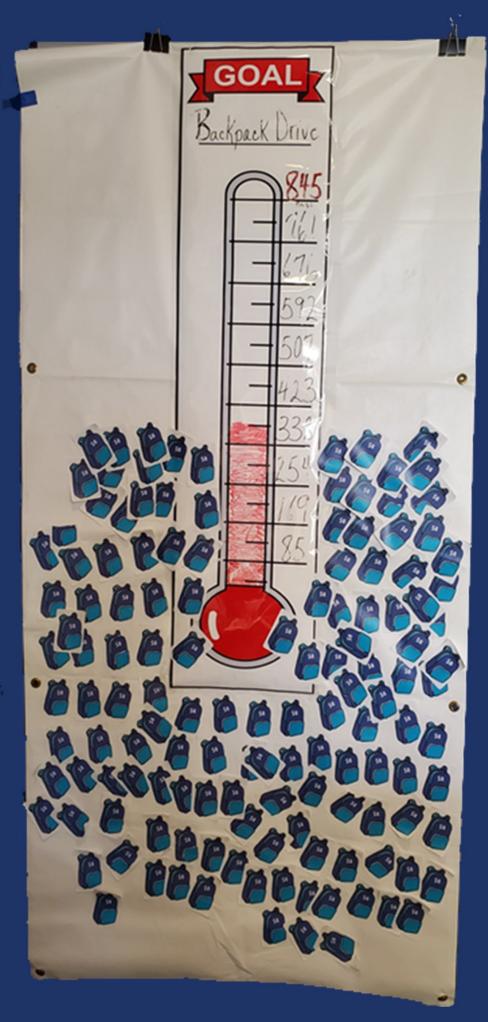
# The Living Springs Journal

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

October 2020



#### FORWARD IN FAITH! - from Pastor Eric

BOOK OF MONTH = EZEKIEL! Devotion Streams: Thankful Tuesdays @ 12; "Forward in Faith" Fridays @ 11

This October marks the 503rd year since a young pastor and Bible professor named Martin Luther walked to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany—where he posted 95 Theses for discussion regarding the sale of indulgences and the centrality of grace & faith in the message and work of the Church. For 5 centuries, the Holy Spirit has been moving us Forward in Faith as Lutheran Christians—called to give ongoing voice to the centrality of grace & faith within the larger partnership we share with the entire Church. This year, on Reformation Sunday 2020, we at Living Springs will gather to worship in a unique and creative way, as we offer support & prayer for 5 young disciples who will affirm their baptism and commit their lives to moving Forward in Faith with the Holy Spirit on their Confirmation Day: Lauren Bloss, Preston Ginn, Anna Graves, Lina Mooney, and Dakota Shannon. What a day of joy this will be!

In the meantime, we as a congregation have too been moving Forward in Faith. The challenges of conducting the ministry of Christ's church have been unique in this COVID-world—yet they have been no greater than the many different challenges which faced God's people throughout the centuries. Our newly-embraced LS theme, *Forward in Faith*, reminds us that we are not yearning to "go back" to the way we used to do things in order to make us comfortable. But rather, we believe the Holy Spirit is using these challenges to tug us forward out of old comfort zones, so that we might more fully embrace our calling to mobilize & go, to share Christ out in the community in new & creative ways, to embrace that truth that the "church" has never been a building or a physical location—but a people always moving Forward in Faith to carry out the work of God's kingdom and share the love of God in Christ with our community and the world!

We give thanks for all the ways the Holy Spirit has already been tugging us forward in faith—and we celebrate how the tug forward continues in the month ahead. If you have been somewhat "out of the loop," I encourage you to use October as the time to begin stepping back into the full worship & ministry of the church, in every way possible for you & your family. To that end, here is somewhat of an invitation and summary of how the Spirit is moving us forward in faith together!

#### FORWARD IN FAITH: IN-PERSON WORSHIP OPTIONS FOR ALL!

We continue to move Forward in Faith with in-person worship options. There are now 3 weekly choices: Sunday @ 8:15 (outdoor), Sunday @ 11:15 (indoor), Tuesday @ Noon (indoor)—to give enough room for everyone to come worship in-person with others. For the 8:15 service, it is also possible to remain in your car without a mask and listen/participate from there. For those yet unable to worship in person, we continue to stream/post the Sunday service at 10am—and offer Holy Communion distribution in the parking lot on 1st & 3rd Sundays (12:15-1:00). In addition, on Reformation Sunday, we are venturing forward to invite everyone to gather in a creative way for one unity service, to show support for our 5 Confirmands (see box on right).

#### FORWARD IN FAITH: MORE GATHERING OPTIONS AT CHURCH!

As always, your keyfob will allow you to enter the sanctuary at any time for prayer. It remains possible for any group to schedule a time to meet **in-person on the church lawn and portico**—and several groups are doing so (Sr. Youth, Scouts, etc.). It is also possible for a group to schedule a time to meet in the **sanctuary (or possibly the fellowship hall)** for study/support—or worship preparation. The Ladies Book Club, Handbells, Sr. Confirmands & Parents have all creatively made this possible. We just need to ensure there is enough down time between events (usually 24 hours) for appropriate de-sanitizing, per our janitor's schedule. For all gatherings, we continue to wear face coverings and remain physically distanced for the safety of others. We continue to hold *meetings* online (council, ministry teams, committees, etc).



# REFORMATION SUNDAY Oct. 25 @ 10AM CONGREGATION-WIDE UNITY IN-PERSON WORSHIP (Rite of Confirmation)

Confirmands & Family Members in sanctuary—service projected to entire congregation gathered on church lawn and/or fellowship hall; also streamed on-line!

## In-Person Worship Options OCT. 4-6, 11-13, 18-20, 27

Sundays @ 8:15-9:00 (outdoor, all ages) Sundays @ 11:15-12:00 (indoor, all ages) Tuesdays @ Noon (indoor, sr. adults only)

Limited Space for Inside Services—call the office or sign-up via <u>links</u> (face coverings, temp. checks)

# Full Worship Streamed Each Sunday @ 10am

Full Music/Liturgy/Sermon, Children's Message (sign up to come be part of taping, Wed. @ 7:00)

#### Holy Communion Distribution 1st & 3rd Sundays Oct. 4 & 18, 12:15-1:00

Parking Lot (by vehicle): for anyone still unable to attend in-person worship; invite a friend!

#### **IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES:**

Nov. 1 - 11:	<b>Veterans Prayer Tree</b>
Nov. 1:	All Saints Sunday
Nov. 2:	Prayer Service for Nation
Nov. 8:	<b>Annual Cong. Meeting</b>
Nov. 15:	Veterans Recognition
Nov. 22:	Christ the King Sunday
Nov. 29:	Advent Season Kickoff

#### FORWARD IN FAITH: CREATIVE SPECIAL MINISTRY EVENTS & EXPANDED MUSIC MINISTRIES!



We are moving Forward in Faith, with the Holy Spirit guiding us to creative ways to hold many special events that mean so much. We have been inspired with a creative College Student Blessing, Back-to-School Blessing, Faith Formation Kickoff Sunday, GWOH Virtual Ministry Bingo, Lutheran Men's Sunday, and our annual Blessing of the Animals! We will celebrate Reformation Sunday in a very special way. And creative visions are unfolding for All Saints Sunday, our Annual Meeting, a fall Generosity emphasis, Veterans recognitions, Advent seasons kickoff, Christmas events, and more!

We also are excited to be moving Forward in Faith in creative ways with our Music Ministry. In addition to our handbells, Disciples of Harmony, and special instruments/vocalists, we have developed our technological skills so that anyone can now participate in our Virtual Choir. We rejoice in the beautiful piano contributions of Trado Mayson, monthly contributions by our guest organist, and now the guitar contributions of Christopher Girardeau. The sound of joyful music truly moves us Forward in Faith in both streamed and in-person worship!

#### FORWARD IN FAITH: BIBLE STUDIES & FAITH CLASSES (all ages!) - plus our LS Child Development Center!

Since March, we have not failed to continue Bible Study and faith classes. Now, we are moving Forward in Faith as our groups have resumed a **full weekly schedule**. Every Sunday, 5 Faith Classes meet online. Weekly, there are 3 adult Bible Studies, plus Sr. & Jr. Youth Groups. We continue to move Forward in Faith with Dwelling in the Word and the 3rd year of our Bible "Books of the Month." Classes and groups gather on-line, but in October, we are inviting & encouraging each group to consider scheduling a safe in-person gathering at the church once per month for further support, as modeled already by our Sr. Youth, Confirmands, and Parents.

Also, our amazing **Child Development Center** ministry continues to move Forward in Faith! They re-opened in June with limited hours and an enrollment of 20. Since, they have created an e-learning class, and with safety protocols in place, are now nearing enrollment of 50 total students, with a gradual expansion of hours. We give thanks for all the difficult work of our CDC leaders and 12 faithful, dedicated "front-line" staff, who have maintained this ministry in powerful, imaginative ways - to continue have such a great impact on children & families in very challenging times! Please keep the CDC Ministry in your prayers!

**FAITH CLASSES & GROUPS!** Adult Class—Sundays @ 9am Faith in Action Adults—Sundays @ 9:30 Middle School Class—Sundays @ 12:15 High School Class—Sundays @ 12:15 Children's Class—Sundays @ 1:30 Sr. Youth Group—alternate Sun. & Tues. Jr. Youth Group—Wednesday game night Ladies Bible Study—Tuesdays @ 10am Evening Bible Study—Tuesdays @ 6pm

Men's Faith Group—Thursdays @ 8pm

#### **FORWARD IN FAITH: LS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES!**

During the spring and summer, we were able to touch many lives with our **Shoe Drive** and special LS **COVID help** projects—providing nearly \$10,000 worth of meals and assistance for 550 front-line hospital workers, dozens of community seniors, Palmetto Place youth, R2 children/youth in need, 500+ VA hospital staff, Family Promise homeless families, Transitions ministry for the homeless, human trafficking victims, neighborhood mask distribution, and more. In addition, our Sr. Youth creatively helped sponsor a virtual Midlands Graceworks experience—and conducted a virtual Mystery Mission Trip to New Zealand, Australia, an New York City—contributing nearly \$2000 of funds for ministries there. Our youth would not be stopped by any virus! Now, we have been able to move Forward in Faith as we resume some vitally important Community Hope ministries—with our Backpack Food Ministry (65 children per weekend), JV Football Devotional Ministry meals (63 team members each week), Rush Hour Prayer ministry, ongoing virtual at-home "God's Work Our Hands" efforts, and annual Flu Shot ministry. Our Cristo Rey Mission Partner Team is working on a regular basis to provide Bible Lesson/Craft Kits for the children there. In addition, we are moving Forward in Faith with Justice Ministry having conducted 5 house gatherings; having been actively involved in research teams for solutions in areas of mental health, education, affordable housing, neighborhood gun violence; having far surpassed our goal by topping \$9000 in contribution for the Justice Ministry, and having 42 persons already committed to serve as Justice Network members!

#### FORWARD IN FAITH: CALL PROCESS (see page 3) and OFFERINGS OF LOVE FOR OUR LORD!

Throughout the summer months, we were blessed by so many special offerings (see above), plus our now ongoing offerings for the Backpack Ministry, Family Assistance Fund, and bucket Disaster Response for fire & hurricane victims. We are blessed by all the creative ways offerings have been made: mailed, dropped off at church, bank transfers, Givelify App, given at in-person worship. Throughout all this, however, our regular offerings have begun to level off—and now time has come to for us to re-commit ourselves to supporting the foundational ministry of our congregation through our regular offerings. This is especially vital, as we move Forward in Faith toward the vision of finally calling our 2nd rostered leader (pastor/deacon) for faith formation—see page 3. Even in the midst of a COVID pandemic, God amazingly provides blessing after blessing, and we rejoice to be able to share those blessings in a loving way—at whatever level is possible for each of us. In these final months of 2020, may the Lord inspire our giving of thankfulness and love for the Lord, so that we will continue to move Forward in Faith together, and be a witness to the light of Christ in our world!

Oh, what a blessing it is to be part of this community of disciples called Living Springs! Oh, what a blessing to know the centrality of grace and faith in our lives! Just as the Spirit inspired Martin Luther 5 centuries ago, may the Spirit inspire each of us, as we move forward in faith—running with perseverance the race set before us, surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses & always looking to Jesus! With much love in Christ and thanksgiving for each of you, Paster Eric

#### SPECIAL INSERT: CALL PROCESS UPDATE, FORWARD IN FAITH!

#### **HOW IS THE PROCESS UNFOLDING?**

STEP ONE: At the start of 2020, we began the Call Process by holding the big congregational gathering with then-Assistant to the Bishop Ginny Aebischer (now bishop). It was a powerful time of sharing—and all the input from the congregation was processed at the Council's annual leadership retreat. These results were shared with Bishop Aebischer, along with a set of required NE Columbia Community interviews completed by council members.

STEP TWO: As specified by the constitution, the council appointed a Call Committee of 6 persons: Steve Padgett, Gary Bradham, Gwen Furcron, Alison Levitt, London Mancuso, and Dan Shannon. The Call Committee met and chose Steve Padgett as chair.









STEP THREE: The Call Committee thoroughly reviewed all the input from the Congregation Gathering—and met numerous times in order to complete a 15-page official document called the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), plus a 3-page supplemental Ministry Reflection document. The MSP contains complex, detailed information about our congregation, all our ministries, community demographics in NE Columbia, our vision for ministry, our priorities for candidates, etc. Our LS Ministry Site Profile was completed and submitted to the Bishop's office at the beginning of June.

STEP FOUR: The SC Bishop's office began to study our Ministry Site Profile and prayerfully search for possible matches in similar forms submitted by various rostered leaders from the SC Synod or throughout the ELCA. This process was somewhat delayed by the COVID-required postponement of Synod Assembly and the election of a new bishop. However, immediately after Synod Assembly, now-Bishop Aebischer began to intensify the search and contact possible candidates who might be good matches for Living Springs.

STEP FIVE: The Bishop identified 3 best possible matches (the goal). Because the new rostered leader would be working with an existing pastor, the Bishop first shared the candidates with Pastor Eric, who was asked to set up a personal contact with each. The purpose of these 1-1 contacts was NOT to determine who should be called, but rather for Pastor and the potential candidate to merely ascertain if it would be difficult/impossible for them to work together. There were no such issues. The Bishop then met with the Call Committee to officially give them the 3 candidates' information.

STEP SIX: The Call Committee is now conducting 1st interviews with each of the 3 candidates. For any candidate(s) who seem like a possible match, there will be further interviews, research and discernment. If no candidate(s) seem to be the minister God is calling to Living Springs, the Call Committee can ask the Bishop for 1-3 new names.

NEXT STEPS: From among all the candidates interviewed, the Call Committee will work to find 1 minster to be the official "primary candidate." This primary candidate will then meet confidentially with the council. If the council recommends the primary candidate, then the primary candidate is shared with the congregation, after which the congregation will vote on whether or not to officially call this primary candidate (at a special congregation meeting).

NOTE: to respect the identity of all candidates (who are often serving their own congregations), the work of the Call Committee is TOTALLY CONFIDENTIAL. Throughout the process, the Call Committee is not allowed to share information about candidates with anyone, including their own family members or other congregation members. Any other questions about the process should be directed to the Call Committee Chair, Steve Padgett.

#### **SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

#### 1) What is the nature of this "Faith Formation" position?

As shared with the congregation, this Position is to be a 2nd Rostered Leader with a focus on faith formation and ministry with children/youth/young families, as well as outreach into the community. Think of this as the minister who will fill the position most recently filled by Deacon Lexanne a few years ago, but prior to her, various Associate Pastors.

#### 2) What is meant by "Minister" for this position?

In recent years, "minister" has been refined within our larger ELCA Lutheran church, with 2 categories: Ministers of Word & Service; Ministers of Word & Service are ordained as "deacons," while Ministers of Word & Sacrament are ordained as "pastors." Based on the variety of input from the congregation, the Call Committee asked the Bishop to find possible candidates who best fit our ministry profile, our special ministry focus for this position, and our congregation needs/vision. Among the first 3 candidates shared with the Call Committee, 2 of them were Ministers of Word & Sacrament, while 1 was a Minister of Word & Service. Our prayer is for the Spirit to lead us to the right minister that God has in mind for this congregation, with an openness to whatever "category" she/he may be (pastor or deacon). The minister may well be a 2nd pastor, but we do not want to limit God's work to just one category, should there be a tremendously gifted Deacon out there who is a great match for our congregation (or vice versa).

#### 3) What are some gifts we are seeking for this minister position?

Based on input from the congregation gathering in January, plus input from the retreat meeting with council and other leaders of our congregational ministries, our completed Ministry Site Profile included the following items:

<u>5 Top Ministry Tasks for this Position</u> (no particular order): Youth & Family Ministry; Children's Ministry; Preaching & Worship; Pastoral Care & Visitation; Innovation & Creativity.

<u>5 Top Priority Gifts for Ministry</u> (no particular order): Help People Develop Spiritual Life; Be Effective in Working with Youth; Be Effective in Working with Children; Be Able to Share Leadership & Work in a Team; Be Creative & Innovative.

<u>5 Helpful Gifts for Ministry (no particular order):</u> Build a Sense of Community; Help Others Develop Leadership Abilities & Ministry Skills; Be an Effective Teacher; Be Skilled in Planning & Leading Programs; Be Able to Use Technology & Media.

#### 5 Primary Areas of Focus for First Year (no particular order):

A.Enhance & implement creative program of Faith Formation involving young children & their families, with both atchurch and in-home experiences for the challenges & changes of life in a 21st-century world.

B.Further deepen a sense of Faith Community among children, families, and staff of our Child Development Center. C.Further develop creative Faith Formation experiences and sense of Christ-centered community among our growing ministry with teens—and expand further to college students & young adults.

D.Assist Sr. Pastor to enhance congregational ministry of care; add diverse styles with shared preaching & worship leader-ship; and support our growing, active community partnership ministries (schools, justice, compassion ministries).

E.Work with congregational leadership to further expand our growing, active outreach into the community in creative, non-traditional ways (including special focus on unchurched & de-churched, teens, young adults, young families).

#### 4) What about the Music & Worship position?

This call process is NOT about the Music/Worship position—most recently occupied by George Donovan, with Justin Rimbo serving temporarily in an interim capacity (because Justin was a Deacon, he was also able to do some Rostered Leader duties while with us). Council has appointed a separate Music/Worship Search Task Force. They have met to do initial work on a job description, but will wait to conduct that search once the Call Process is completed for the larger Rostered Leader position. In the meantime, we are blessed to have the ongoing leadership of Virginia Herlong as choral director, Laura Turnmire as handbell director, Trado Mayson as regular worship keyboardist, Toni Hollingsworth as supply organist, Christopher Girardeau as supply guitarist, plus various worship musicians, etc.

#### 5) What about our Seminarians?

Our Seminary Student is assigned to us on a 1- or 2-year basis, as part of the Seminary's teaching parish program. Our role is to give them a congregational "lab" in which to experience many aspects of ministry. In recent years, we have also contracted with our assigned seminary student to do some work with our Youth, provided this is within their skill sets. Once we call a 2nd Rostered Leader, we can still be assigned a Seminary Student for teaching parish work—depending on the needs of seminary any given year. Moving forward, we may not need to contract with the seminary student for any paid extra work with youth (beyond their regular teaching parish duties with our youth).

#### 6) What can each of us do?

Two important things ...

A)**BE PATIENT**. It often takes time for the Spirit to reveal the right minister, but one never knows. Respect the confidentiality of the Call Committee. Give the Committee space and privacy to do the task to which they have been called by God, trusting that the Spirit will be at work through their prayerful discernment with the Bishop's office.

B)**PRAY. PRAY.** Make this call process a part of your daily prayers. Pray for the Call Committee, for all candidates and their families, for the Bishop and her staff. Pray for the congregations whom a candidate may be leaving. Pray that the Spirit lead us to the minister God has in mind for our congregation—who will make us a stronger community of disciples, a stronger witness to the light of Christ in our community, and even stronger workers in the Kingdom of God for the sake of others. Pray that the Spirit will free us from the temptation to seek what we personally want for ourselves—or for someone who will keep "me" in "my" comfort zone.

Mark your Calendar:

# **\$UNDAY, NOV. 8** (time & schedule to be announced)

Council Election, 2021 Spending Plan, 2021 Synod Assembly, Constitution Updates

\*\*Due to current wording of our Constitution, this Annual Meeting must be held in-person. We must have a quorum, so please make every effort to be present. We will make arrangements so that everyone can attend safely, including possibility of remaining in cars.

#### Notes from: Living Springs Child Development Center

#### From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Hello and Happy Fall to everyone,

As we see the leaves change color and feel the weather begin to cool, we are reminded of the ever-present beauty of nature and God's steadfast role in our lives. Although this Fall may look different than those of the past; our daily routines may be changed, we may not be celebrating Trunk-or-Treat in quite the same way, and we may not be visiting with friends and family as we have in the past, we can rest assured that God is always present. This presence is seen in the changing colors of the leaves as they fall from the trees, it is felt as you dash back in the house to grab your sweater when you notice the crispness in the air and it is realized as we go through our lives reminded that we are seen, loved, known and cared for, just as the earth feels the presence of its creator, so can we.

As we continue our ministry in the C.D.C. we too are reminded of how we have done things in the past. How we used to gather in the sanctuary for Chapel and Bible time, how we would come together for our "Stone Soup Luncheon" and even how we would rake up the leaves, eager to bury each other or hide in their camouflage. I am grateful to say that with the changes that have occurred we have adapted and now enjoy Bible time and Chapel outdoors, we are able to enjoy picnic lunches on blankets on the grass and we can gather leaves to add to our art collages paying closer attention to the colors and details in their beauty.

We look forward to finding new ways to continue doing what we have always done. Sharing stories of how Gods love is being seen, felt and experienced in our lives. Looking at our world with a new view. Learning how to adapt and think outside the box. We still have "Mystery Readers" in our classrooms, but now they call in to read to the class over the phone. We still share stories and communicate with our Senior Friends, but now it is through notes, cards and artwork that we send to them. We continue to share what is happening in our lives, but now it may be via video chat. As these changes occur, I continue to be inspired by the resilience of our children and all that they can teach us about adaptation. The world may look a little different now, but God continues to walk this journey along with us, as always.

Wishing you well,

Tammy



#### CDC Virtual Mystery Reader Opportunities

There are now opportunities to be a virtual mystery reader to the children in our child development center. Readers have a choice to call in and read over the phone or record book readings on a thumb drive and place the thumb drive plus a list of books recorded in a zip lock bag and leave it in the CDC mailbox in the work-room. For a list of recommended books <u>click here</u>. To schedule a time to read over the phone, you can email office@lslccdc.org or contact Cindy Day at 803-736-0776



The Child Development Center is an amazing Spirit filled ministry where the seeds of God's love are scattered everyday...

-where children are loved and nurtured; where they learn about Jesus and the Bible through stories re-enacted, joyful singing and motions; where they share God's love with others, including our friends at the Rice Estate by being "picture pals" and making special cards to let them know that they are loved!

One parent recently shared ... Where to begin? Living Springs has been my children's home away from home for years now. All three of them have loved their experiences there, and we have always felt secure in knowing they are loved, nurtured and encouraged to grow.

**Another parent shared....**We couldn't function without the LSLC CDC and love of all the staff! They are planting the seeds to grow an engaged learner for life!

And parents expressed thankfulness to staff for... your warmth, kindness and positivity; being the most attentive, nurturing and dependable caregiver; always making us smile-the kids thrive on your enthusiasm and humor; your calm nature and easy-going spirit; by getting kids so engaged, they don't even realize they are learning; showing how you care about each child and their well-being; greeting us by name and making us feel special; your creative spirit and encouraging our child to always explore; your quiet disposition that brings a sense of calm to everyone; my child coming home excited each day sharing something new and explaining that his teacher taught him that; showing that even when asking for help during virtual school that God's love is at the forefront!

#### Notes from: TELS - Traveling Evangels of Living Springs

#### **TELS - Anno Domini** OCTOBER 24

This poor event has been bounced around so much, I'm surprised NarroWay Productions didn't say "forget it Lutherans – come back when you get your act together"! This is a Christian based theatre production – if you have never been to one, it is really a well-organized theatre enactment of different bible stories. The one on October 24 is Anno Domini, the story of Steven and the Apostles. I think the TELS group has seen and enjoyed them all! Tickets have been finalized, but you are welcome to join individually if tickets are available. The bus will leave Living Springs at 10:15 am.



#### **Books of the Month 2020-21**

Mark Sept: Job Mar:

Oct: Ezekiel Apr: **Philippians/Colossians** 

Nov: **Ecclesiastes & Jonah** May: Psalms 51-100 Joel-Zechariah-Malachi Dec: June: I & II Thessalonians

**Proverbs (31 chapters)** I. II. III John & Jude Jan: July:

Psalms 1-50 Feb: Psalms 101-150 Aug:



#### Notes from: Hope Ministry



#### God's work. Our hands. GWOH

The challenge to organize an event in a whole totally different way but with the goal of getting the same results as previous years! Thanks to many heads coming together to pull off our Forward in Faith Kickoff and GWOH Sunday! Stuff a Bus, youth & Confirmation stations, Lifelong Discipleship – cars parading with faces that we haven't seen since the pandemic started - such a joy!

Stuff a Bus is 40% toward their goal of 845 bags by Christmas! We have spread the word through the CDC preschool parents, teachers have been notified at the schools we are sponsoring – Joseph Keels,

Rice Creek and newly added Blythewood Academy. Wouldn't it be nice to say in a country as wealthy as we are, we could say there is not one hungry child in our school district!

Ways to respond to the challenge:

A bag cost is approximately \$8 – here are your options if you choose to participate:

- 1. Contribute financially by dropping off a check, or utilizing the Givelify app
  - Donate any # of bags of your choice (\$8 each)
  - Adopt a child for 1 month (4 bags = \$32)
  - Adopt a child until Christmas (13 bags = \$104)





- 2. Use the following link to purchase items from the Stuff a Bus/Backpacks Amazon gift registry that will be shipped directly to the church (pick any items you wish, each \$8 equivalent will count as a donated bag) <a href="https://amzn.to/2GSvWC3">https://amzn.to/2GSvWC3</a>
- 3. Purchase ITEMS when you shop for groceries and bring them to the church administration building, dropping them off in the shopping carts during any upcoming weeks (as always). Tell us (or leave a note on your bag) telling us roughly how much you spent, so we can figure out the \$8 equivalent).

376 bags "collected" as of the beginning of October!!!

#### **BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY**



We started back up October 1 – on Thursdays at 3 pm. The schedule to sign up is on Signup Genius <a href="https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-backpack">https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-backpack</a>. To keep within safety guidelines, packing the bags is limited to 2-3 people. The sanitized boxed food items will be laid out on the sanitized tables – you pack the bags with the required items, bless the bags once they are in the shopping cart and leave the shopping carts in the admin hallway. Sanitize the tables before you leave. This is an awesome community family project teaching the children that not every child is blessed with a home

that provides love and nourishment. If you would like more information on the "how-to", contact Karen Kranz.

#### PALMETTO PLACE MEAL

What a yummy meal for the young girls at Palmetto Place this month – fish tacos w/sauce, rainbow slaw, Mexican corn, cupcakes and an activity to fill in their pandemic time when they are not doing schoolwork and taking care of their babies! Although we are not able to prepare and break bread with the girls, we provided a nutritious meal and activity. We pray that God watches over these young girls and their babies and leads them forward in faith!



#### **Congregation Council Nominations**

Have you felt a Spirit-tug to serve on the Congregation Council? Or is there someone you would recommend for Council? The Nominating Committee is currently working to identify individuals who are willing to be nominated for this ministry.

The Council provides general oversight for the life and activities of the congregation, including its worship life and the various ministries of the church. The Council also oversees financial and property matters.

If you would like to be considered or know someone else, please contact one of the committee members. They are: <u>Kay Herbert</u>, <u>Ashley Ramsey</u>, <u>Bob Gill</u>, <u>Gay Walter</u>, <u>Wendy McKenzie</u>, and <u>Shirley Laingen</u>. We would be happy to send you more detailed information. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

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#### Notes from: Justice Ministry

For the past few weeks, the people of Living Springs have been gathering online for house meetings to begin our annual cycle of Justice Ministry. Along with our congregation there are more than 600 other people of faith in 35 Columbia congregations engaged in the same activity. At house meetings we are sharing with each other our personal stories of what worries us and concerns us in our community. We are hearing stories of the elderly isolated in nursing homes due to the pandemic, veterans who have been forgotten, those struggling with mental illness, children frustrated with trying to go to school online with limited technology, people with jobs unable to afford safe housing, and those frightened by crime and violence. Sharing stories helps us learn about each other and about what's happening in our neighborhoods. Sharing also empowers us to consider what we might do in order to better "love our neighbors."

Justice Ministry provides a way for hundreds of people in the Midlands to come together, share stories, and decide as people of faith what problems to address each year. After listening in the house meetings, we gather in October and vote on which problem to work on together. Next, we identify evidence-based programs that provide solutions, and we ask our public officials for change. In the past three years this "people power" has resulted in County Council action toward an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and training of law enforcement officers in Crisis Intervention Training. We also are making progress on solutions to the problem of gun violence in our neighborhoods.

At the Living Springs' house meetings this fall we share stories and invite people to become Justice Network Members. Network Members make a commitment to attend four meetings (online in likelihood) over the next nine months:

Community Problems Assembly - October 26, 6:30 pm

**Rally** – March 22, 6:30 pm

Nehemiah Action – April 26, 7:00 pm

Celebration - May 24, 6:30 pm

More than 50 Living Springs members have felt called to be Network Members, encouraged by the changes we have achieved together the last few years in doing justice and "loving our neighbor".

Living Springs has been a part of MORE Justice for the past three years, and over that time, we have heard the call found in Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." Those of us growing up in the church likely had many opportunities to be a part of mercy ministries like visiting isolated nursing home residents, feeding children through a backpack ministry, or doing home repairs for those in need. Many of us grew up with worship opportunities, Bible study classes, and choir programs, all of which allowed us to "walk humbly with God." Fewer of us have had opportunities for "doing justice" where we seek solutions to community problems and ask public officials (as Nehemiah the prophet did) for changes to improve the lot of the powerless. Justice Ministry has given us a way to fulfill the command found in Micah to "do justice" as people of faith.

If you would like to be a part of a Justice Ministry online house meeting or want more information on the Justice Ministry, please talk with Pastor Eric or one of the Justice Team leaders: <u>Gail Buchanan</u>, <u>Mike Davidson</u>, <u>Helen Doerpinghaus</u>, <u>Gwen Furcron</u>, <u>Wayne Kannaday</u>, <u>Jim Zieche</u>, <u>Peg Zieche</u>.

#### Mark Your Calendar - MORE Justice House Meeting -Sunday Oct 11th at 4pm

#### You are invited to:

- † Join others in our congregation for a virtual house meeting hosted by Gail Buchanan
- † Hear more about and get updates for the Justice Ministry that Living Springs participates in along with 35+ congregations in the Midlands
- † Be part of the conversation on what community problems you see and experience. Through this process in previous years, we were Spirit led to choose gun violence, housing, mental health and education as the community problems to address and have been working with community leaders to adopt proven solutions. God's Spirit works through these House Meetings! And all of us can be a part of this. This year we will answer 2 questions:
- 1) What keeps you up at night?
- 2) When looking at the problems with education, mental health, housing, and gun violence, which of those impacts you most? (How are you personally impacted by one of these problems.)

Date: Sunday, October 11th

Time: 4 pm

Virtual Meeting: Meeting ID

meet.google.com/qnb-opab-vhb

To Join by Phone (US)+1 617-675-4444 PIN: 567 626 760 3641#

Gail's Phone: 803-754-8428 (home), 803-727-4311 (cell)

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#### Notes from: Lifelong Discipleship

#### **Forward In Faith Opportunities for Adults**

Looking for ways to stay connected to God and connected to others who are, too?

You have plenty of opportunities to accomplish both at the same time. Look at these options and choose one or more that fit you schedule. For now, all groups meet virtually via Google Meet or ZOOM.

#### **Sundays**

**9:00am** – Adult Class –discussions highlighting the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson for that Sunday's worship, using a series called "Daily Faith Practices". Coordinator – Helen Doerpinghaus – helend@sc.rr.com

**9:30am** – *Faith in Action* – if you are looking for more than Bible study, this is the group for you. The name of the group says it all as it finds ways to live out our faith in simple ways. During COVID, we have been reaching out to fellow disciples through phone contacts, emails and cards to offer fellowship and comfort. Coordinators – Steve Bloss – sbloss1947@gmail.com and Mike Davidson – mdavidson33@gmail.com

#### **Tuesdays**

**10:00am** – Ladies Bible Study – will be reading and discussing "31 Verses to Write on Your Heart", by Liz Curtis. The back cover notes "Here are the words you are looking for when your faith needs a boost or a friend needs encouragement...." Coordinator – Beverly Hoppert – beverlyhoppert@gmail.com

**6:00pm** – Evening Bible Study – will read and discuss one of the Living Springs Bible Books of the Month each month. For September this group is covering the book of Job. Coordinator – Steve Bloss – <a href="mailto:sbloss1947@gmail.com">sbloss1947@gmail.com</a>

#### **Thursdays**

**8:00pm** – Men's Devotional Group (*Take Up Your Cross & Move Forward in Faith*) – reading and discussion of selected readings based on a theme chosen by the group that week. Coordinator – Marshall Hurlbert – <a href="marshallhurl-bert@qmail.com">marshallhurl-bert@qmail.com</a>

#### Notes from: Faith Formation

#### Children's Faith Alive (ages 3/4 up to 5th grade)

Each Sunday @ 1:30 pm (starting on-line)

Coordinator: Adriana McMurphy; assisted by Youth Associate Peri Baker and parent volunteers FOCUS: Key Bible Stories for Children from Old Testament to New Testament, utilizing the Children's SPARK

Bible.

#### Middle School Faith Alive (grades 6-7-8, includes younger confirmation)

Each Sunday @ 12:15 pm (starting on-line)

Coordinator: Seminarian Isaac Taylor; assisted by Jan Berger, Pastor, and Youth Associate Peri Baker

FOCUS: God's Walk with Humanity - the Biblical Narrative.

#### Sr. High Faith Alive (grades 9-12)

Each Sunday @ 12:15 pm (starting on-line)

Coordinator: Leslie Bloss, assisted by Seminarian Isaac Taylor, Pastor & volunteers

FOCUS: Forward in Faith through the journey & challenges of teenage life

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#### **YOUTH GROUPS:**

SR. YOUTH GROUP (grades 6/7-12) - alternate on a weekly basis between Sundays 6pm (church lawn) and Tuesdays 7:30pm (online), contact Leslie Bloss or Seminarian Isaac Taylor.

JR. YOUTH GROUP (grades K/1 - 5/6) - monthly Sunday event + Wednesday game nights, contact Youth Associate Peri Baker.

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#### **Ongoing Opportunities at Living Springs**

#### **2021 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 2021 or go to <a href="http://goo.gl/mvvrGE">http://goo.gl/mvvrGE</a>. To order flowers from our preferred florist, contact Blythewood Florist at 691-1820.

## **Congregation Phone Messaging** *Listen for Your Message This Friday*

Hopefully you have been receiving a phone message from Pr. Eric each Friday. The message should go to voicemail if you aren't able to answer when the system calls.

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



### 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.

# Notes from: Worship & Music Ministry 8:15 Outdoor Worship Tuesday Noon Worship







#### In-Person Worship Options w/ Holy Communion OUTDOOR Sunday, 8:15-9:00 (All Ages) INDOOR Sunday, 11:15-12:00 (All Ages) INDOOR Tuesday, 12:00-12:45 (Sr Adults)

Click one of the below buttons to let us know which service you'll be attending. You may attend as many services as you desire. (Up to space limitations for the indoor services.)

October 11 & 13
Worship Opportunities

October 18 & 20
Worship Opportunities

October 27 (Tuesday) Worship Opportunities

We will be social-distanced with face coverings (extra masks available) and temperature checks. For the outdoor service, please bring your fold-out chair. For indoor services, capacity is limited to 32 worshippers in the pews (+ worship helpers) due to distancing. To reduce the amount of time we are with a group, these in-person services are abbreviated. Full worship (with children's message, special music, full liturgy, etc.) will continue to be streamed on Sunday mornings!

Online Streamed Worship will continue to be offered at 10 am

Visit the these links to connect on our Facebook page or YouTube channel:







#### **WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

There are so many opportunities to serve in the next month and a half. Check out the October worship calendars in Ministry Schedule Pro or <u>Signup Genius</u> to participate in outdoor, indoor, mid-week for seniors, or online worship.

Worship Helper Sign-Up via Ministry Schedular Worship Helper Sign-Up via Signup Genius

This is your chance to be an acolyte, crucifer, lector, usher on a one-time basis or if you really enjoyed the experience, you can do it again... and again! Congregational singers do not have to be members of the choir – if you like to sing, it is an important role for our online worship to have singers to lead the songs and if the camera if not your thing, we can keep the camera off you! Whatever your personal situation is regarding the pandemic, Living Springs has a worship option for you, but we need <u>you</u> to make this possible. If sign-ups are not working for you, contact <u>Karen Kranz</u> to submit your request. THANK YOU!!

#### God At Work

#### **Forward in Faith Sunday**







#### Forward in Faith Bingo Winners

Mike Davidson- Meals on Wheels

Todd Gunvalson- LSLC Family Assistance and Lutheran Men

John Imbert- LSLC Family Assistance

Pastor Eric-Palmetto Place

Hunter Priest - Palmetto Place, Backpack Food Ministry, Grand Prize Winner - Dorn VA Ministry

Barbara Imbert- Back Pack Ministry and Light House for Life Ministry

Logan Smith - Meals on Wheels

Brady Stoutland - Dorn VA Ministry

Cathy Lowman- Lutheran Disaster Relief and Cristo Rey

Lexanne Graves- Lighthouse for Life Ministry

Wesley Graves- ELCA World Hunger

Midge Gunvalson - Cristo Rey and Journey Ministry

Thank you for being part of the Lighthouse Family!

Thank you for your donation of on September 30, 2020 (from the Forward in Faith Bingo winners) to Lighthouse for Life. Your investment in this organization will allow us to continue to carry out our mission:

"To raise awareness about the realities of human trafficking in South Carolina while restoring victims to wholeness."

Your support makes possible:

- the hundreds of free speaking engagements we conduct each year to bring awareness in our state and beyond
- the countless free training classes we provide to those at risk of being trafficked, like middle and high school students; and to community partners, such as medical personnel, law enforcement, and teachers;
- the daily operation of our safe house, Karis Home, for females ages 12-21 rescued from trafficking, which we anticipate will be fully staffed and ready for residents in Spring 2020; and
- the daily necessary operating costs of our office and dedicated staff that "keep the lights on" at Lighthouse for Life

We know you have many options for where you choose to give your dollars, so we are truly grateful that you have chosen Lighthouse for Life and pledge to be good stewards of your trust.

**GRACE WINS!** 

On Thompson, CEO

Lighthouse for Life

#### **Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs**











#### **RUSH HOUR MINISTRY**

We won't be handing out a blessing bag, but we can still send the message of "you are loved" out to our community. Can you picture a group of people waving signs as pictured above – I like the image I am seeing! What are you doing around 5 pm on Tuesday, October 6? We have about 20 to 25 signs, so please come help us spread God's love!!

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JV Football Food Ministry:
TO HELP OR DONATE,
CLICK HERE (or call the office)
THURSDAY DATES:
Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov. 5

Living Springs is again sponsoring pre-game devotional meals for youth of the Ridgeview JV team. This year, the meals, desserts & drinks must be individually packaged. For each Thursday, we will need:

- \* 65 individual-sized 12-20 oz. bottled Gatorades (OR, \$30 donation\*)
- \* 65 individually wrapped (or pre-packaged) pairs of cookies (OR, \$30 donation\*)
- \* 1 Thrivent card (Thrivent members, please contact Karen Kranz)
- \* 1 person at church to help pack meals in to-go boxes (2:15pm this week)
- \* 3 persons to help transport meals to Ridgeview and be a presence for the team (3:15 this week)

\*For Financial donations, go to the <u>GIVELIFY</u> app OR make checks to Living Springs (mark "Football Ministry"). Signup chart for volunteers, drinks, and cookies is linked above (or simply call the office). Please contact <u>Bob Turn-</u> <u>mire</u> for more information.

#### Support Living Springs Lutheran Church.

When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com

amazonsmile

#### **Amazon Smile**

Living Springs is now a part of Amazon Smile.

#### How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer?s selected charitable organization.

Click the button to the left to register your Amazon account for Living Springs!

#### God's Corner



On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and those we serve, we would like to thank you for your support. Your donation will help Transitions continue its mission to strengthen the Midlands by empowering the homeless to transition from the streets into stability.

Praise the Lord for you great support to help those in need during this pandemic. We are grateful for your help. Please thank everyone in your congregations. Thank You!

Craig Currey
Chief Executive Officer

#### **Lutheran Disaster Response Appeal**

With recent storms and ongoing fires, there is a growing need to support our Lutheran Disaster Response and the efforts being coordinated by our Lutheran church in all the effected areas.

We are collecting offerings of love for those affected. You can use the Givelify app or send/drop off a check to the church. Use "Disaster Response" designation when using Givelify or writing that in your memo on your check or on your envelope). The funds gifted will be used in full (100%) to assist those

**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



Living Springs Bear Ministry:

affected.

I'm happy to share that I've been making good, but slow progress following my stem cell transplant on May 26th. It has been a very challenging time for me and my family but we continue to be very optimistic that I will (or have) beaten leukemia. I can't thank you enough for the prayers and the bear who has been a constant reminder that so many people were rooting for me.

MANY THANKS, PETER

#### **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 <a href="mailto:kbkranz@gmail.com">kbkranz@gmail.com</a>

# **October 2020**

500	33	01	21	24	31 8A Living Springs Men
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FOM	5	7 330P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Virtual Choir Group 6P Hope Team 6P Council Called Meeting 645P Worship Recording	14 330P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Virtual Choir Group 700P Worship Recording (630 for special music)	21 330P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Virtual Choir Group 700P Worship Recording (630 for special music)	28 330P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Virtual Choir Group 700P Worship Recording (630 for special music)
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#### Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

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October 1	Jesse & Karen Bazemore	October 21	Jerry Appleton
October 3	Wesley Graves		Baylee Owens
	Bryson Lay	October 22	Rachel Sorial
	Ed & Kathy Brennan	October 23	Paul & Sharon Evans
October 5	Vickie Crapps	October 24	Dea Jones
October 7	Lee Collins	October 25	Beau Owens
	Lydia Prizer	October 26	Adriana McMurphy
	Jim & Peg Zieche		Laura Stuart
October 8	Amber Helms	October 27	Paul Evans
October 9	Eddie Newton		August Snipes
October 10	Mike & Sarah Schultz	October 28	Gray Harmon
October 12	Rocky & Jan Berger		Jack & Ashley Fakoury
October 16	Melissa Christy	October 30	Peter & Sally Moore
October 19	Aaron Smith		
October 20	Eleanor Christy		



Eleanor Christy
Jason Crapps

**Bunie Talbert** 

Anne Leigh Graves



#### **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

October 1	Jerry Appleton Melody Hair	October 15 October 20	Mike Schultz Nowell Ramsey
October 2	Ashley Ramsey	October 24	Chase Moody
October 7	Alex Kopec	October 28	Jan Epperson
October 13	Abbie Zvejnieks		

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!

October 14 Eric Fink
Delaynee Harmon
Abigale Harmon

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

People of Living Springs - Ministers Rev. Eric Fink - Senior Pastor

pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org

Dea. Lexanne Graves - E-Outreach Coordinator

<u>lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org</u>

Seminarian Isaac Taylor - Sr. Youth Associate

isaac@livingspringscolumbia.org

Peri Baker - Children/Jr. Youth Associate

peri@livingspringscolumbia.org

Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

tmancuso@lslccdc.org

Lisa Petty - Admin. Assist/Communications Coor.

lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org

Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org

Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper

sherry@livingspringscolumbia.org

Virginia Herlong - Choir Director

virginia@livingspringscolumbia.org

Laura Turnmire - Handbell Choir Director

<u>laurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org</u>

#### **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** 

**Ieff Tenhover** 

#### **MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**

Child Development Center
Gail Buchanan

Fellowship & Mutual Care
Trish Davidson & Wendy McKenzie

Good News Team
Lisa Petty

<u>Hope Ministries</u>

Karen Kranz

<u>Lifelong Discipleship</u>

**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

#### LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

4224 Hard Scrabble Road

Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: 803-736-0661

FAX: 803-865-8252

contact@livingspringscolumbia.org

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

**f** www.facebook.com/livingspringscolumbia

<u>prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org</u>
Prayer Requests