# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 9, 2020 - 10:45 AM Scout Sunday



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

# **Living Springs Lutheran Church**

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

#### **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. 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). 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 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).

#### **GATHERING: GOD-STORIES & BULLETIN SLIPS**

As we gather, we reflect on God's work, with some visual examples on the display screens. We use the green slips in our bulletins to write down our God's Stories (and prayer concerns). Where have you seen or experienced God at work in yourself, in the lives of others, or the world this past week? Names are NOT required. Green slips may be placed in the offering plate.

**GATHERING MUSIC** Trado Mayson

Baptismal Anniversaries: Lilah Snipes (2/10); Mike Wirth (2/10); Wendy McKenzie (2/13); Adaline Peterson (2/14); Wesley Graves (2/15)

(During the Gathering Music, individuals meet the Pastor at the font for a special blessing.)

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### SCOUT SUNDAY – RECOGNITION & BLESSING



We stand as able

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the eternal voice from heaven, the

anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of

Christ crucified and risen.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: God who searches us and knows us,

People: you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to

find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ

our Savior. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is

from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; + your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be

glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

People: Amen.

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

**ENTRANCE SONG** "Gather Us In" ELW #532

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING AND 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: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By

your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to

do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

We are seated

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Seminarian Isaac Taylor

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 (Woodyard Assistance Fund/LS Assistance Fund). 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.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. (Isaiah 58:1-12)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM 112**

Lector: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD

and have great delight in God's commandments!

People: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Lector: Wealth and riches will be in their house,

and their righteousness will last forever.

People: Light shines in the darkness for the upright;

the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

Lector: It is good for them to be generous in lending

and to manage their affairs with justice.

People: For they will never be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

Lector: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;

their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

People: Their heart is established and will not shrink,

until they see their desire upon their enemies.

Lector: They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;

they will hold up their head with honor.

People: The wicked will see it and be angry;

they will gnash their teeth and pine away;

the desires of the wicked will perish.

#### SECOND READING

Lector: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:1-16)

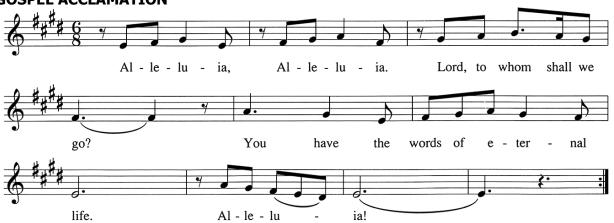
Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.



We stand for the reading of the Gospel





#### **GOSPEL LESSON**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said:] "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:13–20)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON Rev. Eric Fink

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 

"Christ, Be Our Light"

ELW #715

#### **ENTERING CONFIRMATION FAITH MILESTONE**

## **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: Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in

need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: Holy God, it is your desire that all people might come to know you intimately. Lead

our communities into deeper relationship with you. May your church radiate your righteousness to all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God.

## **People:** Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of creation, you quench the dry ground, bringing water that sustains life.

Satisfy the needs of all the earth, so that all living things bear witness to your verdant grace and continue to shout your praise. Hear us, O God.

## People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of glory, you continue to bring light into the darkness of our world through

youth and their families among us. Shine your light upon ministries of scouting and confirmation, that leaders, participants and their families might find joy in your presence. Hear us, O God

## People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of justice, you free us from the oppression that binds us and exhort us to

serve one another. Liberate us from all fear, bigotry, and greed, and set our hearts

and minds on love, equality, and justice. Hear us, O God.

## People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of life, you reveal your saving love to us through the power of your Spirit.

Bring your healing power to all who are recovering or suffering in mind, body, or

spirit, especially: Nancy Franck, Charles Kauffman; Peggy Collins; Anne Ducate; Sherry Forsgren; Margaret Blank; Jim Glander; JoAnn Pulse; Tom Banca; Calvin Blue; John Wright; Wanda Bunn; Leigh Snelgrove; Patrick Weinbauer; Skip Kasdorf; Jacqueline Sims; Andrea Rayler; the Wolinski family; Timothy Johnson; Kyle Humphries; the Monroe family; Mary Daniel; Claire Teuber; Jeanie Grisold; Laurie Elliot, Ben/Carson Coomes; Cherish Rushing; Dot Collins; those on our prayer cards; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud.... Hear

us, O God.

## **People:** Your mercy is great.

Assist: God of all eternity, we give you thanks for the lives of the saints who have pointed

us towards faithfulness in you. May we trust in your endless mercy and grace.

Hear us, O God.

## People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Confident that you are able to accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we

bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in 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."

We are seated

#### **OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN**

For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app. If you give electronically or by bank draft, there are anonymous "offering cards" in the pew rack, which you may prayerfully place in the plate as a reminder that every offering by any means is an act of worship.





**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION** 

"You are the Salt and Light"

LS Adult Choir/JuBELLation Choir By Pepper Choplin

We stand as able

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN**



#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assist: Let us pray.

People: God of wonder, you formed us in our mother's womb, and from mother

earth you bring forth this bread and wine. We place them on your table, together with our lives and all that you have made. Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit. We wait for your mercy; we long for your peace; we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ, our banquet of life. Amen.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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: 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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table

of mercy and joy.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

We are seated

## **LAMB OF GOD**





#### **OFFERING OF SYMBOLIC "DEEPER" STONES**

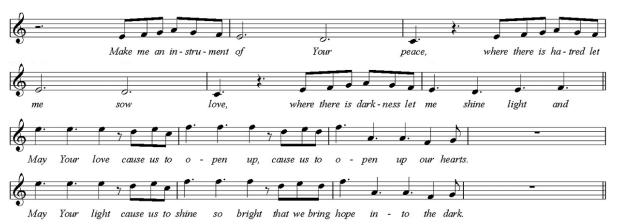
Each person is invited to prayerfully consider in which area(s) you seek to especially grow DEEPER in the months ahead. As you come forward for Communion, you are invited to pick up a glass oval and drop it in the corresponding water container at the base of the baptismal font (gold = Christ, blue = Grace, red = Love). Remembering the gift of your baptism, you may dip your thumb in the water and as the oval drops deep into the water, re-trace the cross on your forehead, offering a prayer, "God, help me grow deeper in this week."

#### **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 will be offered a special blessing, as well as anyone else not desiring to receive the elements. Simply fold your hands to indicate you would like to receive the blessing.

## **DISTRIBUTION SONG**

"Open Up"



You heard the cry of our hearts and you came down Freely you gave us your love showing us how (Chorus)

All that we do without love it means nothing Grant us the courage to give as you're calling (Chorus)

May we love, as you love may we love, as you love may we love, as you love may we love 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: Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the

gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and

Lord.

People: Amen

#### **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together,

keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the

Father, the 

→ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

People: Amen.

**SENDING SONG** "This Little Light of Mine" ELW #677

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

#### **DISMISSAL**

Assist: Go in peace. Let your light shine. Grow Deeper in Christ, Grace, and Love.

**People: Thanks be to God.** 

#### **POSTLUDE**

As we go out to serve the Lord, we encourage you to share the FaceTime Live Stream Casts from today's worship experience on your social media platforms using #GodsGraceForAll. You can find the live stream on our Living Springs FaceBook page: @livingspringscolumbia



#### FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

Let It Shine

Luciana's mother posted a photo on her Facebook page. The image was blurry and a little dark, but Luciana's unmistakable, toothy grin shined brighter than the flame of the baptismal candle on the table before her.

She's five now, and her candle is lit every year on her baptismal anniversary. The candle burns, reminding her that she is a beloved child of God, a holy vessel of an everlasting love. The light of God's joy dances in her eyes and illumines the hearts of her family and our congregation.

As with every child, difficult days will cloud her bright eyes. Doubts will trouble her mind. Moments will come when she feels rejected or not "good enough." Sadness will shadow her smile when loss and disappointments cause her to forget how precious and beautiful she is, and how much the world needs the love that shines from her heart.

When that happens, I hope she lights her candle and remembers who she is. I hope someone is there to tell her the truth: "Luciana, you are the light of the world. The love of Jesus shines in your heart. So be who you are. Let your light shine, that others may see your good works and give thanks to your Father in heaven."

Forgetting our identity is our greatest spiritual malady. We too, Luciana's siblings in Christ, are vessels of a great and everlasting love. We need to remember and remind each other of the mystery we carry in the depth of our being. This is why we come together, again and again, to pray and praise, to share the peace and break bread at the eucharist.

As we come to bask in the warm light of Christ, may we shine with the light that we are.



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## THANK YOU FOR SERVING TODAY!

### **ASSISTING MINISTER**

Mike Davidson

#### **LECTOR**

Adriana McMurphy

#### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Alison Levitt Audrey Turnmire

#### **USHERS**

Steve Padgett Austin Padgett Wes Levitt Steve Bloss

## **INSIDE GREETER**

Cathy Lowman

#### **OUTSIDE GREETER**

Wes Levitt

#### **CRUCIFER**

Adriana McMurphy

#### **TORCHBEARERS**

Gail Buchanan Karlene Stuart

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

Isaac Taylor

#### **COUNTERS**

Mark Stuart (L) Trish Davidson Julie Ann Harris

#### **NAME TAGS**

Karen Kranz

#### **SOUND TECH**

Bob Turnmire

#### **MUGGER**

Karen Kranz

#### COFFEE

Karen Kranz

#### REFRESHMENTS

Saundra Dixon

## **COUNCIL PERSON**

Mike Davidson

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Linda Hayes

#### **GUEST KEYBOARDIST**

Trado Mayson



# **Seasonal Emphasis**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

## LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

4224 Hard Scrabble Rd., Columbia, SC 29223

Office: (803) 736-0661

E-Mail: contact@livinspringscolumbia.org

## www.livingspringscolumbia.org

Ministers: People of Living Springs. <i>Our Ministry Staff cont</i> a	acts are:
Rev. Eric Fink, Senior Pastor	pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org
Deacon Justin Rimbo, Min. of Worship & Innovative Church Outreach	justin@livingspringscolumbia.org
Tammy Mancuso, Director, Living Springs Child Development Center	tmancuso@lslccdc.org
Lisa Petty, Communications Coordinator/Administrative Assistant	lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org
Seminarian Isaac Taylor, Sr. Youth Associate	isaac@livingspringscolumbia.org
Peri Baker, Children/Youth Associate	peri@livingspringscolumbia.org
Deacon Lexanne Graves, Coordinator E-Outreach Ministries	lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org
Virginia Herlong, Choral Director	virginia@livingspringscolumbia.org
Laura Turnmire, Handbell Director	laurabells@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 2020 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.