

# Living Springs Lutheran Church

"CELEBRATE...SHARE...SERVE"  
ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

December 2017



## December 2017 Volume 31 Issue 317

*This newsletter is interactive. Click any of the page links below in the Table of Contents to be taken to that page!*

|                                               |                         |                                                     |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">Message from Pr. Eric</a>         | <a href="#">Page 2</a>  | <a href="#">Justice Ministry</a>                    | <a href="#">Page 12</a> |
| <a href="#">Advent/Christmas</a>              | <a href="#">Page 3</a>  | <a href="#">Lifelong Discipleship</a>               | <a href="#">Page 13</a> |
| <a href="#">ELCA Good Gifts</a>               | <a href="#">Page 4</a>  | <a href="#">Women's Ministry</a>                    | <a href="#">Page 13</a> |
| <a href="#">Message from Council</a>          | <a href="#">Page 5</a>  | <a href="#">Preschool News</a>                      | <a href="#">Page 14</a> |
| <a href="#">God's Corner</a>                  | <a href="#">Page 7</a>  | <a href="#">Worship &amp; Music Ministry</a>        | <a href="#">Page 15</a> |
| <a href="#">Children &amp; Young Families</a> | <a href="#">Page 8</a>  | <a href="#">GIFT Opportunities/Faith Milestones</a> | <a href="#">Page 17</a> |
| <a href="#">Fellowship &amp; Mutual Care</a>  | <a href="#">Page 10</a> | <a href="#">Upcoming/Ongoing at LS</a>              | <a href="#">Page 18</a> |
| <a href="#">TELS</a>                          | <a href="#">Page 10</a> | <a href="#">Calendar</a>                            | <a href="#">Page 21</a> |
| <a href="#">Hope Ministry</a>                 | <a href="#">Page 11</a> | <a href="#">Worship Assistants</a>                  | <a href="#">Page 22</a> |
| <a href="#">Sr. Youth/Young Adults</a>        | <a href="#">Page 11</a> | <a href="#">Birthdays/Anniversaries</a>             | <a href="#">Page 23</a> |

## A Forgotten Season? - From Pastor Eric



**Advent is the first of 6 main annual seasons in our lives as followers of Jesus: a way we order time in order to keep focused on our primary identity—being people of Christ who are IN, but not OF the world!**

At Preschool and Afterschool Bible times this week, students were gathered at the sanctuary steps. I say, "Now we are moving into a whole new time of the year. Does anyone know what season we're starting?" "Christmas! Christmas!" the replies are shouted. "What has happened to Advent?" I wonder to myself.

On one level, I'm glad that children still recognize Christmas (even if they think the central figure of Christmas is a man on a sleigh or an elf on a shelf, rather than a newborn baby lying in a manger). But, alas Preschoolers and Afterschoolers are not the only ones who jump from Thanksgiving (or even Halloween) straight to Christmas, are they? Christmas decorations have been in stores for months; Christmas music started playing on Thanksgiving Eve; and the 4-week season of ADVENT seems to have disappeared from society like a relic of ancient lore. Yet, Advent remains the first of 6 main annual seasons in our lives as followers of Jesus (along with Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost). And ... Advent is so much more than a time for just counting down shopping days until Christmas!

Every Advent, we begin our Christian year by re-focusing on the promise that Christ not only has come in the past, but that Christ will come again in glory and that Christ indeed comes to us anew each day. In the midst of shortening daylight here in the Northern Hemisphere, we celebrate that God's light still shines through any darkness in the world—and in our own lives. We hear the call of the prophets and John the Baptizer - to be God's people who prepare the way for Christ's coming, in our hearts, in our lives, and in the world! We embrace this holy call by living daily as the Scriptures command—doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God (cf. Micah 6:8, Matthew 23:23).

One of this year's church liturgical resources says the following about Advent: *"Advent is about the art of waiting. Though all of us are tempted to act otherwise, now is the time for slowing down and leaning together. As with the ancients, we wait for the light. Instead of rushing to the mall, we take some extra time at home for devotion and prayer. We gather with friends of faith to worship, sing hymns that have given hope to God's people for generations, and hear readings of prophecy and promise from God's Word. In the shortest days of the year, we need one another and we need signs that the sun (and Son!) will come again—life returning to dark and dormant land and lives. We gather each week to hear the word that does not pass away, that gives voice for our brokenness, and the promise of a Savior."*

**LS Advent/Christmas Party  
Sunday, Dec. 3—6:30**

+ + +

**Preschool Advent/Christmas  
Program**

**Thursday, Dec. 14—4:00**

+ + +

**VA Hospital Caroling  
Thursday, Dec. 14—6:15**

+ + +

**Caroling to Homebound  
Saturday, Dec. 16—9:00**

+ + +

**LS Children & Youth  
Advent/Christmas Program  
Sunday, Dec. 17—5:00  
(Spaghetti Supper/Elf Store after)**

+ + +

**Community Beer 'n Carols  
Monday, Dec. 18—7:00**

**MID-WEEK ADVENT PRAYER  
Wednesdays, 12:00 & 6:30  
(Advent Soup/Salad at 5:45)**

+ + +

**LIVE OUTDOOR NATIVITY  
"Love Is Born!"  
Friday & Saturday, Dec. 9-10**

+ + +

**CHRISTMAS EVE (SUNDAY)  
10:00—Advent Morning Worship**

**Candlelight Communion  
5:00—Family Service  
7:30—Festival Service  
(special music at 7:15)**

+ + +

**NEW YEAR'S EVE (SUNDAY)  
10:00—Lessons & Carols Worship**

Here at LS, we began our Advent preparations with a joyful Advent-palooza gathering of folks from all generations. Lexanne Graves, our Minister of Faith and Life for Children & Young Families, shared this thought, *"While our gathering last night was fun, creative, and interactive, the most important thing was that we were making God known. We were unpacking boxes and stapling candy canes to postcards so that people will hear God's love through our live nativity. We were making Nativity sets in a bottle so that our homes might literally see Jesus each day as we prepare for Jesus' return to earth. We were decorating Advent boxes for our homes, to collect food for hungry families. We were packing backpacks for children's hungry bellies so that they know they are important to God. We were singing and praising God because we are God's blessed children called to share our gifts. Thank you for making God known through your selfless acts of love last night."*

In these upcoming Advent weeks, I invite each of us to remember Advent—and the blessing this season brings to our lives.

In these Advent weeks, **walk humbly with God in deeper ways:** make a

(Continued on page 4)

## Midweek Advent Services: Wednesdays, 12:00 & 6:30

Dec. 6 – Service Prepared by Seminarian Christopher Girardeau

Dec. 13 – Service Prepared by Pastor Eric Fink

Dec. 20 (Longest Night) – Service Prepared by Director George Donovan, Jr.

*We gather midweek to take a break from the hectic holiday pace to find peace in God's house—as we join in prayer to “prepare the way of the Lord” in our hearts, lives, and world! Invite a co-worker, classmate, neighbor, stranger, or friend!*



## ADVENT SOUP & SALAD: WEDNESDAYS, 5:45-6:20

Soup & Salad supper will be served each Wednesday before the Advent service. Come join this time of fellowship in faith! Donation of \$6 to support our Living Springs food ministry (\$3 for children under 12, chicken fingers available).



***Living Springs Annual***

## Outdoor Nativity Drama “Love Is Born!”

**December 9 & 10 - 7 pm**

**FREE**, for the entire family!  
Animals, characters, and more...

Pause from a hectic holiday pace to witness a 30-minute living enactment of God's gift of love for you...

the birth of a savior, Jesus!

**Bring a lawn chair...hot drinks provided.**



## **Christmas Eve 2017: God's Gift of Christmas Love!**

**10:00am Morning Advent Worship**

**5:00pm Family Candlelight Worship**  
(special children's message & communion)

**7:30pm Festival Candlelight  
Communion Worship**  
(special music begins at 7:15)

## 2017 Advent Hope Boxes

***Set up an Advent Hope Box in your home!***

**Add 1 non-perishable food item each day of Advent  
(Dec. 3 - Dec. 24 = 22 items).**

You can wrap your box in blue, representing the Advent color of hope, then add Advent symbols (or just use a plain box!) Place it under your tree, near your advent wreath, or by a manger scene. Bring the filled box to worship on Sunday, Christmas Eve (or drop it off at the LS office the week prior). Items will be shared with our local food pantry! **Our goal is 2017 total items—one item for every year of our Lord!**



(Continued from page 2)

special effort to be in worship each Sunday morning; take advantage of our midweek Advent prayer services or special Advent/Christmas programs offered by our preschoolers, children, and youth; pause at work to reflect on the daily Advent e-mail devotion; set aside extra time in your home for lighting candles around an Advent devotion or Faith5; come sense God's presence and participate in the Outdoor Nativity as you share the true gift of God's love with others; donate a few hours of your time in the Tree Lot to help our youth have opportunities to grow in their faith-walk.

In these Advent weeks, **Love kindness in deeper ways** by sharing acts of mercy for others in need: help collect 2017 food items for the hungry by filling up an Advent box under your tree; get a Dove-Tree gift for one of the 20 children/youth identified by our local elementary & HS guidance counselors; come sing carols and play bingo with a disabled veteran on VA Ministry night; share joy on the caroling trip for homebound and care facility residents; join the Good News Walkers in passing out invitations of love and joy in our local neighborhoods. In these Advent weeks, commit to **doing justice in deeper ways**: participate in the make-up house Gathering between services on Dec. 3; contact one of our Justice Ministry Team Leaders and become a justice ministry network member; attend the Research-to-Action gathering on Dec. 11 to help begin the process of making concrete improvements in our first local target areas of Mental Health / Health Care and Education; pick up an ELCA Good Gift Catalogue (and ornament) and give a gift in honor of a loved one that will make a difference in the lives of "the least of these" across our planet.

In these Advent weeks, pray for the Holy Spirit to take you to a deeper place in your walk with God—sharing the Good News of God's grace and love for all in your daily attitudes, actions, thoughts, and lives. May this indeed be a holy season which prepares our hearts for Christmas in due time!

With Advent prayers of joy for the blessing of **growing in faith together**, *Pastor Eric*



ELCA  
GOOD  
GIFTS

Give something  
**unexpected**  
this Christmas.

Goat \$50

SHOP NOW

[ELCA.org/elcagoodgifts](http://ELCA.org/elcagoodgifts)



As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

**ELCA Good Gifts** go beyond your regular congregational offering to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. Together, we can do more than we ever could alone, making a huge collective impact on the needs of our church and the world.

*Good Gift Catalogues are available in the narthex and the admin lobby. There are also ornaments and note cards to share with your loved one.*

## From Your LS Council: Year-End Emphasis!

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

In this season, we are truly thankful for all God's amazing blessings in our lives—and for the faithful giving of our Living Springs family! We continue to experience a wonderful growth in ministry, touching so many lives with God's grace. This year, we particularly rejoice in the outpouring of love reflected in all the giving for many special efforts, including: Worship500; Hurricane Relief Hope Kits & \$57 Buckets; Music Ministry; Youth Ministry Projects; Campus Ministry support (fish fry); Long Mission Congregation partnerships (golf tournament); Legrand/Lowman Scholarships (auction); food pantry, hunger, homeless, and backpack food collections.

**Now, as we come to the end of 2017, it is time again to make a concentrated focus on our Regular Offerings and Debt & Maintenance Fund, which both provide a solid foundation for all the special life-changing ministries that God makes possible in this community of faith.**

**Consider a special Christmas gift this year ... remember or honor a loved one with something that truly makes a difference: sharing the hope & love of Christ!**

In our Regular Offerings, we have again been blessed with stable giving during 2017, so that by the end of October, we have been able to cover our to-date regular ministry expenses & mortgage principal by \$927. We have come a long way in the past few years (compare to 2013, when we had a \$33,000 shortfall by October). In addition, we have given \$13,738 for our Debt & Maintenance Fund, which is wonderful—but nonetheless puts us \$4,179 behind our \$17,917 October goal. The people of LS have an amazing history of special year-end offerings –and we are confident that we can respond in 2 ways in December:

- 1)a substantial December Regular Offering—to cover always greater end-of-year bills and expenses;
- 2)a special drive to bring us closer to our year-end goal of \$21,500 for the Debt/Maintenance Fund.

At year's end, we all receive appeals from various sources, and we spend lots of money on material gifts that often end up making little difference in people's lives. The amazing ministry video shared at our annual meeting again showed so many faces and stories of lives filled with the joy & hope of Christ—because a congregation called Living Springs exists here in the NE Columbia community! As we all ponder our year-end giving, we ask you to join us as council members in remembering Christ's important ministry at Living Springs.

### **INVITATION FOR FINAL WEEKS OF 2017:**

**Focus on year-end regular offerings, plus Debt/Maintenance Giving!**

The image shows a collection of handwritten signatures in black ink, arranged in a roughly rectangular frame. The signatures are written in a cursive, personal style. The names are: ME Davidson (top left), Rachel Peterson (top center), Bob Tummie (top right), EQ Breanna (middle left), Aaron Smith (middle right), Jan Berger (center), Peter Eric (bottom right), Janel Madsen (bottom left), Beverly Hoppert (bottom center), and Bill French (bottom right, partially overlapping Beverly Hoppert). There is also a signature that appears to be "Quinn Lyman" or similar in the bottom center.

We are BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING! When members of Living Springs Lutheran Church see or hear about an immediate need, God is already working within and around us to meet those needs. Throughout the history of Living Springs, God's love flows through us, and we are able to support many worthy community projects. We have also been supporting our ongoing ministries within our congregation. Our faithful giving has increased and our year-round shortfall is disappearing, but we cannot rest knowing that more work is to be done and God has richly blessed us with time, talent, and treasure. During this Advent season of Hope and Expectation, let us look within and continue to recognize our blessings from God and know that all we have comes from Him! With prayerful consideration, may we continue to find ways to strengthen our financial footing and share our resources for the Kingdom of God. May God continue to bless us to be bold and daring disciples and walk deeper in faith with Him.

—Rocky Berger, Finance Chair

## Council Clips

COUNCIL CLIPS – Staff & Ministry Reports November 16, 2017 Meeting

Council Devotions: SC Synod Ministry Video, "Christ's Salt and Light"

Council Actions and news (from November 16 business meeting):



- ✝ Facilities: Library converted to office for Minister Lavone Griffin with Journey Performing Arts Ministry
- ✝ Good News Team: Christmas invitation cards have been printed and will be distributed for Advent and Christmas seasons. An electronic billboard ad on Two Notch Rd. is promoting the Live Nativity.
- ✝ Fellowship & Mutual Care Team: Care Meal Coordinator is needed. Annual Christmas Party will be 12/3. Refreshments will be served during Live Nativity 12/9 & 12/10; cast party will be 12/9; Beer & Carols will be on 12/18.
- ✝ Lifelong Discipleship: Annual Disciple Commitments were nailed to the door during worship on 11/12 – 11/26; a make-up fall house gathering will be held during Faith Formation hour on 12/3.
- ✝ Ministries of Hope: Bucket offering collections for hurricane relief culminated with the \$57 in 57 day bucket collections on 11/26. The next VA night will be 12/14 at 6:15. Backpacks will be packed at 5:00 on Wednesdays during Advent.
- ✝ LMM: Bible Study continues on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 6:30 am. LMM Sunday was held on 11/19.
- ✝ Women's Group: Women's bible study on Tuesday mornings. Volunteers working at God's Storehouse on the second Monday each month. Book Club will meet on 12/4.
- ✝ Preschool: Prayer lunch will be 12/11; Buses were cleaned and detailed; Christmas program will be 12/14.
- ✝ Worship & Music: Advent-Palooza was held on 11/29; Advent services will be held at 12:00 and 6:30 on 12/6, 13 & 20. Christmas caroling will be 12/16. Live Nativity is 12/9 & 12/10. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services will be held at 5:00 (Family/Children's Service) and 7:30 (Special Music begins at 7:15). There will be one morning worship service at 10:00 on both Christmas Eve Sunday and New Year's Eve Sunday.

**From Pastor Eric:** As we ponder God's work in our presence over the past month, we remember again the true meaning of that word, "saint" (one who is set apart by God for a purpose), and we also give thanks to God for ALL the living saints who bear witness to the grace and power of God here in our midst!

- ✝ *Did you see and hear the great company of saints* coming forward to nail their commitments of discipleship to a door on **Commitment Sunday**? Did you think about the symbolism of hearing a nail being hammered, as you held out your hands to these words, "The body of Christ, given for you! The blood of Christ, shed for you"?
- ✝ *Did you see and hear the great company of saints* gathered in the sanctuary for the **All Saints Concert of Praise**, to the truly incredible sounds of the joint LS-Ebenezer choirs giving praise to our God – gathered 2 nights before to hear the amazing **Palmetto Bronze Hand Bell Concert** offered for the glory of the Lord?
- ✝ *Did you see and hear the great company of saints* from 4 NE congregations gathered for an amazing **Thanksgiving service** – saints sitting in small groups together in the UMC sanctuary, sharing stories of faith & life about what it means to be "Blessed to be a Blessing" or "Being Privileged for a Purpose"?
- ✝ *Did you see and hear the great company of over 500 saints* gathered at Reid Chapel AME (including 40 LS Justice Network Members) for the first Community Assembly of our Justice Ministry – saints inspired to make a difference in people's lives in this area, by responding together to God's vision of justice with the power of faith?
- ✝ *Did you see and hear the great company of saints* packing **100 backpacks** of food for elementary children in need on the week before Thanksgiving"? Or traveling to volunteer at **God's Storehouse**? Or playing bingo with lonely veterans on **VA Ministry Night**?



## 2018 Council

The following members were elected at the Annual Meeting on November 12:

Vickie Crapps  
Doug Danner  
Wendy McKenzie

Jeff Tenhover  
Gay Walter  
Adam Woodruff

Midge Gunvalson  
Austin Padgett - Youth Member

## God's Corner



Michael and I thank you for "mugging" us recently. It was an unusual and delightful way to be welcomed to the area and to your congregation. You are a welcoming church and we are appreciative.

*Sincerely, Jan*

My family would like to thank your church for your kind words and the bear. My father takes the bear with him when he goes for the longer appointments and I think I provides comfort. My daughter attends the daycare there and I feel it makes him think of her when he is at the appointments. He is recovering well and is attending therapy to get stronger. Thank you so much.

*The Gidney family*

You have a special way of putting kindness into words and caring into action. That is truly a gift, and you are deeply appreciated. Thank you for the letter and devotional. Both were uplifting and exactly what I needed, as well as the coffee!

*All His blessings, Rachel Hurbert*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank each of you for the many cards and expressions of love that you shared with me at the recent congregation meeting, as part of Pastor's Appreciation. The congregational gifts given through ELCA World Hunger (to help fund a community health care clinic & childhood vaccination ministries) were truly meaningful – and touched my heart in a very special way. It is such a blessing to be a part of this faith community and our staff team, through whom God works each day to share the "living spring" of life in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord! You are an awesome community of disciples in every way! May each of you daily find much blessing in Christ, the overflowing fountain of grace ....

*With much love and thanksgiving, Pastor Eric*

Dear Disciples of Living Springs,

Thank you so much for your gracious appreciation reception, numerous cards, and word of encouragement in October. It was indeed a surprise and joy to have been acknowledged in such a special manner and from this grateful community. It is because of each of you that the Spirit has called me to this place. May the Lord bless our partnership in ministry together this year and always.

*In Christ's never ending love, Deacon Lexanne Graves*

## Disciple Dot Stories

A friend and I had lunch at Lizards Thicket on Thanksgiving Day. A single gentleman was about to eat alone when another single man with a cane came in and was waiting on the next table to be cleared. The Holy Spirit was present as the first gentleman asked the second man to join him at his table. They introduced themselves to each other, shook hands, and shared a blessed Thanksgiving dinner together instead of each having to eat alone. God's kindness and joy is everywhere.

### SHARE YOUR DISCIPLE DOT STORY

*Has God worked a disciple moment through you or someone else during the week? Pick up a disciple-dot story slip from the narthex, on a table or in a pew and share the story of God's work - place your slip in the blue-dot basket, 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!*

GOD loves YOU:  
share God's love  
everyday!

✠  
Where will God place  
your next Disciple  
Dot?



# CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTRY

From the Minister of Faith and Life: Children and Families  
Deacon Lexanne Graves  
[Lexanne@LivingSpringsColumbia.org](mailto:Lexanne@LivingSpringsColumbia.org)



## Where has God been at work within the ministry of children and young families this month??



THANK YOU!  
18 PAIRS OF NEW  
SHOES WERE COL-  
LECTED FOR RICH-  
LAND SCHOOL DIS-  
TRICT 2 CHILDREN!



Our Preschool children learned about "Giving Thanks" in Chapel in November. They were so excited to meet a Richland Co Police Of-  
fice and get the opportunity to say, "Thank You"! And one child said, "I want to be a po-  
lice office when I grow up!"



### KIDS AND MONEY FAITH MILESTONE

Participants: Colin Evans, Samantha Kowalski,  
Teagan Lindstedt, Pierce O'Donnell, & Lydia Prizer  
Teachers: Rocky Berger & Leslie Bloss

We overheard a child saying, "I now have a cool  
way to work with my money....I have 3 jars with  
Give, Save and Spend! This is cool!"



**FAITH5 (SHARE. READ. TALK. PRAY. BLESS.)** These words were shared during prayer  
time: TEARS, LAUGHTER, TEMPTATION, JESUS, FAITH, REFUGE, BLESSING, HOPE!



### FAITH5



**WHO WILL  
YOU BLESS  
TODAY?**

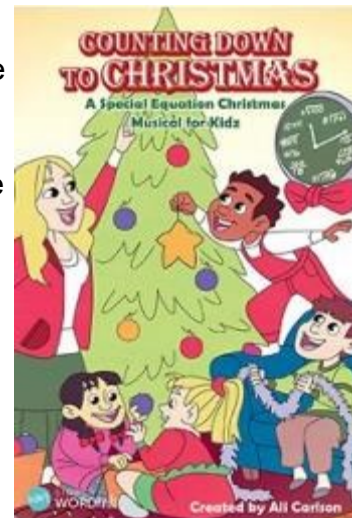


### Children & Young Families

There are many ministries here at Living Springs where children and young families are involved. We partner with children and parents to Grow In Faith Together during:  
FAITH Alive Sunday School, Jr. Youth Group, SPARK VBS Camp, FAITH5 Home Devotions, the G.I.F.T. Zone, Family Outings, Christmas Play and Caroling, Advent and Lent Family Craft Events, Pancake Supper, Easter Hunt and Activities Day, and End of Year Swimming, just to name a few!

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm** is our Christmas Musical entitled “*Counting Down to Christmas: A Special Equation Christmas Musical for Kids*”, along with our annual ***Talent Show!*** (Note: this is one week later than in previous years!)

As Jesus’ disciples, we want our children and youth to **share their talents** in our *Talent Show* that precedes the musical AND in this year’s cool musical! There are opportunities for us to learn cool new songs together, solos, acting lines, and more. To aid in your child/teen learning this musical better, attached to this email are the mp3 files of the songs in the musical. (We will have CDs and copies of the books for the Musical available this Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>!)



Please encourage your child/teen to listen to the songs to help them learn them well. Beginning Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be using our 9:30 to 10:30 AM Sunday Morning Faith Formation Hour to rehearse in the Sanctuary. If your child/teen wishes to participate in the musical, we really request that they attend the rehearsals on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

We will have parts for readers, non-readers, and little toddlers up to high school age youth! Please email Kellee Flores ([KFlores@richland2.org](mailto:KFlores@richland2.org)) or Lexanne Graves ([Lexanne@LivingSpringsColumbia.org](mailto:Lexanne@LivingSpringsColumbia.org)) as soon as possible to let us know if your child/teen is feeling called to share their talents in this year’s musical and/or talent show!

Here is our proposed Rehearsal Schedule:

**EVERYDAY:** Listen to the MP3 Files on your own and get to know the music!

Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>: 9:30-9:45 *Faith Alive Music Time* as usual in the Sanctuary; followed by Faith Alive Sunday school time until 1030am

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>: 9:30-10:30 *Christmas Musical Practice in the Sanctuary*

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: 9:30-10:30 *Christmas Musical Practice in the Sanctuary* (costumes will be assigned)

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: 9:30-10:30 *Christmas Musical Practice in the Sanctuary* (costumes will be given out). *Children/Teens need to arrive DRESSED in costume by 4:30pm in the Narthex.*

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> following the Christmas Musical is our Annual Spaghetti**

**Dinner and Elf Store Youth Fundraisers** Our Elf Store is a unique little shop we create in our Fellowship Hall for your children or “elves” to enjoy shopping for gifts for Mom and Dad and the rest of the family. This rare youth fundraiser provides toddler and elementary age children with a fun, real life learning opportunity of giving to others! Your children will learn how to budget their money (or your money!) while they shop for gifts under \$4 for Mom, Dad and others in your family! Trust us, seeing the joy of giving from the eyes of your youngster is one of the best gifts ever!!! Our hope is that they will be able to keep your gift a secret all the way to Christmas morning!!



**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES:**

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, Dec 9 & 10—LIVE NATIVITY at 7pm on church front lawn (bring lawn chairs and blankets!)

SATURDAY, DEC 16TH at 9am—Christmas Caroling with the Junior Youth Group and the whole congregation!

SUNDAY, DEC 17—CHRISTMAS MUSICAL at 5pm (children/teens arrived dressed at 440pm) followed by Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Elf Store, which are our youth fundraisers!

## Notes from: *Fellowship & Mutual Care*

### Christmas Fellowship Party - 12/3 @ 6:30

Please join us for an evening of food, fellowship and fun. Wear your favorite "Ugly" Christmas Sweater and participate in our competition. Prizes will be awarded for *Just Plain Tacky*, *Most Creative* and *All Around Ugliest*. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Soft drinks will be provided. Bring your own adult beverage. Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 PM at the Sides Home (Crickentree) Call Becky if you need directions (608-5558)



## Notes from: *TELS - Traveling Evangelists of Living Springs*



### TELS Trip to Mepkin Abbey



### TELS IS GOING TO MIRACLE ON 34<sup>TH</sup> STREET

On Sunday, December 17 at approximately 1:45 pm, the TELS group is going to Town Theatre to see *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*. The tickets have been purchased for the group, but there is still room on the bus if tickets are still available. Please contact Beverly Hoppert for information.



## Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

### *Backpack Food Ministry*

Packing 100 bags for  
Thanksgiving week



Reminder that backpacks are being done on Wednesday at 5 pm during Advent (Dec. 6 & 13).

WOW! Our stuff-a-bus inventory is depleting fast! We are in need of milk, cereal, cookies & snacks, and meat items. These should all be non-perishable and individual size packages. Contact [Karen Kranz](#) or [Jeff Lummel](#) for information.

### THE DOVE TREE



Most of us have created wish lists and wait with anticipation to see how many gifts are under the tree. We have family and friends to share in the joy of Christ's birth – some, unfortunately, are not as privileged as us. This year the opportunity to share is yours by choosing a dove off our Christmas Dove Tree for ten (10) unaccompanied youth (homeless youths). We do not know their names, but God does! This year the schools represented are: Keels/Jackson Creek Elementary, Rice Creek/Bridge Creek Elementary, Ridge View HS, and Spring Valley HS. Please choose a Dove and purchase the item indicated and return your wrapped gift by Sunday, December 10. If you would prefer to donate money, we can do the shopping for you! Please put your gift money or check (mark "Dove Tree" on memo line) in an envelope and mark it "Dove Tree". Contact [Karen Kranz](#) for information.



## Notes from: *Sr. Youth & Young Adults*

### Senior Youth:

**The Christmas Tree lot** is up and running! Please stop by to get a tree and/or a wreath for your home or office! We are open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of every weekend through December 17th.

Speaking of the tree lot, we need folks to volunteer to run the lot. Please prayerfully consider helping out; we need youth and adults! Here's the link to the sign-up sheet:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BPqwJCYYYHeYaXyGV8r8Wn7-1rmrX9zwmFa2R7hd04Y/edit?usp=sharing>

Our **youth lock-in** is coming up soon. It will be on Dec 15, starting at 5 pm. We hope you all will join us for a night of fun! We will be going bowling, run the tree lot, and lots more activities!

### Young Adults:

The Young Adults will be going to **trivia at Beef O'Brady's** on Dec 14 at 7pm. Let's put our useless knowledge to the test and have a blast!

Christopher will be having a **coffee hour for all college students** home for break on Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 - right after worship that Sunday.

## Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

### **Justice Ministry Update: Focus on Education and Mental Health/Health Care**

God is working in amazing ways! In November, 541 of God's people from 29 different Midlands congregations gathered for our Midlands justice ministry's first Community Problems Assembly. Congregations in attendance were Lutheran, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Jewish, AME, Baptist, Methodist, Unitarian, Quaker, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian. Living Springs was represented by 42 folks (the 3<sup>rd</sup> most of any congregation)! At the assembly, our own Gary Ginn was chosen to speak about the challenges his family has faced with the education system. Many were deeply moved, and one 8<sup>th</sup>-grade girl who was attending the assembly wrote a heart-wrenching letter to Gary. Based on information from all the powerful stories shared from nearly 100 house gatherings, the Assembly voted on 2 areas to be our focus for this year: **Education and Mental Health/Health Care**. The next step is to develop various Research-to-Action teams (with representatives from all congregations) that will identify a specific, concrete solution to address a particular problem in each of these areas for our local Midlands community.

On **Monday, December 11, at 7:00 pm** the Research-to-Action Assembly will be held at Rehoboth Baptist, to begin organizing the teams and sub-teams who want to be part of this process. So many of us know folks dear to us who are faced with challenges in these 2 areas – and we know that God is calling us a people of faith to make a difference in our community. Many of our 42 LS Justice Network Members will be attending the gathering on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have a tug of the Spirit to become involved in this important process, please contact any of our **LS Justice Team Leaders: Peg Zieche, Gwen Furcron, Gail Buchanan, Helen Doerpinghaus, Sarah Schultz, Jim Zieche, Mike Davidson, Wayne Kannaday, or Sally Catoe**.

Again, it is so important to remember that our Justice Ministry is NOT part of all the recent justice protests that have gained so much publicity. It is not about political protesting or marching– but rather it is a faith-based model used by congregations for several decades in various communities – to help God's people work together in concrete, community-changing ways to respond to the Bible's call to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God!"

## NOVEMBER JUSTICE ASSEMBLY

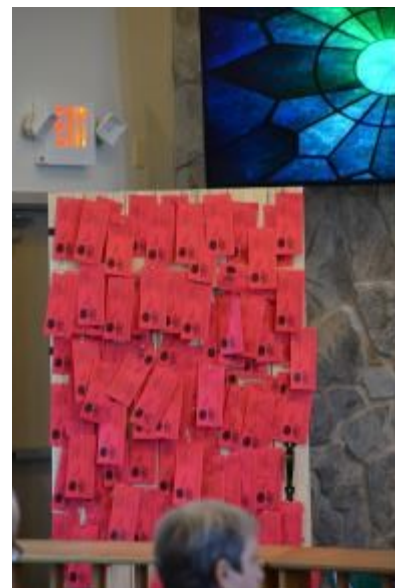


### **LS Make up Home Gathering 12/3 @ 9:30**

Haven't had a chance to attend one of the fall cottage gatherings? We will be holding a "make-up session" on Sunday morning, **December 3** at 9:30 during the Faith Alive hour.

## Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*

### 2018 Commitment Sunday



### 2017 COMMITMENT PLANTING



## Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

Shared from Emmanuel Lutheran:

Hello Women of Emmanuel,

If you were not at Coastal Retreat October 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, you missed a wonderful weekend. The ladies of Emmanuel Lutheran Church attended the annual fall Retreat this past weekend. We made new friends with the church Living Springs Lutheran. We will have our Retreat every year hopefully for years to come. Our next one will be the first weekend in October 2018 please try to attend. As the Ambassador for the retreat centers, it is my job to put out the word. Jennifer Nuovo was the leader this weekend; she did the program on Pocket full of

Posies. She made us all think of things that we need to have in our pockets and things we need to let go. Your pockets full - think about it, the things you should keep and let go. We made beautiful bags. Pam Lewis and I along with all the help from the other ladies prepared the meals, served, cleaned up and had a great time. Many thanks to all. Come be a part of a fun weekend. If you have never been it will be worth trying. You will never forget the experience. The first weekend in October 2018. Mark your calendars. We will be looking for you. God bless.

Your sister in Christ,  
Ella Haley-Shumpert



# Preschool & Afterschool Care News

## From Tammy Mancuso, Director

It is with a joyous heart and glad tidings that we celebrate a time of Thankfulness this season. As we look around the world today, it's easy to become discouraged at the struggles, the hardships and the sadness that seem so prevalent. But, as disciples, we are reminded that we are never alone. Every struggle is an opportunity to share God's love, just as the many Saints that have come before us have done. May we look to their examples for guidance as we continue to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our Lord.

As I reflect on this past months events, I am reminded of the Saints we have among us as we gather together to share in God's love and peace for the world today.

Ms. Adele who volunteers often, shows her love and joy through her smiles as she reads from her favorite authors and shares life stories with our children gathered close by. Ms. Karen and Ms. Beverly who regularly share their time with us by loving and rocking babies in our infant room. Our own "Mr. Fantastic" (Jim Z.) is always giving of his time and talents to help us with anything we send his way.

Our children, families and teachers coming together to prepare, cook and share our Annual Stone Soup Luncheon. Words of love and thanks, smiles and hugs from loved ones, children serving, sitting and sharing a meal and fellowship. A visit from a RCSD officer. He shares his time with our children as he explains his duty of serving and protecting them and those in our community.

A meal and staff development turns into a celebration of life. A cultural exploration of Dia de los Muertos. A remembrance of the Saints that have come before us; those that God has placed in our lives helping to guide, shape, mold and create the disciples we are today. We give thanks and reverence as we reveal stories of struggles, faith, strength, perseverance and love.

On behalf of the entire staff at LSLCPS/ASC, we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

With Blessings Tammy and Staff

## Deputy Sheriff Visits the Preschool



## Stone Soup



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 <https://www.naeyc.org/accreditation>.
- ⇒⇒ 8 age appropriate, hands-on classroom environments for children ages 6 weeks to 5th grade
- ⇒⇒ We serve 102 children and families in our community, giving love, nourishment and compassion to God's children, year round.
- ⇒⇒ 25 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!

[www.LSLCPS.org](http://www.LSLCPS.org)



Living Springs Preschool has a FaceBook Page. Click the logo to check it out!

## Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

### **A Vision for Music Ministry @ Living Springs**



For nearly 30 years, Living Springs has had a desire to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to people from all walks of life, through a variety of offerings of ministry. Our desire is for our music to be a vital part of this diverse ministry. Music connects people to the Word of God in deep, meaningful and powerful ways. As we see the end of 2017 approaching and look forward to the dawning of 2018, the Music & Worship Board would like your help in insuring we are able to consistently offer the best in quality music for worship and community outreach. Would you consider financially supporting us in this endeavor?

We have a goal of streaming \$1000 per month in designated giving towards Music Ministry. This income would enable us to do so much to help grow our ministry together, which already has such a solid foundation. Some of the ways this income will enhance our music are:

- ✝ Additional Musicians for weekly worship & other outreach events (*Brass/Strings for Easter, Christmas Eve, Reformation, Concerts of Praise; Worship Band musicians & more!*)
- ✝ Supplemental Voices for our Choirs (*we are seeking to add 1 paid singer to each voice section for both the Joyful Noise Choir & Grace Chorale.*)
- ✝ The ability to continue to grow our music library. (*A lot of sheet music has been discarded due to illegal copying or it was worn out or we have low numbers of copies on file.*)

We will meet this goal through the following means:

- ✝ Encouraging increased designated giving to the Music Ministry from both active music ministry participants and our congregation.
- ✝ Fundraising events such as the "Concert of Praise" series, and other recitals
- ✝ Adopt a Musician or a Choir Member

With your help, we can continue to grow our music ministry into a life changing outreach. I hope that you will prayerfully consider how you might be able to help. As of today, we need an additional \$1000 to cover the cost of musicians through the end of 2017. Will you help us?

### *Concert of Praise*



# NE Community Thanksgiving Service



## Veteran s Recognition



## New Members Recognition



## Logan Smith Baptism



## G.I.F.T. Zone



## POINSETTIAS AND CANDLES - 12/19

If you would like to have a poinsettia or candle placed around the altar on Christmas Eve in honor or memory of a loved one please fill out the forms in the Narthex and turn them in to your ushers or the office. Deadline is no later than December 19.

## A star, a star shining in the night...

Stars will decorate our sanctuary during the Epiphany season as we celebrate the life of Christ. Please pick up a star from the narthex, decorate it, cut it out and return by January 1. We hope to have a star representing each person (adults & children) in our Living Springs family.

# Adult G.I.F.T. Opportunities

**G.I.F.T.** means **Growing In Faith Together**. Even as adults we can continue to grow in faith as we continue to learn and share our insights with others.

There are a number of opportunities at LSLC to join with others as we continue our faith journey. Find the right one(s) for you and join in.



## Sunday Faith Formation (Sunday School) – 9:30AM Sunday Mornings

† **Adult Class** – in depth study of the Gospel lesson for the day. Facilitator [Ron Ramsey](#).

† **LIGHT Class** – (Learning In God's House Together) – discussions about topics of the day from a Christian perspective.

† **First Sundays** – all ages join together to share **FAITH5**. Not only is this an opportunity for adults to support faith formation for our children....many times, we learn from their uncomplicated understanding of faith.

**Bible Studies:** \*\*Think that you don't know enough to be in a Bible study? No Bible credentials are needed; just questions and the desire to get closer to the story of Jesus and all the people of God's story, including all of us. Come join the discussions and the fun.\*\*

† **Ladies Bible Study** – Meets 10:00AM Tuesday mornings. Facilitator [Beverly Hoppert](#)

† **Men's Bible Study** – First and Third Thursdays of each month at 6:30AM – explore scripture from a man's perspective – Facilitator [Mike Davidson](#)

† **Adult Bible Study** – **all adults are welcome** – 7:00PM Tuesday evenings – study of the book of Romans and continuing through the new testament – Facilitator [Steve Bloss](#)

† **Pastor Eric's Bible study group** – date and time to be announced later.

## Adult Faith Milestones

TBA



## Youth Faith Milestones

*"Come to Jesus Christ. He is the **living stone** that people have rejected, but which God has chosen and highly honored. <sup>5</sup> And now you are **living stones** that are being used to build a spiritual house. You are also a group of holy priests, and with the help of Jesus Christ you will offer sacrifices that please God. <sup>6</sup> It is just as God says in the Scriptures, "No one who has faith in that one will 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 children's lives.



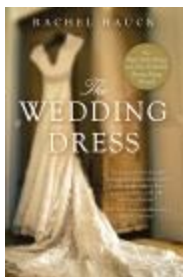
**You are invited to remember, celebrate and uphold your Baptismal promises by participating in our Faith Milestone events:**

u&f **Coming up January: God & Family, 1st Anniversary of Baptism**

Please contact Karlene Stuart ([kstuart@sc.rr.com](mailto:kstuart@sc.rr.com)), Faith Milestones Coordinator, if you would like to sign up to attend these milestones.

## Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs

### LADIES BOOK CLUB Monday, December 4 @ 7 pm



Monday, December 4 @ 7 pm the ladies will celebrate a fun and rewarding year of book reads by dining at a local restaurant – Olive Garden on Two Notch. The current book is *The Wedding Dress* by Rachel Hauck. If you have not read the book, come join us anyway – the fellowship is always as important as the book discussion. Please bring a picture of your wedding dress! Contact [Karen Kranz](#) for information.

### Beer & Carols Monday, December 18 @ 7 pm

Love to sing Christmas Carols? Enjoy having a beverage and fellowshiping with others? Come join us for Beer & Carols **Monday, December 18, 7 pm** at Beef O'Brady's on Hard Scrabble Road. We sing boldly. We laugh. We share Jesus in a unique way. All are invited and welcome. Bring a friend or two and experience a great hymn sing in the least likely place!



### LS LIVING NATIVITY: Rehearsals

**Sign up now!** All congregation members are encouraged to sign up on the board in the narthex to participate in this year's living nativity drama. Remember, no speaking is required by the actors! There is a role for everyone: cast, lights, sound, scenery, props, costumes, music, animal keepers, and refreshments. Rehearsals are happening after the 10:45 service. Questions Contact: Dea Jones or Anita Gabbard. **Rehearsal**

#### **Schedule:**

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> - TECH REHEARSAL, Tech Crew Only  
Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - DRESS REHEARSAL 6:30 PM

### 2500 CHRISTMAS OUTREACH INVITATIONS!

We are asking everyone to take outreach invitations to prayerfully share with someone special in the upcoming weeks. They contain information about our Outdoor Nativity and Christmas Eve worship.



Check out our billboard on Two Notch just south of Clemson. Point it out to your friends!



## Opportunities Outside Living Springs

### Sites & Sounds of the Nativity: *The Art of Christmas*

*Reformation Lutheran Church*

*1118 Union Street, Columbia, SC*

*Sunday, December 3, 2017 3:30- 7:00 pm*

Approximately 200 displays of nativity art in all shapes and sizes will be on display throughout the church. Enjoy piano, organ, hand bells, vocals, viola, and other musical performances by individuals and groups from across Columbia. Children may enjoy activities and crafts while parents enjoy the festival displays. A printed guide to describe the items you see in both the sanctuary and fellowship hall will guide your tour. Spend as long as you like! Stay as long as you wish! Seasonal treats prepared by church members will be available along in a candlelight setting surrounded by even more nativity scenes. The singing of carols will begin at 6:30 pm to conclude the festival. Join in if you like, regardless of talent - *no auditions required!* This is a free and open to the public event. If you would like to give, donations may be made for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's *Disaster Response: Puerto Rico*. Churches participating in this festival include St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Incarnation Lutheran Church.



## Ongoing Opportunities at Living Springs

### Tuesday Devotion Lunch @ Living Springs *Tuesday, December 5 @ 11:45 AM*



Lunch is offered on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 11:45, with devotions by Pastor Eric. Everyone is welcome! Meal is served by Laura & Mark Cunningham, our LS Food Resource persons. To reserve a spot for you and your friends, sign up in the admin building or contact the office before 11am on the Monday before. Donation \$6.

### God's Storehouse *Monday, December 11 @ 9:30 AM*

Join us as we carry out our mission to serve others at God's Storehouse. This ministry opportunity meets on the second Monday of each month. We gather at church by 9:30am to carpool and work at God's Storehouse from 10am until noon. This is a WELCA sponsored ministry for both men and women. For more information, please contact Ginny Devereaux.

### Living Springs VA Ministry Night *Thursday, December 14 @ 7:00 PM*

On 2nd Thursdays from 7:00-7:45, we will host a time of music, visiting, support, care, and fellowship at the Dorn VA's Community Life Center. Everyone is invited to come be part of this special time for the many disabled or older veterans who are undergoing therapy or now residing at the center. If you would like to make cards or donate thank-you items to be distributed, those are welcome, too! Signup up in the office lobby. If you would like to carpool or follow in your car, please meet at the church at 6:15.

### Good News Walkers *Thursdays @ 8:30 AM*

We start out with a short devotion from The Word in Season and then we deliver Living Springs/Preschool flyers to areas that have new move-ins **and** have a paper box. Meet in the administration building by 8am on Thursday morning – we are usually finished in an hour. Contact [Karen Kranz](#) for information.



### 2018 Altar Flowers

Are you looking for a way to honor or memorialize someone near and dear to you? Make a floral contribution by ordering altar flowers and let the office know who or what it is that you are celebrating **OR** maybe you just want to thank God for the many blessings you receive! There is a signup outside Lisa's office for 2018 or go to <http://goo.gl/mVvrGE>. To order flowers from our preferred florist, contact Blythewood Florist at 691-1820.



### 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!

### 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 [kbkranz@gmail.com](mailto:kbkranz@gmail.com)

**G.I.F.T. ZONE Update ....** We continue to tweak and work to improve our G.I.F.T. Zone Children's Worship Area experiment. Thanks to everyone who has provided suggestions and insight. For those who missed the April newsletter, below is a summary of information shared there. May the Spirit continue to guide us in our efforts to make worship meaningful for our younger families & children!

+ + +

**G.I.F.T. Zone** (*Growing In Faith Together Zone*) is an area in the front, left transept of the Sanctuary, specifically set aside for families of younger children. The Zone consists of child-appropriate, worship-oriented materials, with parent/child-friendly worship furniture laid out in a way to help children participate in worship. It is not a "play area," but a space where children & parents are invited to participate in guided activities that help them focus—and find meaning in the Scripture Readings, Sermon, Prayers, and more! Parents are expected to accompany their children in this area. *G.I.F.T. Zone does NOT replace our 10:45 nursery for infants, nor does it replace our Children's Message. Parents are not "required" to use the G.I.F.T. Zone, but it will be a meaningful option for them.*

***Why is Living Springs offering this G.I.F.T. Zone?***

Nowhere in modern society are young children asked to sit still for a hour. Even in school, children no longer sit at individual desks like we once did, but they are constantly working in centers. In recent years, this has had the effect of worship being more uninviting for children and becoming a negative, anxiety-creating experience for parents. Some other traditions have addressed this challenge by creating a totally separate worship site, where all young children are totally removed from adults and the main worship experience. However, our Lutheran tradition has always emphasized the importance of families worshipping together, of children experiencing & learning the rhythms of our life-giving liturgy, and of the joy we experience in having disciples of all ages worshipping, praying, and communing as one. It is important to have children together with us in worship! As you may have seen in the Lutheran magazine, some churches are creating a more child/parent-friendly space and experience *within* worship. The G.I.F.T. Zone is one model that has been successfully implemented. As Lutherans, one of our greatest gifts of the Reformation was the emphasis on putting worship in the modern "language of the people." If you were a child or young parent in today's world, what would such meaningful "language" or space look like for you and your 21st-century child? Our experiment during Easter Season is to create a space where children can experience worship with their parents, grow in faith together as family, and use all of their senses to learn positively our flow of worship liturgy. One of our most important callings is to reach out to young families to experience the power of Christ in their lives. When children and parents feel welcomed and know that they belong, they will return to experience the Spirit moving in their lives!

***Why does it matter that we pay attention on how we integrate children in worship?***

It matters because of Ephesians 4:4-5 where Paul writes: *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.* Kids are part of the body of Christ, and we all have something to offer and gifts to share. Sometimes we just need to go the extra mile and pay attention to the details that matter to the various age groups so that worship is meaningful for all.

***Why is the G.I.F.T. Zone at the side of the sanctuary (rather than the back)?***

Research has shown that children actually learn more when they can see what's going on (and they're too short to see from the back)! We are blessed with a perfect design in our sanctuary, with the left transept available to give a direct sight-line to the altar, pastor, font, etc. Also, this puts the G.I.F.T. Zone off to the side of other worshippers, so that it is not right behind someone's pew or in someone's sight-line. Rather than fidgety children creating distractions in the middle of the pews, children now have something that helps parents keep them engaged with what is happening in worship in a meaningful way. Again, we are blessed with a wonderful sanctuary design, so that no one has to sit immediately next to the G.I.F.T. Zone if they wish to be further away—and can choose their pews accordingly.



# December 2017

**8:15am Worship, 10:45am Worship**  
**9:30am Faith Alive Sunday School**  
 (every Sunday unless otherwise noted)

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mon                                                                                                                   | Tue                                                                                                                                                                      | Wed                                                                                                                                                                          | Thu                                                                                                                                                                      | Fri                                                 | Sat                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3<br>930A Children/Youth Program Practice<br>930A House Gathering Make-up (Fellowship Hall)<br>12P Tree Lot until 8pm<br>1215P Handbells<br>630P LS Christmas Party                                                     | 4<br>1030A Meals on Wheels<br>5P Worship Task Force<br>6P Worship & Music Team<br>7P Ladies Book Club (Olive Garden)  | 5<br>930 PS Bible Time<br>10A Ladies Bible Study<br>1030A Meals on Wheels<br>1145A Devotional Lunch<br>4P ASC Bible Time<br>7P Adult Bible Study<br>7P Handbells         | 6<br>930 PSC Chapel<br><b>12P Advent Worship</b><br>5P Backpacks<br>545P Midweek Supper<br>6P Hope Ministries<br><b>630P Advent Worship</b><br>630P Sr. Youth<br>715P Choirs | 7<br>630A Men's Bible Study<br>830A GN Walkers<br>930A PS Music Time<br>4P ASC Music Time<br>615P Preschool Board<br>630P Nativity Tech Team<br>7P Lifelong Discipleship | 1<br>5P Tree Lot Until 9pm                          | 2<br>8A Christmas Decorating<br>10A Tree Lot Until 9pm                                                             |
| 10<br>930A Children/Youth Program Practice<br>930A Discipleship Visionaries<br>12P Tree Lot until 8pm<br>1215P Handbells<br><b>7P Living Nativity</b>                                                                   | 11<br>930A God's Storehouse<br>1030A Meals on Wheels<br>1215P PS Prayer Lunch                                         | 12<br>930 PS Bible Time<br>10A Ladies Bible Study/<br>Sr. Lucia Brunch (Adele Lindberg's)<br>1030A Meals on Wheels<br>6P Finance<br>7P Adult Bible Study<br>7P Handbells | 13<br>930 PSC Chapel<br><b>12P Advent Worship</b><br>4P ASC Bible Time<br>5P Backpacks<br>545P Midweek Supper<br><b>630P Advent Worship</b><br>630P Sr. Youth<br>715P Choirs | 14<br>830A GN Walkers<br>1030A PS Program<br>Rehearsal & Lunch<br>4P PS Christmas Program<br>615P Veterans Ministry<br>7P Young Adults (Beef O'Brady's)                  | 15<br>5P Tree Lot Until 9pm<br>5P Sr. Youth Lock-in | 16<br>10A Tree Lot Until 9pm<br>9A Christmas Caroling                                                              |
| 17<br>930A Children/Youth Program Practice<br>12P Tree Lot until 8pm<br>1215P Handbells<br>1P Coffee Hour for College Students<br>145P TELS (Miracle on 34th St.)<br>5P Christmas Program/<br>Spaghetti Dinner/Elf Shop | 18<br>1015A Staff Meeting & Lunch<br>1030A Meals on Wheels<br>6P Executive Team<br>7P Beer 'n Carols (Beef O'Brady's) | 19<br>930 PS Bible Time<br>1030A Meals on Wheels<br>4P ASC Bible Time<br>7P Handbells<br>7P Adult Bible Study                                                            | 20<br>930A PSC Chapel<br><b>12P Longest Night Service</b><br><b>630P Longest Night Service</b><br>630P Sr. Youth<br>715P Choirs                                              | 21<br>630A Men's Bible Study<br>830A GN Walkers<br>930A PS Music Time<br>4P ASC Music Time<br>7P Council                                                                 | 22                                                  | 23                                                                                                                 |
| 24<br><b>10A Advent Worship</b><br><b>5p Christmas Eve Service</b><br><b>730P Christmas Eve Service</b><br>(Special Music at 7:15)                                                                                      | 25 <b>Christmas Day</b><br>Office Closed                                                                              | 26<br>1030A Meals on Wheels                                                                                                                                              | 27                                                                                                                                                                           | 28                                                                                                                                                                       | 29                                                  | 30<br>8AM Men's Breakfast                                                                                          |
| 31<br><b>10A Lessons &amp; Carols Worship</b>                                                                                                                                                                           | 1<br>Office Closed                                                                                                    | 2<br>10A Ladies Bible Study<br>1030A Meals on Wheels<br>7P Handbells<br>7P Adult Bible Study                                                                             | 3<br>930A PS Chapel<br>6P Hope Ministries<br>6P Disciples of Harmony<br>630P Sr. Youth<br>7P Choirs                                                                          | 4<br>630A Men's Bible Study<br>830A GN Walkers<br>930A PS Music Time<br>4P ASC Music Time<br>4P Backpacks Food Min.<br>7P Lifelong Discipleship                          | 5                                                   | 6 <b>Epiphany of Our Lord</b><br>9A De-decorate Sanctuary<br><b>5P Epiphany Worship</b><br>(Burning of the Greens) |

## Worship Assistant Schedule – December 2017

|       |       | Assisting Minister    | Lector                | Communion Assistant               | Ushers                                                             | Greeters               | Acolyte              | Crucifer           | Torchbearers                     | Counters                                              | Children's Message    | Council Disciple   |
|-------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 12/3  | 8:15  | John Imbert           | Midge Gunvalson       | Nowell Ramsey<br>Saundra Dixon    | Sue Loveless<br>Mike Loveless                                      | Debbie &<br>Ron Smith  | Wesley<br>Graves     | Karen<br>Kranz     |                                  |                                                       | Ashley<br>Ramsey      | Beverly<br>Hoppert |
| 12/3  | 10:45 | Adam Woodruff         | Ed Brennan            | Kathryn Padgett<br>Jan Berger     | Randy Masad<br>Laura Stuart<br>Karlene Stuart<br>Mike Davidson     | Linda Hayes            | Lauren<br>Bloss      | Jan<br>Berger      | Ginny<br>Devereaux<br>Wes Levitt | Beverly Hoppert<br>Karen Kranz<br>Susanne Hymen       | Ashley<br>Ramsey      | Bob<br>Turnmire    |
| 12/10 | 8:15  | Helen Doerpinghaus    | Sarah Schults         | Minister Griffin<br>Karen Kranz   | Jeff Lummel<br>Barb Imbert                                         | Nancy Franck           | Anna Leigh<br>Graves | Karen<br>Kranz     |                                  |                                                       | Helen Doerpinghaus    | Bill<br>Franck     |
| 12/10 | 10:45 | Jeff Day              | Minister Griffin      | Leslie Bloss<br>Cindy Day         | Steve Padgett<br>Austin Padgett<br>Wes Levitt<br>Adam Woodruff     | Alice Renaud           | Emma<br>Harris       | Steve<br>Bloss     | Ed Brennan<br>Gail Buchanan      | Ed Brennan<br>Adam Woodruff<br>Angie Dyches           | Helen Doerpinghaus    | Ed<br>Brennan      |
| 12/17 | 8:15  | Saundra Dixon         | John Imbert           | Tina Molineu<br>Don Molineu       | Marj Appleton<br>Jerry Appleton                                    | Judy Lawrence          | Bill Franck          | Jim Zieche         |                                  |                                                       | Christopher Girardeau | Mike<br>Grimmer    |
| 12/17 | 10:45 | Jan Berger            | Christopher Girardeau | Steve Bloss<br>Jeanette Bloss     | Leslie Bloss<br>Lauren Bloss<br>Marshall Hurlbert<br>Collin Flores | Tiffany Ginn           | Walker<br>Flores     | Austin Padgett     | Alison Levitt<br>Trish Davidson  | Ann Lynn<br>Caughman<br>Trish Davidson<br>Mark Stuart | Christopher Girardeau | Laura<br>Stuart    |
| 12/24 | 10:00 | Christopher Girardeau | Beverly Hoppert       | Audrey Turnmire<br>Laura Turnmire | Steve Bloss<br>Karlene Stuart                                      | Sue Hyman              | Jim Zieche           | Jan Epperson       | Lexanne Graves<br>Steve Padgett  |                                                       | Lexanne Graves        | Rachel Petersen    |
| 12/31 | 10:00 | Mike Davidson         | Jan Berger            | Jan Berger<br>Wendy McKenzie      | Sue Loveless<br>Mike Loveless                                      | Jan Berger             | Preston Ginn         | Nancy Schwind      | Cynthia Edney<br>Brantley Smith  | Michael Grimmer<br>Scott Graves<br>Marshall Hurlbert  |                       | Jan Berger         |
|       |       | <b>Name Tag 8:15</b>  | <b>Name Tag 10:45</b> | <b>Flowers</b>                    | <b>Muggers</b>                                                     | <b>Nursery (10:45)</b> | <b>Refreshments</b>  | <b>Altar Guild</b> |                                  |                                                       |                       |                    |
| 12/3  |       | Karen Kranz           | Karen Kranz           | n/a                               | Karen Kranz                                                        |                        | Saundra Dixon        |                    |                                  |                                                       |                       |                    |
| 12/10 |       | Karen Kranz           | Karen Kranz           | n/a                               | Charles Tracy                                                      |                        | Ashley Ramsey        |                    | <u>December</u><br>Kathy Brennan |                                                       |                       |                    |
| 12/17 |       | Jean Weick            | Gay Walter            | n/a                               | Karen Kranz                                                        |                        | Judy Lawrence        |                    |                                  |                                                       |                       |                    |
| 12/24 |       | Ashley Ramsey         | n/a                   | n/a                               | Laura Turnmire                                                     |                        | n/a                  |                    |                                  |                                                       |                       |                    |
| 12/31 |       | Roger Schwind         | n/a                   | n/a                               | Charles Tracy                                                      |                        | n/a                  |                    |                                  |                                                       |                       |                    |

### SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE & FIRST QUARTER – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

The online signup for Christmas Eve & January is ready to be populated – whatever slots are open for January by December 20 will need to be manually filled in. If you have not been assigned OR the opposite – have been getting assigned without wanting to be, let Lisa or Karen Kranz know. Time and Talent sheets are available all year round – you can still fill one out if you have had a spirit tug towards serving.

Christmas Eve: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-20175>

1st quarter: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-2018>

## Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

|                    |                                                          |                               |                                   |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>December 1</b>  | Megan Compas<br>Shelby Sheldon<br>Michael Snipes         | <b>December 22</b>            | Christian Grohman                 |
| <b>December 2</b>  | Lisa Petty                                               | <b>December 23</b>            | Linda Giertz                      |
| <b>December 3</b>  | Cameron Griffith                                         | ♥ James & Michell Griffith    |                                   |
| <b>December 5</b>  | Elise Gerald                                             | <b>December 24</b>            | Matthew Brouwer                   |
| <b>December 6</b>  | Peg Zieche                                               | <b>December 25</b>            | Nicolas Creticos                  |
| <b>December 8</b>  | Steve Barrier                                            | <b>December 26</b>            | Lexanne Graves<br>Linda Hayes     |
| <b>December 10</b> | Andrew Barrier                                           | <b>December 28</b>            | Savannah Mancuso<br>Leena Skiba   |
| <b>December 11</b> | Jessica Bazemore                                         | ♥ Barbara & Peter Creighton   |                                   |
| <b>December 14</b> | Peggy Collins                                            | <b>December 29</b>            | Goldie Harmon<br>Jeannie Hurlbert |
| <b>December 17</b> | Jessica Jorgensen<br>Teagan Lindstedt                    | ♥ Marshall & Jeannie Hurlbert |                                   |
| <b>December 19</b> | Chris Horan<br>Adele Lindberg                            | ♥ Mike & Sue Loveless         |                                   |
|                    | ♥ Lee & Barbara Collins                                  | <b>December 31</b>            | Jeremy Niemeyer<br>Randy Sides    |
| <b>December 21</b> | Addie Peterson<br>Ron Ramsey<br>♥ Steve & Kellie Barrier |                               |                                   |



### 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 being 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



|                   |                                                                 |                    |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>December 1</b> | Anne Ducate<br>James Griffith<br>Chris Kannaday<br>Bob Turnmire | <b>December 9</b>  | Kellie Snipes     |
| <b>December 2</b> | Brantley Smith                                                  | <b>December 10</b> | Sarah Schultz     |
| <b>December 4</b> | Reagan Hensley                                                  | <b>December 17</b> | Jessica Jorgensen |
| <b>December 6</b> | Marj Appleton<br>Evan Turnmire                                  | <b>December 22</b> | Lexanne Graves    |
|                   |                                                                 | <b>December 23</b> | Karen Kranz       |
|                   |                                                                 | <b>December 24</b> | Jack Arnold       |
|                   |                                                                 | <b>December 29</b> | Scott Graves      |

## **CHURCH STAFF**

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

George Donovan, Jr. - Director of Music & Worship

Dea. Lexanne Graves – Min of Faith & Life for Children  
and Families

Christopher Girardeau – Min of Faith & Life for Sr.  
Youth and Young Adults

Tammy Mancuso- Preschool/ASC Director

Lisa Petty – Admin. Assist/Communications Coor.

Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper

Laura Turnmire – Director of Handbell Choir

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

[Gail Buchanan](#) - President

[Jan Berger](#) - Vice President

[Bob Turnmire](#) - Secretary

[Mike Davidson](#) - Treasurer

[Bill Franck](#) – Financial Secretary

[Ed Brennan](#)

[Ann Lynn Caughman](#)

[Michael Grimmer](#)

[Beverly Hoppert](#)

[Rachel Peterson](#)

[Katie Prizer](#)

[Aaron Smith](#)

[Laura Stuart](#), Youth Rep.

## **LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4224 Hard Scrabble Road

Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: 803-736-0661

FAX: 803-865-8252

[contact@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:contact@livingspringscolumbia.org)

[www.livingspringscolumbia.org](http://www.livingspringscolumbia.org)

 [www.facebook.com/livingspringscolumbia](https://www.facebook.com/livingspringscolumbia)

## **MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**

Children/Youth Ministries

Fellowship & Mutual Care

Trish Davidson & Wendy McKenzie

Good News Team

Hope Ministries

Karen Kranz

Lifelong Discipleship

Steve Bloss

Worship & Music

Jim Zieche

Preschool

Peg Zieche

Facilities

Ed Brennan

Finance

Rocky Berger

Archives/Pew Bears

Judy Lawrence

## **Staff Email:**

[pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Pastor Eric

[george@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:george@livingspringscolumbia.org)

George Donovan, Jr.

[lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Lexanne Graves

[Christopher@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:Christopher@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Christopher Girardeau

[tmancuso@lslcps.org](mailto:tmancuso@lslcps.org)

Tammy Mancuso

[lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Lisa Petty

[laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Laura & Mark Cunningham

[sherry@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:sherry@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Sherry Forsgren

[prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Prayer Requests