

The Living Springs Journal

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

January 2024



"Sights & Sounds of God's Growing Hope" (this month from Pastor Eric)

January "JOURNEY WITH JESUS" Focus = Encounters with Jesus
Pastor Study Times: Sunday, 1/21 @ 9:20am; Tuesday, 1/30 @ 10am
Bible Story Postings: Wednesdays @ Noon (Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31)

One of my favorite Journal times is this "sights & sounds" January article, when I am blessed to reflect on our congregation's journey with Jesus through the 4 weeks of Advent and 12 days of Christmas (this year, ending on Jan. 5). The phrase "sounds & sights of the season" is often used to refer to holiday lights or shows or music on the radio; but when we ponder (as Mary once did) the inspiring moments we have shared as God's people, I believe "sights and sounds" of this past 6 weeks have truly been sights and sounds of God's Growing HOPE in our midst. To that end, I rejoice in:

EPIPHANY EVE CAMPFIRE GATHERING
Jan. 5, 5:00-6:30PM

2024 MINISTRY KICKOFF:
LEADERS GATHERING, Jan. 7 @ 3PM
"SPIRIT" NOTES, Jan. 7—Jan. 21
CONG. GATHERING, Jan. 21 @ 9:20AM

NE COMMUNITY MLK SERVICE
Jan. 21 @ 4PM (Adams Northeast AME)

CRISTO REY MINISTRY, Jan. 7, Feb. 4
USC CAMPUS MINISTRY, Jan. 7, Feb. 4
SUNDAY BACKPACKS, Jan. 14 & 28
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL, Jan. 18
PALMETTO PLACE MEAL, Jan. 25
MEALS-ON-WHEELS, each Mon & Tue

LS CHILI COOK-OFF - Jan. 27 @ 6PM
PLANNING RETREAT - Jan. 26-28
NE BEER 'N HYMNS - Jan. 31

- The sight of 100's of **food items** arriving in Advent boxes to grow HOPE through our partnership with Christian Assistance Bridge— all as "birthday gifts" for Jesus;
- The sight of dozens of **Dove Tree Christmas gifts** at the foot of the sanctuary cross—all to grow HOPE for foster children & youth without families or living in impoverished conditions (plus multiple families adopted by our Lutheran Men);
- The sight & sounds of hundreds of audience members, characters & animals gathered on a church lawn, to grow HOPE in people's hearts with the **story of Christ's Nativity** lived out before them (including bus-loads from Cristo Rey with the story shared in English & Spanish!);

(Continued on page 3)



From the Desk of Pastor Carl

Dear Adventurous Siblings in Christ,
Ho-Ho-Ho -- Tis the season to be jolly. Come along with me as I try to sprinkle a bit of holy humor into your holiday hustle. So, buckle up, Y'all, because the sleigh of celebration is about to take off, and we've got front-row seats to the most epic story ever told – the birth of our superstar, Baby Jesus!



🎁 Advent came upon us and filled us with more excitement than a reindeer in a snowstorm! It was the shortest countdown to Christmas, filled with Valley lows and Mountain highs sprinkled with Grace in between. And speaking of Grace, who knew the story of Jesus could make even the Grinch's heart grow three sizes? LOL...

🎁 As we prepare for the ultimate gift exchange, let's not forget the Greatest Of All Time gift-giver, 'ol' Jesus. The little dude brought light to the world, and we're not just talking about the star over Bethlehem. He's the real MVP – the Messiah of Merry-making and the Prince of Present Perfection.

🙏 Now, let's get serious for a ho-ho-moment. Between decking the halls and fa-la-la-ing, let's lift our

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(Continued from page 2)

- The sight of candles & worshippers prayerfully selecting stones from a path leading to the manger, along with beautiful sounds of **Christmas Eve** from cello, French horn, organ, handbells, choir, guitar, soloists, and congregation, proclaiming God's growing HOPE (**the Christmas Eve service is still posted on our LS YouTube channel—[CLICK HERE](#) & share with friends)...
- The sight of children gathered around the altar at our **family Christmas Eve service**, selecting cross-marked donkeys (from that same path to the manger) to share with someone in a pew—and to take home as reminders of God's still-growing HOPE in our lives through God's Christmas gift of Jesus;
- The sound of car horns joyfully beeping and the sight of people waving & smiling—with HOPE in their faces & hearts because of the **300+ Rush Hour bags** freely given to them in love, as they sat stressed out in traffic the weeks before Christmas;
- The sight of meals being delivered to **Palmetto Place's Samantha House & Prisma Children's Hospital** to grow HOPE in youth transitioning out of foster care and families facing the challenge of a child's illness;
- The sight & sound of a family with a small child, excited about being able to get a Christmas tree—and being so thankful that our Youth could share God's growing HOPE with their **tree lot ministry**;
- The sights & sounds of dozens of folks moving from station to station at **outdoor Advent-Palooza**, experiencing God's growing HOPE through Advent crafts, devotionals, backpack food packing, tree ornaments, joyful Christian fellowship, and more;
- The sight & sounds of our LS children & youth growing God's HOPE in our hearts on an Advent Sunday morning, as they shared their **Youth Christmas program** (plus the sight of all the joy they shared with their annual Elf Store);
- The sight of homebound individuals joining in the sound of **visiting LS Christmas carolers**, singing songs of Christmas HOPE; plus the sight of joyful tears in the eyes of Rice Estate residents, as they heard the sound of **LS CDC Preschool carolers**;
- The heart-moving sight & sound of **refugee families with children** arriving from Afghanistan, Mali, Guatemala—finding HOPE to survive as they walk out of the Columbia airport, to be met by our LS bus with smiles, prayer bears, a hand-printed welcome sign from our preschoolers, and quilts of warmth from our LS quilting ministry (plus the sound of coins clanking in our Sunday offering bucket to help support Lutheran Services Carolinas' HOPE-filled refugee ministry);
- The sight of little honeybee, goat, chick, and other animal/ministry ornaments being selected from our **ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts** table—all to grow God's HOPE in people's lives throughout the world with Christmas gift that really matter;
- The sight & sound of caring door-step conversations and dozens of meal delivered each week, with special Christmas additions this month, to grow God's Hope in the lives of isolated senior adults through our LS **Meals on Wheels ministry**;
- The sight of nearly 100 "**Journey with Jesus**" **intent envelopes** (a new high # for recent years), filling the sand path at the Baptismal font & representing a commitment of LS disciples to grow God's HOPE in more lives thru our giving to the Lord;
- The sight of our fellowship hall filled with **Scout families** at their Christmas events, growing HOPE in the witness of our dozens of young Boy & Girl Scouts—and our Katie Room filled with "**Recovery First**" **NA Group** attendees on each Monday & Thursday night, experiencing God's growing HOPE in the support they share for their ongoing, daily recovery journeys;
- The sight of patients clinging to **prayer shawls** given to them with love, receiving a reminder of HOPE amid their surgeries, illnesses, and hospitalizations in the holiday season;
- The sight of so many experiencing God's growing HOPE in daily **Advent e-devotions** read at home & at work; of mid-week "**Journey with Jesus**" **Scripture online postings**; of congregation & LS-CDC families sharing **Advent cards & calendar devotions**; of disciples gathering at **Advent Wednesday Worship services** to pause, prepare, and ponder

As we move into another Epiphany season here in 2024, I am thankful for all the ways our "Journey with Jesus" focus continues to inspire us to share God's Growing HOPE in so many lives. I am excited about the kickoff of our 2024 Ministry Focus efforts here in January ahead—and how the Spirit might be inviting each of us to new "resolutions" of faith & hope-filled Kingdom discipleship for the year ahead. Who knows where & how God may lead? With much love and gratitude in Christ, *Pastor Eric*


P.S. I also offer a special word of thanks for all the expressions of HOPE you so graciously share with me and Kris at Christmas ... and throughout the year—what an amazing blessing to be part of this community of faith called Living Springs!





Update from one of our former Seminarians...

Christine and I have finally been ordained! We have our first calls at the two ELCA churches in Jackson, MS. I think about y'all at LS often, and wonder how all the kids are doing on their adventures growing up
~Shalom, Pastor Isaac Taylor

voices in prayer. Dear God, thank you for the Grace that helps us survive the tangled Christmas lights, the love that keeps us sane during family gatherings, the peace that soothes our holiday shopping woes, and the hope that sustains us through fruitcake season. Amen, and pass the eggnog!

 Listen, Friends, while we're unwrapping joy and giggles, let's remember those who might be feeling more 'Bah Humbug' than 'Fa La La.' Whether it's dealing with the holiday blues or the challenge of finding a decent chocolate cake recipe, let's be Santa's little helpers and spread some love the way Jesus did by love others as we love ourselves.

 In the spirit of the season, let's be like Christmas lights - brightening the darkest corners. If you know someone facing a frosty situation, offer a warm hug, lend a listening ear, or share your secret recipe for the perfect gingerbread house. Sometimes, y'all, the best presents don't come with bows; they come from the love we share.  As I wrap my take on Christmas humor and festive fun, remember that love is the star on our Christmas tree. Through thick and thin, merry and messy, let's always commit to loving one another. After all, it's the gift that keeps on giving - no batteries or assembly required.

I started off with the story or my attempt at humor that I forgot to back brief y'all on November. ----Yes, our time together in November was busy as usual as we continue to work in our community. We started off with the Witting Tree prayers in remembrance of the 22 veterans who commit suicide daily by placing dog tags on the tree. I was sad to see the tree removed as part of the road construction, but glad we got the chance to have the ceremony this year. There was a lot of stuff that followed, like Bible studies, Meals on Wheels, Bibles and Biscuits, NA Recovery meetings, and a whole lot more. Then, after Thanksgiving, the youth opened the Christmas Tree Lot. Like I said, we have been busy. Let's continue to lift our youth in prayer as they continue their journey with Jesus and prepare for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans 2024 and our Jr. youth as they enter into their faith formation process.

December was busy, too. We had a youth lock-in and prepared for our Christmas play. It was a blast. You can find it on our Facebook or YouTube page dated December 10, 2023. Also, we ended Confirmation for the semester with the confirmands sharing their perspective on the life of Jesus. It was a blessing to see and hear them tell their stories.

Yes, it is the season to be jolly, but as we revel in the joy of the season, let's remember those who may be facing challenges. For those battling depression, grappling with loss, or feeling the weight of financial burdens, we extend our love and support. Christmas is a time for compassion; together, we can be a beacon of light in someone else's darkness. In the spirit of giving, let's channel the love that radiates from the manger into acts of kindness. Let's be beacons of hope for those who need it most, whether it's a comforting word, a helping hand, or a simple gesture of goodwill. And for those grappling with doubt or feeling like they're on Santa's 'naughty list,' remember that the gift of God's love is unconditional. Like a Christmas miracle, His grace is a present we can't earn but are freely given.

It is my hope and Prayer that your days are merry, your laughter is contagious, and your hearts are filled with the joy that comes from knowing the reason for the season. ----- JESUS-----!!!!!!!

With love, laughter, and a sprinkle of Christmas JOY..... Pastor Carl...

God's Corner



Thank you! For the most beautiful funeral service. For the great cooks that prepared such a delicious lunch. My heartfelt appreciation for everything and everybody who had a part. In Christian love, Janelle & Johnny Pedings

Thank you, thank you so very much for your generosity in helping us with refugee pick-ups this month! We are so grateful for your faithful support & constant willingness to

welcome refugees!

Sincerely, Sarah Lewis, Lutheran Services Carolinas, NAP Team

Dear People of Living Springs,

We are so thankful for the care and love you have shown during the long illness and passing of our dear Mother, Mother-in-law, and MeMe. The love you shared held us up during a difficult time. Thank you for all the special care you have shown to our family.

Sincerely, Stewart & Dea Jones, Tempie, Joe, & Andy Bowers

Thank you for your gifts given to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in October, 2023. During this Advent time of waiting, we discover again within ourselves a longing for Jesus. We are reminded anew that God comes to us, incarnate, bringing forth God's love, justice, and mercy. Your spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to the Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future. Thank you. May you spirits, like Mary's, rejoice in God for the great things God has done for us all.

In Christ, Amanda White, ELCA Director, Congregational Generosity



Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

An end of year reflection from MORE Justice's Executive Director, Lizzy Van Harn:

"Justice is about believing in a world where no one goes to sleep hungry, where everyone has a safe place to call home, and no one has any fear of violence in their community. Justice is about addressing root causes of problems that have already been hurting our communities for decades, instead of just putting a bandage on these wounds. That is why the work of each of our member congregations unified as MORE Justice is so important. Your individual and congregational financial investments make the Columbia area a more just and equitable place for ALL who live here.

If you have already given in 2023, we thank you and ask that you consider investing again before year end so that together we can reach this year's \$100,000 joint congregational goal. Every investment builds our ownership. Thank you for all you do and the community that you believe in."

To invest in MORE Justice, visit morejusticecolumbia.org/give



Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Tis the Season to be filled with Hope, Light, and Love as we welcome the New Year with New Blessings. It is also a time to be filled with compassion and thoughtfulness as this can be a season of sadness for some.

Our three and four-year-old classes traveled to Rice Estates to sing Christmas carols to the residents this past week. As always it is such a rewarding experience to have our littles share that HOPE with the residents. We try our hardest to make it special because we never know if they will have loved ones come to see them during the holiday. The children always have a wonderful time singing to the residents as well as watching the smiles they bring to their faces.

We are continuously grateful for the LIGHT our parents and board members spread year-round, especially during the holidays. At LSLC-CDC we know that families and board members have so many others to care for during this time, but the staff never feels left out. The families make sure that we feel appreciated for our hard work caring for and educating their littles, with smiles, encouragement, and Love Offerings. The board also cares for staff through constant "check-ins", reminders, and thanks for their hard work, as well as gifts of love such as a Christmas breakfast provided by our board.

As the weather grows ever colder, we hear the LOVE our students have for one another, "Do you have a big coat to wear outside? My mommy told me it was going to be cold and windy today. Here if we hug, I can keep you warm."

The LOVE for our adopted school cat, "Do you think Katie is warm outside? I get cold without my blanket.", "We feed Katie because we love her, and she is our friend."

The LOVE our littles have for our community through the collections gathered for CAB and the Senior Shoe boxes, "I brought in socks to keep their feet warm.", "My dad helped me bring in lotion to keep their hands soft."

All these encounters we have every day with the Hope, Light, and Love our littles have for one another, animals, and our community is a constant reminder of Christ's unconditional Love for the world.

Wishing you all well during this season of Hope, Light, and Love.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Tammy



Notes from: *Good News Team*

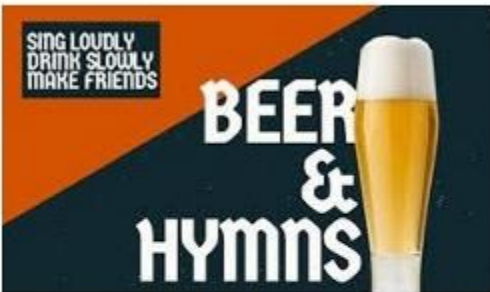
Rush Hour Ministry

1. During Rush Hour Ministry, I approached a car to hand them a snack bag and the woman had tears in her eyes. She said, "I already got a bag from the lady back there, and please tell her she has no idea what this means to me right now." Lord, we sometimes don't even know the impact we have on others when we pause and share "God loves you, you are not alone" and a treat bag. Encourage each of us to share your Love with others all year long.

2. As I passed a treat bag to the driver of the vehicle stopped in traffic, I noticed he had on a Richland District 2 logo on his shirt. I said "God loves you, and thank you for serving our children here in this community." He said, "Well, thank you for noticing and I enjoy it." God, you see us and love us no matter what; may we pause to do likewise!



You're invited to



New Place: Random Tap, 117 Spears Creek Church Rd, Elgin, SC 29045

New Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024
7:00-9:00pm

Bring your own dinner/snacks;
Bar will serve beer, wine, cider!

Our Good News Team has been working all of 2023 to find a place/date to host Beer N Hymns since our usual place on Monday nights is focusing on Monday Night footballers. It has proven to be a challenge to find a place that will host this amazing event, UNTIL NOW!!! The owners of **Random Tap** are very excited about this new partnership to host Beer N Hymns with us! They are closed on Monday nights so we are experimenting with two Wednesday dates to see how it goes! So we need to show up and sing out! Please come join us!

What: Beer N Hymns, Northeast Columbia

When: Wednesday, January 31 and
Wednesday, April 17

Where: Random Tap, Elgin, SC

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Bar serves beer, wine, and cider along with non-alcoholic beverages. The kitchen is closed on Wednesday nights so feel free to bring your own dinner/take-out or get fancy and bring a charcuterie board to share with friends!

Contact Deacon Lexanne at 803-315-3828 if you have questions!

Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

Senior Resources Shoeboxes



I just want to send a Thank you to Living Springs for putting together a Christmas for a family that could really use help. The mom really appreciated all the gifts and the love you showed for this family!!! Mom has a hard time with seven kids which some are not all hers but she has taken them in. She said everything has been really hard so she appreciates the extra help!!!



Happy New Year!!!

Christie Hutchinson, LISW-CP
Richland School District Two School Social Worker

Dove Tree



Advent Food Boxes



1600 items were dropped off this week. Additional items will be purchased and dropped off with all the monetary donation to reach our goal of 2200 items!



Backpack food Ministry

Our shelves are bare again - please consider picking up one or two items during your shopping time for our backpack program. Individual-sized items needed...milk, juice boxes, cereal, applesauce and fruit cups, weenie beanies or vienna sausages, cookies, pudding cups, and snacks. The second and fourth Sunday of the month, help pack in between services and after 10:30 - the impact of the 70 bags we pack is a small number compared to the total amount of children that need to be supplied with food for the weekend!



MEALS ON WHEELS

A "thanksgiving" moment to Mike Davidson who schedules our Monday and Tuesday Meals on Wheels deliveries to seniors in the Beltline/Two Notch area. This community service assignment takes about two hours to pick up the food from Millwood Ave. and deliver it to seniors ... many that do not have outside contact with anyone other than the MOW delivery person. Contact Mike if you'd like to give it a try!

"The **Community Partner Award**, given to a corporation, church, or organization that has provided major support to Senior Resources through financial donation, sponsorship, or assistance with a significant project or needed service, was granted to **Living Springs Lutheran Church**. Taking route 221 every Monday and Tuesday, they go beyond the call of duty, delivering Meals on Wheels and instilling a profound sense of community care. During the summer, their influence reaches across the state as they unite youth along the route, not only sharing the immediate impact of Meals on Wheels but also emphasizing how it serves as a platform for post-graduate volunteering opportunities, inspiring the next generation to contribute to communities far and wide. This holiday season, they are spreading joy by participating in our Shoeboxes for Seniors program, and providing gifts to 100+ of our Meals on Wheels clients."



PALMETTO PLACE & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEALS

Samantha House (Palmetto Place independent young people) is striving to teach young adults who are transitioning into the work world, how to budget, provide nourishing meals, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Living Springs provides a meal on the fourth Thursday of the month - contact Karen Kranz if interested.

Children's Hospital: You can impact the journey of parents and healthcare workers by writing an encouraging note to be included in the lunch bag that Living Springs provides on the third Thursday of the month. Our own Travis & Melanie Mooney of Carolina Deli deliver a bagged lunch to the Fifth Floor (cancer & HIV) of Children's Hospital for the parents of children going through chemo & sometimes there is enough for the healthcare workers.

STUFF A BUS

Saturday, February 10

Sign up sheets will be available to sign up to hand out flyers for our stuff-a-bus event to be held on Saturday, February 10 at the Kroger on Two Notch and also on Killian - time 9 am to 1 pm. If you or any students want to earn community hours, this is the perfect way! Half an hour, hour, 4 hours - whatever time you can spare to support our backpack program. Contact Karen Kranz.

LENTEN FISH FRY

Begin Friday, Feb. 16

Put these dates on your calendar: Friday, Feb. 16, Feb. 23, Mar. 1, Mar. 8, Mar. 15, and Mar. 23. Our annual commitment to Campus Ministry - you can support this ministry by telling your friends, family and neighbors to purchase a fish fry on these specific Friday nights! If you would like to help in some way, there will be sign-up sheets for parking lot help, delivering the meals, taking orders, etc.



Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

LS Ministries with Cristo Rey!

Sunday, January 7 @ 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 25 children. Volunteers meet at LS at 4:15 and carpool. The children speak English, so Spanish is not a requirement.



Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*



What an Amazing Witness of Faith: Already, 98 Personal/Family Intents Offered in Thanks to God! (reaching our Challenge Goals of 90 Intents – see below)



What a beautiful sight to see all the “Next Step” prayer envelopes filling our symbolic path of sand at Jesus’ feet! Remember that our “Next Step” Intents of worship, devotion, service, and giving will remain sealed in the altar area throughout the year, as a sign of our personal/family commitments to each take “next steps” in our journey with Jesus, with a generosity that will grow God’s hope in many lives in 2024. You may still offer your card in one of 4 ways:

- Sunday worship (either 8:15 or 10:30)** - pick up a “Next Step” Prayer Envelope in which to seal your Intent & place it in the path of sand at Jesus’ feet.
- Mail card back to church** (“Attn: Financial Secretary”). Your card will be confidentially transferred to a Prayer Envelope & placed at Jesus’ feet.
- Come by the church during the week** and get a Prayer Envelope from the office. You (or we) can place your sealed envelope at Jesus’ feet in the sanctuary.
- Call the church**, and a member of the Generosity Team can bring you a Prayer Envelope and bring your sealed Intent back to church for you.

We give thanks to all who helped reach the special challenge goal of 90+ intent cards! But even beyond, our **ultimate goal is for everyone to make some form of commitment of faith and grow in generosity, in whatever way!** Our challenge families shared what a blessing it was in their own journey of faith, when they began making a regular, intentional giving commitment to God’s work. They want everyone to know the joy they’ve experienced through such a faith practice of regular giving to the Lord (at whatever level you can begin).

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 Jan 7: John 1:29-51; Luke 5:1-11 - Come & See: A Life-Changing Call!

Week of Jan 14: John 3:1-21; John 4:1-42 - Light in the Night & a Well of Living Water

Week of Jan 21: Mark 2:13-27; Mark 10:13-45 - Moments of Purpose & Direction

Week of Jan 28: Luke 19:1-10; Luke 20:20-21:4 - An Invitation of Grace & Challenges

****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*

Decorating



Caroling



Christmas Eve



Community MLK Service *Sunday, Jan. 21 @ 4pm* *at Adams Northeast AME*

Annual NE Columbia Community MLK service will be held at 4:00 (time subject to change) on Jan. 21 at Adams Northeast AME (409 Longtown Rd), with fellowship to follow. Sponsored by Rehoboth Baptist, Living Springs, Adams Northeast AME, and Northeast UMC, with musical offerings from the congregations. Our own Pr. Carl will be delivering the message. Come be part of this wonderful time together, celebrating the unity we share in Christ!



A CELEBRATION IN SONG

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m @ St. Michael Lutheran Church in Columbia

St. Michael Lutheran Church in Columbia will be celebrating the Bicentennial of the Lutheran Synod of South Carolina on Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. This is a concert of 19th century music featuring Dr. Matthew Whitehouse on organ and Karen Shevenell, soprano. A reception will follow. A free-will offering will be taken. For more information please call (803) 781-0229 or visit the website <https://stmichael1814.com/>

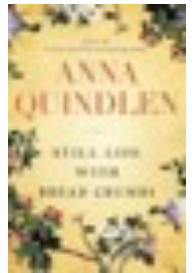
Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

Ladies Bible Study



LADIES BOOK CLUB

We always have good discussions and enjoy the casual atmosphere and goodies! Our book to read before our kick-off meeting in February is *Still Life with Bread Crumbs* by Anna Quindlen. Sunday, February 4 @ 2 pm at Karen's house - 235 Founders Ridge Rd. (in The Summit). Ph: 716.998.1157. We will be picking our suggested readings for the year, so we invite you to submit yours.



Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

Living Springs Men's delivery for Families Helping Families.

Monthly Men's Breakfast *Saturday, January 27 @ 8:00am*

On the last Saturdays of the month, we dwell in the Word, share in prayer, and plan for events that help us live out our call to be Lutheran Men in Mission. Facilitator Bob Turnmire



Notes from: *Boy Scout Troop 737*



CONGRATULATIONS to Dihon as he earned his Eagle Scout Rank !! BIG THANK YOU to everyone who has helped Dihon along his trail to Eagle Scout!! It DOES take a Village to raise an Eagle Scout!!

Notes from: *Sr. Youth*

Tree Lot



Children/Youth Christmas Program



LS Youth Ministry

- Each Sunday - "Triple S" @ 10 am
- 1/5 - Epiphany Eve Campfire Gathering
- 1/7 - Confirmation Class
- 1/7 - USC Campus Ministry Worship & Supper
- 1/10 - Sr. Youth Gathering (Mod Pizza)
- 1/17 - Sr. Youth Gathering (LSLC)
- 1/21 - Confirmation Class
- 1/24 - Sr. Youth Gathering (Sonic)
- 1/27 - Annual Chili Cookoff
- 1/31 - Sr. Youth Gathering (LSLC)

God At Work

AdventPalooza & Christmas Tree Lighting



Advent/Christmas Brunch



"Love is Born" Outdoor Nativity





Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs

CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, January 27 @ 6pm

Chili Cook-Off will be held January 27, 6 pm at in the fellowship hall. Bring your best chili (prizes to be awarded). If chili is not your specialty, please bring a heavy appetizer or dessert. Sign up is in the admin lobby.



Semi-Annual Leadership Planning Time (+ Calendar Mtg)

Today @ 3pm in the Fellowship Hall

A quick reminder about our big, important, special, vital, stupendous, amazing, incredible, fabulous, jaw-dropping, awe-inspiring, life-impacting, world-changing Semi-Annual Leadership Planning Time (+ Calendar Mtg). As always, the gathering is about so much more than just putting dates on a calendar. It's a prayerful time for all leaders of the congregation to come together to see how God has been "growing hope" through our 2023-24 Ministry Focus and to get a sense of how the Spirit is tugging us to move forward in ministry together as partners in ministry for the upcoming months.

If you absolutely cannot be present in person, here is how to join virtually:

Log-on Video link:

meet.google.com/keo-wrhe-cdp

Or join by phone, 929-251-5877

PIN: 443 451 143#

Opportunities Outside Living Springs

CAMP KINARD POOL DEDICATION FEBRUARY 11



The staff of the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers are pleased to announce February 11, 2024, as the dedication date for the new swimming pool at Camp Kinard. We invite you to mark your calendars and plan to join us as we unveil this next exciting chapter in SCLRC's history.

More information, including service times, will be provided in the coming weeks. YOUR vote will also help decide who gets to be the first one to "make a splash" in the pool.

Camp Kinard's newest feature is part of the [Building+Renewing+Believing: HolySpaces Campaign](#) which seeks to further life-changing ministry opportunities at our Batesburg-Leesville retreat center. Other projects include an updated entrance road and construction of a multi-purpose Chapel on an already prepared site overlooking Camp Kinard's lake.

To date, over \$737,000 has been raised towards the campaign's goal of \$2.2 million! We give thanks to the many individuals and SC Synod-ELCA congregations who have shown their support for this initiative.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACCOMPANIMENT NETWORK

Vision: *"The Vision of The Indigenous Peoples Accompaniment Network is to learn and educate churches and other groups about the need to seek truth, justice, and reconciliation with all Indigenous Peoples in South Carolina, and practice accompaniment with Indigenous Peoples."*

You are invited to participate in The Indigenous People's Accompaniment Network (IPAN), South Carolina Synod. The IPAN started gathering in November 2019. Clergy and non-clergy of the South Carolina Synod and other churches, Indigenous members of Tribes / Nations, and Indigenous heritage persons, from the South Carolina Synod and other churches, began gathering and prayerfully developed the IPAN Vision by consensus. The Vision was approved by the SC Synod Executive Committee in 2020. We recommenced our gatherings in January 2023. We are now learning the first information we are planning to share with churches and community groups.

You are invited to participate in the IPAN gatherings. If you are a member of an Indigenous Tribe or Nation, or of Indigenous heritage, or a non-Indigenous person, and interested in learning more about participation in the Indigenous Peoples Accompaniment Network, please contact me by email, phone, or text. Our next gathering is **Sunday, January 21, 2024, at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 400 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, and via ZOOM.**

Peace.

Pr. Greg Moore, Facilitator, Indigenous Peoples Accompaniment Network, South Carolina Synod, ELCA
803-348-2537

Canusa83@gmail.com

INCLUSIVENESS NETWORK WALKING TOUR

The synod's Inclusiveness Network is planning a walking tour for **February 10, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.** The tour will last approximately one hour and is about seven blocks of walking near the State House in Columbia.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

A New Book Study from the Inclusiveness Network

The Inclusiveness Network invites you to join their next Book Study based on *Dear Martin*, a novel by Nic Stone.

Dear Martin's description:

[JOIN VIA ZOOM](#)

Writing letters to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seventeen-year-old college-bound Justyce McAllister struggles to face the reality of race relations today and how they are shaping him.

Everyone is welcome to join at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9th and 23rd, in person or via Zoom.



GAMECOCK LUTHERAN

1702 Greene St. Columbia, SC 29201

803-999-3244

GamecockLutheran.com



Meet Mack, a junior engineering major. Mack entered our ministry as a curious freshman seeking connection and a faith community, and now we've become a cornerstone in her life. But beyond that, over the years she has blossomed into a confident and compassionate leader here, whether she's lifting up profound theological insights during our group discussion sermons, leading the liturgy on our Thursday Fellowship nights, jumping in on air-guitar during worship, sharing vulnerably about herself on our retreats, or being intentionally invitational with new students to help draw them in to the heart of our community. "Campus ministry has easily been the best thing to happen to me," Mack says. "I gained a loving community at a time when I needed it the most." Mack is a gift to our community and the Church.

This year Mack decided she wanted to host her own weekly Bible study in the living room of her house, and so each Tuesday night students gather there for "Desserts and Da Bible." It's an entirely student-led gathering that has grown exponentially, becoming a vibrant space where students explore God's Word, engage in deep theological conversations, and foster genuine community and connectedness — and have oh so much fun! "Desserts and Da Bible has become the most fulfilling part of my week," Mack shares. "It helps my faith grow in more ways that I could ever imagine." This Bible Study is a beautiful example of Mack cultivating the kind of community and connection that she's experienced in our ministry.

Campus ministry is more than just a place for college students to find belonging. Yes, it is a community where students can be loved exactly for who they are, and they can be met by God in worship, prayer, study, food, and fellowship — which is an incredible gift in itself! But it is also a place of *formation*. A place that is equipping students for a lifetime of faith, service, and leadership. A place that is instilling in students the gifts and skills for creating that same kind of belonging and Christ-centered connectedness wherever they might end up, throughout their whole lives.

January 2024

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 Experiences

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 *See box above Council Installation - Both Services 12P Confirmation 3P Semi-Annual Ministry Planning (and Calendar) Gathering 4P Youth Trip to Campus Ministry 430P Girl Scouts 5P Cristo Rey Ministry (carpool 415)	1 New Year's Day 7P Recovery Comes First	2 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study	3 10A Preschool Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 6P Hope Team	4 11A Good News Team 630P Recovery Comes First 630P Exec Team 700P Lifelong Discipleship	5 5-630P Epiphany Eve Campfire	6 9am De-Decorating	
	8 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P Afterschool Bible Time 530P Finance Committee 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Fellowship/Mutual Care 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	9 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	10 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 630P Youth (Mod Pizza)	11 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 630P Recovery Comes First 630P LS-CDC Board	12	13 930A Crafty Ladies	
14 *See box above 920 & 1145 - Backpack Food Bags 430P Girl Scouts	15 MLK Jr. Day Office & LSCDC Closed 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	16 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	17 10A Preschool Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 6P Choir 630P Youth (LSLC)	18 4P Backpack Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Council Children's Hospital Meal	19	20	
21 *See box above 920A Congregational Gathering 12P Confirmation Class TBA Northeast MLK Service (Adams) 430P Girl Scouts	22 1030A Meals on Wheels 630P Worship Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	23 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Justice Tm (Tree of Life) 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	24 10A Preschool Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 630P Youth (Sonic)	25 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 8A Facilities Team 630P Recovery Comes First Palmetto Place Meal	26 645P Council Planning Session	27 8A Men's Breakfast 9A Council Planning Begins (Carpool) 930A Crafty Ladies 6P Annual Chili Cookoff	
28 *See box above 920A Journey w/ Jesus Bible Time 920 & 1145 - Backpack Food Bags 12P Parents Gathering 2P Council Planning - Final Session 230P Eagle Scout Ceremony 430P Girl Scouts	29 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	30 10A JwJesus Bible Time 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	31 10A Preschool Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 630P Youth 7P Beer & Hymns (Random Tap)	1 11A Good News Team 345P Backpack Ministry (LSCDC) 630P Recovery Comes First 700P Lifelong Discipleship	2	3	

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

January 1

♥ Jan Epperson & Karl Schmidt

January 21

Barb Imbert

January 2

Kathryn Padgett

♥ Steve & Jeanette Bloss

January 5

Leslie Bloss

♥ Bill & Peg Fox

January 6

Alex Kopec

January 25

Pat Bartucca

Wendy McKenzie

January 26

True DePaoli

January 9

Charles Tracy

McKenzie Taylor

January 10

Judy Edmonston

January 27

♥ Jeff & Cindy Day

January 14

Janet Lay

January 29

Rocky Berger

January 19

Lois Mattson

Luke Sorial



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!



January 1

Hany Sorial

January 22

Anna Graves

January 5

Dea Jones

Lisa Petty

January 9

Gray Harmon

January 24

Grady Smith

January 14

John Imbert

January 29

August Snipes

January 15

Charles Tracy

CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

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Rev. Carl Taylor - Associate Pastor

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Deacon Lexanne Graves – E-Outreach Coordinator

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Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

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Seminarian Jace Martinez

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

[Steve Padgett](#) - President

[Laura Turnmire](#) - Vice-President

[Mia Rapport](#) - Secretary

[Mike Davidson](#) - Treasurer

[Bill Ramsey](#) – Financial Secretary

[Hunter Prest](#) - Youth Representative

[Rev. Eric Fink](#) – Senior Pastor

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

[Steve Bloss](#)

[Gary Bradham](#)

[Ed Brennan](#)

[Lorenzo Hampton](#)

[Ashley Stoutland](#)

[Tom Willingham](#)

[Debbie Zvejnieks](#)

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

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Prayer Requests