

The Living Springs Journal

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

February 2024



"Journey to...the Cross of Love!" (this month from Pr. Eric)

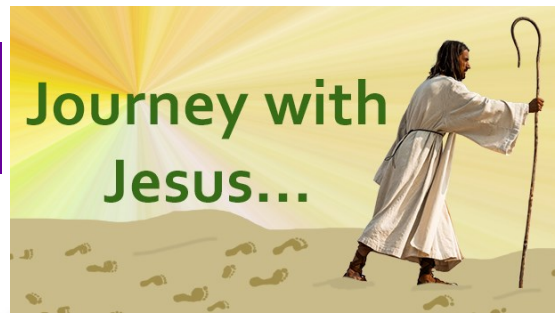
February "JOURNEY WITH JESUS" Focus = Parables of Jesus
Pastor Study Times: Sunday, 2/25 @ 9:20; Tuesday, 2/27 @ 10:00
Bible Story Postings: Wednesdays @ Noon (Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28)

Since last August, we have been focusing on the wonderful theme, "Journey with Jesus." We had some very meaningful times in January, looking at various encounters individuals had with Jesus in the Gospels - with our times of sharing, discussion, Wednesday online postings, Bible studies, group Dwelling in the Word, and personal devotions in our homes. We also had a very powerful, Spirit-filled time in January with our "Spirit-Note" Reveal congregational gathering and the accompanying annual Planning Retreat with our LS Council—as well as some joyful faith occasions, including the Epiphany Eve Campfire Gathering, the Chili Cook-off, and our return to Beer 'n Hymns (special thanks to Deacon Lexanne for all her work in organizing!).

As we move into February, we turn our "Journey with Jesus" focus to the parables of Jesus; and we have many other meaningful opportunities of faith & discipleship, including: Youth Sunday, our Youth Gathering fundraiser kickoff (see info in Journal), Children's Church "holy experiment", Rush Hour Ministry, Backpack Stuff-a-Bus, Souper Bowl, Justice Ministry blessing/Nehemiah invitation kickoff, Pew Bear Blessing, Scout Sunday, Shrove Tuesday Pancakes, Friday Fish Fry series for Campus Ministry, and more (see side box).

Surrounding all those February opportunities, we most importantly begin the season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14. This is the annual period of 40 days (not including Sundays), when we join with Christians around the globe to devote approx. 1/10 of the year (a tithe of 365 days) to immersing ourselves in spiritual faith disciplines of devotion, worship, prayer, service, and giving of ourselves for others. It is **a type of spiritual "spring-training" and "spring-cleaning"** - when we embrace these disciplines to firmly re-ground our lives in what is most important to us as disciples: the Journey with Jesus! I am excited about this year's "Guided to the Cross" daily devotions, and the accompanying special Wednesday worship

(Continued on page 4)



- YOUTH SUNDAY - Feb. 4**
- SOUPER BOWL/SCOUT SUNDAY - Feb. 11**
- JUSTICE MINISTRY BLESSING - Feb. 18**
- PEW BEAR BLESSING - Feb. 25**
- + + +
- RUSH HOUR MINISTRY - Feb. 6**
- LS STUFF-A-BUS (Kroger) - Feb. 10**
- SHROVE TUESDAY - Feb. 13**
- ASH WEDNESDAY & Ashes2Go - Feb. 14**
- FRIDAY LENT FISH FRY - Feb. 16, 23**
- LENTEN WED. WORSHIP - Feb. 21, 28**
- + + +
- GAMECOCK CAMPUS MINISTRY, Feb. 4**
- LS RICE ESTATE SUPPER, Feb. 9**
- SUNDAY BACKPACKS, Feb. 11 & 25**
- CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL, Feb. 15**
- LUTH. MEN STATE CONVENTION, Feb. 17**
- CRISTO REY MINISTRY, Feb. 18**
- PALMETTO PLACE MEAL, Feb. 22**
- YOUTH SKI RETREAT, Feb. 23-25**
- MEALS-ON-WHEELS, each Mon & Tue**



From the Desk of Pastor Carl



Celebrating Epiphany and Embracing Community Love

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As we stepped into the radiant season of Epiphany with awe and wonder, I was filled with an overwhelming sense of joy and excitement that I am eager to share with each and every one of you today.

Epiphany is a time of revelation and realization, a season where we celebrate the light of Christ shining brightly in our lives. It's like finding the last piece of a puzzle, and suddenly everything makes sense! So, let us bask in the warm glow of God's love and the realization of His grace during this beautiful season.

In the spirit of community and togetherness, we (our Northeast Ecumenical Partners--- Northeast UMC, Adam Northeast AME, Rehoboth Baptist) recently commemorated the inspiring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His dream of unity and equality continues to inspire us, urging us to be vessels of love and agents of change in our community. Let us strive to live out his dreams and build a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

(Continued on page 5)

Lent 2024: Journey to the Cross

ASH WEDNESDAY February 14



We begin the Lenten journey with Jesus that leads us to the cross of love.

Worship @ Noon & 6:30 (6:30 also livestreamed)

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

"Ashes-to-Go"

**7:30-10:00 & 4:30-6:00, LS Parking Lot
9:00-10:30 & 4:30-6:00, Lake Carolina**

SHROVE TUESDAY February 13

*Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner*



**PANCAKE SUPPER, 5:00-6:40
BURNING OF PALMS AT 6:45**

All donations will benefit LS Youth).

Come pick up your Lenten Devotional Book and Prayer Cross. Brief outdoor "Burning of Palms" will take place at 6:45 (ashes used for Ash Wednesday).

LENTEN EVENING WORSHIP: "Guided to the Cross" 6:30 in the Sanctuary (also livestreamed)

Feb. 14 (Ash Wednesday) — Guided to Forgiveness
February 21 — Guided to Hope
February 28 — Guided to Love
March 6 — Guided to Peace
March 13 — Guided to Trust
March 20 — Guided to Perseverance

+ + +

**LENTEN MID-DAY WORSHIP: Wednesdays, 12:00 - 12:25
(communion offered afterward)**

SERVICES FOR LENT

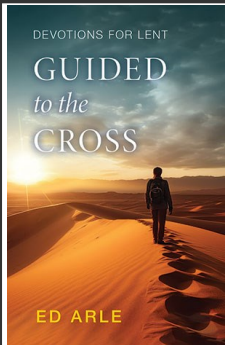
GUIDED to the CROSS



*For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1:18*

Design by Jason Wyatt. © 2014 by Creative Commons License for the Parish, 1564 Peachy Dr., Thomas, MO 65058. 1-800-325-4414. www.parchcross.com

DEVOTIONS FOR LENT
GUIDED
to the
CROSS



Daily Lenten Devotions & Prayer Crosses



+++

8:34 Daily Prayer Alerts

(Mark 8:34... "take up your cross & follow me")

+++

Plus Children/Youth Devotion Items!



FRIDAY "FISH FRY" - Blue Collar Café Seafood Truck

LS Parking Lot & Fellowship Hall, 5:00-7:00 PM

February 16, 23; March 1, 8, 15, 22

\$4000 goal for USC Campus Ministry! Dessert Donations/Volunteers Needed!

40 X 40

**Give Up
Something =
1600 items!**

**Lutheran Services "New Americans"
Refugee Family Welcome Kits!**

GOAL: 30 Dining Kits & 34 Bathroom Kits

40 Days of Giving Hunger Calendars

We invite you to **study, pray, reflect** and **give** during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.



Continued...“Journey to...the Cross of Love!” (this month from Pr. Eric)

(Continued from page 2)

It is the **most amazing gift of love ever known** —the journey of Jesus which lead him to a cross ... **our “Journey with Jesus” is indeed a journey of perfect love, a journey which takes us, next step by next step, to the Cross!**

times (see page 2). I look forward to this year’s special hand-held Prayer Crosses, our morning 8:34 prayer alerts, our 40x40 collection for Lutheran Services welcome kits, our World Hunger calendars, our dedication of time & energy to the Lenten Fish Fry series to raise \$4000 to bring hope to young people via Campus Ministry.

But this year, I find it especially meaningful that Ash Wednesday (the start of Lent) happens to fall on Feb. 14 (what society celebrates as Valentine’s Day). It reminds us that our “Journey with Jesus” is ultimately all about God’s gift of love for us: not cards or candy or flowers or jewelry or a fancy restaurant, but rather the **most amazing gift of love ever known** —the journey of Jesus which lead him to a cross, where our God’s own Son spread out his arms in love for each of us and all the world. It is wonderful to think that this Valentines Day 2024 we all have a special “date”

with Jesus, our beloved—the opportunity to “go out” together and be with Jesus in worship, to receive a be-jeweled adornment of his cross of love with ashes on our forehead, to dine with Jesus in the life-giving meal of his own body & blood given & shed for us in love. *When all is said and done, our “Journey with Jesus” is indeed a journey of love, a journey which takes us, next step by next step, to the Cross!* May we find joy in celebrating Valentine’s Day together this year on Ash Wednesday, as disciples who are together with each other on that life-shaping, grace-filled journey of love with Jesus! With much love and thanks for each of you, my siblings in Christ, *Pastor Eric*

PS. Below is my article about “love” written for our LS-CDC newsletter. It speaks about parents & children, but in many ways, is applicable to us all. Someone suggested I share it with not just the CDC, but all of you as well....

+ + +

An Invitation to Lift Up “Love” Once again, we arrive at the month of February, when thanks to Valentine’s Day, our children will hear (or overhear) a lot about hearts, candy, cards and ... LOVE! In our society, there are many mixed messages about “what love is” - and the word itself is used to describe sometimes unhealthy, destructive, or controlling behaviors. Many children (and adults) go through life hearing and using the word, “love,” without ever knowing or experiencing what true love actually is. In Scripture, I Corinthians 13 gives us a descriptive list of genuine love (the “agape” type of love which Jesus lived and taught):

Love is Patient. Love is Kind.

Love is NOT Envious. Love is NOT Boastful. Love is NOT Arrogant. Love is NOT Rude.

Love does NOT Insist on its Own Way. Love is NOT Irritable. Love is NOT Resentful.

Love does NOT Rejoice in Wrongdoing. Love Rejoices in the Truth.

Love Bears all things. (i.e. love is the source of strength to carry our burdens).

Love Endures all things. (i.e. love is the strength to carry us through difficulties).

Love Believes all things (i.e., love is the foundation of belief & trust).

Love Hopes all things (i.e., love is the foundation of hope).

Love Never Ends (i.e., in Christ, we know that love even extends beyond death!).

In this world of confusing messages about “love,” it is important that each child grows up having had multiple caring conversations about love. During February, I invite you to spend some time talking about love with your child(ren), at whatever level is appropriate for them. Based on this list of qualities, you can draw pictures or lift up examples of what genuine love looks like – and perhaps what love does NOT look like. Point out ways that you (and others) love them with these qualities – and ways that they can be loving to siblings, friends, and others. You might even use the motivation of Valentine’s Day to make cards together as a family, showing or describing qualities of genuine love.

Beyond I Corinthians 13, there are many passages of Scripture which help us understand genuine love. Perhaps two of the most important are found in I John 4, where we read, **“God is love ... we love because God first loved us.”** My prayer is that you and your child’s understanding of love will always be grounded in your relationship with God, who is pure love. I give thanks for all the ways you have daily & weekly conversations in your home about the God of love, and all the ways you actively nurture you & your child’s relationship with this loving God - for it is the depths of that relationship that each of us finds a powerful answer to that age-old search to “know what love is.” Rejoicing in all the ways you share genuine love in the world, *Pastor Eric*



God’s Corner



To all my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you all so much for all of your prayers, love, beautiful prayer shawl, phone calls, visits, and food before and after my surgery. Your kindness means so much! Sue Hyman



Thank you for your abundant kindness. Calls visits, flowers and a delicious meal after services, It was so special having the carolers visit during the holidays. Much love, Delores Harmon

Continued...From the Desk of Pastor Carl

(Continued from page 2)

As we look forward, we're eagerly anticipating Youth Sunday (February 4th) – a time to witness the energy, passion, and faith of our young members. I can't help but smile thinking about the joy and enthusiasm they bring to our congregation. Let's support and uplift our youth as they take on leadership roles, reminding them that their faith is a beacon of light for us all.

Speaking of anticipation, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, and the season of Lent, are just around the corner. The youth will have pancakes and sausages on Shrove Tuesday, followed by the burning of the Palms. On Wednesday, we will have Ashes to Go in two locations. While I know some may groan at the thought of giving up chocolate or coffee or perhaps adding something to the plate, let us approach this time of repentance with a sense of purpose and reflection. Lent is an opportunity for spiritual growth and a chance to draw closer to God, so let's embrace it with open hearts and open minds.

Now, let's sprinkle a bit of humor into our journey. Why did the tomato turn **RED** during Lent? Because it saw the salad dressing! Laughter is a gift from God, and it's a beautiful way to connect with one another during our journey of faith.

As we navigate through the joys and challenges of life, let us not forget to lift each other up in prayer. Let our prayers be woven like wool with fine threads of grace, love, peace, and hope – gifts that God generously bestows upon us each day. May our hearts be open to receiving these gifts and sharing them abundantly with others.

In our moments of celebration, let's also remember those among us who may be facing difficult times. Whether it's depression, loss, grief, or financial struggles, let us extend a hand of love and support. Our church family is here to walk alongside one another, providing comfort, encouragement, and a reminder that we are never alone in our journey.

In conclusion, let us commit ourselves to love one another always. May the joy of Epiphany, the inspiration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the excitement of Youth Sunday, and the reflection of Lent be woven into the fabric of our community. As we continue to navigate life's twists and turns, may the grace of God be our guide, and may His love be the compass that points us toward an eternity of joy and peace.

Grace and Peace

PC



Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

In the book of Luke chapter 5 Jesus talks about leading us to be fishers of men, followers of Jesus!

Being leaders in our Justice Ministry, we are answering that call of bringing others to do Justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

There are some important dates coming up in our Justice Ministry!

Feb. 18th at both services we will be recognizing leaders and members of More Justice.

Feb 26. is our rally! This year we will be at Trinity Cathedral. We will be carpooling from Living Springs starting at 5:00 with the rally beginning at 6:00. This will be an opportunity for Justice members to learn more about the Nehemiah action and build energy for Nehemiah.

March 18th is our Nehemiah action! Info about the locating is pending. Members are asked to bring three or more people with them to this event. The more people the better!

We are casting our nets bringing others to walk with us in our journey to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

Notes from: *Sr. Youth*

Calling all people of LS....

YOUTH SUNDAY IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4!

Be sure to be present as we celebrate the ministry of our amazing youth at LS! Youth will be leading the worship service, with specially-selected music and a powerful message. Come be inspired, affirm these youth people in their faith journey, and show our youth how much they mean to us all!

LS YOUTH SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 11



Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday is February 11. In addition, to collecting donations at the end of the services, we are going to return to serving soup this year. Soup will be served for "take out" from 9:20-9:45 after the 8:15 service and again from 12:00-12:30 for "takeout" of "dine in" after the 10:30 service. Please come out and support the youth! All donations will go to support Souper Bowl for Caring.

"FIND OUT ABOUT OUR YOUTH" FEBRUARY FUNDRAISER!

During February, a colorful display will be in the Narthex for our Youth Fundraiser! This is a unique fundraiser which will help you get to know our youth on a deeper spiritual level as well as an opportunity to donate and pray for our youth during their summer mission projects. On the display there are envelopes representing each of our youth. Feel free to take envelopes of the youth you want to get to know, pray for them, and make a donation in their honor. Inside the envelope is a beige card for the individual youth that explains more of who they are as a child of God. Please keep this card somewhere visible to remind you to pray for them. Also inside the envelope is a white giving sheet where you get to pick the amount you want to donate. Please return the giving sheet in the provided envelope to the office or offering plate (with cash/check made out to "Living Springs" and your honorary youth name in the Memo line). Or you can give it to Leslie Bloss, or to Deacon Lexanne Graves. Let us all take the next step in our Journey with Jesus AND our Youth! (Questions? please contact Deacon Lexanne at 803-315-3828; Lgraves910@gmail.com).



Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

LS MINISTRIES WITH CRISTO REY!

Sunday February 18 @ 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: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Hello and Happy New Year to all!

As we head into a New Year, we are reminded of the Hope that continues to shine in and around our children, families, and staff here at LSLC-CDC.

Our 4&5-year-olds have been discussing, discovering, and creating habitats of hibernation. They presented their projects to their classmates last week, and the class was buzzing with excitement about bees, snakes, bears, and other animals.

This is always a fun and exciting season, as the weather is unpredictable. Children playing outside try to find their shadows, making their own predictions of what is to come; will we have more cold days or is spring ready to bring on the color show? We watch as the sun comes and goes, the wind blows with force some days while only giving a gentle breeze on others, rain showers come with thunder strikes, or it may be a quite drizzly dark afternoon.

This week, we open the topic schoolwide as we vote on whether we think "Punxsutawney Phil" will see his shadow. We are voting via "non-perishable items" (to be donated to the C.A.B. foodbank in Blythewood) that are dropped into the basket of your choice:

Shadow- 6 more weeks of Winter OR **No Shadow-** Get ready for an early Spring



We will keep you posted as to which prediction had the most votes, which one came true, and just how many items we were able to collect!

We are excited to be making Valentine's Day placemats and cards for the Rice Estates as well as cards for our other ministry groups.

We continue to be grateful for the outreach we can provide for children and families and look forward to more field trips and ministry opportunities.

Wishing you well,
Tammy and the LSLC-CDC Staff

Notes from: *Fellowship & Mutual Care*

Chili Cookoff



Notes from: *Good News Team*

RUSH HOUR MINISTRY

Tuesday, February 6, 4:15 - 5 PM

There is space for you! Be part of God's growing hope on the sidewalk in front of Living Springs, sharing smiles and blessing gifts to those waiting in rush hour traffic! We will meet around 4pm but join us at any time!

Beer & Hymns



So blessed to have met a new couple at Beer N Hymns who was overwhelmed with the concept of Beer N Hymns. They loved the unique idea of inviting anyone to join in—friends, strangers, neighbors to sing and enjoy one another's fellowship. They loved it! And they will be back!! Thanks be to God!



You're invited to come back



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

New Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

7:00-9:00pm

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

The Spirit led me to speak to a couple who had arrived at Random Tap before our event started and I struck up a conversation with them, asking them if they had ever heard of Beer N Hymns. The couple said no and inquired about it. The woman replied with, "what a really cool idea. As a daughter of a pastor I am not sure he would have liked it." A wee bit shocked and concerned about how to respond, I simply shared that the Lord brings together about 50 people or more who sing Gods praise and can drink or not; the point is we gather in community, sing, and are there for one another, breaking down barriers. Surprisingly she said, "we can't stay tonight but I will be back!"

LS GOOD NEWS JOURNEY WITH JESUS BIBLE STORY PROJECT

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

"Light in the Night" read by Bob Gill

"A Well of Living Water" read by Dawn Willingham

"First or Last?" read by Steve Padgett

"Invitation of Life-Changing Grace" read by Hunter Prest

The Good News Team is beginning a new series for their Bible Reading Project in conjunction with 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*



FRIDAY LENTEN FISH FRY

Starting Friday! Feb. 16 through March 22 - 5 to 7 pm.

Blue Collar Café food truck is preparing the food this year – let's hope for some nice Fridays and people willing to brave the Hard Scrabble Road traffic! Word of mouth helps advertise, so tell your neighbors, friends, relatives to come out on a Friday during Lent and help support our Campus Ministry. Our menu is: Adult: founder & fries; 10-ct. shrimp & fries; chicken tenders & fries \$12; kids (half portion) is \$6 – with all meals, there is a choice of one side (okra, Cole slaw, fries) or you can get an extra side for \$5. A free Thrivent t-shirt will be given out again this year.

VOLUNTEERS Needed- If you would like to help, use Signup

Genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BAEA92FA0F85-lenten> or there is a sign-up in the admin bldg. Start date is Friday, February 16 through March 22 – 5 to 7 pm.



BACKPACKS FOOD MINISTRY

The cupboard is bare again, but we should have a spike in inventory after our Stuff a Bus event on Saturday, February 10, 9 am to 1 pm. I am always so excited when I send out the invite through the Sign-up Genius program and I start getting replies, one after the other, from high school students wanting to fulfill their community hours obligation. I had to smile when I received a message from a parent asking if it is alright for a sister of a student that signed up to be able to help too...you've got to be kidding, of course!!!

LS STUFF-A-BUS For Backpack Food Ministry

Saturday, February 10, 9 am to 1 pm

We hand out flyers at each entrance to customers coming in to the Kroger on Killian and the Kroger on Two Notch. Most of the time, it is just a matter of handing the flyer to people entering the store, but sometimes we have a person stop and ask about our program. Since this will be Super Bowl weekend, we anticipate a good flow of traffic – sign up through Signup Genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BAEA92FA0F85-stuff3> or there is a hard copy in the admin bldg. It is a neat experience to participate – even if it's only for a half-hour.



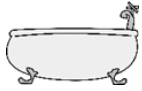
LS LENTEN 40X40 H.O.P.E. COLLECTION

Lutheran Services New Americans Program

GOAL: 1600 Welcome Kit items for newly-arriving, officially-vetted refugees, through Lutheran Services "New Americans" Program!



For each Dining Welcome Kit, we need: 6 forks, 6 knives, 6 spoons; 6 plates; 6 bowls; 6 cups; 1 pitcher; 1 serving platter; 3 serving spoons; and 1 silverware organizer.



For each Bathroom Welcome Kit, we need: 6 washcloths; 6 hand towels; 6 bath towels; 1 bath mat; 1 toilet brush; 4 roll toilet paper; and 1 small waste basket.

30 dining kits and 34 bathroom kits would equal 1600 items - let's do it! You may donate an entire kit, or any of the items. New items only, please. Collection containers will be in the office lobby – or you can place an order through Amazon and have them delivered to LS (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/czklj6z?ref=wl_share).

***Over the past years, we have been blessed to partner with Lutheran Services Carolinas in welcoming many refugee families forced to flee difficult, violent situations across the world. We have greeted them at the Columbia airport with our buses, quilts, prayer bears, and hand-drawn welcome signs from our CDC children. These Dining & Welcome Kits are another big need – and will be a great "next step" in our Journey with Jesus to be part of God's growing hope for the world!*

PALMETTO PLACE & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

An opportunity to participate or you can donate to either of these Hope Ministry activities. The fourth Thursday of the month, we prepare a home-cooked meal for 6 young adults transitioning from the unaccompanied youth shelter to adulthood. The lunches are delivered by Travis & Melanie Mooney of Carolina Deli each third Thursday of the month – we encourage people to write an encouraging note to the parents of the hospitalized 5th floor children!



Thank you so much for sending us lunches. We look forward to those days. The pictures and notes the kids send us make our day! We also share them with our patients & families. Many are here for long periods & look forward as well.

The Staff of the Children's Cancer and Blood Disorder Unit

CAMPUS MINISTRY MEALS

Are you looking to do an activity with your committee members?? There are three slots available to provide a meal for the campus ministry students: 3/31, 4/7 and 4/28. The meal is served at 6:30 pm on Sunday evening and a great opportunity to get to know the students if you stay (you don't have to stay). There are approximately 20-25 students attending worship of which I think three are vegetarians. Contact Karen Kranz if in-



THANK YOU

Christian Assistance Bridge (CAB) in Blythewood was in awe of our 1600 + Advent food box items we dropped off and thankful for including them on our Stuff a Bus flyer for non-grocery items.

Christian Assistance Bridge

Living Springs has now partnered with CAB to help persons in need. This is how CAB helped people in 2023!!!

Given out over **143,864.90** lbs of food.

Helped **64** with rent/mortgage assistance.

Helped **236** families keep their water and lights on.

Helped **18** families with emergency shelter.

Helped **98** families with miscellaneous financial needs.

You have helped move **930** households with over **2,631** members.

495 households were first time clients.



How can I find out more about Christian Assistance Bridge?

Feel free to talk with Karen Kranz or Deacon Lexanne Graves!
Also follow them on their social media pages!

By car -

126 Blythewood Road,
Blythewood, SC 29016

By Phone - 803-786-1903

By Email -

info@christianassistancebridge.com

Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*

SHARE YOUR STORY

Have you seen the Holy Spirit work in your life, or in the lives of others? Have you experienced the joy of doing God's work? How has your Journey with Jesus been impacted by what you see God doing in the world or the ministries at Living Springs?

Telling others about the times the Holy Spirit led you in your journey with Jesus will help your brothers and sisters in Christ to better understand, recognize, and be thankful for their own experiences. One way for you to share your inspiring story and give thanks, is through Thanksgiving Moments.

You can share in person at Sunday worship services or record a video.

Want to share your story? Just contact Dawn or Tom Willingham, Gail Buchanan, or Steve Bloss. We'll be glad to walk you through the process. Thank you for your willingness to share your story!

"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." Romans 1:11-12

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 Feb 4: Matthew 13:1-53 - Seeds & Treasures

Week of Feb 11: Luke 15:1-32 - Being Lost, Finding Joy

Week of Feb 18: Luke 10:25-37, 12:13-21, 14:15-24 - Neighbors, Fools, Guests

Week of Feb 25: Matthew 18:23-35; 20:1-16 - Be-Grudging Grace?

****For families with children,** you can use stories from Children's Bible Story books or online Children's Bible videos about these miracles/stories of Jesus!



Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs

Gardening Help Wanted!

For 2024, the facilities team would like to assign specific areas of our property to be maintained by volunteers. This would include weed control, minor pruning, insect control and in some cases minor cleaning. If interested please see the sign up sheet in the administration building or talk to Jim, Ed, or Marshall.

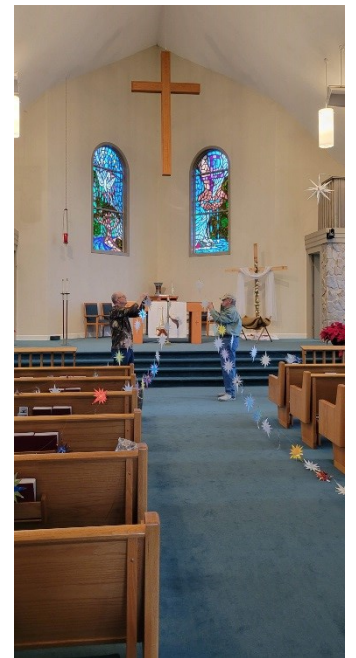
- Rose Beds
- Sanctuary roadside planter bed
- Narthex planter bed
- Sanctuary Playground planter beds
- Prayer Garden
- Preschool entrance planter beds
- Big Kitchen planter beds
- Administration building planter beds
- Picnic Shelter and play ground
- Sanctuary North Side planter bed
- Driveway planter bed

Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

After the joyous Christmas season, your regular musicians (choir, Disciples of Harmony, pianist) had a little break early in January. We so appreciate the leadership and musicianship of Tim Wert who led our services for the first two Sundays! Now we're excited to look ahead to Lent and Easter—here very soon (Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day!). It's a blessing for us to help with the worship services at Living Spring. Would you like to help? There are many ways to serve (look under the heading "Worship Assistants" near the end of the bulletin: lector (read scripture), acolyte (light candles), crucifer (carry the cross), usher, welcome table greeter, musician, and others, and there's training for these roles. Ask Karen Kranz or Shirl Schiffman (at the piano) for more information. Of course, every single person is an important and active participant in making our times of worship rich and meaningful! Don't hold back! Enter into every part of the service with joy! We gather as God's family for worship, praise, instruction, nourishment, and preparation to go out into the world as ambassadors for Christ!



Saturday De-decorate



JuBELLation



Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

LADIES BOOK CLUB

We will be picking our reads for 2024 at our book club gathering on Sunday, February 4 at 2 pm at Karen Kranz's house, 235 Founders Ridge Rd. (in the Summit) Ph: 716.998.1157 - so, if you have some intriguing suggestions, come join us! Our present book we will be discussing is Still Life with Bread Crumbs by Anna Quindlen. Light refreshments (not just bread crumbs) will be served. Contact Karen Kranz for information.

WOMEN ON A MISSION

March 15-17

We are Christ following sisters seeking to create an authentic community where one can discover their spiritual identity and grow their relationship with God. This is not your typical women's retreat. In the hustle and bustle of life, as women we often are caring for others. This retreat is a gift for yourself. As part of the retreat, you will experience: Y Time to be still and listen. Y Time to connect authentically with yourself and other women. Y A clearer sense of your purpose and where God is calling you. Be prepared for a once in a lifetime experience and connect in a circle of sisters. This retreat is continued with additional studies and relationships which continue past this weekend retreat.

Cost: Women on a Mission - Retreat and continued study with Women on a Mission – Renewal only \$200. Registration deadline is February 15. Early bird discount \$175 if received before February 01. Registration is nonrefundable but is transferable to another participant for this retreat (limited exceptions). The retreat is 2 nights of lodging, 6 meals, and retreat materials. (Special diet needs are \$6 extra per person). Registration forms in admin lobby. Contact Jeannie Hurlbert - jhurlbert@sc.rr.com



CAMP KINARD RETREAT - Fri. & Sat. February 16 & 17

Bible Study: *How Do We Know God is Listening?*

Leader: Pegi Roberts, South Carolina Retreat Centers Co-Coordinator of Adult Programs

ISLE OF PALMS RETREAT - Fri. - Sun. May 17 - 19

Bible Study: *The Door to Salvation: Flood or Fire*

Leader: Pat George, Taylors, SC

SC WELCA ANNUAL CONVENTION Fri. & Sat. June 21 & 22

Location: St. Luke's Summerville SC

Theme: "JUST LOVE" Scripture: *We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)* Hymn: "We



Check out our **website** for up-to-date information and pictures.

Go to <http://www.scwelca.com>.



Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

The SC LMM Annual Convention

Saturday February 17th

The SC LMM Annual Convention will be held on Saturday February 17th at St. James Lutheran Church in Leesville, SC. For more information, contact Bob Turnmire at 803-386-5526 or register at sclmm.org.

God At Work

Semi-Annual Leadership Planning Time



Disciples Helping Disciples - installing a handrail



Council installation



Epiphany Celebration

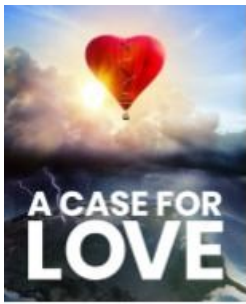


MLK Northeast Community Worship



Spirit Notes Reveal





Film created by Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who sought out to define **Unselfish Love** and provide stories to portray this unique concept of giving without ever expecting anything in return. Small acts of kindness can turn into massive change!!



Below are some quotes & pictures of ordinary persons doing extraordinary acts of "unselfish love"!

Watch the Trailer for the movie here:

https://www.fathomevents.com/events/a-case-for-love?mc_cid=3f42e4aae7&mc_eid=4314c50a11



"Hate comes from confusion. If you aren't confused then you know life is beautiful!"



"Acts of kindness every day are needed. Acts create habits and habits create change!"



"For people who have been through trauma...just listen to them. LISTEN. That's unconditional love."



Fear, hatred and violence have exploded.

"People respond quickly with hate because there's no time for reflection."



"It's OK to get help. It's OK to say you need help. That's when healing begins."



Healed people heal people."

[Kindness.org/stories](https://www.kindness.org/stories)



"Kids learn hatred from their own home environment."

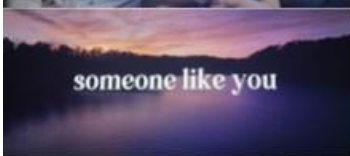


"Love is an emotion. Love is a choice."

"Healthy human community is life-giving!"



"Selfishness Versus Selflessness." (If THIS is defined well for you, then you will be giving "unselfish love.")



"You just do what's got to be done for others."



"Maybe no one is listening, including God."

February 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
4 *See box above Youth Sunday 930A ELCA Youth Gathering Parents Mtg. 12P Confirmation 2P Ladies Book Club 430P Girl Scouts 530P Campus Ministry Meal	5 915A Staff Meeting 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	6 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 415P Rush Hour Ministry 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	7 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 6P Hope Team 630P Youth (Salsarita's)	1 11A Good News Team 330P Backpack Food Bags (ASC) 630P Recovery Comes First 700P Lifelong Discipleship	2 Youth Lock-in	3 9A Boy Scout Food Bag Distribution 10A Girl Scout Cookie Rally Youth Lock-in
11 *See box above Transfiguration/Scout Sunday Souper Bowl Sunday 920 & 1145 - Backpack Food Bags 1145 - LS Child Protection Training 430P Girl Scouts	12 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Exec 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Fellowship/Mutual Care 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	13 Shrove Tuesday 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 530-640P Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 645P Burning of Palms 7P Handbells	14 Ash Wednesday 730-10A Ashes2Go (LS) 9-1030A Ashes2Go (LKCaro.) 10A Preschool Bible Time 12P Ash Wed. Worship 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 430-6P Ashes2Go (LS & LC) 630P Ash Wed. Worship	15 4P Backpack Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Council Children's Hospital Meal	16 5-7P Lenten Fish Fry	17 930A Lutheran Men's State Convention (Leesville)
18 *See box above 1st Sunday in Lent/Justice Blessing 930P Justice Network Gathering 12P Confirmation Class 430P Girl Scouts 5P Cristo Rey Ministry (carpool 415)	19 1030A Meals on Wheels 630P Worship Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	20 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	21 10A Preschool Bible Time 12P Lenten Worship 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 630P Lenten Worship 630P Youth (LS) 7P Choir	22 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 8A Facilities Team 630P Recovery Comes First Palmetto Place Meal	23 5-7P Lenten Fish Fry	24 8A Men's Breakfast 930A Crafty Ladies Youth Ski Trip 2/23-2/25 Winterplace, WV Handbell Workshop 2/23-2/25
25 *See box above 2nd Sunday in Lent 920A Journey w/ Jesus Bible Time 920 & 1145 - Backpack Food Bags 430P Girl Scouts	26 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P Justice Ministry Rally, Trinity Episcpl (carpool 5p) 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	27 10A Jw/Jesus Bible Time 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	28 10A Preschool Bible Time 12P Lenten Worship 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 630P Lenten Worship 630P Youth (LS) 7P Choir	29 630P Recovery Comes First	1 5-7P Lenten Fish Fry	2

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

February 2 Caroline Berger
 Peter Zvejnieks
February 7 Phoebe Cool
 Jean Weick
February 10 Ted Buchanan
February 11 Jan Berger
 Maggie Pittman
 Kayla Wallace
February 12 Garrett Flores
February 14 Maria Sorial
 ♥ Mia & Marc Rapport
February 15 Alice Renaud
February 16 Marshall Hurlbert

February 17 Walker Flores
February 19 ♥ Jace & Julia Martinez
February 22 Gary Bradham
 Patricia Jolly
 Annie Griffin
 Stephanie Joyner
February 23 Rhett Hair
February 24 Noah Mason
February 25 Bob Gill
February 27 Jerry Mancuso
 ♥ Charles & Irene Tracy
February 28 Inge Lowery



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!



February 1 Patricia Bartucca
February 3 Kris Fink
February 6 Laura Stuart
February 7 Jacob Newton
February 10 Lilah Snipes
 Mike Wirth
February 13 Wendy McKenzie
February 15 Wesley Graves
February 24 Rocky Berger



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

[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

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