# **The Living Springs Journal**

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

March 2024

# SHINE GOD'S LIGHT!

† Grace For All

Calling all LS family and friends...
LS ANNUAL MINISTRY FOCUS KICKOFF
Sunday, March 10 (1st day of Daylight Savings!)

#### "Steps of Shining Light!" (this month from Pr. Eric)

Journey with Jesus ... Guided to the Cross! What an amazing past few weeks we have shared since Ash Wednesday—in this journey of Lent that takes us deeper into God's heart of love and grace! I pray that in some way, each of us have felt the depth of that love through our Lenten opportunities, perhaps while...

- clinging to your **prayer cross** in a moment of prayer or devotion;
- pausing to touch base with God some morning with an 8:34 prayer alert;
- finding special meaning with your "Guided to the Cross" daily devotional;
- being moved by one of the Lenten dramatic reflections at our Wednesday services (if you missed one, they are still available on our YouTube channel);
- finding joy in making a sacrifice and giving of your time to be part of a **Friday Lenten Fish Fry**, to help bring God's love to young lives via Campus Ministry;
- dropping off items for the **Lenten 40x40 welcome kit collection,** to share God's love with a Lutheran Services refugee family;
- growing in faith through at-home weekly "Journey with Jesus" readings, a Wed. online devotion post, or a Lenten study group.

Yes, this 40-day journey focused on the cross truly does come as a blessing, to help each of us take next steps in our Journey with Jesus! Thanks be to God.

Now, here in March, we have a **3 special moments** for us all to take even deeper steps in our cross-shaped calling to lives of faith & discipleship. Each of

(Continued on page 7)

Calling all LS people... Justice Ministry

SHINE
GOD'S †
Grace
For All

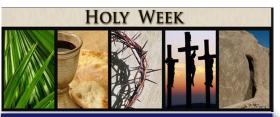
2024 MINISTRY
FOCUS KICKOFF
SUNDAY, MARCH 10
(start of daylight savings)

Annual Cong. Photo: 10:15 on lawn! Cong. Brunch Gathering: 9:20-10:10

Justice Ministry NEHEMIAH ACTION ASSEMBLY

Monday, 3/18 6pm Eau Claire HS

Buses leave LS starting 5:00-5:15



"Guided to the Cross"
Wednesday Lenten Worship, 12 & 6:30
Friday Lenten Fish Fry, 5-7pm

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY, March 24 8:15 & 10:30 (Walking of Cross @ 2)

HOLY MONDAY, March 25
Service of Healing & Blessing, 12 & 7

HOLY WEDNESDAY, March 26 Journey w/ Jesus, posted @ 12

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 27 Communion Worship, 12 & 7

GOOD FRIDAY, March 28 "Words from the Cross" Tenebrae, 7 (Walking of Cross @ 9am)

HOLY SATURDAY, March 29
Easter Vigil Worship, 7:30

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31 "Son-Rise" Worship, 7am Easter Worship, 8:15 & 10:30am (Easter Breakfast served 9:15-10:15) (Easter Egg Hunt 12:15)

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#### From the Desk of Pastor Carl

Hello and Blessings to All...

Greetings in this season of reflection, love, and wonder! As we found ourselves amid Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, we can't help but marvel at the unique convergence of these two occasions, fostering a sense of unity and more profound connection within our community, filled with love and forgiveness.

Shrove Tuesday brought a lot of energy from our youth and parents who dedicated their time to serving pancakes and sausages with smiles, kindness and warmth. Their enthusiasm and commitment were genuinely heartwarming, and they set the tone for a meaningful season of Lent. The burning of the palms further ignited a sense of spiritual renewal, symbolizing the cycle of life and growth that we experience in our faith journey.

Ash Wednesday was a powerful moment of reflection as we gathered in two locations to receive the ashes, reminding us and the community we serve of mortality and calling us to repentance with the understanding of forgiveness. The presence of the youth at our Ash Wednesday worship experience and their eagerness to participate and engage in this sacred ritual added a refreshing vitality to the observance.

As we enter this season of Lent, it's inspiring to witness the curiosity and openness among our community members, pondering the mysteries of God's plan. The sense of wonder and anticipation is a testament to the vibrant faith that thrives within our congregation.

Our Sr. Youth recently embarked on a ski retreat, blending fun and spiritual exploration. With the snow-capped peaks and crisp mountain air, they not only enjoyed the thrill of skiing but also discovered the beauty of God in nature and one another. It's heartening to know that the younger generation is embracing both the joy of fellowship and the awe-inspiring majesty of creation.

## **Lent 2024: Journey to the Cross**

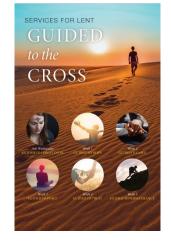
LENTEN EVENING WORSHIP:

"Guided to the Cross"

Wednesdays @ 6:30 (also streamed)

February 14 — Guided to Forgiveness (Ash Wednesday)
February 21 — Guided to Hope (Pastor Eric)
February 28 — Guided to Love (Seminarian Jace)
March 6 — Guided to Peace (Dea Jones)
March 13 — Guided to Trust (Pastor Carl)
March 20 — Guided to Perseverance

MID-DAY LENTEN WORSHIP Wednesdays @ 12:00





FRIDAY "FISH FRY" - Blue Collar Café Food Truck
LS Parking Lot & Fellowship Hall, 5:00-7:00 PM
March 1, 8, 15, 22

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

Calling all LS family and friends...

# LS ANNUAL MINISTRY FOCUS KICKOFF Sunday, March 10 (1st day of Daylight Savings!)

Congregation Photo & Kickoff: 10:15 on the Lawn Everyone, be sure to be part of our annual photo – and our "Shine God's Light" kickoff!



Congregational Brunch Kickoff Gathering: 9:20-10:10

You are invited to bring brunch items to share, if you're able – but most importantly, bring yourself as we share our Ministry Focus!

Special "Shine God's Light" Worship @ 10:30

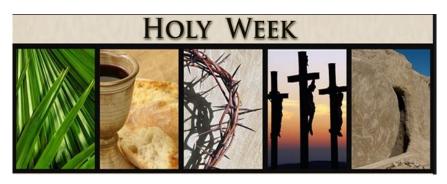
(Communion Prayer Worship Option is offered @ 8:15)



Calling all people of LS (neighbors and friends)...

# Our Big Nehemiah Justice Assembly is Monday, March 18! 6pm at Eau Claire HS Auditorium

LS Network Justice Members are gathering the entire congregation (with neighbors/family/friends) to attend the annual Nehemiah Action Assembly set for Monday, Mar. 18 at Eau Claire HS Auditorium. For those who wish, carpools and buses will leave LS between 5:00 and 5:30. *LS Team leaders will be in the narthex on Sundays to make sure everyone has admission slips - for yourself, as well as those you are inviting* (or you can stop by the office during the week). Each LS Network Member is committed to bring 3 people with them - adding names to the Justice wall of "HOPE" in the narthex. Our goal is 125+ LS folks to join the hundreds who will be there (= ave. Sunday worship for just 1 night of Justice). Come be part of this important effort to respond to Scripture's call to "do justice" and work for positive change in our community (regarding increasing food insecurity, community gun violence, & the crisis for affordable housing)!



## Palm / Passion Sunday, March 24 - Procession of Palms & Passion Reading, 8:15 & 10:30am "Walking of the Cross" with Northeast UMC, 2pm

Be sure to be present on Sunday, March 24, for this powerful worship experience to begin the holiest week of our lives. We begin on the front lawn with the Procession of Palms, and then move into the sanctuary for the full reading of Christ's Holy Passion. At 2pm, with join with fellow disciples from Northeast UMC for the devotional "Walking of the Cross" from LS to Northeast UMC.

#### Holy Monday, March 25 - Service of Blessing & Healing, Noon & 7pm

As part of this worship experience, we receive a special blessing and prayer for God's wholeness and healing in our lives, in whatever form it may be needed.

# Holy Wednesday, March 26 - "Journey with Jesus" Bible Reading/Devotion posted online @ Noon Maundy Thursday, March 28 - Holy Communion, noon & 7pm

We remember our Lord's Last Supper, and how Jesus washed his disciples' feet in the upper room. 7pm Worship concludes with the poignant and powerful Stripping of the Altar. For those who wish the Rite of Foot-Washing is offered before & after 7pm worship. 7pm also live-streamed.

### Good Friday, April 7 - Tenebrae "Words from the Cross" Service, 7pm Walking of the Cross, 9am

With increasing darkness in the 7pm Tenebrae Service, we recall Jesus' 7 sayings spoken from the cross. At 9am, we join with Christians across the world in the devotional practice of "walking the cross" (beginning with devotions at Harmony on Clemson Rd.) Wherever we are this day, we pause in special reverence at 3pm - the hour Jesus breathed his last. *7pm also livestreamed*.

#### Holy Saturday, April 8- Easter Vigil, 7:30pm

We gather by a fire and enter the sanctuary to remember the waiting of that night when our Lord lay in the tomb. We hear foundational stories of Scripture, affirm our identity as God's baptized children, and welcome Easter joy!



#### "WALKING OF THE CROSS": 2 OPPORTUNITIES THIS YEAR!

Palm/Passion Sunday @ 2pm -AND- Good Friday @ 9am

Over the centuries, Christians have joined in many devotional experiences to embrace the deep meaning of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. One such practice is the "Walking of the Cross," where Christians publicly carry a large wooden cross, either on Good Friday OR the beginning of Holy Week on Passion/Palm Sunday.

On **Palm Sunday at 2pm**, we will gather at Living Springs with members of Northeast UMC and then process the cross alongside Hardscrabble for 1 mile to Northeast UMC church. Once the walk is completed, if you wish, you can spend some time in personal prayer & reflection at the Prayer Labyrinth located at Northeast UMC.

On **Good Friday at 9am** (hour Jesus was nailed to the cross), we will gather with our Wooden Cross in front of Harmony (2300 Clemson Rd.) for a time of prayer with the residents there. Then, we will process safely on the sidewalk, carrying the cross ½ mile back to LS for prayer. Meet at LS at 8:45am.

You can participate in one or both of the walks. There is a sign-up sheet to help with planning. Each walk should take less than 1 hour. We will have carpools & shuttle transportation. Along the way, you can take turns with partners carrying the cross – or you can just walk along behind the cross. We will pause at various points for prayer & Scripture, focusing on the traditional "Stations of the Cross." This is a very meaningful experience—invite someone to join you to feel the depth of Jesus' love!



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

During Lent, we put God's love in action by making Personal Care Kits for neighbors in the poorest parts of the world. As always, our goal for Lent is  $40 \times 40 = 1600$  total items. Today, the individual items will be assembled into full kits.

#### **Personal Care Kits include:**

- •Two bars 4-5 oz. soap (in original wrapping)
- •One lightweight bath towel 20x40 to 52x27 (dark color recommended)
- •One adult toothbrush (in original packaging)
- One sturdy comb
- •One nail clipper (metal)



If you cannot stay today for the Family Event to help assemble the kits and would like to bring a complete Personal Care Kit, please drop it off during the week.

To assemble your kit ... Fold towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.

#### **LENTEN DRAMA WORSHIP**

Still Available to Watch Online
Contemporary Encounters of Growing Hope...

Temptation in the Wilderness

Spiritual Yearning (based on Nicodemus)

Belonging (based on Woman at the Well)

Transformation & Sight (based on Blind Man)

New Life & Hope (based on Mary/Martha/Lazarus)

You can view all of the dramas on our YouTube Channel: http://bit.ly/3TXAewW

## HOLY WEEK/ EASTER WORSHIP HELPERS

Plenty of spots available for our Holy Week and Easter Worship services. Lectors, Ushers, Parking Lot Greeters, Acolytes, Crucifer, Torchbearers, Bible Bearers, and Welcome Table volunteers are needed. Sign up at the welcome table or through Ministry Scheduler Pro. Contact Karen Kranz with guestions.







#### **CAMP SUNDAY!**

Today, we uplift the life-changing ministries of our southeastern NovusWay Lutheran camps: **Lutheridge, Lutherock, LutherSprings, and LuteRanch**. We welcome Lutheridge counselor Ramsey McIntyre to share about her camp experiences, along with friends!

Our Lutheran camps offer opportunities for all ages and interests. You can hike, swim, make crafts, rock climb, raft, canoe, sing songs, and roast s'mores...the fun is endless and grounded in God's love for us. It challenges youth (and adults!) to try new things, leave

our screens behind, and play in God's creation. There are programs for children, youth, families, and even a grandparent's camp. (Camp staff tell us that grandparents worry about teaching grandchildren the faith because they aren't attending church. They find that camp is a great way to help grandchildren learn about God's amazing love in a fun and safe environment).

Check out their <u>2024 summer camp</u> offerings here or visit <u>www.novusway.org</u> to find the perfect program for you, or to register someone you love today for a life-changing week of camp. <u>Scholarships</u> are available. (You can help with the scholarship program. <u>More info here</u>)

Camp is only possible because of the generosity of churches and individuals from congregations in the Southeast. Our gifts help train skilled staff who shepherd campers every week in faith conversations and exciting activities - and also make camp possible for children/youth who would not be able to attend for financial reasons. You may use a pew envelope (mark "camp offering") or give online at www.novusway.org. Thank you for your support of our valued camp ministry. Children, youth, and families need camp and we are grateful for the opportunity to answer the call to provide it.

Check out this video from Lutheridge Program Directors Pastor Sara & Pastor Drew Yoos

Tuesday nights @ 8:34 pm

#### "END-OF-DAY" ONLINE BIBLE FAITH DISCUSSION!

meet.google.com/bxg-ezfy-nyi

(US) +1 720-307-7983 PIN: 725 764 085#

Log on/call in for about 25-30 minutes of informal faith-and-life dialogue or questions w/Pastor Eric, regarding our Lenten Devotions, "Guided to the Cross." All are welcome - spread the word to family and friends!

#### **EASTER FLOWERS**

Due by 3/17

If you would like to donate a flower in honor/memory of a loved one, please fill out the form in the narthex & return it to the office or place in the offering plate. The name of your loved one will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. \$12 Donation per plant is requested. Due 3/17

#### **MEMBER WELCOME & INFO SESSION**

Plans are being made for our next Member Welcome Blessing (and info class) to welcome persons into Christ's family of faith here at LS. If interested - or if you would like to know more about LS and our faith as Lutheran Christians - see Pastor Eric/Carl, or call the office.

#### **GARDENING HELP WANTED!**

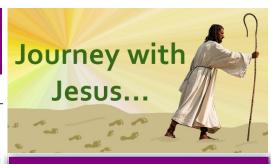
For 2024 the facilities team would like to assign specific areas of our property to be maintained by volunteers. This would include weed control, minor pruning, insect control and in some cases minor cleaning. If interested please see the sign up sheet in the administration building or talk to Jim, Ed,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

March "JOURNEY WITH JESUS" Focus = Life of Jesus, part 2 Pastor Study Times: Sunday, 3/17 @ 9:20; Tuesday, 3/19 @ 10:00 Postings: Wed. Postings @ Noon; 8:34PM Tues. Online Discussion

these 3 will allow us to experience the meaning & deep, fulfilling joy of taking active steps to "Shine God's Light!" for others. I do pray that everyone will be able to participate fully in these special March moments:

**Key March Moment #1: LS Ministry Focus Kickoff on March 10!** Every year, LS leaders gather for a planning retreat to discern focus areas for our community of disciples—and every year, we are amazed at what God reveals to us. This year, based on all your "Spirit-note" sharing in January, the Spirit gave us a focus of "Shining God's light" in greater ways (see box below). On March 10, the first day of Daylight Savings (greater light!), we will gather to celebrate our Ministry Focus for the months ahead. We have an exciting **overhead congregational photo** planned for the lawn Kickoff, as well as our all-congregation brunch gathering. There will be "Shine Your Light' cards & bookmarks for everyone, so come be part of this special Sunday!

Key March Moment #2: Justice Nehemiah Assembly on March 18! We all have been striving to take a next step of shining God's light, by responding to (and not ignoring) God's Scriptural call for each of us to actively "do justice." The Nehemiah Assembly is one straightforward way we as God's people can actively do justice—by simply showing up and giving only 90 minutes for one night, to gather with hundreds of God's people and move the needle in our community on issues of food insecurity, affordable housing, and community violence. Jesus acted so boldly to live out his Good News of God's kingdom coming near in people's lives in tangible ways. And so too, we have this opportunity to follow in Jesus' footsteps, in the Kingdom's call.



CAMP SUNDAY - March 3
KICKOFF SUNDAY - March 10
LEADERSHIP GATHERING - March 17
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY - March 24
EASTER SUNDAY - March 31

JUSTICE HUNGER WALK, Mar. 2 CRISTO REY MINISTRY, Mar. 3 SUNDAY BACKPACKS, Mar. 10 & 24 RUSH HOUR MINISTRY, Mar. 21 CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL, Mar. 21 PALMETTO PLACE MEAL, Mar. 28 MEALS-ON-WHEELS, each Mon & Tue

Key March Moment #3: Holy Week! Or better said, a whole week of key MOMENTS, plural! These is truly the holiest, and most important, week in our lives as followers of Jesus. We shout Hosanna with palms; we gather for healing; we walk the cross; we uplift the giving of our Lord's Supper; we remember Jesus' act of foot-washing in an upper room; we ponder our Savior's suffering; we are moved by the 7 words Jesus spoke from the cross; we gather by a vigil fire to remember our Baptism; we greet a "Son-rise" and celebrate the greatest victory of God's shining light in the Resurrection of Jesus! As always, it will be so powerful for us to gather in worship, prayer, and devotion for all of Holy Week—what meaning, what joy, what light!

While society focuses on "March Madness," may we as God's people focus on our "March Moments" - as we journey with Jesus to take steps of shining even more light...shining GOD'S LIGHT, beaming from a cross & empty tomb for all! Much love, Pr. Eric

#### 2024 LIVING SPRINGS MINISTRY FOCUS

Grounded in worship, we are disciples joyfully sharing our resources and celebrating Jesus' message of **Good News of God's grace for all!**We lift up these areas of Ministry Focus to **Shine Additional Light** in 2024:



**PROVIDING SAFE SPACES FOR LISTENING AND ATTENDING TO one another & the larger community...** especially in areas of mental-emotional wellness.

**MINISTERING TO, AND PARTNERING WITH, OUR NEIGHBORS to serve others and offer hope...** through feeding ministries, justice ministry, and other crisis ministries.

**OFFERING LIFE-SHAPING FAITH FORMATION for all ages...** through multiple, creative opportunities to worship and learn - with special emphasis on children, youth, and families, including LS Child Development Center.

**INVITING, WELCOMING & CELEBRATING everyone in God's diverse Kingdom garden...** all beautifully created in God's image!

In the coming weeks, let us continue to journey together, supporting one another in prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness. As we continue our Journey to the Cross in this season of reflection, let us be filled with gratitude for the opportunity to wonder about the mysteries of God's plan for us. Let us embrace this time to deepen our faith and seek a closer connection with God. Let us take time to look for God and marvel at the work of God in small places and in the lives of others.

Wishing you all a blessed and reflective Lenten season.

Grace and Peace

Pastor Carl

#### **God's Corner**



Bless you for getting out on such a rainy day to bring the Valentine remembrance from church. I, of course, am thankful for this ministry. Charlie is so appreciative - it warms his heart. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts! Charlie and Ruth

The family of Otto Esslinger would like to thank the members of Living Springs for their expressions of kindness and sympathy upon his recent passing. Margarete Zacour & Jean Ginsberg

Members of Living Springs,

Thank you so much for remembering Pastor Edwards by giving a memorial to the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina Foundation. We appreciate your love and thoughtfulness. Vicky & family

Dear Living Springs,

Your gift is planting seeds for the future: A chapel that will serve as the centerpiece of our Camp, grounding us in our

faith. A new entrance way that takes us from the bustle of our everyday life and brings us into this holy space. And we are excited to announce the completion of our brand new, fully accessible swimming pool that will be ready for campers and guests the summer of 2024! Thank you for your generous gift of \$700 to our *Building+Renewing+Believing: Holy Spaces* campaign on February 6, 2024. You are helping to make dreams come true as together we envision more opportunities for people of all ages top grow in faith and experience radical hospitality at Camp Kinard. Thank you for your generous support and



investment in the future of South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers at Camp Kinard as we provide holy spaces for god to change livers! Follow our campaign progress at www.sclrc.com!

With deep gratitude, Deacon Dallas Shealy, Executive Director

Dear Living Springs,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$150 to ministries through ELCA Good Gifts. Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. (Romans 5:1-2) As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely give to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love. Your Good Gift is a very good gift indeed. Through resources such a seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you equip God's people—around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you. With gratitude, Rachel Winde, Executive for Development

#### LS GOOD NEWS JOURNEY WITH JESUS BIBLE STORY PROJECT

Catch this month's stories in our YouTube Journey with Jesus Playlist
"Seeds, Soil, Mustard & Yeast" read by John Imbert
"Foolishness & Celebration" read by Midge Gunvalson
"Finding (& Resenting?!) Joy" read by Dea Jones
"Be-Grudging Grace" read by Pastor Carl

Coming this Month: "Praise, Palms, and Prayer"
"Praise, Palms, and Prayer"
"A Meal of Love & Garden of Struggles"
"A Night of Trials"
"A Cross: Truly God's Son!"

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!

#### Notes from: Living Springs Child Development Center

#### From Tammy Mancuso, Director

We are looking forward to sunshine-filled days,

We have hope of warmer weather and Sunshine soon on its way, even though Phil said it's a bit longer before spring arrives!

As promised, the votes from our "Groundhogs Day Food Drive" are in:

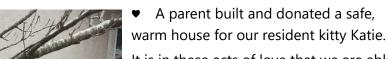
Surprisingly many of our children voted for Phil to see his shadow and continue with 6 more weeks of Winter, and it looks like they were right!

We had 53 votes for a longer Winter compared to 35 votes for an early Spring.

With the help of our children, staff, and families, we were able to collect 88 non-perishable items for C.A.B. in Blythewood.

We were fortunate to witness many acts of Love this month.

- our children created over 100 Valentine's Day cards for our senior friends at various facilities, including one facility in Camden where a staff member's mother resides.
- As well as placemats for the Rice Estates dinner.
- Our classes shared "Friendship Fruit Salad", each child bringing a favorite fruit to add, and share with others.



It is in these acts of love that we are able to see the wonder of God's work in our daily lives. We are grateful for the love and community we have here at our CDC ministry.

Wishing you well, Tammy







#### Conversations with Matthew—From LSCDC Mom

"Mom, did you know God made all of us? He must be really tired and take lots of naps. Also, Jesus is like a super hero because he fought all of the bad guys for us!"

(begins showing me karate moves)

"Jesus fought all of the bad guys like that and then he died! But it's okay because one day we will all die and we got to heaven. But I don't' want to go to heaven yet. I want to go to the beach and play in the sand and swim in the pool You know that place we went to last year, than I can go to heaven."

#### Notes from: Good News Team

#### **RUSH HOUR MINISTRY**

Thursday, March 21, 5 - 5:45 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 4:30pm but join us at any time!









A sheriff dept. car was trying to pull out of the gas station, he put his blue revolving lights on - I thought because I was out in the road, I was going to be chastised for not acting safely, but it turned out they opened their window to take a bag for the both of them and give me a thank you.

Another incident, a woman mentioned that she was having a very bad day and receiving the rush hour bag of hope, meant so much to her - that was what she needed on this particular day. We hear that type of comment quite regularly when we do rush hour - God's blessing - no strings attached.

#### Ashes-to-Go



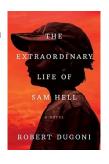




#### Notes from: Women's Ministry

#### **LADIES BOOK CLUB**

Yea! We are back to Monday evenings for the ladies book club - if any of you gentlemen readers are in the mood to gather with a bunch of lady readers (not an April Fool comment), feel free to join us on Monday, April 1 at 7 pm at Leena Skiba's,13 Stone Pine Ct (off Westridge Rd). Her cell: 803.361.2612. Light refreshments will be provided. The book we will be discussing is The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni.



#### Crafty Ladies



#### Notes from: Hope Ministry

#### Rice Estate Dinner









Thank you so much for the wonderful dinner, making the Valentines and the games. We always have so much fun with you. I am so glad you take care of Rice Estate and I am so thankful.

In His love, Joan

#### Stuff-A-Bus

All the shelves were full for a couple of weeks and it's hard to believe we are in need of milk and juice already. Our stuff a bus event was successful at the one Kroger store on Two Notch, but unfortunately, we were not able to collect items from the Killian store, so our goal of making it to the end of the school year with donated food items was cut short. We are very blessed and thankful to everyone that helped collect - students, parents of students, boy scouts, church members, and social workers (even the lead social worker from Richland 2) plus those that contribute regularly online. Because of you, we are able to provide bags of food for the weekend for 70 boys and girls in the Richland 2 school district.











We were able to take a couple of carloads of non-grocery items to CAB in Blythewood (along with many grocery items that we were not able to use for our backpack program). They are always so appreciative of our donations and recognize us as regular contributors now. Someone even commented - "no bus this time!" (note: one of our regular bus drivers is now too old to drive the bus!).



#### LENTEN COMMUNITY FISH FRY

There has been nothing but good comments about the food this year - Blue Collar Cafe is providing an excellent meal and we have had lots of participation from church members helping - now we have to fix Hard Scrabble Road, so people will not be intimidated by the traffic! There are flyers available if you want to pass out to distribute to your neighbors paper boxes or hand out to family and friends - let everyone know there are only four more Friday nights to enjoy flounder, shrimp, or chicken tenders that will help reach our goal of \$4,000 that we will donate to Gamecock Campus Ministry.





Our Lenten fish fry's goal is about raising money to support campus ministry, but it is also a time to fellowship with others. It's a time to get to know other members that you don't normally get to talk to because you attend one worship time or another. In working at the order tent, I discovered a person that is a crafter and she asked me about banners, flyers, creating different ways to increase awareness of our event -- next thing I know, I have four fish fry banners show up to display on our tents and alongside the road, flyers that were distributed in several neighborhoods and placed on windshields in supermarket parking lots!! All because I got to know someone a little deeper than just saying a passing "hi - how are you!" Warms my heart!



#### **LENTEN 40X40**

We continue to collect dining and bath items for Lutheran Services Carolinas refugee program. Place your items in the 4-basket laundry cart in the admin bldg. and note that the larger items are being stored in another room.

<u>Dining Kit</u>: 6 forks, 6 knives, 6 spoons, 6 plates, 6 bowls, 6 cups, 1 pitcher, 1 serving platter, 3 serving spoons, and 1 silverware container.

<u>Bathroom Kit</u>: 6 washcloths, 6 hand towels, 6 bath towels, 1 bath mat, 1 toilet brush, 4 roll pkg. of toilet paper, and 1 small waste basket.

Thank you to all that have generously contributed - we look forward to sorting and assembling the kits at the end of Lent.

#### PALMETTO PLACE & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEALS

We continue to provide a meal to the young adults in Samantha House on the fourth Thursday of the month. It usually consists of a meat, starch, veggie or salad and a dessert item. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact Karen Kranz.

The lunches are provided on the third Thursday of the month to the parents and staff on the 5th floor of Children's Hospital. Travis & Melanie Mooney of Carolina Deli (LS members) prepare and deliver for us. If you would like to contribute, indicate "children's hospital meals".

#### Save your "soles," a shoe drive is coming!

Your gently used shoes will be collected to help others on their daily walks and journeys with Jesus. Details on the project will be announced soon.

#### Notes from: Justice Ministry

# MIL AND INCIDENCE OF FOR EQUITY AND JUSTICE MORE JUSTICE

# FOOD INSECURITY WALK

Saturday, March 2nd 2:00PM

More than 65,000 residents in Richland County lack the access, ability, or income to acquire healthy, safe, culturally-appropriate food. Join us **March 2nd**, as we walk through the Greenview Community and share the stories of those who are directly impacted by food insecurity.

The event will begin at the MORE Justice office (709 Gabriel Street) with testimonies given by community members, followed by a walk to the nearest grocery store (Piggly Wiggly, 6325 N Main Street). The event will conclude back at the MORE Justice office with a time of reflection.

#### JUSTICE BLESSING SUNDAY





#### Justice Network Gathering



#### Justice Ministry Rally





#### LS JUSTICE MINISTRY— NEHEMIAH ACTION ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 18

Since before the time of the prophet Jeremiah, we hear God's call to do justice:

"Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, don't let the mighty boast in their might, don't let the wealthy boast in their wealth. Let those who boast, boast in this: that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord, that the Lord acts with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness, for in these things I delight, says the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:23)

Come to the Nehemiah Action, Monday, March 18, 6:00 pm, Eau Claire HS Auditorium!

- As the people of God at Living Springs, we will stand with 27 other congregations and hundreds of people of faith to ask Midlands' public officials for changes that give God's vision of hope to our community. We focus on food insecurity, affordable housing, and community gun violence this year.
- Come and "bring 3" with you to the Nehemiah Action! We've seen that People Power works to bring hope! Now is the time to invite others. Bus and carpool transportation will be available from Living Springs for all who need a ride.

Questions? Talk with Pastor Eric, Mike Davidson, Gwen Furcron, Peg and Jim Zieche, Gail Buchanan, Wayne Kannaday, Helen Doerpinghaus.

#### 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?

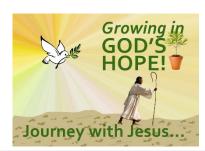
Telling others about the times the Holy Spirit led you in your journey with Jesus will help your brothers and sisters in Christ to better understand, recognize, and be thankful for their own experiences. One way for you to share your inspiring story and give thanks, is through Thanksgiving Moments.

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 Mar 3: John 11:1-12:8; Mark 11:1-33; Mark 12:41-13:37 Bethany & Jerusalem

Week of Mar 17: Mark 14:53-15:20; Luke 22:54-23:25; John 18:28-19:12 Trials & Suffering

Week of Mar 31: Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18 Resurrection!

\*\*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!

The Spirit nudged me to become a once a month Meals On Wheels delivery person and my first experience transformed my day in ways I never would have imagined. While I was preoccupied mentally about something else that had happened to me, the Lord pushed me to go spread God's love and abundance of food with others in our community. It was definitely the push I needed to remember that while we may legitimately be going through something, it is OK to place that on a shelf, and for an hour or so focus on others and Jesus. And when we give ourselves permission to do that, God seizes that opportunity to remind us that we matter and through us we have gifts of love and mercy to share with others. This experience fed me more I think than the food I fed others. Thanks be to a loving God who forgives me and feeds me while feeding others. Thanks be to Living Springs members for always seeking ways to help others--THIS is what it means to be guided by the Cross!

#### Notes from: Worship & Music Ministry

Our worship services at Living Springs are always meaningful as we pray, sing, contemplate the Word of God, and share Communion together. We can surely say with David (Psalm 122:1) on Sundays and other days: *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"* 

We had even more to be glad about on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> when our youth planned and led both the 8:15 and 10:30 services! What a joy to see these young people take their responsibilities so seriously and work together so well—and it took quite a bit of time for them to plan, prepare, and rehearse to bring it all together. Many thanks to these wonderful young disciples and their leaders Leslie and Pastor Carl. We had other youth involved the next Sunday (February 11<sup>th</sup>) when we recognized and prayed for the Boy Scout troop that meets at our church. With all the young people participating in our services in February, it was somehow cool that the month ended with one of our oldest members, Bob Gill, singing "I'd Rather Have Jesus." Bob's heartfelt solo, our young people, our pastors, the sweet fellowship we have as a community of faith—these are among God's many blessings to us at Living Springs.

#### Scout Sunday







Mid-Week Lenten



Pew Bear Blessing



Handbell Workshop







The JuBELLation Handbell Choir has been making a joyful noise. We ended February going to the Lutheridge Handbell Workshop on February 21st - February 23rd. Playing all night Friday night, all day on Saturday and Sunday morning is EXHAUSTING - mentally and physically! It was not only a great learning time, but a great bonding time. Thank you to all who contributed to the fund for the ringers to attend!

We are still short players. You don't have to read music, but it is a benefit. We (especially Bob) would love to have another male or two join to play the lowest 4 bass bells. If you ask a ringer, all will tell you it takes 3 practices to get comfortable. Please consider joining us on Tuesday nights 7pm-8pm.

#### Notes from: Sr. Ujouth

#### Youth Sunday

















#### Souper Bowl of Caring



#### **LS YOUTH MINISTRY**

Each Sunday - "Triple S" @ 10 am

3/3 - Confirmation Class

3/6- Sr. Youth (Lent Worship & Meal)

3/13- Sr. Youth (Lent Worship & Meal)

3/17 - Confirmation Class

3/20- Sr. Youth (Lent Worship & Meal)

#### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper







#### Youth Ski Trip







#### God At Work

#### Scout Food Collection







Shrove Tuesday Burning of the Palms

















Notes from: *Men's Ministry*ONE YEAR TO LIVE RETREAT

April 19-21, 2024

Tracy's Camp Pinewood, SC April 26-28, 2024

**Camp Cherokee—Kings Mountain State Park** 

Blacksburg, SC

Registration Information:

https://www.lutheranmeninmission.org/events/one-year-to-live/

# **March 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
					l 5-7P Lenten Fish Fry	2 2P Justice Hunger Walk
3 *See box above  Camp Sunday  12P Confirmation 2P Ladies Book Club 430P Girl Scouts 5P Cristo Rey Ministry (carpool 415)	4 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	5 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells 834P Lent End pf Day Bible Discussion	6 10A Preschool Bible Time 12P Lenten Worship 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Aftrschool Bible Time 5P Hope Team 515P Disciples of Harmony 630P Lenten Worship 630P Lenten (LS) 7P Choir	7 11A Good News Team 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Lifelong Discipleship	8 5-7P Lenten Fish Fry	9 930A Crafty Ladies 3P Eagle Scout Ceremony
10 Annual Ministry Focus Kickoff 815A Early Worship Option 920A Congregation Brunch Gathering 1015 Annual Congregation Photo 1030 "Shine God's Light" Worship After Worship - Backpack Food Bags	11 1030A Meals on Wheels 630P Worship Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Fellowship/Mutual Care 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	12 10A Ladies Bible Study 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 530P Finance 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells 834P Lent End pf Day Bible Discussion	13 10A Preschool Bible Time 12P Lenten Worship 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Affrschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 630P Lenten Worship 630P Youth (LS) 7P Choir	14 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 630P Recovery Comes First 630P LS-CDC Board	15 5-7P Lenten Fish Fry	16
17 *See box above 920A Journey w/ Jesus Bible Time 12P Confirmation Class 3P LS Leadership Gathering 4:15P Exec Team 430P Girl Scouts	18 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P Nehemiah Action Assembly (Eau Clare HS) 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	19 10A Jw/Jesus Bible Time 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells 834P Lent End pf Day Bible Discussion	10A Preschool Bible Time  12P Lenten Worship  12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Affrschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 630P Lenten Worship 630P Youth (LS) 7P Choir	21 4P Backpack Ministry 5P Rush Hour Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Council Children's Hospital Meal	22 5-7P Lenten Fish Fry	23 930A Crafty Ladies
24 Palm/Passion Sunday	25 Holy Monday	27 Holy Wednesday	27 Holy Wednesday	28 Maundy Thursday	29 Good Friday	30 Holy Saturday
815 & 1030 - Palm Sunday Worship (procession of palms/Passion reading) After worship - Backpack Food Bags 2P Walking the Cross w/NE Methodist 430P Girl Scouts	1030A Meals on Wheels 12P Service of Healing & Blessing 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737 7P Service of Healing & Blessing	10A CDC Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir	10A CDC Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir	7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 8A Facilities Team 12P Maundy Thursday Worship 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Maundy Thursday Worship Palmetto Place Meal	9A Walking the Cross 7P Good Friday Worship	8A Men's Breakfast <b>730P Easter Vigil</b>
81 Easter Sunday 7A Son-Rise Worship 815A Easter Worship 930A Easter Worship 1215P Egg Hunt	1 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	3 10A Preschool Bible Time 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 6P Hope Team	3 12 Journey w/Jesus Posted 10A Preschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 330P Afterschool Bible Time 6P Hope Team	4 11A Good News Team 330P Backpack Food Bags (ASC) 630P Recovery Comes First 700P Lifelong Discipleship	ις.	9

#### Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

March 1	Meg Goldberg	March 17	Kristen Mattson
March 3	Lauren Bloss	March 19	Audrey Turnmire
	Ruth Pollard	March 20	Nancy Schwind
March 4	Brady Stoutland	March 21	Gay Walter
March 5	Laura Turnmire	March 22	Rogan Wallace
March 7	Bill Fox	March 23	Mallory Padgett
March 11	Steve Dye		March 24 Retha Murray
	Courtney Murray		🔻 Lisa & John Petty
March 12	Steve Niemeyer	March 25	Luzviminda Hopwood
March 13	Gabriel Mason	March 27	LaTynia Taylor
March 15	Gwen Furcron	March 29	Cody Shannon





#### **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!

March 1	Alice Renaud
March 7	Jean Weick
March 17	Nancy Baldwin
March 18	Patricia Jolly
	Linda Hayes
March 21	Alyssa Prest
March 23	Walker Flores
March 28	Garrett Flores
March 29	Leslie Bloss
	Cathy Lowman



#### **CHURCH STAFF**

People of Living Springs - Ministers Rev. Eric Fink - Senior Pastor

pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org

Rev. Carl Taylor - Associate Pastor

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Deacon Lexanne Graves - E-Outreach Coordinator

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Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

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Lisa Petty - Good News Coordinator

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Shirl Schiffman - Music Director

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Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

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Sherry Forsgren - Bookkeeper

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Laura Turnmire - Handbell Choir Director

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Seminarian 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** 

<u>Lorenzo Hampton</u>

**Ashley Stoutland** 

Tom Willingham

**Debbie Zvejnieks** 

#### **MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**

<u>Child Development Center</u> Deborah DePaoli

Children/Youth Minstries

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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