

The Living Springs Journal

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

June 2020



The Great Paradox of "Both/And" – from Pastor Eric

BOOK(S) OF MONTH = Galatians & Ephesians! THANKFUL TUESDAYS @ 11:00; NO FEAR FRIDAYS @ 11:00

**** If you missed the earlier e-mailed letter from Pastor sharing updates about our LS Plans from Exec/Council for the month of June, please LINK here for a copy. Thank you—help spread the word!**

"How long, O Lord, how long?" This question repeated in the Psalms reverberates in the depths of my heart and soul. Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, Carol McNair (Birmingham). Jimmie Lee Jackson (Selma). Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Memphis). Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Cynthia Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Myra Thompson (Charleston). Trayvon Maritn, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd those names reverberate in the depths of our hearts and souls, along with countless others, whose names are precious in the heart of God.

I remember my first year out of seminary and being visited by a wise 90-year-old pastor. He said, "Eric, I think our Lutheran theology is something the world desperately needs right now." He was referring to our emphasis on grace—and to our Lutheran understanding of God's grace-filled "both/and" (vs. our stubborn human preference for "either/or"). This "both/and" manifests itself in various ways, but one essential way is Luther's Scriptural teaching of *simul iustus et peccator*- that as baptized children of God, we are simultaneously "justified and sinner," BOTH saint AND sinner.

By grace, God has redeemed us and set us free from sin by the goodness, sacrifice, and love of Jesus. God has filled us with the Holy Spirit so that the light of God's love and hope might shine through us for the world. God has called and gathered us to be the body of Christ in the world, to carry out the witness and ministry which God desires of us—to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Yet, simultaneously, we are still imperfect, broken

humans scarred by sin, who must daily die to ourselves and be ever transformed by the Holy Spirit to more fully live the new life of Christ within us. We are in constant need of repentance & forgiveness, transformation & renewal. The great apostle Paul struggled with this reality, when he lamented that he continued so often to do the very things he did not wish to do (cf. Romans 7:14-25). The "both/and" reality of being both saint and sinner is why we begin worship by remembering our baptism, falling on our knees to ask for God's forgiveness, and beseeching the power of God to change us.

Why bring all this up? Because so often, we end up creating much pain & suffering in this world when we refuse to acknowledge our "both/and"-ness, and instead succumb to an "either/or" mindset that prevents us from admitting our broken sinfulness and seeking the repentance/transformation we so desperately still need—both as individuals and as a society. I remember being very young and overhearing people say things like, "America—either love it or leave it!" Either/or! There was no room for "both/and." Yes, America can be a great country which serves as an example of democracy and a beacon of freedom. But at the same time (both/and), America can also be a broken society with major flaws in need of positive change—like all of humanity.

Luther lived this paradox in the arena of the church during the 16th-century reformation. On one hand, the church is the instrument by which the Good News of God's love and the Gospel of Jesus has spread throughout the world. Yet, at the same time (both/and), because of human brokenness, the church needed tremendous reform; the church needed to repent and seek God's forgiveness for its use of indulgences and other self-serving practices. Luther did not want to *leave* the church. Rather, he *loved* the church, but still wanted it to change with the reform that was needed. (Eventually, Luther was excommunicated and forced to leave the existing church by its "either/or" leaders and their "love it or leave it" mentality.)

As a church, as a nation, as a society, as children of God, it is not a sign of weakness to admit we have been terribly wrong in various ways and need continuous reform. That, too, is an emphasis of our Lutheran heritage.

(Continued on page 3)



**GOD'S LOVE, OUR FACES & VOICES:
ONE LIFE DEEPER IN 2020!**

God's Love, Our Hearts & Hands: One Life Deeper in 2020!

Build Relationships—inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships, 1 person at a time!

Build Partnerships—for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

Share God's Love—with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

Share God-Stories—so that we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

DEEPER IN CHRIST + DEEPER IN GRACE + DEEPER IN LOVE



Not only do we constantly need God's forgiveness, but we also continually need true metanoia, transformation, and positive change. To pretend that we are never wrong, to point fingers elsewhere, to reject those who call for change, to deflect from massive ongoing systemic injustices by focusing only on the momentary misbehavior of others (think about Jesus' words about pointing to the speck in another's eye while ignoring the massive log in our own eye), — all this is to deny our need for God's transformation and to delude ourselves with the lie that we do not need God or God's forgiveness.

As a society, we have been terribly wrong for all the ways we have enslaved, abused, tortured, murdered, lynched, de-humanized, and marginalized persons of color. As an individual, I have been terribly wrong every time (from elementary school on), when I was silent at comments directly or indirectly asserting that white, English-speaking persons are somehow superior to any other part of God's beautifully-diverse human family (all of us made in God's image). I am wrong when I fall into the trap of telling myself that just because "I don't have overt prejudiced thoughts", I have still not been an accomplice in an ongoing history that has benefited me and my ancestors at others' expense. As a society, we are wrong when we do not acknowledge all the ways we both knowingly and unknowingly have created systems that perpetuate disproportionate cycles of ongoing violence, poverty, incarceration, injustice, inadequate housing, underemployment, hunger, poor health conditions, and more for any segment of God's human family. As Christ's church in the world, we have been wrong whenever we have not embraced God's Scriptural mandate for us to be prophetic voices of justice for all people—and have even used our voice to propagate racism (think about historic mis-uses of Scripture to claim that segregation was God's will, to support slavery, to destroy Native American culture, or to subjugate women).

The traditional confession in our liturgy speaks of "things we have done and things we have left undone, sins both known and unknown." In both societal structures and individual attitudes, "we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves; we have not loved God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength." At this unique moment in history, God is giving each of us and our society a powerful opportunity: to truly listen to the pain & anguish that our sisters & brothers of color have carried for generations—and then be honest about our own participation in some great injustices, thus opening our hearts to the redemptive grace of God that tugs us out of our comfort zones to be the change in the world that GOD calls, transforms, and empowers us to be: God's people together doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God (all 3, not just the 1 or 2 that make us feel good about *ourselves*).

Yes, the miracle of grace is that we are a "both/and" people. In spite of failures and our brokenness, God does work in us to bring hope and light. Just think how in the past month, in the midst of a continuing COVID-crisis, God has worked in you, the people of Living Springs, to feed hundreds of medical workers, VA staff, Palmetto Place youth, backpack children, Meals-on-Wheels Senior Adults, as well as provide emergency shelter for transitional homeless Family Promise clients and Disaster Response assistance for tornado/storm victims. Think how God has worked in you to sew hundreds of handmade masks for our Child Development Center Staff and other front-line essential workers in the community. Think how God works in you every time you wear a mask in public or continue to follow distancing/safety guidelines - to show that while you may not fear a virus yourself, you are nonetheless being a witness to Jesus' command to "love others as he first loved us," making a sacrifice to demonstrate love for your neighbor, especially the most vulnerable among us.

As we walk through these days together—as we consider the ongoing protests arising from the death of George Floyd and others, as we continue to show prudent wisdom and love for neighbor in the midst of an ongoing COVID pandemic, as we continue to be the church & carry out our ministry in creative & different ways—may we find opportunity to more fully embrace our "both/and"-ness, BOTH acknowledging our constant need for forgiveness as sinners AND embracing the power of the Holy Spirit within us to be God's living light of hope for all in this world, which God still so loves!

BOTH seeking your forgiveness for myself AND giving thanks for the blessing of serving you, *Pastor Eric*



Notes from: *TELS - Traveling Evangelists of Living Springs* **TELS TRIP – ANNO DOMINI**

The NarroWay dinner show is re-scheduled (again) for Saturday, October 24 @ 12 pm. The bus will leave at 10:15 am (\$10 transportation charge if taking the bus). The \$35 includes dinner and the show – Anno Domini, the story of Stephen and the Apostles (<https://www.narroway.net/>). The production is like a mini Broadway show and you will not be disappointed – there are still seats available, so contact Jeff Lummel if interested.



EACH EVENING, 8PM:
Continue to light a candle (or shine a light) in your window, and take time for an ongoing vigil of prayer for our community, society, and God's human family. Pray the prayer of Francis of Assisi, along with the Lord's Prayer.

+ + +

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is discord, union,
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope; w
 here there is darkness, light; wh
 ere there is sadness, joy.
 Grant that we may not so much
 seek to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and
 it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



JUNE "NEXT-STEP" PLANS

+ IN-PERSON OPTIONS EACH SUNDAY (with HOLY COMMUNION) +

1st & 3rd Sundays (June 7 & 21), 11:30-12:30

Holy Communion Distribution in Parking Lot at conclusion of 10am streamed worship

- Everyone arrive between 11:30 and 12:30—**stay in vehicle** to be directed to the communion distribution tent;
- The Pastor (gloved & masked) will distribute our **individualized, sanitary-packaged Communion elements**;
- There will be spot to pause for prayer prior to pulling up to the tent; after receiving the elements, the pastor will offer prayer and blessing before you pull away.

2nd & 4th Sundays (June 14 & 28), 8:30am, arrive by 8:15

Brief Worship Time @ Church Lawn/Parking Lot, with Holy Communion

- **Everyone arrive between 8:00-8:15am**, to allow time for ushered parking & escorted, distanced seating on lawn.
- Upon arrival at parking lot, indicate to usher whether you will stay in your vehicle or wish to go to a lawn spot.
- **If you opt to get out of your vehicle**, you must **wear a face mask and practice distancing** at all times (we have some face masks available, if you do not have your own); **bring your own chairs**; you will park and remain in your vehicle until an usher comes to escort you to a designated lawn spot.
- **After worship, remain in your lawn spot** until ushers release you to return to vehicle, again socially distancing and wearing your mask. *Note: we have a few distanced spaces under tents for senior adults and those with special needs.*
- **Those staying in your vehicle** will be directed to a parking spot facing the lawn and will participate in service via speakers in yard; there will be staggered empty space between vehicles, allowing for about 18-20 cars to park facing the lawn.
- The Pastor and assistant (gloved & masked) will distribute our **individualized, sanitary-packaged Communion elements** as you arrive (either vehicle or lawn); keep the elements until appropriate time during communion liturgy.

10AM EACH SUNDAY: FULL WORSHIP OFFERED ON-LINE

Living Springs YouTube Channel & Facebook Page

(Special Music, Hymns, Liturgy, Sermon, Children's Message, etc.)

JUNE: ALL TEAMS/CLASSES/STUDIES/MEETINGS continue ON-LINE

(we encourage all groups to avoid any usual summer "shut-down" and find a way to continue to gather on-line for support, prayer, fellowship—even if on a limited schedule)

JUNE 1: CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER—gradual onsite re-opening

(with highly restrictive procedures and sanitation procedures)

New Opportunities: Sign Up to Help with Streamed or In-Person Worship!

(contact Karen Kranz or link here)

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 & SUNDAY, JUNE 28: 8:30 WORSHIP PARKING LOT/CHURCH LAWN

- 5 parking lot ushers (arrive before 8am)
- Lector, Crucifer, Assisting Minister

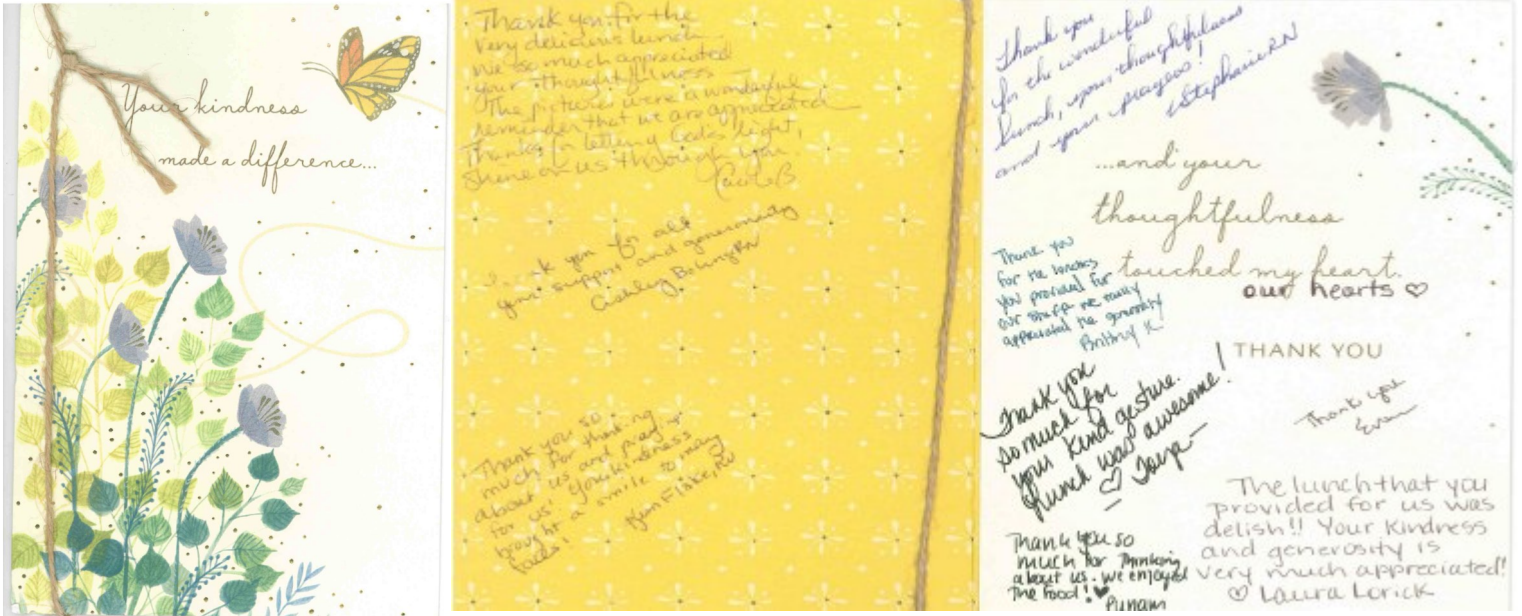
SUNDAY, JUNE 7 & SUNDAY, JUNE 14: 11:30—12:30 COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

- 2-3 parking lot ushers (arrive by 11:15)

EACH FRIDAY @ 12:30: RECORDING OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP STREAM (a great way to be involved in the sanctuary!)

- Children's Message (can be recorded at separate time)
- Lector, Crucifer, Assisting Minister
- 2 Congregational Singers to "represent" congregation in hymns and liturgy responses (at least one female)

God's Corner



Your gift to Prisma Health Midlands Foundations is deeply appreciated and will support our COVID-19 relief efforts and the important work being done by our healthcare providers in the Midlands of South Carolina. Your in-kind gift of 300 lunches and 200 Carolina Deli in-store vouchers donated on April 27 was appreciated by our team members working to care for all our patients at Prisma Health - Midlands. Your in-kind gift of 110 lunches donated on May 25, was designated to support team members on the Prisma Health Richland Hospital campus working to care for hospitalized and emergency room patients during the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you for your generosity,

Warmest personal regards,

Samuel J. Tenenbaum

President Prisma Health Midlands Foundation

On behalf of the Columbia VA Health Care System, patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for the generous donation of 1,000 juice boxes, chips, cookies, and snacks in support of Veterans. It is through the efforts of community partners like yours that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we see to provide our deserving Veterans. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our Veterans. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

David L. Omura

Director/CEO Department of Veteran Affairs
Columbia VA Healthcare System

Dear friend at Living Springs,

Thank you for your generous contribution to Campus Ministry. We were disappointed that we were not able to join you for the Fish Fry this year. But we are very grateful for your gift and continued support of this important ministry.

Thanks again & God bless,

Pastor Michele Fischer

Thank you so much for the thoughtful cards and delicious lunch catered from Carolina Deli. These gifts were very considerate during such stressful times!

Sincerely,

Prisma Health Richland NICU

Thank You!! I know that than you just doesn't display the amount of gratitude that all of us felt on Thursday. All of our Women's and Neonatal services team received your wonderful blessing (catered by Carolina Deli). We Appreciate you! Your kindness meant the world to our staff! We wanted to share a couple of pictures with your congregation. (displayed in our LS lobby)

Sincerely,
Kelly Melton, MSN, RNC-OB, CLC
Director of Nursing Women's and Neonatal Services
Prisma Health Richland

Thank you so much for providing lunch delivery for the Women's Neonatal Service line at Prisma Health Richland. We all love Carolina Deli-and more importantly , we really appreciate the concern and support from the community. Peace be with you and stay well~

Lynn Wellman, MS, APRN
Manager, Perinatal Systems

On behalf of the entire Prisma Health Richland Pharmacy Team, I would like to sincerely thank you and your congregation for the wonderful lunch you provided us two weeks ago!! It was a wonderful surprise for the team and great recognition for all of their hard work providing medication services for our COVID and other patients during these last couple months. I cannot tell you how much it mean to me, as one of the pharmacy leaders, to be able to recognize the team in this way. Also, the handwritten and beautifully drawn notes you sent really brightened our day! I posted them all on our bulletin boards in our main hallway, and team members are constantly stopping by to receive encouragement from your notes. I have attached a few pictures (posted in LS lobby) so that you can see how much we enjoyed your generous gift! Thanks again!

Jennifer Bair, PharmD, MBA, BCPS
Executive Director of Pharmacy
Prisma Health-Midlands

Notes from: GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org



Worshipping Jesus on the 7th Sunday of Easter includes all of God's children!! We are witnessing to the Good News!!

Thankful Tuesday



I am thankful for a safe launch to the international space station!!!!

Thankful Tuesday



I am thankful for all of the creative ways our church is able to stay connected.

I am thankful for the Morning Watch and Morning Watch Kids devotions during this time. They have been a blessing to my family!



Early morning visit to Fort Jackson National Cemetery on Memorial Day, 2020...remembering and honoring all those who served and lost their lives for our freedom. And, I give thanks to their families for the sacrifices they have made for us!

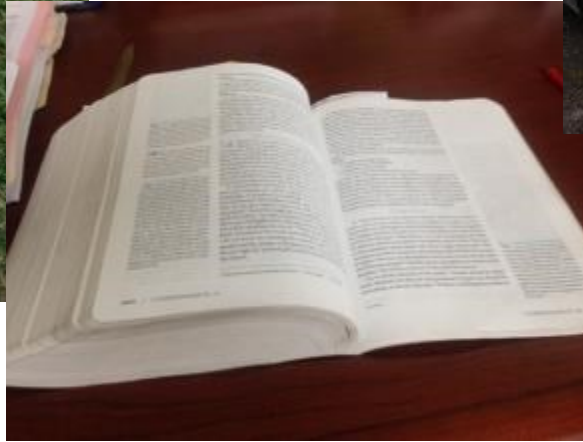
I am thankful for farmers that grow food for me and my family.



Thankful for Sunday's church service!



I am thankful for virtual merit badge opportunities.

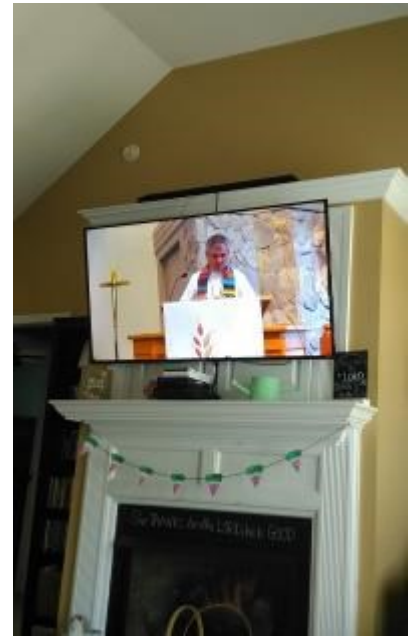


Our HS Graduates:
Kaitlyn Thoma
Kennedy Bracey
Austin Padgett
Elijah Harris
Collin Flores
God's Blessings to the
Historic Class of 2020!



I am thankful to be a disciple of Christ. Alleluia!

Thankful for being able to watch the virtual church service & Pastors amazing sermons



Thankful for fresh tomatoes to eat!



I am thankful that God created bees so that they can pollinate so many different plants...landscape plants that make His creation so beautiful and fruits, vegetables and Farm crops so that we might have food and beverage to nourish our bodies to do good work in His kingdom.

Thanking God for my sweet Maggie celebrating her 9th birthday!



"For the Beauty of the Earth"
Thankful the sunshine and rain God provides to nourish these and all plants!



I am so thankful to enjoy a cup of coffee while sitting on my back porch early in the morning...meditating and listening to the many birds singing to our Lord. Not much to see here but the chirping is so beautiful and sitting here gives me time to think about His creation.

Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

What an exciting week we have had in the C.D.C.! We have created protocols for safety, taken temperatures, and welcomed our children, families, and staff with joy, smiling faces, and warm hearts. We have donned our masks, gloves, and thermometers. We have cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected as we do our best to provide a safe environment for all. I am pleased to say that our first week has gone well. We are grateful to welcome those that are with us and look forward to having more children and families in the coming weeks. It is indeed a unique time in our world. As educators, we are faced with challenges as we operate in what is, for now, our "new normal", we take these challenges and use them as opportunities for growth and knowledge.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped to make our first week a success! From making masks, to creating a car drop off/pick up line, to us bringing doughnuts. We are blessed to be part of a community of compassionate and considerate disciples.

In these times of confusion and unrest, it is critical that we share our stories, we listen with intent and speak in love.



Wishing you well, Tammy
*Nobody else can live the life you live.
And even though no human being is
perfect, we always have the chance
to bring what's unique about us to
live in a redeeming way.*
-Fred Rogers

Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

Delivering Meals on Wheels



HOPE COVID COLLECTION

Pastor Eric made a statement ... it's like the loaves and fishes story! So true... we have received so many thank you's from the different departments/floors at Prisma in appreciation for the lunches and words of encouragement from the notes they received from all of you. At Dorn VA, we were met by the Chaplin and his assistant, clapping their hands in joy over our donation – 1,000 each of juice drinks & snacks. A simple phone call asking for pricing on a meal "special of the week" from McNulty's in Blythewood turned into a whole month of meal donations for Palmetto Place campuses which allowed us to grow Deeper in Love and contribute to other charities. Richland 2 received an additional 20 Walmart gift cards (total 40). Family Promise (we are a support church) received \$750 to help defray expenses because churches cannot host families. "God's Love, Our Hearts & Hands: One Life Deeper in 2020"!

PALMETTO PLACE

It has been a blessing to provide the meal at Palmetto Place - It always amazes me how God works through other people. We have been providing meals for both campuses throughout this virus situation and it has given us the chance to learn and get to know the staff at Campus B (teen boys and girls) – you can tell the lockdown is not something a troubled teenager understands and even harder to accept, but everything is handled in a very orderly way. At Campus A (teen girls & teen mothers), maybe because there is more responsibility involved, but you can feel a little calmer atmosphere with a focus on healthier eating and being a responsible parent. They look forward to our meals on the 4th Monday, and we leave an spiritual activity for the ladies with the hope that we can once again be able to coordinate and prepare a meal with the girls in the future.

THANK YOU – RICE CREEK ELEMENTARY FOR BACKPACKS

Thank you so much Living Springs Lutheran Church! I really appreciate everything you are doing for the school district as well as supporting RCE through the backpack program. My students at RCE look forward to the bags you pack because they are simply the best! I am looking forward to next year! I am hoping it will be a more normal backpack year! Thank you!

Christie Hutchinson

(Social Worker at Rice Creek Elementary & Bridge Creek Elementary)

Backpacks Final Day



Richland 2 school district has continued their backpack program because there is still a need to provide nutrition for children on the weekend. The facilities that are still able to provide the backpacks are bringing their bags to R2i2 where families can pick their backpacks up if they have transportation or there is a special team of volunteers that transport the backpacks to the children. Living Springs has continued to serve Richland 2 with our commitment of 50 bags/week, utilizing the sanitizing procedures and distancing required to do the packing. Needed inventory supplies was replenished with funds from the Hope Covid Project (did you read the comment about loaves and fishes!) May 27 will be the last delivery day – we can continue to collect food items (check expiration dates on items) – the shopping carts will be in the admin building during the summer. Unfortunately, the Summer Food Program has been waived, but children will be served through drive through school meal distribution and bus delivery meal distribution. Thank you for your support of this program.

Keep Midlands Beautiful

245 pairs of shoes



DAY OF ACTION – MASK CHALLENGE

Rev. Thigpen put out a challenge to area churches to distribute single masks to people not wearing one – pick a place to distribute on Saturday, May 16. Did you see the word “challenge” – can’t turn that one down...let’s do it! Living Springs took up the

challenge at the AM/PM Convenience Store and BP and if enough of us show up, we can do Waffle House and Goodyear! I have to admit I was a little leery about standing in front of AM/PM Convenience – it was one of those judgmental thoughts without knowing! Everyone was so appreciative of God’s gift of Love through our hands – quite a few asked for an extra to give to their passengers. It was a beautiful morning to do God’s work!



LET'S SAVE SOME LIVES ON JULY 17

On Friday, July 17 - 11 am to 4 pm we'll roll up our sleeves and help save lives! We will proudly partner with the **American Red Cross** to hold a blood drive. The **Red Cross** has over -135 years of experience providing humanitarian aid - including more than 75 years of supplying blood to those in need. Each pint of blood we collect can help save up to three lives and will touch the lives of so many more. What a great way to pay it forward and make an impact on people in our community and across the country. We are very excited about the drive and I hope you are too. Karen Kranz is leading this initiative. Let's show our community and the patients in need of blood just how much we can do. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Karen Kranz about joining the team. It is not every day that we do something that has such a lifesaving impact! To schedule an appointment online: <https://tinyurl.com/yazgu8fv>.



Notes from: *Sr. Youth*

Over the past few weeks, we, the senior youth, have had pretty serious discussions over subjects that are very relevant to our world. We have specifically been talking about the violence towards the African Americans. As a youth, we have a "no judgement space" whenever we meet. We can talk about these topics and we don't necessarily have to agree but we do respect each other. We have talked about how African Americans are being treated very differently from those that are white. And a lot of us feel the same as to that change needs to be made. But we are stuck at the question "How can we make change? What can we do?" Well we can do things such as protest, spread awareness over social media, etc. But then we are stuck at "How can we change the minds of legislature?" We can't change their minds. Which is hard to understand. But we can only do things that are in our control. We also have talked about the progress we have made through history. Yes. We have made progress with equality but we have a long way to go. And we can't move forward if we are not all on the same page. But if we continue to support the movements and protest peacefully, we may be able to change people's minds and come closer to equality. Our world is in a really tough place right now. But we have to remember that there is always light somewhere. We just have to find it. I have taken some action these past few weeks so that I can use my voice. I have lived in fear about the topic of racism. I was afraid to say anything because I didn't want to be perceived wrong. I talked to one of my friends who is African American. I wanted to see what it's like to live in that person's shoes. And I could never imagine what they go through. My friend told me that they were scared to go outside because they are afraid of what could happen to them. So, we decided that we would take some action. A little bit of teamwork. We created an Instagram page about teenagers trying to speak up. We are trying to raise awareness to the situation and raise hope instead of debate. And raise happiness instead of fear. Our page supports the Black Lives Matter movement and trying to spread a positive message instead of a negative one. This year has not started off on the right foot, but that does not mean that we cannot turn this around and come together as one.

-Anna Leigh Graves



Congratulations...Sarah Hurlbert, who virtually received her Master's degree from the University of Maryland on May 20, 2020. She earned a Master's in Public Health, with a focus on Health Equity.

She testified before the Maryland State Senate Finance Committee earlier this year about the importance of considering the Health implications of all Policies. She also continued to explore the Health in All Policies framework during her Senior Capstone Project.

She hopes to secure employment in Health Policy Advocacy.

"I think the COVID-19 pandemic is bringing public health to the front of the discussion and that more people are becoming more aware about how their community can impact their health." --Sarah Hurlbert

ACTION STEPS



If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

~ Frederick Douglass

Y'all. Monday was awesome! We had our first virtual Day of Prayer and Action, and while it couldn't replace coming together in the same room, it wasn't any less a coming together of God's people. Thank you to all that participated!

If you missed it, a full 'Schedule of Events' for the day can be found [here](#). We began the day in prayer and reflection, led by Bishop Guglielmone of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston, completed simple action steps and prayed consistently throughout the day, and at 6 pm that evening, more than 300 of us gathered together (via Zoom). It was a powerful experience (see photo below) and God's presence was felt throughout the day.



BUT WE ARE NOT DONE YET!

We still need several hundred more signatures for our letters (links below). So **SPREAD THE WORD!** Forward this message to your family, friends and neighbors. Remind people during worship services. We want to make sure that **every single Network Member** not only signs these letters before we send them next week, but gets **at least 3 others** to do it with them!

Let's get to work!

[Read and Sign the Gun Violence Letter Here](#)

[Read and Sign the Safe, Affordable Housing Letter Here](#)

[Read and Sign the Education Letter Here](#)

We also asked members and guests to take the following action for Affordable Housing.

There is still time and every new photo helps!

Print or hand-write a sign that says...

"I support the establishment and funding of a Richland County Affordable Housing Trust Fund because _____."

Fill in the blank with your own personal message and post it to social media with the hashtags #HousingForAll and #RichlandCountyAHTF.

Also "tag" [Richland County Council](#), your County Council Representative (their public profile only please) and [MORE Justice!](#)

[Click here for a printable sign!](#)

[If you missed it, click here to watch opening comments and our morning scriptural reflection!](#)

[I would like to invest into the work of MORE Justice](#)

Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

Communion Distribution



Quillowing Faith Milestone



Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

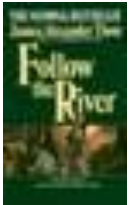


Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study continues to meet during the summer doing dwelling in the word on Tuesday's at 10 am.

LADIES BOOK CLUB

Note a date change for our book club – Monday, June 8 @ 7 pm to allow everyone to join in the Justice Ministry Network-wide Day of Prayer. Our meeting will be via Google Meet Meeting ID: meet.google.com/ata-time-uvc, Phone Numbers(US) [+1 334-472-5511](tel:+13344725511) PIN: 914 144 585#. We are reading *Follow the River* by James Alexander Thom – a historical fiction about a woman, Mary Ingles, captured by the Shawnee Indians and her journey to get back to her husband. If you need a little encouragement through some tough times, this is a must read!



Cancellation of the SC WELCA convention

After much prayer and deliberation, the SC WELCA board has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 annual convention. Not having a convention is disappointing because our women will not be able to gather for fellowship, worship, and learning experiences. However, we feel our number one priority is the safety of our ladies. We do not want to risk lives by possibly exposing them to COVID-19. Countless hours of preparation have gone into planning this convention. Many thanks go to the convention committee and the rest of the board for their dedication and service.

Fall 2020 Conference Meetings – Following the recommendation of Churchwide WELCA, we will need to cancel all fall conference meetings, resuming in spring of 2021, with all current officers remaining in place until fall 2021 for continuity. We encourage all conferences to have spring meetings.

2021 Convention Details – The board will provide details about the 2021 convention in *The Ripple* which will come out in the fall. We look forward to reconnecting and getting together again as sisters in Christ.

As servants of Christ, we will continue to seek ways to fulfill the mission of Women of the ELCA. May your days be filled with peace, love, and good health as we act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ.

May all we do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14

The SC WELCA Board

June 2020

All Worship Services/Meetings/Activities are conducted online.
Please see the online schedule page for contact information.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>7 Holy Trinity 9A Adult Class 930A Faith in Action 10A Sunday Worship Streaming 1130A Parking Lot Holy Communion 130P Children/Jr. Youth 3P GraceWorks Team 430P Sr. Youth</p>	<p>1 430P Exec Team 6P Justice Ministry Virtual Nehemiah Gathering</p>	<p>2 10A Book of the Month 11A Thankful Tuesday 6P Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7P Handbell Group</p>	<p>3 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Choir 6P Hope Team 630P Sr. Youth 7P Worship Team</p>	<p>4 7P Lifelong Discipleship 730P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>5 11A No Fear Friday</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>8 Holy Trinity 3P Worship Discernment 630P Exec Team 7P Ladies Book Club</p>	<p>9 10A Ladies Bible Study 11A Thankful Tuesday 530P Finance 6P Tuesday Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>10 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Choir 630P Sr. Youth</p>	<p>11 TBA Good News Team 630P LSCDC Board 730P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>12 11A No Fear Friday</p>	<p>13</p>	
<p>14 830A Outdoor Worship 9A Adult Class 930A Faith in Action 10A Sunday Worship Streaming 1130A Middle School/ Confirmation 130P Children/Jr. Youth 4P Team Leaders</p>	<p>15 630P Exec Team</p>	<p>16 10A Ladies Bible Study 11A Thankful Tuesday 6P Tuesday Evening Bible Study 7P Handbell Group</p>	<p>17 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Choir 630P Sr. Youth</p>	<p>18 7P Council Meeting 730P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>19 11A No Fear Friday</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Father's Day 9A Hope Sunday 10A Sunday Worship Streaming 1130A Parking Lot Holy Communion 130P Children/Jr. Youth 430P Sr. Youth</p>	<p>22 Palmetto Place Meals 630P Exec Team</p>	<p>23 10A Ladies Bible Study 11A Thankful Tuesday 6P Tuesday Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>24 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Choir 630P Sr. Youth</p>	<p>25 730P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>26 11A No Fear Friday</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 830A Outdoor Worship 9A Adult Class 930A Faith in Action 10A Sunday Worship Streaming 1130A Middle School/ Confirmation 130P Children/Jr. Youth</p>	<p>29 630P Exec Team</p>	<p>30 10A Book of the Month 11A Thankful Tuesday 6P Tuesday Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>1 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Choir 6P Hope Team 630P Sr. Youth</p>	<p>2 730P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>3 11A No Fear Friday</p>	<p>4</p>

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

June 2	Brantley Smith	June 16	Alexis Hyyppa
	♥ Elise & Ronnie Gerald	June 17	Carter Peterson
June 3	Patrick O'Donnell	June 20	Adam Woodruff
June 4	Beverly Hoppert	June 21	Bryan Drafts
June 5	McKenna Allmann		Angie Dyches
	Jeff Day	June 22	Nancy Baldwin
June 6	Rosie Kowalski	June 23	Kristen Gott
June 9	Karen Bazemore	June 24	♥ Paul Laingen
	Connor Kilbourne		Graham & Tara Bartholomew
June 10	Elijah Harris	June 26	Pierce O'Donnell
	♥ Hany & Rachel Sorial		♥ Nowell Ramsey
June 11	Marlene Jorgensen		Michael & Kellie Snipes
	♥ Jim & Sadonia Grimmer	June 28	Ashley Ramsey
June 12	Brien Lay	June 30	Preston Ginn
	Irene Tracy		Sara Levitt
June 13	Jennings Owens		
June 14	Sam Gordan		
	Christa Cassidy		
	♥ Charles & Ruth Pollard		



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 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!



June 1	Margaret Blank		Zach Kolflesh
	Alison Levitt	June 24	Maria Sorial
	Peter Zvejnieks	June 28	Anita Gabbard
June 9	Maddie McCormick	June 30	Marlene Jorgensen
June 11	Elijah Harris		Irene Tracy
June 12	Ethan Christy		
June 18	Ethan Wirth		
June 20	Sam Gordan		

CHURCH STAFF

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

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[Dea Jones](#) - Secretary

[Mike Davidson](#) - Treasurer

[Bill Franck](#) – Financial Secretary

[Doug Danner](#)

[Kellee Flores](#)

[Walker Flores](#), Youth Rep.

[Midge Gunvalson](#)

[Gary Ginn](#)

[Julie Ann Harris](#)

[Wes Levitt](#)

[London Mancuso](#)

[Jeff Tenhover](#)

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Child Development Center

Gail Buchanan

Fellowship & Mutual Care

Trish Davidson & Wendy McKenzie

Good News Team

Lisa Petty

Hope Ministries

Karen Kranz

Lifelong Discipleship

Steve Bloss

Lutheran Men in Mission

Bob Turnmire

Women of the ELCA

Ginny Devereaux & Gwen Furcron

Worship & Music

Jim Zieche

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Ed Brennan

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Karlene Stuart

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Prayer Requests