

The Living Springs Journal

“CELEBRATE...SHARE...SERVE”
ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL

March 2022



“Stretched by the Cross, Extending H.O.P.E.– The Lenten Journey 2022” (from Pastor Eric)

MARCH BIBLE “BOOK” OF THE MONTH = Gospel of Luke, chapters 1-13
PASTOR TIMES: Sunday, Mar. 6 @ 9:20am; Tuesday, Mar. 22 @ 10am

What a meaningful ministry “kickoff” Sunday we shared last month, on the same day the world was focused on a Super Bowl football kickoff! Photos (our church lawn filled with H.O.P.E. umbrellas, our joyful H.O.P.E. worship, the fellowship hall stacked full of donated food) can be found here in the March Journal. If you were not able to be here, you can find the Livestream posted on our [LS YouTube channel](#) Pastor Carl and myself found much joy in our shared sermon series, focusing on: “**Extending the Umbrella of God’s H.O.P.E.,**” “**Moving from Surviving to Thriving,**” and “**Breaking through Barriers.**” In February, we also had the powerful experience of our Hoping-Coping Series #2, with counselor Laura Truesdale offering powerful strategies for navigating life in stress-filled times. What a blessing!

Now, here in Lent, we move our focus to “**Being Stretched by the Cross.**” I am excited about our Wed. Dramatic Dialogues (worship @ 6:45), as we hear from New Testament people who were stretched by Jesus’ message & his journey to the cross—and ponder how that same message/journey still stretches OUR hearts & minds after nearly 2000 years! On Sunday mornings, we will literally be “extending” the Lenten Cross of H.O.P.E. now adorning the altar area with added letters—and worship will conclude with a moving “processional cradling” of the cross.

Starting last Sunday, there are now 4 special prayer candles lit during worship, to symbolize ministries by which we at LS are being stretched by the Cross to extend God’s H.O.P.E.

White Candle: prayer for **peace in Ukraine/Europe** & all those suffering.

Purple Candle: prayer for our congregation **Disciple Gatherings.**

Purple Candle: prayer for LS **Afghan refugee family** & ministry with them.



LS DISCIPLE SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

Happening Now!

Be on the lookout for your invitation ...

+ + +

CRISTO REY MINISTRY—Mar. 6

SUNDAY MORNING BACKPACKS—Mar. 13, 27

JUSTICE NETWORK RALLY—Mar. 14

CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL MEAL—Mar. 17

SR. YOUTH LENT RETREAT—Mar. 18-20

PALMETTO PLACE MEAL—Mar. 24

CAMPUS MINISTRY SUPPER—Mar. 27

MEALS ON WHEELS—each Mon & Tues

(Continued on page 4)



This March from Pastor Carl

Hey Y’all,

During February, we continued our reflection on the various seasons and festival days of the liturgical church year. We remembered that Ash Wednesday last year was (February 17) in the middle of the month, where that time is usually a love honoring time like Valentine’s Day.

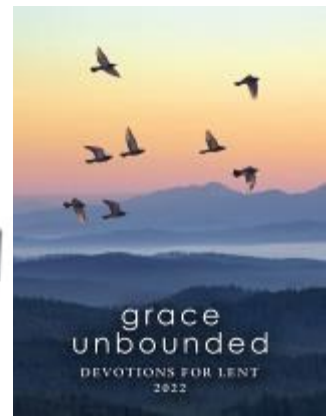
Well, this year, we had the opportunity to show lots of love throughout February. We had the stuff-a-bus at Kroger, and that was a wonderful experience. We collected more than we could have imagined, and our youth took part in unpacking and storing the item at church. I know that the middle of February is typically reserved for feelings of love and romance, and as a church, we showed that love to the community that surrounds us by giving, sharing, and helping wherever possible.

For confirmation, we continued to focus on The Lord’s Prayer, The Ten Commandments, and the Apostles’ Creed. I know it seems like a lot for our confirmands to remember, and they have done a great job learning and talking about them. We are looking forward to the Youth Spring Retreat on March 18-20 at Lutheridge. It will be an exciting time of fun and learning for our youth. It is still sad and bittersweet that we will not be able to go to the National Youth Gathering in Minnesota this year, but it will allow us to go on a Mystery trip this year (destination unknown).

As for our Little Lutherans (toddlers-5), we continue to use the gift zone as an experience for them to participate in worship from their perspective. It is planned to have a Lord’s Prayer Milestone Day in March (TBD). We are also working to have conversations after church briefly on what our Little Lutherans learned in the gift zone or sitting

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LENT 2022... Stretched by the Cross



MID-WEEK PRAYER/COMMUNION
Wednesdays @ Noon, March 9—April 6

LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP
Wednesdays @ 6:45, March 9—April 6

- March 9: Pharisee & Scribe
- March 16: Mary of Magdala & Simon Peter
- March 23: Zacchaeus of Jericho (LS Youth)
- March 30: Joanna & Joseph of Arimathea
- April 6: Simon of Cyrene & Criminal on the Cross

"Grace Unbounded"
Daily Lenten Devotions
"Stretched by the Cross"
Pocket/Bag Medallions

+++

9:23 Daily Prayer Alerts
(Luke 9:23 — "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily & follow me!")



Additional Lenten Devotional Resources:

Children - "The Cross & Me" Daily Mobile

Teens - "Lent Is on the Way" Devotional



FRIDAY LENTEN "FISH FRY" SERIES - DUPRE FOOD TRUCK

LS Parking Lot, 4:30-7:00
March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8

\$2000 goal for USC Campus Ministry

Flounder Plates, Shrimp Plates, Fish or Shrimp Tacos, Children's Options

40 X 40



**Give Up
Something =
1600!**

**Lutheran World
Relief Care Kits:**
4-5 oz. Soap (2)
Dark Bath Towel
Adult Toothbrush
Sturdy Comb
Nail Clipper

40 Days of Giving Hunger Calendars

We invite you to **study, pray, reflect** and **give** with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.



ELCA World Hunger's
40 DAYS of Giving

(Continued from page 2)

Purple Candle: prayer for our MORE **Justice Ministry** (issues of affordable housing, community gun violence, mental health), as we all prepare for attending the big Nehemiah Assembly on Apr. 4.

Every year, the 40-day season of Lent comes to us a blessing of the Holy Spirit—as an annual time of re-focusing our lives on things that truly matter; as an invitation for “revival” and deepening in our faith; as a time to journey with Jesus to the foot of the cross to be renewed in our call to live as his disciples. For Christians, the season calls us to particular spiritual disciplines: self-examination & repentance, prayer & devotion, sacrificial giving & works of love. On page 2, you saw various opportunities here at LS to engage in these life-renewing spiritual disciplines:

- **Lenten devotionals** (“Grace Unbounded” & **personal prayer crosses** (“Stretched by the Cross”));
- **9:23 Prayer E-Alerts** (pause for prayer each day at 9:23am wherever you may be);
- **Children/Youth Devotional Items**—“The Cross & Me” and “Lent Is on the Way!”
- **Wednesday noon prayer/communion worship & evening drama worship;**
- **Friday Fish Fry series** (participate & help to extend HOPE to young people via Campus Ministry);
- **Lutheran World Relief Care Kits** 40x40 items, plus “**40 Days of Giving**” **Hunger calendars.**



In addition to these more traditional Lenten opportunities, this year our 4 prayer candles offer each of us further opportunities to be “stretched by the cross” and “extend God’s H.O.P.E.” Don’t miss the chance to find support & care through our special Disciple Group Gatherings! Don’t miss the chance to experience true joy in helping this wonderful Afghani family of 2 adults & 5 children, who sacrificed everything because they worked for our troops (you can be part of our “Circle of Welcome” team, or contribute to our Refugee Ministry Lenten offering bucket)! Don’t miss the chance to bring positive change to our community with sisters & brother of faith through our upcoming Justice Ministry Nehemiah Assembly (bring 3 with you)! Don’t miss the opportunity to uplift prayer for the people of Ukraine and/or contribute to the Lutheran Ukraine Disaster Response! **Don’t miss the opportunity to have your heart stretched wide open in love, just as Jesus stretched his arms wide open in love for the world, on the cross!** I pray that this Lenten Journey will indeed be a blessing to you and your family, as you sense the umbrella of God’s HOPE extended upon you—to share with all! With thanksgiving for your constant witness of faith in a troubled world, *Pastor Eric*

2022 LIVING SPRINGS MINISTRY FOCUS

As a community of disciples **stretched by the cross**, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to further **extend the umbrella of God’s H-O-P-E:** continuing to **break down barriers**, so that more people may **experience the life-changing power of God** and move **from surviving to thriving** in a challenging world! Walking together in faith with each other & our community, the Spirit calls us to these 2022 focus areas:

HELP with resources for Emotional-Mental-Spiritual Health & Well-Being!

OUTREACH to uplift others with creative, multi-faceted expressions of God’s grace for all!

PARTNER with our community to support Children/Youth/Young Adults in their life-skills & spiritual journeys!

EXPAND our connections while sharing God’s love with people wherever they are!

HELP with resources for Emotional-Mental-Spiritual Health & Well-Being!

Counseling services, support groups, workshops to address life-transitions and challenges
Mental health resources for youth, families, senior adults, and others
Support for frontline healthcare providers, teachers, caregivers, essential workers
Faith resources for dealing with grief/loss, depression, anxiety, anger, hopelessness, despair

OUTREACH to uplift others with creative, multi-faceted expressions of God’s grace for all!

Sharing the Good News through multiple formats for worship & faith growth
Offering God’s message of hope in public arenas, such as Rush Hour/billboard/online ministries
Share concrete expressions of God’s love & hope for others in times of need & crisis (e.g., pop-up disaster response, refugee ministry, backpack food ministry, hunger & homeless ministries, etc.)

PARTNER with our community to support Children/Youth/Young Adults in their life-skills & spiritual journeys!

Personal & Congregational involvement in schools (tutoring, mentoring, JV football, LCM, etc.)
Sharing God’s hope for youth on the margins (isolated, homeless, refugee children, prison youth)
Active Involvement, Support and Sponsorship of Campus Ministry (college students)

EXPAND our connections while sharing God’s love with people wherever they are!

Communicate in God’s love across boundaries & barriers of language, race, culture, politics, etc.
Embrace the diversity of God’s humanity by actively building relationships & partnering with other churches/classes/ groups
Speaking, listening, and engaging in deep conversations with those who differ from ourselves by employing various formats ... in community settings, daily life locations, house gatherings, public places, etc.



(Continued from page 2)

with their parents during worship. Our theme for our Little Lutherans, Youth, and Young Adults during lent is

Stretchin' through Connections!

Yes, the Lenten season began today, March 2, 2022, Ash Wednesday, with the imposition of ashes. In the Lutheran church, the purpose of the imposition of the ashes is to call to mind the curse given to Adam by God after the Fall in Gen 3:19, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust, you shall return." Let us in the coming days focus on HOPE ---Help, Outreach, Partner, Expand in whatever way lifts your spirit and help you to grow on your spiritual journey.

May our Lord richly bless your reflection on the repentant and remorseful character of the Lenten season even while you reflect on God's great love for you through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Carl



God's Corner



Thanks so much for the gift card and devotional booklet. We appreciate our Living Springs family thinking of us and sending us good wishes.

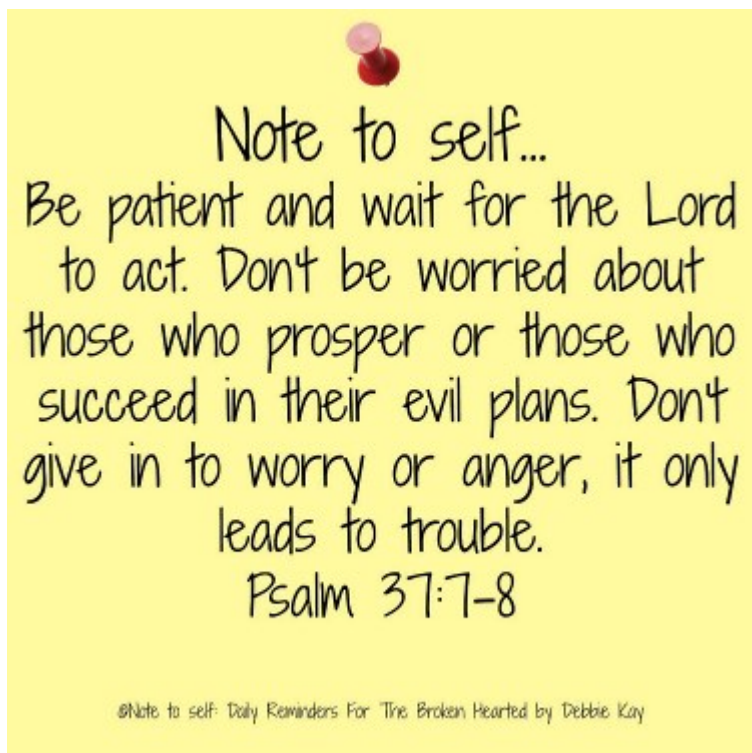
Jack and Ben Arnold

God Hope Story

When things happen and I truly feel that God is actively listening to my prayers, I just gotta share! I do know that God is always listening, but today the Spirit showed me that she's always listening!

I was scrolling on social media and I came across the picture below on LS Facebook page, and I stopped in my tracks to pray to God about a person who had really ticked me off because of her selfish ways. I told God that indeed I was angry but the psalmist just says here to NOT give in to your anger because it will only cause more trouble. So I asked Jesus right then to help me remove my anger and to do to me or this person whatever necessary to accomplish Jesus' will here on earth. I let go and let God take it.

This morning this person sent me an apology. What a blessing, actually a double blessing. Because I let my anger not consume me, I didn't dwell on the situation. I didn't speak ill of her or figure out a way to "teach her a lesson." Thank you Holy Spirit for your actions and for constantly guiding me through your Word.



SHARE YOUR HOPE MOMENT/GOD STORY

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

H.O.P.E. Kickoff Sunday



LS Umbrellas Available Spread the H.O.P.E!

Would you like a LS umbrella to help spread the message of H.O.P.E. wherever you go? We have about 25 available umbrellas that were used in today's kickoff. We request a donation of \$25 per umbrella to cover the cost. Please contact the office this week. (If all the umbrellas get taken, we will make a list for a potential re-order). Thanks to Lisa Petty for all her gifted work on these!



Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Hello to all as we continue into 2022 with HOPE,

In a time when things in the world are so upside down, when hate seems to be the leading headline, hearts are broken with grief, and hunger for the soul as well as the belly, are more than we can bear; I challenge you to look farther, dig deeper, hug harder and have HOPE. For it is in HOPE that we are able to find love that wins, joy that heals, and nourishment that fills us.

This month the CDC had the opportunity to share Hope by collecting canned goods and pantry items for the Christian Assistance Bridge. Our school aged children delivered the items and were able to get a glimpse of what it takes to care for our community. We are grateful for these opportunities that our children have to share Hope with others.

The children were busy making cards for those in need of a concrete reminder that they are not alone. May they feel the Hope that each piece of paper holds with crayon scribbles, marker dots, and paint streaks. May they know that with each name that is written a prayer is said and Hope becomes real.

We look forward to celebrating with books and storytelling this coming month as we join in Reading Across America. Books hold treasures and open doors into secret places, even those within our minds. What a beautiful way to share with one another and encourage the lifelong passion for reading.

As we go out into the world, let's remember to share our umbrella of Hope with others. May we be the reminder that there is love in the world that flows from spaces unknown, and it flows freely and forcefully.

Wishing you well,



Facilities Team

Many thanks to Todd, Jeff, and Mike for their help in painting Lisa's Office in February. It was long overdue, we estimate over 20 years. On that note, we're signing up volunteers to help paint Pastor's Office this summer when he is away at camp or on vacation. We need two teams; one to move and reinstall his wall and office decorations and one to paint.

Ash Wednesday is March 2nd which means Easter is not far behind. We have two long overdue projects that need to be completed before then. The first project is cleaning the Sanctuary windows. The last time they were cleaned was prior to the pandemic. We need a team of at least 6 individuals to help with this project. The second project is removing the rust and painting the railings leading to our Child Development Center. We need a team of 6 individuals for this team as well.

You can sign up for any of these projects in the Administration building. There will also be a sign up for those willing to help keep up with yard work this spring and summer.

One final note: we are still looking for someone to head up our Church Bus maintenance program. This involves scheduling routine maintenance, minor repairs, and shuttling buses to and from our mechanic. Contact Jim Zieche if you feel the spirit calling you to help out.



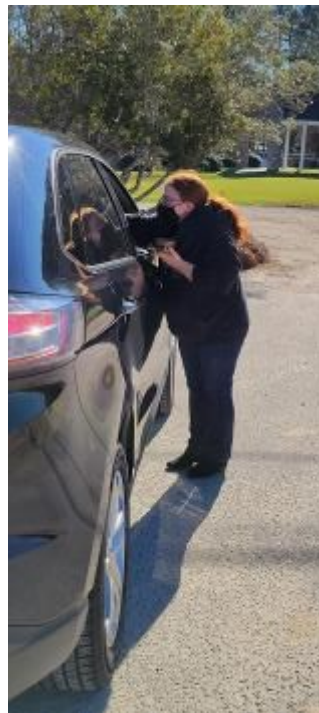
Notes from: *Good News Team*

Rush Hour Ministry

While handing out the Rush Hour Valentine card, with a little Reese's heart attached, a lady rolled down her window and as I presented it to her, wishing her Happy Valentine's day and God bless her, she looked at me wide-eyed and said "Oh thank you for all that you do. I was not having a good day; but you doing this makes my day much better. I thank you so much and God Bless You."



Ashes to Go



Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

Stuff a bus



Bruce D. Holmes is with Karen Kranz and 6 others.

13,000 units of Food collected today AND \$125 in cash donations for our Scouting for Food Drive!! AWESOME JOB Troop 737 Scouts AND Parents!!



Paper products to Transitions - Stuff a bus collection helping others



CAB excited to receive a trunk full of cereal and other items collected for them

STUFF A BUS/BACKPACKS

I don't know whether it was because of Superbowl Saturday, couple of days before Valentine's Day, or the beautiful weather day; but it was an overwhelming experience walking into the Fellowship Hall on the kickoff of our H.O.P.E. theme for the year and seeing tables full (and I mean full) of food collected for our backpack program. This experience was definitely walking together in faith with each other & our community!...with the manager at Kroger, Richland 2 high school students & Richland 2 social workers volunteering their time, the boy scout troop #737 including backpack items in their food drive, and our congregation members and youth helping to unload the bus and sort items on our Kickoff Sunday – THANK YOU ALL!!

Starting Sunday, February 27 the packing of 65 bags for needy children will be available for 8:15 worshipers, 10:30 worshipers, and our children and youth formation teams. The second and fourth Sunday's will be designated for this ministry; so if you want to sort, assemble, stack, pack, count out 65 plastic bags – whatever your umbrella is looking to expand on! There will be people to help and guide you through the process, if this is a first step in being stretched by the cross. The third Wednesday or Thursday will be available for individuals to pack – use this link [Living Springs Columbia: PACKING BACKPACK SIGNUP \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

MEALS ON WHEELS



Several months ago, I invited my neighbor, Pam, to do Meals on Wheels with me. She really enjoyed it and it turns out she is familiar with the neighborhood we deliver to and has developed a camaraderie with Drina. For Valentine's Day, our CDC children made Valentine cards which we delivered with the meal. We also gave a card to the Senior Resource helpers that are there every day to take our containers and return the meals to our vehicle. As a surprise, they in turn handed both of us a Valentine rose – a Blessing shared by our Child Development Center, Senior Resources, MOW clients and us. Walking in faith with each other!



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

On the third Thursday, Living Springs provides (20) lunches to parents who have children with long-term medical issues and are going through an extended stay at Children's Hospital. This is an opportunity to include a note of love, H.O.P.E., well wishes, or whatever is on your heart. On the Sunday before, take a Thrivent note card and write your message - they will be included in the lunch bags. Lunches are provided by Travis & Melanie Mooney of Carolina Deli.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Our Lenten Community Fish Fry is about to Kickoff another season! On March 25 the Campus Ministry students and Pastor Jesse will be our special guests – we are hoping to exceed our contribution to their ministry to enable them to continue this important ministry. Living Springs has been able to provide the meal for several months during the year and it is always enlightening to listen to young people who are comfortable worshipping on a Sunday night in a casual atmosphere with other friends. Providing a meal for 10-15 students is open to anyone willing to do – contact Karen Kranz if interested.

THRIVENT WORKSHOP EVENT

Thursday, March 24 @ 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Income Taxes in Retirement – will your taxes affect your retirement? This workshop will offer strategies to help you work toward a lower tax bracket in retirement. To reserve your place, call 803.756.3772 or email laurie.belger@thrivent.com. A boxed meal will be provided.

RICHLAND 2 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Help Richland Two spread the joy of reading by participating in the R2 Ready to Read Campaign. The district hopes to collect 35,000 books to give to students in Pre-K through second grade. Research shows that children who are exposed to books at an early age are more likely to be successful during their educational careers – the goal is to be able to give at least four books to their youngest students for their home library to read over the summer with their parents. The bin is located in the admin building.



Rice Estate Valentine/Lent Bag Thanks

Thank you to Living Springs Lutheran Church for the the special delivery this morning! A cart full of goodies for Valentine's Day and devotionals for Lent were dropped off and we can't wait to share them with our resident priorities.

Thank you so much for the beautiful Valentine bag. I will especially enjoy the Lent Book and the big box of candy. You have a wonderful church and you do so many nice things for us. Hope we can soon come back of Saturday.

FRIDAY LENTEN FISH FRY

Fridays, March 4 through April 8 , 4:30 to 7 pm.

What an amazing year we had last year and yes, we are having our annual Lenten fish fry to support Gamecock Campus Ministry again this year with the same menu as last year! Dupre Catering will have their food truck in our parking lot offering: flounder & a side, 10 ct. shrimp & a side; shrimp taco & a side; or fish (flounder) taco & a side for \$12.00. Sides are fried okra, hush puppies, or fries. Kids meal menu: 4 ct. shrimp or 5 ct. chicken nuggets and a side for \$5. Options this year are takeout (order directly from your vehicle) or tables will be available to eat your meal on-site (weather permitting). Spread the word so we can have another banner year to support campus ministry!

Help Needed Each Friday

Our Lenten fish fry event is coming up soon! If you would like to help at our t-shirt tent or parking lot ushering, please use this link to sign up for available slots. <https://forms.gle/mEUP1m9segMFRboH9>. We need at least 7 helpers each Friday. We can coordinate shifts so not everyone has to be there the whole time. Contact Gary Bradham or Karen Kranz.

Lenten 40X40 H.O.P.E. Collection

Bring a Kit Sunday, March 6

H.O.P.E. – how appropriate for this Lenten season that we can put God’s love in action by making Personal Care Kits for neighbors in the poorest parts of the world. **On the first Sunday of Lent (March 6th), we invite each person/ household to assemble and bring a Personal Care Kit** - and place your kit at the base of the Lenten cross.

Personal Care Kits include:

- Two bars 4-5 oz. soap
(in original wrapping)
- One lightweight bath towel 20x40 to 52x27 (dark color recommended)
- One adult toothbrush
(in original packaging)
- One sturdy comb
- One nail clipper (metal)



To assemble your kit for Sunday, March 6th... Fold towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.

For the weeks following March 6th, there will be containers in the admin building to collect multiple individual items needed to assemble even more kits during the 40 days of Lent. As always our goal for Lent 40 X 40 = 1600 total items. On Palm Sunday, April 10, the individual items will be assembled into full kits.

Campus Ministry Meal



THANK YOU – from Rice Creek

Karen & Living Springs Lutheran Church, Thank you for adopting a family for Christmas! I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and caring of this family. Mom was very grateful! She was extremely surprised at all the gifts received. Everybody at our office at RCE could not believe the generousness of Living Springs! Thank you so much! Christie Hutchinson, School Social Worker



#AHomeBuiltOnHope

THIS IS A STORY OF HOPE!

Harley came to Palmetto Place at the age of 18 and stayed for four months before moving on to self-sufficiency. She received wrap-around support from a variety of staff members at Palmetto Place. Services included medical care, mental health, group that focus on self-esteem and coping skills, independent living skills, and recreational activities. Harley is feeling more optimistic about her future, and although she still struggles from time to time, she feels Palmetto Place has equipped her with life skills that she will use and value for life. This young lady is practicing resilience and perseverance. While she may have an [ACE score](#) of 6 or higher, her past and lived experiences do not determine her future. Again, our youth are beating the odds and overcoming stereotypical statistics.

Since 2012, our Unaccompanied Youth program has continued to grow year after year. The unaccompanied youth program has served more than 300 homeless youth over the past 9 years. In 2021, we served 127 youth in our residential and housing program. We served an additional 40 youth in our Aftercare program. All in all, in 2021, we served youth in 21 counties in South Carolina. 90% of our youth in the Unaccompanied Youth Program had a positive housing outcome.

Our [Unaccompanied Youth Program](#) exists because of your support! Thank you.



Notes from: *Fellowship & Mutual Care*

LeGrand Lowman Annual Scholarship Dinner and Auction May 7th

LeGrand Lowman Annual Scholarship Dinner and Auction will be held Saturday, May 7th in the fellowship hall starting at 6 pm. Fellowship and Mutual Care is hosting a Mexican Fiesta. Hold on to you sombreros and get ready to Fiesta like there's no Manana. We will also have a silent auction. Any and all donations of items for the Silent Auction such as hand crafted items like pies, wreaths, paintings, wood signs, as well as themed baskets from ministry teams will be greatly appreciated. Please bring items to church or notify Wendy McKenzie at wendy.mckenzie@sc.edu or Trish Davidson at tdavidson333@gmail.com by Sunday, May 1st so we can plan accordingly.

We will also be having a live auction. We ask that each family only bring one item to be auctioned off. This is your opportunity to get rid of an item that you received as a gift or bought that you have no idea what to do with now. Remember one person's trash is another person's treasure.

All funds raised are used to fund Scholarships to our first time college students as well as those from our mission church. This event is in memory of Irvin & Phebee Le Grand and Carl & Dotty Lowman founding members of LSLC.

More details to follow.



hope
/hōp/
noun

1. a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.

Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*

Vocation Milestone



Annual LS Disciple Group Gatherings

What are Disciple Group Gatherings?

All Living Springs Disciples are invited to join in a time of conversation and relationship-building, centered around our faith and how it plays a role in our lives. At this year's gatherings, we will focus on "Our Hoping/Coping Skills in These Challenging Times" – as well as introduce our exciting 2022 Living Springs ministry focus, arising out of the January Planning Retreat.

How will the Gatherings take place?

All groups will have the ability to meet in a virtual way on-line. Also, some groups may elect to use a hybrid model, with some folks gathering "socially distanced" in person, with other members of the group participating in the conversation on-line.

When will Disciple Gatherings occur?

Group Hosts will be making invitations to join a group very shortly. Gatherings will take place from mid-February through mid-March. If they desire, some groups may plan to gather for additional times later in the spring.

Be on the look-out for an invitation – it is very important (and a great blessing!) for everyone to participate in a gathering.

Upcoming Gatherings and Facilitators:

3/6 @ 2pm - Karen Kranz

3/6 @ 4pm - Steve Bloss

3/8 @ 7pm - Lexanne Graves

3/15 @ 7pm - Reagan Prest

[Click here for the Time, Talent & Tug Sheet](#)

BOOKS OF MONTH: 2021-22

SEPTEMBER	Leviticus	MARCH	Luke Ch. 1-13
OCTOBER	Numbers	APRIL	Luke Ch. 14-24
NOVEMBER	1 Chronicles	MAY	1 & 2 Timothy, Titus
DECEMBER	2 Chronicles	JUNE	Philemon & James
JANUARY	Hosea-Obadiah	JULY	Song of Solomon & Lamentations
FEBRUARY	Nahum-Habakkuk-Zephaniah-Haggai		

Bible Book of the Month Discussion

Join Pr. Eric on Sunday, March 6 at 9:20 or on Tuesday, March 22 at 10 am either in the fellowship hall or online for a discussion on this month's book, Luke Ch. 1-13.

Sunday online: meet.google.com/zkz-tzgp-seu or +1 323-515-9597 (PIN: 776209519)

Tuesday online: <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/c86e9580-95f3-4d79-a318-013fd4987137> or +1 540-669-0687 PIN: 810 783 136#

Notes from: *Justice Ministry* Time for People Power

A Living Springs teacher cares especially about homelessness because every day she sees its effect on the elementary school children in her class. A Living Springs father cares about affordable housing because his two adult children have moved back into his home with him because their jobs don't pay enough to cover monthly rent and bills. It wasn't like this when he was starting out. They are disappointed and he is, too. A Living Springs teenager is in lockdown at school because of another threat of violence on the high school campus. Within our congregation we hear how our own lives are touched every day by problems due to the lack of affordable housing and neighborhood gun violence. Our neighbors often feel the effect of the problems even more directly than we do. They are the working parents unable to afford to give their children a safe place to call home. They are the families that live in areas where drive-by shootings are commonplace.



More than 50 Living Springs members are MORE Justice Network Members again this year, acting on God's command to "do Justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8) We "do Justice" by gathering with hundreds of other people of faith at the Nehemiah Action to ask public officials for change to make our community more closely reflect God's kingdom.

Justice ministry is addressing two problems this year, the lack of affordable housing and increases in gun violence. We would like to see the Midlands:

- Establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to create housing that is safe and affordable for lower- and middle-income families. (Greenville SC and Charlotte NC both have done this.)
- Conduct a comprehensive problem analysis by outside experts to assess where gun violence is happening, why, and what can be done.

Living Springs Network Members will gather at the Rally on March 14th to receive action updates on these two problems and prepare to ask for change at the Nehemiah Action.

- **Rally, Monday, March 14, 6:30 pm, at Reid Chapel AME (*Get prepared for the Nehemiah Action!*)**

Living Springs Network Members will gather, and each bring 3+ people with them to the Nehemiah Action to ask for action on Affordable Housing and Gun Violence. "People Power" is what persuades public officials to act, and we are committed to turning out 150 from the Living Springs community that evening.

- **Nehemiah Action Assembly (*Bring 3+*), Monday, April 4, 6:30 pm, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center (*Speak up for our neighbors in need!*)**

Now is the time to invite your "3 +" to come with you to the Nehemiah Action on April 4th. Watch for the Umbrella of H.O.P.E. display in the Narthex that helps us track our "People Power" numbers as we work toward bringing 150 from the Living Springs community to the Nehemiah Action. Watch for information on transportation to the Rally and to the Nehemiah Action. Safety protocols will be in place as we gather in-person again this year.

For more information about Justice Ministry please talk with Pastor Eric, Mike Davidson, Gwen Furcron, Peg or Jim Zieche, Gail Buchanan, Wayne Kannaday or Helen Doerpinghaus.

Justice Ministry Network Blessing



Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

Cristo Rey



Help With Cristo Rey! *Next Sunday @ 4:15pm*

We are so excited to have Cristo Rey Lutheran in West Columbia as our Mission Partner! On the first Sunday of each month, we provide a Bible lesson, crafts, singing, and snacks for their children (at their 5:00 Sunday worship gatherings). We have team leaders, but 5-6 volunteer helpers are needed each month, plus a snack for up to 20 children. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex for all future months. Snacks may be dropped off on Sunday mornings. Volunteers will meet at LS at 4:15 and carpool to Cristo Rey. The children speak English, so Spanish fluency is not a requirement.



Journey Performing Arts Ministry - "Take Me Back to Harlem"



Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

It is amazing how quickly the season of Epiphany flies by, it was just yesterday that we were putting up Stars! During Lent our choir rehearsal times have changed. The Disciples of Harmony will practice on Thursdays at 5:15 PM. The Sanctuary Choir will rehearse on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. If you would like to join either group, let us know! As we continue to wind down from the pandemic please continue to follow the guidelines provided to keep us safe.

We have been blessed to have Shirl Schiffman to be our interim pianist, choir director, and co-director of Worship and Music. That blessing extends to all of our musicians and assistants that make our weekly services possible. As we gain speed at returning to regular attendance levels, remind yourself that everyone is needed in some capacity to make our services work. If you need help in finding an avenue in which you can assist, send an email to worship@livingspringcolumbia.org.

Pew Bear Blessing



Loveless Farewell & Godspeed



Shrove Tuesday - Burning of the Palms



Have You Had a worship Spirit Tug

to help or participate more with worship?

There are many ways for a person to help provide our Sunday and special worship services. Some of which are behind the scenes! Stop by the Welcome Table and check out the Worship Survey. If you've never been involved, we are more than happy to train. Please contact Karen Kranz for more information/questions you may have.

Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

LADIES BOOK CLUB

This month we are reading Broken (In the Best Possible Way) by Jenny Lawson. The meeting will be held at Karen Kranz's home – 235 Founders Ridge Rd. on Monday, March 28 at 7 pm. and is also offered online (info below). We are a small group of ladies who enjoy reading some books that sometimes take us out of our comfort zones, but we always enjoy the fellowship in our discussions. Join us one time or all – contact Karen Kranz for information.



Google Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/wtm-gngx-jsi>

Or dial: (US) +1 304-833-9175 PIN: 843 523 310#



Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

Beginning with the March 26th meeting, we are going to start meeting in person again at the church in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast will be served and we will have devotions and a short business meeting on the last Saturday of each month at 8:00 am. We will also be sharing the meeting online for those who can't attend in person.



Notes from: *Sr. Youth*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Souper Bowl Collection



Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs

LS Mental/Emotional/Spiritual Health & Wellness Focus

An important 2022 Ministry focus area is "HELP with resources for emotional-mental-spiritual health & well-being." We are forming a guiding group to help discuss, discern, and plan ways for us as a congregation to provide such help. You do NOT need to be an expert - but rather someone who has a passion or interest in this area (perhaps because of your own personal experiences or those of loved ones). If you feel a Spirit-tug to be part of this guiding group, please see Pastor Eric/Carl or call the office.

LS CIRCLE OF WELCOME TEAM FOR REFUGEE FAMILY!

*****in partnership with Lutheran Services Carolinas*****

Many remember the great blessing we had as a congregation several years ago when we worked with Lutheran Services to sponsor an Iraqi refugee family (who had to flee for their safety because their father had served as an US translator). Once again, Lutheran Services Carolinas is responding to an urgent need through their refugee ministry, which includes many US Ally families from Afghanistan. Living Springs had formed a "Circle of Welcome" team, so that we can serve as a sponsoring congregation for a refugee family arriving through Lutheran Services Carolinas and the extensive US gov't screening process. Typically, the families have first spent time in US military bases on foreign soil and then have been transferred to military bases here in the US, before being assigned to sponsoring care agencies like Lutheran Services of the Carolinas. In order to be a sponsoring congregation, our Living Springs team will need multiple members who are willing to be involved in various ways to support our family for 6 months - 1 year, in partnership with staff from Lutheran Services. Opportunities include airport welcome, transportation, helping with grocery-shopping, job prep, school, doctor's appointments, life skill assistance, and more. If you would like to be part of our LS "Circle of Welcome" for a family - or would like more details - please contact the office or call Pastor Eric.

FORMED & GROUNDED IN GOD'S HOPE

+ **CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION (AGE 3ish – 5TH GRADE)** +

Sunday Worship GIFT Zone @ 8:15 & 10:30: *child & parent-friendly tables in the worship space, so children can worship with parents/family, plus in-worship activity packets!*

Sunday "Little Lutheran" Faith Conversations *(following each worship)*

Faith Milestones – *next is Lord's Prayer Milestone, now being scheduled for March*

+ **YOUTH FAITH FORMATION (GRADES 6-12)** +

Sunday Confirmation Class (gr. 6-9) @ Noon *Today, Retreat 3/18-20th*

Sunday Youth Group (gr. 6-12) @ Noon *Retreat 3/18-20th, 3/27 @ Christus Victor*

Sunday Youth Check-In @ 8:00pm (gr. 6-12) *(GoogleMeet) today, Retreat 3/18-20th*

+ **ADULT FAITH FORMATION** +

Bible Book of the Month (Luke 1 - 13) @ 9:20 *(in-person & online options)*

Ladies Bible Study Tuesdays @ 10am *(in-person & online options)*

Tuesday Evening Bible Study @ 6pm *(in-person & online options)*

Opportunities Outside Living Springs

Special LS Offering for Ukraine

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful” (Colossians 3:15).

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Russia has launched air strikes across the country, including on the capital of Kyiv and other major cities. Airports are now shut, and few railway lines are operational. Millions of civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine’s western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Over 300 civilians have been killed in the conflict so far, and damage to civilian infrastructure has left hundreds of thousands of people without water or electricity. Ukrainian men of military age (18-60) are forbidden to leave the country, so most of those fleeing the violence are women and children. According to one report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 1 million people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Moldova. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they’ve endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

Your gifts will support Ukrainians and others. Gifts to “Eastern Europe Crisis Response” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries.


Our prayers abound for the loss and devastation experienced in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.



THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thrivent Members: Start 2022 on a generous note! If you haven’t already, you can still direct 2021 Choice Dollars® before they expire on March 31! With over 45,000 organizations to choose from, you can make an impact on the causes you care about most. Don’t miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back! You can call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 or log onto your account to view your Choice Dollar amount. Choice Dollars is a different program than the Action Card.

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE</p> <p>810A Pre-Worship Prayer Time</p> <p>815A WORSHIP (Sanctuary)</p> <p>After Worship - Little Lutheran Faith Conversations</p> <p>920 Adult Faith Formation</p> <p>1025 Pre-Worship Prayer Time</p> <p>1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary/Lawn/Vehicle/Online)</p> <p>After Worship - Little Lutheran Faith Conversations</p>	<p>7</p> <p>945A Staff Mtg</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6P Worship & Music</p> <p>7P Fellowship/Mutual Care</p> <p>7P Boy Scout Troop</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10A Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>10A LSCDC Bible Times</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>530P Finance</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p> <p>7P Handbell Choir</p> <p>7P Disciple Gathering (Graves)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1030A Preschool Chapel</p> <p>12P Lenten Prayer Service</p> <p>4P Afterschool Chapel</p> <p>515P Choir/DOH</p> <p>645P Lenten Evening Drama</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4P Backpack Food Ministry-CDC</p> <p>630P LSCDC Board</p>	<p>11</p> <p>430-7P Lenten Fish Fry</p>	<p>12</p> <p>930A Crafty Ladies</p>  <p>Spring Forward! Set your clocks before you go to bed!</p>
<p>6 *See box above</p> <p>920A Bible Book of Month</p> <p>12P Confirmation</p> <p>2P Confirmation Parents</p> <p>2P GraceWorks Mtg. (Ebenezer)</p> <p>2P Disciple Gathering (Kranz)</p> <p>4P Disciple Gathering (Bloss)</p> <p>430P Girl Scouts</p> <p>5P Cristo Rey Ministry (carpool 4:15)</p> <p>8P Sr. Youth Online</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>630P Justice Network Rally (@ Reid Chapel)</p> <p>7P Boy Scout Troop</p> <p>7P Exec Team</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10A Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>10A LSCDC Bible Times</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p> <p>7P Handbell Choir</p> <p>7P Disciple Gathering (Prest)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1030A Preschool Chapel</p> <p>12P Lenten Prayer Service</p> <p>4P Afterschool Chapel</p> <p>515P Choir/DOH</p> <p>645P Lenten Evening Drama</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Children's Hospital Meal</p> <p>7P Council Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>430-7P Lenten Fish Fry</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>Sr. Youth/Confirmation Lent Retreat 3/18-20</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>One Year To Live (Tracy's Camp) 3/18-20</p> </div>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 *See box above</p> <p>920A Adult Faith Alive</p> <p>430P Girl Scouts</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>11A Staff Mtg</p> <p>7P Boy Scout Troop</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10A Book of the Month</p> <p>10A LSCDC Bible Times</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p> <p>7P Handbell Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1030A Preschool Chapel</p> <p>12P Lenten Prayer Service</p> <p>4P Afterschool Chapel</p> <p>515P Choir/DOH</p> <p>645P Lenten Evening Drama</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Palmetto Place Meal</p> <p>8A Staff Breakfast Mtg</p> <p>4P Backpack Food Ministry</p> <p>630P Thrivent Workshop: Income Taxes in Retirement</p>	<p>25</p> <p>430-7P Lenten Fish Fry (Campus Ministry Sharing @ 6pm)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8A Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>27 *See box above</p> <p>Before & After Worship—Backpack Food Ministry Packing</p> <p>920A Adult Faith Alive</p> <p>12P Sr. Youth (@ Christus Victor)</p> <p>430P Girl Scouts</p> <p>615P Campus Ministry Meal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>7P Boy Scout Troop</p> <p>7P Ladies Book Club (Kranz)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10A Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>10A LSCDC Bible Times</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p> <p>7P Handbell Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1030A Preschool Chapel</p> <p>12P Lenten Prayer Service</p> <p>4P Afterschool Chapel</p> <p>515P Choir/DOH</p> <p>645P Lenten Evening Drama</p>	<p>31</p> <p>630P NE Community Meeting @ Living Springs</p>	<p>1</p> <p>430-7P Lenten Fish Fry</p>	<p>2</p>

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

March 1 Marj Appleton
March 3 Lauren Bloss
 Ruth Pollard
March 4 Brady Stoutland
March 5 Laura Turnmire
March 7 Bill Fox
March 8 Austin Padgett
March 11 Steve Dye
 Courtney Murray
March 12 Steve Niemeyer
March 15 Gwen Furcron

March 17 Ryan Harmon
 Kristen Mattson
March 19 Audrey Turnmire
March 21 Gay Walter
March 23 Patrick Lay
 Mallory Padgett
March 24 Retha Murray
 Lisa & John Petty
March 27 LaTynia Taylor
March 29 Cody Shannon



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!



March 1 Alice Renaud
March 7 Jean Weick
March 11 Julia Bales
March 13 Lydia Prizer
March 17 Nancy Baldwin
March 18 Patricia Brower
 Linda Hayes
March 23 Walker Flores
 Patrick Lay
March 24 Rachel Sorial
March 28 Garrett Flores
March 29 Leslie Bloss
 Cathy Lowman



CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

[Gary Bradham](#) - President

[Wayne Bracey](#) - Vice-President

[Raegan Prest](#) - Secretary

[Mike Davidson](#) - Treasurer

[Bill Ramsey](#) – Financial Secretary

[Lauren Bloss](#) - Youth Representative

[Joel Holmstrom](#)

[Barb Imbert](#)

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[London Mancuso](#)

[Ron Ramsey](#)

[Brantley Smith](#)

[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