

Living Springs Lutheran Church "CELEBRATE...SHARE...SERVE" ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

January 2015 Volume 29 Issue 285

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Epiphany: The Light Still Shines! -This Month from Pastor Eric

Each year, after the Live Outdoor Nativity, there are many comments from those who attend about particular scenes that somehow made an impression or touched their hearts: the heavenly chorus suddenly appearing

in the church window, sheep and goats climbing up on straw bales at the sight of the angelic messenger, the little baby reaching up from Mary's arms in front of the illuminated cross, the interactions between Gabriel & Mary & Joseph, activity among the townspeople and innkeeper as Mary & Joseph arrive, the joy of the child's arrival and everyone singing "Silent Night" as the baby is laid in a manger. One scene which touches my heart each year is the sight of the herald carrying a lone candle out into the middle of the darkened church lawn, as the words of John's gospel are shared: *"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people ... The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!"*



As we move from Christmas into the season of Epiphany, the theme of light will remain prevalent. The Epiphany season begins with the light of a star leading magi to the infant Jesus. It will conclude with an adult Jesus shining brightly on the mountaintop at his transfiguration. In between, we will hear stories of how Jesus illuminated many hearts and changed many lives, as God's light of hope, compassion, and forgiveness burst into the world.

But the miracle is not only that the light shone through Jesus back in 1st-century Palestine, but also that the light continues to shine today through those who have been baptized into Christ, marked with his cross, and blessed with the Holy Spirit: disciples like you! During the past weeks of Advent and Christmas, that light shone in so many ways. At our final Wednesday Advent prayer service, I remember the scene of 840 meals packed in 140 bags filling shopping carts at the base of the Chrismon tree, while the altar was literally surrounded by a mountain of gifts donated for our Dove Tree teens in need. I remember the stories of nursing home residents weeping with tears of joy as our Living Springs carolers visited them on a Saturday afternoon. I remember scenes of our own LS children sharing their story of an "Unexpected Christmas," all culminating with the congregation joining hands in a great circle around the sanctuary and singing, as little Mary held baby Jesus among us, standing on a mat that simply said, "Welcome!" I recall the scene of our Preschoolers/Afterschoolers singing songs of Christmas to a packed sanctuary on a Friday afternoon. I remember TELS adults being awed by the crèches at Mepkin Abbey, disciples laughing with one another at the congregational Christmas party, and our youth finding joy in their many times of Christmas fellowship



and service. I recall the scene of disciples so prayerfully placing their sealed commitments of discipleship in the manger. I remember children shouting "JOY!" at the Christmas Eve family service; I remember inspiring music shared by our instruments, bells, and choir at the latter 2 services; and all together, over 300 folks lifting high the lights of candles to celebrate the Savior's birth on Christmas Eve. I remember the sight of worshippers placing little hearts into the swaddling clothes of the manger and seeing the light of Christ's hope shining in their faces as they received the gift of God's love in our Lord's body and blood. So much light shining – and in many, many other ways as well!

As we move into this season of Epiphany and a new calendar year of 2015, I marvel at all the ways the light of God's love continues to shine in this world. In 2015, we will renew our focus on the Vision of Mission that the Spirit has given this community of disciples. We will continue to share those blue Disciple-Dot stories of God's work in our world. We will celebrate the role of our new Mission Visionary Teams and begin to fully implement the process of forming Spirit-Tug groups in 3 areas of Mission Vision: Active Discipleship, Ministries of Hope, and Community Youth/School Partnerships. All of this we will approach through those 7 Mission Lens, which remind us that Living Springs is a community of disciples living out in the world, and the light of God's hope in Christ shines not just through things that we do together here in this place, but in all the ways the Spirit works though each of you in the locations of our daily lives.

The light of God's love shone brightly on that night in Bethlehem so long ago – and that light continues to shine brightly among you, the disciples of Living Springs! May the light of Christ illumine many lives through us all in 2015, as we move forward to live out the Mission Vision that God has given us! With much love in Christ, who is our light, Pastor Enic

How Is God Calling You? Network Your Spirit-Tug with Other Disciples!



The Ministry Goals below represent visions the Spirit spoke through you, the disciples of Living Springs. Our task is to spread these visions all over the place, like seed of God's kingdom being sown over all types of soil. Which of these visions tug at your heart

personally as a disciple of Jesus?

If you have not yet done so, fill out a Spirit-tug sheet from the narthex – or just call the office or send an e-mail and say, "I think I've got a *Spirit-tug for #___." We will network folks who* have similar Spirit-Tugs and see where the Spirit will lead, either in daily life out in the world or in something together here at LS. As an example, we already have folks following up on Spirit-Tugs for D1, D2, D7, H3, H5, H10, P4, P6. Where is your call?

A Vision for...

MINISTRIES OF HOPE

A Vision for... ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP

D1. Daily life ministry – discipleship lived out in everyday situations

- D2. Lifelong equipping of faith (education, Bible study, faith in homes)
- D3. Disciple partners/groups/networks (for men, women, families, etc.)
- D4. Pervasive culture of prayer in our congregation & our homes
 - D5. Worship as Core (Word & Sacrament) variety of opportunities/styles
 - D6. Expanded music ministry various forms for all ages
 - D7. Christ's caring presence for each other in the family of faith
 - D8. Fellowship events & communications to build relationships
- H1. Hope Team children and youth in need or alone
- H2. Hope Team homeless
- H3. Hope Team veterans, military & families
- H4. Hope Team hospitals, care facilities, those who suffer
- H5. Hope Team food and clothing ministries
- H6. Grace & Inner Peace struggles with the stress of life
- H7. Grace & Inner Peace God's forgiveness
- H8. Grace & Inner Peace healing ministries
- H9. Grace & Inner Peace for all who feel alone in life
- H10. Grace & Inner Peace specific life crises (grief, divorce, other)
- H11. Hope Awareness sharing our Lutheran identity of grace
- H12. Hope Awareness sharing our exciting LS ministry & mission

A Vision for... COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- P1. Public events for congregation, preschool, community, families
- P2. Extending Milestones to preschool, community youth, etc.
- P3. Music ministry for preschool and youth
- P4. Building relationships of faith among preschool/congregation P5. Life-transforming experiences for youth

(Youth/Schools)

P6. Partnerships of caring with local schools / college campuses



God At Work Through Living Springs

Quilt Racks

Thank you to Karl Schmidt for building our new hangars to display the Crafty Ladies quilts in the Fellowship Hall. If you have a fancy toward one of the quilts on display, see Beverly Hoppert (funds are used to buy supplies). The majority of the quilts we make are donated to Lutheran World Relief or local shelters – bring your craft and join us on the second and fourth Saturday @ 9:30 am.







LS Disciples - Youth/School Community Partnerships

Mr. Rocky visited Leslie Bloss' first grade class at Joseph Keels Elementary and also with Girl Scouts Troop 1200 on Veterans Day to share about his experience in the Air Force.

The Children's Sermon isn't just for kids.....



A Visit from Dr. Rich Melheim

Dr. Rich Melheim visited my first grade classroom at Joseph Keels to donate some of his books and to teach us a little sign language and art skills as well!



Delivering our Recent Donations to the USO



7th-12th Grade Youth

LSLC TELS

Sr. Youth Group will gathered at Red Robin recently on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm.



TELS (Traveling Evangels of Living Springs) recently visited Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner to see the Creche Festival.











Church Decorating

The church is beautifully decorated thanks to these hard working decorators...









LS Carolers recently traveled to our shut-ins to surprise them by singing Christmas songs and sharing the Holy Spirit.







Living Springs packed 800 bags of food for Christmas for our Backpack Food Ministry. They stuck a little treat in each one as well!



















Children's Christmas Pageant













Riving Kativity







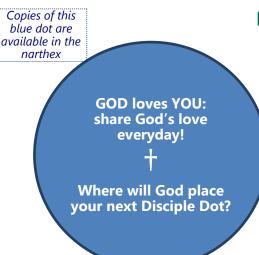








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LS Disciples out in the Community

One day in church, someone was reading the bible and my child turns to me and whispered, "Hey, I have heard this before." With her look of confidence and hope, I was blessed to see a glimpse of who God is creating her to be.

†††

After hearing about the FAITH5 stuff, I grabbed a FAITH5 sheet from the narthex table. The Spirit moved me to make sure I did it tonight with our son. My son overheard me telling my husband about it and began asking questions about it. I couldn't tell if my son was really interested in it or not. But before he went to bed, he shouted out loud, it's time to do FAITH5! God is moving us in the right direction!

<u>+++</u>

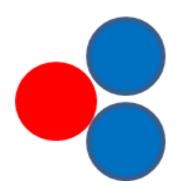
I was eating at Waffle House one day and at the end of my meal, the bread delivery man came in to drop off the invoice and bread. I smiled in his direction and said Hi. He came over to my table and said you have a nice smile. I thanked him for noticing and said, "God bless you today." He said, "Thank you, ma'am. I needed that. Today is the anniversary of my mother's death and I have really been missing her. She had a great smile just like you do. God has touched me today through you. Thank you." I gave him a hug because I had no idea that a smile and a few words could make that kind of a positive impact on someone else's life.

SHARE YOUR DISCIPLE DOT STORY

Has God worked a disciple moment through you or someone else during the week? Pick up a discipledot story slip from the narthex table and share the story of God's work - place your slip in the blue-dot basket, <u>click here for an online form</u> or email your story to the church office. Stories are published anonymously. This isn't about what "we" are doing, but about God's work in the world! See the website, bulletin, newsletter, and Facebook page for some inspiring examples.

Where will be your Disciple-Dot moments this week?

Add your Red-Dot (home address) and multiple Blue-Dots (weekly disciple moments) to our Narthex Mission Map! Don't forget to share God's Blue-Dot stories!

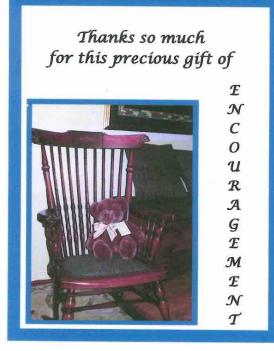




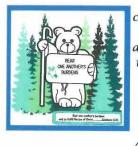
Thank You!

Thank you again so much to you and to your congregation. Every year it melts my heart so see the kindness that is poured out to children very few others care about!

[From Ridge View High School, re: Dove Tree Gifts for Independent High Schoolers)



What a wonderful ministry. It meant so much to receive this gift of hope and comfort. Just last week I met with my Olympic Cluster Board of WELCA where we planned for our upcoming Spring Celebration in March. Our theme? Bear One another's Burdens. This is our logo. You are



certainly doing this..... and thus fulfilling the law of Christ

hank you &

7 MISSION LENS



• MOBILIZE – GO!

Out in the world where people are, taking Christ with us.

BEYOND OUR COMFORT ZONES

In spiritual growth, in church life, in relation-ships with others and our outreach.

• INCREASED AWARENESS

Of God's amazing work, of other disci-ples, of opportunities to share Christ, of people's lives around us.

- LS SPIRIT OF OPENNESS, WELCOME & DIVERSITY Build upon this special LS trait to include all within God's family.
- **RELATIONSHIPS & MUTUALITY** Spend time with others to hear/learn from them and be enriched by God thru them.
- MULTIPLE LOCATIONS! LS location is ALL places where LS disciples live, work, practice, interact, play, volunteer daily.
- LS MINISTRY MEANS: Not only things at LS; LS disciples involved in God's work via existing programs/partnerships in community & world.

Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs



BURNING OF THE GREENS - Sunday, January 4

On January 4th at 5:00pm, we will have our Burning of the Greens service on Epiphany Eve. Worship begins in the sanctuary and then we process outside following the cross, star, and magi. Our church tree, along with other greenery and trees from our homes, will be ignited to symbolize the Light of Christ that shatters the world's darkness. The remaining blackened trunk will be used to make a cross, which will be returned to the sanctuary at Holy Week, to stand in the exact spot where it once stood as our Christmas tree, thus representing the full circle of the gift of God's love! *If you would like us to use your tree as part of the burning, please bring it to the playground area on Sunday the 4th before 5pm*.

TELS JANUARY TRIP - Saturday, January 10

Saturday, January 10 we are going to the NarroWay Theatre in Fort Mill SC to see the show *The Gospel According to Tennessee*. This is a dinner show – the cast serves the dinner and then puts on the show. We pre-paid for tickets, so right now we are sold out for group tickets, but if someone would like to attend, we have two spots available on the bus (theatre seats would not be with the group). Cost is \$35 (\$30 show/\$5 transportation). We will be leaving the parking lot at 10 am, and return about 5 pm. Contact Beverly Hoppert, <u>beverlyhoppert@gmail.com</u> for information.



CALENDAR PLANNING MEETING - Sunday, January 11

All current Team leaders and group heads, please attend our important meeting on Jan. 11 at 4:00. We will place major dates on the calendar through August!

LIVING SPRINGS CHILI COOK OFF – Saturday, January 24



Whether you want to Cook and Compete or Just Want to Eat, you're bound to have a whole lotta FUN!!! Join us on Saturday, January 24th at 6:00 pm. Prizes awarded for Spiciest, Most original and Best Overall Chili. If you are not a chili cooker, please feel free to bring an appetizer or dessert. Beverages will be provided, but if you have a preferred adult beverage, please feel free to bring it. Watch for the sign up will be out soon. Hosted at the home of Bill & Nancy Franck!

Ongoing Opportunities at Living Springs

TUESDAY DEVOTION LUNCH @ LIVING SPRINGS - January 6

Lunch is offered in the fellowship hall at 11:45, with devotions by Pastor Eric. Everyone is welcome! Meal is served by Laura Cunningham, our LS Food Resource person. To reserve a spot for you and your friends, sign up in the narthex or contact the office before 11am on the Monday before. Donation \$6 (includes drink & dessert).

TUESDAY NIGHT DEVOTION DINNER - January 20

On the 3rd Tuesday of the month, we offer dinner at 6:15. Everyone is welcome to for this lasagna dinner and devotions served by Laura



Cunningham, our LS Food Resource person). Cost \$9 – signup sheet is in the narthex or contact the office before 11 am on Monday. You might even want to stay for Bible study or join handbells!!

GOOD NEWS WALKERS

If you would like a little exercise along with some great fellowship, meet us in the administration building by 8:30 on Thursdays. We start out with the devotion of the day and then distribute our church flyers to neighborhoods that have paper boxes. Contact Karen Kranz for information. Contact Karen Kranz, <u>kbkranz@gmail.com</u>.

BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY



H1. Provide deeper relational and support ministries for children and youth in need or alone.

Who wants to help?? We start setting up the table at 4:45 pm and at 5:30, we pack the bags on Thursdays. After the bags are packed, we say a blessing over the them and it's over before 6 pm. A list of items is on the Backpack Food Ministry Bulletin Board in the lobby of the admin building. Thank you for supporting this

ministry. Contact Karen Kranz, <u>kbkranz@gmail.com</u> for information.

LIVING SPRINGS PEW BEAR MINISTRY

Each bear is a minister of God's love as they leave here to be a blessing for others. You may take a bear to anyone who is in need of God's love: hurting from illness, loneliness, depression, grief, or any other reason. When you take a bear, please place \$10 or a free-will offering in a pew envelope and mark it "Pew Bears." Donated funds are needed to replace the bears. Thank you for praying for this ministry. We are blessed to be a blessing!





LIVING SPRINGS CAR MAGNETS

Make your car an invitation for someone to come experience the joy of God's love here at Living Springs. The Communications Team will have LS Car Magnets available in the narthex. We ask for a minimum \$5 donation to cover the cost of the magnets.

HELPING HANDS!!

Currently there are about 450 students a week getting a backpack in the Richland 2 school district! As part of this program (McKinney Vento Advisory), a chain link was set up to send out to committee members...an email alert to an immediate need of an unaccompanied youth, families that are without housing, etc. In support of this, ESO has labeled this Outreach "Helping Hands". We send out an email blast when



the message is received that there is someone in need. We ask that you respond if you can or are able to fill the need of the request. Contact Karen Kranz at <u>kbkranz@gmail.com</u> for information.



Looking for someone to share your crafting time with? Bring your knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, or join us in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, women's shelters, and female veteran homes. We tie our quilts so sewing experience is not a factor if you would like to participate – in fact, we have several ladies who are not sewer's but enjoy the fellowship of other ladies. Our group meets in the Fellowship Hall the second and fourth Saturday of the month at 9:30 am and usually

end about 11:30 am. We would also appreciate any fabric donations and/or blankets (we use these as fillers). Contact Beverly Hoppert, <u>beverlyhoppert@gmail.com</u> for information.

DISCIPLES HELPING DISCIPLES

LSLC is establishing a team of volunteers to perform small household tasks for those members unable to complete them. The team will do minor tasks in the areas of mechanical, electrical, plumbing, IT (computer-related), transportation and other minor home repairs depending on the skills of the team. The team will suggest contacts for jobs beyond the scope of the team skills. Everyone is encouraged to participate. For details contact Bob Gill (788-6788), Jim Zieche (497-3239), Bill Franck (331-7871) or Pastor Eric (736-0661). If you would like to be a member of this team, please sign in the narthex



1SIC Disciples Helping Disciples

Men's Ministries MEN'S BREAKFAST

We continue to form our Lutheran Men's circle of prayer where each man is praying for a brother in Christ. Come to our next meeting to expand our circle. Next breakfast gathering will be **Saturday, January 31st** at 8:00 am at Living Springs. Meal is being served by Laura Cunningham, LS Food Resource Person. She will be serving coffee, buttermilk pancakes, grits, sausage, and scrambled eggs @ \$7.00 per person. We will be discussing our upcoming events. We meet on the last Saturday of each month. Contact Bob Turnmire at 803-513-7533 if you have any questions.



Faith Formation for All Ages at Living Springs



We invite any and all adults to our weekly Bible Study and Sunday Faith Alive offerings. Join in one or more to learn more about how we Lutheran Christians live out our faith in our daily lives.

- The Sunday morning Faith Five Adult Class, meeting next to the main kitchen, is currently completing a survey of the New Testament. Ron Ramsey is serving as the Leader. The group concentrates on what the Bible said to the early Christians and what the Bible says to us in the twentiethfirst century. This is a discussion group where all are heard.
- The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible study continues to meet at 10 AM Tuesdays. Beverly Hopper beverlyhoppert@gmail.com is the leader. The ladies will be viewing a series of videos on "Women of the Bible" with a discussion of the Biblical basis for the portrayal and the connection to our Christian life. All women are welcome!
- Tuesday Evening Bible Study has begun its study of The Gospel According to Matthew. This group meets for one hour beginning at 7 PM in the Katie Room. Come, be enlightened and enjoy our fellowship.

Additional Opportunities

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter in the Carolina's will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Myrtle Beach on February 13-15. Those who are interested in learning more about LME and about the weekend are invited to the web site <u>www.godlovesmarriage.org</u> and explore for themselves. There is also an application opportunity on the web site if they would like to attend.

Just as a reminder, the weekend has been pre-paid by others who have attended previously. The only fee is the \$45 application fee. At the end of the weekend attendees will be given the opportunity to make a contribution to provide for anoth-



er couple to attend a future weekend on the same terms. In this way we hope to never turn away a couple for financial concerns. We want to make the experience available to all married couples who would like to deepen their relationship with each other and with Christ.

Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

Ken & Gina Schiess, Lay Couple Coordinators, Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Carolina's area

Preschool & Afterschool Care News

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Blessings to a joyous year in 2014,

We have had the opportunity to see God's works in our preschool in a variety of ways this month.

Our Preschool Families came together with B.H.S. to sponsor a family of 4 in the Families Helping Families project. This was the first year we had taken this on. I am proud to say that in just a few days we were able to meet and exceed our goal!

The joy of Gods work in the Mission of our Preschool was evident as our children came together to make cards for veterans and residents at the Rice Estates.

We held our Annual Christmas Program. The children sang songs and told about the true meaning of Christmas, the joy and peace of God's eternal love.

We are truly blessed to be part of a wonderful community that shares God's love on a daily basis.

Thank you and many blessings to you and your families

Love, TAMMY AND THE PRESCHOOL STAFF

From Lexanne, Director of Faith Formation:

We are so blessed to have this ministry here, which has created a safe haven for children and young people for over 10 years! Who are we? Look below:



N.A.E.Y.C. Accredited Program <u>https://www.naeyc.org/accreditation</u>.

- 8 age appropriate, hands-on classroom environments for children ages 6 weeks to 5th graders
- 26 talented, trained, dedicated teachers and staff
- Open Monday through Friday from 715AM-6PM year-round.
- Inviting atmosphere for parents and children

• Encourage members and guests to come be a Mystery Reader, Lead or assist with a crafting project (quilting, painting, sewing, gardening, arts and crafts, etc.), Play an instrument, Sing some songs, Help with lunch or snack time, or Share your faith story. There is no required time commitment; just a love of God and a desire to share!





From the Director of Faith Formation

Lexanne K. Graves Lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org





Living Springs wants to partner with you to help you fulfill your baptismal promises to God. In so doing this we also fulfill God's Vision for Living Springs through "*lifelong equipping of faith through education and bible study for all ages*." If you feel the Spirit tugging you to share your insights on our Sunday morning education time, please contact Pastor Eric Fink <u>pastore-ric@livingspringscolumbia.org</u> or Lexanne Graves <u>lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.</u>

FAITH5[™] (Faith Acts In The Home) is a simple, easy-to-implement faith practice, perfect for incorporating into your bedtime or any daily routine for five to fifteen minutes. When done over time, FAITH5[™] carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, aid sleep, and promote mental, physical and spiritual health. The five steps are:

SHARE your highs and lows

READ a Bible verse or story

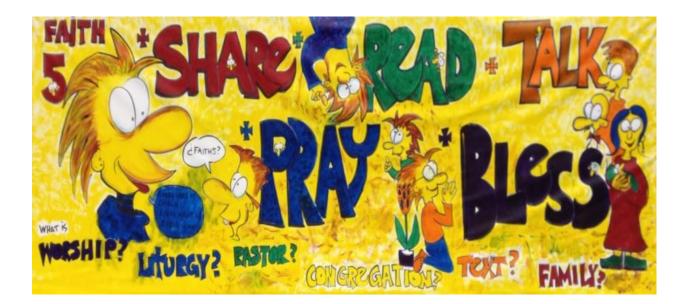
TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

PRAY for one another's highs and lows

BLESS one another

If you would like to watch a family do all 5 steps and see how EASY it is, please visit this link:

http://faith5.org/about/



Announcing

FAITH ALIVE!

Sunday School – Faith Education Time

1st Sundays

9:25–9:40: Music & Faith-Fun Bible Time (Adults/Children/Youth in sanctuary; then pick up refreshments on way to ...)

9:40–10:30: All God's Family together in Fellowship Hall: FAITH5, FaithFriends!



2nd-5th Sundays

9:25–9:40: Music & Faith-Fun Bible Time (Adults/Children/Youth in sanctuary; then pick up refreshments on way to ...)

9:40–10:30: Faith Alive Groups Children's Faith Alive Group Rotations



(arts, crafts, games, faith & life applications) Confirmation Faith Alive High School Faith Alive

"L-I-G-H-T" Adult Faith Alive Adult Class Faith Alive





Faith Milestones



"I chose a valuable stone, which I am placing as the cornerstone in Zion; and whoever believes in him will never be disappointed." 1 Peter 2: 4-6

Our **Passing on Faith Milestones Ministry** team provides instruction and resources to equip families, children, youth, and adults to pass on faith and live well in Jesus Christ. By paying attention to the milestones of our lives, we create rituals and traditions that shape us and nurture us in our faith. The promises we make at Baptism point to the spiritual milestones in our lives.

You are invited to remember, celebrate and uphold your Baptismal promises by participating in our Faith Milestone events.

- **† On January 3, 10, & 17, 2015 from 9am-12pm**, we will be hosting 4th-5th graders from our congregation and Northeast Community in our *God and Family Faith Milestone*. We will gift our young people on Sunday, February 8th at 1045am worship.
- **† On January 11, 2015** we will be blessed to remember those who were baptized in 2014 with our *Anniversary of Baptism Milestone*.

If there are any parents or young people who would like to write a brief article on participating in our Passing on the Faith Milestone Ministry or receiving the gifts from this ministry, please contact Lexanne Graves (Lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org). We want our members and guests to read about the amazing love expressed during these special family faith milestones.

What's Up with Youth???

We have a youth group for each of our children from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Parents, please make every effort to have your youth participate in our Christ-centered events.



Kindergarten-2nd Grade Youth Group:

To be announced Contact Kind-2nd Gr Leaders, Nic and Rachel Peterson, (<u>peterson.nicholas3@gmail.com</u>, <u>rach7@gmail.com</u>).

CLUB 3456: For all young people in Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6!

To be announced Contact Club 3456 Leaders, Leslie Bloss (<u>LBloss3306@hotmail.com</u>) and Cheryl Milburn (<u>cmilburn98@yahoo.com</u>)

7TH-12TH Youth Group Events:

Sr. Youth Group will gather at a local restaurant on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing everyone on January 7, 14, 21, & 28!! Contact Laura Dunklin (843-992-2506; <u>lauradunklin@livingspringscolumbia.org</u>) or Adam Woodruff (803-917-6270; <u>nccwoody@hotmail.com</u>) Woodruff to see which restaurant we will gather for food and fellowship!

Senior Youth Ski Retreat – *On February 13-16, 2015,* the Senior Youth (7th-12th grade) will be going on a ski retreat at Lutherock. We will meet at the church at 4:00pm on Friday the 13th to leave for the retreat. We will go snow tubing on Saturday, skiing on Sunday, and head home after at worship service on Monday. We will have nightly vespers and enjoy a campfire! Come enjoy a fun retreat in the mountains! Cost is \$211 for skiing and \$218 for snowboarding. A deposit of \$120 is due by January 12th. The rest of the money is due when we go to Lutherock. We are blessed that Living Springs will pay for 1/3 of the cost, parents/families will pay for 1/3 of the cost, and the youth who have participated in fundraising events (i.e. Tree Lot, Pine Straw, Elf Store/Spaghetti Dinner) will have the remaining 1/3 of the cost paid for by those funds. Make checks out to Living Springs. Please send any questions to <u>lauradunklin@livingspringscolumbia.org</u>. If needed, scholarship funds are available, please contact Pastor Eric, Lexanne, or Adam Woodruff.

Contact 7th-12th gr Leaders, Laura Dunklin (l<u>auradunklin@livingspringscolumbia.org</u>) and Adam Woodruff (<u>nccwoody@hotmail.com</u>).



**Parents, please support these youth events so that our young people can reap the benefits of a connected, Christ-centered peer group. Find us on Facebook at <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/154193947932855/</u>

ATTENTION YOUTH:

If any of our young people are in need of "*Extracurricular Community Service Hours*" for school or activity groups, Mrs. Lexanne is always in need of help with crafty projects and getting things ready for Sunday school and youth group. So please contact her! <u>lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org</u>.



ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING IN DETROIT, JULY 15-19. 2015

Www.ELCA.org/gathering We have 7 Youth and 3 Adults committed to going to Detroit! Do you think one person can make a difference in the world?

One Person Can Make a Difference

Detroit, Michigan—Every Saturday or Sunday Robby Elmers loads up the family minivan. Since he is only 12 years old, Robby cannot drive so his grandmother does the honors. They drive from their small city outside of Detroit to the center core of Motown. Once there Robby sets up a table filled with hot dogs, potato salad and other treats and begins to serve the homeless of Detroit.

According to the Detroit Free Press there are some 20,000 homeless people living in the Motor City. Some people



think Robby is wasting his time and birthday and Christmas money but not Robby, "It makes me feel good to be able to help" he told the Detroit News. While Robby might only be 12 years old, he is giving hope to a group of people that often feels overlooked. "It is amazing that a child so young would be out here shaking hands, talking to everyone and caring," Shauna Johnson, A Detroit homeless woman told the Detroit News, "Robby is right out there in front."

Now ask yourself:

- Do you think one person can make a difference in the world?
- Is Robby wasting his time and money?
- What is your passion...something you feel God is calling you to do in this world?

Watch this You Tube video, <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/ulprojectsunlight</u> What do you notice about the "new leaders" shown? What else do you see?

10 Living Springs Disciples will be headed to Detroit this summer for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Together we will be instruments of hope to a city that is getting back on its feet after some really tough times.

WILL YOU CONSIDER DONATING TO THIS TRIP SO THAT OUR TEN DISCIPLES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS IN DETROIT?

If so, please place your check in the offering plate and put "NYG 2015" in the Memo section.

ELCA youth are not unlike their peers in that they are people of action, and they like to take action alongside their friends. Friends are extremely important, often influencing the direction and quality of one's life. As friends united in Christ, we begin collecting In-kind Donations for the Gathering, which Detroit residents desperately need. So will you help us too?



http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/GatheringDetails/GivingOpportunities/SupportService

Scholastic Summer Reading packets



When children succeed in school, it is often an indicator that their needs are being met in other areas of their lives. The shockingly low standardized test scores and graduation rates for students in the majority of the Detroit public schools are a sign of dysfunction across institutions meant to support children. It has been shown that poor educational systems are one of the root causes of systemic poverty. In Detroit, students are being held captive to the systems of poverty by failures in both their schools and in their neighborhoods. Comparing Detroit students' test scores to scores of students statewide and in urban districts nationwide, it is clear the Detroit public schools are in crisis.

Many organizations, including Excellent Schools Detroit are

doing their part to reverse this trend. Formed in 2010 as a coalition, Excellent Schools Detroit's mission is to provide an excellent education for every Detroit child, from cradle to career. They believe that a high quality education is the key to future opportunity and they believe, as we do, that Detroit's children deserve the best. Ensuring each child receives the best means that they work with many community partners including the ELCA Youth Gathering and Scholastic, a company that has produced engaging educational materials and media to help children learn to read and love to learn since 1920.

You can help Excellent Schools Detroit by purchasing Scholastic Summer Reading packets for a Detroit student for \$25 each. We are especially excited about these materials because Scholastic worked directly with Detroit teachers to identify the books they want their students to read. Gathering participants will interact with students using these books and hopefully contribute to closing the reading achievement gap.

Click here to make a gift now.

Art supplies

The Detroit area's diverse population includes African American, French, Belgian, German, Latino, Polish, Greek, Italian, and Middle Eastern neighbors. Each group adds its rich cultural traditions to enhance the area's landscape. The Detroit area's rich and diverse population combines to make it a wellspring of creative, intellectual and emotional inspiration.

A rich artistic community gives people new things to do, see, hear, feel and think about. It inspires innovation and provides the social connectedness that builds community. ELCA Youth Gathering participants will join community organizing initiatives to ensure that the arts and culture remain a vital part of the Detroit community through innovation, collaboration and advocacy. One arts organizations making a difference in Detroit



is called <u>The Alley Project</u>, which is a collaboration with youth from Grace in Action, a new ELCA congregation in Detroit's primarily Latino community. Your \$15 gift will purchase supplies that ELCA youth will use to help build community through the arts. **Click here to make a gift now.**

Blessed to Be a Blessing - "The Joy of Giving"

I am very excited about the Stewardship Ministry Team's approach to our "stewardship campaign" again this year. As we continue with the theme of "Blessed to Be A Blessing", we are reminded that as we receive our blessings, we are "Blessed to be a Blessing." God gives us the time, talents, and money to support Christ's ministry through Living Springs Lutheran Church, to be disciples, to feed the hungry, to lift up the lonely, to love one another, and to spread God's word.

Discipleship Commitment slips (and a special envelope for your slip) were distributed to each person. A copy of the discipleship slip is below (if you use this copy, you can pick up a special envelope in the narthex). On January 4th, the 2nd Sunday of Christmas, our 2015 commitments of discipleship will be dedicated. The symbolic "Joy of Giving" box will remain in the altar area - it contains a slit through which your sealed commitments may still be added in upcoming weeks. These sealed envelopes will never be opened; they are between you and God. We encourage every member to bring this gift to the b. Young children can draw pictures of their discipleship focus for next year. All of us adults should look inward at our blessings and then remember to use those blessings to the glory of God.

O

Thanks be to God for all of our many blessings. Mike Davidson, Stewardship Chairperson

Blessed to Be a Blessing!

Seal this part of the sheet inside the special envelope.

In thanksgiving for God's blessings and abundant grace, I offer with joy what God has first given me: my time, talent, and possessions – all signs of God's gracious love in my life. May the Spirit strengthen me as I keep these commitments and grow in my discipleship. I give thanks that I am daily being blessed by God to be a blessing for others. May I experience more deeply the joy of living a life of giving – in the image of God! Amen.

In response to God's blessings of grace and love in my life, these are commitments of discipleship I will strive to keep in 2015 (children may draw pictures):

COMMITMENTS OF WORSHIP & DEVOTION:

COMMITMENTS OF WITNESS & SERVICE:

COMMITMENTS OF STUDY & FAITH GROWTH:

COMMITMENT OF FINANCIAL BLESSINGS:

As I grow in my understanding and gratitude for God's blessings, I strive to grow in my giving to God out of thanksgiving and joy - that I may know more deeply the joy of giving and be a growing source of blessing for others:

% of my income/financial blessings I will give to God in 2015: _____% = My weekly/monthly giving goal: \$_____

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

January 1	Jesse Bazemore Scott Evans	January 15	Sarah Kate Barrier Thomas & Anna Bailey
	Laura Evans	January 17	Rachel Hurlbert
	🍼 Karl & Jan Schmidt	January 19	Liam Keppery
January 2	Kathryn Padgett	January 20	🏹 Ray & Mary Hajdacsek
January 3	Samantha Kowalski	January 21	Steve & Jeanette Bloss
January 5	Leslie Bloss	•	Ў Bill & Peg Fox
January 6	Wendy McKenzie	January 24	Catherine Milburn
-	Katie Prizer	January 25	Patricia Bartucca
January 7	Olivia Fox	•	Megan Spencer
-	Dylan Horan	January 26	Jordan Fakoury
	Deborah Smith	-	Theresa Fulton
January 8	Alexander Richard		Julianna Rasmussen
January 9	Charlie Tracy	January 27	🏹 Jeff & Cindy Day
January 10	Judy Edmonston	January 29	Rocky Beger
January 11	John Arnold	-	Savannah Creticos
•	🍼 David & Linda Giertz	January 30	Blaine Bailey
January 14	Janet Lay	-	Herb Brantley
-	🏹 Paul & Śhirley Laingen	January 31	🏹 Pete & Jane McManus
	a half and a half		



Jason Crapps



CELEBRATE YOUR BAPTISM

Don't forget to check the bulletin to see if we will be celebrating your Baptismal Anniversary during this month's Sunday worship services. Immediately below the Gathering Music, there are printed the names of those who are celebrating a baptismal anniversary **in that week**. When the gathering music begins, individuals can quietly come forward to meet Pastor Eric at the baptismal fountain. There, he will re-trace the cross with the water on your forehead and offer a special prayer of blessing for you (children may be accompanied by parents). There is nothing to be anxious about - everything is done quietly while the music is be-



ing played. For those who know only the month of your Baptism, you can join us on the first Sunday of the month (if you prefer some other Sunday, please let us know). If you do not know your baptismal information, then please pick a month when you would like to celebrate this gift of God's grace in your life – and notify the office, so that we can add you to the celebration list (we'll simply mark the choice of your month with an asterisk). Even if you don't know the exact date, it's important to celebrate this special gift of God's grace in your life. Again, we encourage everyone to research your Baptismal date and find out as much information as you can – let us know if we can help!

January	1
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January 5 January 9 January 14 January 15 Blake Lindstedt Hany Sorial Dea Jones Gray Harmon Mark Stuart Chris Collins Adele Lindberg Charles Tracy January 20 January 22 January 28 January 30 January 31 Elise Gerald Anna Leigh Graves Lisa Petty Dylan Horan Saundra Dixon Baylee Owens Jennings Owens

Jan	January 2015	015	*8:15am e	Worship, 9:25a 10:45c very Sunday u	*8:15am Worship, 9:25am Faith Alive Sunday School, 10:45am Worship every Sunday unless otherwise noted	unday School, noted
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Years Day Office Closed	7	3 9A God & Family
4 5P Burning of the Greens Service	5 10A Staff Meeting 1030A Meals on Wheels 1245P Zumba 6P Worship Team	6 930 PSC Bible Time 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 1145A Devotional Lunch	7 930 PSC Chapel 1230P Zumba 545P Stewardship Team 6P Sanctuary Choir	8 830A Good News Walkers 530P Backpacks 615P Preschool Board	б	10 9A God & Family 10A TELS
		345P ASC Bible Time 6P Girl Scouts 7P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	6P ESO Team 7P Chancel Choir 7P Communications 7P Sr. High Youth		Counci 1/9 - 1,	Council Retreat 1/9 - 1/11 (noon) 1
11 Anniversary of Baptism 4P Calendar Meeting	12 1030A Meals on Wheels 1245P Zumba 7P Social Inreach Team 7P Executive	13 930 PSC Bible Time 930 PSC Bible Time 104 Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 1215P PSC Lunch 345P ASC Bible Time 6P Finance 7P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	14 930 PSC Chapel 1230P Zumba 530P Backpacks 6P Sanctuary Choir 7P Sr. High Youth	1 5 830A Good News Walkers 7P Council	16	17 9A God & Family
18	19 Office Closed 1030A Meals on Wheels	20 930 PSC Bible Time 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 345P ASC Bible Time 6P Girl Scouts 615P Devotional Dinner 7P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	21 930 PSC Chapel 1230P Zumba 6P Sanctuary Choir 7P Chancel Choir 7P Sr. High Youth	22 830A Good News Walkers 530P Backpacks 7P Christian Ed Mtg	23	24 930A Crafty Ladies 6P Chili Cook Off
25	26 1030A Meals on Wheels 1245P Zumba	27 930 PSC Bible Time 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 345P ASC Bible Time 7P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	28 930 PSC Chapel 1230P Zumba 6P Sanctuary Choir 7P Chancel Choir 7P Sr. High Youth	29 830A Good News Walkers 530P Backpacks	о _с	31 8A Men's Breakfast

(Changes)Baptism of the Lord

+Julia Tenhover
(helper)

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1/25	1/18	1/11	1/4		1/25	1/25	1/18	1/18	1/11 *	1/11 *	1/4	1/4	1/4	
					10:45	8:15	10:45	8:15	10:45	8:15	5:00	10:45	8:15	
				Care	Jeff Day	Gwen Furcron	Mike Davidson	Saundra Dixon	Adam Woodruff	Jen Necker		Jan Berger	Katherine Wollpert	Assisting Minister
				Care Meals	Anne Ducate	Jim Zieche	Bob Turnmire	Helen Doerpinghaus	Adele Lindberg	Corin Wiggins	Bill Franck	Lori Masad	Midge Gunvalson	Lector
				Flowers	Nancy Baldwin Cindy Day	Bill Franck Saundra Dixon	Laura Turnmire Leslie Bloss	Tina Molineu Don Molineu	Pat Bartucca Courtney Murray	Beverly Hoppert Bob Gill		Ed Brennan Jeanette Bloss	Karen Kranz Herb Brantley	Communion Assistant
Cathy Lowman	Irene & Charles Tracy	Herb Brantley	Karen Kranz	Muggers	Adam Woodruff Leslie Bloss Rocky Berger Steve Padgett	Shirley Laingen Paul Laingen	Evan Turnmire Karlene Stuart Courtney Murray Marshall Hurlbert	Peg Fox Bill Fox	Cindy Day Jeff Day Mike Davidson Sara Levitt	Wendy McKenzie Scott Graves	Steve Bloss Jeanette Bloss	Karlene Stuart Laura Stuart Randy Masad Leslie Bloss	Jan Schmidt Gwen Furcron	Ushers
Mist		Meli			Brenda Grohman	Herb & Gwen Brantley	Julia Tenhover	Judy Lawrence	Melissa Lindstedt	Marge & Jerry Appleton		Gail Buchanan	Wendy McKenzie	Greeters
Misty O'Donnell	Angie Dyches +	Melissa Lindstedt		Nursery (10:45)	Lauren Bloss	Ben Arnold	Dylan Horan	Hayley Haskins	Walker Flores	Connor Kilbourne	Lauren Bloss	Collin Flores	Anna Leigh Graves	Acolyte
Shirley Laingen	Nancy Baldwin	Judy Lawrence	Wendy McKenzie	Refreshments	Trish Davidson		Pat Bartucca		Alison Levitt		<u>Star</u> <u>Bearer</u> Anna Leigh Graves	Evan Turnmire		Crucifer
ngen	win	ence January	Kenzie	ments	Evan Turnmire Sara Levitt		Laura Stuart Steve Bloss		Gail Buchanan Ed Brennan		<u>Gift Bearers</u> Gwen Furcron Ann Lynn Caughman Trish Davidson	Brenda Grohman Steve Padgett		Torchbearers
		ary		Altar Guild	Ed Brennan LC Adam Woodruff Angie Dyches		Leslie Bloss LC Wendy McKenzie Karen Kranz		Scott Graves LC Trish Davidson Aaron Smith		<u>Tree Bearers</u> Ed Brennan Mike Davidson Marshall Hurlbert	Mark Stuart LC Mike Davidson Brantley Smith		Counters
					Brandon Heavner	Brandon Heavner	Dea Jones	Dea Jones	Lexanne Graves	Lexanne Graves		Adam Woodruff	Adam Woodruff	Children's Sermon
<u> </u>					Ed Brennan	Scott Graves	Leslie Bloss	Rocky Berger	Aaron Smith	Gwen Furcron		Mark Stuart	Bill Franck	Council Person

Worship Assistant Schedule – January 2015

December 18, 2014 Meeting Staff Reports: Pastor

Active Discipleship:

- 5 sermon proclamations; 3 Advent Midweek Services; 8 Holy Communion celebrations; 14 daily e-mail Advent Devotions; weekly Baptismal Anniversary Recognitions.
- Worship & Music meeting; preparatory, follow-up conferences, 1 partial early choir practice; Sanctuary decorating & devotion.
- LS Stewardship Meeting; follow-up 2015 envelope list & quarterly thank you's.
- 2 Children's Christmas program practices and program.
- Bible Studies: (3) Greatest Story BS; (3) partial adult BS.
- 7 hospital/nursing home/office conferences; 37 other contacts/calls/visits; 1 graveside service
- Advent Family Night; 3 Advent Soup & Salad Suppers; Cong. Christmas gathering; Lutheran Men's Christmas gathering; Women's BS Christmas gathering; TELS trip & devotion; LS monthly Prayer Lunch; LS Evening Devotion Supper.

Community/Youth/School Partnerships:

- (3) Wed. night Youth gatherings; (1) youth support network.
- National Youth Gathering meeting w/Bishop & meeting w/Synod youth leadership.
- (4) PS Bible Story Times & (4) AS Bible Times; PS Staff Prayer Lunch; PS Christmas Program.
- Youth Spaghetti Supper & Elf Store; 4 partial tree lot shifts & midweek sales.
- 2014-15 LTSS Teaching Parish Supervisor: 2 student conferences.

Ministries of Hope:

- December newsletter; ESO meeting; Advent Family Night J invitations; (3) backpack sessions; Dove Tree gifts & backpack blessing.
- 3 partial Outdoor Nativity practices; Nativity tech set-up.
- Lutheran Men Midlands Committee of 100 Mission Supper; 2 Thrivent Community projects (Food Ministry; Nativity).
- Worship Guests/Potential Members: (4) contacts/calls/notes; road sign & electronic sign up-dating.
- <u>Support</u>: 7 meetings (Staff & lunch, Exec, Council, Finance, Midlands Conf. Ministerial).

Director of Faith Formation

Active Discipleship:

- Lifelong Faith Equipping for all ages = FAITH5: Created a December FAITH5 devotion; prepared Advent Calendars for adults & children; held God & Family Parent meeting; met with Ron Ramsey & Bob Gill to discuss plans for January adult faith formation.
- Network of Discipleship Partners: Advent Family Craft Event.
- Culture of Prayer: PSC prayer box, PSC teacher prayer lunch, prayer at FAITH ALIVE centers.
- Music Ministry in PSC: working on a grant to fund training of PSC teachers & LSLC member on sign language that can be used with music to teach children/youth/adults.
- Christ's constant presence for one another: Camping weekend at Poinsett State Park; visited a member at Providence NE ER.

Ministries of Hope:

• FAITH5 (Faith Acts In The Home) – SHARE. READ. TALK. PRAY. BLESS -- 5 to 15 minutes at bedtime.

• Completed semester at LTSS as a Reflection Group Leader for 7 students to help form them into church leaders. <u>Youth/School Community Partnerships</u>:

- Expand opportunities: Continue to work with Laura Cunningham's assistance on 2nd Tuesday Prayer Lunch and FAITH5 sharing with all PSC staff.
- Build deeper relationships: Thanksgiving Feast.
- Life-Transforming experiences: NYG Detroit 2015–7 youth 3 adults signed up & deposit mailed;7-12 gr. continue to gather on Wed. nights & Sun. AM for faith/life application & fellowship; K-2nd held friendly competition to raise awareness & funds for Backpack Ministry; Club 3456 Pay It Forward event at Firehouse Subs.
- Expand ministries to schools/colleges: attended Dasher Dinner & met several more campus ministry students; visited Joseph Keels with Dr. Rich Melheim to be Mystery Readers.
- <u>Congregational</u>: Worship (8); Staff (1 & lunch); Meetings: (6); Reports (3).

Current Ministries:

- **Council Retreat**: January 9, 10, & 11 at White Oaks Conference Center.
- **Annual Reports:** due by the second week in January.
- **Ongoing Ministries:**
- Election of Officers: Pres., Rocky Berger; VP, Aaron Smith; Treasurer, Jerry Appleton; Fin. Secy., Bill Franck; Secy., Leslie Bloss.

CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor Lexanne Graves, A.I.M. – Director of Faith Formation Nickie Riley – Director of Music Ministry Tammy Mancuso- Preschool/ASC Director Lisa Petty – Administrative Assistant/Communications Coordinator Laura Dunklin - Associate for Sr. Youth Ministry Laura Cunningham - Food Resource Person Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper Laura Turnmire – Director of Handbell Choir

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

<u>Archives</u> Judy Lawrence

<u>Christian Education</u> Leslie Bloss

<u>Communication Team</u> Jan Berger and Wendy McKenzie

> <u>ESO</u> Karen Kranz

<u>Facilities</u> Ed Brennan

<u>Finance</u> Charles Tracy

Social Inreach Wendy McKenzie and Retha Murray

Youth Ministry Contact Faith Formation Director, Lexanne Graves

> Worship & Music Jim Zieche

<u>Email:</u>

pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org Pastor Eric lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org Lexanne Graves nickie@livingspringscolumbia.org Nickie Riley tmancuso@lslcps.org Tammy Mancuso lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org Lisa Petty lauradunklin@livingspringscolumbia.org Laura Dunklin laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org Laura Cunningham sherry@livingspringscolumbia.org

Sherry Forsgren

Laura Turnmire prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

Prayer Requests

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rocky Berger - President Aaron Smith - Vice President Leslie Bloss - Secretary Jerry Appleton - Treasurer Bill Franck – Financial Secretary Ed Brennan Gail Buchanan Gwen Furcron Scott Graves Alison Levitt Mark Stuart Bob Turnmire Sara Levitt, Youth Rep.

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

4224 Hard Scrabble Road Columbia, SC 29223 Phone: 803-736-0661 FAX: 803-865-8252 <u>contact@livingspringscolumbia.org</u> <u>www.livingspringscolumbia.org</u> www.facebook.com/livingspringscolumbia

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