

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 31, 2021 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

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

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Holy God,

People: **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

Pastor: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word; Text: st. 1 Tobias Clausnitzer, st. 4 Catherine Winkworth; Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle

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.**

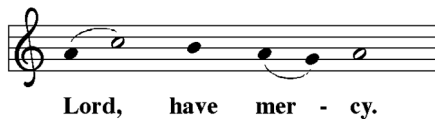


KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



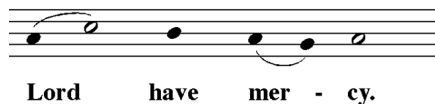
Pastor: For the peace from above
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For this community of faith,
and all who offer their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



Pastor: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Deacon Lexanne Graves

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to in-person worship, to the Parking Lot Communion Distributions, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the Disaster Response Fund.

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)

Solid in our hope...

(God's movin' us) For-ward in faith!

Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)

Forward in faith (clap, clap, clap)

Keepin' our eyes on Jesus,

We're runnin' the race!

FIRST READING

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

Lector: A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die." (Deuteronomy 18:15-20)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111

Lector: Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**People: Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

Lector: Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

**People: You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

Lector: You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

**People: You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

Lector: The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

**People: They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

Lector: You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**People: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

Lector: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. (1 Corinthians 8:1-13)

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. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. (Mark 1:21-28)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink



HYMN OF THE DAY

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are



rule in eq - ui - ty.
pre - cious in your sight.

Hail to the Lord's Anointed; Text: James Montgomery; Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter

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: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

+ A brief silence +

Assist: For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those struggling with mental illness, those affected by Covid, those who are hungry or homeless, those who are grieving, those who are sick and hospitalized and all in any need. We pray especially for *Lois Mattson; Todd Gunvalson; Elizabeth Maddox; Dolores Harmon; Rhea Pye; Wendy McKenzie; Karl Schmidt; Ed Brennan; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Helen Bradham; Bunie Talbert; Randy Daniels; baby Cayden; Anne McDonell; Kathy Nelson; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Jimmy Donahue; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* For caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For the joys of this congregation, especially the call of Pr. Carl Taylor. For those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

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."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

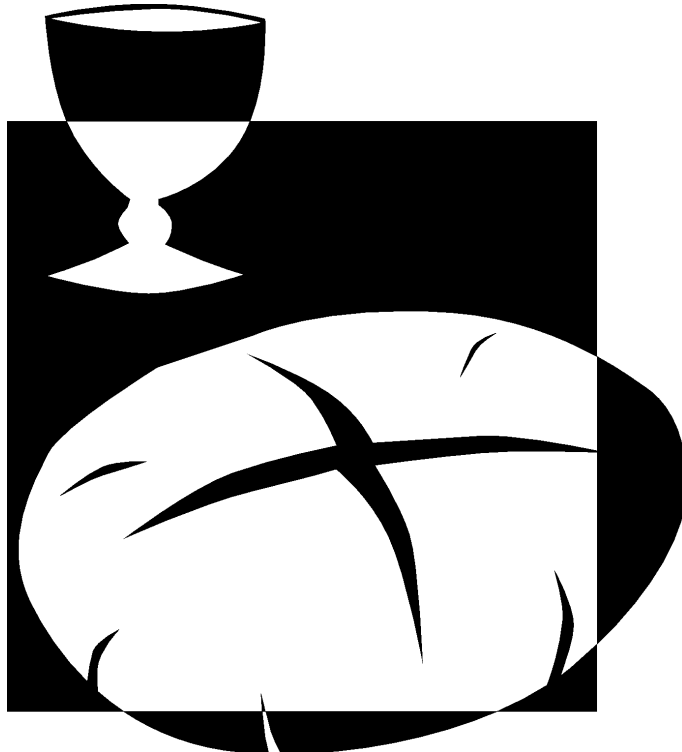
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we are fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we do not celebrate Holy Communion in this virtual gathering, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion — as we anticipate, with joy, those times when we are fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal in this moment of worship, for reasons you understand, we still sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting those times when we share in this meal, we still cherish in our hearts the words which Jesus gave us:

People: 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."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and look forward to the time when we gather with others around the Lord's Table.



COMMUNION REFLECTION

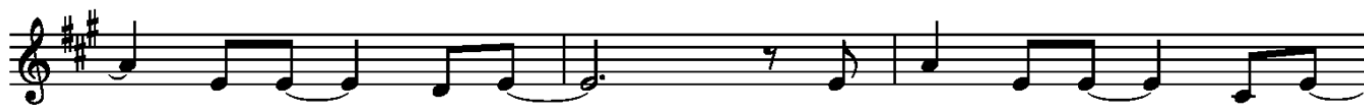
"How Great is Our God"



1. The splen - dor of the King, clothed in maj - es - ty;
 (2. And) age to age - He stands, and time is in His hands;



Let all the earth re - joice, all the earth re - joice. He wraps
 Be - gin - ning and the End, Be - gin - ning and the End. The God -



Him - self in light, and dark - ness tries to hide,
 head, three in one, Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



and trem - bles at His voice, and trem - bles at His voice. How great
 the Li - on and the Lamb, the Li - on and the Lamb.

CHORUS



is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
 Fine



And all will see how great, how great is our God!

BRIDGE



2. And Name a - bove all names,



wor - thy of all praise. My heart will sing: How great is our God!



D.S. al Fine

is our God! How great

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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

People: Amen

SENDING SONG

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant-ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.

Son of God, Eternal Savior; Text: Somerset C. Lowry; Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen

DISMISSAL

Assist: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.



*It is with great joy and thanksgiving to God
that we announce the call of the Holy Spirit!*

Carl D. Taylor
Associate Pastor
Living Springs Lutheran Church

*We are blessed to welcome Pastor Carl,
spouse LaTynia, daughters Sydnie & McKenzie,
as partners in ministry with this community of disciples!*



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We give thanks to all who made such a special effort to participate in our Congregation Meeting on Jan. 28, with over double the number needed for a quorum. The official vote to call Pastor Taylor was 112-2! On Monday, Pastor Carl responded with a prayerful & resounding "Yes" to the call – and paperwork has been accepted by the Bishop. **Pastor Carl's official starting date will be February 18**, but you will see him around in the upcoming weeks, as he makes preparation and becomes more acquainted with Living Springs.

Rite of Ordination will be conducted by SC Synod Bishop Ginny Aebischer at St. Paul Lutheran, Columbia on Saturday, Feb. 27. We will all be invited to participate virtually – mark your calendars. Pastor Carl's Service of Installation will then take place here at Living Springs in the following days – final details to be announced. We invite your continued prayer for Pastor Carl, his family, and our congregation, as we anticipate all the Spirit will accomplish through this partnership in years to come!

We deeply appreciate the faithful work of our Call Committee: Chair Steve Padgett, Gary Bradham, Gwen Furcron, Alison Levitt, London Mancuso, Dan Shannon. We also give thanks for the powerful response to our "Forward in Generosity" 2021 Giving Intent emphasis (and our Principal Paydown Drive), which helped affirm that this vision for a full-time 2nd Rostered Leader would remain feasible, even in the world's challenging times. What a powerful witness of moving "Forward in Faith" here in the 33rd year of LS! To God be the Glory!

LEADERS NEEDED FOR LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUPS

Lent is a time for reflection and preparation. Sometimes we see it as a time for listening God to speak to us and for solitary contemplation. However, it is also a time for sharing how we hear and see the Holy Spirit at work in the word and in our lives...how the Spirit tugs us to be disciples of Jesus.

We would like to have a dozen or so virtual Disciple Groups, which will meet at least twice during Lent. Group leaders are needed to host the virtual group gatherings. Don't worry about managing your way through Google Meet or Zoom. Lifelong Discipleship will arrange for that. Don't worry about needing to plan the program. That will all be taken care of, too.

No need to provide refreshments or even tidy up your home, since gatherings will be virtual. You just need to invite others to be part of your group.

Won't you step forward to help make this important journey of sharing and growth possible? Please contact Steve Bloss at sbloss1947@gmail.com or 803-467-8287 to find out more.

"SOUP"-ER BOWL SUNDAY

The Youth will be participating in "Soup"-er Bowl of Caring in a new and creative way this year, and they need your help! Do you love a bowl of classic chicken noodle or do you crave a creamy potato soup when the weather gets cold? "Vote" for your favorite soup by donating cans for those in need. Labeled bins (chicken noodle, potato, tomato, vegetable, other) will be set up in the Admin. building. Donations can be dropped off through Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th. The Youth will count the cans, announce the winning soup, and distribute them to local food pantries. If you are unable to come by the church, you can order through Amazon and have it delivered directly to the church. We will have a "soup bowl" at the worship check-in table on the 7th, for your hunger donations of coins and dollars. Monetary donations are also welcome via the Givelify app. Contact Leslie Bloss with any questions. Thanks in advance for your support!



INFANT HELPING HANDS ALERT!

The sister of one of our LS members has been moved by love to care for a baby boy (of very extended family) who has been born under very difficult circumstances. Immediate family is stepping up with a car seat, baby items, etc. Once home from the hospital, the baby will require an expensive specialized formula as well.

As a congregation, we can help with donations of:

•**Newborn onesies/outfits**

•**0-3 onesies/outfits**

•**Diapers - newborn & 0-3**

•**Wipes**

•**Swaddles**

•**Socks**

•**Sleep sack 0-6**

•**Bath items**

•**Baby blankets**

•**Bassinet sheets**

•**monetary donations to help with special formula**



Checks can be made to Living Springs Family Fund (marked "baby"). Donations can also be made on Givelify. There is a basket for items outside the office.

Let us remember the baby Jesus, born in his own difficult circumstances, and respond to this child's need in the name of our Lord!

2020 SOCK DRIVE CONTINUES THROUGH EPIPHANY SEASON!

As of today, we have collected 1770 socks and other items. We are 250 away from our goal. Through this season of light, we will continue the project of collecting 2020 new socks (= 1010 pairs).

The socks may be of any size for any age/gender, as they are badly needed by agencies serving adults who are homeless, veterans, youth at Palmetto Place, as well as children, newborns and toddlers. Other warm winter items (gloves, scarves, stocking hats) are welcome, too. There are baskets located in the office hallway.



HOPE MINISTRY PROJECT – CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In support of patient's families of children who are undergoing treatment at the Children's Cancer & Blood Disorder unit on the 5th floor of Prisma Children's Hospital, Living Springs is providing 24 meals on the third Thursday of each month. The meals are being delivered by our own LS members at Carolina Deli. Many of these families face the challenge of financial difficulties because of extensive medical expenses, missing work, longing to stay at the hospital with their children. To personalize this project, it will be an added comfort to include cards, pictures, poems with thoughts of comfort, words of encouragement, a handmade crochet or knitted square with an embroidered heart, etc.!! You can drop your cards or other care items off at the church on a continuing basis by the third Thursday and we will see they get delivered each month.

YEAR-END GIVING SUMMARIES

Giving Summaries and Thank-You's are available at the check-in table (or from the office during the week). For questions or corrections, contact Bill Franck at bfranck@sc.rr.com.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2021 envelopes boxes are available at the check-in table (or from the office during the week). Please pick up your box and use your envelopes throughout the year. If you do not find a box assigned to you, please contact Bill Franck and he will get you a box. Children's offering envelopes are not assigned. However, if your children want envelopes, please take a box, record your child's name and the box number.

God's Love Shared Through You ...



One Life Deeper !

Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during the year. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!**

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY: *Could He Be the Only One?*

Who: Jesus, disciples, observant go-to-worship folks honoring the sabbath. And, yes, a man with an unclean spirit. (Could he be the only such soul in the congregation?)

What: Reading holy words, the domain of scribes and scholars, and a shocking teaching given "with authority."

Where: In the synagogue.

When: On the sabbath.

Who is this one who cried out in the congregation? Was he a scared thief creeping from his hiding place? A lanky kid exhausted from bawling outside locked doors? An old man gasping beneath piles of ill-gotten wealth? A young woman cursing heaven by day and hell by night for reasons no one dares to name? A stumbling fugitive worn down by a lifetime of running? A robust profiteer, master of deception? An unjust judge solemnly wearing a robe woven from threads of secret favors? A miser in a mansion perched above slums? A hoarder of vengeance nursing metastasized hatreds? Have you seen, met, or known any of these among the congregation?

The one with an unclean spirit cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?" (Mark 1:24). Jesus silences the unclean spirit. But Jesus will not be the destroyer. The crucified one does not crucify. He does not build and fill prisons; he sets free. He does not shun, avoid, and send away; he calls the accursed to himself. He does not condemn the sinner; he rescues and saves.

Yes, they in the synagogue that day and we in the church this day are amazed. Jesus' teaching with authority contradicts all the rules that anchor us to a spirit of despair. Good news, indeed.

January Book of the Month: Proverbs