

The Living Springs Journal

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

May 2023



May Disciple Gatherings! (from Pastor Eric)

May "BOOK" OF THE MONTH = ACTS, chapters 1-14
PASTOR TIMES: Tues, May 9 @ 10am; Sun, May 14 @ 9:20am

Here, this month, we walk together in the midst of the glorious, on-going 50-day season of Easter—culminating in the celebration of Pentecost on May 28! In our Sunday Scriptures, we have heard stories of how the Risen Lord, Jesus, **gathered with his disciples** on many occasions to give them hope, peace, and purpose. I think about these original Easter-season "disciple gatherings" with Jesus—and I marvel that after nearly 2000 years, there continue to be gatherings of Jesus' disciples here in Columbia SC and throughout the world!

On the May LS calendar, you will actually see events called "**Disciple Gatherings**" scattered throughout the month. These are occasions when we gather as disciples in small groups to support one another, get to know one another, and to share/explore all the ways we each are part of "God's Growing Hope" (our 2023 Ministry Emphasis).

Also, in May, we have 2 very special all-congregation "gatherings." On **May 28**, we gather together as one for worship & fellowship to celebrate the **great day of Pentecost** (along with Christmas & Easter, the 3rd of the 3 most important days of our lives). It will be a wonderful

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PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 28




**Outdoor Worship Celebration
Special Unity Service @ 10:30**
(on the lawn, bring blankets & lawn chairs)
Congregation Picnic @ 11:45
(hot dogs & hamburger cookout by Luth. Men, bring your side dishes & desserts to share)

**LS EMOTIONAL-MENTAL
WELLNESS EMPHASIS**

+ + +

**Next Congregation Gathering:
Sunday, May 21 @ 9:20!
Welcome Jessica Barnes,
SC Dept. of Mental Health**




From the Desk of Pastor Carl



Hey YALL...

I have some Good News for you.....

As I write this, we have just finished our fourth week of Easter, and yes, the time is passing fast. April 9th was Resurrection Sunday, and it was an awesome experience celebrating with everyone who attended and worshipped with us online. With shouts of Alleluias...we have begun the celebration of our joy as Christians. Jesus Christ has broken the bonds of the tomb...and he is no

longer held by death. His death has conquered the sins of our lives and has ushered in a new beginning, a new hope.

Our Sr. youth continue to meet on Wednesdays for conversations, highs and lows, and reflections on where they have seen God at work in their lives in general. They were a big help to LaTynia Taylor for our Annual Easter Egg Event on April 2, 2023. We had a lot of children show up and participate in the activities and the Easter egg hunt. We look forward to a bigger Easter Egg Event next year.

Confirmation classes have ended for the spring learning experience. We will meet one more time on May 21st for our end-of-spring reflection and fun time. It has been a good learning experience for all of us as Jan and I continue to learn from the confirmands. Just to sum up the confirmation experience, we ended with the stewardship of TIME, TALENTS, and TREASURES. The confirmands spoke on more ways to implement God into their lives. There was even a question in our lesson that asked about time. Here is the question for you. --- In a 24-hour period, if 8 hours are dedicated to sleep, then of the remaining 16 hours, how much time do you dedicate to your God life? There is no right or wrong answer, just something to ponder.

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outdoor worship experience, followed by a congregation picnic/cookout on the church lawn.

On **May 21**, the congregation gathers in the fellowship hall at 9:20 for the next of our **LS Emotional-Mental Wellness Gatherings**. We had a tremendous experience with Gia Quinones at our previous gathering—and in May, we are excited to welcome Jessica Barnes of the SC Dept of Mental Health. Jessica brings wonderful insights to breaking down barriers of silence when it comes to conversations about suicide—which has sadly affected almost everyone in one way or another.

Beyond these specially-labeled “gatherings,” however, May (and every month) of our LS calendar is truly filled with many disciple gatherings. We gather as disciples of Jesus every week for worship & Bible studies. We gather as disciples of Jesus to deliver meals to Palmetto Place and Children’s Hospital, to deliver Mother’s Day flowers to women at Rice Estate & other facilities. We gather as disciples to share joy with the children of Cristo Rey (our Mission church partner). We gather as disciples to back 70 bags of food for elementary students to have weekend nourishment. We gather as disciples to deliver Meals on Wheels. We gather as disciples to pass out messages & snacks of hope to drivers caught in rush hour traffic. We gather as disciples to sing anthems, play instruments, and ring handbells. We gather as disciples in a public restaurant to sing hymns of praise and joy at Beer & Hymns! The list goes on and on ...

On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came in a powerful way to enable the disciples of Jesus to proclaim the Good News of Jesus’ Resurrection and the promise of God’s forgiveness & hope for all in Jesus’ name. In Acts (our May Bible Book of the Month), we will hear also how the Holy Spirit continued to work beyond the day of Pentecost, spreading that Good News everywhere and empowering more & more gatherings of disciples throughout the world! Truly, we live out that miracle 1993 years later—still gathering as disciples with the Risen Jesus among us, to grow God’s hope in the world! Christ IS risen! The Holy Spirit has come! We still gather as disciples in Jesus’ name! Alleluia! With much love for each of you, my partner disciples in this special place, *Pastor Eric*



Opportunities to Share & Experience the joy of

God’s Growing Hope here in May:

CRISTO REY MINISTRY—May 7

RICE ESTATE FLOWER DELIVERY—May 12

SUNDAY MORNING BACKPACKS—May 14

BEER & HYMNS—May 15

CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL MEAL—May 18

WELLNESS GATHERING—May 21

EMPTY NESTERS/SENIORS LUNCH—May 21

RUSH HOUR MINISTRY—May 23

PALMETTO PLACE MEAL—May 25

MEALS ON WHEELS—each Mon & Tue

NA RECOVERY GROUP—each Mon & Thurs

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LS SPRING DISCIPLE GATHERINGS!

May 7, May 20, May 21, May 24

(check your enews & Sunday bulletins)

2023 LIVING SPRINGS MINISTRY FOCUS

Like a tree planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, we are

baptized, rooted & nurtured in Christ to be part of

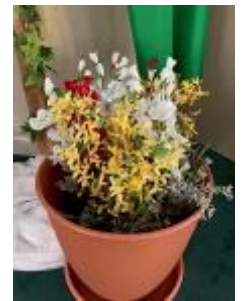
GOD’S GROWING HOPE FOR THE WORLD:

Breaking down barriers by sowing seeds of **God’s grace for all!**

Serving daily as instruments of **God’s life-transforming hope** for others!

Inviting everyone to experience the **joy of life in God’s diverse Kingdom garden!**

Joyfully living & proclaiming the **unconditional, reconciling love of Jesus** for the world!



Nourished by the living waters of God’s grace and led by the Holy Spirit, we are called to live in faith with each other & our community through these 2023 Ministry Focus Areas:



Sow Additional Seeds of God’s Growing Hope!

- * *Forming relational Mentoring Ministries in our congregation & community*
- * *Meeting & going beyond our church walls, to carry Christ’s presence into the community*
- * *Creating deeper relational ministries of Support, Care, Prayer, and Faith-Building for all ages*
- * *Developing/partnering for specific Food Ministries (& other Life-Necessities) in our community*

Nurture the Growing Hope that God Has Already Sprouted & Bloomed!

- * *Implementing Emotional-Mental Wellness Initiatives (incl. recovery ministries)*
- * *Offering multiple modes of Worship & Bible Study (incl. creative technology options)*
- * *Fostering Diversity/Inclusion in our congregation & community (incl. bi-lingual options, ASL)*
- * *Building on Ecumenical/Community Partnerships for God’s work (incl. Justice, NE partners, Mission partners, R2, LCM)*
- * *Growing Music Ministries to joyfully praise God & celebrate God’s Grace for all*
- * *Expanding Faith-Life Ministries with children & youth (CDC, GIFT worship, Youth, Ftbll, Scouts, Palmetto Place, etc.)*
- * *Continuing Outreach Ministries that meet people where they are (especially those on the margins, such as at-risk children/youth, homelessness, refugees, imprisoned, veterans, seniors, those with special needs)*

From the Desk of Pastor Carl...continued

(Continued from page 2)

The G.I.F.T. area continues to be an important and exciting place for our little ones to experience worship by listening to the words of the day that both Pastor Eric and I provide, as well as coloring and answering questions in the kid's bulletin that Mrs. Jan Berger adds to the G.I.F.T. experience. I am humbled to share in their faith journeys as we all Grow In Faith Together.

Let us continue to share words of wisdom with our youth and pray for them in their struggles in life and school, as their safety should be our number one concern. As we continue our spiritual journeys, I encourage you to cling to your faith with courage and creativity, always looking for God in new and exciting places as we continue our Faith/Life Journey of Worship, Togetherness, and Community, meeting people where they are in life.

Say this out loud.....

Open the eyes of my heart Lord ----- I want to see you....

Grace and Peace...



Pastor Carl -----



BUILDING+RENEWING+BELIEVING:

Holy Spaces

A Capital Campaign supporting the ministry of Camp Kinard

"Holy Spaces" Camp Kinard Appeal at LS!

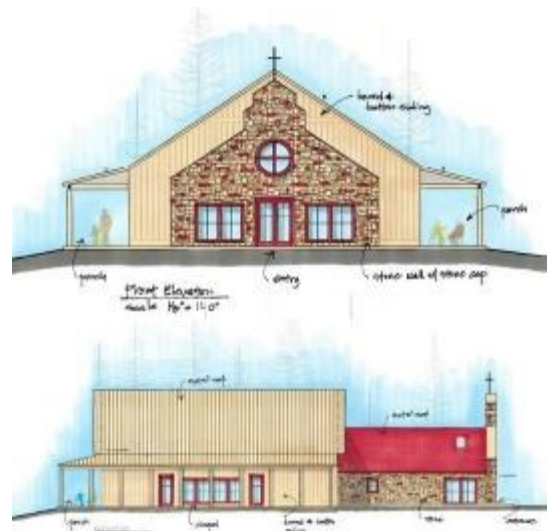
What a wonderful visit last Sunday from SC Lutheran Retreat Center Director, Deacon Dallas Shealy! We're excited about our LS participation in the "Holy Spaces" appeal for our local Lutheran retreat center – as we join other SC congregations in a 3-year goal of raising \$2.2 million for a new lakeside chapel, accessible pool, and entrance/roadway at Camp Kinard!

The invitation is for SC Lutherans to offer the equivalent of \$1 per week for the 3-year period = \$156 total, spread out over 3 years. Of course, some will be able to give even more. Special cards for commitments and/or one-time gifts can be brought to LS through the next 2 weeks. ([Click here for a copy](#)). Beyond the campaign, a goal is to create greater awareness of Camp Kinard as one of our Lutheran Church's "holy spaces" that offers life-transforming faith experiences for so many children, youth, families, and adults!

*If you missed any of our March/April inserts & videos about Camp Kinard "Holy Spaces," link below:

[Insert #1](#), [Insert #2](#), [Insert #3](#), [Insert #4](#)

[Video #1](#), [Video #2](#), [Video #3](#), [Video #4](#)



God's Corner



To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you all so much for the beautiful card and all your kind words of sympathy in the passing of my dear sister, Connie.

God's Blessings, Sue Hyman



Thank you so much for your kindness and support through this difficult time for our family. We are so very grateful.

Evelyn Long & family

D See God At Work...

Recently, due to some mechanical issues, I have been unable to use my washer and dryer. For a short term solution, I chose to Google a wash and fold laundry service. There were big companies with questionable reviews and then there was one called "Grant Your Wish Laundry Service". The Lord led me to this amazing woman, who is a sole proprietor, who works very hard. This woman was literally an angel for me and I am grateful for her love and focus she put into our laundry. Yes, it is an ordinary task that we all do every week; yet this woman returned all laundry smelling "bounty-ful" in ONE DAY! The Lord took my crisis and turned it into a blessing for two + people! Now that's God at work, doing extraordinary things with ordinary people!!!!



I saw God at the Columbia International Festival. It is truly a blessing to see God's people united together and celebrating differences.

SHARE YOUR GOD 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!



Notes from: Fellowship & Mutual Care

Empty Nesters Lunch *Sunday, May 21 @ noon*

FMC will host a spring picnic for the Empty Nesters following the 10:45 service on May 21st in the fellowship hall. Please join us for fun and fellowship. The confirmands will be joining us.



Notes from: *Emotional - Mental Wellness*

LS Emotional-Mental Wellness Emphasis

Congregation Gathering: Sunday, May 21

9:20-10:20 in the Fellowship Hall

***"Breaking Down Walls of Silence:
How to Talk about Suicide"***

Welcome Jessica Barnes, Program Director!



Suicide is a growing problem in our society—and almost everyone has been impacted some way. How do we break down walls of silence that just further advance the problem? How do we respond to help someone through a crisis? How do we talk with someone who is having thoughts about possibly ending their life? How do we deal with feelings of grief or guilt of losing someone through suicide? How do we wrestle with our own thoughts?

On Sunday, May 21, we are very excited to welcome Jessica Barnes to LS for our next Emotional-Mental Wellness gathering. Jessica is the Program Director for the Office of Suicide Prevention, SC Dept of Mental Health. She is a tremendous resource, and we are so blessed to have her here. Please spread the word and invite others to join us.

* Here is a log-in [GoogleLink](#) for those who need to join virtually (even from a long-distance).



Cards of Support *Sundays, May 14 & 21*

On Sundays, May 14th & 21st, there will be an opportunity to sign cards of support and thanks for our 13 local school counselors. Please stop by the table and sign as many, if not all, that you can!



Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

LS Ministries with Cristo Rey!

Sun. 5/7 @ 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: *Good News Team*

Beer N Hymns IS BACK!!!

We know you have been asking for this awesome experience and we are working our way back slowly to ensure everyone is safe and joyful in song!



**Monday, May 15th
from 7-9pm @ Beef O'Bradys!!**

Our musicians will be Pr. Jesse Caniff-Kuhn guitarist and lead vocal from USC Campus Ministry, Kris Fink guitarist from LS, Hunter Prest cajon player from LS, Jeremy Grainger guitarist and Carsten Bryant on electric, both from Trinity UMC! Bring a friend!



Rush Hour Ministry
Tuesday, May 23rd @ 5PM

Rush Hour Ministry—one of the best places where you can truly and genuinely see and feel the Holy Spirit at work! Join us on the sidewalk in front of Living Springs holding signs of HOPE and sharing smiles and blessings to those waiting in rush hour traffic! We will meet to be beacons around 4:30pm to pack bags and set up.. Join us anytime!

LS Good News Bible Reading Project

Catch this month's stories in our [YouTube Bible Project Playlist](#)

Hope in the Midst of Trials - read by John Imbert

Sent to Carry a Cross of Love- read by Pr. Carl

The Teacher's Final Lesson - read by Hunter Prest

A Time for Love & Disappointment - read by Eugenia Fain

Victory of Life & A Promise - read by Deacon Lexanne Graves

May Stories:

May 3	Acts 1:1-26	Witnesses To the Ends of the Earth!
May 11	Acts 2:1-24,37-47	Life-Changing Hope in Every Language
May 17	Acts 8:4-40	Good News is Spreading, Hope is Growing!
May 24	Acts 9:1-31	A New Direction & Purpose in Life
May 31	Acts 10:1-48	Barriers Broken Down - Hope for Everyone!

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 Wednesday, 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! If you would like to read a story, either "live" or pre-recorded contact Lisa Petty or Lexanne Graves.

Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

LS Presents \$11,000 check for Lutheran Campus Ministry!

We give thanks to everyone who helped with our Lenten Fish Fry series, which generated over \$3000 for our Gamecock Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM). We also give thanks for your additional offerings, which along with a special gift and \$2000 designated by Council, allowed LS to present a check for \$11,000 at LCM's worship service last Sunday night! Pastor Jesse is creating a spiritual home away from home in welcoming all students regardless of denomination, gender, religious beliefs or non-beliefs. We have 2 LS students participating (Sydnie Taylor & Rylee Harris), 2 LCM Board Members (Lyndsey Pittman & Karen Kranz), plus involvement of families & ministry groups providing Sunday meals. The Holy Spirit is definitely at work!



BACKPACKS

Sunday packing has become one of our regular routines on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month - what started out sort of giving people a tug to come in the fellowship hall to pack backpacks has now grown to seeing disappointing faces when they come in and all the bags are packed. It actually gives our social workers leeway in picking up the bags because they have all week to fit it in their schedule. I get a smile when I send them the message that we packed on Sunday and they can pick up anytime during the week - the response is "AWESOME". Thank you to everyone that participates in this ministry - our last Sunday to pack will be May 14 and our last pickup will be the w/o 5/22. We are out of milk, so even though we are not packing, we can start accumulating inventory since school will start early in August.



SUMMER HOPE SUNDAYS

Our Hope Sundays this year will be June 11, July 9 and August 13. Look for upcoming information in the e-news.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS FOR RICE ESTATE & AT-HOME MEMBERS

Each of the ladies at Rice Estate and our at-home members will receive a flower and card. We are planning on delivering them on Friday morning, May 12. Contact Karen Kranz if you would like to participate - as of this writing, we should be able to go around and hand-deliver each vase to the Rice Estate ladies and could use some help delivering to our at-home members. Thursday afternoon, we will arrange the vases - different opportunities for all ages! If you're able to bring your young ones to deliver, the ladies seem to get a lot more enjoyment receiving the flowers from a youngster.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & PALMETTO PLACE MEALS

Lunches are prepared and delivered by Travis Mooney of Carolina Deli on the third Thursday of the month to the parents that have children going through chemo or have blood disorders. One of the personal things we do is put a card of encouragement in the lunch bag - please feel free to create your own message of hope for these parents going through some hard times. There is a card box in the workroom where you can place your card.

Palmetto Place gets a meal on the fourth Thursday of the month - young adults learning and transitioning from the youth shelter to be responsible adults. We include an entree, starch item, and a veggie or salad and top it off with a dessert. If you have a favorite recipe, we ask that you include it with the meal. The goal is to teach them meal preparation, versus eating fast food.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

I cannot express what a joyful experience it was presenting the check of \$11k to Pastor Jesse of our Gamecock Campus Ministry. In just the short time he has been the Pastor, I have seen this ministry grow from few to many. I think of our theme for this year - Growing in God's Hope and how very close this ministry follows that exact theme. THANK YOU to all that participated, in any way, to make this mission possible.



Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*

Bible Book of the Month Class

Join us as we take a deeper look at this month's Bible Book(s) of the Month. All are welcome. Facilitator – Pastor Eric

Meets Tuesday, May 9 in the Katie Room and Online at 10:00

meet.google.com/crm-zcgt-bxx Or **dial:** 540-669-0687 PIN: 810 783 136#

Meets Sunday, May 14 in the Fellowship Hall and Online at 9:20

meet.google.com/zkz-tzgp-seu Or **dial:** +1 323-515-9597 (PIN: 776209519)

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 Ministry continues to give thanks for the Nehemiah Action on March 27th, when more than 800 people from all walks of life gathered at the Township Auditorium to seek positive change for our neighbors in the Midlands.

Here's a recap of what happened at the Action:

- Mayor Rickenmann agreed to support using publicly-owned land within the city of Columbia for local healthy food initiatives, such as pop-up markets, produce stands, community gardens, and more. He agreed to work with MORE Justice to develop legislation to do this by June 6th at the City Council Meeting. Mayor Rickenmann also agreed to commit to supporting the sustainability of the Mobile Market by meeting with MORE Justice to ensure its long-term viability beyond its immediate 18-months of funding. We need to explore how best to ensure that folks without access to grocery stores (due to distance from stores or lack of transportation, etc.) are able to buy food.
- We affirmed Mayor Rickenmann's leadership this year in establishing the Office of Violent Crime in Columbia, and committed to continue to working with him as a director is hired and operation gets underway. MORE Justice's push to address the problem of gun violence in Columbia is making a difference.
- Two County Councilmembers, Paul Livingston and Allison Terracio, agreed to commit to requesting a half-day workshop for the County Council with national experts on Affordable Housing Trust Funds. This important step will help County Council members understand why a trust fund is a critical step in solving the affordable housing problem in the Midlands. These two councilmembers also agreed to present an ordinance to establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Richland County, to be voted on by the end of November.

Why is an Affordable Housing Trust Fund so important? The fund will incentivize developers to build housing for working people who are making less than 50% of the area's median income. This includes essential workers in Richland County, like teachers, police, firefighters, and health care professionals. Thousands of Richland residents need a safe and affordable place to call home.

In May MORE Justice will continue meeting with our county agencies, partner organizations, and public officials, focusing on the problem areas of food scarcity, affordable housing, and crime and gun violence. If you would like to participate in these meetings, please talk with Pastor Eric or a Justice Ministry Team Leader (Peg or Jim Zieche, Gail Buchanan, Gwen Furcron, Mike Davidson, Wayne Kannaday, Helen Doerpinghaus).

The MORE Justice CELEBRATION is on Monday, May 8th, 6:30 pm, at St. Martin's in the Fields Episcopal Church. Carpools will be available from Living Springs between 5:45 and 6:00 pm. Living Springs Network Members and clergy will join our 25+ partner justice congregations for dinner, awards, and fun for everyone! We will be invited to invest a meaningful amount in MORE Justice to support the justice work we are doing together. Join us to celebrate this 6th year of witnessing God's blessing as "Justice rolls down like water" in the Midlands! Thanks be to God!



Living Springs Seminarians

It's time for Seminary Graduation

You are invited to attend this year's **Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary's commencement / graduation** on Thursday, May 11th at 10am at the **Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center**.

Please hold in your prayers and congratulate this year's class from Living Springs (past and present): Adrianna McMurphy, Isaac Taylor and his wife Christine, and Megan Landers Shuler.

Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

The Wonder of Worship

Confession & Forgiveness

We worship God through music and song; through hearing the Word of God read and explained; and by gathering at the Lord's table for communion. We'll talk about each one of these in future articles.

But this month our focus is on something that happens at the very beginning of the worship service (right after the announcements): **Confession and Forgiveness**. This exact heading is often in the bulletin. In some seasons, like the weeks of Easter, it may say, **Thanksgiving for Baptism**, but the purpose is the same. Here's how one author explains it:

“. . . the congregation recognizes that it has entered into the presence of the holy Triune God. Consequently, the wickedness of those gathering is exposed. In the light of God's purity, our impurities are clear before our eyes. We sinful people cannot stand before a holy, perfect God. Therefore, the congregation joins together to confess their sins before God. God responds with a cleansing that comes through the words of absolution.”¹

A worship service is radically different from every other gathering. We aren't there just for information or even edification. The purpose is to engage in deep, meaningful interaction with the God who created heaven, earth, and us, and who—amazingly--desires fellowship with us. This should bring joyful anticipation, but also humble awareness of our need for God's grace. Here are two points to help us get the most from this brief, but vitally important part of our worship services:

Cultivate a biblical, healthy awareness that we are sinners. An aging relative once initiated a conversation with me about God and the Bible. She was a wonderful, salt-of-the-earth type person who never had much time for “organized religion.” She nodded her head when I said Jesus was God, that he showed us what God was like, even that Jesus had been crucified. But when I said that Jesus had to die to make possible forgiveness of our sin, she slammed her hands on the table and almost shouted, “I am **not** a sinner. I see people all the time doing things I would never do. They may be sinners, but I am not.” I knew not to push her. I prayed for her, trusting the Holy Spirit to speak to her. All to say, the first part of our service has little meaning unless we understand that we are baptized saints who will continue to sin until we see Jesus face-to-face.

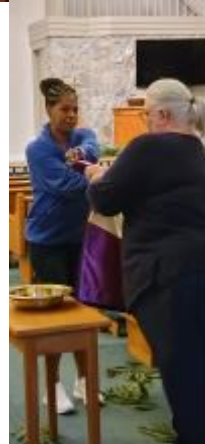
Take full advantage of the opportunity to speak directly to God about your soul. Use the brief time for silent reflection and prayer and also the collective prayers of confession. Sometimes we kneel and our pastors do too, facing the altar, a reminder that they also need God's cleansing. Finally, when the pastor speaks words to assure us that, as we confess our sins, God **is** faithful and just to forgive us (1 John 1:9), let that good news wash over you like a wave of blessing! This prayer by a long-ago preacher captures that longing and joy: **“Lord Jesus, we come to Thee now as little children. Dress us again in clean pinafores; make us tidy once more with the tidiness of true remorse and confession. O, wash our hearts, that they may be clean again. Make us to know the strengthening joys of the Spirit, and the newness of life which only Thou can give. Amen.”**²



¹ *Liturgical Worship: A Lutheran Introduction*, by Jordan Cooper. Just Sinner Publishing House, 2018.

² *The Prayers of Peter Marshall*. Edited and with prefaces by Catherine Marshall. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1949, 1954.

Holy Week/Easter Sunday

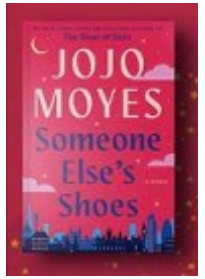




Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

LADIES BOOK CLUB

Monday, June 5 if you would like to join us in the discussion of *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes, we are meeting at Jan Epperson's, 508 Coldbranch Dr.(North Springs community) ph: 803.206.8272 at 7 pm. Light refreshments are provided and everyone is welcome.



WANTED! ALL WOMEN'S OPINIONS NEEDED Due Sunday, May 7th

Whether you are familiar with the Women of the ELCA or not (*especially not*), please give us 5 minutes to share your thoughts on our Lutheran church's Women's ministry. Help us to learn what Lutheran women need and want to help them grow in faith, support one another, and engage in ministry and action. Our survey is short and will only take a couple minutes. We need to hear from YOU! Please pick up a survey in the admin lobby and drop off in the box. We will mail it in for you.

The 2023 SC WELCA Convention will be upon we before we know it! June 23 - 24, 2023 Zion Lutheran Church Lexington SC



- **Thrivent Water Project.** Make water filters for families in need in South-east Region including South Carolina.
- **"Will Taxes Affect your Retirement?"** Facilitated by local Thrivent Financial Advisors, Heidi Edwards & Jeffrey Malott.
- **General Health and Nutrition Workshop** with Janna S. Felker, MS, APRN, FNP-BC. She will discuss health issues such as nutrition, diabetes, and blood pressure.
- **"How to Revive your WELCA Unit"** Come discuss and share ideas and ask questions about reviving your church unit with our Churchwide Representative.
- **Bible Study: Soaring on High.** Come discover what lessons we can learn from the eagle in this workshop, based on Mary Whelchel's Book Soaring on High. One of the eagle's greatest gifts is to soar. We have the incredible opportunity to soar like eagles. Learn how you can develop powerful new "eyesight", see life's difficulties as "soaring lessons" and discover the flying secret that can keep you airborne. Don't miss out on your opportunity to begin soaring on high!
- **Craft:** We will be making a fabric star with Debby Sawyer and Trina Floyd. Materials are included.
- **Dance Fitness with Julie** is a dance aerobic class that is very similar to the Latin-based Zumba style classes but uses several music genres from Contemporary Christian to the latest radio hits of country, pop, and rock. You will Salsa, Merengue, two-step, and jazz dance with lots of dance aerobic moves. You may even line dance in class. The great thing about Dance Fitness is it is for everyone no matter your ability! There is always a way to simplify some of the moves to work for you. Just feel the beat and move! Julie is a member of Macedonia Lutheran Church.

Visitors can register here: https://www.scwelca.com/files/ugd/e0e406_5dbb531b25f84b11813e0ff73354393b.pdf

Notes from: *LS Youth*

Drivers License Milestone

On **Saturday, May 20th, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**, we will have a Faith Milestones Ministry Event for our youth **who have received their driver's licenses** or **preparing to receive their driver's this year**. It is an exciting new adventure for some and adventurous for those that have been driving for a while, and we want to celebrate with you! This class will be offered for our youth and at least one **parent (if possible)** on **Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm, with refreshments**.

Important Note: The class is actually an hour and thirty minutes at most. I wanted to have time for conversations afterward.

The Blessing of this Faith Milestone will occur at our **10:30 am** worship experience on **May 21, 2023**. If you and your youth driver or driver to be plan to participate, please contact Pastor Carl as soon as possible --- no later than **May 15, 2023**.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Carl at 803- 736-0661 or pastorcarl@livingspringscolumbia.org

ARTSMART PERFORMING ARTS SUMMER CAMP

June 26-29 & July 24-27 2023

hosted by Living Springs Lutheran Church

YOUR
EXPERIENCE
NEEDED!

ArtSmart is a Biblically-based arts education summer program which combines:

- Drama / Theater
- Music Performance
- Arts Education
- Biblical Education
- Faith-based Programming

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the life of children through the arts and faith-based education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, Contact Minister LaVone Griffin (828)215-0426
or call Living Springs (803) 736-0661.

BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED

LS Youth Ministry

Things to look forward to:

- **May 3** —Sr. Youth Gathering (LSLC)
- **May 10** —Sr. Youth Gathering (Moe's)
- **May 17** —Sr. Youth Gathering (LSLC)
- **May 21** —Confirmation
- **May 24** —Sr. Youth Gathering (Red Robin)

Opportunities at Living Springs

HOPE Pots - Plant Your Pollinator seeds!

On the first Sunday in Lent, we distributed a little "growing hope" garden pot to everyone - and filled it with soil from our large hope pot. We asked everyone to take home your pot and place your "favorite" cross in/around the pot. It could be a hanging cross, a necklace cross, your olive wood cross from the fall generosity emphasis, a pocket cross, whatever. Use the garden pot with your cross as a central focal point for your personal/family devotions. **On Easter Sunday, we distributed little Easter seed eggs, each containing a few pollinator flower seeds** (surrounded by inert wheat chaff). Please plant your seeds to represent the joy planted with the empty tomb in the garden on the first Easter morning. We disciples represent the pollinator butterflies that spread the good news to the world.

Each Sunday, we revealed another word & symbol to write on your pot at home.

Week #1: Write "growing" on the rim of your pot and draw a cross there.

Week #2: Write "grace" on the side of your pot and draw a globe there.

Week #3: Write "hope" on the side of your pot and draw a cup there.

Week #4: Write "joy" on the side of your pot and draw a person with eyes.

Week #5: Write "love" on the side of your pot and draw a heart.

Week #6: Write "Hosanna" on the side of your pot & draw a palm branch.

Week #7: Write "Alleluia" on the side of your pot and draw a butterfly!



**Pots are available in the narthex to pick up at any point, along with the Easter seed eggs, There are extra Olive Wood crosses here at church if you do not have a cross of your own to use.*



Help Wanted!

The facilities team needs help with tasks both inside and outside our buildings. Light grounds keeping, window cleaning and special projects. Immediate needs are weeding our planting beds outside the narthex and the beds outside the sanctuary that faces Hardscrabble Road. Text Jim if you can pitch in! 803-569-9638.

Looking Ahead...Mark your Calendar!!

May 28: Pentecost Sunday (Unity Worship @ 10:30, followed by Pentecost Cook-out)

June 18-21: Spark VBS

June 25-30: Camp Week at Lutheridge

June 26-29: Art Smart Sermon Camp @ Living Springs

July 9-12: Sr. Youth Mystery Mission Trip

July 17-20: GraceWorks

July 24-27: Art Smart Sermon Camp @ Living Springs

August 6: Annual Blessing of School Bags

Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Greetings Everyone,

The C.D.C. has been buzzing with activity. We have had the opportunity to share, witness, and participate in fostering the growth of Hope through various activities.

We are happy to announce that we have expanded our Hope Card Ministry to include a facility located in Camden. One of our teachers has a mother there, and they asked if we could add them to our list of Hope Card recipients. With the adoption of this facility, the children created over 400 cards this month!

We celebrated Easter in many exciting ways; we had egg hunts, learned new songs, and enjoyed hearing the retelling of the Easter story during chapel time. We had a school-wide Heifer International drive. Each class was able to conduct a vote for which animal they would like to collect funds. Our classes chose 2 honeybees, 2 chickens, 1 pig, and 1 sheep. I am happy to say that we collected enough funds for ALL the animals! The funds were given as a thank-you, in honor of Pastor Eric's 10-year anniversary; we are grateful for the time, love, compassion, and commitment he gives on a daily basis to the children, families, and staff of LSLC-CDC.

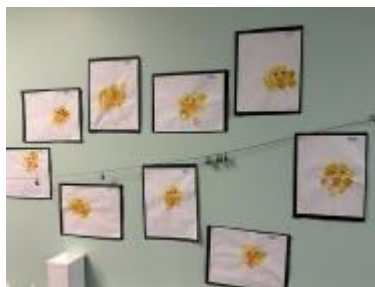
Hope was Growing as we celebrated Earth Day, which was filled with front and back garden clean-up, planting, watering, and weeding. Families helped by donating plants, making our entrance and backyard take on a colorful and fun personality!

We will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week May 8-12. If you would like more information on how you can participate in the activities please feel free to reach out to one of our board members, or stop by.

As I see the children running around outside in the sunshine, the wind whipping their hair, and laughing as they try to catch much too fast-moving bubbles, I am reminded of the joy in everyday moments. The joy we may overlook as we move through our day, the joy that we may miss if we don't take a moment to pause, to see, to watch, and to witness. So I urge you to let the wind fly through your hair, try to catch the bubbles as they pass by, and always remember to laugh.

Wishing you well,

Tammy



MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE
 1025 Pre-Worship Prayer Time
 1030A Pre-Worship Prayer Time
1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary/
Parking Lot FM/Online) - includes
 Children's GIFT Faith Learning
815A WORSHIP (Sanctuary)
 920 Adult Faith Formation

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 *See box above 4P Disciple Gathering (Davidsons) 430P Girl Scouts 5P Cristo Rey Ministry (Meet LS 415)	1 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scouts	2 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	3 1030A Preschool Bible Time 12 BOM Bible Dev. Posted 1P Backpacks 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 6P Hope Team 630P Sr. Youth (LSLC)	4 11A Good News Team 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Lifelong Discipleship 7P Youth & Children Ministry Team	5 12 Mother's Day Flower Delivery	6 13 930 Crafty Ladies
14 Mother's Day Blessing of Quilts & Pew Bears *See box above Before/After Worship—Backpacks 9:20A Book of Month Adult Class	15 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scouts 7-9P Beer & Hymns TBA Exec Team	16 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	17 1030A Preschool Bible Time 12 BOM Bible Dev. Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 630P Sr. Youth (LSLC) 7P Wellness Task Force	18 Children's Hospital Meal 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Council Meeting	19 20 1030A Driver's License Milestone Class 2P Disciple Gathering	
21 *See box above 920A Emotional-Mental Wellness Congregation Gathering 12P Senior/Empty Nesters Lunch 12P Confirmation Class & Outing 1215P Disciple Gathering (Prest/ Shannon) 230P GWorks Planning (Ebenezer) 330P Disciple Gatherings (Bloss/ Turnmire) 430P Girl Scouts	22 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scouts	23 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 5P Rush Hour Ministry 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	24 1030A Preschool Bible Time 12 BOM Bible Dev. Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 500P Disciples of Harmony 515P Choir 630P Sr. Youth (Red Robin)	25 7A Bible & Biscuits Men's Bible Study 4P Backpack Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First Palmetto Place Meal	26 27 8A Men's Breakfast Gathering	
28 Pentecost Sunday 815A Brief Prayer Service 1030A Pentecost Cong. Worship Celebration (One Service) 1145A Congregation Cookout	29 Memorial Day Office Closed 7P Recovery Comes First	30 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	31 1030A Preschool Bible Time 12 BOM Bible Dev. Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir	1 11A Good News Team 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Lifelong Discipleship 7P Youth & Children Ministry Team	2 LSCDC Staff Training Day	3

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

May 4	Lindsey Pittman
May 6	Judy Lawrence
May 12	Peter Creighton
May 13	Charles Pollard
May 17	Everett Snipes
May 21	Lina Mooney
May 23	♥ Eric & Kris Fink
May 25	♥ Steve & Kathryn Padgett
May 26	Samuel Skipper
May 29	Nikki Allman
	Melody Hair



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!



May 1	Gay Walter	May 17	Todd Gunvalson
	Jim Zieche	May 20	Ron Ramsey
May 3	Caroline Berger	May 24	Bryan Drafts
May 8	Kristen Mattson		Luke Prizer
	Karl Schmidt		Sam Prizer
May 14	Ruth Pollard	May 26	Collin Flores
May 16	Maggie Pittman		

CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org

Rev. Carl Taylor - Associate Pastor

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Deacon Lexanne Graves – E-Outreach Coordinator

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Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

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Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

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Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper

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Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

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Seminarian Paula Perry

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

[Joel Holmstrom](#) - President

[Laura Turnmire](#) - Vice-President

[Brantley Smith](#) - Secretary

[Mike Davidson](#) - Treasurer

[Bill Ramsey](#) – Financial Secretary

[Hunter Prest](#) - Youth Representative

[Rev. Eric Fink](#) – Senior Pastor

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

[Gary Bradham](#)

[Barb Imbert](#)

[Lorenzo Hampton](#)

[London Mancuso](#)

[Ron Ramsey](#)

[Ashley Stoutland](#)

[Tom Willingham](#)

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