The Living Springs Journal

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

January 2021

The Light Shines! This Month from Pastor

JAN. BOOK OF MONTH = PROVERBS! Devotion Stream: Forward in Faith Friday @ 11am

The light shines in the darkness—and the darkness did not overcome it! (John 1:5) On the first Sunday of 2021 (2nd Sunday of Christmas season), we read those words from the beginning of John's Gospel. Now, as we flip the page to a new calendar year, I cannot think of any verse from Scripture that would better describe the months of 2020. If you think back to January of 2020, there was no way that any of us could imagine all that would unfold in the upcoming months—and yet through all that "darkness," the light of God's love, was never overcome!

December saw a season of Advent and Christmas that was perhaps unlike any other experienced in our lifetimes. And yet, the light of Jesus, the light of God's love, continued to shine! There were so many powerful (albeit different) moments. There was the drive-in movie debut for our recorded Outdoor Nativity—and the many stories from individuals throughout the country who were touched by the sharing of this story of God's love (individuals who could have never been present on our church lawn). There was the Advent wreath & living-light Christmas turn in our front yard. There were stories of people moved by our streamed Christmas Eve worship service. There were people touched with tears during the smaller, quieter versions of Christmas Eve worship here in the sanctuary. There was the sight of warm socks piling up under the hallway Christmas tree; the joy of dozens of Palmetto Place youth receiving Dove Tree gifts and Christmas trees from the youth lot; the wonder of nearly 900 backpack food bags being donated for our weekend children's food ministry; the delight of people sharing Christmas cards made by our youth and donating World Hunger Chicks from our youth challenge. There were Lutheran Men and Boy Scouts showing up to help a recovering member with needed deck work at their house. There were prayer shawls being knitted, Meals-on-Wheels being delivered, poinsettias being shared, care meals being delivered, community gift cards helping those in need. There were our own frontline Child Development Center workers caring for children & sharing God's love



CURRENT WORSHIP OPTIONS (with COVID resurgence)

Sundays, 11AM (remain in vehicle and listen by radio 87.9FM - communion brought to you)

Sundays, 8:15 - resume Jan. 17? (spaced in sanctuary, limited capacity)

<u>Tuesdays, Noon - resume Jan. 19?</u> (for Sr. Adults, spaced in sanctuary)

> Full Worship Streamed Each Sunday @ 10am

Semi-Annual Ministry Planning "Calendar" Meeting (Virtual) Sunday, Jan. 17 - 4pm for all ministry leaders, group heads, council members, staff, etc.

amid COVID conditions. There were bells being rung; singers being taped; instruments being recorded; Bible Studies & Sunday School classes & Youth Group gatherings & Preschool Bible/Chapel times sharing God's Word. There were Good News Walkers distributing Christmas messages of hope in local neighborhoods and billboards proclaiming a Christmas message of encouragement for the whole community. There were disciples making powerful statements of faith, by placing Generosity commitments in a manger for 2021 and offering year-end gifts of love for our Lord (including an amazing \$30,000 for a year-end principal drive that will free up thousands of dollars for ministry in the years ahead)! Oh, what light!

Last January, our congregation gathered on a Sunday evening with Asst. to the Bishop Aebischer (now bishop!) to take the initial step to begin the call process for a potential 2nd rostered leader here at LS. Little did we know all the obstacles that would lie ahead. But even through a COVID pandemic, a twice-delayed Synod Assembly, an online bishop's election, and virtual interviews, the Spirit continued to churn through the tireless work & discernment of our faithful Call Committee—and now here in January 2021, we are primed to culminate that process, should the Spirit guide council and congregation to ratify an amazing primary candidate that God has brought to us, through the timing of the Lord!

Each January, we celebrate the season of Epiphany with the truth that in Jesus, God's light of hope & grace has been revealed for all humanity, for all nations, for all creation—and the truth that this amazing light continues to shine in our troubled world, through all things! Just as with 2020, none of us knows what 2021 will bring—but then again, this has been true of every year throughout the history of humanity (and our lives). Regardless, we know with certainty that the Light of Jesus will shine this year and that the Holy Spirit will continue to move God's people *Forward in Faith*! And so, I conclude this article with the very same 2 phrases that I discovered at the end of my January article from last year:

"May we simply be open to God's vision! With anticipation of what God will do " Pastor Eric

*Important Call Process Update: Ongoing Prayer & Possible Events on Jan. 17, 24 *

We invite the entire congregation to join in prayer for the meeting of our Primary Candidate with Council on Friday, Jan. 8. Should the Spirit lead Council to endorse the candidate for our Associate Pastor, the next step would be a Called Congregation Meeting & Vote (tentatively on hold for Sunday, Jan. 24). Notice would go out to the congregation the week of Jan. 10, with possible opportunity for meeting the candidate on Sunday, Jan. 17 (perhaps at 11am worship and/or online). Please watch your e-mail and e-news for information and specific details, pending the Spirit's direction and action!

Forward in FAITH Forward in GENEROSITY



4 More Intent Cards needed for the \$2500 Challenge Grant Gift!

If you have not yet returned your 2021 Intent Card, please mail/bring to the church office this week -- so that we do not miss out on the special \$2500 Challenge Grant!

Your generosity will make a tremendous difference as we seek to strengthen our ministry. We don't want to miss out on the special Challenge Gift of \$2500 for the Forward in Generosity emphasis! If you need a copy of the Intent Card, please call the office. A member of the Lifelong Discipleship Team will be glad to deliver it to you (and/or deliver it back to church if you would like us to do so). 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 received 78 cards toward our goal of 82!



Thanks be to God for Your Generous Hearts!

January 2021 Volume 35 Issue 1

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Notes from: Lifelong Discipleship



Faith in Action Class

Stepping out in Faith into our local community to Share 25 beautiful Christmas cards and sweet treats with our resident friends at Watercrest Assisted Living Center on Clemson Road was met with joyful smiles and a Big Thanks from their activity director, Renada Weathersbee.

Tuesdays at 7pm... By Heart Weekly Discussion!

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



Have you felt in your heart a need to grow DEEPER in your faith, but you don't know how? Do you desire something life-giving in the coming year? Come join an online, caring conversation on Tuesday evenings in January and early February! Spread the word to friends, neighbors and family members. Because we are gathering online, people can participate from anywhere in country (or world)!

Deacon Lexanne Graves will facilitate this multi-session weekly discussion beginning tonight, at 7:00 pm. Go to: <u>meet.google.com/cqr-camy-wvq</u>

If you still need the book, find it here: <u>https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506431482/By-Heart-</u> <u>Conversations-with-Martin-Luther-Small-Catechism</u>

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Notes from: Sr. Upouth

Sr. Youth would like to thank everyone for a super successful tree lot season. Also, thanks to all of you who purchased flocks of chicks, purchased our Christmas cards and made donations towards our ministries.



Notes from: Living Springs Child Development Center

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Greetings and Happy New Year to all,

As we look ahead to 2021 we may feel an anxious, even grateful to bid a hasty a-due to 2020. However, I urge us to take a moment to breathe, to reframe our thoughts of gratitude from being grateful that its over, to being grateful for what we have learned. How has our faith moved us forward? How have we been able to continue to grow in spite of the many obstacles that have been put in our paths?

Here at the CDC, we have had the opportunity to see examples of moving forward in faith as new families enroll their children with us. Families that are trusting us to love, nurture and care for their child in the midst of a pandemic, without being able to tour the facility or have lengthy in person meet and greets with teachers.

We have heard stories of how new staff members have moved forward in faith by joining our ministry. Staff members that have a passion to be with children, to watch them grow and to be a part of their faith story. While they too are fed, nurtured and valued.

Another staff member shared that her faith has moved her forward as she faced the challenges of virtual learning with her children, yet now prepares to purchase her own home. As a child, thinking that this would never be more than a dream, but suddenly it is becoming a reality.

Our children at the CDC are constant reminders of how our faith continues to move us forward. Throughout this pandemic our children have been faced with changes and challenges ranging from switching gears from E-learning, to face -to face and back to E-learning. Learning how to communicate and visit with family through online platforms, and even how to navigate online play dates. Throughout this we have heard them say such things as "I know that people are sick, so I am wearing a mask to help them be safe." "I know that Gods taking care of us." "I sometimes talk to Jesus when I am scared." "I like to sing Jesus Loves Me."

My faith helps me to reevaluate and reframe, to see things from a different perspective. Slow down, breathe, and remember that we do not walk this journey alone, we are here to hold each other as we struggle through this thing called life, as others have before us, and as will after us. Let us shine the light on one another's path and help each other in moving forward in our faith

Thank you for all of your continued support, blessings to all,

Tammy and Staff

Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team* CRISTO REY MISSION CHURCH

We continue to share the message with our children at Cristo Rey with a box filled with the stories about the birth of Jesus. Included with the story was the M&M poem (with a bag of M&M's attached), the words to Silent Night, a

banner craft, a Thrivent t-shirt & little notepad, & snacks all wrapped in a pretty bag with a manger scene on it. We hope the children receiving these will feel the love of Living Springs and God's Love that was born in a Bethlehem stable for us.







Notes from: Good News Team

GOOD NEWS WALKERS

We are God's postal messengers! Despite the 30 degree weather (no snow though), we walked the neighborhoods to deliver the Advent News of God's message for the world – Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Ironically, that was in the daily Word in Season message – joy and love! There were so many houses decorated that it did bring joy to our walk – a trip back to see the houses all lit up will be on the agenda.



Notes from: Hope Ministry

This ministry certainly made an impact this year of uncertainty, hopelessness, loneliness, depression, etc. – moving *Forward in Faith* was an *Onward Christian Soldier* march to bring hope and happiness to so many people! Just this past month, we witnessed the joy when Meals on Wheels recipients received a poinsettia plant with their meal; Palmetto Place exclaimed "Living Springs won the hearts of our girls" as we unloaded 40+ wish list gifts, Thrivent t-shirts, an ornament making activity and our monthly meal delivered on Dec. 28; three social workers from our backpack schools (Joseph Keels, Rice Creek, & Blythewood Academy) that proclaim "thank you so much" for providing meals for our children in need; and a sock drive that will provide warm, dry toes to homeless people. We are committed to continue "to do unto others" in 2021!

PALMETTO PLACE

"Living Springs has won the hearts of the girls at Palmetto Place" – said by the director as we dropped off over 40 gifts for the Palmetto Place campuses. I think I is a two way street because these girls have won our hearts also. God put these children who have faced abuse, abandonment, neglect and/or homelessness in our hands to help with their mission to provide a safe and supportive environment. Thank you to all who provided Hope with your Dove Tree gifts.



BACKPACKS

Would you like to help with packing the bags for our backpack program? Signup Genius has the schedule for the remainder of the school year. Two to three people can pack at a time or maybe you would like to do it as a family project? Contact Karen Kranz for details or questions. <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-</u> <u>backpack</u>. Notes from: Justice Ministry

Justice Ministry Network Member **Spring 2021** Commitment Dates

Feb 15 – Meet to prepare to invite others to the Nehemiah Action (6:30 pm)

March 22 - MORE Justice RALLY - prepare for the Nehemiah Action (6:30 pm)

April 26 – MORE Justice NEHEMIAH ACTION (7:00 pm) - <u>Bring 3 or</u> <u>more people with you</u>!

May 24 – MORE Justice CELEBRATION, (6:30 pm)

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Notes from: Women's Ministry

LADIES BOOK CLUB The Girls of Mischief Bay Monday, February 1, 7:00 – 8:30pm

Our kickoff meeting for 2021 will be virtual on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7 pm (details below). We will discuss <u>The Girls of Mischief Bay</u> 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. If we decide to meet inperson, it will be at Karen Kranz's home 235 Founders Ridge Rd (in the Summit), but that will be determined closer to our Feb. 1 date. Besides our usual fellowship gathering and book discussion, we will decide what books will be read for the year – have your suggestions ready with a brief summary.



Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/zza-ooxj-nfe

Join by phone (US) +1 413-341-4680 PIN: 384 633 410#

Notes from: Worship & Music Ministry

Christmas Eve Worship (In-person & Online!)

























Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs

Ministry Planning "calendar" gathering

ONLINE Sunday, Jan. 17 @ 4pm

Time has come for our semi-annual Ministry Planning "calendar" gathering, which will be **ONLINE Sunday, Jan. 17 @ 4pm**. Leaders, if you have not received the link or need it again, here is the information.

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/emr-dcns-hvs

Phone Numbers

(US)+1 216-839-0625

PIN: 574 324 205#

Particularly in this ongoing COVID time, this will be a very important time together and everyone's input/insights are needed.

*<u>*If for some reason you cannot participate, please designate someone from your Ministry Team to represent you.</u>

**By postponing the meeting to Jan. 17, this should give opportunity for every Ministry Team to have conducted its January meeting. If you have not yet scheduled your meeting, please do so before the 17th.

Some Important Notes:

1) Due to COVID, we may not be able to finalize every calendar date, but we can share what we are thinking and <u>offer insights about creative possibilities/ideas</u> for each other's ministries.

2) More than a "calendar" meeting, this will be an <u>important convening of our ministry leadership for feedback &</u> <u>discussion regarding plans & strategies for first part of 2021.</u>

3) Council is having their official confidential meeting with our Associate Pastor Candidate this weekend. IF council votes to move forward with the candidate, we will possibly be able to <u>share info about the candidate with all of you</u> at this gathering.

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 <u>http://goo.gl/</u><u>mVVrGE</u>. To order flowers from our preferred florist, contact Blythewood Florist at 691-1820.



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Sat	2	٥	ب	1	30 ith 8A Men's Breakfast	~ ≁
Fri	1	8 11A Forward in Faith Friday 630P Candidate/ Council Gathering	15 11A Forward in Faith Friday	22 11A Forward in Faith Friday	29 11A Forward in Faith Friday	5 11A Forward in Faith Friday
Thu		7 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 11A Good News Team 3P Backpacks (sign-up) 7P Lifelong Discipleship 8P Men's Devotion Group	14 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 630P LSCDC Board 3P Backpacks (sign-up) 8P Men's Devotion Group	21 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 3P Backpacks (sign-up) 7P Council Meeting 8P Men's Devotion Group	28 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 3P Backpacks (sign-up) 8P Men's Devotion Group	4 930A LSCDC Chapel Time 3P Backpacks (sign-up) 7P Lifelong Discipleship 8P Men's Devotion Group
Wed		6 315P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Jr. Youth Game Night 6P Hope Team 5:30P Music Prep 600P Worship Recording	13 315P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Jr. Youth Game Night 5:30P Music Prep 600P Worship Recording	20 315P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Jr. Youth Game Night 5:30P Music Prep 600P Worship Recording	27 315P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Jr. Youth Game Night 5:30P Music Prep 600P Worship Recording	3 315P LSCDC Bible Time 5P Jr. Youth Game Night 6P Hope Team 5:30P Music Prep 600P Worship Recording
Tue		5 10A Bible Book of Month 7P By Heart Study Group 730P Sr Youth Virtual	12 10A Ladies Bible Study 12 Campus Project Team 530P Finance 7P By Heart Study Group	19 10A Ladies Bible Study 12P Thankful Tuesday Worship (sr. Autrs) 7P By Heart Study Group 7P Handbell Group 730P SR Youth Virtual	26 10A Ladies Bible Study 12P Thankful Tuesday Worship (sr. Adults) 7P By Heart Study Group 7P Handbell Group	2 10A Bible Book of Month 12P Thankful Tuesday Worship (sr. Autrs) 7P By Heart Study Group 7P Handbell Group 730P Sr Youth Virtual
Mon		4 6P Worship Team 7P Council/Call Com- mittee	1 1 630P Exec Team tba Fellowship-Mutual Care	18 630P Exec Team 7P Boy Scouts (lawn)	25 Palmetto Place Youth Meal 6P Worship Team 7P Boy Scouts (lawn)	1 6P Worship Team 630P Exec Team 7P Boy Scouts (lawn) 7P Ladies Book Club
Sun		3 10A Worship Streaming 11A Parking Lot In-Person Worship	10 8:45A Adult Class, 9A Faith in Action 10A Worship Streaming 11A Parking Lot In-Person Worship 1215P Middle Faith Alive 1215P Sr. High Faith Alive 130C Children's Faith Alive 430P Sr. Youth (Virtual)	 17 815A In-Person Worship (Sanctuary) 8:45A Adult Class, 9A Faith in Action 10A Worship Streaming 11A Parking Lot In-Person Worship 11A Parking Lot In-Person Worship 121 5P Nidle Faith Alive 121 5P Sr. High Faith Alive 130P Children's Faith Alive 130P Children's Faith Alive 4P Ministry Planning "Calendar" Meeting 630P Campus Vision Task Force 	24 815A In-Person Worship (Sanctuary) 8:45A Adult Class, 9A Faith in Action 10A Worship Streaming 11A Parking Lot In-Person Worship TBD - Called Congregation Meeting 1215P Middle Faith Alive 1215P Sr. High Faith Alive 130P Children's Faith Alive 130P Sr. Youth (Church Lawn)	31 815A In-Person Worship (Sanctuary) 8:45A Adult Class, 9A Faith in Action 10A Worship Streaming 11A Parking Lot In-Person Worship 1215P Middle Faith Alive 1215P Sr. High Faith Alive 130P Children's Faith Alive

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

January 1	Jesse Bazemore	January 17	Rachel Hurlbert
	🍼 Jan Epperson & Karl Schmidt	January 19	Annika Hyyppa
January 2	Kathryn Padgett		Liam Keppery
January 5	Leslie Bloss		Lois Mattson
January 6	Alexander Kopec		Luke Sorial
	Wendy McKenzie	January 21	Barb Imbert
	Katie Prizer		🍼 Steve & Jeanette Bloss
January 7	Deborah Smith		🔖 Bill & Peg Fox
January 9	Charles Tracy	January 22	Chris Cassidy
January 10	Judy Edmonston	January 25	Pat Bartucca
January 11	John Arnold	January 27	🍼 Jeff & Cindy Day
January 14	Janet Lay	January 29	Rocky Berger
	💙 Paul & Shirley Laingen		

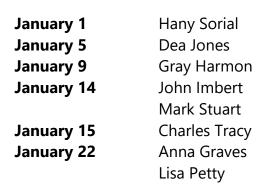


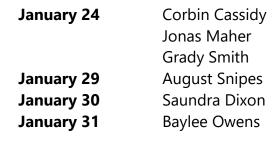


Celebrate Your Baptism

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). <u>If you do not know your baptismal information, then please pick</u> <u>a month when you would like to celebrate this gift of God's grace in your life – and notify</u> <u>the office</u>, 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!







CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers Rev. Eric Fink - Senior Pastor pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org Dea. Lexanne Graves - E-Outreach Coordinator lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org Seminarian Isaac Taylor - Sr. Youth Associate isaac@livingspringscolumbia.org Peri Baker - Children/Ir. 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 laurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gary Bradham - President Adam Woodruff - Vice President Raegan Prest - Secretary Mike Davidson - Treasurer **Bill Franck** – Financial Secretary Wayne Bracey **Doug Danner Kellee Flores** Gary Ginn **Preston Ginn** Dea Jones London Mancuso **Ieff Tenhover** Laura Turnmire

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Child Development Center Gail Buchanan Fellowship & Mutual Care Trish Davidson & Wendy McKenzie **Good News Team** Lisa Petty **Hope Ministries** Karen Kranz Lifelong Discipleship Steve Bloss Lutheran Men in Mission **Bob** Turnmire Women of the ELCA **Ginny Devereaux & Gwen Furcron** Worship & Music Jim Zieche Facilities Ed Brennan Finance **Karlene Stuart Archives/Pew Bears**

Judy Lawrence

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prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org **Prayer Requests**