

# The Living Springs Journal

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

December 2024



# Streams of Advent-Christmas Light (from Past)



**CHRISTMAS EVE ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24!**  
*Noon—Midday Communion Worship*  
*5:00—Family/Children's Candlelight Service*  
*7:30—Festival Candlelight Communion (music 7:15)*

**1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 29**  
*10:00—Christmas Lessons & Carols*



Streams of light! As we begin a new Christian year with the arrival of Advent season, I am drawn to the many streams of light shining so brightly this time of year: not so much "strands" of light for holiday decorations, but rather the living "streams" of God's light that flow so radiantly through each of you, the members of Christ's family here at Living Springs.

I see **living streams of light** as faithful disciples come forward in worship and hang "Radiant Giving" prayer intent envelopes from a beacon lighthouse—to symbolize our heartfelt intentions to grow in faith, giving, generosity, worship, devotion, and service in the year ahead! I see living streams of light as children & youth gather around an evergreen wreath in worship to light Advent candles and proclaim, "Come, Lord Jesus!" I see living streams of light all around the church lawn at the LS Advent-palooza kickoff: people packing Rush Hour hope bags, decorating Advent food boxes, making Advent wreaths, picking up devotions & hunger calendars, dropping off Sr. Resources holiday boxes! I see living streams of light in Lutheran Men adopting families and everyone taking doves & ornaments from the LS Giving Tree to share light with foster children, Backpack families, and women's recovery house residents! I see living streams of light in our youth, passionate for their ministry, engaging with community members to offer Christmas trees & wreaths that will bring joy into so many homes!



I look at this journal with all the Advent-Christmas ministries

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## DAILY ADVENT E-DEVOTIONS

*Start Dec. 2 (Monday-Friday)*

## MID-WEEK ADVENT PRAYER SERVICES

*Wednesdays: 12:00 & 6:00*

## CONG. ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

*Sunday, Dec. 8: 9:20-10:20*

## CHILDREN/YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*Sunday, Dec. 8: part of 10:30 worship*

## JOINT LS-UMC CHRISTMAS CANTATA

*Sunday, Dec. 8: 4pm @ Northeast UMC*

## COMMUNITY BEER 'N CAROLS

*Wed., Dec. 11: 6:30-8:30 @ Random Tap*

## LIVE OUTDOOR NATIVITY

*Friday & Saturday, Dec. 14-15 @ 7pm*

**CDC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM-Dec. 20 @ 4pm**

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING-Dec. 22 @ 2pm**



## From the Desk of Pastor Carl



*Dear Siblings Christ,*

As the autumn leaves paint the world in vibrant hues, I am reminded of the beauty of seeing our children grow in God's grace. What a joy it is to witness their faith formation! From the deep questions asked in confirmation classes to the wide-eyed wonder during Tuesday chapel, these young hearts inspire us with their openness to the Holy Spirit. The junior youth class never fails to bring a smile with their blend of curiosity and humor—it's a blessing to watch them discover God's love in new and exciting ways.

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## Mid-Week Advent Worship

**WEDNESDAYS @ Noon**

*\*Holy Communion offered afterward*

**WEDNESDAYS @ 6pm**

*Dec. 4—Darkness & Light*

*Dec. 11—Prayer Gathering @ Random Tap  
(prior to Beer 'n Carols)*

*Dec. 18—"Longest Night" Service*

*\*\*Service also posted at 6pm online each Wed.*



***Living Springs Annual***

## Outdoor Nativity Drama "Love Is Born!"

**December 14 & 15 - 7 pm**

Sat., Dec. 14 in both Spanish/English!

Pause from a hectic holiday pace to witness a 35-minute living enactment of God's gift of love for you...the birth of a savior, Jesus!

**Bring a lawn chair...hot drinks provided.**

## DAILY ADVENT E-DEVOTIONS

*Emails begin 12/2!*

Our annual Advent E-Devotions began to arrive in your email—please forward them to family, friends, co-workers, others! A theme & Scripture passage are assigned for each weekday during Advent. Spots are available if you feel a spirit-tug to write a devotion. Sign-up sheet is in the admin building. Sign up as an individual, couple, or family. This is a wonderful way to focus your heart on an Advent message of hope and joy to share with others!



## Christmas Eve 2024: "Streams of Light"

**Noon Midday Communion Worship**

**5:00pm Family Candlelight Worship**

(special children's message & communion)

**7:30pm Festival Candlelight  
Communion Worship**

(Music begins at 7:15)



## What an Amazing Witness of Faith: Already, 88 Personal/Family Intents Offered in Thanks to God!

(toward our Challenge Goals of 100 Intents – see below)



What a beautiful sight to see all the "Radiant Giving" prayer envelopes lighting up the symbolic beacon as streams of God's light! Remember that our intents of worship, devotion, service, and giving will remain sealed in the altar area throughout the year, as a sign of our personal/family commitments to have an impact with a generosity that will shine God's light in many lives. *\*Be sure to pick up your "Radiant Giving" lightbulb from the base of the lighthouse - to take home with you as a reminder of God shining light in you!* If you were not able to be here on Nov. 24th, you may offer your card in one of 4 ways:

**Sunday worship** - pick up a "Radiant Giving" Prayer Envelope in which to seal your Intent & hang it on the lighthouse.

**Mail card back to church** ("Attn: Financial Secretary"). Your card will be confidentially transferred to a Prayer Envelope.

**Come by the church during the week** and get a Prayer Envelope from the office. You (or we) can hang your sealed envelope.

**Call the church**, and a member of the Generosity Team can bring you a Prayer Envelope and bring your sealed Intent to church.

**The goal is for everyone to again make some form of commitment of faith and grow in generosity, at whatever level!** We have special **CHALLENGE GIFTS TOTALING \$4000...provided we reach the goal of 100 intent cards!** Two LS families shared what a blessing it was in their journey of faith, when they began making a regular financial commitment to God's work. They want everyone to know the joy they've experienced through such a faith practice of regular giving to the Lord (at whatever level anyone can begin). So, they again offer a Challenge Gift - not to match a \$\$ amount, but if we reach the goal of 100 Intents. Let's respond together!

**Generosity Sunday Bulletin Message:** [bit.ly/3CHDNmk](https://bit.ly/3CHDNmk) **Pastor Eric's Generosity Letter:** [bit.ly/3CSPd6N](https://bit.ly/3CSPd6N)

**2025 "Radiant Giving" Generosity Moment YouTube Playlist:** <https://bit.ly/4ijYHIK>

## LS Outdoor Tree & Household Star Ornaments

Once again, a tree lights up our church lawn during the Advent & Christmas seasons. Each household is asked to put your name(s) on 2 of our wooden stars. Hang 1 star on the LS outdoor tree - and then hang the 2nd star on your tree at home. Your 2 stars on the community tree & home tree symbolize that we are all part of a community of disciples that together shine streams of God's light in the world!



## 2024 Advent Hope Food Boxes

***Set up an Advent Food Box in your home!***



At Adventpalooza, we began decorating Advent food boxes. If you missed it, there are extra items at church. You can wrap a box in blue or white (representing Advent colors of hope) or draw some Advent symbols. OR, you can just use a plain box! Place the box under your tree, near your Advent wreath, or by a manger scene at home. Bring the filled box to worship on Christmas Eve (or drop it off the week before/after). Our goal is 2024 total items for Christian Assistance Bridge food pantry—1 item for every year of our Lord!

*\*Also, be sure to pick up your Advent World Hunger Calendar!*

## Christmas Tree lot open now! *Support LS Youth Ministry*

Christmas is right around the corner, and with that so is our annual Living Springs Youth Tree Lot. Not only will you receive a fresh cut Frazier Fir from NC and support the areas that are still recovering from Hurricane Helene, but you will also support our youth ministries.



Trees will be 6-9 ft. Trees will range from \$80-\$150.

Tree/wreath sales will take place Friday, Saturday & Sundays through Dec. 22 from 12:00PM-7:00PM or by requested appointment.

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

## LS Advent/Christmas Brunch *Sunday, December 8; 9:20 - 10:20*

Fellowship & Mutual Care is hosting our LS Advent/Christmas Potluck Brunch on the 2nd Sunday in Advent, 12/8 from 9:20 - 10:20 (between worship services). Everyone is invited. Please bring a brunch item to share (i.e. breakfast Casseroles, etc.) Juice and coffee will be provided.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROGRAM *Sunday, Dec. 8, during 10:30 Worship!*

Calling Children & Youth of All Ages...Each year, the children & youth of our congregation prepare and share a special Advent/Christmas program. This year, so that more people can experience their message, the "program" will be part of the 10:30 Sunday worship on the 2nd Sunday in Advent, Dec. 8. Our Sr. Youth are preparing & presenting the program, and there is a spot for children of all ages (toddlers-elementary school) to serve as shepherds, angels, animals. Please contact Pastor Carl or Leslie Bloss as soon as possible if your child would like to be involved (lbloss3306@hotmail.com or pastorcarl@livingspringscolumbia.org).

## Youth Elf Store Donations Wanted prior to Dec. 6

Our Elf Store is a unique little shop we create for our children to enjoy shopping for gifts for Mom and Dad and the rest of the family. This annual youth fundraiser provides toddler and elementary age children with a fun, real life learning opportunity of giving to others! Children learn how to budget their money (or your money!) while they shop for gifts under \$5 for Mom, Dad and others in your family! Seeing the joy of giving from the eyes of your youngster is one of the best gifts ever!

*\*If you have any gently used items or would like to donate new items to the Elf Store, please drop them off in the Youth room and mark them 'Elf Store'. Examples of past years are: Christmas decorations, jewelry someone no longer wears, ornaments, new candles, seasonal knick-knacks, etc. The Youth appreciate your donations.*

Our youth will have the Elf Store open on Sunday, Dec. 8 during the Congregation Brunch and after 10:30 worship - in the "bubble area" of the Fellowship Hall.

## Living Springs & Northeast UMC Joint Christmas Cantata Sunday, Dec. 8 @ 4pm Northeast UMC (4000 Hard Scrabble Rd.)

The Living Springs Choir and the choir of Northeast United Methodist will combine to sing a beautiful Christmas cantata entitled "Candles and Carols." Musicians and choir members from Rehoboth Baptist Church, another of our partner churches, will also be part of this special time of community worship.

## Beer & Carols Wednesday, December 11 @ 6:30 PM

Love to sing Christmas Carols? Enjoy having a beverage and fellowshiping with others? Come join us for Beer & Carols Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 pm at Random Tap, 117 Spears Creek Church Road, Elgin. We sing boldly. We laugh. We share Jesus in a unique way. All are invited and welcome. Bring a friend or two and experience a great hymn sing in the least likely place!



## CHRISTMAS OUTREACH INVITATIONS AND BILLBOARDS!

Worshippers are asked to take a stack of outreach invitations to prayerfully share with someone and distribute in the community in upcoming days. They contain info about our Outdoor Nativity and Christmas Eve worship.

*Don't forget to look for our billboards on Two Notch (near Clemson), on Clemson (near I-20), Farrow & Hardscrabble, and on I-277 (near Fontaine)!*

## 2024 DOVE GIVING TREE

This year we are collecting for Lutheran Services foster children, Kinard Manor (women recovering from addiction), and one of our backpack families. The backpack family is a grandma who is raising her deceased daughter's children (16, 11, 10, 3 and 3 mo.). The ornaments are for Lutheran Services and the doves are for the backpack family - include the ornament or dove with the wrapped gift. Please return the ornament or dove by Sunday, December 15.



## Christmas Poinsettias & Candles Due 12/15

If you would like to donate a set of 5 Moravian candles or have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve in honor or memory of loved ones, please fill out the red forms in the narthex or contact the office. Deadline is December 15.

# Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

## From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Hello to all as we embark on the Holiday Season,

We are excited about the upcoming festivities that the month ahead will bring. Here are just a few of the things we have been doing in the CDC as we celebrate the season of Thanks, and time spent with loved ones.

Our littles have colored and created cards for the Rice Estates and others in need of a reminder that they are loved and thought of.

Our 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds filled the shoes boxes for the Disaster Relief Comfort Kits and were sent out earlier this month.

Packing backpacks is always a fun activity for our afterschool children. They enjoy counting and having a "job" to do while knowing that it helps others.

Our Stone Soup luncheon was a success. Our teachers read various versions of the story from different cultures and talk to the children about what item they would like to add to the soup. This year, each classroom made their own version of Stone Soup, and we invited families to join us for lunch.

Expanding the pallets of our children and introducing them to something they may not have had before is something we strive to do at least a few times a month. This month we wanted to honor Indigenous Peoples, we tried succotash (the Narragansett), Three Sisters Soup (primarily the Iroquois) and 2 different versions of wild rice.

This can be a hectic and busy time for many, so I urge you to take some time to slow down when and where you can. By reminding yourself to take a simple breath things seem a little less frantic and more enjoyable. Far too often society is telling us to "do more", when in fact we need to stop, breathe, and rest.

Wishing you well, health and happiness

Tammy

## LSCDC Collected Children's Comfort Kits for Hurricane Relief



# Notes from: *Good News Team*

*Mark Your Calendars!!*

## **LS Living Nativity Drama, "Love is Born"** *December 14 and 15 at 7 pm*

We are gearing up for our Living Nativity, Love is Born, to be held on December 14 and 15 at 7 pm. This is a unique opportunity to share the story of our Savior's birth with a wide audience. The simple costumes and real animals add to the authenticity of the time period. We are telling a story about real people living a wondrous experience they did not understand. It is our gift to the community, and based on past experiences, we know that it touches people in warm and unexpected ways, both in the community and among our congregation.

**The sign-up form for various roles is in the narthex.** We always need plenty of help! There is room for townspeople, shepherds, and angels, plus it takes a lot of help behind the scenes with scenery, tech, music, etc. If you are interested in participating, contact Dea Jones at 803-530-6203 or [dejones@richland2.org](mailto:dejones@richland2.org).

We would love to have you be a part of this fun and meaningful experience!

### **Rehearsal Schedule (after 10:45 worship):**

12/8 - Shepherds, Townspeople & Angels

12/13 - dress rehearsal

### **Beer & Carols**

*Wednesday, December 11 @ 6:30 PM*

Love to sing Christmas Carols? Enjoy having a beverage and fellowshiping with others? Come join us for Beer & Carols Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 pm at Random Tap, 117 Spears Creek Church Road, Elgin. We sing boldly. We laugh. We share Jesus in a unique way. All are invited and welcome. Bring a friend or two and experience a great hymn sing in the least likely place!

### **Rush Hour Ministry**

*Tuesday, December 17 @ 4:30 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 4:30 pm but join us at any time!.

## **LS Good News "Streams of God's Light" Bible Story Project** *Catch this month's stories in our YouTube "Streams of God's Light" Playlist*

*"A Light of Support in a Time of Loss" read by Steve Padgett*

*"Light in Despair" read by John Imbert*

*"Looking at the Heart" read by Dawn Willingham*

*"Rain, Faith & Life" read by Sydnie Taylor*

Each Wednesday, a Bible story from our focus will be read along with sharing from our pastors, deacon, and possibly some of our worshippers. The reading will be streamed on our Facebook and YouTube Channels. 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!



### **December Stories**

**Dec. 4**      **Luke 1:5-24,57-80**

**Dec. 11**     **Luke 1:26-56**

**Dec. 18**     **Matthew 1:18-25 & John 1:1-18**

**Dec. 22**     **Luke 2:1-21**

**Jan. 1ish**    **Matthew 2:1-23**

### **Matthew 1-4, Luke 1-4, John 1**

**Light In Answered Prayer**

**Surprising News: Light for the Lowly**

**Light Shatters Darkness: God With Us!**

**Light Shines in the Night**

**Light in the Midst of Hatred & Fear**

# Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

I just want to send a Thank you for helping out one of our staff members last week!!! It was very much appreciated. I am not sure what we would have done without Living Springs !!!!!



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

## VETERANS REMEMBRANCE "WITTING" TREE

Nov. 1 thru Nov. 11, we held our annual daily ceremony to raise awareness and remember veterans who have taken their own lives. At each ceremony, we hung 22 symbolic dog tags on the big tree out front, in remembrance of the number of veterans who take their own lives each day.





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

"We appreciate y'all's continued support of a meal each month. " Each month we deliver the meal for six young adults learning to transition from the unaccompanied youth house to the adult world. This past month, we stretched a donated turkey previously used for a meal and used the bones to make a homemade turkey soup which was so appropriate for the cold day in November.

We give thanks for so many things - this month I received a message from Travis that delivers the lunches for Children's Hospital parents - "We have been insanely busy this week. I'm not gonna charge for them (lunches) this month. Happy Thanksgiving!". These messages warm my heart, especially during this month of "Radiant Generosity Giving".

## **BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY**

The cupboard is bare, but we are planning another stuff-a-bus event in February to replenish our supply. If you are shopping for your family and you want to add an item that we use for backpacks, you can drop it off in the shopping carts in the admin building. What a blessing that we are able to provide 80 bags of food each week for four Richland 2 schools. Our packing days will be December 8 (80 bags) and December 15 (160 bags).

## **ADVENT FOOD BOXES FOR CAB**

Once again this year, we will be decorating boxes at Advent Palooza to collect one item a day during Advent. The food items will be donated to Christian Assistance Bridge in Blythewood. Return your filled box by Christmas Eve - your box can be placed by or under the Christmas Dove tree in the narthex..

## **CHRISTMAS DOVE TREE**

This year we are collecting for Lutheran Services foster children, Kinard Manor (women recovering from addiction), and one of our backpack families. The backpack family is a grandma who is raising her deceased daughter's children (16, 11, 10, 3 and 3 mo.). The ornaments are for Lutheran Services and the doves are for the backpack family - include the ornament or dove with the wrapped gift. Please return the ornament or dove by Sunday, December 15.

## **RICE ESTATE DINNER**

The next dinner is tentatively scheduled for late January with a birthday party theme recognizing all birthdays for the year. This is a special time for them and for us to spend with our Rice Estate residents and we always get emphatic thank-you's for the wonderful meal and fellowship. If you would like to participate contact Gail Buchanan.



## **Notes from: *Sr. Youth***

### **Youth Ministry at Living Springs**

- Nov. 29-Dec. 1: Christmas Tree Lot**
- December 1: AdventPalooza**
- December 6: Sr. Youth Lock-in**
- December 6 -8: Christmas Tree Lot**
- December 8: Youth Elf Store**
- December 8: Children/Youth Christmas Program (10:30 worship)**
- December 13-15: Christmas Tree Lot**
- December 14- 15: Living Nativity Drama**
- December 20-22: Christmas Tree Lot**



## Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

MORE Justice is continuing to work on four (4) neighborhood problems in the Midlands for 2024-25: affordable housing, food security, mental health care, and gun violence. This year we are also working statewide with the Charleston and Greenville justice organizations on affordable housing. This initiative is a new dimension to our housing work. We hope that by coordinating our efforts across the state we will build synergy and make more headway in solving this problem.

At our recent MORE Justice Community Problems Assembly we heard from our faith partners, Beth Rozek, Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, and Julie Fear, Emmaus Church, about the pressing need for affordable housing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wT3KOYGjH0>

In November we began preparation for the Nehemiah Action which is next spring, Monday, May 12th. LS joined with members of Adams Northeast AME, Rehoboth Baptist, and St. John Neumann Catholic Church to talk about who we each might invite to the Nehemiah Action. MORE Justice also sent out invitations to our local Public Officials to come to the Nehemiah Action. We asked the officials to mark their calendars now and plan to attend the event. "People Power" at the Nehemiah Action – a large turn out by people of faith – is what gets the attention of our public officials and leads to solutions for our community. Mark your calendar now to come to the Nehemiah Action on Monday, May 12th !

The MORE Justice research committees got underway in November and began laying out plans for work this year. These committees meet with those adversely affected by our four focus problem areas and we meet with agencies and local groups to find out what they are doing and how we might work together. Anyone interested in participating with one of the research committees should talk with Pastor Eric or a LS Team Leader.

What is our call? Justice for all!



## Notes from: *Emotional - Mental Wellness*

2024-25 LS Emotional-Mental Wellness Series  
November Event"

"Resources for Grief & Stress in the  
Upcoming Holiday Season"

*Coming in January:  
"Navigating the Mental Health System"*



**Living Springs Emotional/Mental Wellness  
Support Fund**

For assistance, please see Pastor Eric or Pastor Carl.



# Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*

## *"Streams of God's Light ... Shining through the Clouds"*

**December Bible Reading Focus:  
Matthew 1-4, Luke 1-4, John 1**

*In these stories, where do you see a whole spectrum of God's light shining through the clouds of life's challenges? How does that bring encouragement for you in your life and/or the world today?*



## **"Streams of Light" Trinity Water Bottle 2024-2025 Devotional Focus Item *Pick up your December Sticker Today!***

If you weren't able to get your "Streams of Light" Trinity water bottle, we have one for you! You can pick one up today or stop by the office during the week. **\*\*Mark your calendars for future focus stickers: Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Apr. 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, Aug. 3.**



## Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

Cristo Rey



We marched to "Oh when the Saints come marching in" in the parking lot



## Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

We will have many special Advent and Christmas services and events here at Living Springs this year as always. Coming together for worship at this important time of the year is a deliberate and joyful way to keep our hearts focused on the true meaning of the season. In addition to what takes place on our campus, mark your calendars for two other special musical events in December:

### Christmas Cantata



The Living Springs Choir and the choir of Northeast United Methodist (NEUMC) will combine to sing a beautiful Christmas cantata entitled "Candles and Carols." The program will be on **Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm** at NEUMC, 4000 Hard Scrabble Rd, Columbia, SC 29223 (This is the church that has all the pumpkins out front each year.)

### Christmas Caroling

Join with others in visiting the homes of some of our older and shut-in members for Christmas caroling on **Sunday, December 22 from 2-4 pm**. This is an opportunity to bring some Christmas light and joy to some of our friends unable to attend church in person. This can be a enjoyable experience for families, kids and youth too! Please sign up at the welcome table so we know you are coming.



## Sanctuary Decorating for the Advent and Christmas Season

*Saturday, December 7, 2024*

*Drop by and help between 9:00 a.m. and Noon*

We have many tasks to complete to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas Seasons? Would you like to help? Not sure what needs to be done? We have LOTS of tasks to accomplish and with multiple hands, we can get it accomplished so much faster! Stop by for an hour . . . 30 minutes . . . or even 15 minutes and pick a project. Need to leave before it's finished? THAT'S OK! Someone else can pick up where you left off!

Oh . . . and bring the children by, even if it's just for a few minutes! Let me see the decorating. Let them take an ornament and hang it on the tree. Let them touch the Manager Scene and share the story of the Manager with them!

AND . . . stop by and join us for a short and very special prayer/devotion moment around 11:00 am. Scriptures will be read. Where a very special ornament will be hung on the Christmas Tree. Usually hung by the youngest one there!

See list Journal or upcoming eNews of list of projects and their times.

Join us and pick a project you'd like to help with:

- Unpack the decorations from the attic! (starts at 9:00 am)
- Putting up garland above the Font and Pulpit areas (starts around 9:15 am – this involves a ladder!)
- Putting lights on the Christmas Tree (starts around 9:30 am)
- Decorate the Tree with beautiful Christmas ornaments (starts around 9:45 am - 10:00 a.m.)
- Fluffing wreaths (starts at 9:00 am)
- Putting Bows on wreaths (starts around 9:15 am)
- Hanging wreaths on windows (starts around 9:45 am)
- Hanging swags above the windows in the sanctuary (starts around 10:00 am)
- Decorating the planter in the sanctuary with red flowers (come any time!)
- Hanging fabric and decorating the Wooden Crosses in Sanctuary (starts around 9:30 a.m.)
- Hang wreaths in the Narthex (starts around 10 a.m.)
- Decorate the Manager Scene in the Narthex window (starts around 10:00 a.m.)
- Box up remaining decorations and return to the Attic (around 11:30 am)
- Vacuum the Sanctuary and Narthex as part of clean-up (around 11:30 am)



## All Saints Sunday



## Veteran's Recognition Sunday & Quilt of Valor Presentation



## Christ the King/Radiant Giving Sunday



## Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

### Crafty Ladies Quilting Group



### **SCWELCA CAMP KINARD RETREAT** *February 28 - March 1, 2025*

We are excited to have Pegi Roberts back as our guest speaker.

Stay tuned for more details coming soon! To register and pay by mail, click this link. [REGISTRATION FORM](#)



## Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

We will not have a breakfast meeting this month or in December. We will continue return to our monthly breakfast meetings on the last Saturday of each month.

We will have the next "Bibles & Biscuits" Bible study on Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 am.

We have adopted 2 families again this year for the Families Helping Families Project. We have several opportunities to help with the project by sponsoring one of the family members or making donations toward purchasing gifts. The deadline is quickly approaching, so please reach out and let me know how you would like to help I need to have all gifts wrapped and returned by 12/8/24. If you would like to make a donation, please let me know by 12/1/24 so that I will have time to purchase and wrap the gifts.

We have the following family members available.

#### **Family of 3**

- Female 23 years old**
- Male 5 years old**
- Female 4 months old**

#### **Family of 4**

- Male 17 years old**
- Male 17 years old**
- Female 13 years old**

Contact Bob Turnmire if you can help

### Lutheran Men in Mission Committee of 100 Banquet



## From LS Council ... IMPORTANT YEAR-END GIVING FOCUS!

Dear Siblings in Christ at Living Springs,

In this season, we are truly thankful for all God's amazing blessings in our lives—and for the faithful giving of our Living Springs family that continues to **shine streams of God's light** in so many lives! We rejoice in the outpouring of love reflected in your giving for many special efforts—such as Disaster Response; Youth projects; Youth Gathering shareholders; Family Assistance Fund; Love offering(s); Justice Ministry; Campus Ministry (fish fry); LS-CDC donations; Legrand/Lowman Scholarships (auction); Lutheran Men Committee of 100; Backpack food ministry; Stuff-a-Bus; Football devotion ministry; and so much more. We rejoice at the response to our current seasonal efforts with Dove Tree gifts, Advent food boxes, Families Helping Families, Sr. Resources boxes, and ELCA Hunger/ Mission Good Gifts!

Here in 2024, our total giving has been at one of our higher levels ever, with so many amazing offerings to these special ministries & designated projects. *However, the amount devoted to our Regular Giving has correspondingly dropped in 2024. This is noteworthy, because without regular giving for our base Spending Plan expenses, we would not exist as a congregation with all those special light-filled ministries. As we move into December, it is vitally important for us to focus on our regular giving—to prepare for usual elevated year-end expenditures and end the year on a positive note!*

At year's end, we all receive appeals from various sources, and we spend lots of money on material gifts that often end up making little difference in people's lives. **As we each ponder our year-end giving, we ask you to join us in remembering Christ's important ministry at Living Springs through your Regular Offering**—and the foundation it provides for all the ministries that have such a life-changing impact through God's work!

Our "Radiant Giving" emphasis has had a tremendous response, inviting each of us to deeper places in our faith commitments for the year ahead. We have heard many powerful generosity moments – and every week we see photos showing lives being filled with God's light, all because a congregation called Living Springs exists here in this community! We are so thankful for the inspired response of God's people so far this year. As council leaders, we invite you to join us in a special focus on year-end regular giving to help with greater year-end expenses (annual insurance, etc.) - and prepare us to move forward and shine radiant light of God's grace for all in 2025! We give thanks for your partnership in ministry—and pray that the Spirit will continue to inspire our generous response to God's amazing grace as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's true Christmas gift of hope. With thanks for each of you & all the ways you are part of God's radiant giving for the world,

Consider a special Christmas or year-end gift ...

remember or honor a loved one with something that truly makes a difference: shining the light of Christ's love through LS Ministry!

Steve Padgett Laura Turnmire Mia Rapport Bill Ramsey Mike Davidson  
Steve Bloss Gary Bradham Ed Brennan Lorenzo Hampton Hunter Prest  
Ashley Stoutland Tom Willingham Debbie Zvejnieks Pastor Eric Pastor Carl

## Annual Meeting 11.10.24



**"Streams of Light" Pastor Times: 12/4 @ 10:30; 12/15 @ 9:20**  
**"STREAMS OF LIGHT" BIBLE DISCUSSION—Posted Online Wed @**

ahead. I see living streams of light in people gathering to share the story of Jesus' birth with the community and our Cristo Rey partners in the annual Live Nativity. I see living streams of light in folks gathering with community members to sing joyful songs about Christ's birth at Beer 'N Carols, at a joint NE Christmas cantata, and our Christmas Caroling outing. I see living streams of light that will shine in meals being delivered to the Children's Hospital and Palmetto Place youth house! I see living streams of light in dozens of Advent-Christmas food boxes for Christian Assistance Bridge—being delivered as "Birthday Gifts for Jesus!" I see living streams of light in God's people gathering for midweek Advent services, home devotions, and Christmas Eve worship! The list goes on...

I think about streams of light from the angel Gabriel, shining down upon a lowly young girl, Mary, to tell her that she herself would become a living stream of light by giving birth to the Savior! I think about streams of light from a star shining down upon a stable in Bethlehem. I think about streams of light shining from heavenly hosts of angels upon a shepherds' field. I think about the words from John's Gospel introducing the Savior: **"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people!"** Over 2000 years ago, the world was changed with Jesus, God's eternal stream of light.

**"Trees with a Purpose!"**  
**YOUTH CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER**  
*for camp, youth retreats, and youth mission trip*  
**FRI/SAT/SUN, 12-7pm**



Now, in 2024, the world continues to be changed by all the living streams of light (i.e. you!) who bear Christ's name. With prayers that you may sense the fullness of Christ's light shining in & through you during these holy days of Advent & Christmas ahead, *Pastor Eric*



**ADVENT FOOD BOXES**  
**for Christian Assistance Bridge**  
*24 non-perishable food items (1 per day)*

**GOAL: 2024 Items as "Birthday Gifts" for Jesus**

**LS DOVE GIVING TREE**

*Gifts for foster children, Backpack family, women's recovery house*

**WORLD HUNGER GOOD GIFTS**

*Give a truly meaningful gift of hope this Christmas for your loved ones!*

**FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES**

*Lutheran Men adopted families*

**DISASTER RESPONSE**

*Advent/Christmas Season Bucket Offering*

**BILLBOARD MINISTRY—Dec. 5-18**

**SANCTUARY DECORATING—Dec. 7**

**BACKPACK FOOD BAGS—Dec. 8, 15**

**PALMETTO PLACE MEAL—Dec. 10**

**RUSH HOUR MINISTRY—Dec. 17**

**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL—Dec. 19**

**MEALS ON WHEELS—each Mon & Tues**

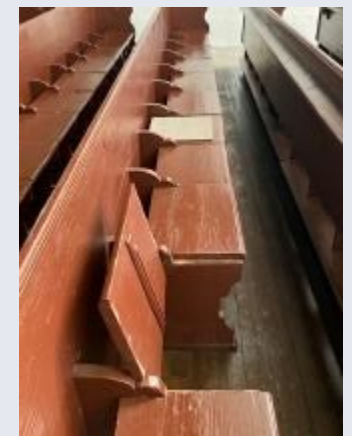
*A special note of thanks...*

*I again want to express my deepest gratitude to all the people of Living Springs for your overwhelming love offering & the beautiful cross-oak wood plaque, to commemorate my 30th year of ordained ministry (and 11 years of ministry here at LS). Kris had always dreamed of being able to enjoy one of the "river cruises" that she had heard so many people talk about over the years—and I cannot tell you how thankful we were to enjoy that blessing in late November. The timing was perfect—as it was so wonderful to see people from places like Austria/Germany/Hungary begin to decorate their churches and initiate their festivals of joy in preparation for Christmas and the joy of Christ's birth!*

*Most people realize the sacrifice made by pastor's spouses and families over years of ministry—and I cannot tell you how much it meant to me for her to be able to find joy in something she had always dreamed about (but didn't know if it could ever happen). Your outpouring of love truly made this experience possible, and for that, I will forever be grateful to you, and to the Lord! We are so blessed by the love and support of this family of faith—and I give thanks for all your prayers for us, especially as we continue in these early stages of Kris' diagnosis with Parkinson's. You are truly living streams of light, that shine so brightly in our hearts!*

*With much, much love and thankfulness... Pastor Eric & Kris*

*FYI... Some photos from the centuries-old Lutheran church in Regensburg, Germany (note "Dr. Martin Luther" street, "Silent Night" in German worship book, the Baptismal font, and hard wooden pews!)*





(Continued from page 2)

## A Thanksgiving Laugh for the Soul

Here's some humor to lighten your post-Thanksgiving spirits:

*Why did the turkey cross the road?*

To prove he wasn't chicken!

And remember, if you didn't have leftovers for at least three days, were you even trying?

As we move about our busy lives amid the laughter and joy of the season, know that every day is a good time to reflect on how we care for God's creation. Genesis reminds us that God declared His creation "very good" and entrusted it to us. Whether it's reducing waste, recycling, or simply showing gratitude for the earth's abundance, we can all do better. Let's strive to be faithful stewards of this incredible gift, teaching our children by example that caring for creation is part of loving God and loving our neighbor.

## Exciting Things to Come

As November gives way to December, mark your calendars for two very special events:

- **Adventpalooza** on *Sunday, December 1st!* This festive gathering will prepare our hearts for the season of waiting and hope.

**Children and Senior Youth Christmas Play** on *Sunday, December 8th.* Come ready to be delighted by the creativity and spirit of our young people as they share the Christmas story in their unique way.

**Let us stop right now and pray...**

*Gracious God,*

*Thank You for the gift of this season—a time to reflect, give thanks, and prepare for the coming of Your Son. We are grateful for the laughter of children, the bonds of community, and the beauty of creation. As the fullness of Thanksgiving is behind us and Advent is upon us, may our hearts be filled with hope and our hands eager to serve. Guide us to see Christ in one another and to share His light with all we meet. Amen.*

I just want to say that I hope this season of thanksgiving and preparation fills you with peace, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose. Thank you for all you do to nurture our children, care for creation, and share God's love. I am so grateful for each of you.

With love and thanksgiving,

**Pastor Carl**



## God's Corner



This is a heartfelt thanks to all LSLC people who have been so kind to help me during my convalescence. I have been overwhelmed by the rich care everyone has shown me. From getting my plate during dinners, to opening doors, to setting up my music stand and chair, and so much more. God has richly blessed me as a member of LSLC.

Thank all of you so much for showing your care, consideration and true love towards me. God bless you all! Bob Gill

# God At Work

## Northeast Community Thanksgiving Worship



## Christmas Tree Lot



## Boy Scout Troop #737 Court of Honor



# Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs

## Dea Jones Featured in The Word in Season

Have you grabbed your January, February, March 2025 The Word in Season? Dea Jones was invited to write devotions for this quarter's book! Check out the January 30-February 5 submissions. Dea is also a blogger! Check out: <https://faithfulconversations.wordpress.com/> Great job Dea!!

## Opportunities Outside Living Springs



South Carolina Synod

**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!**

### 2024 Inquirer's Day of Reflection

Sunday, December 15, 2024

4:00-6:00 PM

Via Zoom

Inquirer's Day of Reflection is an invitation to those discerning a call to ordained ministry. Inquirers will participate in conversation and learn about the different tracks to becoming a pastor or deacon. This is an opportunity to explore and ask questions.

**Please RSVP no later than Thursday, December 12 to:**

Pastor Rick Carter

[rick@scsynod.com](mailto:rick@scsynod.com)

OR

Mrs. Deborah Slice

[deborahslice@scsynod.com](mailto:deborahslice@scsynod.com)

**We will need to know:**

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



## 9th SIGHTS & SOUNDS FESTIVAL OF NATIVITIES

Come experience the joy of the season with the Sights and Sounds of the Nativity event, featuring two days of music, holiday refreshments and over 200 nativity sets loaned by members and friends - beautifully displayed.



Seasonal music by:  
Groups & Individuals

**Saturday, December 7, 2024**

3pm-6pm (Tours/Refreshments)

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

4pm-7pm (Tours/Refreshments)

Free event - Donations accepted to assist Hurricane Helene Disaster Response

1118 UNION ST. COLUMBIA, SC 29201

**MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
**815A WORSHIP (Sanctuary)**  
 920A Adult Faith Formation

**1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary/Online/Parking Lot)** - includes Children's GIFT Faith Experiences (Growing in Faith Together!)

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *See box above <b>1st Sunday in Advent</b> 12P Tree Lot Open 3P Confirmation Class 4P Girl Scouts 4-6 PM Advent Palooza 530P Outdoor Tree Lighting	2 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout #737	3 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6PA Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	4 10A LSCDC Bible Time 1030A Pastor Study Time <b>12 "Streams of Light" Posted</b> <b>12P Advent Worship</b> 330P LSASC Bible Time 5P Hope Team 515P Disciples of Harmony <b>6P Advent Worship</b> 630P Choir 630P Sr Youth (LSLC)	5 11P Good News Team 330P Backpacks (ASC) 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Lifelong Discipleship	6 12-7P Tree Lot Open Open	7 9A-12P Church decorating 12-7P Tree Lot Open
8 <b>2nd Sunday in Advent</b> After Services - Backpack Food Ministry 815A Worship <b>915A Advent/Christmas Brunch</b> 915A Youth Elf Store Opens <b>1030A Worship (incl. Children/Youth Christmas program)</b> 1P Ladies Book Club <b>4P Christmas Cantata @ NEUMC</b> 4P Girl Scouts	9 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Fellowship/Mutual Care 7P Boy Scout #737	10 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 530P Finance 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells  <i>Palmerite Place Meal</i>	11 10A LSCDC Bible Time 10A Ladies Bible Study Christmas Party <b>12 "Streams of Light" Posted</b> <b>12P Advent Worship</b> 330P LSASC Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Sr Youth (Random Tap) <b>6P Advent Prayer</b> (Random Tap) <b>630P Beer &amp; Carols</b> (Random Tap)	12 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 630P Recovery Comes First 630P LSCDC Board	13 12-7P Tree Lot Open 630p Nativity Dress Rehearsal	14 12-7P Tree Lot Open <b>7P Outdoor Nativity (bilingual w/ Cristo Rey)</b>
15 *See box above <b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b> After Services - Backpack Food Ministry 9:30A Pastor Study Time <b>7P Outdoor Nativity</b> 4P Girls Scouts	16 1030A Meals on Wheels 630P Worship Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737 Christmas Dinner 7P Exec Team	17 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 430P Rush Hour Ministry 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	18 10A LSCDC Bible Time 1030A Ladies Bible Study <b>12 "Streams of Light" Posted</b> <b>12P Longest Night Worship</b> 330P LSASC Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony <b>6P Longest Night Worship</b> 630P Sr Youth (LSLC)	19 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Council  <i>Children's Hospital Meal</i>	20 12-7P Tree Lot Open 4P LSCDC Christmas Program	21 12-7P Tree Lot Open
22 *See box above <b>4th Sunday in Advent</b> 1-2-7P Tree Lot Open 2P Christmas Caroling	23 1030A Meals on Wheels <b>12 "Streams of Light" Posted</b> 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout Troop #737	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>12P Midday Communion</b> <b>5P Children/Family Candlelight Worship</b> <b>730P Festival Candlelight</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Office closed	26 630P Recovery Comes First	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Christmas  <b>10A "Come-As-You-Are" Lessons &amp; Carols</b> (unity worship service)	30 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Recovery Comes First	31 1030A Meals on Wheels	LSCDC Closed			4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>EPHAPHY EVE</b>              Sunday, Jan. 5              5:00-6:30PM              Bonfire Fellowship Celebration           </div>

## Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

December 2	Deborah DePaoli	December 26	Linda Hayes
	Lisa Petty	December 28	Leena Skiba
December 6	Peg Zieche		♥ Barbara & Peter Creighton
December 9	Lucas Shannon	December 29	Jeannie Hurlbert
	Tom & Dawn Willingham		♥ Marshall & Jeannie Hurlbert
December 14	Peggy Collins	December 31	Melanie Mooney
	Sara Hale		Randy Sides
December 19	♥ Lee & Barbara Collins		
December 21	Ron Ramsey		



### 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!



<b>December 1</b>	Anne Ducate
	Bob Turnmire
<b>December 2</b>	Brantley Smith
<b>December 6</b>	Meg Goldberg
	Evan Turnmire
<b>December 8</b>	Hailey Stoutland
	Brady Stoutland
<b>December 23</b>	Karen Kranz
<b>December 24</b>	Jace Martinez



## **CHURCH STAFF**

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

[pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org](mailto:pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org)

Rev. Carl Taylor - Associate Pastor

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Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

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Lisa Petty – Good News Coordinator

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Elizabeth Ulloa - Bookkeeper

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Seminarian Jace Martinez

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## **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS**

[Steve Padgett](#) - President

[Laura Turnmire](#) - Vice-President

[Mia Rapport](#) - Secretary

[Mike Davidson](#) - Treasurer

[Bill Ramsey](#) – Financial Secretary

[Hunter Prest](#) - Youth Representative

[Rev. Eric Fink](#) – Senior Pastor

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

[Steve Bloss](#)

[Gary Bradham](#)

[Ed Brennan](#)

[Lorenzo Hampton](#)

[Ashley Stoutland](#)

[Tom Willingham](#)

[Debbie Zvejnieks](#)

## **MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**

Child Development Center

Deborah DePaoli

Children/Youth Ministries

Leslie Bloss/Jan Berger

Ashley Stoutland/Hunter Prest

Fellowship & Mutual Care

Trish Davidson & Wendy McKenzie

Good News Team

Lisa Petty

Hope Ministries

Karen Kranz

Justice Ministry

Helen Doerpinghaus

Lifelong Discipleship

Steve Bloss

Lutheran Men in Mission

Bob Turnmire

Women of the ELCA

Jan Berger

Worship & Music

Jim Zieche

Facilities

Ed Brennan

Finance

Karlene Stuart

Archives/Pew Bears

Judy Lawrence

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Prayer Requests