

The Living Springs Journal

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

April 2022



"The Holiest Week of our Lives - Life-Changing Power of God!" (from Pastor Eric)

APRIL "BOOK" OF THE MONTH = Gospel of Luke, chapters 14-24

PASTOR TIMES: Sun, April 3 @ 9:20am; Tues, April 19 @ 10am

What a powerful season of Lent we have shared as followers of Jesus over the past few weeks (with 2 more weeks still to go) — something more than "giving up chocolate for 40 days," but experiences that have drawn us to deeper, cross-shaped life, grounded in the self-giving, sacrificial love Jesus calls us to share in the world! Here in Lent 2022, we have been stretched by the cross of Christ's love in amazing ways:

- the ministry partnership with Lutheran Services & our 7-member adopted **Afghani refugee family**; all the donations of groceries, transportation & household items; the refugee Sunday bucket offering; countless hours of love offered by our LS Circle of Welcome!
- our Prayer Ministry for the **people of Ukraine**; the ongoing 40x40 Lenten collection for Lutheran World Relief **care kits**; the overwhelming response for our Ukraine Disaster **love offering** (nearly \$3000 so far)!
- the great energy from LS network members & the entire congregation, building up for the **Justice Nehemiah Action Assembly**, to join with neighbors of faith to bring hope to so many without adequate, safe housing and all impacted by growing gun violence in our community!
- the faithful response to our Fish Fry series, with people coming out, inviting neighbors, volunteering in the parking lot (even in rain) - all to support Lutheran Campus Ministry and our \$2000 goal to extend the umbrella of hope **for college students at a critical time** in life!
- many inspirational moments from our **Lenten Worship Experiences**, with the "processional cradling" of the cross, the extending **Lenten H.O.P.E. cross**, and some tearful, heart-moving **dramatic reflections** from persons whose lives were "stretched by the cross" of Jesus (if you missed any of the dramas, simply go to LS Youtube/Facebook)!
- many shared moments of hope from our **LS Disciple Gatherings**, drawing us closer to one another in faith —as well as an amazing **Lenten Youth Retreat** at Lutheridge & children's/confirmation **Lord's Prayer Faith Milestone**!

(Continued on page 7)



This Month from Pastor Carl

As you all know, Lent is a busy time in the church. We had a worship service in the middle of the week, which means more worship time, planning more hours and sermon prep more time and worship, and we are busy right up to the end of Lent to realize that Christ died on the cross for every one of us and on the third day Jesus rose from the dead not for just me not for just but for the whole world.

We started this Lenten journey off with a bang. On Shrove Tuesday, we had pancakes and sausage, and people came out to celebrate this time with the youth group. It was fun making pancakes cooking sausages, serving our congregation, and seeing the smiles on their faces as they sat in the fellowship hall for the first time since COVID struck and shared pancakes.

Yes, Lent is about being busy and the busyness of life. Lent is not about giving up something unless that something is keeping you from your relationship with God. Lent is not about working to the bone, so you barely make it to Easter. Lent is not about what you give up. Lent could be about what you add to your already busy lifestyle. Lent is also about our journey to the Cross with H.O.P.E. in tow (Help, Outreach, Partner, and Expand). Lent is about helping other people endure. Lent is about personal time with God. Lent is about reflection on your life and a possible plan to improve it. Lent is a time to build resilience. Lent is a time to deepen our relationship with God and neighbor so that we come out on the other side ready, willing, and able, just like Jesus did from the tomb. We should all get to the end of Lent, not tired, not stressed, not ready for it to be over, but we all should get there with more life, more vigor, excitement, and more hope than when we started.

It has been a great time with our youth this month, from our Little Lutherans to our senior youth group. We have done some fantastic things. As I stated before, we had the pancake supper; yes, that was amazing. Then we had this wonderful youth spring retreat at Lutheridge, and our youth got a chance to do some amazing things. We even saw the sunset and the beautiful orange sky that eventually turned into pink clouds like cotton candy. We took time, cooked, and shared a meal; we got a chance to work on our script for Zacchaeus, which the youth acted out last

HOLY WEEK



With all that the Spirit has been working so far in Lent, I find myself filled with expectation as we now move closer to the holiest & most important week of our lives as disciples & followers of Jesus!

+ + +
HOLY WEEK 2022

Palm Sunday, 4/10 — Easter Sunday, 4/17


JUSTICE NEHEMIAH ASSEMBLY—April 4
Columbia Convention Center, 6:30PM
(carpools/buses leave LS from 5:00-5:40)

+ + +
LENTEN FISH FRY—April 1 & 8 (4:30-7pm)
LENTEN WORSHIP—April 6 (Noon & 6:45)
LENTEN DISCIPLE GATHERINGS—April 3 & 5

+ + +
CRISTO REY MINISTRY—April 3
RUSH HOUR MINISTRY—April 5
SUNDAY MORNING BACKPACKS—Apr. 10, 24
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL—April 21
PALMETTO PLACE MEAL—April 28
MEALS ON WHEELS—each Mon & Tues

MORE Justice
Nehemiah Action
Monday, April 4, 2022
 6:30 PM (doors open at 5PM)
 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
 (1101 Lincoln St, Columbia, SC 29201)
 KN95 or N95 masks are required (masks available at the door).
 Vaccinations or negative covid test within 48 hours strongly encouraged.

www.morejusticecolumbia.org



MORE Justice Nehemiah Action
Monday, April 4, 6:30 pm
at the Columbia Convention Center.
Buses leave Living Springs between 5:00 and 5:40 pm.
Pick up tickets for the Action
in the Church narthex at the Justice table.

Again this year, 150 people from Living Springs will join hundreds of other people of faith to ask public officials to help neighbors in need by establishing an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and addressing community gun violence. Like the Prophet Nehemiah, we are bringing "People Power" to make our community better for all. Make this one evening to "do Justice" (Micah 6:8) a priority -- all are welcome! For more information talk with Pastor Eric or a Team Leader at the Justice table (narthex).

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

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!")



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

Give Up Something = 1600!

LS Lenten 40x 40 H.O.P.E. Collection
Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

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. There are containers in the admin building to collect multiple individual items. As always, our goal for Lent is 40 X 40 = 1600 total items. On Palm Sunday, April 10, the individual items will be assembled into full kits.

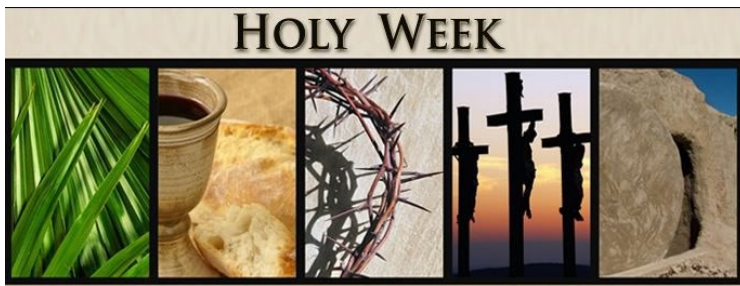
Personal Care Kits include:

- 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)



If you would like to bring a complete Personal Care Kit, it can be offered at the base of the Lenten cross during either Wednesday or Sunday worship.

To assemble your kit ... Fold towel. Place the items in the towel. Fold from both sides to secure the items. Then roll the towel and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 10

8:15 & 10:30 - Palm Procession & Passion Reading
12:15 - Children/Family Holy Week Kickoff Time (w/Egg Hunt)

Holy Monday, April 11

Noon & 7:00 - Service of Healing & Blessing

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Noon & 7:00 - Last Supper Communion Service
 (Time of Foot-Washing starts @ 6:45; Stripping of Altar @ 7pm worship)

Good Friday, April 15

Walking of the Cross to Living Springs:

9am (from Crossings/Harmony) & 3 pm (from Watercrest)

7:00 - Tenebrae Worship, "Words from the Cross"

Holy Saturday, April 16

7:45PM - Easter Vigil Worship

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17

6:45AM - SonRise Worship on Lawn

Easter Breakfast served by Lutheran Men from 9:15-10:15AM

8:15 & 10:30AM - Easter Worship

6:45PM - Emmaus Communion Worship (GoogleMeet from your Home)

meet.google.com/ynh-nebf-cek or call (650)-735-3955 PIN: 698 249 534#

Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday **April 10**

Be sure to be present on Sunday, April 10, for this powerful worship experience to begin the holiest week of our lives. We begin on the front lawn with the Procession of Palms, and then move into the sanctuary for the full reading of Christ's Holy Passion. Spread the word - and invite your friends! **Stop by the welcome table, if you would like to sign up to read a part in the Passion Story.*

Youth/Family Holy Week Kickoff Event (w/ Egg Hunt) **April 10, 12:15-1:15pm** **(after Palm Sunday Worship on the Church Lawn)**

There will be something for everyone, including a Holy Week "Egg Hunt" for our children & families. Be sure to stay for a few minutes after worship on Palm Sunday, for activities on the church lawn!

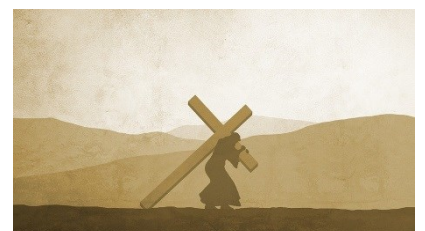


Good Friday "Walking of the Cross" **April 15 - 9am & 3pm**

Over the centuries, Christians have joined in many devotional experiences to embrace the deep meaning of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. One such practice is the "Walking of the Cross," where Christians publicly carry a large wooden cross on Good Friday. This year, Living Springs will share this experience with our neighbors, using the wooden cross from the front lawn.

At **9am** (hour Jesus was nailed to the cross), we will gather with our Wooden Cross in front of the **Crossings/Harmony (2300 Clemson Rd.)** for a time of prayer with the residents there. Then, we will process safely on the sidewalk, carrying the cross ½ mile back to LS for prayer here. You can take turns with partners carrying the cross - or you can just walk along behind the cross. We will pause at various points for prayer & Scripture. At **3pm** (hour Jesus died), we will do another Walking of the Cross, beginning at **WaterCrest (1951 Clemson Rd)**, with 0.3 mile on the sidewalk back to LS.

You can participate in one or both of the walks. There is a sign-up sheet to help with planning. Each walk should take less than 1 hour. Walkers will carpool/bus to the starting site (just come to LS at either 8:45 or 2:45). Whether or not you can be part of a walk, please pause for prayer at 9am and 3pm on Good Friday, wherever you may be. Good Friday Tenebrae Worship will be held at church at 7pm.



Wednesday, March 23rd.

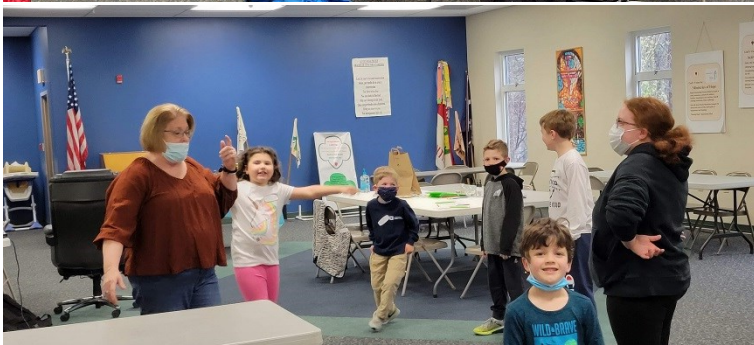
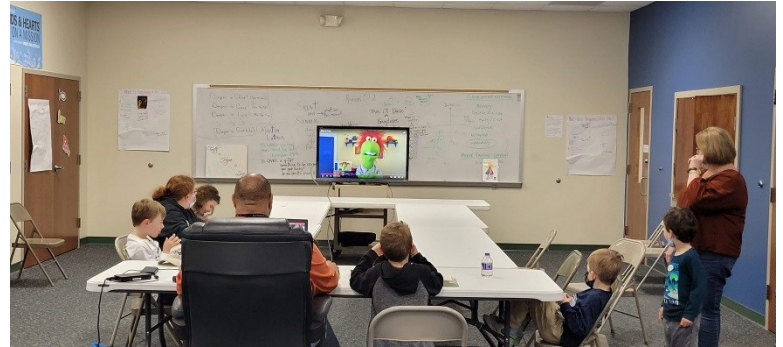
Our Little Lutherans were recognized last Sunday, March 27th, at worship service for their milestone of the Lord's Prayer. Also, our confirmands received their milestone certificates for the Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed. They also had an opportunity to lead the congregation in the Lord's prayer as part of our Communion Liturgy.

Our youth are a vital part of our congregational experience as we all continue to pour into their spiritual journeys. They are a busy group. They share their time, talent, and resources. They are resilient even to the point of school supply shopping for three schools we support in the middle of March. Let me forget to mention how they shared themselves with other youth groups as we traveled over to Christus Victor Lutheran Church, shared a meal, did devotions and a service project. It was amazing to see a bunch of youth come together and work in the service of others.

Let me say this; I believe that Lent is about being resilient in my heart. It is not about doing less. It is about how much more we can do as disciples for God's Kingdom. Lent is about how much more we can do to connect God to our neighbors. How much more can we do to reach people in our community where they are in life, showing them the Christ that's in us and helping them through tough times in their life. It is about being intentional in every aspect of our daily walk with God. As we get ready to head into Holy Week in two weeks, let us be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Word of the Lord. Let us be rejuvenated with the H.O.P.E. that Christ carried to the cross for each of us.

Pastor Carl

Lords Prayer Class



Lords Prayer Milestone Gifting



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Youth Spring Retreat at Lutheridge



save the date
ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
JULY 16 - 20, 2024
New Orleans
PRE-EVENTS: MYLE & the tAble
JULY 13 - 16, 2024

We're jazzed to announce that we're heading to New Orleans for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, MYLE and the tAble! The Big Easy is filled with rich history, friendly locals, amazing food and great music, and we just can't wait to go back. Mark your calendars for July 16-20, 2024, to join us for this transformational faith formation event. MYLE and the tAble will take place immediately before on July 13-16. See you then!



O See God At Work...

When I shared what I was buying the soap, etc. for with a young worker at the Dollar Tree, he thought it was a great thing to do. He said if he had extra money at the end of the month, he would try to get couple [kits] together.

I was working at a community outreach event in Orangeburg and was so blessed to connect with dozens of community members passionate about advocating for children.

When I was pregnant, the doctor told me I could lose my baby. I pray and told God I was putting my baby in his hands and what ever he decided to do, I believe and trust him. I was having a surgery. God allowed me to keep my baby. I did not lose my baby. He was born a healthy. My son is 35 years old now. God is good!! Will never forget.

SHARE YOUR Hope Moment

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!

(Continued from page 2)

- the daily inspiration we have received from our thought-provoking **"Grace Unbounded" Lenten Devotions**, as well as our 9:23 Prayer Alerts, Personal Prayer Crosses, Children Lenten Devotion Mobiles, Youth Lent Booklets, "Book of the Month" Bible Studies, and more!

With all the Spirit has been working so far in Lent, I find myself filled with expectation as we now move closer to the holiest and most important week of our lives, as disciples and followers of Jesus. We gather on **Palm Sunday (April 10)** for the Procession of Palms and Reading of Christ's Passion—and we have our hearts stretched to ponder how easily (both in history and in our own personal lives) acclamations of laudatory "Hosanna" for Jesus can quickly turn into shouts of condemnatory "Crucify him!" We will join in a Holy Week kickoff event with our children & youth immediately at 12:15.

Then, we gather to worship throughout Holy Week, to be **re-immersed in these central events which shape every aspect of our lives with the life-changing power of God**—to behold a God who breaks through the barriers of hate, rejection, abandonment, injustice, suffering, and death to extend the umbrella of hope over all humanity and the world!

On **Holy Monday**, with the service of healing and blessing, we remember Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem during the initial days following Palm Sunday. On **Maundy Thursday**, we gather to worship and recall the events in the Upper Room, as Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, washed his disciples' feet, and gave us a New Commandment. On **Good Friday**, we gather for a public **"walking of the cross"** at 9am (the hour Jesus was nailed to the cross) and 3pm (the hour Jesus breathed his last) - and then that night, we worship at 7pm with the always-moving Tenebrae service that focuses on the 7 "last words" our Savior spoke from the cross. On **Holy Saturday**, we gather by a vigil fire at 7:45pm and move indoors to hear Sacred Readings and shout the first "alleluias" of Easter after sunset. Finally, on **Easter Sunday** (the most important DAY of our lives), we start the day with Son-Rise worship on the lawn at 6:45am—and then celebrate in joy with Easter Worship in the sanctuary at both 8:15 and 10:30 (you can also worship at 10:30 from the lawn, parking lot, or online). Easter Sunday concludes at 6:45pm (12 hours after we began!) with the Emmaus Communion (GoogleMeet from your home).

Every Holy Week and Easter bring a special blessing. Here in 2022, I think how 2 years ago, our sanctuary sat empty during these holy days, due to the initial COVID outbreak. It has been such a blessing to see the sanctuary now filling back up, with (by God's grace!) the current receding of the pandemic. We remember all who suffered greatly, and all front-line workers who sacrificed so much, during these past 2 years. We give thanks for the mercies & strength of God that carried us through our "time in the tomb" to bring us to this time of resurrection & new life.

May we each embrace this special Holy Week / Easter of 2022 as a time to fully experience the "life-changing power of God" and "move from surviving to thriving" in our lives of faith & discipleship!

Just as the first disciples were never able to "go back to their old ways" after the experience of the first Easter, may we too be filled with the Spirit, so as to never go back to "our old ways" - and instead embrace this Holy Week / Easter of 2022 as a time to fully experience the "life-changing power of God" and "move from surviving to thriving" in our lives of faith & discipleship: with thanksgiving for Jesus and God's grace, living to do what the Lord requires of us as humanity: "to do justice, to love kindness, and walk humbly with God!" With great anticipation of completing the Lenten journey to celebrate Holy Week and the joy of Easter with each of you, *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!

- 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.



Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Blessings to all as we head into spring,

It can be difficult to see Hope these days with the state of the world. Yet, as I sit here looking out of my office window, I am witness to the many reminders of God's Hope.

I see the buds on the hydrangea beginning to swell with the promise of green leaves and purple petals soon to come.

I see the new sprouts of the daffodils beginning to make their way through the dirt as if to say "Here I Come".

We hear the songbirds welcoming us in the morning hours, reminding us that we are here, and today is a new day.

Even the pollen holds the promise of Hope, as it brings many sneezes and watery eyes, it also says "Let me go forth and spread life."

The laughter of the children on the playground radiates Hope. As I hear them play, laugh, run, sing, they are joy-filled knowing they are safe. Perhaps this is our most important lesson, to surround our children, our future with the knowledge of love, comfort, acceptance, and compassion so that they may share it with the world.

I am grateful to the families that share their moments of Hope with us.



Here is a photo of one of our after schoolers taking an early dismissal day to patiently cut out the circles of the Lent Mobile, with pure determination to do it on her own so that she can proudly display it for the family.

Below are examples of a posters that our CDC children did during Lutheran School Week to show support for those in Ukraine as they continue to struggle and continue to pray for their strength.

A mom sent me a text to let me know that her daughters LOVED the Ukrainian dumplings we had for snack. While another sent a video of her daughter singing "Jesus Loves Me" to her stuffed animal as they drove home from vacation.

I am grateful to see these moments of Hope. May you too be able to look out your window and recognize the Hope that is in the world around us.

Wishing you well, Tammy



Forest friends
(young 2's)
palm trees



Infant room
palm trees



Notes from: *Fellowship & Mutual Care*

My Dear Friends at Living Springs,

What a lovely surprise it was on a grey, gloomy day to open your surprise box. I was very curious as to what it might contain—and, when I opened it, I saw bright, yellow, sunshine.

To be honest, I must say that I nibbled on the M&M's as I took out each new item. 😊 It was delightful treasure chest.

Thank you so much for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. I will think of you as I use each cheerful gift—especially the mug. My doctor has instructed me to drink 64 oz. a day, so I always have a glass or mug in my hand. Please share my thanks with all those who contributed their ideas and efforts to making me this reminder of sunshine—and God's love that shines on our world.

From Pastor Eric's Friday messages, I've gathered that Living Springs is still a very active, God centered, community church. Keep that wonderful energy going. I pray for you, too.

With love, Ann Lynn

LeGrand Lowman Annual Scholarship Dinner and Auction *May 7th @ 6pm*

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. Marshall Hurlburt will be cooking his delicious Cinco de Mayo fare. 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.

In addition to the silent action, we will be having the always fun live auction with Adam Woodruff as our auctioneer. 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.

Ticket sales will be on Sundays April 24 and May 1 after both services and Sunday School. Cut off for ticket sales is 5/4 but you can pay at door by contacting Wendy McKenzie or Trish Davidson beforehand. Tickets are \$10 adult \$5 child- 12 and under.

Doors open at 6pm for an opportunity to review and bid on silent auction items, with bidding closing at 7:15. Dinner will be served around 6:30 and the white elephant auction will begin at 7:30.

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.



Spring Cleaning @ LS!

It's time to do a little spring cleaning! Facilities is looking for volunteers for several projects: window cleaning, rail painting, yard work, and painting Pr. Eric's office. Dates and times of these projects are all to be determined. Please sign up to help in the admin lobby. Contact Jim Zieche.



Notes from: *Good News Team*

Rush Hour Ministry *Extend an Umbrella of God's Hope* **Wednesday, April 5, 5 -5:45PM**

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 5pm. Join us anytime!

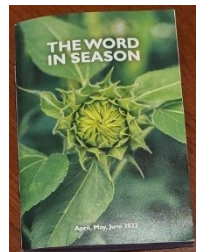


Easter 2022 Outreach Invitations!

On Sunday, April 3, each worshipper is asked to take at least 3 outreach invitations to prayerfully share with someone special in the upcoming week. They contain information about our Holy Week and Easter worship.

Dea Jones Featured in The Word in Season

Have you grabbed your April, May, June 2022 The Word in Season? Dea Jones was invited to write devotions for this quarter's book! Check out the April 28 - May 4 submissions. Dea is also a blogger! Check out: <https://faithfulconversations.wordpress.com/> Great job Dea!!



Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*



ANNUAL LS DISCIPLE GROUP GATHERINGS: STILL HAPPENING!

Each year, in the LS family, we gather as small groups of sisters & brothers in Christ, to get to know each other a little better and offer encouragement for one another in our journeys of life and faith (*Note: this is something different from the fall Justice House Gatherings*). A group host should reach out to you to invite you to be part of a virtual group gathering. We'll learn more about our 2022 Ministry Focus – and take time to extend the umbrella of God's H.O.P.E. to one another. If you are not contacted, please call the office, so that we can get you in touch with a group.

Upcoming Groups & Facilitators are:

April 3 @ 3pm: Pittman/Davidson; April 5 @ 7pm: Prests

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		

Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

To: Members of Living Springs,

This [pew] bear means a lot to me. I had heart problems and had a pace maker put in my chest to help my heart. He is a blessing. Thank you all, again.

Paul

HELP – OUTREACH – PARTNER: it all started when our Hope Team was notified we had unused funds available for school supplies and then that created something like a “Christmas in Spring” type event that extended not only to our Hope Team, but also to our youth. The youth were given the opportunity to shop for wish list items for our two backpack schools – Joseph Keels and Rice Creek Elementary schools. Our partners, Christie at Rice Creek and Takima at Joseph Keels, responded with a list of school supply items that would be greatly appreciated; especially this far into the school year when inventory is limited. I have to include a couple of items that I thought were unusual – water bottles and alarm clocks!!! The alarm clocks were for some students that needed an extra wake-up call in the morning to get them to school on time! When I delivered the water bottles, the staff was so excited that you thought I delivered each student a gold bar! Here are comments from both social workers:

Joseph Keels:

“Good morning,

Thank you so much, it feels like Christmas in my office this morning!!!”

Rice Creek:

“Thank you Karen and Living Springs for dropping off school supplies for students. Living Springs is always such a wonderful partner for Rice Creek Elementary!!

Click here for [THANK YOU SONG](#)



CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL - HOPE MESSAGES

Carolina Deli continues to provide lunches for parents that are experiencing long medical stays because of their children’s illnesses. What a blessing if you could take a card and write a personal inspirational note to a parent who might not be seeing H-O-P-E in their forthcoming days – the blank cards are on the welcome table.

BACKPACKS

We continue to need milk, juice and cereal! After all that food that came off the Stuff a Bus, you would think we would be set for the remainder of the year; but we are still in need of these three items. Have you noticed we offer the opportunity to pack on the second and fourth Sunday of the month? After the 8:15 and before and after the 10:30, you can experience both the setting up and packing and the love that goes into each bag.

Donate books for 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.



THRIVENT WORKSHOP EVENT

Thursday, April 28 @ 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 Karen 716.998.1157 or email laurie.belger@thrivent.com. A boxed meal will be provided.



LENTEN FISH FRY

Pastor Jesse, Claire and Brook from Gamecock Campus Ministry joined us on Friday, March 25 which ended up to be our best night of the fish fry's – our H-O-P-E is that we can continue to do better for the remaining two weeks. It is so exciting to listen to Pastor Jesse and hear him talk about what he envisions for the students that participate in the Campus Ministry and the opportunities to get more local churches involved. Spread the word to your neighbors, family, friends, community Facebook pages, Twitter and support this event!

As of 3/25, we served 269 dinners – thank you to all volunteers that tolerated some iffy weather conditions so far. We will need help for our remaining two Friday's – contact Karen Kranz if you would like to participate.



Pastor Jessed and Gamecock Lutheran Students



Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

Happy 5th Anniversary, Everyone!

April 2022 marks the 5th anniversary of our MORE Justice Nehemiah Action – Happy Anniversary everyone!

YOU at Living Springs are justice advocates that have joined together with 35+ Midlands congregations to make our neighborhoods look more like the Kingdom of God. Over these first 5 years we have seen safer communities for those with mental illness, and we continue to bear witness to the need for affordable housing and reduced gun violence. God's Spirit is blowing across the Midlands and Living Springs feels the breath of God here!

Five years ago, at the Nehemiah Action more than 1300 people of faith, including 150 people from Living Springs, asked public officials to have all officers and deputies certified in Crisis Intervention Training to make our neighborhoods safer for officers and for those with mental illness. Chief Holbrook and Sheriff Lott said "yes", and today the Columbia Police Department has gone from having 8 to having 189 officers trained! The number of CIT-trained Richland County Deputies has grown by more than ten-fold to 104! What wonderful progress! Is the problem solved?

Justice is not a "one and done" and we continue to press for additional CIT training so that any officer responding to a crisis has the CIT training to effectively handle the situation. Just last month, on March 19th, Mr. Irvin Moorner-Charley was shot and killed while in a mental health crisis. We are thankful that the officers were safe but we grieve for Mr. Charley and his family. Our Justice Ministry continues to press our officials to honor their original commitment of training for *all* officers.

On this 5th Anniversary we recall the hundreds of House Meetings from congregations across the Midlands, calling out for more affordable housing in Columbia. At the 2022 Nehemiah Action on Monday, April 4th, we will ask Richland County Council Chair Overture Walker to prioritize the housing crisis and bring the establishment of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to Richland County Council. We will ask him to propose allocating \$10 million of ARPA funds toward funding that Trust Fund. Chairman Walker has met with us and knows ahead of time what we will be asking him. Greenville SC and Charlotte NC both already have established similar trust funds to benefit lower- and middle-income families.

On the 5th Anniversary we recall the hundreds of House Meetings from congregations across the Midlands, calling out for something to be done about neighborhood gun violence in Columbia. In 2021 murders doubled in Richland County and gun violence was up by 29 percent while other crime rates were down. Gun violence devastates families and results in tremendous costs to the community in hospital costs, lost wages, legal fees, jail time, and so much more. Businesses and visitors are reluctant to come to town if they perceive Columbia as a high-crime location. At the 2022 Nehemiah Action on Monday, April 4th, we will ask Columbia Mayor Rickenmann to propose to the Columbia City Council to invest \$25,000 toward a contract for a problem analysis with the National Network for Safe Communities. We will ask Chair Walker of County Council for the same commitment. Both Mayor Rickenmann and Chair Walker have met with MORE Justice and know ahead of time what we will be asking. Many communities across the country have invested in similar studies, recognizing that if you don't understand the problem then you cannot solve the problem. Evidence from places across the country, e.g., Miami-Dade County and New Haven, CT, show dramatic reductions in gun violence with this approach.

On our 5th Anniversary at the Nehemiah Action listen for the question, "What do we want?" and we will answer, "More Justice"! The call and response ring true. Ours is a living God, not a "one and done" God. Ours is a God who walks with God's people and hears their cries. God continues to walk with us and we continue to walk with God. In Micah 6:8 we hear the words of the prophet: "What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God." This is a walk we are *all* called to, a life journey, not something we do once and check off of a list.

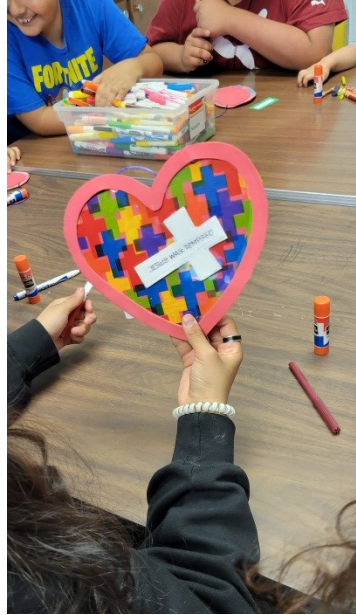
On a 5th Anniversary we usually look back, celebrate, and thank God for endless grace and abundance thus far. On the 5th Anniversary of our Nehemiah Action we give thanks for the continued call and grace of our God who walks with us and strengthens us to help make God's kingdom come. On the 5th Anniversary we only look forward to the 10th and 15th and 25th anniversaries, confident that God will continue to reveal God's self, hear the cries of neighbors in need, and bless us through this Justice Ministry. To God be the Glory!

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.



Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

Cristo Rey in March - Jesus Tempted by Satan



Notes from: *Refugee Welcome Team*

LS Adopted Refugee Family – Update

What a tremendous blessing it has been to partner with Lutheran Services Carolinas in adopting a wonderful 7-member Afghani refugee family. After several moves for temporary housing, the family now has signed an apartment lease for next-step permanent housing – and the father has been able to participate in employment job fairs, etc. Our LS “Circle of Welcome” team has provided transportation throughout the process (housing transfers, doctor’s appointments, job fair, grocery trips, etc.) – as well as donated furniture, household items, food, cleaning supplies, etc. We will continue to support the family with transportation & other adjustment needs for months ahead – including school process for the children. We give thanks to everyone who is helping – and especially our coordinators Reagan Prest & Zeke Hanford. To be part of the LS Circle of Welcome, please see Pastor Eric or the coordinators.

NOTE: our Sunday bucket offering continues to be for LSC Refugee Ministry through Palm Sunday (additional donations can be made directly via our Givelify App, or checks payable to Living Springs – marked Refugee Ministry).

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.

Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

Mid-week Lenten Dramas



And a little child
shall lead
them....



Butterflies for Easter *Return by 4/10*

Butterflies are a symbol of new life in Christ. Once again we will hang butterflies in the church for Easter. Please pick up a butterfly from the narthex – decorate, cut it out and return. Please do not use any food or sparkles.

Living Cross for Easter Sun *4/17*

On Easter we have a living cross in the front lawn. Please bring live flowers on Easter morning to decorate the cross.

EASTER FLOWERS *DUE BY 4/10*

If you would like to donate a flower in honor/ memory of a loved one for Easter Sunday, please fill out the form in the narthex & return it to the office or place in the offering plate. The name of your loved one will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. \$12 Donation per plant is requested

Sign-up to read for Passion Sunday

Sign up to read one of the parts in the Passion Reading for Palm Sunday, April 10th , 8:15 and 10:30. Sign up in at <https://forms.gle/N9vM5CVgGpoeArHN6> or look for a sign up at the Welcome Table. This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in worship. Contact Karen Kranz.

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: *Women's Ministry*

LADIES BOOK CLUB Monday, June 6 @ 7pm

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 6 at 7pm at Beverly Hoppert's home, 701 Summit Square (Woodhaven neighborhood close to the entrance of the Summit) – her phone: 803.348.4412. Our book is *The Scent Keeper* by Erica Bauermeister. Jan Epperson offered to provide the goodies.

This book is available through the Richland County library.



SC WELCA ISLE OF PALMS RETREAT Friday, April 22- Sunday, 24, 2022

For the past 31 years, St. Luke Lutheran in Florence has sponsored this retreat. It is open to all of the women in SC and their friends.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

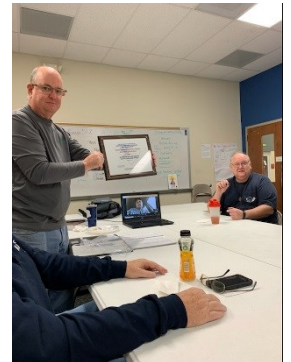
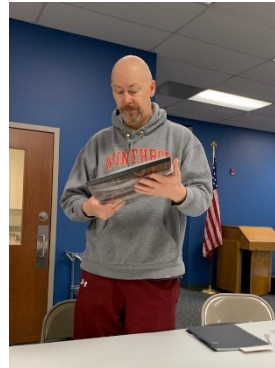
Tentative schedule available [HERE](#).

Questions? Contact Sallie Folk, salstitcher823@yahoo.com.



Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

Men's Breakfast



Living Springs Lutheran Men in Mission first breakfast meeting back in person with virtual option...Philippe Cote presented a plaque recognizing our unit as an "Outstanding Unit in 2021." Lutheran Men meet on the last Saturday of the month for breakfast. All men are welcome to join!

Opportunities Outside Living Springs

Special LS Offering for Ukraine

Millions of civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. 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.

Living Springs is participating in a special offering of HOPE through our ELCA Ukraine/Eastern Europe Disaster Response. **Donation may be placed in the offering plate** (payable to Living Springs and marked Ukraine) - or given electronically through our Givelify app.

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



GRACE, DONUTS, AND FAITH IN ACTION

Last Fall we had an idea: pick a day when students might need a little boost and set up on Greene Street handing out free donuts. It would be a simple gesture, but also a great way of showering a little love on a lot of students. And then the day came and... mostly students weren't interested in a free donut. Person after person just kept walking by. "I think the implication is that churches want something from you in return, and nothing is just given with grace," said Claire Dixon, President of Gamecock Lutheran.



Once we asked around a bit, this theory seemed to hold true. Students have encountered lots of Christian organizations that say they have something free for you, only to try to rope you into something later. They actually want your contact info, or want to convince you to come to their meetings, or want to tell you if they think you're going to hell. "And so when we realized this, the idea became even more important to us," said Rev. Jesse Canniff-Kuhn, campus pastor at Gamecock Lutheran. "We wanted to really show that we believe in free grace. That we really do just want to do an act of kindness and aren't hoping to get anything out of it for ourselves. And we want that to be a little glimpse of how God's love works: it's freely poured out for everyone, without any ulterior motive or strings attached."

But we realized we were going to need to be more organized. This couldn't be a one-time thing; we needed to consistently engage so that we can build a pattern of trustworthiness. And of course, giving out free donuts actually does have a cost to it. And so we applied for a Faith In Action Grant from the SC Synod to sponsor a few days of "Grace Donuts" as we work to embody a non-manipulative, earnestly loving Christian community on campus.

Our first day of Grace Donuts this semester took place during mid-terms before Spring Break, and it was still a little slow going. "I was surprised so many people just smiled and said thank you and didn't take one," said Freshman Student Leader Brooke Youngman. "But exchanging a smile is still something good, too." And yet, after a few hours, nearly all the donuts were gone. "It's a start," said Pastor Canniff-Kuhn. "These people walk by our building every single day, but mostly don't know anything about us. Today is just one day, but we believe that if we stick to this, students will start to believe that there's no 'gotcha' here. We really are just trying to help you get through the week, and remind you that you're precious and God loves you."



April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE 810A Pre-Worship Prayer Time 815A WORSHIP (Sanctuary) After Worship - Little Lutheran Faith Conversations 920 Adult Faith Formation 1025 Pre-Worship Prayer Time 1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary/Lawn/Vehicle/Online) After Worship - Little Lutheran Faith Conversations						
3 *See box above 920A Bible Book of Month 12P Confirmation 12P Fellowship & Mutual Care 3P Disciple Gathering (Pittman/Davidson) 430P Girl Scouts 5P Cristo Rey Ministry (carpool 4:15) 8P Sr. Youth Online	4 945A Staff Mtg 1030A Meals on Wheels 1130A SC Synod Council Meeting (FH) 630P Nehemiah Action Assembly—Columbia Convention Center <i>(buses/carpools leave LS from 5:00-5:40)</i>	5 10A Ladies Bible Study 10A LSCDC Bible Times 1030 Meals on Wheels 5P Rush Hour Ministry 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbell Choir 7P Disciple Gathering (Prest)	6 1030A Preschool Chapel 12P Lenten Prayer Service 4P Afterschool Chapel 51 5P Choir/DOH 6P Hope Ministry Team 645P Lenten Evening Drama	7 11A Good News Team 4P Backpack Food Ministry-CDC 6P Worship & Music 630P LSCDC Board 7P Lifelong Discipleship	8 430-7P Lenten Fish Fry	9 930A Crafty Ladies
10 Palm/Passion Sunday 815A Procession of Palms/Passion Worship <i>Before/After Worship—Backpacks</i> 1030A Procession of Palms/Passion Worship 1215P Holy Week Kickoff w/Egg Hunt 430P Girl Scouts	11 Holy Monday 1030A Meals on Wheels 12Noon Service of Healing & Blessing 7P Service of Healing & Blessing	12 10A Ladies Bible Study 10A LSCDC Bible Times 1030A Meals on Wheels 530P Finance 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbell Choir	13 1030A Preschool/ASC Chapel 51 5P Choir/DOH	14 Maundy Thursday 12Noon - MIDDAY Communion 7P Last Supper Communion Service	15 Good Friday 9A Walking of the Cross (Harmony) 3P Walking of the Cross (WaterCrest) 7P Tenebrae Worship	16 Holy Saturday 745P Easter Vigil Worship
17 Easter Sunday 645A SonRise Worship 815A Easter Worship 915-1015A Easter Breakfast 1030A Easter Worship 645P Emmaus Communion Worship	18 Office Closed 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Boy Scout Troop 7P Exec Team	19 10A Bible Book of Month 10A LSCDC Bible Times 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P Adult Bible Study 630P Justice Tm Leaders 7P Handbell Choir	20 1030A Preschool Chapel 4P Afterschool Chapel 51 5P Choir/DOH	21 Children's Hospital Meal 8A Staff Breakfast Mtg 7P Council Meeting	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> SC WELCA Isle of Palms Retreat 4/22-24 </div>	23
24 *See box above <i>Before & After Worship—Backpack Food Ministry Packing</i> 12P Confirmation 2P Graceworks Planning 430P Girl Scouts 8P Sr. Youth Online	25 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Boy Scout Troop	26 10A Ladies Bible Study 10A LSCDC Bible Times 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbell Choir	27 1030A Preschool Chapel 4P Afterschool Chapel 51 5P Choir/DOH	28 Palmetto Place Meal 630P Thrivent Income Taxes in Retirement Workshop	29	30 8A Men's Breakfast

CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers

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[Wayne Bracey](#) - Vice-President

[Raegan Prest](#) - Secretary

[Mike Davidson](#) - Treasurer

[Bill Ramsey](#) – Financial Secretary

[Lauren Bloss](#) - Youth Representative

[Rev. Eric Fink](#) – Senior Pastor

[Rev. Carl Taylor](#) - Associate Pastor

[Joel Holmstrom](#)

[Barb Imbert](#)

[Dea Jones](#)

[London Mancuso](#)

[Ron Ramsey](#)

[Brantley Smith](#)

[Laura Turnmire](#)

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Child Development Center

Susan Bradham

Children/Youth Ministries

Leslie Bloss/Jan Berger/
Adriana McMurphy/London Mancuso

Fellowship & Mutual Care

Trish Davidson & Wendy McKenzie

Good News Team

Lisa Petty

Hope Ministries

Karen Kranz

Justice Ministry

Helen Doerpinghaus

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