

# The Living Springs Journal

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

**August 2020**



# Crisis or Passage? Going Back or Moving Forward? – from Pastor Eric

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*LS Parking Lot by Vehicle*

Sunday, Aug. 16: 11:30-12:30

Wednesdays, Aug. 12, 26: 6-7pm

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## FULL WORSHIP STREAMED

Each Sunday @ 10am

*Full Music/Liturgy/Sermon, Children's Message  
(sign up to come be part of taping, Wed @ 7:15)*

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## SUMMER "FAVORITE" HYMNS

*Call the office to share a favorite hymn that we  
can sing as part of Sunday streamed worship!*

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## TRIAL "IN-PERSON" WORSHIP TIMES

*Pre Sign-up required—Limit 32 persons in pews  
Masks Required, Arrive Early for Check-In*

Sundays @ 8:15 (all ages) - PICK ONE

Aug. 23, Aug. 30, Sept. 6

- OR -

Tuesdays @ 12noon (senior adults only)

Aug. 25, Sept. 1, Sept. 8

families, as a congregation, as society, as humanity, our desire cannot be to "go back" to life as before—as strong as that yearning may be (remember it was a strong yearning for the Hebrew people, who once in the wilderness, begin to think it would be better if they went back to their former slavery in Egypt). We must resist our own yearnings to go back to lives that had become so over-focused and over-filled with things that had no eternal importance. We must resist the yearning to go back to the "comfort zone" of our familiar, old enslavements to the routines, priorities, and treasures of this world. Rather, let us embrace this time as a "passage" of God's life-changing grace, a "wake-up" call to a new, transformed way of life more fully grounded in our relationship with God, our discipleship in Christ, our love for neighbor, our call to be vessels by which God's love for all is shared with the world!

At our August ministry leader gathering, we were discussing the challenge (and frustration) of trying to figure out how to do "the things we had been doing" in different ways. Yet, when God steps in to work powerful change in a massive, historic moment, I realized the starting point cannot be to talk about how to do what we had been doing. The real opportunity is for each ministry group to begin with a more fundamental question, "Why do we exist and what is our true purpose/mission?" From that question may arise a whole new tug of the Spirit: not a crisis, but a passage—to embrace completely different things that will now fulfill our original purpose/mission in a completely different world.

The same challenge is there for each of us in our personal lives. Rather than jumping into thoughts about how to do all the things we used to do, we have the historic personal opportunity to pause and press a huge "re-set" button: for each of us as an individual (or as a family) to "be still and know that God is God" and ask the fundamental question of "why do I exist and what is

As people of faith, we are shaped by the stories of Holy Scripture and what they reveal to us about God, who "is love." (1 John 4:16). A large part of the Scriptural witness is the revelation that God works in the midst of historical difficulty to help God's people emerge into a new hope (for example, think of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers to emerge as 2nd-in-command of all Egypt; the Hebrew people wandering through the wilderness to get to the promised land; the despair of Good Friday resulting in the joy of Easter Resurrection). Right now, we ourselves are living through a moment of historic difficulty. While we do not claim that God *caused* this pandemic, we nonetheless believe that God is at work in these days to help each of us, our families, our congregation, the whole church, and all humanity emerge to a new place - so that even in the midst of difficulty, we find opportunity for transformation and God's new blessing.

During last week's Sunday morning adult class, someone mentioned they had been part of a meeting where the devotional leader highlighted the distinction between "crisis" and "passage." It is a helpful distinction that invites us to avoid viewing this moment in history (or this moment in our own lives) as a crisis to mire us down in fear and despair. Instead, as people of faith, we can embrace this moment as a time of passage, in which God might be working to move us forward out of old patterns into a new future with a renewed faithfulness, a deeper relationship with God, a deeper dependence on God's grace, a deeper life of discipleship, a deeper commitment to what God truly seeks of us as God's beloved human creatures—"to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."

## SUMMER HOPE SUNDAY #3 - Aug. 16

*Lutheran Services Carolinas*

9am Congregation GoogleMeet

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## COLLEGE STUDENT BLESSING - Aug. 16

10am Worship Stream

+ + +

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING - Aug. 30

Special "Youth Sunday" Worship

10am Worship Stream

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## GIFT SUNDAY FALL KICKOFF - Sept. 13

(GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS)

Stay tuned for details!

+ + +

## LUTHERAN MEN'S SUNDAY - Sept. 27

## JUSTICE HOUSE MEETINGS, 9/10-10/15

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - Oct. 25

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE HOPE:

LS July-August COVID Help Projects

LS August School Supply Collection

4th Monday Palmetto Place Meals

Monday/Tuesday Meals-on-Wheels

*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**



my mission & purpose in life as a child of God and disciples of Jesus?" By pausing to take time in prayer and ask this question first, we may discover that we are living not in a time of personal/family crisis, but that ***we are living in a time of passage***, where God is leading us as individuals and families, as a congregation and society, to a bolder, transformed vision of who God always dreamed of us being—God's people wholly grounded in God's grace, living out life not for ourselves or for the fleeting priorities of this world, but in the deep joy of fully loving God as we fully love our neighbor!

May the Spirit empower us as we walk together through this historic passage of God's work in our lives! With much thanksgiving for each of you, *Pastor Eric*

### ONLINE STUDY/FELLOWSHIP GROUPS!

Adult Class—Sundays @ 9am

Faith in Action Adults—Sundays @ 9:30

Confirmation—2nd/4th Sundays @ 11:30

Children's Class—1st/3rd Sundays @ 1:30

Youth GraceWorks—1st Sundays @ 4pm

Ladies Bible Dialogue—Tuesdays @ 10am

Evening Bible Study—Tuesdays @ 6pm

Sr. Youth—Wednesdays @ 5pm

Men's Devotion Group—Thursdays @ 8pm



## **NEXT-STEPS FOR WORSHIP: IN-PERSON TRIAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED IN THE SANCTUARY**

***Sunday, August 23, August 30, Sept. 6 @ 8:15 (for ANY AGE)***

***Tuesday, August 25, Sept. 1, Sept. 8 @ 12noon (extra options for SENIOR ADULTS)***

***Limited Seating: SIGN-UP REQUIRED IN ADVANCE, PICK YOUR SUNDAY!!!***



As we continue to walk with God in this historic time, we remain committed to the central place of worship in our life together as God's people. We celebrate that since the pandemic began in March, **we have not missed a single Sunday worshipping our Lord** – however creative we have had to be. We also celebrate that we have been able to safely **offering the Distribution of Holy Communion for everyone on a regular basis** (via vehicle in the parking lot). And, we rejoice that **the sanctuary has daily remained available to everyone for personal prayer & reflection**, via your active keyfobs.

We are thankful for the tremendous response for the **Worship Survey** in June! From your responses, we learned that the congregation wanted to be very safe and cautious when it came to returning to in-person worship. This was consistent with what we experienced in June with our first attempts at in-person worship – when aside from worship leaders/helpers, we had only single-digit # of worshippers show up for our outdoor June worship offerings. In July, we had planned a next step of limited inside worship times, but with the COVID resurgence, we found this to be inconsistent with the survey replies everyone gave emphasizing health and safety. So instead, during July and early August, we took the following next steps: 1) move worship recording to Wednesday night so more people can participate from the sanctuary; 2) add some Wednesday night communion distribution times for those unable to come on Sundays; and 3) offer Summer Favorite Hymn greetings, for those yearning to see more faces and/or say hello to our congregation family.

As we move to the last half of August, we feel called to do some "holy experimenting" with possible in-person worship. From our Child Development Center, we learned the importance of re-starting in a gradual way in order to make sure necessary procedures are in place for everything to happen in the safest possible way. **So we are beginning with 3 optional Sundays (plus some Tuesdays for seniors), with hopes that everyone might pick one Sunday that works for them.** From your survey responses, we learned that almost no one felt it was safe to begin by offering 2 worship times on a Sunday morning, which would not allow for sufficient disinfecting time between services. We also heard the desire of Sr. Adults to possibly have a special time for those at higher risk (like designated times offered by grocery stores). We also know that public singing can have a viral spread of 3 times the distance of normal breathing. Finally, even from our very small worship recording times, we have learned how difficult it is to keep from accidentally getting too close to one another (in spite of best intentions). Inside group gatherings of any prolonged length are still very susceptible to COVID-spread, so we must proceed very cautiously: not out of fear, but out of a deep love & concern for everyone's health – and so that Living Springs continues to give a positive witness to our community that we do not become the source of an outbreak, hampering the ability of people to work, placing a greater burden on front-line workers, or endangering the health of family members, neighbors, friends. To that

end, we will take a first-step in-person trial as follows:

- 1) **Sundays, August 23, August 30, Sept. 6, at 8:15 for ANY AGE**, there will be limited in-person worship services in the sanctuary. We are choosing the 8:15 time because of classes that meet starting at 9:00 – and because of the continued full-worship streaming at 10am.
- 2) **Tuesdays, August 25, Sept. 1, Sept. 8, at 12noon for SENIOR ADULTS**, there will be additional limited in-person worship opportunities. This will allow a 48-hour period for disinfecting and janitorial cleaning after the Sunday worship times.
- 3) Because space is limited, **everyone must sign up in advance**, via our on-line sign-up (in the eNews) OR by calling the office. *\*We ask that each person/family begin by signing up for only 1 of the Sunday morning times (pick the one that works best for you!).*
- 4) **Worship Helpers, please do NOT sign up yourself on the worship service list** – you should sign up separately (as always) via Karen Kranz or the office. If you have family members with you, please sign them up as above.
- 5) Spaces will be limited to **32 persons in the pews** (beyond 6-8 worship helpers). Every other pew will be vacant, and the middle of all occupied pews will remain open, with person(s) from the same household sitting at pew ends. We will have a few extra spaces available should any visitors show up, so that they will not be turned away from the Lord's house.
- 6) **Masks and social distancing** are required at all times (please do not gather in the narthex or parking lot).
- 7) There will be **ushered seating & exiting**, in order to prevent congregating in the aisles, narthex, etc.
- 8) Following safety recommendations for public gatherings, there will be an **entrance table by the sanctuary doors** with temperature checks and name check-off (necessary for contact tracing should someone report a positive COVID test in the days after attending worship).
- 9) Please **arrive early** to allow sufficient time for entrance. There will be **distanced prayer stations on the portico** (with cross marks on the walk) for you to prepare your heart for worship as you (or family together) wait for your turn at the entrance table.
- 10) **These trial worship services will be abbreviated** in order to limit the amount of time a group is gathered indoors. Opening/closing hymn recordings by our musicians will be played on the screens (without our singing from the pews). There will be a short reflection from the pastor (no children's message), limited liturgy, and only 1-2 Scripture readings. Communion will be distributed with a distanced procedure, using the individual elements we have used at parking lot distribution. There will be no communion rails, hymnals or other items in the pew racks. Sharing of the peace will be verbal – with everyone remaining in place. An offering plate will be available (but not passed in the pews).

We give thanks in advance for everyone's loving patience and understanding as we embark on this next-step re-entry. The above procedures are not presented as obstacles, but rather to ensure that those who desire may worship in as safe as conditions as we can create. Following these 3 trial weeks, we will prayerfully discern what the Spirit enables us to do safely for Sundays following Labor Day, beginning with our GIFT Sunday Kickoff on Sept. 13. To be sure, we continue to gather and fully worship the Lord together every Sunday, whether in the sanctuary or via creative, virtual means. **Each Sunday, the full worship service with music, hymns, liturgy, all readings, children's message, etc. will continue to be streamed for everyone at 10am.**

### **Exciting News: Congregation Phone Messaging** ***First Trial Message Sent Beginning of August***

With an update to our church database software, we are able to add a phone messaging feature - to make sure *everyone* is getting up-to-date news about worship services, faith formation classes, youth, etc.. This will be very important as we take future steps toward gradually providing safe, trial in-person worship opportunities and other exciting ministries.

***If you have made any changes to your primary phone number(s) over the past year or so, please call the office (or email [Lisa](#)) so that we will have your accurate number in the system.***



## Notes from: Hope Ministry

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross is so grateful to all our partners that continue to stand with us through the evolution of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Hundreds of thousands of donors and blood drive hosts have responded to the call to support the lifesaving mission and we can't thank you enough!

Living Springs hosted a community blood drive with the American Red Cross and truly made a difference! Our team registered 26 total donors, collected 22 pints of blood and recruited 8 first-time donors. Your efforts have helped boost the community blood supply and ensure hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need. As a bonus, each donor was offered a Thrivent "Live Generously" t-shirt.

Thank you to everyone that helped make this a successful drive.



Thank you so much for your support - especially during such a crazy time. You truly are a lifesaver! \*66 potential lives saved!

The efforts of Living Springs Lutheran Church have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives.

Sincerely,  
*Allison Balash*

Account Representative  
American Red Cross

### PALMETTO PLACE

It is always a thrill to deliver a meal and activity to these young girls – they comment about the good meal we always provide for them! July's meal is pulled pork/rolls, green bean casserole, salad, dessert and the activity for July is Scatter the Seeds – the girls will get their very own pot to decorate, soil and a package of sunflower seeds so they will know they are special and someone cares! Living Springs and Palmetto Place residents are hoping to be able to get back together soon! Thank you Thrivent Action Team for supporting Palmetto Place meals.



### BACKPACKS/STUFF A BUS

Richland 2 school district has lost one of their big sponsors who were supplying 200 backpacks/week and has reached out to faith organizations for help. Living Springs and the Hope Ministry team felt Blythewood Academy (15 bags) would be a doable mission to include with the fifty (50) bags we now pack for Rice Creek and Joseph Keels, especially during the situation we find ourselves in. Mid-September is the target date to start the backpack program up which would coincide with our stuff a bus project that we normally hold the weekend school starts. Look for information on holding our stuff a bus in a different way, but with the same goal/mission – to provide desired nourishment for children in need on the weekend.

Hello,

My name is Hope. Your church assisted with my home build in the fall of 2018 in the Arthurtown neighborhood. I was presented with one of your blessings bears and the tag invites the recipient to follow-up with you.

First, I would like to thank all of you again for helping to bless me with my new home. For the first time in many years I feel grounded and at peace. Health issues forced me to go on disability in 2012 and I did a lot of moving around after that.

After moving into my new home in January 2019 I was able to purchase a used car (mortgage is half of what my rent was), and started a part-time job with benefits. It feels good to be able to afford the things that I need, to pay my tithes, to save money in a rainy day fund, and to try and pay it forward by donating to organizations like Habitat for Humanity.



I have my bear on a bench in the entryway where he greets me and my visitors. I have the quilt you gave me on display in the living room along with one another organization gave me at the dedication. I want everyone to see the love and care that went into them. I made sure that my neighbors received the quilts that were left with me to hand out; it was a great way for me to introduce myself.

Thank you for all that you did for me and that you continue to do for others.



God Bless,

*Hope*

## **HOPE SUNDAY – LUTHERAN SERVICES** *on Sunday, Aug. 16*

The third Kingdom Mission Partner, Lutheran Services Carolinas, will join us on August 16 @ 9 am. Mr. Dylan Gunnels will talk about transitional living, refugee services and the Love One Another Campaign. If you remember, Savannah, who was also featured in the Synod Assembly clip, talked about how one person who cared changed her whole life around. Foster Care staggering numbers for South Carolina: as of June 2020, there are 4,480 children in foster care (2,865 foster families and 1,615 families needed). To find out more and ask questions, the Google Meet information is:



Join with Google Meet  
[meet.google.com/roz-dyex-fxa](https://meet.google.com/roz-dyex-fxa)

Join by phone  
(US) [+1 321-558-2770](tel:+13215582770) (PIN: 928487647)

Last month's Hope Sunday feature one of our Kingdom Mission Partners – Richland 2 School District. During the school year, we provide (50) backpacks filled with food items for children designated by the social workers at Rice Creek and Joseph Keels elementary schools. Your contributions plus our Stuff a Bus project provide us the opportunity to continue this program that has been in effect since 2011. You can watch last month's gathering here:

<https://youtu.be/XK7bjw3hig0>

## ANNOUNCING: LS AUGUST COVID HELPING PROJECTS!



With the COVID resurgence, there is renewed stress on our frontline workers and most vulnerable society members. We had an overwhelming response of love to our April/May COVID Helping Projects, and several folks have been asking about a follow-up opportunity. In July/August, we will receive offerings for more meals for hospital workers, additional assistance for Family Promise ministry (whose homeless families cannot be housed in churches right now), Palmetto Place & R2 youth – as well as other needs being researched by our LS Hope Team.

**Donations can be made via our LS Givelify app (click the "July/August Covid Projects" button) or brought/mailed to the church office (checks payable to Living Springs, marked "Covid Projects").**

NOTE: we still have some funds available in our LS Family Assistance Account. If your family or someone you know has been adversely affected by layoff, employment reduction, health issues, or other crisis, please be sure to contact Pastor Eric.

## NEW YEAR – NEW GEAR! ... IT'S OFF TO SCHOOL WE GO!!!!

At this writing, there is still an uncertainty about the how's and what if's of going back to school are, but they **ARE** going back whether it is virtually or part-time/half-time, whatever time. That being said, our back-to-school supply drive will help the Richland 2 children that are unable to afford all the required school items. We will try to make this easy – if you like to do your own shopping, the "Living Springs Back to School" wish list (link below) is available on Amazon – add your items to the cart and ship to Living Springs Lutheran Church, Columbia SC Gift Registry Address. The other option if shopping is not your thing, you can donate through the Givelify app or make a check out to Living Springs and indicate BTS in the memo section. Please order by 8/22--Thank you for your support!



Link: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1LFWNP2FQGA8Y?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1LFWNP2FQGA8Y?ref=wl_share)

 Gift Registry Address Ship to:

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
4224 HARD SCRABBLE ROAD  
COLUMBIA, SC 29223



## Notes from: *TELS - Travelin g Evangelists of Living Springs*

### TELS – ANNO DOMINI...The Story of Stephen and the Apostles

The date for our trip to NarroWay live Theatre is still scheduled for Saturday, October 24 – the bus will leave LS at 10:15 am or you have the option of driving to Fort Mill in your own vehicle. The ticket price includes a Greek meal. We have checked with NarroWay and they are following safety guidelines and have been performing since June 13. The deadline for ordering tickets is August 31 – contact [Jeff Lummel](#) or [Karen Kranz](#).



## Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

This summer has been an active time for Justice ministry in the Midlands. We have made progress on the issue of gun violence in neighborhoods, affordable housing for low- and middle-income neighbors, and education. On **August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM join us for the virtual MORE Justice Celebration**, the last event of our 2019-2020 Justice Cycle. It is a time to celebrate the relationships and accomplishments we've built this past year, to fellowship with a diverse gathering of hundreds of other people of faith, to hear issue updates, and to check-in on the investment drive. Don't miss the Justice Celebration!

Following the August Celebration, the Justice Ministry begins a new cycle of mission and ministry to love God and serve neighbor. In September, Living Springs, along with more than 35 other congregations, will begin the listening process in our individual **congregational House Meetings** to find out what concerns us in our communities and what keeps us awake at night. Look for an invitation in coming weeks to a Living Springs house meeting, whether online or offered in a safe way in person! After we complete our LS House meetings, we will meet in October with hundreds of other people of faith across the Midlands to decide what to focus on this year in our justice work together.

In the meantime, work continues on problems of gun violence in our neighborhoods, affordable housing, mental health, and education. Here are updates of what's happening:

- Gun violence is a daily concern for many people in the Midlands. We are meeting with law enforcement and other people who are knowledgeable about what is happening in Columbia and are familiar with solutions to make the city safer for everyone. Group Violence Intervention (GVI) is an evidence-based strategy adopted by dozens of cities to reduce gun violence in communities. GVI is designed to reduce homicide and gun violence, minimize harm to communities by replacing enforcement with deterrence, and foster stronger relationships between law enforcement and the people they serve.
- Affordable Housing has never been a timelier problem to address than right now given the economic downturn. Prior to COVID, Columbia ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation in evictions, and affordable housing options remain in short supply. A solution that has worked in over 750 other communities across the nation is an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to allow creation of more safe, affordable housing units. We're making progress on establishing an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Columbia.
- This summer we've been in touch with Richland 1 about school climate and discipline policies in the district. We continue to share information, meet with others concerned about these problems, and work toward quality education for all students in the Midlands.

"What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8) Does this command to do justice apply in a pandemic? Yes, of course. And together we find that doing justice as the people of God strengthens us and encourages us in our own faith life. Join us for the Justice journey again this year!

If you'd like information at anytime, please talk with a Justice Team Leaders: Gail Buchanan, Mike Davidson, Helen Doerpinghaus, Gwen Furcron, Wayne Kannaday, Adam Woodruff, Jim Zieche, Peg Zieche



### **SHARE YOUR GOD STORY**

*Has God worked a disciple moment through you or someone else during the week? Email [lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org) and share the story of God's work - you can also use a green welcome slip in Sunday's bulletins. Stories are published anonymously. This isn't about what "we" are doing, but about God's work in the world!*



## Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

### Congregation Summer Hymn-Greetings

Just because we are doing things a bit differently, it doesn't mean that we aren't going to come up with a way to do the Summer Hymn Request for the Gathering Music. Tell us one of your favorite hymns and we'll sing the first verse as one of our pre-worship songs. We also miss seeing each other! So we'd love to show a picture or video of yourself, naming your favorite hymn. You can simply record yourself on your phone - or call us if you need help.

### Worship Recording Moves to Wednesday Evening @ 7:15 Various Roles Available - Sign up Today!

***Children's Message, Assisting Minister, Lector, Acolyte, Crucifer, Congregation singer/responder, Offering Presenter***

For those yearning to participate in worship, there are various roles you and/or your family can play in recording of the Sunday Worship Stream. You do not need to be "trained" for this – everyone is welcome. Please use the [church online sign-up](#), or simply call the office. The total # of people must be limited to 10, but this is still a good way to be in the sanctuary if you are deeply missing that presence.

### *Recent Worship Recording Behind the Scenes!*



# Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

## **Weekly Bible Discussion** *Tuesdays @ 10 AM*

This has been a great opportunity to learn different views on passages in the bible – actually it is Dwelling in the Word on the book of the month. Normally, I try to back off of things I don't really know a lot about; so suggesting to continue the online Google Meet bible study was way out of my comfort zone. After the first couple of weeks of enjoying conversations and intermingling with the others in the group, I find myself understanding more about the books we have discussed and I have come to personally know the ladies better. August is on the book of Daniel – Pastor Eric will give an overview on August 4 and the rest of the month we pick passages randomly. Beverly Hoppert will resume leadership in September. Contact [Karen Kranz](#) if you would like to join us.

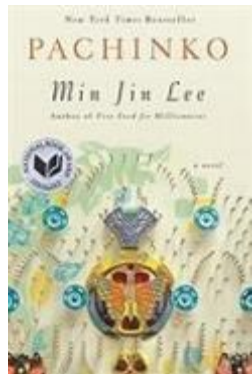
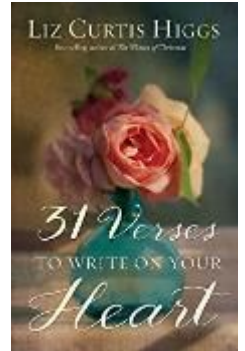
## **LADIES MORNING BIBLE STUDY** *Starts Back Up Tuesday, September 8 @ 10 AM*

Our Ladies Bible Study will start again at 10:00 on September 8, 2020. We will be meeting online at Google Meet until further notice. I think we have most of the kinks figured out, so I hope you all give it a try. Karen has volunteered to help anyone who has problems getting online with us.

Our study book will be 31 Verses to Write on Your Heart by Liz Curtis Higgs. It has a similar format to her 31 Proverbs that we studied before.

Lisa has graciously said she will order the books from Amazon for us. Please call her at the church before August 20 if you want her to order a copy for you.

Pastor Eric will be giving a bible study for our group on the first Tuesday of each month.



## **LADIES BOOK CLUB** *Next Gathering: October 5*

What a delightful night we had with the local author of *Murder in Madden*, Raegan Teller, joining us on our Google Meet online session! After giving us her background and how she evolved into writing her first murder mystery – (hint, hint – her husband's cousin was actually murdered and it was never resolved), she had so many interesting side notes to the book that added to our night. There are four other books in her Enid Blackwell series that most of us plan on reading.

Our book for October is *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee – I have ordered a book club set from the library (15 books).



## **THANKS TO ALL YOUR AMAZING OFFERINGS OF LOVE FOR GOD, WHICH CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST'S CHURCH!**

The Executive Team wants to thank you for all the many offerings of love that continue to be given in these days – what an amazing response in spite of all the challenges of these days! We invite you to continue to worship and give thanks to God with our weekly tithes and offerings. Offerings may be mailed to the church OR dropped off at the office during the week. This is a great time to give your offerings from home via our [GIVELIFY app](#) (or [see website link](#)). Please call the office if you need assistance in setting up the app. Various members have also set up direct drafts through their banks, which is another good alternative. You can also call the office if you need assistance.

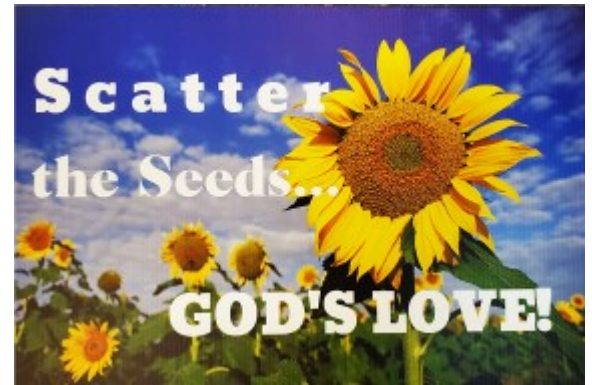
## God At Work

### Scatter the Seed of God's Love:

**LIKE & SHARE**

***our streamed worship service each Sunday***

with all your friends and/ or a special person who might need some encouragement --- via Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, email a link – however you choose!



### ***Scatter the Seeds....God's Love***

This was such a wonderful opportunity to share God's love. I initially picked up five seed packets and decided to mail the seed packet with a note to some friends and family that live in other states and cities. I placed the packet in a note card and wrote a special message to the recipient. Then I made a list of sixteen more family, friends and neighbors that I wanted to share these wonderful packets with and even though some lived next door, I wrote the note card with a special message to them and mailed the packet to them. And finally, I was given five more at communion drive thru and mailed those out the same way. What a joy it was to share this blessing with twenty six other families! Some said it made them smile and others were thankful and touched by this expression of God's love---



### ***Have your seeds begun to grow?***

Please send us photos along the way. And invite your friends/family to do the same.

Send them to [GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org).

# Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*



My friend's daughter is now in remission. The tumor is still in her head. The brain tumor is not operable, but it has no blood flow to it, so it is not growing. She is paralyzed on her right arm and partial right leg, but she is living with that as a blessing. She and the family are very grateful for where she is now in their life. They are very upbeat and not letting this slow them down. They do believe that the prayers shared by LSLC were very helpful and she has asked me to tell the Pastor and LSLC, "Thank you." I also thank Pastor and all our friends at LSLC for their prayers for my friend's daughter.

Dear Living Springs Family,

Thank you so much for the delicious meal you provided for Margaret Blank and our family during her recovery. Your prayers, phone calls, emails, and over all care for her mean more than we can express in words. God's Grace and mercy continue to cover us all, and for that we are forever grateful.

Sincerely,

*Dea Jones*

# Outside Living Springs

## **2020 SYNOD ASSEMBLY UPDATE** **THE REV. VIRGINIA AEBISCHER** **IS ELECTED BISHOP OF** **THE ELCA SOUTH CAROLINA SYNOD**



The Rev. Virginia Aebischer was elected July 25 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the synod assembly, held July 25 online.

The Rev. Virginia Aebischer was elected on the fifth ballot, with 280 votes. The Rev. Jacqueline Utley, received 211 votes.

The Rev. Virginia Aebischer has most recently served as Assistant to the Bishop with Bishop Herman Yoos. Bishop-Elect Aebischer graduated from Upsala College in 1983. Upsala College was a Lutheran college in East Orange, New Jersey. She received her M. Div from The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, located here in Columbia in 1989. She was ordained on September 17, 1989 after receiving a call to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Charleston, South Carolina.

Bishop-Elect Aebischer will succeed The Rev. Dr. Herman Yoos and will take office on September 1, 2020 with an Installation service happening on September 19, 2020. Details are still being worked on as the pandemic continues.

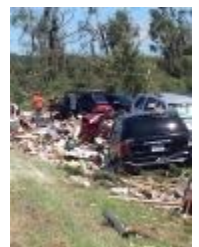
The bishop serves as the synod's pastor and is called to administer sacraments, preach, provide pastoral care, advise, ordain, advocate, interpret, and serve as the ecumenical officer.

### **Read more about the Synod Assembly here:**

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-South-Carolina-Lutheran-eNews-Special--Post-Assembly-Update.html?soid=1102200742508&aid=YsNpZL7A9e0>

## **Lutheran Services Carolinas Hurricane Response**

Imagine being in your home with six feet of floodwater and your roof blown off. Now, imagine all your family photos and worldly possessions floating by. Almost every year the Carolinas have faced devastating hurricanes and other major disasters. This year is no different. The most marginalized in our communities are at highest risk and don't have the resources or networks to recover without the help of others. We respond to those who need it the most. We serve the most vulnerable: single parents, the elderly and disabled, veterans, and many other neighbors in need. Hurricane Isaias, although not the strongest we have faced, caused loss of life and created wind damage, flooding, ongoing electricity outages and devastating loss to many.



While following all safety precautions due to COVID-19, we are currently assisting with emergency sheltering, search and reunification efforts, coordinating feeding centers and helping supply and deliver immediate and emergency unmet needs and rebuilding supplies.

Please pray for people who have been affected by hurricanes. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.



Your gifts designated for "disaster relief" will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes.

Thank you for being a vital part of this team. It takes us all to be

# August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 9A Adult Class 9:30A Faith in Action <b>10A Sunday Worship Streaming</b> <b>11:30-12:30 Communion Distribution—Parking Lot</b> 1:30P Children/Jr. Youth 4P Sr. Youth+Graceworks</p>	<p>3 6P Worship Team 6:30P Exec Team</p>	<p>4 10A Bible Book of Month <b>11A Thankful Tuesday</b> 6P Bible Study 7P Handbell Group</p>	<p>5 9:30A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Virtual Choir Group 5P Hope Team 5P Sr. Youth 7:15P Worship Recording</p>	<p>6 7P Lifelong Discipleship 8P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>7 <b>11A No Fear Friday</b></p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9A Adult Class 9:30A Faith in Action <b>10A Sunday Worship Streaming</b> 11:30A Confirmation 4P LS Ministry Leaders</p>	<p>10 6:30P Exec Team</p>	<p>11 10A Bible Study <b>11A Thankful Tuesday</b> 5:30P Finance 6P Bible Study 6:30 Justice Team Leaders</p>	<p>12 9:30A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Virtual Choir Group 5P Sr. Youth <b>6-7P Communion Distribution—Parking Lot</b> 6:30P Choir Recording 7:15P Worship Recording</p>	<p>13 6:30P LSCDC Board 8P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>14 <b>11A No Fear Friday</b></p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9A Hope Sunday Session <b>10A Sunday Worship Streaming (College Student Blessing)</b> <b>11:30-12:30 Communion Distribution—Parking Lot</b> 1:30P Children/Jr. Youth</p>	<p>17 6:30P Exec Team</p>	<p>18 10A Bible Study <b>11A Thankful Tuesday</b> 6P Bible Study 7P Handbell Recording</p>	<p>19 9:30A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Virtual Choir Group 5P Sr. Youth 7:15P Worship Recording</p>	<p>20 7P Council Meeting 8P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>21 <b>11A No Fear Friday</b></p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 <b>8:15A InPerson Worship (sign-up required)</b> 9A Adult Class 9:30A Faith in Action <b>10A Sunday Worship Streaming</b> 11:30A Confirmation 2:30A FI Guiding Team</p>	<p>24 Palmetto Place Meals 6:30P Justice Ministry Virtual Celebration</p>	<p>25 10A Bible Study <b>12P Thankful Tuesday InPerson Worship (Sr. Adults, sign-up required)</b> 6P Bible Study</p>	<p>26 9:30A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Virtual Choir Group 5P Sr. Youth <b>6-7P Communion Distribution—Parking Lot</b> 7:15P Worship Recording</p>	<p>27 8P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>28 <b>11A No Fear Friday</b> CDC Staff Training Day</p>	<p>29 8A Living Springs Men</p>
<p>30 <b>8:15A InPerson Worship (sign-up required)</b> 9A Adult Class 9:30A Faith in Action <b>10A Sunday Worship Streaming (Back2School Blessing-Youth Sunday)</b></p>	<p>31 6:30P Exec Team</p>	<p>1 10A Bible Book of Month <b>12P Thankful Tuesday InPerson Worship (Sr. Adults, sign-up required)</b> 6P Bible Study 7P Handbell Group</p>	<p>2 9:30A LSCDC Chapel Time 5P Hope Team 5P Virtual Choir Group 5P Sr. Youth <b>6-7P Communion Distribution—Parking Lot</b> 7:15P Worship Recording</p>	<p>3 6:30P Justice Team Leaders (LS/Adams/Rehoboth) 8P Lifelong Discipleship 8P Take Up Your Cross Devotion Group</p>	<p>4 <b>11A No Fear Friday</b></p>	<p>5</p>

## Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

**August 1** Barbara Collins  
 ♥ Ted & Gail Buchanan  
**August 5** Trish Davidson  
**August 6** ♥ Goldie & Delores Harmon  
**August 7** Laurie Drafts  
**August 8** ♥ Randy & Becky Sides  
**August 9** Anita Gabbard  
**August 10** Mike Schultz  
**August 12** Ethan Wirth  
**August 13** Ed Brennan  
**August 14** Eric Fink  
**August 20** ♥ Bob & Anita Gabbard  
**August 21** Cindy Day  
 Kris Fink

**August 22** Ginny Devereaux  
**August 24** Jacob Newton  
 ♥ Ron & Deborah Smith  
**August 25** Kellee Flores  
 Chase Moody  
 Eleanor McKenzie  
 ♥ Scott & Lexanne Graves  
**August 26** ♥ Marlene & Bob Jorgensen  
**August 27** Ann Lynn Caughtman  
**August 30** Bob Gabbard  
**August 31** Jeanette Bloss  
 Ron Smith  
 ♥ Randy & Lori Masad



### 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!



**August 1** Sally Catoe  
 Trish Davidson  
 Adam Woodruff  
**August 11** Cynthia Edney  
**August 13** Sara Levitt  
**August 22** Logan Mancuso  
 London Mancuso

**August 23** Kathy Brennan  
**August 25** Courtney Murray  
**August 29** Jessica Bazemore  
**August 31** Trey Allmann  
 Julia Tenhover

## **CHURCH STAFF**

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

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

Deacon Justin Rimbo - Interim Minister of Worship &

Innovative Church Outreach

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

Dea. Lexanne Graves – E-Outreach Coordinator

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

Seminarian Isaac Taylor – Sr. Youth Associate

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

Peri Baker - Children/Jr. Youth Associate

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

Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

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

Lisa Petty – Admin. Assist./Communications Coor.

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

Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

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Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper

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Virginia Herlong - Choir Director

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

Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

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

## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

[Adam Woodruff](#) - President

[Jan Berger](#) - Vice President

[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

Facilities

Ed Brennan

Finance

Karlene Stuart

Archives/Pew Bears

Judy Lawrence

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**Phone: 803-736-0661**

**FAX: 803-865-8252**

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

**Prayer Requests**