

The Living Springs Journal

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



December 2022

Light... and the Promise of "Emmanuel" (from Pastor Eric)

DECEMBER BIBLE BOOK OF MONTH = GOSPEL OF JOHN

Pastor Time: Sunday, Dec. 18 @ 9:20am

With the arrival of Advent, how wonderful it is to welcome another new year in our lives as Christians! For December, our Bible "book of the month" is the Gospel of John, which begins with its beautiful prologue about **light shining in the darkness** and the Word (logos) becoming flesh to dwell among us. Throughout the larger Christian year ahead, we will find a focus on the Gospel of Matthew. In telling the story of Jesus' birth, Matthew emphasizes the fulfillment of God's 700-year-old promise voiced by the promise Isaiah—the coming of a child who will be **Emmanuel, which means "God is with us!"**

If you were at worship on the 1st Sunday in Advent, you heard the Children's Message about Advent being a time when we *look forward* to the fulfillment of the great promise that Christ will come again (if you missed it, look up the worship service for Nov. 27 on Facebook or YouTube!). We find hope and confidence in this future promise, by *looking back* to how God faithfully fulfilled the original promise of sending us Jesus, to be Emmanuel, "God with us" - and to be God's "light shining in the darkness."

But the miracle of faith is that there is something more than God's past fulfillment of a promise and God's future fulfillment of another great promise. In the time in-between (the 2000+ year period of history in which we are now living), **God is busy in the present, constantly fulfilling God's**

(Continued on page 5)



MID-WEEK ADVENT PRAYER SERVICES

Wednesdays, 12:00 & 6:30

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CONG. ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Sunday, Dec. 4 @ 9:20-10:20

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CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Saturday, Dec. 10, depart LS @ 9:15

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CHILDREN/YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, Dec. 11 @ 5pm

(followed by Spaghetti Supper/Elf Store)



LS EMOTIONAL-MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS EMPHASIS Congregation Gathering

Sunday, Dec. 11 9:20-10:20AM

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We share results from our survey, discuss steps ahead, and offer helpful seasonal resources.



CHRISTMAS EVE

12:00—Quiet Communion

5:00—Family/Children's Candlelight Service

7:30—Festival Candlelight Communion (music 7:15)

+ + +

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30—Come-As-You-Are "Jesus B'day!" Worship



From the Desk of Pastor Carl...

Hey Yall,

November started with our remembrance of All Saints Sunday. We lit candles with prayers of thanksgiving and remembrance for our loved ones who have passed to life since last November. We rejoice in the witness of faith of all those who have gone before us and now rest in God's everlasting arms. To take a moment to pause and remember those passed on is often good as we continue living life.

Our youth have continued to meet on Wednesdays and continue to focus on learning more about their spiritual Journeys. The G.I.F.T. Experience Area focuses on our 5th grade and below and how they understand the worship experience. It is lovely to see the growth and yearning in our youth. They never cease to amaze me with questions out of the blue, such as What about my Salvation Pastor Carl? Well, I had to answer.....So I said...

Salvation is as easy as this. "[Confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, and you will be saved.](#)" What a marvelous thing! So simple, yet so profound. Jesus has done everything for us. Not one thing was left undone by Him; nothing is left to do except celebrate this new life offered through the Son of God. It is as simple as that!

When we trust in Jesus to save us, we must confess that Jesus is Lord. This confession shows that we understand there is no other way to reconcile with God the Father. By itself, being good cannot save us, being baptized cannot save us, and going to church cannot save us. Only Christ can save us. By confessing this we are trusting in Him alone to justify us and bring us into fellowship with God. We are placing all our hope in him. We must also believe that God raised him from the dead. This is incredibly important. Christ died for our sins. Christ died to defeat the power of sin that was held over us. He died as a ransom for us, and because God was completely satisfied with this payment, Christ was raised from the dead. His

(Continued on page 4)

MAKE READY!
for God's Holy Disruption
A Contemplative Evening Advent Series

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 PM
(also on Facebook & YouTube)

November 30 – Breathing
December 7 – Releasing
December 14 – Receiving
December 21 – Rejoicing



ADVENT MID-DAY PRAYER SERVICES
WEDNESDAYS @ 12NOON

(Holy Communion Available afterward)
November 30 – Redemption at the Sea
December 7 – Light & The Lamb
December 14 – God's Love for the World
December 21 – Jesus' Tears: Resurrection & Life



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

December 17 & 18 - 7 pm

Animals, characters, and more...

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

Bring a lawn chair...hot drinks provided.



Christmas Eve 2022:
"Silent Night, Holy Night"
God's Gift of Christmas Love!

Noon - Quiet Communion Worship
5:00pm Family Candlelight Worship
(special children's message & communion)

7:30pm Festival Candlelight Communion Worship

LS Outdoor Advent Tree
Household Cross & Bows

Once again, a large tree will light up our church lawn for all passing by to see. Each household is asked to put your name(s) on a wooden cross and/or Bow Ribbon to adorn the tree - as a symbol that we are called & blessed to be Christ's shining lights of Hope for the world! If you were not at Adventpalooza, stop by the fellowship hall to complete your cross and/or bow.



2022 Advent Hope Boxes

Set up an Advent Hope Box in your home!



At Adventpalooza, we decorated Advent Hope boxes. If you missed Adventpalooza, you can wrap a box in blue or white, representing Advent color of hope, then add Advent symbols (or just use a plain box!) Place it under your tree, near your Advent wreath, or by a manger scene. Bring the filled box to worship on Christmas Eve/Day (or drop it off at the LS office the week prior). Our goal is 2022 total items for our local food pantries—one item for every year of our Lord!

Also, pick up your Advent World Hunger Calendar.

Congregation Advent/Christmas Brunch Gathering

w/Kitchen Dedication Blessing

Sun. Dec. 4 between services, 9:20 - 10:20

Our congregation gathering this year will be an Advent/Christmas Brunch between services. During this time, we can enjoy being with each other to share Joy in the Advent/ Christmas season. You may bring brunch items if you like. We will have coffee, breakfast casseroles and breakfast cakes. Punch and lemonade will also be available. Hope to see you there. **We will also be offering a dedication blessing for our updated church kitchen (with our new oven and warming cabinet).**



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Saturday, December 10

We would like to share the joy of Christmas with our homebound and nursing home residents. Our plan is to meet at the church on Saturday the 10th at 9:00 am to noon. We'll take the buses or carpool to visit & sing for a couple of hours (but you can join us for just part of the time if needed). Families, youth, adults - everyone is welcome!

CHILDREN/YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, Dec. 11 @ 5pm



Time has come to prepare for this year's awesome Children/Youth Christmas Program, to be held Sunday, Dec. 11 at 5:00. There is a spot for all ages (toddlers to teens) as we share a script about the Christmas Season written by our Sr. Youth. There are both speaking and non-speaking parts. Practices will be held on Sunday mornings (Dec. 4 & 11) from 9:30-10:30. To sign up and for more info, contact Leslie Bloss (lbloss3306@hotmail.com or 803-413-1994).

Spaghetti Dinner & Elf Store: Dec. 11 following the Christmas Program!



Sr. Youth Christmas Tree Lot Returns!

**Friday, 5pm - 8pm;
Saturday, 10am - 8pm;
Sunday, Noon - 6:30pm**

6-10ft. Firs available.

FAMILY ADVENT RESOURCES FOR ALL!

This year, we have a wonderful 56-card deck of Family Advent Devotions, plus "Wait & See" Advent Youth devotional books. Items are available here at church - or see Pastor Carl.

Also, don't forget your daily World Hunger Advent Calendars (3 versions available) - for all households!



(Pastor Carl...Continued from page 2)

resurrection proved that the penalty or price for sin had been paid. Look at it like this, if his sacrifice on the cross wasn't enough to cover your sin, then he would still be dead, showing that this didn't work. But it did, so Christ was raised from the dead, demonstrating His perfect sacrifice.

So, we must believe this in our hearts. In saying that, have you been raised to a new life in Christ - you who are discouraged and despondent? You who are bored with living this life? You who cope with psychological and mental problems? You who experience gnawing fear and insecurity? You who are dead in trespasses and sins? I tell you on the authority of the Bible that the risen Christ can raise you out of your spiritual lifelessness and transform you.

You see, not only must we believe in Jesus Christ and his virgin birth, miracles, teachings, obedience, vicarious death, and resurrection, but we must also believe it with all our heart. If so, we think we must confess what we believe. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. **I believe!** I know that was a long answer to a short question, but the fact remains that we must believe in our hearts, confess with our mouths, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead and you will be saved.

As we closed out November with Thanksgiving and Praise, we were able to get Christmas trees this year, and we opened the Christmas Tree lot. Let me not forget the great time our Little People, 5th grade and below, had at EdVenture. They were excited, amazed, and full of energy as they spent time learning in the Bio-lab, the Tech-lab, and the cooking lab. It was a fun time of learning and being together.

We are looking forward with expectancy during this Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Our youth continues to prepare for the Elf Store and Youth Sunday, December 11, 2022.

**"Trees with a Purpose!"
LS YOUTH FUNDRAISER
CHRISTMAS TREE LOT**

(Pastor Eric...Continued from page 2)

promises of "light shining in the darkness" and "Emmanuel-God with us." Colossians says that the miracle of the Gospel is this: Christ in You! As people of Christ's church here in the present, we are people washed in God's grace, marked with the Cross, filled with the Holy Spirit, fed with Jesus' own body & blood—and as such, God is at work through Christ in you, to be God's "light shining in the darkness" and to be an



for camp, youth retreats, and summer mission experiences

FRIDAYS 5-8pm
SATURDAYS 10-8pm
SUNDAYS, 12-6:30pm

ongoing fulfillment of the promise of "Emmanuel-God with us!"

As we gather for extra times of Advent worship & study, as we focus on various daily Advent devotional items for children/youth/adults in our homes, we sense God's light shining in powerful ways & we sense the power of "Emmanuel-God-with-us" here in the present. As we collect daily food items in our at-home Advent boxes, as we share Dove Tree gifts for children & adopted families, as we focus on Hunger Good Gifts for loved ones, as we collect coins & dollars for the Tanzanian medical mission, as we engage in ministries of outreach (Rush Hour, Palmetto Place, Children's Hospital, Meals on Wheels, Campus Ministry, and more), we are part of the **ongoing fulfillment of God's promise of Light & Emmanuel here in the present.** As we help raise funds for Youth mission & faith experiences through a tree lot, as we share Christmas hope-message invitation cards with neighbors & strangers, as we carol to nursing home residents & homebound, as we prepare to share the foundational story of Christmas love & hope with the community in our Outdoor Nativity, we are part of the **ongoing fulfillment of God's promise of Light & Emmanuel here in the present!**

It is so inspiring to remember the wonder of God's original fulfillment of that promise, when the Christ-child was born in Bethlehem long ago. It is so inspiring to live in anticipation of God's ultimate fulfillment of a promise when Christ will return. And... it is so inspiring for us together to be a living fulfillment of God's ongoing promise of Light & Emmanuel, "God with us" for ourselves & others here in the present. May this be our joy in Advent—and always!

With much thanksgiving for each of you, I pray the light of Emmanuel will shine brightly in your heart and home this season, *Pastor Eric*



ADVENT HOPE FOOD BOXES

28 non-perishable food items (1 per day)
GOAL: 2022 Items as "Birthday Gifts" for Jesus

LS CHRISTMAS DOVE TREE

Christmas gifts for children & teens in need

WORLD HUNGER GOOD GIFTS

Give a truly meaningful gift of hope this Christmas for your loved ones!

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

Lutheran Men Adopted Family

TANZANIA MEDICAL MISSION

Advent/Christmas Season Bucket Offering

CRISTO REY MINISTRY—Dec. 4

BILLBOARD MINISTRY—Dec. 5-19

BACKBACK FOOD BAGS—Dec. 11

RUSH HOUR MINISTRY—Dec. 14

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL—Dec. 15

PALMETTO PLACE MEAL—Dec. 19

MEALS ON WHEELS—each Mon & Tues

CAMPUS MINISTRY MEAL—next in Jan.

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!

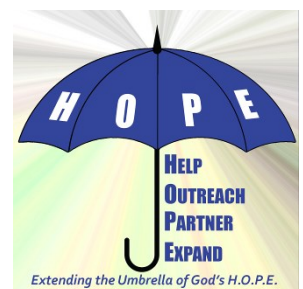
- Sharing the Good News through multiple formats for worship & faith growth
- Offering God's message of hope in public arenas, such as Rush Hour/billboard/online ministries
- Share concrete expressions of God's love & hope for others in times of need & crisis (e.g., pop-up disaster response, refugee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

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

DEC. 17-18 @ 7pm

(Dress Rehearsal Dec. 16)

Everyone's help is needed: please sign-up now!

Still needed:

Main Characters: Elizabeth

Group Characters: Angels, Townspeople, 2 Soldiers

Helpers: Set-Up, Props, Costumes, Sound, Lights, Music

Once again there are many roles/tasks - and everyone's help is needed to share the Christmas story. A sign-up board will be at church - and practice opportunities will begin after worship in late November. All ages (adults, youth, families) are welcome - please prayerfully consider how you will help!

All cast rehearsals leading up to the week of the Living Nativity will be held on Sunday after the second service. Please make every effort to attend if you have never participated before in the role you are doing, or have questions. If you are unable to do so, there will be an opportunity to "Catch up" between services on the dates listed.



Living Nativity Rehearsal Schedule 2022

Dec 4 - Between services 9:20 - MARY, JOSEPH, NARRATOR, INNKEEPER, MIDWIFE, GABRIEL

After services 11:45- , ELIZABETH, TOWNSPEOPLE, MARY, JOSEPH, NARRATOR,
INNKEEPER, MIDWIFE

Dec 11 - Between services 9:20- ELIZABETH, TOWNSPEOPLE, MARY, JOSEPH, NARRATOR,
INNKEEPER, MIDWIFE

After services 11:45 - MARY, JOSEPH, NARRATOR, SHEPHERDS, INNKEEPER,
INNKEEPER'S WIFE, GABRIEL

Dec 15 - 6pm, Tech Rehearsal

Dec 16 - 6:30 pm Dress Rehearsal (in Costume)

Dec 17, 18 - Living Nativity - 7pm, all participants in costume by 6:30 pm!

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH INVITATIONS!

Worshippers are asked to take at least four outreach invitations to prayerfully share with someone in upcoming days. They contain info about our Outdoor Nativity and Christmas Eve worship. Don't forget to look for our billboards on Two Notch (near Spar- kleberr), on Clemson (near I-20), at Hard Scrabble/ Farrow, and on I-277 (near Fontaine)!

Advent Rush Hour Ministry *Become a Beacon of Hope* Wed. Dec., 14, 4:30 PM

There is space for you! Be a beacon of hope on the sidewalk in front of Living Springs holding signs of HOPE and sharing smiles and blessings to those waiting in rush hour traffic! We will meet to be beacons around 3:45. Join us anytime!



Daily Advent Email Devotions *Check your mailbox !*

Our annual Advent Email Devotions have begun to arrive in your mailbox - please forward them to family, friends, co-workers, and others! A theme & Scripture passage are assigned for each weekday during Advent. *There are some spots available if you feel a spirit-tug to write a devotion. A sign-up sheet is in the admin building. You can sign up as an individual, couple, or family. This is a wonderful way to focus your heart on an Advent message of hope and joy to share with others!*



A Time of HOPE...

Come experience the joy & peace of Christmas!

Blessings
for you &
your family!

"The Word of God for the People of God" Recorded Library

LS Good News Bible Reading Project

Catch this month's stories in our YouTube Bible Project Playlist

Joseph & His Brothers - Grace! - read by Pastor Carl Taylor;

Egypt's Fear & Moses' birth - read by Lexanne & Wesley Graves

The Burning Bush—Moses is Sent—read by John Imbert

The Passover & Freedom - read by Lexanne Graves

Redemption at the Sea - read by Lisa Petty

In an effort to get God's Word out to all, the Good News Team is doing a Bible Reading Project in conjunction with the Devotional Weekly Worship. Each Monday, a Bible story from our Bible "Book" of the Month will be read at the beginning of the service. The worship will be livestreamed, so we are asking you to share on all your social media platforms. By sharing, that story will get to someone who may need to hear it and possibly never heard that story before! We can all be a part of the Good News Team!

Upcoming Stories:

Dec. 14 John 2:1-12, 3:1-21 A Wedding and God's Love for the World
Dec. 21 John 11:1-44 Jesus' Tears: Resurrection & Life
Dec 28 John 13:1-17,31-35; 14:1-7,15-27 A Commandment & Promise
Jan 4 John 20:1-31 Jesus Lives!

Looking for Readers To pre-record or read live...

Individuals/couples/families/youth

You can read from your favorite bible translation or even a children's Bible. The idea is to have as many varied voices and a myriad of ages read God's Word in this recorded library! So we are looking for individuals, a couple of friends together, couples, and families willing to read and record God's Word. We will pair you with a reading that suits you; we just want to know if you are willing to read! (and if you don't like being on camera--no worries! We can use online graphics to go along with your reading and no one has to see you!)

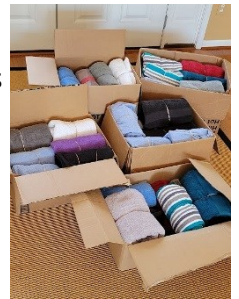
Recording you is easy to do (we will coach you!) and you can do it right from your own home, or you can come into the sanctuary and do it! We just know that this world needs to hear this amazing love story by God for God's people. Sign up in the Admin building or call the office.



Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

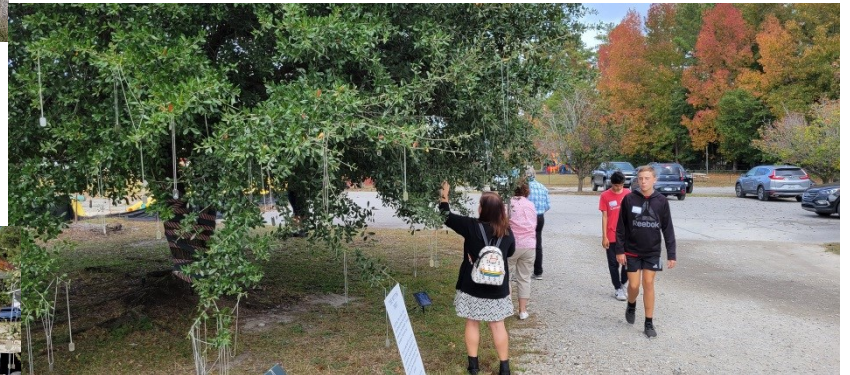
Disaster Personal Care Kits

We collected personal care kits to be sent to places that were affected by storms, hurricanes, floods about a month ago - we collected 62 kits. There is a protocol in labeling & packing up the kits to be shipped and normally the cost of shipping is at the expense of whoever is sending them. This amounts to quite a good bit of money unless you can find an in-gathering location. As God works, it just so happened that St. Andrews, here in Columbia, uses their narthex space as an "in-gathering" location (a location where a truck comes from the main warehouse in Maryland and picks up items being sent to Lutheran World Relief - quilts, personal care kits, baby care kits) around this same time period each year! I was at first ecstatic that we were able to save postage cost, but when I delivered the boxes, I was just blown away by all the boxes that filled St. Andrews narthex AND they said this year was less than previous years where they had to use another room to store the boxes. I relate this to our generosity month and all the ways God works through our hands! What a blessing!



Witting Tree

"Witting" means to be cognizant, deliberate, and aware of the facts of a situation. Each year, more than a dozen faith communities and organizations join in hosting a Witting Tree ceremony at their site. From November 1 – 11, Living Springs hung 22 sets of dog tags on the big tree by the entrance driveway in a public awareness of 22 veterans who take their lives each day with suicide (that is one veteran who takes their life each 80 minutes.)



Living Springs Hope Team: thank you so much for your support of this ministry. We are so appreciative of the meal you provided and all the ways you are generous to our community. It's an exciting season here! More and more students are finding deeper and deeper connections to God and one another and we're so grateful that you're helping to make that happen. God's Peace, The Students of Gamecock Lutheran

BACKPACKS

Can you believe it is close to winter break for the Richland 2 school district? December 11 will present the opportunity to pack 140 bags for the winter break period, so if you can come in anytime on Sunday - before or after 8:15 or 10:30 worship service, there will be something you can do to participate. We are planning another stuff a bus in February of next year, but currently we are in need of all food items. For information, contact Karen Kranz.

PALMETTO PLACE

Samantha House is home to 18-21 year old young adults who have graduated and are seeking shelter and guidance in their transition to adulthood. Most of these young people come from The Oaks in West Columbia (home for unaccompanied youth) - Samantha House provides transportation to and from jobs and asks organizations to provide healthy, affordable meal supplements versus fast food options which are very costly. Living Springs provides a meal the fourth Thursday of each month - if you are interested in helping, contact Karen Kranz. We usually plan a meal (meat, veggie/salad, starch, dessert) and if there is a recipe, we attach it to the dish. This month, because of Christmas week, we are doing the meal on Thursday, Dec. 15.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Carolina Deli (Travis & Melanie Mooney) provide 20 lunches to parents that have children in the hospital for lengthy periods and very often serious reasons. Stay tuned because we are very close to being able to deliver and hand out the lunches in person. What a wonderful experience to see the joy on the faces of the recipients!

DOVE TREE

Please have your items under the Dove Tree by Sunday, Dec. 11. The items will be delivered to Richland 2 R2i2 and the foster family on Dec. 12. Attach your dove to the item - if it is a gift, please wrap it. Gift cards do not have to be wrapped.



Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*
"See God's GenerosityMore Clearly"
Generosity Emphasis AMAZING RESPONSE: THANK YOU!
INTENTS CAN STILL BE MAILED OR OFFERED AT THE BAPTISMAL CROSS

We rejoice in the amazing, faithful response of this community of disciples! In the initial weeks, 89 Intents of Generosity have been offered for our Lord, thus meeting our special Challenge Gift for \$4000, to exceed last year's # of 84. The Matching Gift will go a long way to help with implementation with our expanded ministry visions, including implementation of our Emotional-Mental Health & Wellness initiatives for the year ahead.

Remember: our goal is for each person or family to make an intent, at whatever level God makes possible for you. The purpose of the Intent Card is NOT about trying to meet "a church budget," but rather an opportunity for each person/family to find joy in an expression of faith and commitment to our Lord. As always, your Giving Intent remains sealed in the sanctuary throughout the year, so no one will know your Intent, other than yourself and God. Intent Cards can still be left at the Baptismal cross during worship, dropped off at church, or mailed to the office (or call and a Generosity Team member can come pick up your sealed card). Click here for copies of the Intent Card and Annual Generosity Letter. Copies of the Intent Card & Blue Prayer Envelopes are also available at church. In this season of Advent & Christmas, may God inspire each of us to see God's Generosity more clearly in our own lives and extend the umbrella of God's HOPE to even more lives!

Check out our YouTube Channel playlist - "See God's Generosity More Clearly" for powerful Generosity Moments from Todd Gunvalson, Reagan Prest, Karen Kranz & Jeff Lummel, and Shirl Schiffman.

BOOKS OF MONTH: 2022-23

SEPTEMBER	Genesis 1-25	MARCH	Matthew 1-14
OCTOBER	Genesis 26-30	APRIL	Matthew 15-28
NOVEMBER	Exodus 1-24, 31-34	MAY	Acts 1-14
DECEMBER	John 1-21	JUNE	Acts 15-28
JANUARY	Ruth 1-4 & 1 Samuel 1-20	JULY	Galatians 1-6 & Romans 1-16
FEBRUARY	Isaiah 1-12, 35, 40-55, 56-62	AUGUST	Hebrews 1-13, 1 John 1-5, 1 Peter 1-5

Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

Justice in Advent

The Beatitudes are a favorite Bible passage for many Christians (Matthew 5: 3-12). Jesus begins, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." God's gift of blessing is there for those depending on God even in very difficult circumstances. The fourth Beatitude in particular stands out for Justice ministry as Advent arrives: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

At Living Springs we have been "hungering and thirsting" for justice, a synonym for righteousness. We have been seeking justice for those needing mental health care, affordable housing, safe streets, and food security. We have been working with 25+ other congregations through MORE Justice to seek some changes and make Columbia a better place for everyone.

Just as Jesus promises in the Beatitudes, God's justice has indeed come to the Midlands and we are "filled" with gratitude! MORE Justice pressed County Council for funding for affordable housing and \$4 million was ear-marked for this purpose. We pressed the Mayor for a plan to address gun violence, and he and City Council established and funded an office to address violent crime.

Again this Advent we hear the call to "prepare the way of the Lord." Part of this preparation is to seek justice for those in need. We are blessed to have the opportunity to do that at Living Springs through our Justice ministry. And just as Jesus promises, our hearts are "filled" with gratitude and joy!

SAVE THE DATES:

2/2 @ 6:30 PM Network Member Meeting at Living Springs (prepare for Nehemiah Action invitations)

3/13 @ 6:30 PM MORE Justice Rally

3/27 @6:30 PM Nehemiah Action

5/8@6:30 PM MORE Justice Celebration

Interested in sharing the Justice journey? Talk with Pastor Eric or a Justice Ministry Team Leader to learn more.



Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

Cristo Rey in November



LS Ministries with Cristo Rey! *Sunday, December 4 @ 4:15pm*

We provide a Bible lesson, crafts, singing, and snacks for the children of our Mission Partner, Cristo Rey, in West Columbia. We have team leaders, but 5-6 volunteer helpers are needed, plus a snack for up to 20 children. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Volunteers will meet at LS at 4:15 and carpool to Cristo Rey. The children speak English, so Spanish is not a requirement.



Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

November "See HOPE More Clearly Skit



New Member Welcome



LS Quartet



Children's Message



Veteran's Recognition Sunday



JuBELLation Handbell Choir



Disciples of Harmony



Planting of 2022 Commitments



Community Thanksgiving Worship



MAKE READY! for God's Holy Disruption *A Contemplative Evening Advent Series*

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30 PM
(evening service also on Facebook & YouTube)



November 30 – Breathing
December 7 – Releasing

December 14 – Receiving
December 21 – Rejoicing (Longest Night)

Advent carries two simultaneous visions of our expectations: we await yet again the birth of the babe in the manger, and we also await Christ's coming again to fulfill all things. We often prepare for Advent by "getting ready": planning, organizing, and ordering supplies for various gatherings and worship services. Yet preparing for the coming of Christ is not a matter of having everything under control. Christ's arrival disrupts—disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in a society in which we are deeply embedded. A prayer for Christ to come to us is a prayer for a holy disruption of our lives that we cannot control and that we might struggle to accept.

This midweek Advent series is built around four steps to help us recognize our resistance to God's inbreaking and prepare for God's holy disruption in our lives during this Advent season: breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing. Each week's liturgy will focus on one step. Together they form a spiritual discipline that reminds us that discipleship is always a process requiring intentional practice. Advent, the first season of the church year, reminds us to return to our sense of longing for and expectation of God's coming into our world. In this worship series we pay attention to opening ourselves to the holy disruption of God's inbreaking promise.

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Mid-Day Advent Prayer 2022: *Redemption, Light, Love & Life!*

WEDNESDAYS, 12:00-12:25
(Holy Communion available afterward)



November 30 – Redemption at the Sea
December 7 – Light & The Lamb
December 14 – God's Love for the World
December 21 – Jesus' Tears: Resurrection & Life

POINSETTIAS AND CANDLES *Due Dec. 18*

If you would like to donate a set of 5 Moravian candles or have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve in honor or memory of loved ones, please fill out the forms in the narthex. You may place in the offering plate or turn into the office. Deadline is December 18.



Congregation Gathering! **LS EMOTIONAL-MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS EMPHASIS** **Sunday, Dec. 11 9:20-10:20 AM** **in the Fellowship Hall**

We share results from our recent survey, have conversation about steps ahead, and offer some helpful seasonal resources. Please make every effort to attend, as we move forward in this important calling to extend the umbrella of God's hope!



God At Work

Thanks to all who participated in an uplifting Annual Meeting!

It was truly encouraging to see the church filled with so many members of our Living Springs family at our annual meeting on Nov. 13. We were able to:

- * adopt 2023 Spending Plan (Part A-congregation, Part B-Child Development Center);
- * elect 2023-24 Council Members: Gary Bradham, Lorenzo Hampton, Ashley Stoutland, Laura Turnmire, Tom Willingham, and Hunter Prest (Youth, starting March);
- * elect 2023 Nominating Committee: Jeff Day, Bob Gabbard, Dea Jones, Kristen Matson, Retha Murray, Raegan Prest.
- * appoint 2023 Synod Assembly Voting Members: Leslie Bloss, Doug Danner, Karen Kranz, and Lauren Bloss (under age 30), with Alternate: Jan Epperson. One additional spot remains for another person under 30, OR a person of color, English as 2nd Language.

We also heard our constitutionally-required reports from Pastor Carl, Pastor Eric, Treasurer Mike Davidson, and the Audit Committee, as well as received an exciting update about our SC Synod Mission Partner Synod is Tanzania and the Medical Center project there. Copies of the now-adopted Spending Plan, new Council member bios, and Tanzania information are still located on the Admin Entrance table. We give thanks to God for the Spirit's energy among us, as we continue to extend the umbrella of God's hope!

Kitchen upgrades



AdventPalooza

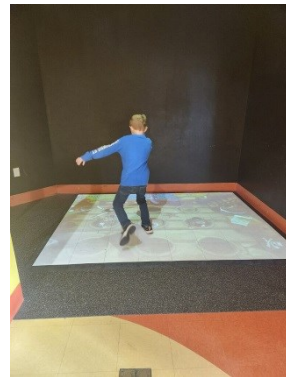
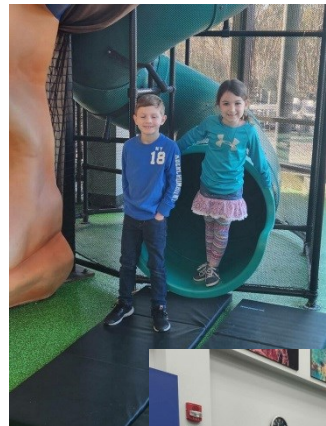
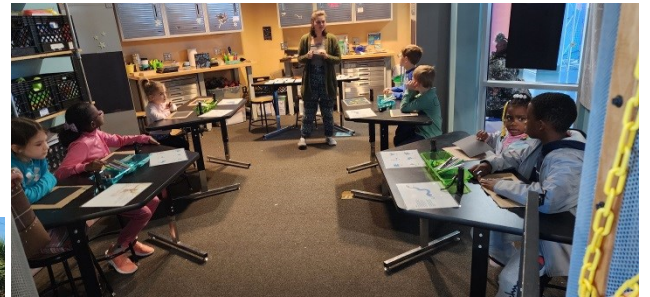
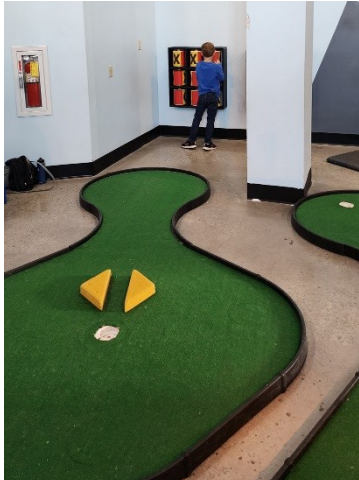
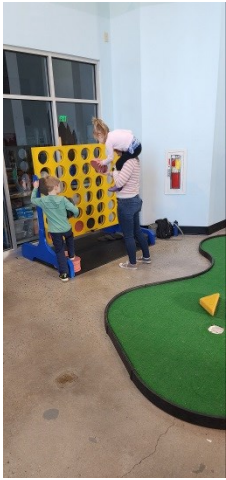


Notes from: *Little Lutherans*

Fun Morning at EDVENTURE

Pastor Carl and Mrs. Jan had a fun morning on Saturday, November 19th with little Lutherans from Living Springs and the Child Development Center. We spent 3 hours at EDVENTURE and had a blast learning new and fun things about Food Groups, Constellations, and DNA. We "flew" airplanes (OK, simulators!). We watched a Rocket Launch using a 2 liter plastic bottle, air, and water! It was way cool! We played Battleship, Connect Four, and Checkers. We played putt putt. The kids had fun maneuvering through Big Eddie! We ended our day at the Gift Shop with a small "take home" toy to remember our time together.

We appreciate the parents who stayed with us as we enjoyed this fun time together! More events will be coming, as well as other learning retreats!!!



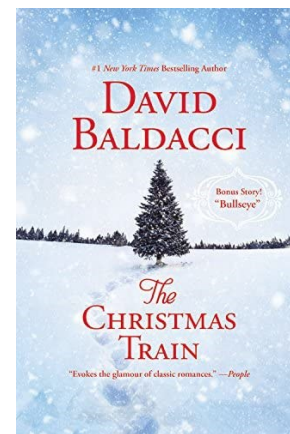
Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

LADIES BOOK CLUB Saturday, December 10 at 2 pm

Our usual December girls night out to discuss the book club book has been changed! Please note that we now have the opportunity to watch the Hallmark movie version of our December book The Christmas Train by David Baldacci.

Saturday, December 10 at 2 pm, we will meet at Beverly Hoppert's, 701 Summit Square (in the Woodhaven neighborhood at the beginning of the Summit) - her phone #803.348.4412. There will be holiday goodies along with hot chocolate and hot cider.

So if you haven't had a chance to read the book, you can come and fellowship with us and watch the Hallmark movie! Bring a friend, neighbor or relative!



2023 Camp Kinard Retreat Registration

6053 Two Notch Road Batesburg-Leesville, SC

Bible Study Leader: Pastor Lisa Isenhower - "Women of the New Testament"

Dates: Friday February 23 - Saturday February 24, 2023

Times: Check-in is 4:00 pm Friday and Check-out is 11:00 am Saturday

Cost: \$85.00 (includes meals, breaks, lodging with linens, towels, retreat leader and materials)

Cost for day: \$45 (includes meals, breaks, retreat leader and materials)



[Click here for registration form](#)

2023 ISLE OF PALMS RETREAT

REGISTER NOW!

May 5-7, 2023

Space is limited!

Retreat Bible Study Led by SC WELCA President, Risse Snelgrove
STUDY OF AMOS



- Uncover the connection between the God life and the good life.

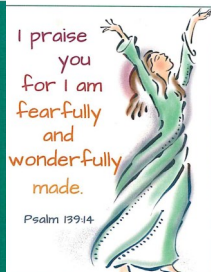


- Learn how God's care for us prompts us to care for others
- Break hope-stealing habits to reverse self-defeating choices
- Unearth the gems hidden within one of the most overlooked books in the Bible.

OPTIONAL: You can go to Lifeway.com and order the Bible Study Book or E-Book with video access for \$21.99.

Women on a Mission

March 10-12, 2023
Camp Kinard
6053 Two Notch Road
Batesburg-Leesville, SC
29070



Who We Are: A group of women whose mission it is to continue to walk in the way of Jesus. This weekend changed our lives. We continued the weekend with a 12,week Renewal to deepen our understanding of our purpose and our calling to be better women of God. This is not your typical women's retreat. In the hustle and bustle of life, as women we often are caring for others. This retreat is a gift to yourself. As part of the retreat, you will have: Time to be still and listen. Time to connect authentically with yourself and other women. A clearer sense of your purpose and where God is calling you. Be prepared for a once in a lifetime

experience and connect in a circle of sisters. Follow-up sessions to deepen the experience and relationships are available after the retreat.

Cost: Retreat and Women on a Mission - Renewal (12,week Bible study) is only \$175. Registration is non-refundable but is transferable to another participant for this retreat (limited exceptions). The retreat is 2 nights of lodging, 6 meals, and retreat materials. (Special diet need are \$6 extra per person). [Click here for more info & registration](#)

Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

Committee of 100 Dinner



March 24-26, 2023

Tracy's Camp

Pinewood, SC

COST: Early Registration: \$150 by Mar 17th; Late Registration: \$175 by Mar 23rd (Scholarships are available - contact retreat leaders)

[Click here for more info/registration](#)

Men of all ages yearn for real friendships and a closer relationship with Christ.

Join us and be...

- Adventurous and courageous
- Genuine and spiritual

Look forward to...

- Banding together and being challenged
- Examining your life and making decisions

Be prepared for a spiritual boot camp. This 45-hour experience is not for the faint of heart!



Opportunities at Living Springs

Looking for Readers To pre-record or read live...Individuals/couples/families/youth

You can read from your favorite bible translation or even a children's Bible. The idea is to have as many varied voices and a myriad of ages read God's Word in this recorded library! So we are looking for individuals, a couple of friends together, couples, and families willing to read and record God's Word. We will pair you with a reading that suits you; we just want to know if you are willing to read! (and if you don't like being on camera--no worries! We can use online graphics to go along with your reading and no one has to see you!)

Recording you is easy to do (we will coach you!) and you can do it right from your own home, or you can come into the sanctuary and do it! We just know that this world needs to hear this amazing love story by God for God's people. Sign up in the Admin building or call the office.

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL GIFT?

ELCA Good Gifts offer the opportunity to give a gift for a loved one that truly makes a difference! See the ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue for World Hunger animals and other ministry gifts. Together, we can do more than we ever could alone, making a huge collective impact in people's lives. Good Gift Catalogues - along with Gift Ornaments & Note Cards to share with a loved one - are available in the admin lobby.



Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Greetings to all,

We look forward to sharing time with family and friends as we gather together over the Thanksgiving Holiday. For many, this is the first time they have had the opportunity to share time in a few years; we look forward to seeing photos and hearing stories of how our children and staff have witnessed Hope during their time together.

Generosity, Joy, and Giving are shown throughout the year, but especially now as we come together with the excitement of activities and acts of love to share with others.

The children, families, and staff are eager to begin the Advent and Christmas season and use the new Family Celebrate Advent and Christmas cards together.

We are prepping our Advent food collection boxes.

Setting up our Christmas Tree and classroom nativity scenes.

Making cards and decorations for our Senior Friends at Rice Estates.

Collecting items for the animal shelter.

It is indeed an exciting time of year!

Tammy



God's Corner



Thank you so much for the wonderful dinner and games that you hosted for us on Saturday, October 22nd. It is so good to get out and a different meal. Thank you also for the Halloween bag. Your group means a lot to a bunch of older people.,

In His love,

Joan Gregory, Rice Estate

Dear Living Springs family,.

We enjoyed our special meal the church ladies were so kind to prepare for us. We will always treasure the beautiful prayer shawl that was made so beautifully & stitched with love prayers especially for Ken.

Sincerely, ***the Ferrucci family***

D See God At Work...

Praise—Doesn't necessarily represents the presence of faith. It's how we react to what Jesus has already done in our lives.

Prayer—The absolute confidence in who Jesus has told us He is & the belief He can do anything he wants, even it it's truly miraculous! When we really pray, we recognize that His mission, vision and ideas are the most critical and direr to achieving the very reason His and our Father created all of us. As a result, we should be biblically centered, completely aligned with His will & should constantly be working to "do justice," in whatever ways we can. So when we pray, as we execute justice, we should anticipate that He will absolutely answer our prayers. The timeline & response is His. The ability to see the response (and He always answers in exactly the right way) - is our. We must never give up on Him! - anonymous

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!

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE 810A Pre-Worship Prayer Time 1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary / Parking Lot FM/Online) 920 Adult Faith Formation</p>	<p>1025 Pre-Worship Prayer Time 1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary / Parking Lot FM/Online)</p>					
<p>4 *See box above 2nd Sunday in Advent 920A Congregation Advent/Christmas Gathering 920A Nativity Rehearsal 1145A Nativity Rehearsal 12P - 630P Tree Lot 12P Confirmation Class (Parents 2PM) 430P Girl Scouts 5P Cristo Rey Ministry (Meet LS 415)</p>	<p>5 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P Worship Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop</p>	<p>6 10A Adult Conf. Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells</p>	<p>7 1030A Preschool Bible Time Noon Advent Worship 330P Afterschool Bible Time 545P Disciples of Harmony 630P Sr. Youth (church) 630P Advent Worship (Choir—After Worship) 6P Hope Team</p>	<p>8 7A Bible & Biscuits Men's Bible Study 330P Backpack Ministry (LSCDC) 630P LSCDC Board</p>	<p>9 5P - 8P Tree Lot</p>	<p>10 9A Christmas Caroling 930A Crafty Ladies 10A - 8P Tree Lot 2P Ladies Book Club Sr. Youth Lock In</p>
<p>11 *See box above 3rd Sunday in Advent Before/After Worship—Backpacks 920A Emotional/Mental Health Congregation Gathering 12P - 630P Tree Lot 430P Girl Scouts 5P Youth Christmas Program (Spaghetti Supper/Elf Store)</p>	<p>12 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P Boy Scout Christmas Meal 7P Exec Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Fellowship & Mutual Care</p>	<p>13 10A St. Lucia Brunch 1030A Meals on Wheels 530P Finance Team 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells</p>	<p>14 1030A Preschool Bible Time Noon Advent Worship 330P Afterschool Bible Time 430P Rush Hour Ministry 545P Disciples of Harmony 630P Sr. Youth (church) 630P Advent Worship (Choir—After Worship) 7P Emotional-Mental Health TF</p>	<p>15 7P Council Meeting Children's Hospital Meal</p>	<p>16 5P - 8P Tree Lot</p>	<p>17 10A - 8P Tree Lot 7P Live Nativity</p>
<p>18 *See box above 4th Sunday in Advent 920A Book of Month Class 12P - 630P Tree Lot 430P Girl Scouts 7P Live Nativity</p>	<p>19 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First</p>	<p>20 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells</p>	<p>21 1030A Preschool Bible Time Noon Advent Worship 330P Afterschool Bible Time 545P Disciples of Harmony 630P Sr. Youth (church) 630P Advent Worship (Choir—After Worship)</p>	<p>22 7A Bible & Biscuits Men's Bible Study TBA-Palmetto Place Meal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE 12-Midday Quiet Communion 5P-Children/Family Candlelight Comm. 730P-Festival Candlelight Comm. (music at 715)</p>
<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY 1030A Come-as-you-are Carols &</p>	<p>26 Office Closed 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First</p>	<p>27 1030A Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>1 *See box above 2nd Sunday of Christmas 920A Adult Class</p>	<p>2 Office Closed 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P Worship Team 7P Recovery Comes First</p>	<p>3 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells</p>	<p>4 1030A Preschool Bible Time 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Adult Choir 630P Sr. Youth (tba)</p>	<p>5 11A Good News Team 7P Lifelong Discipleship 7P Youth & Children Ministry</p>	<p>6 Epiphany Day 530-7P Epiphany Campfire Gathering</p>	<p>7 9A De-Decorating</p>

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

December 1	Michael Snipes	December 26	Lexanne Graves
December 2	Deborah DePaoli		Linda Hayes
	Lisa Petty	December 28	Savannah Mancuso
December 6	Peg Zieche		Leena Skiba
December 9	Lucas Shannon		♥ Barbara & Peter Creighton
December 14	Peggy Collins	December 29	Goldie Harmon
	Sara Hale		Jeannie Hurlbert
	Raegan Miller		♥ Marshall & Jeannie Hurlbert
December 16	Lilah Snipes	December 30	♥ Richard & Tanja Kopec
December 19	♥ Lee & Barbara Collins	December 31	Melanie Mooney
December 21	Ron Ramsey		Randy Sides
December 25	Nicholas Wirth		



Celebrate Your Baptism

Don't forget to check the bulletin to see if we will be celebrating your Baptismal Anniversary during this month's Sunday worship services. Immediately below the Gathering Music, there are printed the names of those who are celebrating a baptismal anniversary *in that week*. When the gathering music begins, individuals can quietly come forward to meet Pastor Eric at the baptismal fountain. There, he will re-trace the cross with the water on your forehead and offer a special prayer of blessing for you (children may be accompanied by parents). There is nothing to be anxious about - everything is done quietly while the music is being played. For those who know only the month of your Baptism, you can join us on the first Sunday of the month (if you prefer some other Sunday, please let us know). **If you do not know your baptismal information, then please pick a month when you would like to celebrate this gift of God's grace in your life – and notify the office**, so that we can add you to the celebration list (we'll simply mark the choice of your month with an asterisk). Even if you don't know the exact date, it's important to celebrate this special gift of God's grace in your life. Again, we encourage everyone to research your Baptismal date and find out as much information as you can – let us know if we can help!



December 1	Anne Ducate
	Bob Turnmire
December 2	Brantley Smith
December 6	Marj Appleton
	Meg Goldberg
	Evan Turnmire
December 8	Hailey Stoutland
	Brady Stoutland
December 9	Kellie Snipes
December 10	Sarah Schultz
December 22	Lexanne Graves
December 23	Karen Kranz
December 29	Scott Graves



CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org

Rev. Carl Taylor - Associate Pastor

pastorcarl@livingspringscolumbia.org

Deacon Lexanne Graves – E-Outreach Coordinator

lexanne@livingspringscolumbia.org

Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

tmancuso@lslccdc.org

Lisa Petty – Good News Coordinator

lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org

Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org

Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper

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Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

laurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

[Gary Bradham](#) - President

[Brantley Smith](#)- 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

[Wayne Bracey](#)

[Joel Holmstrom](#)

[Barb Imbert](#)

[Dea Jones](#)

[London Mancuso](#)

[Ron Ramsey](#)

[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