

# The Living Springs Journal

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



December 2021

## Advent 2021: Preparing for Hope (from Pastor Eric)

**DECEMBER BIBLE BOOK OF MONTH = II Chronicles (Old Testament)**

**Pastor Times: Sunday, Dec. 5 @ 9:20am; Tuesday, Dec. 14 @ 10am**

Throughout this year, at Living Springs, we have focused on hope: not a pie-in-the-sky wishful dreaming, but the sure & certain hope that comes from trusting that the past, present, and future are firmly held in the hands of our loving God of grace!

I think about key figures in Biblical stories of this Advent season leading into Christmas: ancient prophets like Jeremiah, Micah, Isaiah; the aging Elizabeth & Zechariah; John the Baptizer crying out in the wilderness; a young Mary; Joseph the carpenter; Gabriel the angelic messenger of God. I think about how their messages & lives were shaped by this hope they embraced, as they became vessels of God's promises to be fulfilled for the world.

I think about all the ways you, the people of Living Springs, embrace that same hope through your lives of faithful response to our God of amazing grace & love: those sealed bright yellow intent envelopes hanging from the Lighthouse Hope Beacon; the joy shared at our Christ the King celebration and Advent-Palooza; our children & youth filling the chancel on Sundays to light an Advent wreath; Advent devotional calendars & activities happening in our homes; preschool & afterschool students singing about "hearts getting ready for Jesus" in chapel; midweek worshippers bringing forth little drawings & clay shapes as creative prayers of hope; food items filling Advent Hope boxes in our homes; persons writing Advent e-devotions to be shared each morning; Advent crafts & Bible stories being prepared for the mission children of Cristo Rey; Christmas Dove gifts being dropped off for school children & teens in need (as well as LSC Recovery House adults); Sr. Youth offering cocoa cones & Christmas ornaments to help prepare for their summer mission work & national Youth Gathering trip; persons picking up "Good Gift" ornaments for World Hunger

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Daily Advent E-Devotions**  
**MID-WEEK ADVENT PRAYER**  
**Wednesdays, 12:00 & 6:00 (Dec. 1, 8, 15)**

+ + +  
**"EGG NOG & CAROLS" CELEBRATION**  
**Sunday, Dec. 5 @ 3:00-4:15pm**

+ + +  
**CHILDREN/YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
**Sunday, Dec. 12 @ 5pm (+Elf Store)**

+ + +  
**LIVE OUTDOOR NATIVITY**  
**Friday & Saturday, Dec. 18-19 @ 7pm**

+ + +  
**"LONGEST NIGHT" PRAYER SERVICE**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 21 @ 6pm**

+ + +  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**12:00—Quiet Communion**  
**5:00—Family/Children's Service**  
**7:30—Festival Service (music @ 7:15)**

+ + +  
**1ST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS (Dec. 26)**  
**10:00—Lessons & Carols Worship**



## Greetings from Pastor Carl's Desk

As we look over November, we see that a lot has been accomplished. We ended October with Reformation Sunday, where four Little Lutherans received Holy Communion for the first time. Then we went right into All Saint's Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, and ended the month with Advent Sunday. Wow---that seems like a lot, but we did it with God's grace.

Our youth all had a chance to participate in worship and learn about faith in their perspective areas. Some learned in worship and Sr. Youth activities, and others learned in worship and Little Lutheran activities. Along the way, we managed to keep them involved with activities to help the children at Cristo Rey on the first Sunday and Advent Palooza on the third Sunday. Also, in the middle of all they had going on, we had Confirmation Classes twice. It may seem like a lot, but I wanted to let you all know that our youth are involved and thriving in their spiritual faith formation.

As we continue to move forward into the season of Advent, we see that it is a time of Hoping and Expectation. As we are preparing, celebrating, and anticipating the coming of Christ into the world, we do this with joyful expectation to celebrate that the Son of God first came into the world over two thousand years ago in the town of Bethlehem. In our time today, we still move into this Advent Season filled with hope and expectation. I am glad to share with you all this experience of Hoping and Expecting.

As you may be aware, we love our kids, and we want them to be a part of the Hoping and expecting aspect of Advent. On Advent Sunday, we will be sending home an Advent calendar that will look like a Nativity set once completed. Also, we will be sending home an advent Chain that will look like a chain of countries bound together in love when put together. The directions are easy to follow, and I hope you all will sit with your kids and work on each piece daily.

As Hope and Expectations build over the next month, you may be part of family gatherings and holiday parties. You might reenact time-honored traditions: buying gifts, decorating homes, and preparing special meals. Moreover, to

*(Continued on page 4)*

**HOPE FOR YOU!**  
**Mid-Week Advent Prayer Services**

*Wednesdays, Noon & 6pm*

*(Holy Communion offered at end of Noon Service)*

*December 1 – Preparing for Hope*

*December 8 – Messengers of Hope*

*December 15 – Promises of Hope Fulfilled*



**Tuesday, Dec. 21**  
**"Longest Night"**  
**Prayer Service @ 6pm**

*On the first day of winter, we offer this special service of hope & prayer for those who carry the weight of grief & loss amid the holiday season.*



*Living Springs Annual*  
**Outdoor Nativity Drama**  
**"Love Is Born!"**

**December 18 & 19 - 7 pm**

Animals, characters, and more...

Pause from a hectic holiday pace to witness a 30-minute living enactment of God's gift of love for you...the birth of a savior, Jesus!

Bring a lawn chair...hot drinks provided.

**Christmas Eve 2021:**  
**"Silent Night, Holy Night"**  
**God's Gift of Christmas Love!**  
Noon - Quiet Communion Worship  
5:00pm Family Candlelight Worship  
(special children's message & communion)  
7:30pm Festival Candlelight  
Communion Worship

**Eggnog & Carols**

*Sunday, December 5, 3-4:15, church lawn*

**Are you missing Beer & Hymns?** Let's get together and celebrate the holiday season with some eggnog (or hot chocolate), sweets, Christmas carol singing, ornament hanging, and some holiday fun! Bring your lawn chairs, we'll be spaced on the front yard. If the weather is bad/cold, we will move into the fellowship hall. Spread the word, invite your neighbors!

*Watch for Beer & Hymns to come back soon!*



**2021 Advent Hope Boxes**

**Set up an Advent Hope Box in your home!**



**Add 1 non-perishable food item each day of Advent (Nov. 28 -24th=27 items).**

At Adventpalooza, we decorated Advent Hope boxes for this year. If you missed this year, you can wrap your box in blue, representing the Advent color of hope, then add Advent symbols (or just use a plain box!) Place it under your tree, near your advent wreath, or by a manger scene. Bring the filled box to worship on Christmas Eve (or drop it off at the LS office the week prior). Our goal is 2021 total items for our local food pantries—one item for every year of our Lord! Also, pick up your Advent World Hunger Calendar.

chicks/pigs/honeybees & more; families assembling 100's of backpack ministry food bags; disciples delivering meals of hope to the homebound; volunteers decorating the sanctuary to bring joy to worship; handbells & choir members offering musical gifts to praise our Lord; and so much more. In Advent weeks ahead, we will also be preparing hearts & lives to experience the depths of God's hope through our Outdoor Nativity Drama, through Rush Hour Ministry, through the sharing of 3000 Christmas Hope Cards, through Good News Walkers & Billboard Ministry, through special Advent & Christmas Eve worship experiences, through another Children's Hospital meal, and yes, .... so much more!

At our first midweek Advent Evening prayer service, a Kindergartner boldly spoke up and volunteered to read one of the Scripture lessons for worship. It brought tears to our eyes to hear a child's voice reading to the congregation about God creating a good and perfect world (Genesis 1). In that holy moment, the voice of a child was preparing all our hearts more fully for THE CHILD whom God sent to us as a babe in the manger of Bethlehem. It is that holy child, Jesus, who brought hope to countless lives, who suffered on the cross, who conquered death for all of us, who promises to be with us always, and who will come again to fulfill all hope! As we walk together through this Advent season, I pray the voice of Christ, the child of Bethlehem, will truly find a way to speak to your heart, preparing you for the fullness of hope God gives us in faith.

In the end, everything we do as God's people is done to prepare the world for the fulfillment of God's sure & certain hope. Just as Jeremiah, Isaiah, Micah, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John, Gabriel, Joseph, and Mary became beacons of God's hope, so too might each of us be a shining beacon of God's hope for others in these holy days—with the light of Christ reflecting through us, to prepare the world for God's peace and joy!

With much thanksgiving in my heart for you, I pray the light of God's hope will shine brightly in your heart and home this Advent & Christmas, *Pastor Eric*

**ADVENT HOPE FOOD BOXES**  
*27 non-perishable food items (1 per day)*  
**GOAL: 2021 Items as "Birthday Gifts" for Jesus**  
 ...

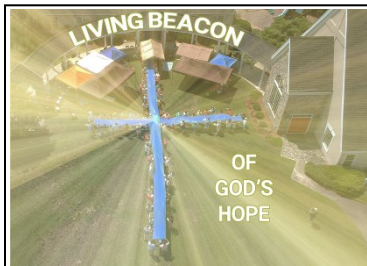
**LS CHRISTMAS DOVE TREE**  
*Christmas gifts for school children & teens in need, plus LSC Recovery House residents*  
 ...

**WORLD HUNGER GOOD GIFTS**  
*Give a truly meaningful gift of hope this Christmas for your loved ones!*  
 ...

**BACKBACK FOOD BAGS—Dec. 2, 9, 14**  
**CRISTO REY MINISTRY—Dec. 5**  
**GOOD NEWS WALKERS—Dec. 9 & 16**  
**RUSH HOUR MINISTRY—Dec. 14**  
**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL—Dec. 15**  
**BILLBOARD MINISTRY—Dec. 6-19**  
**MEALS ON WHEELS—each Mon & Tues**  
**PALMETTO PLACE MEAL—begin Jan. 27**  
**CAMPUS MINISTRY MEAL—next in Jan.**

**LS YOUTH ADVENT PROJECTS**  
*for summer mission experiences, camp, and National Youth Gathering trip!*  
 ...

**COCOA CONES**  
**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**  
**ELF STORE**



**Moving Forward in Faith to Be ...**  
**A CREATIVE, INNOVATIVE, LIVING BEACON OF GOD'S HOPE FOR ALL!**  
*With God's help & the Spirit's power, we strive to be a Body of Believers who:*  
**all are more deeply FORMED & GROUNDED IN GOD'S HOPE;**  
**all are more fully EQUIPPED WITH HOPING-COPING SKILLS for life;**  
**all are GOD'S ACTIVE HOPE-AGENTS in our daily, spiritual, communal lives.**

*(Continued from page 2)*

crown all these observances, Jesus himself will come and visit you. As the Gospel tells us, we may not know when he is coming, but he promises to come. Even now, he is looking for new ways to touch your heart. Right now, he is preparing unique gifts of grace and blessing for you—Advent and Christmas presents that he will give as you open your heart to him. What kind of gifts will he give? Reminders of his Father's love. A sense of hope as you face life's challenges. New insights and wisdom that you can share with your loved ones. Freedom from guilt as you lay your sins and failings at his feet. Furthermore, above all, peace and joy as he tells you that he has you in the palm of his hand.

So, take up his invitation today! Please do everything you can to be alert and ready to receive Jesus and his gifts. Try to spend a little more time in daily prayer and Scripture reading. Come to worship and be with family and friends. Jesus wants to celebrate with you. We have been given you a whole month to get ready! Step by step, day by day, you can draw closer to the Lord—and feel him draw closer to you! "Jesus, I accept your invitation. By your Spirit and your grace, help me to get ready for your coming on Christmas Day."

Most of all, I want you to know that the grace of God through Christ Jesus is not a passive presence in our lives. The grace of God is at work in us, building us up and moving us to action and growth, good work, and worship. Everything we accomplish and all we become is because of the grace of Christ. In this, the first week of Advent, let us remember Advent in Us, the gift of grace through our Lord Jesus. Let us consider ways to discover the work of grace in our work, our lives, and our relationship with God anew.

Pastor Carl Taylor

## God's Corner



Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry of Living Springs,

We deeply appreciate your expression of sympathy and love during this difficult time. Your support means so much, and will always be remembered. We have already put the beautiful shawl to good use on these cool fall days. You are a blessing! Thank you!

*The family of Daisy Carlene Fink*

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation for a job well done. Thank you so much for your labor of love with the "underwear Drive for Brothers Behind the Wall" mission project. The prison said the 600 pairs of underwear were the most significant gift they had ever received and exceeded what they had collected for the entire year.

*With sincere gratitude,*

*Rev. Dr. Martin L. Quick*

*Associate Pastor, Journey Church*

Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) greatly appreciates your contribution of \$150. We strive every day to carry out LSC's mission, "Empowered by Christ, we walk together with all we serve." Thank you for helping us to do that every single day! It is our understanding that this gift is in memory of The Rev. Rick Inman. With your help, we are able to provide for the immediate needs of LSC clients and residents and help them live a full and abundant life by providing comfort and safety to children, encouraging independence for adults with developmental disabilities, building community for seniors to enjoy with one another, enabling others to maintain their independence through home care services, and so much more. Because of you we are able to walk with each person that we serve.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Ten W. Goins, Jr.*

*President*

### [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://goodgifts.elca.org) 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.*

**ELCA  
GOOD  
GIFTS**

Give something  
**unexpected**  
this Christmas.

Goat **\$50**

[SHOP NOW](#)

# Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

## From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Dear LSLC-CDC Families,

As we flip the calendar to December, we may begin to feel the urgency of the "Holiday Season", the anticipation of all that often accompanies this time of year. To some it may mean that they are busy rushing around for the "perfect gift" or feeling the stress of holiday gatherings, cooking all the favorite foods, or making certain everyone is having a good time. What is intended to be a joyous time of year can certainly become overwhelming. I know it can be easy to get caught up in the "Holiday Rush" when we are constantly seeing images on social media and television of what society is telling us is important this time of year, when what is most precious is the Hope that this season brings.

As I have conversations with children, I hear moments of Hope as they tell me how they were able to see grandparents, cousins, family, and friends for Thanksgiving.

As I answer the phone, I hear the trembles in a new parent's voice. She explains that although this is her second son, he just isn't like his brother. She is worried about his acclimation to the setting of childcare, but she is Hopeful that she will find the right fit for him. She shares the story of how he had five surgeries before he was eight months old, and that while she doesn't want to sound like "that parent" she can't help but feel nervous. I listen while she shares her story; when she pauses, I remind her that he is a perfect child of God, created with gifts and joys that belong solely to him. He is his own person, and we are not born into this world to compete with one another, but to complete one another.

I hear the Hope in the words of staff sharing stories of new beginnings.

There is Hope for a brighter future while learning to stand on their own, surrounded by a family of faith that has shown them the Hope of Christ in action.

There is Hope in finding a new a call here at LSLC-CDC followed by finding a new apartment and the Hope of settling into their new home.

There is Hope in the opportunity to return to school, while it may seem overwhelming at times, there is Hope in being surrounded by fellow staff that show support and guidance and are committed to one another's success.

There is Hope in medicine as staff see family and friends getting vaccinated, giving them Hope that they will share the Holidays with a bit less worry for the safety of loved ones.

There is Hope that this Holiday will bring joy in the midst of what some have suffered. Hope in knowing that we will once again be reminded of the story of the birth of Jesus and the promises that it brings.

My wish is that as we move ahead into 2022 we are reminded of all the wonderful moments of Hope that we have seen over the past year. The times we have been able to stop and pause, to listen and to be present; whether it has been with loved ones or sitting alone while we reflect on memories of time shared. It is in these quiet spaces that we allow ourselves time to recall and reflect.

It is with a joyous heart that I wish you well this last month of 2021 and look forward to the Hope of a New Year.

Tammy

# Notes from: *Fellowship & Mutual Care*

Save the Date....

## Annual Silent Auction/ White Elephant and Chili Cook-Off

Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm.

Fellowship and Mutual Care will be hosting the Annual Silent Auction/ White Elephant and Chili Cook-off in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will benefit our scholarship funds in memory of the LeGrands and the Lowmans.



We are in need of silent auction items - If you would like to donate an item or two please let Wendy McKenzie or Trish Davidson know by Sunday, January 30, 2022. This can be handcrafted items, etc. We will also be asking ministry teams to donate baskets.

For White Elephant items, we limit this to one per person/family. These items can be a Christmas gift, you have no idea what to do with - instead of regifting it may find a perfect home at the white elephant auction. Remember one persons "junk" may be another's "Treasure".

We will also have our Annual Chili Cook-off at the auction.

You don't want to miss out on the fun!

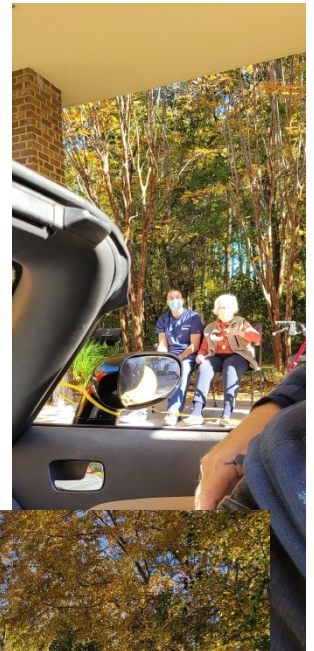
More details to follow in upcoming bulletins and January Newsletter. Contact [Wendy McKenzie](#) or [Trish Davidson](#).

### Are you interested in Fellowship and Mutual Care?

Fellowship & Mutual Care is a ministry at Living Spring that plans several fellowship events through the year as well as provide meals for those that have been sick, have had surgery, are grieving, etc. They are creative and would love for you to join them. Have some neat ideas? The team is looking for a new chair or two! Contact [Wendy McKenzie](#) or [Trish Davidson](#) if you have any questions.



### Rice Estate Fall Festival Parade



## Notes from: *Good News Team*

### "LOVE IS BORN!" LS OUTDOOR NATIVITY RETURNS...

*DEC. 18-19 @ 7pm*  
*(Dress Rehearsal Dec. 17)*  
*Everyone's help is needed:*  
*please sign-up now!*



The full show Living Nativity is back! We are gearing up for our Living Nativity, Love is Born, to be held on December 18 and 19 at 7 pm. This is a unique opportunity to share the story of our Savior's birth with a wide audience. The simple costumes and real animals add to the authenticity of the time period. We are telling a story about real people living a wondrous experience they did not understand. It is our gift to the community, and based on past experiences, we know that it touches people in unexpected ways, both in the community and among our congregation.

We still need plenty of help! There is always room for townspeople, shepherds, and angels, plus it takes a lot of help behind the scenes with scenery, tech, music, etc. If you are interested in participating, contact Dea Jones at 803-530-6203 or [dejones@richland2.org](mailto:dejones@richland2.org). We would love to have you be a part of this fun and meaningful experience.

### Living Nativity Rehearsal Schedule 2021

*All rehearsals are held after the 10:30 service, approx. 11:45*

Dec 5th - Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, InnKeeper, Midwife, Narrator

**December 11** - If needed (10 am - 11 am) Mary Joseph, Gabriel, Innkeeper, Midwife, Narrator

**December 12** - Townspeople, shepherds, angels, Narrator, Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, Innkeeper, Midwife,

**December 17** - 6:30 pm - Dress Rehearsal - EVERYONE in costume

**December 18 and 19** - Living Nativity - Dressed and ready by 6:30!

### CHRISTMAS OUTREACH INVITATIONS!

Today, each worshipper is asked to take at least four outreach invitations to prayerfully share with someone in upcoming days. They contain info about our Outdoor Nativity and Christmas Eve worship. Don't forget to look for our billboards on Two Notch (south of Clemson), on Clemson (at Earth Rd), at Hard Scrabble/Farrow, and on I-277 (near Fontaine)!



### Advent Rush Hour Ministry

*Become a Beacon of Hope*  
*Tuesday December 14,*  
*4:30-5:30 PM*

There is space for you! Be a beacon of hope on the sidewalk in front of Living Springs holding signs of HOPE and sharing smiles and blessings to those waiting in rush hour traffic! We will meet to be beacons around 4:30. Join us anytime!





# Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

## GOD STORY – PEW BEARS

A good friend passed away after a brief illness – we didn't know how to comfort the family – flowers, fruit basket, donation? Then I thought about a pew bear and what better form of comfort for a grieving family! The bears have become sort of a common fixture sitting in the pews, listening to Pastor Eric and Pastor Carl's sermons, hearing the prayers of congregation members. I can't think of a better form of comfort.

The care baskets that were delivered to the Kinard Recovery Center for women recovering from addiction – we received a thank you note from each of the women; and you know what the one item that was mentioned in each thank you note – "thank you for the teddy bear".



## The Witting Tree



## ADVENT DOVE GIVING TREE – ADVENT PALOOZA *Due Sunday, December 12*

After hearing all the Hope Moments and Generosity statements this past month, it is an inspiration to continue our “giving hope” theme through Advent and Christmas. Our annual Dove Tree has many opportunities to share your hoping coping skills! This year our Rice Creek social worker contacted me about a military family that just moved into our area and is finding they need help providing Christmas gifts for their family of 5 children. The doves for this family will indicate RC Boy or Girl (with the age). In addition, our Richland 2 lead social worker has reached out to faith organizations for the Richland 2 unaccompanied youth (homeless) for gift cards to a variety of local stores. The doves will indicate R2 Unaccompanied Youth with different denominations. Please choose a Dove and purchase the item indicated and return your wrapped gift or gift card by Sunday, December 12. If you would prefer to donate money, we can do the shopping for you! Please use Givelify, a check (mark “Dove Tree” on memo line) or cash in an envelope and mark it “Dove Tree”. Contact Karen Kranz for information.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DOVE TREE... More Tags have been added! *Due December 19*

We have added more doves to our tree for the Kinard Recovery Center. In October, at the women’s retreat we assembled care baskets for the ladies recovering from addiction that are temporarily housing at the Kinard Recovery Center. My first reaction when I received a message asking if we wanted to help with the wish list, “we already are helping Richland 2 elementary and high school students”, but I reflected back to our daily Advent message about the many challenges we are given and to contemplate God’s amazing love and grace for ALL of us and how these women need HOPE to accept the challenge they are facing in their recovery journey. There are ten more doves on the tree that need to be returned by December 19.



## CAMPUS MINISTRY – Gamecock Lutherans

“We Are A Community of Students & College Aged People in the Columbia, SC Area” – what a fun night of Trivia with Pastor Jesse, the campus ministry students, and other community members to raise funds for the Gamecock Lutherans. This ministry is so important for our college kids looking for an environment where **all** are welcomed. Some of the categories – Emoji phrases, famous dances, poorly explained plots, so it wasn’t all about having bible knowledge. I’m emphasizing this because it was suggested that this be an annual event.

## GAMECOCK LUTHERAN – CAMPUS MINISTRY

Living Springs: Thank you so much for all your support of this ministry. Y’all are such a tremendous gift to us. [Here’s a glimpse of what your generosity is creating.](#) Blessings this Advent/Christmas season. Peace, Pastor Jesse

## BACKPACK SCHEDULE

The backpack schedule is now available for 2022! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BAEA92FA0F85-packing>. Our procedure will remain as in the past – packing can be done on either Wednesday or Thursday at whatever time is convenient. This is a great opportunity for a family to experience giving to children that don’t have a supplement of food for the weekend. The comments from the social workers are always a big THANK YOU for caring for our kiddies. Contact Karen Kranz for information.

## FAMILY PROMISE

Opportunities to support Family Promise of the Midlands:

- Trans-Siberian Orchestra at Colonial Life Arena on Wed. December 8 – if you purchase a ticket through Ticket Master, a portion of the ticket sales will be donated to Family Promise.
- Kendra Scott jewelry store at the Trenholm Plaza will donate 20% of the sales on Thu. December 16 to Family Promise.



### Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

It's Advent 2021 and we are preparing our hearts to welcome the Christ child. How do we do this, how do we as God's people get ready for Christmas? We hear the familiar reading at worship:

*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Matthew 3:1-3)*

What does it mean for us to prepare for the coming of the *kingdom of heaven*? And, what in fact is the kingdom of heaven? It's not a physical place, not an earthly location that we can visit on our next vacation. The kingdom of heaven is different. It exists in places and times where God's love and justice are found. When we participate in acts of mercy or love and when we participate in seeking justice, then we are participating in the coming of God's kingdom.

What does this mean for us at Living Springs this Advent to prepare for the *kingdom of heaven*? Preparing for that kingdom means that we show God's love to our neighbors (e.g., collecting canned food for the hungry, giving Christmas gifts to homeless youth, etc.) It means that we work for justice to make life better for our neighbors (e.g., advocating to City Council and public officials in the Midlands to establish an affordable housing trust fund, etc.)

Acts of love and acts of justice are what God's people do this Advent as the *kingdom of heaven comes near* and as we *prepare the way of the Lord*. The *December Journal* describes many opportunities to be a part of congregational love and mercy ministries. There are also opportunities to be a part of the LS Justice Ministry. This year we are working to address justice problems with affordable housing, mental health needs, and crime and gun violence in our neighborhoods.

What better way to get ready for Christmas than being a part of the coming of God's kingdom?

Justice Ministry dates to save:

Monday, March 14, 6:30 pm, MORE Justice Rally (prepare for the Nehemiah Action)

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 pm, MORE Justice NEHEMIAH ACTION (bring 3+ people with you to ask public officials for changes to better serve our neighbors' needs)

Monday, May 23, 6:30 pm, MORE Justice Celebration (celebrate the year's achievements, invest in the ministry, fellowship with hundreds of other people of faith in MORE Justice)

To find out more about LS Justice Ministry, please talk with Gail Buchanan, Mike Davidson, Gwen Furcron, Helen Doerpinghaus, Wayne Kannaday, Jim or Peg Zieche.

## Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

Dear Choir,

*You certainly blew me away last night with your tremendous outpouring of love! Your gift of the exquisite music vase will always be treasured. It has the place of honor on my piano and I will think of each of you when I look at it and remember all the good times we've had together making music to the glory of God. I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and love! Although I will miss being with you in person each Sunday, I will always hold you in my heart.*

*I look forward to seeing you again Sunday morning at 9:30 for our "sound check" and final rehearsal of Coronation. What a glorious anthem for this special Sunday when we focus on our Lord and Savior as King of all!*

*With love, Virginia*



### **CHURCH DECORATING** **SATURDAY 12/4, 8:30 AM**

WE NEED YOU! Help decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Season. We have project coordinators ready to pass a task along to you. With great help, we are usually done within a few hours . . .

Do you like to:

- Get the Christmas Trees off the truck and set up?
- String lights on the Christmas Trees?
- Decorate the Christmas Trees?
- Hang Wreaths on Windows?
- Hang Chrismon Wreaths in the Altar space?
- Hang Garland and other Decorations?
- Vacuum the sanctuary/clean up after decorating?
- Put decoration containers back in the Attic?

Join us for 30 minutes . . . or a hour or two! Look for Jim Zieche, Karlene Stuart, and Laura Turnmire. Smiling faces are waiting for you! See you Saturday!

### **JuBELLation Handbell Choir...**

is back practicing 100%, Tuesday nights at 7pm. We have also picked up a new member in November. November 12th and 13th, 6 members of the choir attended the Mid-Carolina Handbell Workshop in Charlotte, NC. It was smaller than the previous workshops we attended (80-ish ringers) and no church had a full choir there. But we learned some great music and Sandra Eithun was the clinician. Sandra has over 500 arrangements published at this time. Her son also collaborates with her on pieces. The choir played on Christ the King Sunday and will have a piece during the Advent season and on Christmas Eve.



The Worship and Music Search Team continues it's mission to find a director. We've been fortunate to have so many talented people help us in our music program for Advent. The choirs are slowly coming back to help lead the congregation in hymns. They will continue to practice on Wednesdays for the month of December, immediately following the midweek service. Shirl Schiffman has graciously agreed to lead us in practice and play on Sunday when Trad is unavailable. We thank God for our many blessings during this Advent and Christmas season.

## Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

### LADIES BOOK CLUB

Our book for December is *The Apprentice: My Life in the Kitchen* by Jacques Pepin. Thoughts of having a pot luck with the recipes in the book fizzled out and we decided to hold our holiday dinner at Olive Garden, 10136 Two Notch Rd. ph: 803.788.3131 on Monday, December 6 at 7 pm. All are welcome – even if you haven't read the book! Contact Karen Kranz for information.



## Notes from: *Children/Youth*

### ADVENT CHILDREN'S/FAMILY FAITH ALIVE

*Gather Each Sunday Between 10:10-10:25  
starting Nov. 28!*

Starting November 28th, Children's Faith Alive is going to shake things up a bit for Advent! Instead of meeting at the usually scheduled hour, we will begin to gather together 15 minutes before the start of the 2nd service. Both children & parents are encouraged to participate! During this time, we will touch base about our ongoing Advent at-home activities, go over the Bible lessons we'll be learning in worship, talk about things to listen and look for in worship, and get pumped up for worshipping God together as a community! If you were not attend AdventPaloosa, please be sure to pick up your children's/youth's Advent calendar and prayer chain. These are wonderful items to help each family focus on the true meaning of the season.

**Christmas Trees  
Sadly not available this year**

+++

**Sr. Youth to offer  
Living springs ornaments**

&

**Cocoa Cones!!!**

It's the holiday season and our Living Springs Youth have some opportunities for you to spread cheer to others while supporting our youth ministry. In years past this would be the time that youth would be preparing the Christmas Tree Lot. Unfortunately, due to supply chain issues we are unable to get trees this year for our lot. The youth took this opportunity to collaborate to bring your new opportunities.

The youth will offer cocoa cones every Sunday in between services starting November 28. Cocoa Cones are all inclusive cones that include everything you need to make an amazing, flavorful cup of cocoa. We are asking for a **minimum donation of \$5 per cone**.

Youth have also ordered special Living Springs ornaments. This provides an opportunity for Living Springs and the youth to be symbolically present in your homes throughout Christmas. Ornaments will be offered through a pre-order and will be ready for pickup the weekend of December 18-19. You can order online at <https://forms.gle/PuYrGJoByNxUMtKC8> We will also have additional ornaments available in person that weekend. We are asking for a **minimum donation of \$10 per ornament**. Contact Leslie Bloss - [lbloss3306@gmail.com](mailto:lbloss3306@gmail.com) with any questions.

### Children/Youth Christmas Program

*Sunday, December 12 @ 5pm  
Children & Youth of All Ages*

Mark your calendars for our Living Springs Children and Youth Christmas program on December 12 at 5:00. Our children and younger youth will put on a traditional Nativity play. Our confirmation students will have a skit to share. All children and youth are invited to participate in a talent showcase. Rehearsal will take place on Sunday, December 5 from 12:00-2:00 (with another run-through before the program on the 12th). If your youth is interested in participating please contact Adriana McMurphy or Leslie Bloss - [lbloss3306@gmail.com](mailto:lbloss3306@gmail.com).

### **Back by popular demand: Our Youth sponsored Elf Store**

The Elf Store is back in business and will be open for shoppers directly after the Youth Christmas program on December 12. **WE NEED INVENTORY!** Please bring any donations for the youth to sell in the Elf Store to the Youth Room by December 12. Contact Leslie Bloss - [lbloss3306@gmail.com](mailto:lbloss3306@gmail.com) with any questions.

# God At Work

## Quilt of Valor/Veteran's Recognition Sunday



## Annual Meeting & New Members



## Christopher Girardeau Ordination



## Cristo Rey



# Opportunities Outside Living Springs

THE JOURNEY PERFORMING ARTS MINISTRY  
IN PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS

# tAKE ME BACK TO HARLEM



Set in Patty's Bar in Harlem in the 1940s, *Take Me Back to Harlem* sets the stage for an imagined conversation between Langston Hughes and his longstanding literary character, Jesse B. Semple. *Take Me Back to Harlem* brings Semple to life to plumb the depths of the human experience to the backdrop of Jazz and the Blues. In Patty's Bar, they cover topics from race to religion to politics, to matters of the heart.



## JAN. 15TH 2022

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM SHOW START AT 6:30PM**

**Ticket Price:  
\$65.00**

Tickets can be purchased at  
Orange Peel box office or  
online at <https://theorangepeel.net>



*The*  
**Orange Peel**

**101 BILTMORE AVE, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801**



2022

Watch ""Take Me Back To Harlem" (Teaser #1) - Produced by The Journey Performing Arts Ministries" on YouTube <https://youtu.be/QcTLztaAGo0>

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b>            810A Pre-Worship Prayer Time  <b>815A Worship (Sanctuary)</b>            920 Adult Faith Formation            1025 Pre-Worship Prayer Time  <b>1030A Worship (Sanctuary/Lawn/Vehicle/Online)</b></p>				<p>1            1030A Preschool Chapel  <b>12P Midweek Advent Worship</b>            4P Afterschool Chapel  <b>6P Midweek Advent Worship</b>            630P Choir            815P Sr. Youth Online</p>	<p>2            11P Good News Team            4P Backpack Food Ministry            7P Lifelong Discipleship</p>	<p>3            9A Christmas Decorating</p>
<p>5 *See box above            920A Bible Book of Month            1010A Advent Children's/Family Faith Alive            12P Children/Youth Prog. Rehearsal            1215P Nativity Rehearsal            1230P Confirmation  <b>3P Egg Nog &amp; Carols</b>            430P Girl Scouts            5P Cristo Rey (Carpool @ 415)</p>	<p>6            945A Staff Meeting            1030A Meals on Wheels            6P Worship &amp; Music Team            7P Ladies Book Club            7P Boy Scouts   <i>Living Springs Billboard Ministry starts</i></p>	<p>7            10A Ladies Bible Study            10A LSCDC Bible Times            1030A Meals on Wheels            6P Adult Bible Study            7P Handbell Choir</p>	<p>8            1030A Preschool Chapel  <b>12P Midweek Advent Worship</b>            4P Afterschool Chapel  <b>6P Midweek Advent Worship</b>            630P Choir            815P Sr. Youth Online</p>	<p>9            830 Good News Walkers            4P Backpack Food Ministry            630P LSCDC Board</p>	<p>10            9A Crafty Ladies</p>	
<p>12 *See box above            1010A Advent Children's/Family Faith Alive            1215P Nativity Rehearsal            1230P Confirmation            430P Girl Scouts            5P Children/Youth Christmas Program/Elf Store</p>	<p>13            1030A Meals on Wheels            7P Fellowship/Mutual Care            7P Boy Scout Troop            Christmas Dinner            7P Exec Team</p>	<p>14            10A Bible Book of the Month (2 Chronicles)            10A LSCDC Bible Times            1030 Meals on Wheels            4P Backpack Food Ministry            430P Rush Hour Ministry            530P Finance            6P Adult Bible Study            7P Handbell Choir</p>	<p>15            1030A Preschool Chapel  <b>12P Midweek Advent Worship</b>            4P Afterschool Chapel  <b>6P Midweek Advent Worship</b>            630P Choir            815P Sr. Youth Online</p>	<p>16            Children's Hospital Meal            830 Good News Walkers            7P Council Meeting</p>	<p>17            630P Nativity Rehearsal</p>	<p>18  <b>7P Living Nativity</b></p>
<p>19 *See box above            1010A Advent Children's/Family Faith Alive            12P Sr. Youth (In-Person)  <b>7P Living Nativity</b></p>	<p>20            1A Staff Meeting            1030A Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>21            10A Ladies Bible Study            1030 Meals on Wheels  <b>6P Longest Night Worship</b>            7P Handbell Choir</p>	<p>22            630P Choir</p>	<p>23            Remember to bring your Advent Food Boxes to church for Christmas Eve (or drop off during the week)</p>	<p>24  <b>12P Christmas Eve Quiet Worship</b>  <b>5P Christmas Eve Family Worship</b>  <b>7:30P Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship</b></p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26  <b>10A Lessons &amp; Carols</b></p>	<p>27            1030A Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>28            1030 Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>



## Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

December 1	Michael Snipes	December 26	Lexanne Graves
December 2	Lisa Petty		Linda Hayes
December 5	Elise Gerald	December 28	Savannah Mancuso
December 6	Peg Zieche		Leena Skiba
December 9	Lucas Shannon		♥ Barbara & Peter Creighton
December 14	Peggy Collins	December 29	Goldie Harmon
	Raegan Miller		Jeannie Hurlbert
	Hank & Marina Cox		♥ Marshall & Jeannie Hurlbert
December 16	Lilah Snipes		♥ Mike & Sue Loveless
December 19	♥ Lee & Barbara Collins	December 30	♥ Richard & Tanja Kopec
December 21	Ron Ramsey	December 31	Melanie Mooney
December 25	Nic Creticos		Randy Sides
	Nicholas Wirth		



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

## **CHURCH STAFF**

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

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

Rev. Carl Taylor - Associate Pastor

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

Dea. Lexanne Graves – E-Outreach Coordinator

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

Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

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Lisa Petty – Admin. Assist/Communications Coor.

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Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

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Virginia Herlong - Choir Director

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Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

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

[Dea Jones](#)

[London Mancuso](#)

[Sydnie Taylor](#)

[Jeff Tenhover](#)

[Laura Turnmire](#)

## **MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**

Child Development Center

Susan Bradham

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 Requests