

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 21, 2021 - 10:30 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

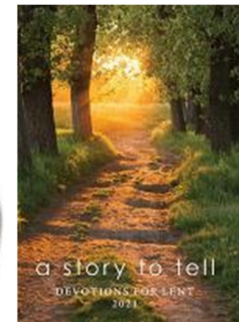
4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.



LENT 2021... A Story to Tell: God Is Love!



"...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!" (Mark 5:19)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUSTICE MINISTRY NETWORK MEMBER BLESSING

Helen Doerpinghaus & Wayne Kannaday - TL

Ashley Ramsey
Zeke Hanford
Karen Hardy
Tracy Power
Jan Epperson
Gary & Susan Bradham
Bill & Ginny Eiwen
Kris & Eric Fink

Gail Buchanan – TL

Steve Bloss
Bill Franck
Karen Kranz & Jeff Lummel

Joel Holmstrom
Kellie Snipes
Kay Herbert
Dee & Jim Glander
Cathy Creticos
Alexis & Eric Hyyppa
Peg & Jim Zieche – TL
Adrianna McMurphy
Leslie Bloss
Raegan Prest
Dea Jones
Barb & John Imbert
Shirl Schiffman
Adam Woodruff

Trish & Mike Davidson – TL

Gwen Furcron - TL

Bob & Laura Turnmire
Todd & Midge Gunvalson
Vicki Crapps
Brantley Smith
Jan Berger
Ginny Devereaux
Doug Danner
Cynthia Edney
Eva Miller
Carl Taylor

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Fountain of living water,

People: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"Now the Green Blade Rises"



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

*Now the Green Blade Rises; Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum; Music: NOEL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from Oxford Book of Carols© 1928 Oxford University Press.
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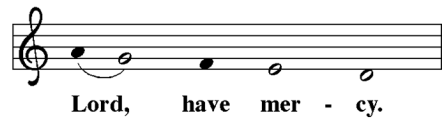
APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

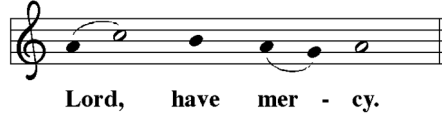
People: And also with you.

KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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



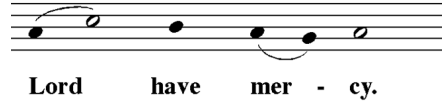
Pastor: For the peace from above
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Raegan Prest

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 World Hunger 40 Days of Giving.

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
Witnesses all a'round ...
(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

"To Deserve"

Verse

*Create in me a clean heart
And renew a right spirit in me
Cast me not away O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me*

Chorus

*(And) With my hands lifted high
I will praise You as King
What have I done
To deserve a love like Yours
With our voices lifted high
We proclaim You as King
What have we done
To deserve a love like Yours
(Like Yours)*

"To Deserve", CCLI Song # 4697404; words and music by Jonathan Stockstill
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FIRST READING

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

Lector: A reading from Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-12

Lector: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**People: Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Lector: For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**People: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Lector: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

**People: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Lector: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**People: Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Lector: Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**People: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Lector: Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**



SECOND READING

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

Lector: A reading from Hebrews.

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:5-10)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. (John 12:20-33)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Carl Taylor


HYMN OF THE DAY

"As the Grains of Wheat"


Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*As the Grains of Wheat; Text: Didache, Marty Haugen; Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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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

Pastor: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.
+ A brief silence +

Pastor: You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Bless the work of our Midlands Justice Ministry in these important days and weeks ahead, as we seek to bring hope for those without adequate housing, those burdened by issues of mental health, and all suffering from community violence. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. We pray especially for: *Vickie Crapps & family; Goldie/Delores Harmon; Ed Brennan; Ann Lynn Caughman; Debbie Smith; Charles Kauffman; Inge Lowery; Margaret Blank; Bunie Talbert; Beverly Donahue; Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Wilma Bracey; Cristy Sanipre; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...*, Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Faith Formation, confirmation, and youth ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you, *especially Thomas Cranmer, whom we commemorate today*. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: In these days, ... Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC DIALOGUE & 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: 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.

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: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

People: Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

ALL ARE WELCOME to partake of Holy Communion, for we believe this is the Lord's Meal (not ours) and open to Christians of any background, denomination, or tradition. As Lutheran Christians, we believe in the full presence of Christ in, with, and under the elements. During the COVID outbreak, we continue to temporarily utilize the sanitary-packaged individual communion elements. The wafer is located under the plastic film on top of the sealed cup - you can pull back the plastic film for the wafer, and then peel off the aluminum seal to open the cup. Feel free to either eat the wafer or drink the grape juice first, depending on which is easier for you to open. Separate individually-packaged GLUTEN-FREE wafers are also available.



COMMUNION REFLECTION

"I Am the Bread of Life "

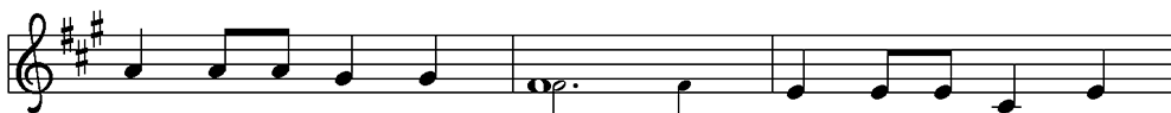
Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you
 you are the Christ, the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, you shall . . live for -
 Son of God, who have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain

All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day."



POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Pastor: The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you † that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways;
Text: Isaac Watts; Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal;*

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. You have a story to tell - God is love!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

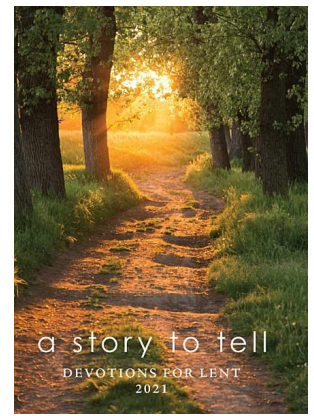
† COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY †

Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556

Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.



LENT 2021... A Story to Tell: God Is Love!



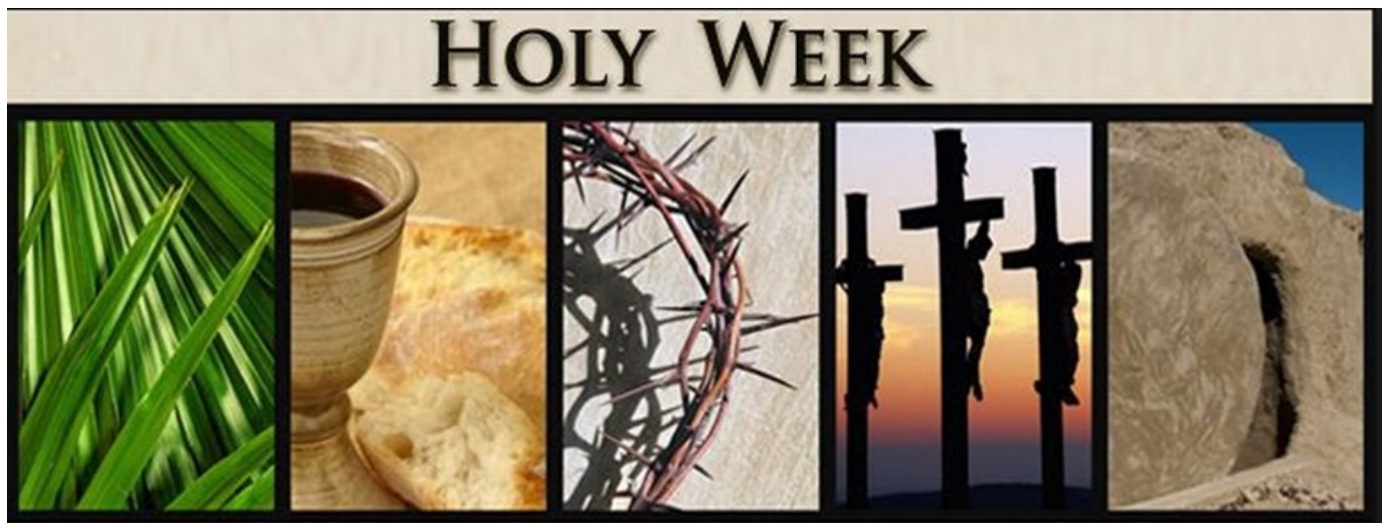
MID-DAY LENTEN WORSHIP
Tuesdays @ 12:00, Feb. 23 - Mar. 23

LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP
Wednesdays @ 6:00, Feb. 24 - Mar. 24

SPECIAL LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUPS
(meet virtually)
& ONGOING BIBLE STUDIES

"A Story to Tell"
Daily Lenten Devotions
"God Is Love"
Pocket/Bag Medallions
+++

5:19 Daily Prayer Alerts
(Mark 5:19 — "...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!")



Palm Sunday, March 28 - 8:15 (sanctuary) & 10:30 (sanctuary/lawn/vehicle/online)

Maundy Thursday, April 1 - Noon (sanctuary) & 7:00 (sanctuary/online)

Good Friday, April 2 - Noon (sanctuary) & 7:00 (sanctuary/online)

Holy Saturday, April 3 - 7:30pm (sanctuary/lawn Vigil Service)

Easter Sunday, April 4 - 6:30am Son-Rise (lawn)

8:15am Worship (sanctuary)

10:30am Festival Worship (sanctuary/lawn/vehicle/online)

6pm Emmaus Communion (GoogleMeet from your home)

(*Lutheran Men will have Easter Breakfast "to-go" boxes available for pick-up after the Son-rise and 8:15 worship services)

**MID-DAY WORSHIP (WITH COMMUNION)
TUESDAYS @ 12:00, FEB. 23 - MAR. 23**

**LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00, FEB. 24 - MAR. 24**
In-Person (sanctuary) & live-streamed (YouTube & Facebook)
This Week - The Poor Widow (Pr. Carl Taylor & Kellee Flores)

EASTER FLOWERS

Due by 3/29

If you would like to donate a flower in honor/memory of a loved one, please fill out the form available [online](#) or in the narthex. Please return it to the office, place in the offering plate or call the office. The name of your loved one will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. \$12 donation per plant is requested. Due 3/29

LENTEN DISCIPLE GROUP GATHERINGS!

Lent is a time for reflection and preparation. It is a time for listening to God and for contemplation. It is also a time for sharing how we see the Holy Spirit at work in our lives...how the Spirit tugs us to be disciples of Jesus. Everyone has been assigned to a Lenten Group that will gather virtually 1-2 times. Pastor Eric led a group with our Discipleship Leaders - it was very powerful to get to know each other and reflect on our call to be followers of Jesus. We each have a story to tell! You should be contacted by a Group Leader with a GoogleMeet link, but if not (or if you have a friend who would like to join), please feel free to contact the leader for a gathering that works for you (or call the office):

Sunday, 3/21 @ 3pm - contact Karen Kranz/Jeff Lummel

Sunday, 3/28 @ 5pm - contact Adam Woodruff/Angie Dyches

2nd Gathering TBA (youth focus) - contact Leslie Bloss

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Raegan Prest

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Steve Bloss

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Brantley Smith

2nd Gathering TBA - contact Steve Padgett

LENTEN 5:19 PRAYER ALERTS

During Lent, we are sending out daily "prayer alerts," with the prayer and scripture from each day's devotion. Alerts will be sent out at 5:19 PM, reminding us of Mark 5:19: "...tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy the Lord has shown you!"

*"A Story to Tell" Daily Devotion Books and "God is Love" Pocket/Bag Medallions are being distributed today or stop by the office during the week. Additional Lenten Devotional Resources:
Families - "With Your Whole Heart"
Children - "Were You There?"
Teens - "Lent-stagram"*



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.*

THE MORE JUSTICE RALLY

March 22 at 6:30 pm

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8) The MORE Justice Rally is almost here: it's March 22 at 6:30 pm, online or drive-up. LS Network Members have committed to attend and can find details and Register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmYSz04BAjgcFICZTNLzdE-wEgsEPOAw4t8KgRaYRR0vVXLA/viewform>. The Rally is when we prepare for the annual Nehemiah Action (April 26, at 6:30 pm). At Nehemiah we join with 35+ other congregations to speak up for those affected by mental illness, lack of affordable housing, and gun violence. For more information contact Gail Buchanan, Helen Doeringhaus, Mike Davidson, Gwen Furcron, Peg or Jim Zieche.



40X40 LENTEN COLLECTION

Small blankets (shawls, lap blankets) for local nursing homes; paper goods (paper towels, napkins) for homeless shelter and Palmetto Place; and backpack individual food items (cereal, applesauce/fruit cups, juice). A basket is available in the admin building. Our goal is $40 \times 40 = 1600$ total items.

BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY

Would you like to help with packing the bags for our backpack program? Signup Genius has the schedule for the remainder of the school year. Two to three people can pack at a time or maybe you would like to do it as a family project? Contact Karen Kranz for details or questions. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-backpack>.



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT: *Life Not Thwarted by Death*

On Ash Wednesday we put ashes on our heads, allowing our truth to be exposed: we are mortal; we are dust. We spoke a confession, and more and more truth bubbled up, truth that so often is suppressed: we are broken; we have fallen short; we are implicated in the muck of systemic sin. On Ash Wednesday we agreed: we are done putting on airs.

Jesus has never been one for putting on airs, and so today we find him living the consequence of a truthful, authentic life. He has raised Lazarus from the dead, he has attracted a following, and the religious authorities are afraid for themselves and their people living under Roman occupation that Jesus is about to bring Rome down upon their heads. They are actively seeking to silence Jesus for the sake of the nation.

We meet Jesus today facing down the choice either to bury his truth in order to stay safe or to let the truth of his life be known and therefore risk being buried. Jesus chooses to let his truth and his light shine, knowing he will be buried for it. Despite the way it troubles his soul, he is clear that this is what he has come to do. Like the wheat seed that dies to create life in a new stalk of grain, Jesus' life will not be thwarted by the threat of death.

When you were baptized, you were baptized into Christ's life; the seed of your life was buried in Christ. When you dine at Christ's table, you take his life into your own. His fearless, free, unearthed, burgeoning life is yours. You are free, O church, from the work of appeasing others, of contorting yourself to stay safe, of quieting your unique and therefore potent voice, of finding creative ways to hide the light that is in you. Your life will not be thwarted by death. So, live.

Starting MARCH 14

**** Full Congregation Worship: Sundays @ 10:30 ****

You choose the option with which you're most comfortable @ 10:30

Sanctuary (*Spaced Seating; Face Coverings*)

Lawn (*Bring Your Chair, Spaced Seating; Face Coverings*)

Vehicle (*Participate via Parking Lot Transmitter, 87.9FM, without face coverings*)

Online (*service will still be posted/streamed on YouTube, Facebook*)

Ongoing Additional Sanctuary Option: Sundays @ 8:15

(*Spaced Seating; Face Coverings*)

Ongoing Midweek Lent (sanctuary) - Tuesday @ 12; Wednesday @ 6pm

(*Spaced Seating & Face Coverings; Wednesday @ 6pm is also live-streamed!*)

Starting March 14, those worshipping in sanctuary will have 2 Communion options: pre-packaged elements OR traditional wafer/wine in individual cups.

March Book of the Month: Gospel of Mark