

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 7, 2021 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.



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

"Gather Us In"



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

*Gather Us In; Text: Marty Haugen; Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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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.**

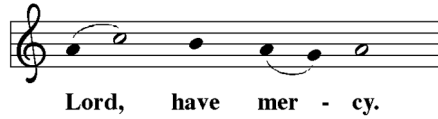


KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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



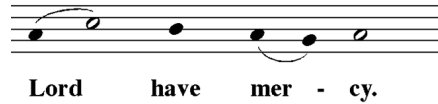
Pastor: For the peace from above
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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 Sanctuary worship, to the Parking Lot Worship, 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!*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

*1. Open up the skies of mercy
And rain down the cleansing flood
Healing waters rise around us
And hear our cries Lord let 'em rise*

*Chorus: And it's Your kindness Lord
That leads us to repentance
Your favor Lord is our desire
And it's Your beauty Lord
That makes us stand in silence
And Your love
Your love is better than life*

"Kindness"

*2. We can feel Your mercy falling
You are turning our hearts back again
Hear our praises rise to heaven
And draw us near Lord meet us here*

*"Kindness" words and music by Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Louie Giglio
CCLI Song #3028373 © 2000 sixsteps Music
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FIRST READING

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:21-31)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11, 20C

Lector: Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

**People: The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

Lector: The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

**People: The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

Lector: Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

**People: The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Lector: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

**People: who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

Lector: God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

**People: God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

Lector: but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,

People: in those who await God's steadfast love. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

Lector: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

(1 Corinthians 9:16-23)

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.

As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. (Mark 1:29-39)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

HYMN OF THE DAY

"On Eagle's Wings"

Leader or All



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath on dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All



4 For to the an-gels God's giv - en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath on dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

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 the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork, stress, or grief, and for all who cry out to you. We pray especially for *Melvin Lowery; Elizabeth Maddox; Jim Grimmer; Jeff Tenhover; the Shannon family; Lois Mattson; Ann Lynn Caughman; Todd Gunvalson; Ed Brennan; Dolores Harmon; Helen Bradham; Rhea Pye; Wendy McKenzie; Karl Schmidt; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; Randy Daniels; baby Cayden; Kathy Nelson; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Nancy Todd; Linda Murphey; the Ketterman family; Jimmy Donahue; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...*, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: For this community of disciples. For outreach and social ministries here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this and every congregation who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Assist: In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

People: Have mercy, O God.

Pastor: In these days of ongoing pandemic, we continue to pray for ..., 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.



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

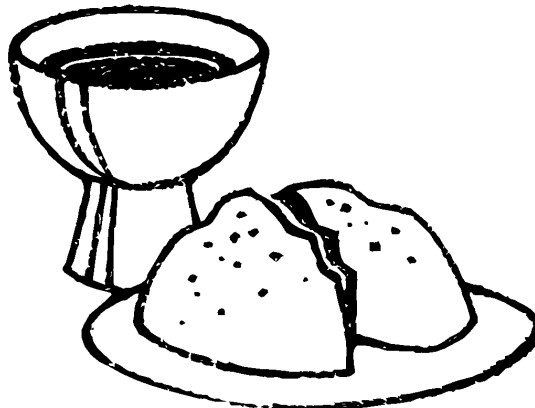
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we are fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we do not celebrate Holy Communion in this virtual gathering, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion — as we anticipate,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

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

*We Come to the Hungry Feast; Text: Ray Makeever; Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever
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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

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Disciples of Harmony

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

*Refrain: I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

I Love to Tell the Story; Text: Katherine Hankey; Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer

DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY "ALTAR FLOWERS" - THANK YOU!

The following have given the flowers at the altar for our Sunday and Tuesday in-person services:

January 31: In memory of Jim Hyman by Sue Hyman

Are you looking for a way to glorify God and/or memorialize/honor someone near and dear to you? Make a floral contribution by ordering altar flowers. There is a signup outside Lisa's office or go to <http://goo.gl/mVVrGE> to reserve your date. Please let the office know who or what it is that you are celebrating OR maybe you just want to thank God for the many blessings you receive! To order flowers from our preferred florist, contact Blythewood Florist at 691-1820. If you use a florist of your choosing, please arrange for delivery with the office for the Friday prior to your date.



SHROVE TUESDAY

February 16 6:30 LiveStream

**Blessing of Your Home Pancakes
& Burning of Palms Prayer Liturgy**

**Pancake Kits Available from LS Youth
Sunday, Feb. 14, 11:45-1:00
Sign-Up by Feb 12-Info Below**

*(pick-up at church, or youth can deliver -
support Youth Ministry with your donations)*



COVID has made this year's Shrove Tuesday pancake supper a little bit different. This year we are making pancake packets with all the ingredients so that you can make them at home and your family will be safe! *The kits can be picked up at church on Sunday, February 14th from 11:45 - 1pm (immediately after worship) or from the office through Tuesday, February 16. You can also request delivery to your doorstep on February 14th. If you would like a kit, (either pick-up or delivery), please sign up using the link below by Feb. 12—or call the office.*

<https://forms.gle/LmyV4HxSCApaMQDY9>

All donations for our youth ministry are welcome!

"SOUP"-ER BOWL SUNDAY

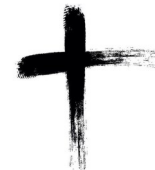
The Youth will be participating in "Soup"-er Bowl of Caring in a new and creative way this year, and they need your help! Do you love a bowl of classic chicken noodle or do you crave a creamy potato soup when the weather gets cold? "Vote" for your favorite soup by donating cans for those in need. Labeled 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!



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17

We begin the Lenten journey of prayer that leads us to the cross.



**Worship In-person
Noon & 7 pm
(Spaced w/ Face Coverings
in Sanctuary)
Imposition of Ashes
and Holy Communion.**

**Worship Live-streamed @ 7 pm
YouTube & Facebook
(Pick up your ashes for home use
—see below)**

Pick up Ashes at end of Worship on Sunday, Feb. 14, to be able to use in your home during the streamed worship service. OR call the office by Feb. 12—and our Sr. Youth can deliver the ashes to you, along with your Shrove Tuesday Pancake kit.

**"Ashes-to-Go"
8AM—10AM & 4PM -6PM
tents located at LS Parking Lot
and Lake Carolina Town Center**

BOY SCOUT TROOP 737'S ANNUAL "SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE"

**benefiting the
LS Backpack Food Ministry
Saturday, February 13**

Donations of Small INDIVIDUAL servings of non-perishable food items are needed: Cereal Boxes, milk cartons (non refrigerated), Snack Bars, Applesauce/ Fruit Cups, Peanut Butter, Fruit Juice Boxes, Raisins, Peanuts, Pop Tarts, Meat Items (Beanie Weenies, Vienna Sausage), Ramen Noodles, Pudding, Cookies, & Crackers. Please bring your Individual serving items to Living Springs Church on SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 13TH, STARTING 9:00 AM!! Our Scouts will begin collecting 9:00 AM until Noon that Day so please bring your individual food items to LSLC for our Scouts to begin collecting!!



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!

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.

2020 SOCK DRIVE CONTINUES THROUGH EPIPHANY SEASON!

As of today, we have collected 1800 socks and other items. We are 220 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.

LENTEN FISH FRY

Feb. 19 Through Mar. 26
5 pm - 7 pm.

Because safety is our main priority and we are not able to socialize in the fellowship hall, the fish fry will be available through Fishin' Fellas, a food truck stationed in Blythewood that many of you are probably already familiar with. Of course, the fellowship, tired bodies, sore feet and entertainment will be greatly missed by all our many workers who made it possible for our success. *The price of \$10 for each adult meal at Fishin' Fellas is a choice of: Flounder & a side; 10 ct. Shrimp & a side; Shrimp Taco & a side; or Fish (Flounder) Taco and a side. Sides: Fried Okra, Hush puppies; or Fries (adult meals include a water). Kids add-on: 4 ct. Shrimp & a side (\$5). The truck will be parked on our property every Friday in Lent (order directly from your vehicle), starting Feb. 19 and ending the Friday before Easter week Mar. 26. Time will be 5 pm - 7 pm.*

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!

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY:

Where the Crowd Is

"Have you not known? Have you not heard?" So begins the prophet Isaiah's marvelous declaration (Isaiah 40:21, 28).

People were stirring in Capernaum, Simon Peter's seaside fishing town. Apparently the whole city knew and heard; why else, at day's end, would all the houses have emptied out leaving fish to be cleaned, floors to be swept, children to be bathed, wheat to be ground, and goats to be milked, so people could huddle at his door?

In the morning, crowds were again on the move, this time near the deserted place where Jesus was in prayerful retreat. Apparently everyone knew and heard; why else, at such an hour, would people in neighboring towns have delayed breakfasts, postponed boat launchings, put off opening markets, set aside filling lamps, put down mending, to go searching for him?

Some years ago, theologian Douglas John Hall wrote a provocative book, *Waiting for Gospel*. Its cover pictures an individual standing alone in an open field, looking down, waiting. The book presents a critique and reminder for the church: whole cities, neighboring towns, are crowding doors, searching deserted places for good news, for gospel. But is the church sharing the gospel?

Isn't someone always selling snake-oil solutions for shriveled hearts, beachfront on a desert seashore, joy from a pill? What are we to believe? Who are we to listen to? When pandemic wobbles the globe, seas rise and economies fall, depressions blossom and hopes wither; when people starve in the shadow of mountains of rotting food, artificial intelligence baits kitchen table wisdom, virtual relationships land knockout blows to authentic community, and "mass" is the prefix to "incarceration," "migration," and "destruction"—which door are we to crowd? Where are we to search?

Have we not known? Have we not heard? Good news draws a crowd; the gospel is found in Jesus!

January Book of the Month: Proverbs