

The Living Springs Journal

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

November 2023

November - "Next Steps on a Journey" (from

November "JOURNEY WITH JESUS" Focus = Teachings of Jesus
Pastor Study Times: Tuesday, 11/14 @ 10am; Sunday, 11/26 @ 9:20am
Bible Story Postings: Wednesdays @ Noon (Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29)



Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. - Melody Beattie

Since Rally Day in August, we have had before us the theme, "Journey with Jesus" - and I have found myself thinking about that theme often. On

Reformation Sunday, I stepped out of the pulpit & stood frozen in place, to illustrate that **"being on a journey" means something more than standing still. "Being on a journey" requires a next step...** and a next step, and a next step, and so on. To be on a "journey with Jesus" means that we are all taking next step after next step with Jesus, for a lifetime: just as (for example), a young pregnant Mary took next step after next step all the way from Nazareth to a stable in Bethlehem; just as Peter & Andrew, James & John left their family fishing business and took next step after next step to travel all over Galilee with Jesus who called them to "follow me"; just as Martin Luther took next step after next step to nail 95 Theses to a Wittenberg cathedral door and boldly stand up to religious leaders at the Diet of Worms to defend God's message of grace alone & faith alone; just as our 6 amazing confirmands (Alyssa, Dallas, Josh, Lucas, Parker, Wesley) took next step after next step in their journey of faith & study over the past 2 years, eventually leading them up to the altar of the Lord, for their confirmation on Reformation Sunday.

I am excited about **the focus for our "Next Step" Intent Sunday—**
(Continued on page 3)

My Next Step in Generosity...

INTENT SUNDAY, NOV. 12
During worship at 8:15 & 10:30, we offer our Intent Cards at the altar ... in the path of sand at Jesus' feet!

+++
ANNUAL CONG. MEETING, NOV. 12
9:10-10:25 in the Sanctuary
Please attend—quorum is required!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, Nov. 5
+++
VETERANS SUNDAY, Nov. 12
Annual Cong. Meeting @ 9:10am
+++
NE THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, Nov. 20
+++
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY, Nov. 26
+++
VETERANS WITTING TREE, Nov. 1-11
CRISTO REY MINISTRY, Nov. 5
SUNDAY BACKPACKS, Nov. 12 & 26
JUSTICE RESEARCH KICKOFF, Nov. 14
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL, Nov. 16
PALMETTO PLACE MEAL, Nov. 16
ADVENT-PALOOZA, Dec. 2
MEALS-ON-WHEELS, each Mon & Tue



From the Desk of Pastor Carl



Hey Everyone...

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. As we gather in the warmth of God's love, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and thanksgiving. Our church family, community, and world are blessed with generous hearts and cheerful givers, just as our Heavenly Father intended.

The Gospel of Luke reminds us in chapter 6, verse 38: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your

lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." How valid these words are! When we open our hearts to others, we create a cycle of love and generosity that multiplies beyond our wildest dreams.

This month, we have had multiple levels of impact on our kids, youth, and young adults. Beginning with our weekly youth group meetings, our youth lock-in, our Trunk-or-Treat on Reformation Sunday, and ending with Halloween with the Flores Halloween trail night on October 31, 2023. Yes, we have been busy sharing and caring for others as we move on the Journey with Jesus.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, let us remember the words of Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." When we approach God with gratitude, our prayers become powerful and transformative.

Let's also recall the miracle of the loaves and fishes in Matthew 14:13-21. Just as Jesus multiplied the five loaves and two fish to feed the hungry crowd, our cheerful giving can multiply the blessings for those in need. When we offer our humble gifts with a joyful heart, God can work miracles through us.

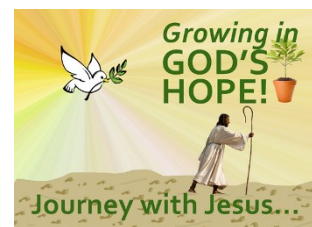
because it gives each of us the opportunity to prayerfully reflect on our own personal "Journey with Jesus" - and to acknowledge that to truly be on a *journey* with Jesus means none of us can stand still in our faith growth and lives of discipleship. Jesus is always moving us forward. The Holy Spirit is always empowering us to take a next step.

On this year's Intent Card to be sealed in our Prayer Envelopes, we each have an opportunity to personally express to God a prayerful intent of our next steps of faith & growth.

- What might be a "next step" in your **worship life**?
- What might be a "next step" in your **study of God's word** or **personal/family devotions**?
- What might be a "next step" in your **giving of time, talent, or energy for the work of the Lord**?
- What might be a "next step" in your **commitments of service & participation in the ministries of Christ's church** (that have such an impact in our community and grow hope in so many lives)?
- What might be a "next step" in your **financial giving of gratitude and love for the Lord**? Might it actually be a first step of establishing a regular giving plan that in some way prioritizes your journey with Jesus? Might it be a next step of some particular weekly/monthly \$ amount? Might it be a next step of establishing a regular % that moves you toward or beyond a Biblical tithe? Might it be a next step of a few months or Sundays to give a special gift in addition to your regular giving? Might it be a "next step" of striving to maintain a current giving level in spite of challenges?

As we approach our November Intent Sunday, I encourage each of us to take some time in prayer to consider the next steps in our own "Journey with Jesus" - whatever those next steps may look like for each of us. The purpose of Intent Sunday is NOT some gimmick to get people to support the church or the congregation as a non-profit, religious charity or an earthly organization. That's one reason our Intent Prayer Envelopes remain sealed in the sanctuary of the Lord throughout the year, with content never seen by human eyes. The purpose of Intent Sunday is for each of us to have an annual opportunity to do some deep, prayerful reflection regarding our spiritual lives, our faith, our commitments of discipleship, and yes, our "Journey with Jesus" - that gives us purpose, meaning, hope, and ultimate joy in a way nothing else can do.

Through it all, the ultimate gift of grace is that **every next step in faith & life we take is never a step alone, but rather it is a step "with Jesus."** We give thanks that, in the end, all our next steps are merely steps of gratitude for a God who never fails to take a next step to grow hope in our lives and reveal the depth of God's love for us, even to the point of sending us Jesus to be Emmanuel, "God with us" always! With all that is happening in the world around us, there has never been a better time for "next steps" of faith & love. In this month of thanksgiving, may the Spirit inspire next steps of gratitude in each of us. As always...with deep thanksgiving, gratitude & awe for each of you here at Living Springs, *Pastor Eric*



LIVING SPRINGS ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Sunday, Nov. 12 9:10-10:25 (between worship services)

Council Elections, 2024 Spending Plan, Constitution Updates

**** Please attend & arrive on time—a quorum is required! ****

Online option, if necessary: <https://meet.google.com/tmo-xtrd-hhz> Or dial: 224-702-0152 PIN: 921 958 599#

INFO / Q&A SESSIONS offered Oct. 29 & Nov. 5 (between services)

Copies of the 2024 Spending Plan are available—[click HERE](#) for Spending Plan summary.

Copies of Constitution Updates—[click HERE](#). Look for council nominee bios in the Wednesday, 11/8 eNews.

Please come ask questions at these sessions if needed, so that our Meeting can flow quickly on Nov. 12th.



My Next Step in Generosity...

**"Journey with Jesus" - LS Intent Sunday:
Nov. 12 (both worship services)**

Everyone should have received your "Next Step" Intent Card at church – or in the mail this week. As a symbol of "next steps" in our Journey with Jesus, **we will offer our sealed Intent Envelopes at in the sand path at Jesus' feet during worship on Nov. 12.** **As a back-up, intents can also be offered on Nov. 19.** **If you won't be here on the 12th or 19th, please mail your intent to the church (Attn: Financial Secretary), or bring your intent to the office and we will place it at Jesus' feet for you.* Remember that your intents remain sealed—they are given to God, with content never seen by human eyes.

+ + +

[Click here](#) for copy of Intent Card & Prayer Envelope.

[Click here](#) for copy of "Next Step" letter from Pastor Eric and the Generosity Team.

[Click here](#) for copy of our 4 Tuesday/Thursday "thank-you" texts and moving videos from Garrett Flores, Aaron/Grady/Logan Smith, Andrew Levitt/Anna Graves, Disciples of Harmony.

Our discipleship goal is for everyone to make **some form of intent** to take a next step in your journey with Jesus, at whatever level! This year, we have a special **CHALLENGE GIFT OF \$3000...provided 90 intent cards are offered!!** Two LS families share what a blessing it was in their journey of faith, when they began making a regular commitment to God's work. The families want everyone to know the joy they have experienced through such a faith practice of regular giving to the Lord (at whatever level anyone can begin). So, they are offering a Challenge Gift - not to match a \$\$ giving amount, but if we match last year's level of 90 Intent cards. We give thanks for these families' desire to motivate us all to take next steps in our journey with Jesus – let's respond together!

In closing, let us continue to be cheerful givers, sharing God's love with the world. Let us open our hearts, practice generosity, and remember the words of 2 Corinthians 9:10-11: "Now he who supplies seed to the Sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous on every occasion."

May God bless each one of you abundantly, and may we all continue to live in a world of cheerful giving, both in our church and in our lives.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Carl

Rite of Confirmation on Reformation Sunday



Notes from: Faith Formation - Confirmation

What a Spirit-filled day on Reformation Sunday when 6 of our confirmands affirmed their Baptism at the 10:30 a.m. service surrounded by their church family. Over 200 people witnessed their profession of faith: in service, on the lawn, and on-line.

God has given us two important gifts: The gift of Faith in Jesus Christ and Forgiveness of Sin. The other is the gift of special abilities, which are used for the purpose of all being ONE in the body of Christ and growing God's Kingdom. These are called Spiritual Gifts and are received through our Baptism.

These last few weeks, our confirmands worked on a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. They learned about Spiritual Gifts and completed a gifts assessment tool. They answered over 100 questions asked in several different ways that helped them determine these gifts through the questions scoring grid. Would you like to take the assessment? Go to www.ELCA.org and search for the spiritual gifts assessment tool!

Each confirmand wore a red stole with patches they designed representing some of their spiritual gifts. Each stole had their name embroidered on it and their Confirmation date: Reformation Sunday, 10/29/2023. (Many thanks to Becky Sides who embroiders the stoles each year! We really appreciate your beautiful handiwork!)

Enjoy looking at their stoles and learning about their gifts. Thanks be to God for the witness they show to the world with their gifts!



ALYSSA PREST – Artistry, Service, Leadership. Alyssa is always drawing something! It's a beautiful expression of her faith. She enjoys service opportunities with the church and community and says GraceWorks is one of her favorite summer service projects.

JOSH HOLMSTROM – Faith, Leadership, Service. Josh will continue learning more about God and deepening his faith. He enjoys service opportunities within the church and the community and says it's important to continue going to church and youth group as these opportunities help his faith grow and remain strong.



DALLAS HOLMSTROM – Leadership, Faith, Listening. Dallas will continue to deepen his faith as he takes on the promises of his Baptism. *To Live among God's Faithful people* is important to Dallas and he has this wonderful ability to just "listen" and show care for people. He enjoyed Campfirmation at Lutheridge!

WESLEY GRAVES – Mercy, Leadership, Skilled Craft. Wesley used his skilled craft gift and made 2 beautiful Faith Chests to be given to the newly baptized at Living Springs. Many hours of hard work went into the making of these chests.



LUCAS SHANNON – Skilled Craft, Mercy, Leadership. Lucas uses his spiritual gift of mercy by helping his neighbors. In his words, “The POWER of just being there for someone” is important. Shine your light each day!



PARKER THOMA – Artistry, Skilled Craft, Faith. Parker has a great way of sharing his faith with others through simple words and friendship. Parker would like to be involved in making Faith Chests for the church.



Notes from: *Sr. Youth*

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Adventpalooza & TREE LOT
Saturday, December 2, 2023
3:30-6:30

Rain Date:
 Sunday, 12/3

- Wreath decorating
- Tree pick-up and sales
- Tree Lighting
- Face Painting
- Hot Chocolate
- Fellowship
- S'mores
- Crafts
- Food
- Games

Trees - 6-7 ft. \$80 Wreaths \$25
Fresh Fraiser Firs from North Carolina
Tree Lot open Saturdays and Sundays from Nov. 25-Dec. 10
4224 Hard Scrabble Road Columbia, 29223

Pre-orders for Christmas Trees Now Available!

Christmas is right around the corner! Why not take one item off of your "To-Do" List and pre-order your Christmas tree or live wreath. Not only will you receive a fresh cut Frazier Fir from NC, but you will also support our youth ministries and help our high school youth make it to New Orleans next summer for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Pre-ordered trees will be 6-7.5 ft. trees. Trees are \$80. Wreaths are \$25. You can pre-order your trees by visiting the Google Form or be seeing a youth representative on Sunday.

Tree/wreath pick up will be available on Nov. 24, 25, 26, Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10 from 12:00PM-6:00PM or by requested appointment. At pick up you will be able to pick out any tree from our selection.

December 2 will be our Adventpalooza and Tree Lot event. There will be games, food, fun, and fellowship. This will take place from 3:30-6:30. More details will be sent with your pre-order confirmation.

Please share this information on your social media outlets to help us get the word out! Visit the Living Springs Facebook page and click to share our post so all your friends and family can participate.

[Click here to pre-order your tree/wreath online](#)

[\(click here for a flyer to share!\)](#)

Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Fall Blessings as we enter into a season where the beauty of nature celebrates the opportunity to have its final splendid finale before hushing quietly to sleep and resting for the winter.

As we ease into the comforts of cooler weather, shorter days, and time with family and friends I am reminded of the gifts of Hope these days bring.

We are so happy to be headed to The Rice Estates for Trick-or-Treating with our Senior Friends. The children are filled with anticipation and excitement as they visit the residents, bringing Hope, Smiles, Joy, and Laughter.

Our teachers share how they have seen Hope Grow in the classrooms and on the playground.



A new student with English as a second language joins our CDC. The children in the class welcome them without hesitation or reservation, quickly showing them around and asking if they would like to play.

Staff came together to pray, comfort, and send Well Wishes to two of our teachers whose husband and significant other are going through medical procedures. It is such a beautiful thing to know that our school family comes together to support, rally, and love one another.

Students sometimes find that they need a moment of quiet time, perhaps a few minutes of drawing, having a snack, or some one-on-one time in a space that has been created for them. I am glad to know that they feel safe and cared for when this need arises.



Ms. Daneequa was gifted a box of chocolates from Mexico by a student; she decided to incorporate them into the class "Latin Heritage Month" celebration. There were many faces that were Hopeful they would like what they were trying, but alas, there were many opinions of what they were tasting, and some were not favorable.

Our afterschool group was busy on the few days they were out for Fall Break. They talked about the importance of working together as a group, healthy eating habits, and cooking. They worked on a group-building game and cut fresh vegetables to put on their individual pizzas.



I am grateful for these moments in time, these moments that matter and remind us to embrace new experiences, care for those around us, recognize when we may need to take a step back and find our inner peace, celebrate diversity, and work together as we all share this space and time together. May you find moments to step back and see Hope Grow in your life, and the world around us.

Wishing you well,
Tammy

Notes from: *Good News Team*

Rush Hour Ministry



The Lord urged me to seriously look at each person I handed a Rush Hour Ministry treat bag to when I volunteered to help for merely 45 min in our Rush Hour Ministry recently. The Lord allowed me to see a female in camo gear, and I said "God loves you very much and we thank YOU for your service to our country." The Lord allowed me to see a female in a security guard attire with a USA patch sewn on the right arm and I said "Thank you for keeping ALL of Gods children safe!" The Lord allowed me to see a male sitting in the back seat post outpatient surgery being driven by a female, and when I said "God loves you", they both responded with gratitude that seemed to overwhelm them and me. I don't know the names of any of the persons I see and give a treat bag to, but God knows them and God knows the hairs on their head. Our goal in this ministry is helping our community to see God active in their lives.....and also active in our own lives. You can tell people are pleased because they wave and honk and tell us in return, "God loves you too!" Thank you Lord that you led us to this ministry that builds hope and trust in our community.

LS GOOD NEWS JOURNEY WITH JESUS BIBLE STORY PROJECT

Catch this month's stories in our YouTube Journey with Jesus Playlist

"Calming Inner & Outer Storms" read by Lucas Shannon

"Hope in Suffering & Sorrow" read by Steve Padgett

"Feeding the Body & Troubled Hearts" read by Lexanne Graves

"Sight & Light for the World" read by Lexanne Graves

The Good News Team is beginning a new series for their Bible Reading Project in conjunction with the the "Journey with Jesus" Focus of the Month. Each Wednesday, a Bible story from our focus will be read along with sharing for our pastors, deacon, and possibly some of our worshippers. And, you may see some of these readings/discussions from some interesting places! The reading will be streamed, 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!

Looking for Readers To pre-record Bible Stories ***Individuals/couples/families/youth***

Want to read a Bible story for our Journey with Jesus Story Project? No need to be here, record yourself/family reading from your favorite Bible, or we can record you at home or a special location. Call the office to schedule or for more questions

Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

Rice Estate Dinner



The ministry with Rice Estate/Harmony is so much broader than these dinners that only happen a couple of times a year. LS takes a bud vase and card for every woman for Mother's Day and every man for Father's day; there is caroling at Christmas, the CDC makes cards for the residents at both places multiple times a year and have shared art projects and go Trick or Treating at Rice Estate and I am not sure who is more excited--the children who are trick or treating or the joy of the residents to see those young faces. The children have helped with the distribution of flowers/cards/etc as well. One of the residents framed her Easter message that the CDC colored and hung it on her door sharing the message of God's love with all who walked by--so lots of good stuff over multiple LS ministries.

VETERANS REMEMBRANCE "WITTING" TREE *November 1-11*

Here is the schedule for our Witting Tree ceremony - what is a Witting Tree? Witting means done in full awareness - each November 1 thru November 11, we hang 22 dog tags on our big tree by the road to remember (or bring awareness) to the fact that 22 veterans take their own lives each day. There is a short devotion and then we hang the dog tags - join us on any of the days.



Wed. 11/1 @ 6 pm led by Hope Team

11/2 @ 11 am led by Good News Team

11/3 @ 11 am led by CDC

11/4 @ 10 am

11/5 @ after 8:15 & 10:30 worship

11/6 @ 7pm led by Boy Scouts

11/7 @ 11:30 led by Ladies Bible Study

11/8 @ 6pm led by DOH & Choir

11/9 @ 8am led by Bibles & Biscuits

11/10 @ 3:15 pm led by CDC

11/11 @ 11:30am led by Crafty Ladies

THANKSGIVING PROJECT - Shoeboxes for Seniors

We have a few boxes left -- Senior Resources is going to deliver a shoebox filled with five unopened gifts to each of their 600 clients during the holidays. What a joyful, caring project for our Meals on Wheels clients! You can decorate the box (and I encourage you to do so with words or stickers of encouragement), but do not wrap the box. You can tape or fold the flaps on the top and bottom. Suggested items: stamps, socks, scarf, gloves, magazines, books, puzzles, crosswords, lotions, shampoos, gift cards to Walgreens, Food Lion, or Walmart. **Return to Living Springs on or before Dec. 3.**



PALMETTO PLACE - SAMANTHA HOUSE

We delivered the meal this past month (usually on the 4th Thursday of the month) - sometimes the residents are home, but most of the time they are not home from jobs so we don't have any interaction with them. This day, one of the residents was just coming into the kitchen to get his meal and came up to us, shook our hands and thanked us for bringing the meal. He was so excited to be going on a job interview the next day to get a better paying job - I said I would pray for him that it all goes well and he was genuinely so thankful for the prayers. Simple things you can do - I hope he got the job!

BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY

We are on a roll with packing backpack bags again this year! Every 2nd and 4th Sunday there is an opportunity to pack a bag for some child that does not receive nourishment on the weekend. Check with Karen if you would like to help set up (usually on a Saturday morning for Sunday) and there is one week out of the month that is open for anyone to set up and pack. This is a great opportunity for community service hours.

ADVENTPALOOZA/DOVE TREE

The Hope Team will have the Christmas Dove Tree set up on Advent Palooza Dec. 2 - pick a dove off the tree and return by Dec. 15.



Notes from: *Emotional - Mental Wellness*

The Spirit led me to make it a point to attend the Emotional Mental Wellness workshop with Ms Gia (sp?) recently. Her goal was to provide us tangible tools to deal with our own mental health for example anxiety, depression, etc, and she truly exceeded my expectations on her goal! What helped me to be ME was her statement: "It's OK to NOT be OK." That helped me initially to be relaxed. Then Ms Gia went on to discuss breathing techniques that help our mind calm down and remove itself from a "fight/flight/freeze" mode. These breathing techniques are an excellent discipline to reset your mind. Then she offered other techniques using balloons, 5 red circles, and an outside experience using our 5 senses. Wow--very helpful! Finally, she helped me to discern if what I am facing that is causing me anxiety or other emotional responses, is from FACT or FEAR. This was a game changer for me! I am beyond grateful that Living Springs is willing to claim that emotional mental wellness is very important in our daily lives and is willing to provide resources to help me.

Emotional- Mental Wellness - Pickup your Lens wipes

Counselor Gia Quiñones (SC Dept of Mental Health) offered an inspiring workshop with tools for managing family stress. If you weren't able to be here, you can see one of the pastors or someone from our Emotional-Mental Wellness team to get the information shared. You can also pick up one the 988 lens wipes for yourself or to share.

A graphic for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. It features a blue square logo with the number '988' in white, and the text 'SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE' below it. To the right is a pink heart with hands holding it, and the text 'There is hope.' above it. Below the logo is a QR code and the text: 'If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org'.

Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

Check out this article from WLTX about the violence prevention program
MORE Justice advocated for: *(Click picture)*



'I want them to know they still have a voice' | Columbia community members share concerns for violent crime prevention

Organizers held the event to listen to young adults in Columbia about their concerns in order to begin forming a solution to violent crime.

7th annual Community Problems Assembly



Thank you to everyone for showing up to our 7th annual Community Problems Assembly! We had over 230 people coming together at Beth Shalom Synagogue to show that we speak with one voice for justice.

In a landslide vote, more than 90% of our members voted to keep up the pressure on our current active campaigns of Affordable Housing, [Read more here](#)



Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*

LS 2023-24 "Journey with Jesus"

Focus of the Month!



- September – Life of Jesus (Part 1)
- October – Miracles of Jesus
- November – Teachings of Jesus
- December – Prophecies about Jesus
- January – Encounters with Jesus
- February – Parables of Jesus
- March – Life of Jesus (Part 2)
- April – Encounters with the Risen Jesus
- May – The Message about Jesus
- June – More Miracles of Jesus
- July – More Parables of Jesus
- August – More Teachings of Jesus

THIS MONTH: *For your Bible reading & faith discussions at home...* (plus our LS Bible studies, group/team "Dwellings in the Word," Wednesday online readings, youth studies, and more!)

Week of Nov. 5: Focus on **Matthew 5, 6, 7** (Sermon on the Mount)

Week of Nov. 12: Focus on **Matthew 10:1-12:21, 17:19-18:22** (Life Together)

Week of Nov. 19: Focus on **Mark 12:13-13:37; John 10:1-18** (Being Ready, Good Shepherd)

Week of Nov. 26: Focus on **John 13:31 – 16:33** (A New Commandment & Advocate)

****For families with children,** you can use stories from Children's Bible Story books or online Children's Bible videos about: Jesus' birth, Jesus' childhood, Jesus' baptism, Jesus' temptation, Jesus' transfiguration!

Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

The Wonder of Worship

Benediction, Sending Song & Dismissal

In our look at the different elements that comprise our worship services on Sunday, we've come to the end. We started with an opportunity to confess our sin and then to hear and receive again amazing words of grace: ***In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.*** I always say under my breath, "Oh, thank you, Lord so much!" We get to sing and hear songs of praise and listen to three or four passages of the living, life-transforming Word of God. We hear that Word proclaimed and explained to help us apply it to our hearts and lives. And then, the highpoint, the pinnacle of the service . . . we come to the table to celebrate communion with God in the way our Savior Jesus commanded us. There's only a few things left, but they too have a distinct purpose.

First, one of our pastors pronounces a benediction over us. How amazing that this practice dates back to early in the Old Testament! Although different words are used, they are variations on what is called the **Aaronic Blessing** recorded in Numbers 6:23-27:



The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying: Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Next time you hear the Benediction, don't let familiarity dim the joy of being reminded again that God's face shines upon us. Try looking up and imagining just that.



The benediction is followed by a "sending song" and a dismissal. After an hour or more of special time shared with brothers and sisters in Christ, it's almost time to go out into our own spheres of influence in the world. Before we do, though, we join together as a body one last time in song. While your eyes follow the cross down the aisle, also be aware of those around you with whom you've shared this time of family worship. At our church, we're blessed to have the accompaniment of a raft of musicians—including our Gift Zone little ones—cheering us on! [Side Note: On Monday, Oct. 23 in ***The Word in Season***, the author wrote: "How about a noisy Sunday now and then?" I thought to myself, "she (the author) would love being at Living Springs!!)

The sending and dismissal remind us of what we already know: 1. Going to church is not like going to a play. Yes, like wonderful theatre, church services can encourage us to think more deeply on important issues. 2. Going to church is not like going to a concert. Yes, we can find enjoyment and inspiration through music. 3. Going to church is not like going to a sports event. Yes, church is meant to help bind us together in enthusiastic and supportive relationships toward a common goal. 4. Going to church—and **leaving** church—is different from all of these because we're meant to leave fundamentally changed, more deeply aware of our role as Christ's ambassadors, built up and motivated to share His love and truth in the week ahead until we meet again. Ever see one of those signs in a church parking lot where only people driving *out* can see it that says: **YOU ARE ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD?** That sentiment is embedded in our DNA as the people of Living Springs on our journey with Jesus!



Shirl Schiffman shirl@livingspringscolumbia.org

POINSETTIAS AND CANDLES ***Due Dec. 11***

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 11.

NE Community Thanksgiving Service ***Monday, November 20 @ 7 PM*** ***at Northeast United Methodist***

Co-sponsored by Living Springs Lutheran, Rehoboth Baptist, Adams Northeast AME, Northeast United Methodist Fellowship and refreshments to follow in the fellowship hall. Invite your neighbors & friends, as we join to give thanks to God for so many blessings and offer special prayers of peace & unity for our community, nation, and world!

JuBELLation Handbell Choir Fundraiser

The JuBELLation Choir has had quite a start so far. The choir was already short a ringer when we had a ringer not return. But we have persevered and made it work. The choir has played special music in September, accompanied with hymns in September, had an anthem at the beginning of October and on Reformation Sunday.

Players have moved around to fill in, Jan Berger is playing 4-in-hand on pieces and I have played bells on the music. The choir loves to play the church. This Bible says:

Psalms 98:4 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

That is what we do and enjoy the company of each other and making the joyful noise. We would love for you to join us on Tuesdays from 7-8pm. We're getting ready for the Advent and Christmas season. Even if you don't read music, we can help you make the joyful noise.

The JuBELLation Choir is wanting to attend the Handbell weekend at Lutheridge (February 2024). This is a pricey workshop to attend, but all will learn a lot. We are not asking for our entire fees to be paid, but just a partial scholarship for ringers. If we receive more than we need for the workshop, it will be used towards the table covers we've had for over 20 years.

If you would like to donate to assist the ringers in attending, we have various levels of giving, or you can donate any amount you would like. The levels are:

Bronze Level - \$50

Copper Level - \$25

Tin Level - \$10

[Grab a scholarship form here.](#)

Please see Laura Turmire with any questions.



Animal Blessing & Remembrance



Reformation Sunday



Campus Ministry Sunday



Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team* **LS Ministries with Cristo Rey!** **Sunday, November 5 @ 4:15pm**

We provide a Bible lesson, crafts, singing, and snacks for the children of our Mission Partner, Cristo Rey, in W. Columbia. We have team leaders, but 5-6 helpers are needed, plus a snack for up to 20 children. Volunteers meet at LS at 4:15 and carpool. The children speak English,



Notes from: *Women's Ministry* **LADIES BOOK CLUB**

Our next gathering will be on December 3 @ 2 pm and we will discuss Dreamland by Nicholas Sparks. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall - bring your favorite Christmas cookie, Christmas dessert or holiday snack to share. This is an easy read but reading the book is not a requirement - you can join us just for the fellowship!

Ladies Book Club

Meeting with our favorite author, Holland Richards, aka Dea Jones!



God At Work

Trunk 'r Treat



Boy Scout Anniversary Dinner



Lisa Petty & Sherry Forsgren Anniversary Celebration



We would like to thank all of you for the love and support you have shown this past Sunday as well as through out all these years. We have been ever so blessed to be a part of this ministry and love and cherish each of you as well. We both look forward to continuing to work together with you doing God's work in and through Living Springs.

Sherry Forsgren & Lisa Petty

Opportunities Outside Living Springs



2023 SC Synod Ministry Toolbox *Workshops equipping all church leaders to grow faith- ful ministries*

The 2023 SC Synod Ministry Toolbox events bring lay and rostered leaders together in learning to move ministry forward. If you are wondering if this is for you, the answer is yes!

Classes offered:

- Growing Younger
- Faithful Technology
- Faith Formation beyond Sunday School
- Finances as Faith Formation
- Innovation
- Reading your Budget
- Understanding your Constitution+

For more information, visit scsynod.com

November 18th at Messiah Lutheran Church, Mauldin, SC

9:45 AM-4:00 PM

Cost is \$20 per participant



Check Out These Awesome Programs Happening In 2024. Registration Is Now OPEN!

Wild Women Weekends



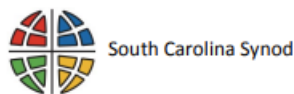
Mar. 8-10, 2024
Mar. 15-17, 2024

[Learn More](#)

Embrace the confidence and courage of following Jesus with your whole life through this retreat that empowers, inspires and renews hundreds of Wild Women each year! You will enjoy being surrounded by an uplifting community, making new friends, and deepening your faith through worship and Bible study!

2024 Theme: This is My Body –Every body has a story to tell! Find healing, self-compassion, and holiness in our bodies.

\$250 Double/\$310 Single/\$190 Commuter



Are You Being Called to Rostered Ministry?

2023 Inquirer's Day of Reflection

Sunday, November 12, 2023
4:00-6:00 PM
Via Zoom

Inquirer's Day of Reflection is designed for anyone who has discerned or who is discerning a call to serve the church as Pastor or Deacon.

Inquirers will participate in conversation and learn about the different tracks to becoming a pastor or deacon.

This is an opportunity to explore and ask questions.

Please RSVP no later than Thursday, November 9 to:

Pastor Rick Carter (by email)

rick@scsynod.com

OR

Ms. Jenny Spearen (by phone)

803-509-8321

We will need to know:

- ◆ Your name and contact information
- ◆ The name of the South Carolina congregation where you are a current member
- ◆ The name of your pastor and whether or not they will be joining us
- ◆ The names of any others who will be joining us as your guest(s), such as spouse/family

Quilt Camp



Mar. 20-23, 2024

[Learn More](#)

Quilt camp is for all levels of quilters looking for time away to finish projects, creative community, and inspiration.

This is a BYOP (bring your own project) retreat where the sewing room is open all day for those UFOs (unfinished objects) or that big quilt you've been wanting to tackle.

\$335 Double/\$395 Single/\$275 Commuter



Escape

NovusWay Ministries

OCTOBER 12, 2023 - [IMPACT STORIES](#), [LUTHER SPRINGS](#), [LUTHERANCH](#), [LUTHERIDGE](#), [LUTHEROCK](#)



Answering the Call

Wendy still remembers the night she got the phone call telling her she would be a Lutherock counselor. Deacon Wendy (Engelhard) Roberts was a student at Appalachian State University and had applied to be on the 1992 summer staff. Though she had only been to Lutherock once, she had fallen in love with the place.

“I was elated to be invited to be on staff,” Wendy says. “I was so excited to get to spend a summer outdoors with this special community of people.” Wendy worked for three summers at camp as a counselor and, during her last summer, as an environmental educator. “My summers at camp were so formational for me,” Wendy recalls. “Camp kept me connected to faith during my college years and instilled in me a lifelong love of God’s creation.”

Wendy still relies on many of the formational experiences she had while working as a counselor. Her summers taught her about re-

sponsibility, persistence in the face of adversity, and the value of being trusted by others. “I’ll never forget the pressure of having to start a fire and cook a hot meal for a group of waiting campers,” Wendy said. “But I’ll also never forget how young people supported each other with love and grace, and you could feel God in action.”

After serving in congregational ministry for many years, this summer, Wendy was called to the position of Candidacy Coordinator for the North Carolina Synod. In her new role, Wendy works with candidates for ministry and the Synod’s lay ministers. “It’s a joy connecting people with their passions and helping them go the places God calls them,” Wendy says. “I love affirming that God is calling some to rostered ministry but also affirming that some are called to lead in other ways.”

“Earlier this week, I was in conversation with someone who is entering the candidacy process, and their experience at camp was an important part of their story,” Wendy shares. For many, serving on summer staff at a church camp is a step toward a vocation in ministry. “I think camp helps us escape the noise of everyday life,” she says. “It gives us ways to be in relationship with God and each other that help us hear things more clearly.”

Wendy is still grateful she got the call to be a summer counselor at Lutherock, and she looks forward to continuing to walk with those who are answering all kinds of calls in their lives. Your generosity to our NovusWay camping ministries serves to raise up new leadership for the church by clarifying vocation and building responsibility, persistence, and trustworthiness. Thank you for your generosity to this ministry we all share.



Embracing unconditional love and transformation



Jeff Johnson's life and ministry have been profoundly influenced by various communities and a deep commitment to spreading the message of God's unconditional love. As he prepares to become bishop ... [continue](#)

Lutheran mythbusting or ...



Editor's note: We celebrate Reformation Day on Oct. 31. In honor of this day, we are sharing this article by Timothy Wengert from 2015. Illustrations are by Michael D. Watson On the ... [continue](#)

Tuesday Intentions



Today we are sharing five prompts to inspire you during your personal spiritual time so you can set your intentions for the week ahead. Take a moment to reflect on the following and journal your ... [continue](#)

Lectionary blog: Humble teachers like Jesus



Lectionary for Nov. 5, 2023 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12 My Bible study group just began studying the book of James. Martin ... [continue](#)

October eNews

Updates from the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers



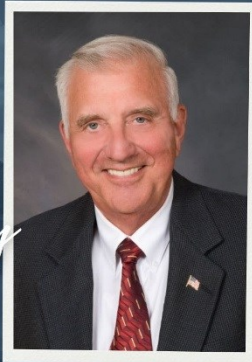
[Click here to read the full October eNews from SC Lutheran Retreat Centers](#)



FEATURED STORY:

Generosity

A DUKES FAMILY COMMITMENT



Bill Dukes is known in the Midlands area as founder of the Blue Marlin, an iconic restaurant in Columbia's Vista for the last 30 years. But more notable is his family's history of generosity and giving back to the community.

Click below to learn about their involvement in the [Building+Renewing+Believing: Holy Spaces Campaign](#) and how the Dukes family helped raise over \$37,000 for Camp Ki-nard in just one day!

[Featured Story | Generosity a "family commitment" \(sclrc.com\)](#)



Save the date! Wreath Workshop scheduled for Dec 5th

Prepare your heart and your home by attending this Advent gathering at Coastal Retreat on **Tuesday, December 5, from 10:00am-12:30pm**. Add a fresh evergreen wreath to your home for the perfect festive touch this season!

Rev. Mary M. Finklea will be leading us as we learn how to create exquisite wreaths from our very own greenery. Suggested donation of \$40 includes the class, lunch, and all supplies. [Register Here](#) →

Former LS Seminarian Isaac Taylor Ordained!



November 2023

MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE

805A Pre-worship "Jesus" Time
815A WORSHIP (Sanctuary)
 920A Adult Faith Formation
 10A Youth "Triple S" Time

1020A Pre-worship "Jesus" Time
1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary)
 Online/Parking Lot - includes
 Children's GIFT Faith Time

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 *See box above 920A Ann. Mtg./Q&A Session 920 & 1145 Veterans Witting Tree 12P Confirmation 3P Exec Team 430P Girl Scouts 5P Cristo Rey Ministry (carpool 415)	6 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P LMM Comm. of 100 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737 7P Veterans Witting Tree	7 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 1130A Witting Tree 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	1 930A Backpacks (LSCDC) 10A Preschool Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Devotion Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Veterans Witting Tree 6P Choir 6P Hope Team	2 11A Vet. Witting Tree 11A Good News Team 630P Recovery Comes First 730P Lifelong Discipleship	3 11A Witting Tree	4 10A Witting Tree
12 *See box above 815 & 1030A Intent Sunday 910 - 1020A Annual Meeting (1030A Veterans Recognition) 1145A Backpack Food Bags 430P Girl Scouts	13 1030A Meals on Wheels 1P Facilities TF 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Fellowship/Mutual Care 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	14 10A "Journey w/Jesus" Pastor Time 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 530P Finance Committee 6P Adult Bible Study 6P Justice Research Kickoff 7P Handbells	8 10A Preschool Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Devotion Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 345P Backpack Food Min 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Veterans Witting Tree 6P Choir 630P Youth (Salsaritas)	9 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 8A Veteran Witting Tree 1130 CDC Prayer Lunch 630P Recovery Comes First 630P LS-CDC Board	10 315P Witting Tree	11 930A Crafty Ladies 1130A Witting Tree
19 *See box above 12P Confirmation Class 430P Girl Scouts	20 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737 7P NE Thanksgiving Worship (Northeast UMC)	21 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	22 12 Journey w/Jesus Devotion Posted	23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 630P Recovery Comes First	24 Office Closed 12-6P Christmas Tree Lot	25 8A Men's Breakfast Gathering 930A Crafty Ladies 12-6P Christmas
26 *See box above Christ the King Sunday 920A "Journey w/Jesus" Pastor Time 920 & 1145 - Backpack Food Bags 12P ELCA YG Devotion 430P Girl Scouts 12-6P Christmas Tree Lot	27 1030A Meals on Wheels 630P Worship Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	28 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	29 10A Preschool Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Devotion Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 630P Youth (Chick-Fil-A)	30 630P Recovery Comes First 1P Facilities TF 6P NE Justice Team Mtg.	1 330-630 Adventpaloosa 12-6P Christmas Tree Lot	

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

November 2 Charles Kauffman
November 15 Sue Hyman
November 19 Becky Sides
November 20 Brenda Grohman
November 21 Luke Prizer
Sam Prizer
Janet Wedlock
♥ John & Barbara Imbert

November 23 Grady Smith
November 24 John Imbert
Wayne Kannaday
♥ Mike & Trish Davidson
November 26 Steve Padgett
Hany Sorial
November 28 Sydnie Taylor
November 29 Kellie Snipes



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!



November 9 Riley Harris
November 11 Hunter Prest
November 13 Evelyn Long
November 18 Aaron Smith
November 22 Everett Snipes
Karlene Stuart
November 26 Logan Smith
November 29 Helen Doerpinghaus



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

Shirl Schiffman - Music Director

shirl@livingspringscolumbia.org

Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org

Sherry Forsgren – Bookkeeper

sherry@livingspringscolumbia.org

Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

laurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org

Seminarian Jace Martinez

seminarian@livingspringscolumbia.org

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

Deborah DePaoli

Children/Youth Ministries

Leslie Bloss/Jan Berger
Ashley Stoutland/Hunter Prest

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

Jan Berger

Worship & Music

Jim Zieche

Facilities

Ed Brennan

Finance

Karlene Stuart

Archives/Pew Bears

Judy Lawrence

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

4224 Hard Scrabble Road

Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: 803-736-0661

FAX: 803-865-8252

contact@livingspringscolumbia.org

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

 www.facebook.com/livingspringscolumbia

prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

Prayer Requests