy on me;

in your faithfulness, destroy them.

People: I will offer you a freewill sacrifice

and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

Lector: For you have rescued me from every trouble,

People: and my eye looks down on my enemies.

#### SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from James.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. (James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

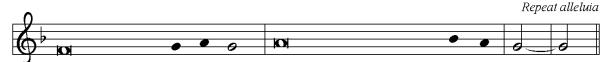
People: Thanks be to God.



We stand for the reading of the Gospel

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**





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 and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." (Mark 9:30-37)

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** "Jesus Loves Me" ELW #595

### INSTALLATION & BLESSING - ASSOC. FOR JR. YOUTH & G.I.F.T. ZONE MINISTRIES

Leader: After prayerful deliberation, we, of Living Springs Lutheran Church, have appointed Ellen Girardeau to serve in the position of Associate for Jr. Youth and G.I.F.T. Zone

Ministries.

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus, who came among us as a servant, calls us to faith and a life of

loving service to our neighbor. You come among us as one invited to render a particular service, a gift from God to inspire us to love and good works.

Ellen, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust

and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God?

Ellen: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor: Will you carry out this ministry in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the

confessions of the Lutheran church and in harmony with the constitutions of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

Ellen: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor: Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in your use of

the means of grace and in prayer?

Ellen: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor: Trusting in God's care, will you seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for

excellence in your skills, and adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ with a godly life?

Ellen: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Pastor: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you

the strength and compassion to perform them.

People: Amen.

We stand as able

Pastor: People of God, will you receive Ellen into this ministry as one sent to serve in the

church of Jesus Christ?

People: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Pastor: Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things

strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

People: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Pastor: Ellen, I now declare you installed as Living Springs Associate for Jr. Youth &

G.I.F.T. Zone Ministries. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your

deeds in peace, that you may be a faithful servant of Christ.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, as you called apostles and evangelists, pastors and teachers to instruct, comfort, admonish, and care for us, so you have called Ellen. Fill her with wisdom and patience, with love, and with faithfulness to your word, that she may with gladness teach, comfort, counsel, and guide the children and youth of this congregation, and their families, to maturity in Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

Leader: People of God, I present to you, Ellen Girardeau, your Associate for Jr. Youth and G.I.F.T. Zone Ministries. Let us welcome her in the name of Christ.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

### **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 gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Sovereign God, you raise up governments to nurture peace and protect the vulnerable. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile conflicts and disputes among your human family. Bring healing to those who suffer from trauma or disaster. Break our hearts open to all those who are ill or mourn. We especially pray for: Shirl Schiffman & the Breivik family; Wendy/Meredith McKenzie & the Bush family; Jonathon Grohman; Carl Nandrasy; Anne Ducate; Neva Burley; JoAnn Pulse; Bunie Talbert; Helen Tolleson; Elizabeth Maddox; Jim Glander; Jordan Tonkin; Walter Metze; Jane Sharp; Tristan Groscost; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud.... Lord, in your mercy,

Assist: Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of

abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling

the story of your lovingkindness. 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

### **OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN**

#### **MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

"I Believe"

by Mark A. Miller, performed by LS Women's Choir

Words scratched on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany by a Jew hiding from Nazi persecution: I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I don't feel it. I believe in God even when God is silent.

We stand as able



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

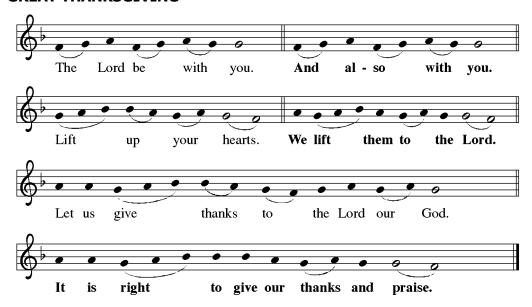
Assist: Let us pray.

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**



#### **EUCHARISTIC 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.

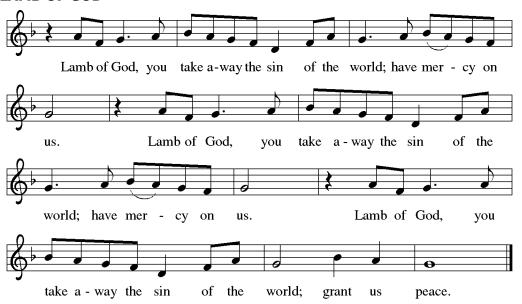
#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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**





### **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**

"Come As You Are "

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been. Come, broken-hearted, let rescue begin. Come find your mercy. O sinner come kneel: Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal, Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken lift up your face. O wanderer, come home; you're not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed: Come sit at the table, come taste the grace. There's rest for the weary, rest that endures. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken lift up your face. O wanderer, come home; you're not too far. So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are.

Come as you are. Fall in His arms. Come as you are.

There's joy for the morning. O sinner, be still. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.

Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame. All who are broken lift up your face. O wanderer, come home; you're not too far.

We stand after all have received communion

### **EUCHARISTIC 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** "I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light" ELW #815

(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.



### **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:**

Welcoming God as a Child

All the greatness humankind can fashion for itself is put to shame by the glory God gives to childlike faith. In the gospel reading two weeks from today, Jesus will tell his disciples, "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it" (Mark 10:15). Everything is upside-down in Jesus' teachings—children know more than scholars, servants become greater than masters, to die is to win life, the last shall be first and the first shall be last. In today's gospel, Jesus insists that welcoming a young child means welcoming Jesus, which means welcoming our all-powerful God.

Surely childlike faith is one thing, but a child standing in God's place? Jesus in the form of a little kid we can welcome with open arms? Yes. This is the kind of unexpected reversal that the Almighty seems to love. For God is not only welcomed through a child; God became a child.

In ten weeks it will be Advent, and we will be asked again to stretch our imaginations and attempt to fathom the idea of God living as a baby. Do we truly welcome this truth of God's identity and ways? Can we truly welcome all that God's plan brings us, having faith that our journey has been walked before, believing that the one who has fully completed it returns to our sides to guide us on our way?

Let us, as little children, lift our arms toward our God in prayer. Let us welcome each other in peace. And let us open our arms to receive all that lies ahead of us.



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### THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

### **ASSISTING MINISTER**

Alison Levitt

### **LECTOR**

Christopher Girardeau

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Pat Bartucca Ellen Girardeau

### **USHERS**

Randy Masad Leslie Bloss Adam Woodruff Steve Bloss

### **INSIDE GREETER**

Cathy Lowman



### **OUTSIDE GREETER**

Wes Levitt

### **ACOLYTE**

Lina Mooney

### **CRUCIFER**

Austin Padgett

### **TORCHBEARERS**

Jeanette Bloss Gail Buchanan

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Pr. Eric Fink & Adam Woodruff

### NAME TAGS

Gay Walter

## **FLOWERS**

Judy Lawrence

### MUGGER

Karen Kranz

### **COFFEE**

Bill Franck

### **REFRESHMENT**

Ashley Ramsey

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Linda Hayes/Nancy Baldwin

### **COUNTERS**

Ann Lynn Caughman Trish Davidson Mark Stuart

### **COUNCIL DISCIPLE**

**Gay Walter** 

# **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

4224 Hard Scrabble Rd., Columbia, SC 29223

E-Mail: contact@livinspringscolumbia.org Office: (803) 736-0661 – Preschool: 736-0776 www.facebook.com/livingspringscolumbia

# www.livingspringscolumbia.org

Ministers: People of Living Springs. *Our Ministry Staff contacts are*: Rev. Eric Fink, Senior Pastor ......pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org George Donovan, Jr., Dir. of Music & Worship......george@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.