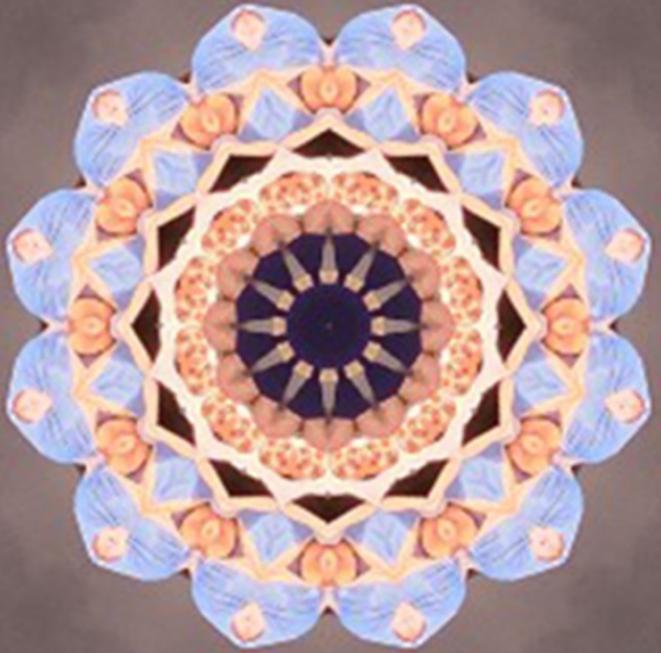


The Living Springs Journal

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

January 2026



Emmanuel & Fulfillment— A Season of Light! (from Pastor Eric)

January “LIMITLESS LIGHT”: Online Postings, Wednesdays @ Noon
Pastor Study Times: Wednesday, 1/7 @ 10:30; Sunday, 1/18 @ 9:20

Oh, so much Light! Two nights before Epiphany, on the first Sunday of calendar year 2026 (the 2nd Sunday of Christmas), nearly 50 people stood together, holding our lit candles—with the night sky illuminated by the fiery light of the tree that had adorned our church lawn with its own lights throughout the prior Advent/Christmas days! As I absorbed that holy moment, I found myself thinking about all the Light that shone through the people of Living Springs in this season:

- The light of 100's of community members, Cristo Rey mission partners, children, and animals gathered on cold winter's nights for a **Living Nativity** to share the joyful story of Christ's birth (in both English & Spanish)!
- The light shining on drivers' faces in **Rush Hour** traffic, as they received 200+ little Advent-Christmas blessing bags of unconditional love & grace!
- The light of **3000+ food items** (and still counting) given for local food pantries as our “birthday gifts” of love for Jesus our Lord, to feed those in hunger!
- The light filling every inch of the upper altar area & steps, occupied by dozens & dozens of children/youth at our **Christmas Eve family service**, all finding joy in being “living stars” to share the good news of Jesus' birth!
- The light radiating from the manger & reflected in human faces through the cracks of a broken mirror at Christmas Eve **candlelight communion**—with the sounds of horn, cello, flute, guitar, bells echoing in our hearts & little wooden ornaments sharing Love, Kindness, and Peace/Shalom for us to carry home!
- The light filling porches, living rooms, and facility corridors with visitors **singing carols** of Christmas joy!
- More light in the faces of community members at DOKO Station, singing with joy at **Beer & Carols** and engaging in random conversations of faith!
- The light filling the sanctuary with dozens & dozens being touched by the joy of children sharing the **CDC Christmas program** and our **LS Children/Youth Advent-Christmas program**!



EPIPHANY “EVE-EVE” WORSHIP

Sunday, Jan. 4 @ 5pm

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LUTHERIDGE RETREAT

Jan. 9-11

+++

YOUTH SKI RETREAT

Jan. 23-25

+++

MLK COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Jan. 25, Northeast UMC

+++

YOUTH SUNDAY

Feb. 1

+++

CHILI COOKOFF &

LS SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

Feb. 7

+++

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Feb. 8

(Continued on page 3)



Video Christmas Message from Seminarian Jace & Julia!

The Sunday before Christmas, we recorded a video message for Jace and Julia, who are serving their International Internship in Santiago, Chile. A video station was set up for worshippers to share Christmas greetings, and we also recorded a group message at the end of each worship service. Below is a response from Jace & Julia as well as a link to a video greeting from them!

I pray you had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Please see below for a short message from us!

<https://youtu.be/6zNBZxU1CNs?si=O4JxerzCtAwabY4Q>

Blessings,
Jace Martinez



- The light radiating from a massive stack of **Dove Tree Christmas gifts** at the altar, to bring blessing to Lutheran Services families, backpack family, and R2 school youth in need—plus 300+ December **backpack food bags** & more Lutheran Men gifts for the adopted **LMM Christmas family**!
- The light shining on roadsides, proclaiming messages of hope & peace to 1000's through our **Christmas Billboard Ministry**, with 1000's more messages showing up across the community in our **invitation card ministry**!
- The light of holy conversations between Youth Group teens/parents and community members, with the joy of a **Christmas Tree/Wreath ministry** to illuminate homes with Christ's joy!
- The light of Scripture sparklets filling a basket in **midweek Advent worship**; the light of Advent **e-devotions** showing up daily in email inboxes; the light of **streamed worship** & weekly "Streams of Light" Bible readings!
- The light of dozens of families showing up to celebrate anniversaries for **NA Recovery** members—and dozens more **Boy Scout / Girl Scout families** gathering around Christmas events!
- The joyful light of faces watching creative bus videos—and the overwhelming initial response of \$21,000+ for a **Christmas Bus drive** to help children, youth, CDC students, and adults continue to expand faith & service opportunities to share and experience the missional love of Jesus!
- The light of 3 children of God being **baptized** and 9 more disciples being **welcomed into this community of faith**!



On the weekend of Jan. 9-11, this year's LS planning retreat will be happening at Lutheridge—I invite your deep prayer for all our leaders, that we may clearly and faithfully hear God's voice.



Each year, LS ministry leaders & council gather for an important planning process, which leads to an annual Ministry Theme, plus Ministry Focus Areas / Goals. We strive to listen for God's voice, so that we might be faithful to God's particular calling & focus for this community of faith—in the ministry we share together *and* the ministry we each carry out in our daily lives. Last year, God provided the focus, "Reflect God's Light...BEYOND!" On the weekend of Jan. 9-11, this year's planning retreat will happen at Lutheridge—and I invite your deep prayer for all our leaders who are participating, that we may clearly and faithfully hear God's voice.

Since the our Christian year began in Advent, we have moved into 12 months centered around the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel emphasizes Jesus as the gift of **Emmanuel, "God with us"** and points to Jesus as the **complete fulfillment** of all God's kingdom promises and hope. None of us know what the calendar year of 2026 will hold—and yet I pray that each of us may find strength in the truth of Emmanuel, "God with us" and experience in some deep way the fulfillment of God's kingdom promises & hope in your own life. You are an incredible community of disciples the Spirit has assembled to reflect the limitless light of God's grace for all. Here in 2026, may we all find much joy, meaning, and purpose together in living out the fulfillment of Emmanuel, as we experience and shine God's light every day!

With much thanksgiving for each of you—and for all the expressions of love & light you shared with myself & Kris throughout this Christmas season, Pastor Eric
NOTE: if you were not at Christmas Season worship to pick up one of the Love, Kindness, Peace ornaments for focus in your home, a few still remain—see me!

Other Opportunities
to Reflect the Light...BEYOND:
CAMPUS MINISTRY MEAL—Jan. 11
SUNDAY BACKPACKS—Jan. 11 & 25
JUSTICE MINISTRY LEADERS—Jan. 12
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL—Jan. 15
CUB SCOUT INFO SESSION—Jan. 15
RICE ESTATE SUPPER—Jan. 17
JR. YOUTH—Jan. 18
PALMETTO PLACE MEAL—Jan. 22
SR. YOUTH LOCK-IN—Jan. 30
MEALS ON WHEELS—each Mon & Tues
NA RECOVERY—each Mon & Thurs

2025 LIVING SPRINGS MINISTRY FOCUS

Grounded in worship, I am/We are disciples joyfully sharing our resources and celebrating Jesus' message of **Good News of God's grace for all**. I/We lift up these areas of Ministry Focus to **Reflect God's Light...BEYOND!**

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!





ANNUAL NE COMMUNITY MLK SERVICE

Sunday, Jan. 25 @ 4PM - hosted @ Northeast UMC

Sponsored by Adams Northeast AME, Rehoboth Baptist, Northeast UMC, Living Springs Lutheran

Join us for the **Annual Northeast Columbia Community MLK Service** on **Sunday, January 25, at 4:00 p.m. at Northeast UMC (4000 Hard Scrabble Road)**. This powerful service will feature inspiring musical offerings from congregations across our community, followed by a time of warm fellowship. Come celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and rejoice in the unity we share in Christ. All are welcome—don't miss this uplifting time together!



Thanks Be to God (and You): A Bus for Christmas!

Important Update Below....

We had such a tremendous response to our Christmas Bus Drive appeal, with \$21,000+ received just so far. Incredible! This gave us enough to move forward with the bus purchase in time to receive some year-end discounts offered by the bus company. There are bus "parts" that can still be adopted, but **any amount donation is welcome**. We will continue the initial drive through January—with plans for a Spring "Bus #1 Retirement" banquet, in hopes that we can go ahead and pay off the relatively small 4% loan we arranged to get the bus here before year's end.

*****JANUARY 25—hang around after either worship service to take one of our first official bus rides (around the parking lot)!**

Take a tag from the display to sponsor any piece(s) of our LS Bus, which will share joy with so many lives for years to come! Donations can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the office, marked "Bus Fund"—just include the tag (s) you selected. Checks payable to "Living Springs." **Please indicate if your donation is in special honor or memory of someone.**



If you missed our joyful "Bus Drive" videos, go to our YouTube Channel to check them out—and share them with others via all your social media! There has been a lot of love for these Scrooge & Christmas Car Ad spoof videos by our youth, pastors & families....



youtu.be/YmxUjuSZDOg

LIVING SPRINGS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY FOOD DRIVE

Goal 3800 Food Items—with \$\$ donations, we are very close!!!

3000+ items collected/purchased so far (& 43 \$25 food cards)

(to honor our 38th Advent/Christmas as Living Springs congregation)



• Spaghetti noodles	• Muffin mix / corn bread mix	• Dried Beans
• Soup	• Peanut Butter & Jelly	• Cranberry Sauce
• Hamburger Helper meals	• Ravioli / Spaghetti O's	• Fruit cups
• Mac n cheese	• Canned Chicken	• Ramen noodles
• Boxes of rice/pasta	• Meal kits	• Oatmeal/Grits
• Stuffing Mix	• Microwavable meals	• Cereal
• Instant mashed potatoes	• Canned vegetables	• Non-perishable Milk products
• Gravy / Gravy Mix	• Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes	• Instant pancake mix



* With the extra monetary donations, we are very close to our 3800-item goal. You are welcome to continue to bring items for the drive through the end of January.

* Items also can be purchased/shipped directly to LS via **Amazon Shopping List (see QR code above)**:

* **Monetary donations** can be made via LS Givelify App or mailed to office (checks payable to Living Springs). * To be part of LS **Food Drive Team** (organizing, purchasing, delivering), contact Karen Kranz or call the office.

God's Corner



Dear Living Springs Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your incredible, ongoing partnership and the amazing ways you have shown God's Love to our refugee community! Thank you for the Christmas gifts, the amazing bounty of Food Lion gift cards (over 900 dollars worth!) and your willingness to drive our newest family to the social security appointment. Of course we are also so grateful for the beautiful camp that you put on for so many refugee children this past summer.

Thank you all for your partnership in the work of welcome!

Sincerely,

Sarah Lewis, Lutheran Services Carolinas, NAP



Brothers and sisters,

I personally want to give heartfelt THANK YOU to all for their prayers for my daughter, Chrystal Wilkes, during her recent battle with lung cancer. After four three day sessions of chemo therapy three weeks apart, starting in July, and 35 days of radiation, on Oct. 30, praise God, she was declared cancer free and RANG THE BELL!

Also thank you to the ones who brought us delicious food during this time. Again THANK YOU.

And God bless you all! *Jean Smith*

I See God At Work...

This week I got a phone call from a family here in the Northeast asking where they could get help with food because they had run out. It was Friday and Christian Assistance Bridge was closed. Because of the generosity of Living Springs, there was food here at church to share with the family who have a toddler and another baby due in February.

Share Your God Stories

Has God worked a Hope moment through you or someone else during the week?

Go to bit.ly/GodStoryPrayers and share the story of God's work - you can also use a green welcome slip in Sunday's bulletins. Stories are published anonymously. This isn't about what "we" are doing, but about God's work in the world!



Notes from: Emotional - Mental Wellness



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

For assistance, please see
Pastor Eric.



If you or someone you know
needs support now,
call or text 988
or
chat 988lifeline.org



Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

It's amazing how quickly the year passes,

It seems as though one moment we are watching the new buds of the spring flowers begin to pop open, followed by hot summer days filled with laughter and finding ways to stay cool, all too soon they are left with a chill in the evening air. So here we are again, finding ourselves making it through another rotation around the sun, grateful to see you here in this beautiful place, in this loving moment.

December brought so much laughter and light. Although our days are shorter there was never a lack of love or goodwill spread throughout the center. Our children created cards to be passed out to their families spreading the joy and love of the holiday season. Our Jumping Jungle and Farm Friends visited The Rice Estates once again to sing Christmas Hymns to our friends there. In Chapel time with Pastor Laura and Pastor Eric we heard out children talk about the birth of Jesus, that Jesus was a gift of Love to the world.

Many of our families came out to watch and even participate in the Live Nativity! Thank you to the Youth Group, the Elf store was a HUGE hit as always and all our children were so excited to go shopping for their loved ones! Our After Schoolers, Farm Friends and Jumping Jungle kiddos had so much fun putting on their Christmas program and our teachers were overjoyed at the number of families who came out to support and join in the fun!

We are so excited to see what 2026 has in store for us, all the many adventures our children will go on, the experiences and memories we will create! Have a happy and safe January!

Wishing you well

Tammy



Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

As the new year begins, estimates are that 16,000 families in Richland County need safe and affordable housing. Our Justice ministry is working with Richland County Council to pass an ordinance to establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and dedicate seed money to get this underway. Housing trust funds do not create public/Section 8 housing. Instead, they create housing that is safe and affordable for working people such as teachers, firefighters, and police officers. Our Justice Ministry has been working to get such a trust fund in place for several years.

In December we decided to focus our Housing efforts this year - again - by doubling down on our local Affordable Housing Trust Fund campaign. "Doubling down" means we want to win BIG steps towards a Housing Trust Fund in Richland County by the end of 2026. How will we do this? We will be attending every Richland County Council Session and hosting or participating in special events such as our previous Housing Bus Tour and Food Walk. We will circle back to our meetings with other agencies and organizations that are working on affordable housing to see what new things we can learn and implement in our campaign to get a trust fund in place. Everyone is invited to participate.

As the New Year begins, be sure to Save-the-Date for the annual Nehemiah Action: Monday, April 27 at 6:00 pm, location TBD. What is our Call? Justice for all!



Notes from: *Fellowship & Mutual Care*

Advent/Christmas Brunch



LS Legrand/Lowman Scholarship Auction - with Chili Cookoff! *Saturday February 7th at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall*

Fellowship and Mutual Care will be hosting the **Annual LS Scholarship Dinner and Silent/White Elephant Auction on February 7th**, and this year we are excited to combine it with our **Annual LS Chili Cook-Off** again! Proceeds from the evening will benefit the **LS College Scholarship and Continuing Education Fund**, in memory of the **LeGrand and Lowmans**.

All chili makers are encouraged to bring their best chili (it doesn't have to be spicy—some of us can't take the heat). There will be **prizes** for the cook-off, and a **sign-up sheet will be available in the admin building**. Feel free to also bring an **appetizer or dessert** to share.

The evening will include both a **Silent Auction** and a **Live White Elephant Auction**. We are currently in need of **Silent Auction items** such as handcrafted items, gift baskets, gift certificates, or donations from local businesses. Ministry teams will also be asked to donate baskets.

For the **White Elephant Auction**, donations are limited to **one item per person or family**—perhaps a gift you're not quite sure what to do with anymore. Remember, one person's "junk" may be another's treasure!

Please try to have auction items at the church by **February 4th**.

You won't want to miss this fun-filled evening of fellowship, food, and friendly competition—all while supporting our college students.



Notes from: *Good News Team*

Rush Hour Ministry



Beer & Hymns Wednesday, February 11 @ 6:30 - 8:30 PM @ Doko Station Pub & Eatery

Love to sing a hymn? Enjoy having a beverage and fellowshipping with others? Come join us for Beer & Hymns Wednesday, February 11, anytime between 6:30 and 8:30 pm at Doko Station Pub, 11 Samuel Bookhart Ln, Blythewood. We sing boldly. We laugh. We share Jesus in a unique way. All are invited and welcome - spread the word on your social media. Bring a friend or two and experience a great hymn sing in a surprising place!



#LimitlessLightLS

Spread the word & be part of our Limitless Light emphasis.

Throughout your daily journeys in the weeks & months ahead, take a photo of any place or any moment where you experience God's limitless light shining for yourself or someone else. Email to lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org and "Like & Share" on all your social media platforms. Invite your friends and neighbors to participate as well.



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BONUS: Download one of the free kaleidoscope apps—Share to our social media or send to lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org

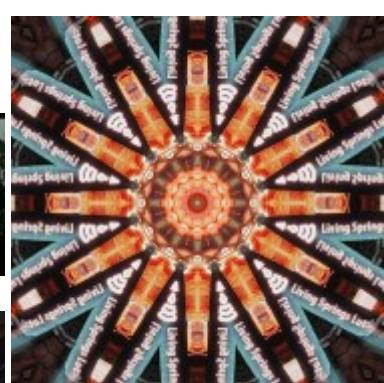


Rush Hour Ministry



The Fumbly
Bumbly Angels

Christmas
Billboards



Christmas Eve



Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

Advent Rice Estate and senior bags

Living Springs delivered Advent bags to Rice Estate residents, along with a Hanukkah bag for the Jewish resident. With tears in her eyes, this resident shared how special she felt by this expression of God's love through a Happy Hanukkah bag. Thanks be to God for using a simple bag to share His love!



Dear Hope Committee,

Thank you for the lovely gift bag. I really enjoy the Holiday Devotional and the other "goodies"! It was so very kind and thoughtful of you to think of me!

Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year.

Sincerely Meg Goldberg

Shoeboxes for Seniors delivery



Thank you so much for sponsoring a family for Christmas. The family appreciated everything you did and was shocked at the amount they received!! I really appreciate and generosity in everything you do !!

Thank you so much!!!

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

RICE ESTATE DINNER January 17 @ 5pm (Setup at 3)

January 17 we are planning our "Winter Wonderland" dinner being held in the Fellowship Hall. Rice Estate, Vitality, and Harmony residents are invited to a special meal prepared and served by Living Springs members along with games and activities especially geared toward the elderly. If you are interested in participating, see Gail Buchanan - it is so special to witness the joy encountered by the residents. We receive many "thank you" notes indicating how much they look forward to these outings.

Backpack Food Ministry

Kicking off a new year of providing food for the weekend for our backpack schools - Joseph Keels, Rice Creek, Blythewood Academy, and Muller Rd. We continue to ask for your support to ensure the success of this program. We have one member that includes at least one six-pack of milk boxes each week - it is always there sitting in the shopping cart! Think about it! - if each of us brought in just one item each week, we could probably fulfill half our requirement. Items needed: milk boxes, juice boxes, applesauce, fruit cups, pudding cups, vienna sausages/weenie beanies, cereal boxes, individual cookies and snacks. Amazon wish list: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Look for information on our stuff a bus event in February.



1st Monday of each month – Bags packed by our Child Development Center after-schoolers

2nd & 4th Sundays – Packing before and after both services

3rd Week – Bags packed by the Girl Scout Troop

Saturdays before packing Sundays – Join us around 11am to help set up.

PALMETTO PLACE & CHILDRENS HOSPITAL MEALS

Palmetto Place is on the fourth Thursday (Jan. 22) - we usually prepare and deliver a nourishing meal for ten people (including staff). The young adults living in Samantha House have transitioned from the unaccompanied youth home and are navigating to being an independent adult able to provide for themselves. Palmetto Place helps with budgeting, transportation, meal planning, and emotional stability needed. One nourishing meal a month doesn't seem like much, but it is so appreciated every time we deliver it. Contact Karen Kranz if you are interested.

The Children's Hospital lunch meals are prepared and delivered by Travis and Melanie Mooney who own Carolina Deli located in Building 3 - they have a great lunch menu if you want to stop by and maybe even extend a thank you for the lunches they provide each third Thursday. Cards of encouragement are inserted in the lunch bags - every month our Child Development Center makes cards of love "God Loves You" "Get Well Soon" - if you want to match this artistic talent, we can include a card from you too!



ADVENT FOOD DRIVE



Wow - I think we made at least three deliveries to Christian Assistance Bridge in Blythewood! The final tally will be announced, but I know there was a lot of food stacked on the shelves at CAB when we made a delivery on Dec. 29 - what an awesome showing of light shining beyond! With the need being so great and with the cold weather coming up, I'm sure it won't take long to empty some of the shelves. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

CHRISTMAS DOVE TREE

You made some children extremely happy this Christmas - Living Springs provided Lutheran Services refugee families with 20+ gifts; one of our backpack families had a fire that destroyed their home and are living in a hotel until the insurance is worked out - three children and a Mom had a joyous Christmas; and gift cards were provided for Richland 2 high school unaccompanied youth - all extended a thank you and commented what a blessing Living Springs is. At our Ladies Bible Study brunch, we shared stories of Christmas memories - I like to think that one or more of these Dove Tree recipients will someday share a memory too.



Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship* *Living Springs Adult Faith Formation*

Sunday Adult Bible Class **Meets in the Fellowship Hall and Online at 9:20**

Join us as we take a deeper look at scripture readings that are used in the worship service each Sunday. All are welcome to join as we ask "What is God saying to us in the lesson." Facilitator – Helen Doerpinghaus.

Google Meet: meet.google.com/zkz-tzgp-seu Or **dial:** +1 323-515-9597 (PIN: 776209519)

Women's Bible Group **Meet In-person or Online 1st & 3rd Monday at 7 pm**

The Women's Bible Group is starting a new study on January 19th at 7pm! We meet on the first and third Mondays of the month online and in-person at the church. For our new study, we will discuss the first season of The Chosen series. The Chosen series is a popular TV adaptation of the Gospel story. We will be discussing Season 1, Episode 1 - "I have called You by Name." No TV subscription is required to view the show. You may see the episode at <https://watch.thechosen.tv/page/season-1>. You're invited to watch the episode on your own and we will gather for discussion. Below is the Google Meet information Click here for a study guide: <https://bit.ly/LSTheChosenS1E1>

Women's Bible Study - Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rbc-cytq-grx>
Or dial: (US) +1 484-909-0335 PIN: 334 815 455#

Tuesday Evening Bible Study **Meets on Tuesdays at 6pm**

Want to join in? Contact Steve Bloss at sbloss1947@gmail.com or at 803-467-8287 to be added to the Google Meet.

Google Meet: meet.google.com/zao-uddc-uhy Or **dial:** 260-227-7312 PIN: 504568319#

Ladies Bible Study **Wednesdays in the Katie Room**

Our book is *Thrive* by Jennifer Cowart. Facilitator — Beverly Hopper.

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/crm-zcgt-bxx> Or **dial:** 540-669-0687 PIN: 810783136#

Bibles & Biscuits Men's Bible Study **2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7am**

Men's Bible Study has returned! We plan to meet twice a month on the second and fourth Thursday in the fellowship hall. Spread the word. This is a great time of study and fellowship so we can go and share God's word!

LS 2025-26 "God's Limitless Light" Focus of the Month! **Catch this past month's stories in our YouTube "God's Limitless Light" Playlist**

Each Wednesday, we'll share a Bible story or reflection from our "God's Limitless Light" focus, followed by discussion with our pastor and congregation readers. You can watch the reading and discussion live on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Catch all stories here in our ["God's Limitless Light" YouTube Playlist](#)

♦ Don't forget to like, share, and follow! By sharing, you may reach someone who needs to hear this Good News—maybe for the very first time. Together, we can all be part of shining God's light through our Good News Ministry!

January Weekly Reading

At-Home Readings:

Week of Jan. 4: **Matthew, ch. 2 (revisited)**

Week of Jan. 11: **Matthew, ch. 3 & 4**

Week of Jan. 18: **Matthew, ch. 5**

Week of Jan. 25: **Matthew, ch. 6**

Wednesday Recorded Discussion: **Matthew 2:1-18**

Wednesday Recorded Discussion: **Matthew 3:13-4:11**

Wednesday Recorded Discussion: **Matthew 5:1-16**

Wednesday Recorded Discussion: **Matthew 6:19-34**

Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

LS Ministries with Cristo Rey! February 8 @ 4:15pm

We provide a Bible lesson, crafts, singing, and snacks for the children of our Mission Partner, Cristo Rey, in W. Columbia. We have team leaders, but 5-6 helpers are needed, plus a snack for up to 20 children. Volunteers meet at LS at 4:15 and carpool. The children speak English, so Spanish is not a requirement.



Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

A huge thank you to all who participated in the Families Helping Families project this year. All donations and gift purchases are greatly appreciated. The two families that we adopted this year will be able to enjoy Christmas thanks to your generosity.



Monthly Men's Breakfast Saturday, January 31 @ 8:00am

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

Facilitator Bob Turnmire

Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

Ladies Bible Study Christmas Brunch

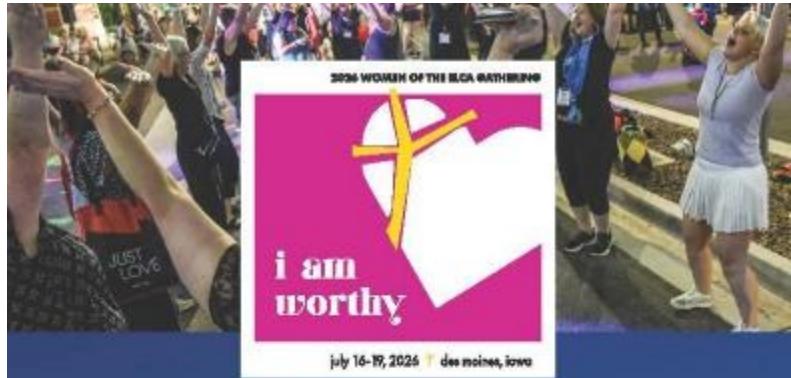
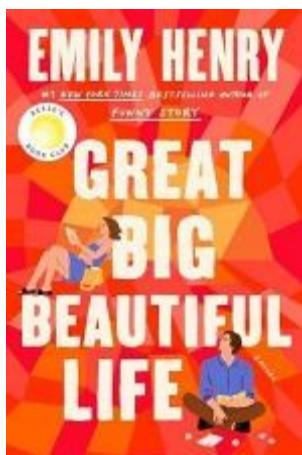


Quilting



LADIES BOOK CLUB

January starts us off on another year of moving out of our comfort zone of favorite genres to read books that we might not normally choose on our own. It doesn't always have to be on the NY Best Sellers list ... it could be a local author and it could even be one of our own church members (yes - that's you Dea). We meet every other month at a member's home and someone volunteers to bring snacks - Monday evenings in the summer and Sunday afternoons in the dreary, dark evening months. One thing that is constant is the fellowship encountered when we get together which includes not only church members, but anyone interested in joining us. January 11 at 2 pm is our kickoff date at Karen Kranz's home - 235 Founders Ridge Rd (The Summit). Ph: 716.998.1157 - we will pick our books for the year, so bring your suggestions!



**Come to the Gathering in
Des Moines, Iowa
July 16-19, 2026!**

- Experience electrifying worship
- Connect and build relationships with women of all ages from your church and beyond
- Be inspired by messages from speakers who remind you that you are a miracle
- Learn about and live out the ministry and mission of WELCA
- Participate in service and advocacy
- Run, Walk and Roll with our 5K Fun Run to raise money for women and girls

Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

Christmas Eve



December Baptism



Advent Worship



Handbell Choir

We are looking for ringers! Whether you're a seasoned ringer, a newbie or just wondering what it is all about, please come to a practice, or two and check it out! We meet on Tuesday nights 7-8pm in the handbell room. We have people who have never read music, people who have played instruments and/or have sung in choirs.

If you're between 13 and 100, you are qualified! Bob Turnmire would LOVE to have a man or two join. He's a bit out-numbered in the choir.

You can ask me questions by catching me at church or calling me @ 803-361-1143. My email address is sturnmires@yahoo.com

Notes from: *Youth*

"The Fumbly Bumbly Angels."

During worship on December 7th, the children and youth of Living Springs presented "The Fumbly Bumbly Angels." They shared the Gospel story of Jesus' birth through a funny story about angels completing their mission in Bethlehem. By proclaiming the good news of Jesus' birth, they accomplished their mission and earned spots in the Heavenly Choir. Thank you to the young people of Living Springs who shared their gifts and brought the story to life! What a joy it was to experience God's limitless light through the message you shared!





Jr. Youth Faith Formation

Junior youth will meet Sunday, January 18th after the second service for our monthly Faith formation! Please join us for a Bible story, activities, and lunch. Packets will be distributed then for the upcoming month's at home studies. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Laura. Mark your calendars for all of the upcoming gatherings:

•2026: January 18, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 3

Parents can sign up to take turns and provide a "kid-friendly" lunch for any month - and pick a month or two to be a parent-helper (along with our leaders). Becky Flynn is coordinating the scheduling. See Becky or Pastor Laura for more info.. [Lunch Sign Up](#)

We are so excited for this year of fun and growing in faith together!

LS Youth Annual Ski Trip

We will travel to West Virginia for our annual ski trip January 23-25. We will stay in cabins at Pipestem State Park and ski/tube at Winterplace on Saturday. This is an awesome time for the youth to connect with each other. We will also spend time planning our upcoming Youth Sunday. Contact Leslie Bloss (lbloss3306@gmail.com 803-413-1994) for more information.

LS Youth Sunday February 1

Come join us on February 1, 2026 for Youth Sunday at both the 8:15 and 10:30 services. We will have music led by youth musicians and singers and a special message from the youth.

LS Youth Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 8

We will celebrate the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 8. Each year, on a day when millions of people will be watching the Super Bowl, youth across the nation will be raising money for charity in "souper" ways. In addition, to collecting donations at the end of the services, we are going to be serving soup this year. Soup will be served for "take out" from 9:20-9:45 after the 8:15 service and again from 12:00-12:30 for "takeout" or "dine in" after the 10:30 service. Please come out and support the youth! All donations will go to support Christian Assistance Bridge.

LS Youth Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Shrove Tuesday, February 17, 5:30-6:40

To prepare for Lent, the LS youth will host its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17 from 5:30-6:40. Come and enjoy an delicious meal with others and stay for the Burning of the Palms.

January Youth Ministry at Living Springs

January 4 - Epiphany "Eve Eve" Gathering

January 7 - Sr. Youth Gathering (Zaxby's)

January 14 - Sr. Youth Gathering (LSLC)

January 18 - Jr. Youth Faith Formation

January 18 - Confirmation Class

January 21 - Sr. Youth Gathering (Whataburger)

January 23-25 - Sr. Youth Ski Trip

January 28 - Sr. Youth Gathering (LSLC)

January 30 - Sr. Youth Lock-in



Notes from: Boy Scout Troop 737

These are pictures from Matthew Bradshaw's Eagle Scout Project completed in August of 2025. He procured materials and directed fellow Scouts from Troop 737 to construct and install many **Bird-houses around the Living Springs Campus!** Matthew has completed all his paperwork for his Eagle Scout Rank and is waiting for his Eagle Board of Review after the New Year!! Congratulations to Matthew on this milestone achievement!!



Andrew Bradshaw has completed his Eagle Scout Project in November helping to reclaim a lost Civil War Graveyard in the Briarcliffe Subdivision of NE Richland County! Andrew has made it possible for the Historical Society to gain access to the Graveyard and hopefully it will become a registered historical site!! Andrew will be completing his Eagle Project paperwork soon and will be having his Eagle Scout Board of Review in early 2026!!



God At Work

"Love is Born" Live Nativity Drama

Though the weather was cold, many gathered on our church lawn to experience the joy and celebration of the birth of our Savior. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this presentation such a meaningful blessing to our community.







THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE REDEEMER

EST. 1853

Dear Living Springs Lutheran Church and Rev. Eric Fink,

We at The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer – Newberry, SC – wanted to let you know that we lifted you and your congregation in our prayers on Sunday, December 13, 2025. We prayed that God would continue to guide and be present in your ministries within your community. We give thanks for the gifts you get to share with your community and the entire Body of Christ!

God bless each of you and the work you get to do!

Beth Niki
Chapman

Dorothy
Lynne
Whitaker

Wesley &
Robin Palmer & Col
Kathy & Jerry
Bob & Carol Martony
Roger Hartman
Tom & Milion
Tins

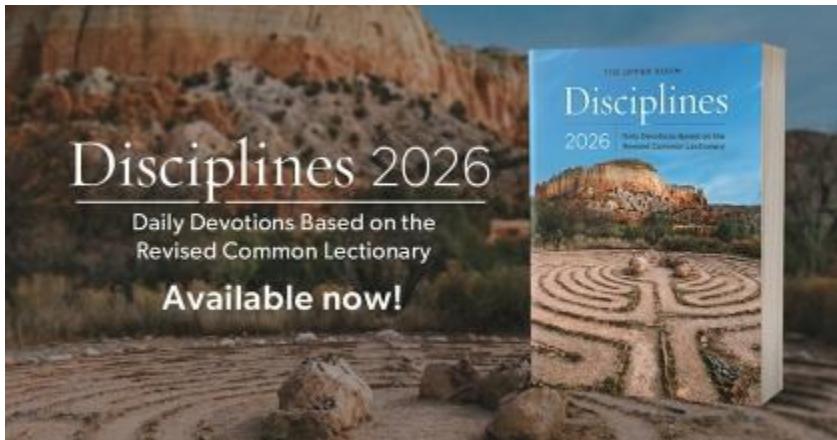
Steve Caughey, Jr.
Dennis and
Wayde

Connie & Bobby
Dominick
Fisher
Eric Healy

Barbara & Tom
Guyton

Aubrey & Gunner
Cisko

THE UPPER ROOM®



Dea Jones has not only written devotions for *Our Word in Season* devotional books, but she is now published in *The Upper Room Disciplines 2026*! Dea wrote the September 21–27 devotions titled **“The Authority of God.”** Great job, Dea!

Step into a sacred journey with God — every day.

Are you looking to steep yourself in God's word and presence every day? *The Upper Room Disciplines 2026* is your essential guide to daily spiritual renewal. Now in its 67th year, this beloved resource is more than just a devotional; it's a daily companion that helps you stay grounded in scripture, cultivate a life of prayer, and develop a deeper, more intentional relationship with God.

Following the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, *Disciplines* offers inspiring daily meditations and prayers by 53 diverse Christian thought leaders. Each week, a different faith leader will offer fresh perspectives and meaningful reflections to deepen your understanding of scripture and God's longings for you and your community.

The Upper Room Disciplines 2026 also includes a Guide to Daily Prayer and a Small Group Leader's Guide, making it perfect for individual study or group discussion. Whether you are seeking personal growth or nurturing a community of believers, this devotional guide is the perfect companion on your spiritual journey.

Order your 2026 devotional today! Also [available in Enlarged Print](#), with extra room for taking notes in the margins.

A prayer from *Disciplines*:

“God, Immanuel, help us to remember that no matter what we experience in our wilderness, you are always with us. We know the wilderness and its challenges will always be there; help us to trust your presence. Amen.”

—Rev. Karoline Lewis, Marbury E. Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary, *The Upper Room Disciplines 2026*



Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) is excited to bring you the latest digital edition of [Voices](#) magazine. Each quarter, we share the latest news and inspiration from our senior living communities and child and family programs.

In this issue, you'll:

- Discover Erin Meehan's powerful journey from incarceration to leading Trinity Recovery — a story of healing, purpose, and grace.
- Celebrate LSC teammates and partners who are bringing hope to hurricane survivors across the Carolinas.
- See how Ruth Hall found her spark again through community, creativity, and care at Trinity Living Center.
- Be inspired by the churches, donors, and volunteers whose gifts are transforming lives — from New Americans to seniors to disaster survivors.



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAIN SUNDAY SCHED-						
ULE 815A WORSHIP (Sanctuary) 920A Adult Faith For-						
4 *See box above	5 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P Backpacks (CDC) 7P Exec Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout #737	6 Day of the Epiphany 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	7 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A "Limitless Light" Bible Study 12 "Limitless Light" Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony	8 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 1030A Finance Team 11A Good News Team 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Lifelong Discipleship	9 10 9A Sanctuary De-Decorating 930A Crafty Ladies	
					LSCC Council/Cong. Retreat 1/9-1/11 @ Lutheridge	
4 *See box above	11 Baptism of Our Lord 3P Ministry Leaders Gathering/Calendar Meeting 430P Girl Scouts	12 1030A Meals on Wheels 1P LS Justice Team Leaders 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout #737 7P Fellowship & Mutual Care	13 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells	14 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A Ladies Bible Study 12 "Limitless Light" Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony	15 16 17 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Cub Scout into Mtg Children's Hospital Meal	
18 *See box above	19 MLK Holiday 3P Ministry 530P Campus Ministry Worship/Meal	20 1030A Meals on Wheels 7P Boy Scout #737 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Women's Bible Group	21 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P LSCDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 6P Facilities 7P Handbells	22 830A Staff Communion 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A Ladies Bible Study 12 "Limitless Light" Posted 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony	23 24 25 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 530P CDC Board Planning 630P Recovery Comes First Celebration (FHall) Palmetto Place Meal	
25 *See box above	26 After each worship-Backpack Food	27 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P Afterschool Bible Time	28 1030A Ladies Bible Study 12 "Limitless Light" Posted	29 630P Recovery Comes First	30 31 8A Men's Breakfast 2P HOA Annual Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	
4P - MLK Community Worship @ Northeast UMC 430P Girl Scouts					Sr. Youth Ski Trip	

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

January 1

Jan Epperson & Karl Schmidt

January 2

Dylan Mondro

Kathryn Padgett

January 5

Leslie Bloss

January 10

Judy Edmonston

January 19

Lois Mattson

January 21

Barb Imbert

Steve & Jeanette Bloss

Bill & Peg Fox

January 25

Pat Bartucca

January 26

True DePaoli

Alyssa Prest

January 27

Jeff & Cindy Day

January 29

Rocky Berger



Celebrate Your Baptism

Don't forget to check the bulletin to see if we will be celebrating your Baptismal Anniversary during this month's Sunday worship services. Immediately below the Gathering Music, there are printed the names of those who are celebrating a baptismal anniversary ***in that week***. When the gathering music begins, individuals can quietly come forward to meet Pastor Eric at the baptismal fountain. There, he will re-trace the cross with the water on your forehead and offer a special prayer of blessing for you (children may be accompanied by parents). There is nothing to be anxious about - everything is done quietly while the music is being played. For those who know only the month of your Baptism, you can join us on the first Sunday of the month (if you prefer some other Sunday, please let us know). **If you do not know your baptismal information, then please pick a month when you would like to celebrate this gift of God's grace in your life – and notify the office**, so that we can add you to the celebration list (we'll simply mark the choice of your month with an asterisk). Even if you don't know the exact date, it's important to celebrate this special gift of God's grace in your life. Again, we encourage everyone to research your Baptismal date and find out as much information as you can – let us know if we can help!

January 5

Dea Jones

January 14

John Imbert

January 22

Lisa Petty

Anna Graves

January 24

Grady Smith



CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers
Rev. Eric Fink - Senior Pastor
Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center
Lisa Petty - Good News Coordinator
Shirl Schiffman - Music Director
Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons
Kerri Fischer - Bookkeeper
Laura Turnmire - Handbell Choir Director



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Debbie Zvejnieks - Vice-President
Mia Rapport - Vice-President
Becky Flynn - Secretary
Mike Davidson - Treasurer
Bill Ramsey - Financial Secretary
Garrett Flores - Youth Representative
Rev. Eric Fink - Senior Pastor
Steve Bloss
Sue Bradham
Ed Brennan
Bob Gabbard
Ena Hagon
Lorenzo Hampton
Brandi Hayden
Tom Willingham

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Child Development Center
Deborah DePaoli
Children/Youth Minstries
Leslie Bloss/Jan Berger/Becky Flynn
Debbie Zvejnieks/Garrett Flores

Fellowship & Mutual Care
Trish Davidson/Jeanette Bloss
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
Pew Bears
Judy Lawrence

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prayer@livingspringscolumbia.org

Prayer Requests