

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021 - 8:15 & 10:30 AM



This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.



Living Springs 2021 -

Moving Forward in Faith to be ...

A CREATIVE, INNOVATIVE,
LIVING BEACON OF GOD'S HOPE FOR ALL!

*With God's help & the Spirit's power,
we will strive to be a Body of Believers who:*

All are more deeply FORMED & GROUNDED IN GOD'S HOPE;

All are more fully EQUIPPED WITH HOPING-COPING SKILLS for life;


All are GOD'S ACTIVE HOPE-AGENTS in our daily, spiritual, communal lives.

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

 @livingspringscolumbia

 Living Springs Lutheran Church

HOPE PRELUDE

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

*My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.*

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less; Text: Edward Mote
Music: John B. Dykes

CONGREGATIONAL READING OF HOPE EMPHASIS (front of bulletin)

+ + +

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM—EASTER SEASON

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. *(Silence for reflection)*

Pastor: We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

"Now The Green Blade Rises"

We turn and face the processional cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

*1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Now The Green Blade Rises; Text: John MacLeod Crum;
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French Carol;
Text from Oxford Book of Carols, © 1928 Oxford University Press
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APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Pastor: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE—BLESSING FOR SEMINARIAN (10:30 only)

Rev. Eric Fink

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 worship or drop them off at the church office. Easter season collection is for Mental Health ministries.

FIRST READING

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

Lector: A reading from Acts.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (Acts 8:26-40)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22:25-31

Lector: From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**People: The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

Lector: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**People: For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

Lector: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**People: Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

Lector: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,

People: saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND READING

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

Lector: A reading from 1 John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (1 John 4:7-21)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 only)



GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

(John 15:1-8)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We are seated

SERMON

Rev. Carl Taylor

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"I Am the Vine"

LS Choir/Julia Benetiz-Nelson, Flute

By Allen Pote, based on John 15:5-13; © 2017 Hinshaw Music

We stand as able

NICENE CREED

People: WE BELIEVE... in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

WE BELIEVE... in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

WE BELIEVE... in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

+ A brief silence +

- Pastor: God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- Pastor: You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- Pastor: You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- Pastor: You call each of us to do justice, love kindness & walk humbly with you. Guide our justice ministry as we seek to bring hope to this community in regard to issues of mental health, housing, and community gun violence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- Pastor: You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. We pray especially for: *Ed Brennan, Ann Lynn Caughman; Nancy Baldwin; LaTynia Taylor; Peter Creighton; Christopher/Ellen Girardeau; Kyle Dymont; Inge Lowery; Delores Harmon; Ed Brennan; Debbie Smith; Charles Kauffman; Margaret Blank; Bunie Talbert; Wayne Thoma, Bob Holmstrom; Kelly Koziol; Wilma Bracey; the Folk family; Patty Cornwell; Terry Stephens; Carol Gordon/Melanie Benik; Holly Shipley; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...*, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- Pastor: You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit, *especially with Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, whom we commemorate today.* With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
- Pastor: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

- Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
We remain in place and extend a sign of peace toward others (or blow our vehicle-horns from outside at 10:30 worship), sharing the words of the Risen Jesus, "Peace be with you."

OFFERING OF HOPE

A follower of Jesus offers a brief description of how she/he experienced, received, shared, or witnessed a moment of God's hope. A Bell of Hope is then sounded, followed by the response:

Leader: With God's help & the Spirit's power, we strive to be a Body of Believers who:

People: All are God's hope-agents in our daily, spiritual, communal lives!

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD & OFFERING PRAYER

Offerings may be placed in the offering plates in the sanctuary communion line or the outside welcome table, as well as 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



Pastor: Let us pray.

People: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC DIALOGUE & PRAYER FOR EASTER SEASON

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. **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: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER & INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.**

Pastor: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

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. Children are welcome to receive communion at as early age as desired (parent may consult with pastor), and communion instruction is provided as scheduled. For children (or others) not receiving the elements, a special blessing is offered.

OUTSIDE - Please remain in place. Communion will be brought to you on the lawn or at your vehicle.

*INSIDE - Ushers will direct you to the front. **Please maintain at least 6-ft spacing while waiting & returning.** ELEMENTS: We continue to temporarily offer 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. *For INSIDE WORSHIP, we also have available an individual wine glass & traditional wafer at a separate station. Please commune at the station and deposit the empty holder/glass in the white bucket on the chair.*

BEACON OF HOPE STATION

*As you come forward in the communion line, you are invited to pause at the Beacon of Hope station and write on a prayer slip: 1) any prayer of hope that is on your heart for yourself, for others, for our community, for the world; OR 2) anything related to a Spirit-tug you may feel in your heart for one of the 13 items on our Hope Emphasis "menu" (see back inside cover of bulletin). Simply drop the slip in the basket by the lighthouse—no names are needed, unless you would like one of our ministers to follow-up with you. **Please return your pencil to the "used pencil" basket after worship.***

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS "In Christ Alone"

*1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

*4. No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*

"I Received the Living God"

*Refrain I received the living God,
and my heart is full of joy.
I received the living God,
and my heart is full of joy.*

*1 Jesus said: I am the bread,
kneaded long to give you life;
you who will partake of me
need not ever fear to die. Refrain*

*2 Jesus said: I am the way,
and my Father longs for you;
so I come to bring you home
to be one with us anew. Refrain*

*3 Jesus said: I am the truth;
come and follow close to me.
You will know me in your heart,
and my word shall make you free.
Refrain*

*4 Jesus said: I am the life,
far from whom no thing can grow,
but receive this living bread,
and my Spirit you shall know. Refrain*

*I Received the Living God;
Text: Anonymous;
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

*1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.*

Refrain

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

*2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. Refrain*

*3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain*

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ; Text: Fred Kaa; Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter;
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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Pastor: You are living beacons of God's hope for the world. Go in peace! You have a light to shine and a story to tell—God is love! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE HYMN

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song"

† COMMEMORATIONS FOR TODAY †

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

Calling all LS People & Friends

WEDNESDAY HOPE TIMES

May 5, 12, 19

12 Noon (sanctuary)

6:45pm (fellowship hall)

+online meet.google.com/ygs-gsiq-uzk

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Thursday Hope-Casts

1:21pm Facebook & YouTube

With Pastor Carl & Pastor Eric



Through Jesus you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God - 1 Peter 1:21

WEDNESDAY HOPE TIMES

The word "hope" can be used in so many ways, including "wishing" we just had stuff—but what does Scripture tell us about the meaning of GOD's "sure & certain Hope" which we live and share? At Noon and 6:45, Pastor Carl and Pastor Eric will lead an exploration of scriptural teaching about God's hope, followed by an optional 15-minute time of hope, in which we share prayer & Holy Communion. Noon session is in the sanctuary; 6:45pm session will be on-line, as well as in-person in the fellowship hall. Invite a friend!

BUD VASES FOR MOTHER'S DAY

The Hope Ministry team is planning to provide a bud vase & flower to the ladies at Rice Estate for Mother's Day and in June we will do the same for the men on Father's Day. If you have bud vases you would like to donate, please leave them in the small kitchen by May 5th

SPECIAL LOVE OFFERING THRU PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 23!

*Celebrating the Retirement
of our LS Brother in Christ
and Faithful Servant of the Church:
Rev. Dr. Wayne Kannaday*

"ALTAR FLOWERS" - THANK YOU!

The following have given the flowers for today's worship: **Bob Gill - in loving memory of Barbara Gill.**

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

BUTTERFLY GARDENS OF HOPE!

The Good News Team shared packets of butterfly garden seeds as part of our Rush Hour ministry to our NE Cola neighbors as the stopped for the light at Hard Scrabble and Clemson the Monday of Holy Week. Many were very thankful at the Easter blessings and wishes that were passed as well as the seeds. Several said we had made their day.



Share with us your (or your friends/family/neighbors) butterfly garden photos and stories to

GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org

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>.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

We Are the Branches

To encourage flowering and fruit production in vines, trees, and shrubs, most of us know that pruning is necessary. This isn't the easiest of work, nor does it make the pruned plant look all that great for a while afterward. Yet often what results after pruning is a plant that is more abundant, beautiful, and healthy than it would have been otherwise.

In our reading today, Jesus makes it very clear that he is the vine, his Father is the vine grower, and we, his disciples, are the branches on which fruit grows. Without the vine and the vine grower, the branches do not exist. Yet, often in our spiritual lives it seems as though we get these roles mixed up. We are wooed by the sense of accomplishment and value that comes from producing results of one kind or another, and we fail to acknowledge the source that makes that "fruit" possible.

However, in today's gospel, Jesus reminds us that our job isn't to produce results; it's to stay connected. "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing," Jesus says (John 15:5). Jesus is our source and strength; it is only by our connection to Jesus the vine that we the branches bear fruit that will last, such as love, compassion, forgiveness, hope, service, kindness, and patience.

To grow this kind of fruit, Jesus relates how necessary it is for us to be pruned occasionally. In other words, those things that are not of God in our lives have to be rooted out from time to time. The process of pruning isn't always the most enjoyable and can even include a good deal of pain, but it leads to lives that are whole and abundant. As we abide in Jesus, we are given the strength we need to endure the pruning process. We also experience the peace that comes from knowing that the fruit that will follow is for the glory of God.

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HOPE MENU: 13 ITEMS!

meeting people where they are & looking for opportunities, in whatever way the Spirit leads you!

1. Greater intentionality in taking time to **"Be still and know that God is God"**
2. **Deeper prayer life & dwelling in God's Word** in our personal/congregation life
3. Specific training to develop, live, and share **faith-based hoping-coping skills for various stages & challenges of life**
4. Involvement by all ages in creative forms of **faith formation, worship/sacramental life**
5. Deeper involvement with **children/youth/young adults** by intentionally sharing the gospel message of hope with them and equipping **parents/families** to also do so **at home**
6. Boldly proclaim & share the joy of **God's grace for all**
7. Be active voices for the **unity we share as God's human family** - accepting and celebrating differences, rather than fostering divisions
8. Reach out to the **most isolated among us** – with special awareness of Sr. Adults & those in care facilities; teens/tweens/young adults; and those on society's margins
9. Regularly engage in listening, caring, loving **personal contacts**
10. Share in ministries that provide for **life's essential needs** – with special emphasis on growth in our food/hunger ministries
11. Be involved in ongoing **advocacy & justice ministry** that will have impact of hope in our community/societal systems
12. Share God's hope through support & partnership with **LSCDC children/families/staff**
13. Produce citizens of God's kingdom through **creative/innovative evangelism & service in our communities** that will open hearts/minds - and empower people to be leaders in faith, loving others & trusting God in every aspect of life

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!

*We rejoice in your presence, as we join with others throughout the world for worship this Sunday!
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 pray that that God's healing grace may truly touch every aspect of your life!*

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If you are looking for a church family to offer you and your family support, fellowship, growth in faith, and opportunities to share the love of God with others, we invite you to come experience the Spirit's presence at Living Springs. Everyone is welcome here - to share in the grace and unconditional love given us through Christ!

WELCOME WORSHIP GUESTS! – We are especially blessed by your presence today and look forward to worshipping with you again. Please take time to sign the welcome book in the narthex. To learn more about becoming part of Christ's family of faith here at Living Springs, please contact the Pastor Carl (803-736-0661) or Pastor Eric (803-917-2749).

RESTROOMS – are located in the Administration Building. Greeters/ushers will be happy to show you the way. Restrooms are equipped with diaper changing stations.

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, call the office (803-736-0661) or send an email to: prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

May Bible "Book" of the Month: Psalms 51-100

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LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Office: (803) 736-0661

Child Development Center: (803) 736-0776

Ministers: People of Living Springs. Our Ministry Staff contacts are:

- Rev. Eric Fink, Senior Pastorpastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Rev. Carl Taylor, Associate Pastorpastorcarl@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Tammy Mancuso, Director, LS Child Development Centertmancuso@lsccdc.org
- Lisa Petty, Good News Coordinator/Administrative Assistantlisao@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Seminarian Isaac Taylor, Sr. Youth Associateisaac@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Deacon Lexanne Graves, Coordinator E-Outreach Ministrieslexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Virginia Herlong, Choral Directorvirginia@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Laura Turnmire, Handbell Directorlaurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Sherry Forsgren, Bookkeepersherry@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Mark & Laura Cunningham, Food Ministrylaurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org
- Prayer Ministryprayer@livingspringscolumbia.org