

# The Living Springs Journal

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



December 2020



BOOKS OF MONTH = Joel/Zechariah/Malachi! Devotion Streams:  
Thankful Tuesdays @ 12; "Forward in Faith" Fridays @ 11

When I was in seminary, one of our beloved professors had an annual tradition of doing a dramatic reading of Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" for the entire community. At the time, I wondered why an esteemed Biblical scholar was concerned with Dr. Seuss... however, this year has made me truly appreciate his insight!

2020 might be a year when we feel as if a coronavirus grinch is trying to steal Christmas from us, as things will be different in many ways. There are congregational traditions which will not look the same. There are family and personal traditions which may not be possible to carry out. And yet, these differences may present a rare opportunity for all of us to be reminded—and more fully embrace—what Advent and Christmas are truly all about.

When the "Hoos in Hooville" went out on Christmas morning with no decorations or presents or banquet food or anything else, their joy over Christmas was still there! And their witness was so powerful and overwhelming, that it changed the heart of the bitter Grinch.

In this hurting world, there are many people whose hearts have been shrunk by suffering and injustice and pain and grief. As Christians in the Church ("little Christs" in "Christ-ville"), what will our Advent & Christmas witness be for all those in this community, and around the world? Will we sit around with sour faces, lamenting what is missing or different or not possible? Or (even if there were absolutely no decorations, no candles, no gatherings around food, no worship pieces that look like those from the past)—will we still nonetheless gave witness to the world ... that **our joy over Christmas has not been diminished in the least?!!**

For ultimately, our deep, un-rob-able joy over Christmas is about none of our human traditions. Our joy is about the gift of a Christ-child of Bethlehem, the gift of a Savior for all the world, the gift of the Word made flesh, the gift of Light shining in the darkness, the gift of Emmanuel, God with us! THIS is the Good News of glad tidings for all people ...that Christmas is all about (cf. Linus from another Christmas classic, as he quoted the Bible).

Maybe this Christmas 2020 will offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help a generation of children & grandchildren better understand what Christmas is truly all about (provided we do our job as adults). Maybe, just maybe, if others throughout the world see Christians celebrating Christmas with not one diminished ounce of joy this particular year, then all those with burdened hearts can see that Christmas was never about holiday/family/church traditions, but rather has always been about the gift of God's love for the world! It may be that *this* is the very way the Holy Spirit will work in this unique Christmas, **to move humanity forward in hope, forward in love, forward in joy, forward in peace!**

I give thanks to God for all the ways the Spirit has already been at work in you, the people of Living Springs in creative ways for this journey of Advent & Christmas. Already, people have sent messages to tell us how they have been touched by an on-line Nativity, which they would have never seen if they had to come to our front lawn. Families were touched by a gift of hot chocolate packages delivered to their cars as they participated in a Drive-Thru Movie Premiere of the Nativity DVD. Already, people have been moved by lighting an outdoor Advent wreath for Evening Prayer and found it meaningful to hang an ornament with their names of "living light" on an outdoor tree. A family has sent in a photo of their children's Hands of Hope Advent wreath from a different drive-up Advent-Palooza kickoff. The Dove Tree is already empty, with every teen adopted for Christmas. Winter socks are piling up in the collection basket in our 2020-Sock Drive. Our Youth have prepared their own Christmas

to hang an ornament with their names of "living light" on an outdoor tree. A family has sent in a photo of their children's Hands of Hope Advent wreath from a different drive-up Advent-Palooza kickoff. The Dove Tree is already empty, with every teen adopted for Christmas. Winter socks are piling up in the collection basket in our 2020-Sock Drive. Our Youth have prepared their own Christmas

(Continued on page 4)

### WORSHIP OPTIONS

+ + +

Sundays, 8:15

(spaced in sanctuary, limited capacity)

Sundays, 10:00

(church lawn, or remain in your vehicle)

Tuesdays, Noon

(for Sr. Adults, spaced in sanctuary)

Full Worship Streamed

Each Sunday @ 10am

(view anytime, Facebook or YouTube)



### Extra Communion Distributions

1st & 3rd Sundays

Dec. 6 & Dec. 20, 11:15-12:00

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

+ + +

Advent Evening Prayer

Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16

6pm—Portico

Lighting of Outdoor Advent Wreath!

### LS CHRISTMAS LOVE PROJECTS!

2020 Winter Sock Drive

+ + +

World Hunger 50-Chick Challenge  
(& Youth Christmas Cards)

+ + +

Adopt-a-Youth Dove Tree

+ + +

845 Backpack Food Drive

+ + +

ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts

+ + +

Disaster Response Bucket

**Forward in Hope! Forward in Love!  
Forward in Peace! Forward in Joy!**



**Christmas Eve 2020:  
"Silent Night, Holy Night"  
God's Gift of Christmas Love!**

**Noon: Mid-day Holy Communion**

**5:00pm Outdoor Children's/Family Service**  
*(Candlelight with Live Nativity Characters)*

**7:00pm Traditional Candlelight Communion**  
**9:00pm Traditional Candlelight Communion**

*For the safety & health of everyone, we will worship in a safe, distanced manner with face coverings, with limited capacity. Please call us 803-736-0661 to reserve spaces the services or go to:*

**Christmas Eve  
Worship Sign Up**

**Christmas Eve Online Worship**  
Bells, Instruments, Special Music  
Posted 10am on December 24th.

YouTube channel ([Living Springs Lutheran Church](#)) and our Facebook page ([@livingspringscolumbia](#)). Look in future eNews' for the links.

For 2020, we have our large Christmas tree on the Church Lawn, with white lights to shine for all to see - as a reminder that "the light shines in the darkness!" We have clear ornaments for the tree, with every household invited to write your names on an ornament - to symbolize that we are called to be the Living Lights of Christmas, shining Christ's love in the world! If you have not yet hung your ornament on the tree, stop by the office!



**"Love is Born"  
On-Line Living Nativity**  
*Dec. 6 - Dec. 26*

Pause in the midst of this holy season for some quiet, meaningful time with your family (or just for yourself) - to enjoy the story of Jesus' birth shared by everyday people, with interludes for reflection to consider God's gift of love for you!

*Click here to view:*



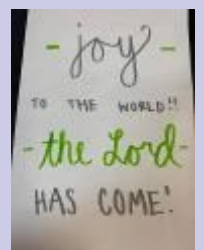
**2020 Socks  
(or other winter items)  
for Christmas 2020!**



As we prepare for this 2020 celebration of Jesus' birth, we again undertake a project of collecting 2020 items as "birthday gifts" for Jesus...[read more](#)

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS  
CARDS**

This year, our LS Youth have designed a unique set of Christmas cards, with an inside message of hope they have authored and cover art by our very own LS youth... [Read more](#)



**YOUTH HUNGER CHICK  
CHALLENGE**

The youth are also challenging the congregation to an Advent World Hunger "Chick" Challenge. A set of chicks is normally \$10, but the youth invite you to make a donation of at least \$15 per set of checks...[Read more](#)

cards for the congregation to use—and people are responding to the youth group’s World Hunger Chick Challenge (both creative projects made possible because they could not do what they had always done, with Spaghetti Supper, etc.). Church and Preschool children are preparing special video Christmas messages to share, in lieu of traditional Christmas programs. Singers, bells, and instruments are recording music that will be a blessing to hundreds of more people online, than could have ever filled our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. A manger is being filled with intent cards showing that we as God’s people are committing ourselves to Generous Hearts of God’s Love for the year ahead. All of which is to confirm that our Joy over the true gift of Christmas still shines as brightly as ever—for it is a joy fueled not by passing human traditions, but by the never-failing, eternal love of God that has shone throughout the ages, and will shine in our hearts for all eternity!

With prayers that you and your family may find ever deeper joy in a “different” Advent journey and celebration of Christmas this year, *Pastor Eric*

**\* Important Request for Prayer & Support: Call Process Update \***

Our Call Committee has been working diligently in the Discernment Process to fulfill our vision for calling a full-time 2nd rostered leader. They have completed 2 rounds of interviews—and are preparing to present the name of a primary candidate for Associate Pastor to our Congregational Council in upcoming weeks. Again, this candidate will help us focus on faith formation, youth ministry, and our community outreach to the unchurched/dechurched—as well as provide pastoral, preaching, worship and leadership partnership with Pastor Eric. When the candidate has met with council, council will vote on whether or not to recommend this candidate to the congregation. If so, then there would be a called congregation meeting in January, so that *possibly* the Associate Pastor could begin around February 1, provided the council and congregation approve the call. *All this is dependent upon our solid financial giving and our commitments for 2021—to ensure that this long-time vision can become reality.* We are confident that the Spirit is working to move us forward in faith, and **we ask that everyone at Living Springs join in ongoing prayer for the call process, our call committee & council, the candidate & family.** We give thanks for the faithful, dedicated work of our call committee: Steve Padgett (chair), Gary Bradham, Gwen Furcron, Alison Levitt, London Mancuso, Dan Shannon.

**From Council ...SPECIAL YEAR-END FOCUS: Regular Giving & Principal Paydown Drive!**

In this season, we are truly thankful for all God’s amazing blessings in our lives—and for the faithful giving of our Living Springs family! The *Forward in Generosity* emphasis (material included) is speaking to our hearts about growing in generosity for the year ahead – as our giving to God takes us to deeper places in our faith and will move us forward in ministry that has such a great impact on people’s lives! At the same time, we encourage everyone to join us in 2 special emphases during the final weeks of 2020:

- 1) **DECEMBER REGULAR GIVING.** Every year, we depend on significant Nov/Dec giving to assist with increased year-end expenses and put our ministry on solid foundation for the year ahead. During the pandemic, our regular giving has gradually declined to below \$28,000 per month. In past years, we have been blessed by year-end giving of roughly \$48-\$50,000 per month for Nov/Dec. Because of the impact on our Child Development Center from the pandemic, they are currently unable to contribute anything toward the mortgage, etc. This makes a robust December regular offering even more vital!
- 2) **PRINCIPAL PAYDOWN DRIVE.** We are currently seeking to refinance our mortgage to take advantage of interest rates. While doing so, we hope to paydown the mortgage amount from \$483,000 to \$400,000. This effort could reduce our loan payments by over \$30,000 next year—providing relief for the Child Development Center & giving us budget flexibility to move forward with calling our 2nd rostered leader, which will have great impact!

For some among us, this year has created financial challenges. We deeply respect everyone’s situation and pray that we can continue to be a source of hope for anyone in need. For others, the year has created financial options—with stock growth, canceled travel plans, fewer expenses, etc. There may be an opportunity to give a special gift that will honor the Lord and have a great impact. There may be special abundance for some regarding stock gifts and charitable distributions—as well as the Cares Act, which allows a \$300 charitable deduction for everyone (even if you don’t itemize). Whatever your situation, we ask that you would prayerfully consider a special donation for our two year-end emphases. As we each ponder our year-end giving, we ask you to join with us in remembering Christ’s important ministry at Living Springs, and the life-changing impact made through God’s work.

We are so thankful for the inspired response of God’s people that has helped so many during this year—and pray that the Spirit will continue to inspire our generous response to God’s amazing grace, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God’s true Christmas gift of love! With prayers of thanksgiving for you,

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

Forward in FAITH  
Forward in GENEROSITY



### Thanks be to God for Your Generous Hearts!

Your belief that God is in fact in control during these uncertain times is evident as you are declaring your generosity for next year! So far we have already received 43 cards toward our goal of 82. Of these cards, 60% have indicated an increase in generosity in some way. If you haven't yet responded, please mail your card today, drop off at the office, or bring it to Wednesday Advent Prayer (6 pm) or next Sunday Worship (8:15 or 10 am) to place in the manger. Your generosity will make a tremendous difference as we seek to strengthen our ministry.

**PS. Remember, our generous CHALLENGE GIFT OF \$2,500 will be received once we receive at least 82 cards. Please help us reach this goal! Our Generosity Team will begin phoning those who have not yet returned an Intent Card.**



### LS Special Principal Paydown Drive (\$25,382 toward \$20-\$25,000 Goal!)

What an amazing response in 4 weeks of our Principal Paydown drive, already surpassing our initial challenge goal! We give thanks for every gift, as it will be amplified to make a huge difference in our ministry resources. Re-financing may enable us to save \$30-35,000 a year - and free up funds for ministry that will touch people's lives for years to come! Special envelopes are available at church (or simply mail in your check marked: "Principal Paydown"). You can also give via our LS Givelify App.



### Amazon Smile

Living Springs is 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!

### Support Living Springs Lutheran Church.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazon  
smile

# Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

## From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Hello and blessings to everyone this thanksgiving season,

I am eager to take a moment to reflect and share the many ways we have seen God at work, reminding us how each day is a gift and opportunity to give thanks. We are witness to the blessings of love that continue to grow in our ministry and beyond.



We are thankful for leaves that fall from the trees that provide our children with the means to create scarecrows, and piles to jump into.

We are thankful for the ways that nature offers us the means to freely explore our landscape as it changes before us, crunchy leaves and frosty mornings that turn into afternoons with sun rays to warm our hands and faces as we play outside.

We are thankful to provide a safe, nurturing space for our children and staff. A place where they can connect with their school family and be reminded of God's love in the world.

We are thankful for the families that allow us to care for their children, giving us the opportunity to share in lives of those we serve.

We are thankful to be a part of the Veterans Memorial tree on our front lawn, giving thanks, honor and remembrance to those that have served in our military.

We are thankful to our Living Springs family that care for our staff by providing encouraging words, support, treats and companionship. Reminding us that we are seen, loved and considered.

Although this season may look different than what we are used to, and we may celebrate differently than in the past, we will continue to

make adjustments and create new ways to celebrate together. With challenge comes change and with change comes opportunity; opportunity to see things in a different light, to reshape and reframe what has "always been done" into something new, but the message remains the same, you are loved, you matter and we are thankful that you are here.

With love, Tammy

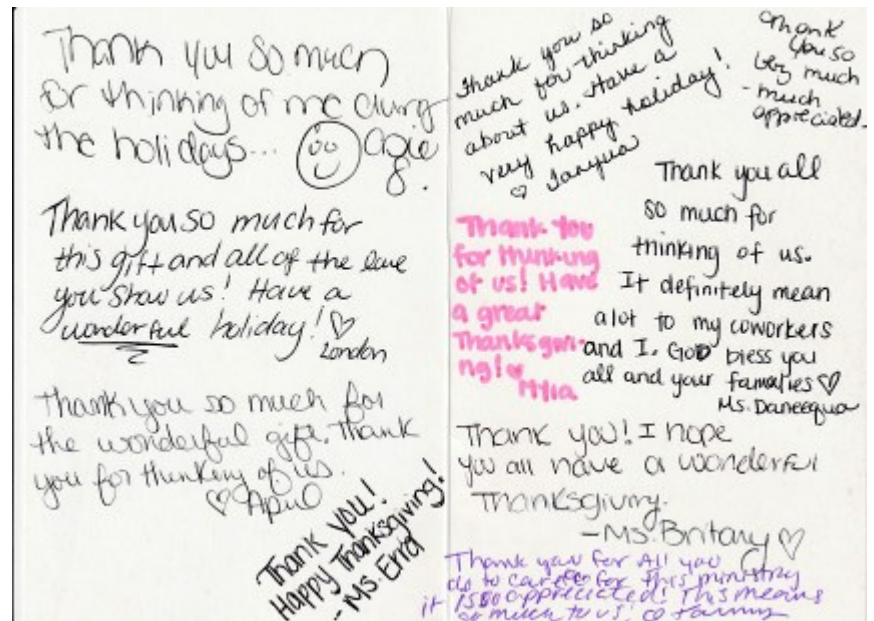
## 2020 Living Springs Thanksgiving Project: Front-Line Workers in LS Child Development Center

Expressions of thanks by our CDC staff...

for the love shown by the

LS Congregation and the CDC Board ...

allowing generous Publix gift card for each CDC staff in recognition of their selfless service as frontline workers during this pandemic



## Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

### **2020 Socks (or other winter items) for Christmas 2020!**

As we prepare for this 2020 celebration of Jesus' birth, we again undertake a project of collecting 2020 items as "birthday gifts" for Jesus. In lieu of canned food items, our goal for this year is **2020 new socks (= 1010 pairs)**. The socks may be of **any size for any age/gender**, as they are badly needed by agencies serving adults who are homeless, veterans, youth at Palmetto Place, as well as children, newborns and toddlers. Other warm winter items (gloves, scarves, stocking hats) are welcome, too. The collection will take place **throughout Advent & Christmas Seasons, culminating on Epiphany Day, Jan. 6**. There are baskets around the tree located in the office hallway.

During Lent & Easter, we had a drive to collect shoes - and now at Advent/Christmas, we think about the tradition of hanging socks/stockings for our own gifts. This year, as a family, consider collecting pairs of new socks around your tree, hearth, or manger scene - socks that you will give away to others as a birthday gift for Jesus, who said, "inasmuch as you have done unto the least of these, you have done unto me!"

NOTE: The 2020 Sock Drive is one of 4 HOPE project options we have for Advent/Christmas, including our Adopt-a-Youth Dove Tree, our 845 Backpack Food Drive, and the Disaster Response Bucket Collection. Along with our Youth Ministry's 50/100 "World Hunger Chick" Drive and Christmas Card project, there are many ways to share God's blessings this season and bring hope to others in this unique year of 2020!



### **Christmas Dove Tree for Youth in Need!**

*Take a Dove off the Dove Tree & Return Gift/Donation by Dec. 14*

Most of us have created wish lists and wait with anticipation to see how many gifts are under the tree. We have family and friends to share in the joy of Christ's birth – some, unfortunately, are not as privileged as us. This year the opportunity to share is yours by choosing a dove off our Christmas Dove Tree for Palmetto Place Children & Youth Services. We do not know their names, but God does! Please choose a Dove and return your wrapped (or unwrapped) gift Monday, Dec. 14 with the dove taped to the package.

If you would make a monetary donation, please put \$\$ or check with Dove Tree indicated in the memo section.



### **BACKPACK MINISTRY - 845 Bags by Christmas**

We have had so many challenges this year, not only for backpacks but for all our ministries, but we continue to work through the challenges with God's guidance. We were not able to have our stuff a bus this year, but along came an opportunity from ELCA for a matching grant offer! Within a week, we not only made our goal, but exceeded it. Our goal of 845 bags before Christmas will become a reality with online and live food item contributions, in addition to all the monetary donations that have come in through Givelify or giving envelopes. With everyone's faithful support, we will be able to continue this ministry of helping provide weekend food meals to the children of Rice Creek and Joseph Keels elementary schools and the Blythewood Academy. Please sign up on Signup Genius or contact Karen Kranz to participate in packing. Thanks be to God!



## PALMETTO PLACE

This past month we provided a Thanksgiving dinner - turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, home-made cranberry sauce, veggies, pumpkin roll for dessert and a turkey cutout activity. Everyone was so thankful for the blessing of our dinners each month. One of the girls who has been at the Home for a while now proudly announced her baby is living with her cousin, so she can see him on a regular basis and still be able to continue her school studies.

Dear Living Springs, Thank you so much for your gift of \$40. We are very grateful for your support during our fall season, which can be the most pressing time of year for our children. Your contribution goes directly to providing our children with the mental health, financial wellness and residential support they need to gain sustainability. We thank you for thinking of Palmetto Place Children's Shelter. We continue to grow and thrive only because of generous friends like you. With well wishes and many thanks, *Palmetto*

## Veterans Ministry

Thankful we were able to provide awareness of 22 veterans/day who have taken their lives by means of suicide with the hanging of dog tags on our Witting Tree alongside the entrance driveway. Boy Scouts, Child Development Center, Lutheran Men, and worship service members all participated each day during the Nov, 1 through Nov, 11 time period.



On Sunday, November 15 we honored two Living Springs veterans who have served 24 years in the armed services with a Quilt of Valor at our outdoor service on the lawn. We also honored all other veterans who have served and sacrificed their time so that we can enjoy our freedoms each day of the year.





## Shining Christ's Love on our Rice Estate Friends



Dear Christian Friends, Just a note to tell you how much your thoughtfulness is to endure the isolation - (since March 2nd). The day we received your gift was a bright, sun-filled day. Than you so much!

*Maggie* - James 1:27

group of people and I really appreciate all you do for us.

Thank you so much for the special package. I loved the book (devotional for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany) and ma reading it every day. I really miss our dinners there. Maybe this will soon be over and we can come again. Y'all are a wonderful

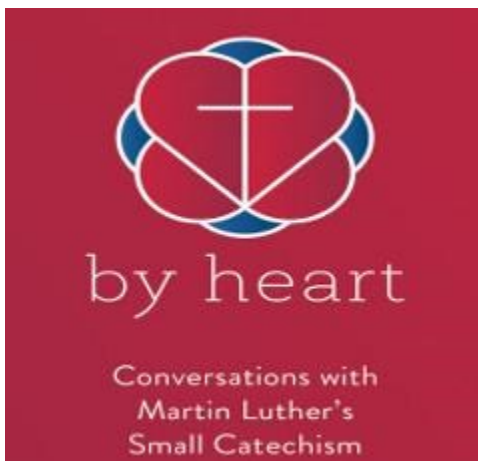
Your gift to Prisma Health Midlands Foundation is deeply appreciated and supported our front line health care workers as we continue to treat patients with coronavirus daily. Your in-kind gift of 70 meals given on September 3, was delivered to team members working in all of the Covid-19 units at Prisma Health Richland Hospital. Thank you for helping us "care for the caregivers."

Warmest personal regards ,

*Samuel J. Tenenbaum, President*



## BEGIN 2021 WITH AN EXCITING FORWARD IN FAITH OPPORTUNITY!



**Join others in a virtual opportunity to let God's work in Christ penetrate deep in your heart!**

- Thru interactive meaningful conversations...
- Centered on the teachings of the small catechism that has given people a deepening of faith for centuries and discussing how it connects to our lives today
- Invite your family and friends near and far to join us...*it's not just for Lutherans*

**Deacon Lexanne Graves will facilitate this multi-session weekly discussion beginning Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

**Need a gift for a loved one—give them the book we will use as a resource:**

**by heart and invite them to join us! Find it here: <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506431482/By-Heart-Conversations-with-Martin-Luther-Small-Catechism>**

***Look for additional information in the coming weeks.***

## Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

This morning I went walking with my regular Monday companion through our neighborhood. She shared with me a quotation she'd heard: "Tell me who you walk with and I'll tell you who you are." When I got back home, I checked online to see who might have said this and it's Esmeralda Santiago, a Puerto Rican writer and actress. My friend used this quotation in teaching a Bible study. The class considered the question, "With whom do you walk?"

You may have walking companions, too, the people you literally walk around the block with. Or you may instead be thinking of your "walking companions" more metaphorically – the people with whom you share your daily life, your joys, your sorrows. These people have a big impact on us and we on them. Perhaps that's what Esmeralda Santiago had in mind when she said that if she knows who we walk with, then she knows who we are.

As Christians we walk with Jesus. We hope that our words and actions tell others who we walk with and tell who we are. Sometimes of course we fall short but with Jesus walking beside us we are able to start again, to continue our walk together.

Walking with Jesus, we are called to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8). Walking with Jesus, we see our neighborhood through Jesus's eyes:

- Offering a kind word, providing a meal (or backpack lunch), or visiting someone who's otherwise alone (or at the VA), shows with whom we are walking.
- Worshipping God online or on the lawn or socially distanced in the sanctuary, shows with whom we "humbly walk."
- Speaking up for injustice (for the poor men who died in the Allen-Benedict housing units from leaking gas), advocating for the forgotten (for the mentally ill on the streets of Columbia), or trying to find solutions to big problems (for victims of crime and gun violence in our community), shows with whom we walk.

As the holidays arrive this year, I'm thankful for the community of Living Springs. Together we remind, encourage, and inspire each other on our walk with Jesus. We encourage each other to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." Together we walk with God and our identity quite simply rests there.

Save the dates:

MORE Justice Rally – March 22, 6:30 pm (we prepare together for the Nehemiah Action)

Nehemiah Action – April 26, 7:00 pm (we ask public officials for positive change)

Celebration – May 24, 6:30 pm (we gather in thanksgiving for the accomplishments of the year)

If you would like to be a part of the Justice Ministry, please talk with Pastor Eric or one of the Justice Team leaders: Gail Buchanan, Mike Davidson, Helen Doerpinghaus, Gwen Furcron, Wayne Kannaday, Jim Zieche, Peg Zieche.



## Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

### CRISTO REY

The children's message is still being communicated each month by means of a faith giving box. In December we will fill the Advent box with the story of the birth of Jesus, a copy of Silent Night, a "we miss you" message - all written in Spanish and English. We also include some fun things - an Advent craft, some snacks and a t-shirt from Thivent with the appropriate message on it "Live Generously!".

## Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

**"FORWARD IN  
HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE!"  
MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES  
TUESDAYS @ NOON IN SANCTUARY  
(DEC. 8, 15, 22)  
WEDNESDAY OUTDOOR PRAYER @ 6PM  
(DEC. 2, 9, 16)**

We pause midweek to focus our hearts on the Advent call to "prepare the way of the Lord" - as we move forward with God in Hope (wk 1), Love (wk 2), Joy (wk 3), and Peace (wk 4)!

### **DAILY ADVENT E-MAIL DEVOTIONS**

Our annual Advent Email Devotions began Monday to arrive in your mailbox - please forward them to family, friends, co-workers, and others! This is a wonderful way to focus your heart on an Advent message of hope and joy to share with others! If you or your family would like to author an Advent devotion, please contact Pastor Eric - and he can give you an assigned theme or Scripture passage for a particular day. This is a wonderful way to focus your heart on an Advent message of hope and joy to share with others!

### **Thanksgiving Candlelight Prayer Service**



### **Christmas Decorating**



## Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

One of our very spiritual gatherings is the Ladies Bible Study! There was much hesitation at first - how are we going to communicate with each other with online Google Meet and maybe we should just drop the class until COVID is all over? Just like the story of Jonah, God had a different plan! Each week we give thanks for our blessings and pray for whatever is on our hearts whether it is online or in-person! We are reading *31 Verses to Write on Your Hearts* by Liz Curtis Higgs.

### LADIES BOOK CLUB

Despite the pandemic, we held all our book club meetings this year thanks to the Richland public library for offering books via electronically and then by their drive-by window. Our kickoff meeting will be at Karen Kranz's home – 235 Founders Ridge Rd (in the Summit) on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7 pm. We will discuss *The Girls of Mischief Bay* by Susan Mallery, a lighter book to start the new year off – this book is available from the Richland County library in several different formats...except the book club set!



### LS WOMEN & OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MINISTRY!

Blessings to all of you. The women of Living Springs are so active in the ministry of our congregation. Through our connection with the Women of the ELCA, we are able to be partners in ministry with women beyond our own congregation: through the Midlands Conference and SC Women of the ELCA. As part of this partnership, the women of Living Springs identify 4 congregation unit leaders. We are thankful for our most recent unit leaders: Ginny Deveraeux, president; Midge Gunvalson, vice president; Jan Berger, Secretary; Marlene Jorgenson, Treasurer.

The ministries that God empowers the women to do at Living Springs are so important to share with our sisters in other congregations—sharing ideas on ministries with other sisters can sometime give them ideas on developing ministries for their specific communities.

To maintain this full partnership, we need to officially identify (or re-identify) a chairperson, treasurer, and secretary. This will help our LS women stay connected with other women in our synod and the 15 local churches of our Midlands Conference. This allows for God to use us to provide ministries on an even larger scale!

If you feel a Spirit tug to volunteer in one of the leadership role-- Chairperson, Treasurer, or Secretary, please leave a message at the church, or contact Ginny or me (Gwen Furcron) as soon as you can. I will be praying for God to send leadership for these roles and ask that you also pray. The WELCA purpose statement below shows us why we serve:

*As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

We are asking that you prayerfully consider volunteering for a role of leadership in our women's ministry at Living Springs, as we continue to share our ministries in partnership with other sisters throughout Christ's church!

## Notes from: *Sr. Youth*

### YOUTH CHRISTMAS CARDS



This year, our LS Youth have designed a unique set of Christmas cards, with an inside message of hope they have authored and cover art by our very own LS youth. The cards are available in sets of 10 for \$10 per set. All donations go to support our Youth Ministry. Cards will be available at the Tree Lot (or call the church office).



### HUNGER CHICK CHALLENGE

The youth are also challenging the congregation to an Advent **World Hunger "Chick" Challenge**. Every year, we can purchase farm animals to assist world villages through the ELCA World Hunger Program. A set of chicks is normally \$10, but the youth invite you to make a donation of at least \$15 per set of checks this year, with \$10 for World Hunger and \$5 or more for our Youth Ministry mission/faith experiences. In lieu of the Elf Store, the chicks would make a great, meaningful gift for a parent or family member! **CHALLENGE GOAL FOR CONGREGATION: 100 sets of chicks as Christmas gifts this year!**



### LS CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Spread the word to your friends and neighbors! The proceeds from tree lot are essential in supporting our Youth Ministry and future mission/faith experiences.



Lot hours:  
Friday 5- 8pm;  
Saturday 9am - 6pm;  
Sundays 11am - 6 pm.  
Tree Prices are \$60-\$90.  
Contact [Leslie Bloss](#)



# God's Corner



This (pew) bear is a blessing and it is in my sight and near my hand all the time. She is being taken good care of.

*Sally*

## *O See God At Work...*

Tonight we stopped at Taco Bell (please don't judge) to grab dinner for my sweet Youngest son. As I pulled up to the window to pay for his food the young man behind the counter said the lady ahead of us paid for our food. I was a little taken aback at first thinking wow I wish I had a chance to say thank you for the kind gesture. Thankfully, our oldest son was quick to say he wanted us to pay for the car behind us so we did and went on our way. The reason I wanted to share this is after the last couple of weeks of election news, Covid and life in general I have felt like a big ole grump and not my usual happy self. Tonight's gesture by a complete stranger helped remind me we are ALL put on this earth to serve, love and be kind to one another as Jesus did when he walked this earth. I did not realize how much I needed to be reminded that it's the little things that make the biggest difference. I will go forward with a better attitude and look for more ways to spread love and joy to others. Thank you to the kind lady in the blue SUV tonight at Taco Bell. You never know how your kindness can inspire someone else.

### ***SHARE YOUR GOD STORY/Thankful Tuesday Photos/stories***

*Has God worked a disciple moment through you or someone else during the week? What are you thankful for? Email [GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:GodAroundUs@livingspringscolumbia.org) and share the story of God's work Stories are published anonymously. This isn't about what "we" are doing, but about God's work in the world!*

## Notes from: *Thankful Tuesday/Thanksgiving Thanks*



It was so heart warming to see so many faces that I have not seen since the beginning of this terrible pandemic.

I was thankful and so grateful that so many worshippers attended our worship service and annual congregational meeting Sunday.





We have the best of spring and fall here. This is the 3rd time this iris has bloomed this year as if to give thanks to God for his amazing creation. At the same time, this nearby red maple was also in its peak for the fall. What an amazing palette of colors. Thanks be to God!



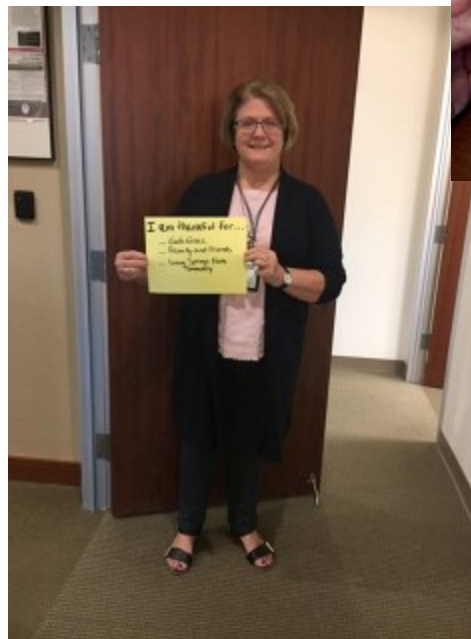
Not my photo but It seems so appropriate. I continue to be thankful for our first responders, nurses, doctors and scientists for their courage and commitment during this COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks be to God!



I'm thankful for:  
 - front line / healthcare workers  
 - a safe, warm home  
 - teachers  
 - technology / many ways to stay connected



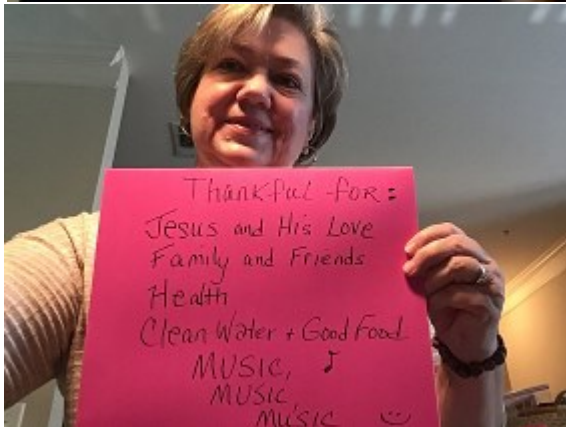
I am Thankful For...  
 • My Family  
 • God's Love  
 • My students  
 • My home  
 • The beautiful earth



I am thankful for...  
 - God's love  
 - Family and friends  
 - Living, loving, home



I'm Thankful for:  
 • My family - always here, keep my socks dry!  
 • Our new kitty Eddie - so debonair + thoughtful  
 • L.S.C. - a great blessing to me  
 • Jesus! He walks with me - He walks with me + tells me I am His own.



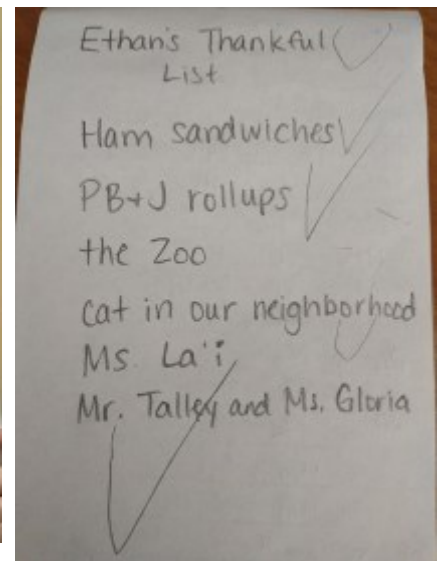
Thankful for:  
 Jesus and His Love  
 Family and Friends  
 Health  
 Clean Water + Good Food  
 MUSIC, ♪  
 MUSIC  
 MUSIC



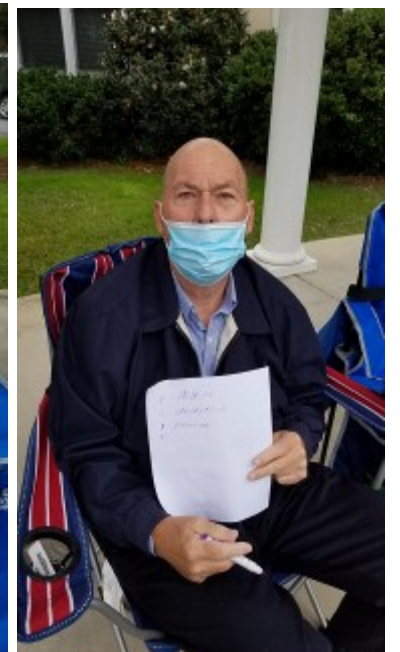
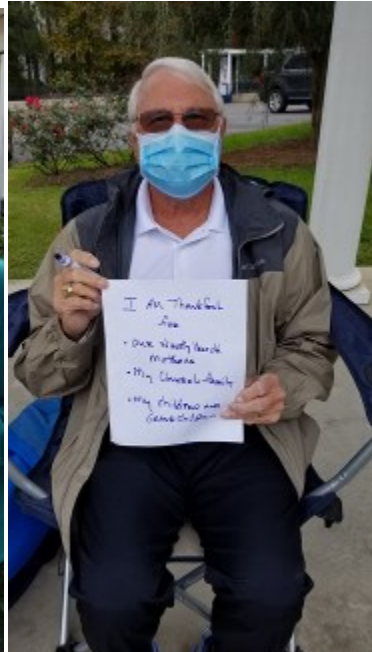
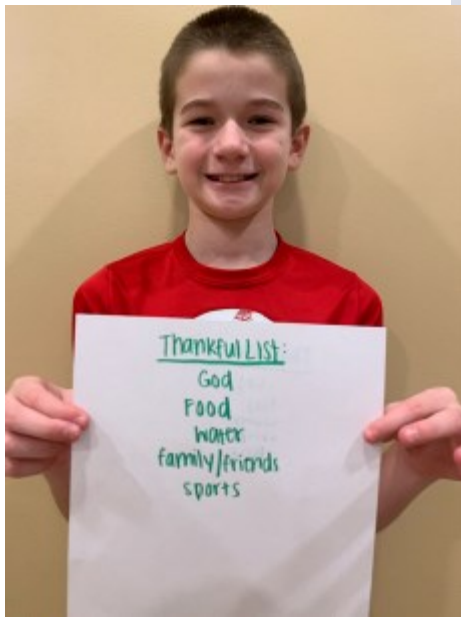
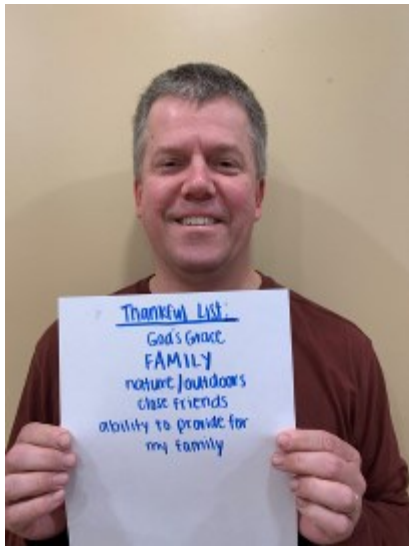
I'M THANKFUL FOR...  
 GOD! + CHURCH  
 FAMILY FRIENDS  
 PETS MUSIC  
 FALL FAITH ALIVE!



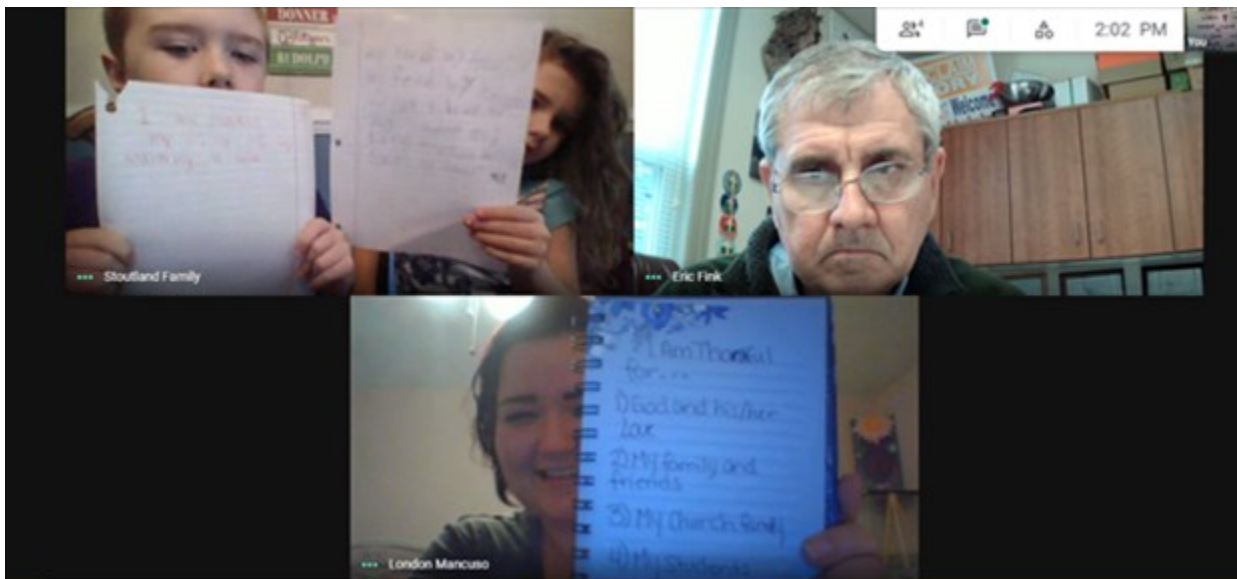
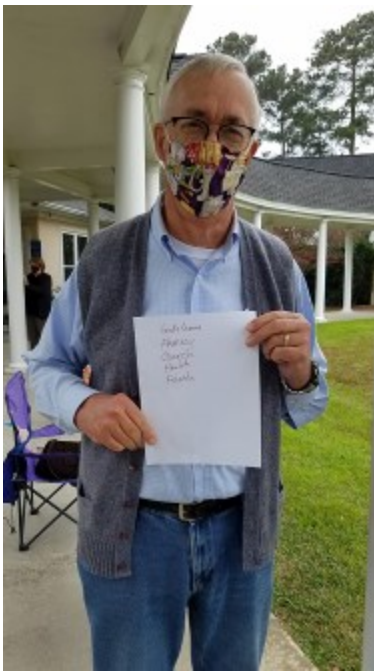
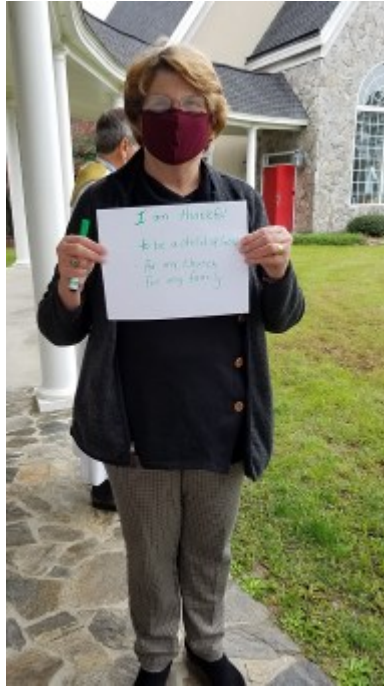
THANKFUL LIST:  
 family  
 education/teachers  
 church family  
 home  
 first responders



Ethan's Thankful List  
 Ham sandwiches ✓  
 PB+J rollups ✓  
 the Zoo ✓  
 cat in our neighborhood ✓  
 Ms. La'i ✓  
 Mr. Talley and Ms. Gloria ✓







The Junior Youth Faith Alive is thankful for many things! Our families, church family, friends, pets, students/teachers, nature, food, the Bible, and of course GOD, God's CREATION, and God's LOVE for all of us!

In decorating our Christmas tree this year, this ornament got my attention as the first Sunday in Advent focused on forward in hope. What a great blessing it is to have hope and that God always follows through on his promises, especially with all the uncertainty this year. Thanks be to God!



With the COVID 19 pandemic our congregation was faced with some tough decisions surrounding our live nativity and annual Christmas party.

I am thankful for Pastor Eric and the LS ministry teams that worked together to plan this celebration in which we were able to premier a video featuring a previous live nativity, edited with current footage surrounding the pandemic. At the same time we were able to celebrate the Advent season and observe the Christmas tree lighting. A fun time was had by all, including a dog who really got curious with the barnyard sound effects.

Again a huge thank you to everyone who made the evening happen. It was a unique celebration that just perhaps might become the beginning of a tradition.



[goodgifts.elca.org](http://goodgifts.elca.org)

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. [ELCA Good Gifts](http://ELCA Good Gifts) go beyond your regular congregational offering to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. Together,

we can do more than we ever could alone, making a huge collective impact on the needs of our church and the world. *Good Gift Catalogues are available in the narthex and the admin lobby. There are also ornaments and note cards to share with your loved one.*

# God At Work Tent r Treat



## Rush Hour Sign Ministry



## AdventPalooza



Great family event tonight!  
Thank you to everyone involved!

The kids made sure we put the dogs paws on there as well. They plan to provide kisses and snuggles to the delivery and postal workers during advent!! Lol!

## Sunday Tree Lighting & Nativity Viewing



# December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10A Bible Book of Month <b>12P Thankful Tuesday</b> <b>Advent Worship</b> (Sr. Adults) 6P Bible Study 7P Handbell Group 730P Sr Youth Virtual	2 330P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Jr. Youth Game Night 6P Hope Team 6P Advent Prayer Service 630P Worship Recording	3 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 3P Backpacks (sign-up) 7P Lifelong Discipleship 8P Men's Devotion Group	4 <b>11A Forward in Faith Friday</b> Christmas Tree Lot Open, 5-8P	5 Christmas Decorating Christmas Tree Lot Open, 9-6P
<b>6 Forward In Generosity Intent Sunday</b> 815A In-Person Worship 8:45A Adult Class, 9A Faith in Action <b>10A In-Person Worship/Tree Ornament Hanging</b> <b>10A Worship Streaming</b> <b>11:15-12 Communion Distribution</b> 1215P Middle Faith Alive 1215P Sr. High Faith Alive 130P Children's Faith Alive 530P Nativity Viewing/Tree-Lighting Christmas Tree Lot Open, 11-6p	7 6P Worship Team 630P Exec Team 7P Boy Scouts (lawn) 7P Ladies Book Club	8 10A Ladies Bible Study <b>12P Thankful Tuesday</b> <b>Advent Worship</b> (Sr. Adults) 530P Finance 6P Bible Study 645P Call Committee 730P SR Youth Virtual	9 330P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Jr. Youth Game Night <b>6P Advent Portico Prayer</b> 630P Worship Recording	10 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 630P LSCDC Board 3P Backpacks (sign-up) 8P Men's Devotion Group	11 <b>11A Forward in Faith Friday</b> Christmas Tree Lot Open, 5-8P	12 Christmas Tree Lot Open, 9-6P
13 815A In-Person Worship 8:45A Adult Class, 9A Faith in Action <b>10A In-Person Worship</b> <b>10A Worship Streaming</b> 1215P Middle Faith Alive 1215P Sr. High Faith Alive 130 Children's Faith Alive 4P Worship Recording 430P Sr. Youth (Church Lawn) Christmas Tree Lot Open, 11-6p	14 630P Exec Team 630P Worship Recording 7P Boy Scouts (lawn)	15 10A Ladies Bible Study <b>12P Thankful Tuesday</b> <b>Advent Worship</b> (Sr. Adults) 6P Bible Study 7P Handbell Group	16 330P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Jr. Youth Game Night <b>6P Advent Portico Prayer</b> 630P Worship Recording	17 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 3P Backpacks (sign-up) 7P Council Meeting 8P Men's Devotion Group	18 <b>11A Forward in Faith Friday</b> Christmas Tree Lot Open, 5-8P	19 Christmas Tree Lot Open, 9-6P
20 815A In-Person Worship 8:45A Adult Class, 9A Faith in Action <b>10A In-Person Worship</b> <b>10A Worship Streaming</b> <b>11:15-12 Communion Distribution</b> 1215P Middle Faith Alive 1215P Sr. High Faith Alive 130P Children's Faith Alive 430P Sr. Youth (Church Lawn) Christmas Tree Lot Open, 11-6p	21 Palmetto Place Youth Meal 330P LSCDC Bible Time 630P Worship Recording	22 10A Ladies Bible Study	23	24 Christmas Eve Office & LSCDC Closed <b>WORSHIP</b> 12Noon - Midday Worship 5P Children/Family Candlelight Worship (Lawn) 7P Candlelight Communion 9P Candlelight Communion (both in the sanctuary)	25 Christmas Day Office & LSCDC Closed	26
27 <b>10A Service of Lessons &amp; Carols</b>	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1 New Years Day Office & LSCDC Closed <b>11A Forward in Faith Friday</b>	2 Christmas De- Decorating

## Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

December 1	Michael Snipes	December 25	Nic Creticos
December 2	Lisa Petty		Nicholas Wirth
December 5	Elise Gerald	December 26	Lexanne Graves
December 6	Peg Zieche		Linda Hayes
December 9	Lucas Shannon	December 28	Savannah Mancuso
December 11	Jessica Bazemore		Leena Skiba
December 14	Peggy Collins		♥ Barbara & Peter Creighton
	♥ Hank & Marina Cox	December 29	Goldie Harmon
December 16	Lilah Snipes		Jeannie Hurlbert
December 17	Teagan Lindstedt		♥ Marshall & Jeannie Hurlbert
December 19	♥ Lee & Barbara Collins		♥ Mike & Sue Loveless
December 21	Addie Peterson	December 30	♥ Richard & Tanja Kopec
	Ron Ramsey	December 31	Melanie Mooney
December 22	Christian Grohman		Jeremy Niemeyer
December 24	Matthew Brouwer		Randy Sides



### 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!



<b>December 1</b>	Anne Ducate	<b>December 9</b>	Brady Stoutland
	Chris Kannaday	<b>December 10</b>	Kellie Snipes
	Bob Turnmire	<b>December 22</b>	Sarah Schultz
<b>December 2</b>	Brantley Smith	<b>December 23</b>	Lexanne Graves
<b>December 4</b>	Mackenzie Bales	<b>December 24</b>	Karen Kranz
<b>December 6</b>	Marj Appleton	<b>December 29</b>	Jack Arnold
	Evan Turnmire		Scott Graves
<b>December 8</b>	Hailey Stoutland		

## **CHURCH STAFF**

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

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

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

Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper

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

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

## **LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4224 Hard Scrabble Road

Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: 803-736-0661

FAX: 803-865-8252

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

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

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

Prayer Requests