

The
Living Springs
Journal

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

May 2026

KC

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Eatery

Monday-Saturday

61-6977

The Holy Spirit Showed Up with Power! (from Pastor Eric)

"STREAMS OF LIGHT—WILDERNESS" Pastor Study: Wed., 5/13 @ 10:30

Reading/Discussion Online Postings: Wednesdays @ Noon

"You are witnesses of all these things. And see, I am sending upon you what the Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high..... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea & Samaria, and to the ends of the earth!" - Luke 24:48-49, Acts 1:8

For 40 days after conquering death and bursting forth from the tomb, Jesus kept showing up—to speak God's voice of love to his followers, in all their wilderness spaces of sorrow, tears, confusion, disappointment, despair, fear, doubt, frustration, regret (see my article in last month's Journal). Now as he prepared to ascend back to the Father, Jesus promised the disciples that something equally amazing was going to show up for them—the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ten days after Jesus' Ascension, on Pentecost, the Spirit did show up with power the disciples could never have imagined. This year, Pentecost falls on May 24 (the 50th and final day of Easter Season). We gather that Sunday to celebrate the 3rd of the three most important days in our lives each year as followers of Jesus (Christmas, Easter, Pentecost). We remember & celebrate how the Spirit showed up with power, transforming a band of still-fearful disciples into apostles bold enough to go out and proclaim the Good News of Christ's forgiveness & love—not only in Jerusalem that day in diverse languages they had never-before spoken, but eventually (as Jesus promised) throughout the whole world!

We celebrate how that same Holy Spirit showed up when each of us once baptized—and was given to you & me as a gift of God, fulfilling the promise of
(Continued on page 3)



**PENTECOST
SUNDAY, MAY 24**

**Worship
8:15 & 10:30**
(wear something red!)



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"Living Our Faith!"

Hear/Engage/Respond/Echo God's Voice

**9:20 in the Fellowship Hall
Starts Pentecost Sunday, May 24**



LS Called Congregation Meeting - Sunday, May 17

9:15 – 10:15 in the Sanctuary

Important Vote to Call Pastor Laura Swanson as LS Associate Pastor

Please attend & arrive on time! A QUORUM IS REQUIRED!!!

If absolutely necessary, you may join by Google Meet

meet.google.com/omf-rceu-cva OR dial: (US) +1 650-530-6890 PIN: 289 785 734#

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****Q&A TIMES: Sundays, May 3 & May 10 (after each service, in the narthex)**

Virtual Q&A Option—Wednesday, May 13 @ 7pm (use same link above)

Please attend if you have any questions prior to the called meeting for vote.

CLICK HERE FOR: [BIO INFO](#), [CALL DETAILS & PACKAGE](#), [CONG. INPUT SUMMARY](#)

Printed copies of the above documents are available at worship or the church office.



2026 LIVING SPRINGS MINISTRY FOCUS

LISTEN!

In every wilderness space of life

GOD'S VOICE OF LOVE IS CALLING YOU...

to bring your burdens to Jesus & find comfort

in deeper connectedness with God & others!

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Blessed by the Holy Spirit and called to be one in God's mission, we **invite & welcome everyone** to ...

HEAR GOD'S VOICE through lives of worship & prayer!

ENGAGE GOD'S VOICE by learning & growing in faith throughout all of life!

RESPOND TO GOD'S VOICE with service & active love for our neighbors!

ECHO GOD'S VOICE of unconditional love & grace for all!

Jesus for us. We celebrate how the Spirit continues to show up with power, still in the world, through the lives of Jesus's followers, to embody the Good News of Jesus's redeeming, transforming forgiveness & love for all people!

I think about just the last month and marvel at all the ways the Holy Spirit showed up with power in this Easter season of 2026.

The Holy Spirit showed up with power at our **community Beer 'n Hymns**, as we sang God's praises with friends and "strangers" alike—leading to faith & life conversations at tables in a public restaurant, even with folks we had never met before. The Holy Spirit showed up with power at the **Holy Communion milestone**, moving our hearts (and bringing a few tears) at the sight of Nico, Whit, Carolina & Maggie participating in the Lord's meal of grace and love. The Holy Spirit showed up with power at **Lutheran Campus Ministry** worship—as students amazingly shared how that ministry had such an impact on their lives and how they expressed so much gratitude for the funds (\$7600) you provided for this ministry from the Fish Fry & your donations to enable that ministry to exist.

The Holy Spirit showed up with so much power at the **Nehemiah Justice Assembly**, as hundreds and hundreds of God's people filled the Pastides Alumni Center to move forward solutions in our community to address the crises of food insecurity and housing—leading one public official to stand at the mic, wiping a tear from her eyes and declare, "Oh my, God is here!"

The Holy Spirit showed up with power at a **Richland2 School District gathering**, where the district's lead social worker lifted up Living Springs as an example of a community of faith that makes such a difference in so many students' lives! The Holy Spirit showed up with power among our **Sr. Youth**, as they attended each other's ballgames & music events to show support, and as they gathered in their weekly restaurant space to share hi's & lo's and discuss Scripture and pray—prompting diners at a table nearby to pause and pray the Lord's Prayer with them. The Holy Spirit showed up with power at the **NA Recovery Group celebration**, with recovery participants and family members/friends filling the fellowship hall. The Holy Spirit showed up at **Jr. Youth** Faith Formation, at the **Confirmation Class retreat** at Lutheridge, at **GIFT Worship** experiences with our children & youth carrying their crosses to the altar, at our new **Grace Space** Ministry area for parents & their infants/toddlers. The Holy Spirit showed up with power in Meals-on-Wheels deliveries, at Palmetto Place & Children's Hospital meals, at Scout meetings, in Bible studies, in hospital rooms, in memory care units, in assisted living apartments... the list goes on!

The Holy Spirit showed up with power in bringing us **Mrs. Donna Taylor**, a faithful servant of the Lord, who heard about Living Springs at another church's Bible Study—and has arrived to be our **next bookkeeper!** The Holy Spirit showed up with power to bring us **Pastor Laura** to engage in a call process from God—which we can embrace through official vote at our important **congregation meeting on May 17.**

Here in May, the Holy Spirit will also show up with power in all those things listed in the red box above: Cristo Rey children's ministry, Rice Estate Supper, Mother's Day flower ministry, HS Graduate Quillowing, LS Summerfest—and countless ways that will surprise us through personal interactions and the ministry of Christ you share with others in your daily lives, as you bear witness to the ongoing life-giving joy of Easter every day.... **Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

With much love in the Risen Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit, *Pastor Eric*

Special Opportunities to Echo God's Voice

- CRISTO REY MINISTRY - May 3
- JR. YOUTH FAITH FORMATION - May 3
- CDC TEACHER APPRECIATION - May 4-8
- MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS - May 8
- RICE ESTATE SUPPER - May 9
- SUNDAY BACKPACKS - May 10
- MOTHER'S DAY PRAYERS - May 10
- HS GRADUATE QUILLOWS - May 17
- CDC FAMILY PICNIC - May 20
- LS SUMMERFEST - May 31

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- PALMETTO PLACE MEAL - 3rd Thurs
- CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL - 4th Thurs
- MEALS-ON-WHEELS - Mon & Tue
- NA RECOVERY GROUP - Mon & Thurs

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- JUSTICE MIN. CELEBRATION - June 1
- RAINFOREST VBS - June 1-4
- SR YOUTH MYSTERY MISSION - June 7-10
- SC SYNOD ASSEMBLY - June 11-13
- SUMMER HOPE SUNDAY #1 - June 14
- GRACEWORKS - June 28-July 2



"Living Our Faith" - Sundays, May 24, May 31, June 7 @ 9:20am

Join us for this 3-part series, as we ponder the gift of the Spirit in our lives; consider faith practices as disciples; look at stories from Acts of how the Spirit shaped life in the early community of believers to hear/engage/respond/echo God's voice in the wilderness spaces of life; and explore how the Spirit empowers us to do the same in living out our faith.

NE COMMUNITY SUMMERFEST

FREE Pizzal
(by Pizza for Pyros)

FREE Ice Cream!
(by Relaxin Heifer)

Fun for the Whole Family

SUNDAY, MAY 31ST
4:00—6:30 PM

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US IN EXPLORING THE NATURE OF GOD WITH A SUMMERFEST PARTY! WE KICKOFF THE SUMMER REFLECTING GOD'S LIGHT BY SHARING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS!

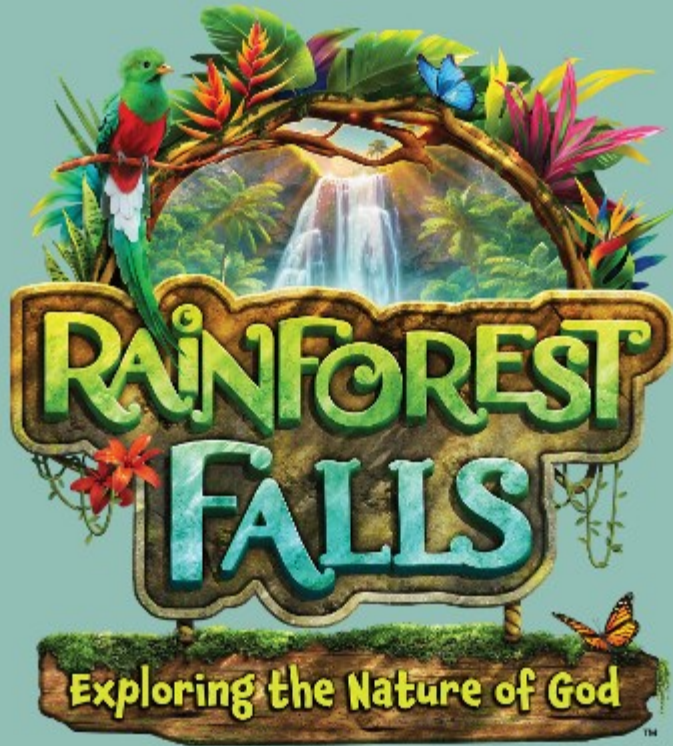


Waterslide/
Bouncy House

Music

Games & Activities

VBS Sign-Ups



June 1-4

8:30am-1pm

We're excited to spend a week learning more about God's creative and loving nature!

If you have questions, or would like to attend or volunteer, please see Pastor Laura or Becky Flynn.

Looking for helpers for VBS!

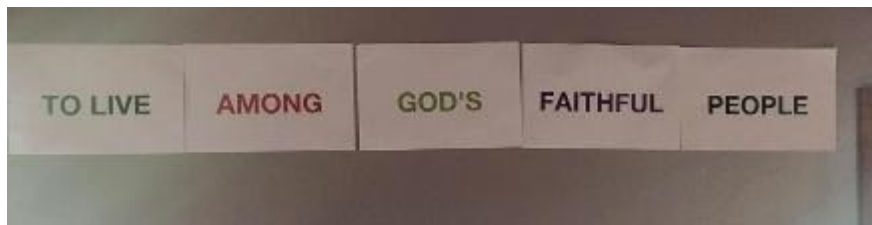
Sign up here:
bit.ly/4tc0fc3

Youth Ministry at Living Springs

- May 3 - Jr. Youth Faith Formation**
- May 6 - Sr. Youth Gathering (Guthries)**
- May 13 - Sr. Youth Gathering (Red Robin)**
- May 17 - Confirmation Class**
- May 31 - LS Summerfest Community Celebration**
- June 1 - 4 - Vacation Bible School**
- June 7-10 - Sr. Youth Mystery Mission Trip**
- June 28-July 2 GraceWorks**
- July 5 - 10 - Lutheridge Camp Week**



Notes from: *Jr. Youth*

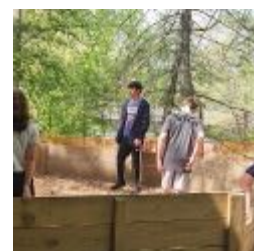
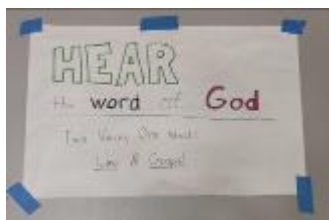


Faith Alive at Lutheridge: Built Together Like Living Stones

Confirmation youth Mallory Padgett, Gabriel Mason, and Noah Mason, along with chaperone Jan Berger, recently attended a Faith Alive retreat at Lutheridge — a special time set apart for faith formation, fellowship, and preparation for one of the most significant moments in a young Christian's life.



The retreat explored two promises the youth will make when they affirm their Baptism: To live among God's faithful people, and To hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper. These commitments call each of them into a lifelong relationship with Christ and His church — showing up, listening, and gathering at the Lord's table again and again throughout their lives.



A Stone by Stone Act of Faith

As a hands-on expression of their faith, the group built a cairn — a deliberately stacked pile of rocks that has been used for centuries by travelers, pilgrims, and communities as a marker or memorial. Cairns appear throughout Scripture as monuments of remembrance, built to mark holy moments where God showed up. The practice of stacking stones is both simple and profound: each stone intentionally placed upon another, creating something stable, visible, and lasting.

The group's cairn was inspired by 1 Peter 2:5 — "Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house..." — a beautiful reminder that each person of faith is like a stone, and together we are built into something far greater than any one of us alone. Before placing their stones, each participant wrote the names of people who have had special meaning in their spiritual lives — family members, friends, mentors, and fellow believers who helped shape their faith. Those names are now forever part of the cairn.



A Permanent Reminder at Lutheridge

The cairn has found a permanent home at Lutheridge, located at the left fork of the entrance, beside the speed limit sign on the left. It stands as a lasting witness to this group's faith — and an invitation for all who pass by to remember that we are each living stones, called to be built together in Christ.

We celebrate Mallory, Gabriel, Noah, and Jan, and look forward with joy to the day they affirm their Baptism!



Holy Communion Faith Milestone

On Sunday, April 19, Maggie Pittman, Nico Wirth, Whit McCraney, and Carolina Flynn celebrated their Holy Communion faith milestone! Over the past month, they, along with their families, learned about the sacrament, created their own chalices, and grew in their faith and understanding. We joined in celebrating with them and praying for them as they continued on their journeys of faith, learning more and more about God's abundant love and grace!



GRACE SPACE



(for parents/caregivers with your toddler/infant) - Located in the Admin. Bldg. Senior Youth room, this is a place for parents/ caregivers to care for their little ones while worshipping via livestream screen. While we believe it's important & joyful to worship together in the sanctuary, sometimes a little extra space is needed for infants and youngest toddlers. Changing stations are available in the adjacent bathrooms and the small kitchen is open to prepare bottles. You are welcome to use this space to worship and attend to the needs of your little ones—and return to the sanctuary when ready.

God's Corner



Thank you so much for your support and your donation of \$1,363.04. Because of your generosity, families in our community are receiving food, encouragement, and hope during difficult times.

Over the past year, CAB has distributed more than 178,009 pounds of food to those in need. At the same time, we are seeing a growing demand for services. More first-time clients are going through our doors and more households are struggling to keep up with utility bills, with many facing the possibility of shut-offs.

Thank you again for standing with us and making this work possible. Your generosity truly makes a difference.

With gratitude,
Kate Williams
Executive Director, Christian Assistance Bridge



Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace be with you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Being thankful for one another and for our relationship as church together is important right now. The very first thing we get to share is our faith in Jesus Christ. We give thanks for those with whom we share faith in Jesus Christ and the ways in which God is at work in our lives in these times. Second, we give thanks to God for your congregation and your 2025 Mission Support. Mission Support is undesignated money that your congregation gives without restriction to the work of the South Carolina Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). God is changing lives through your Mission Support dollars. Because of your generosity the SC Synod and the ELCA can respond to mission and ministry opportunities beyond the congregation for Synodical and Churchwide ministries of the ELCA. Your Mission Support to synod and churchwide helps provide and makes possible the education of pastors and deacons, youth ministry, campus ministry and numerous other ministries in the synod.

In Christ,	
Rev. Ozzie Herlong	Raymond L. Hendrix, Jr.
Director of Stewardship	Treasurer
ELCA Synod of South Carolina	ELCA Synod of South Carolina



Notes from: *Good News Team*

Beer & Hymns



Notes from: *Living Springs Child Development Center*

From Tammy Mancuso, Director

Hello and Happy Spring to everyone,

This time of year brings us sunnier days and warmer weather with more time outside where we are greeted with the subtle reminders that life is still awakening. As the underground warms and we begin to see the presence of life through sudden pops of color on the trees, scurrying animals tending to their young and the smell of fresh rain in the air.

We have been celebrating and embracing the Earth's Awakening with fun activities during NAEYC's Week of the Young Child and Earth Day.

We purchased new planters for both the new play area as well as the entrance area which have added a bright spot for families. One Grandmother stopped me after dropping off their granddaughter to express her joy in the new scenery. "It gives such a welcoming and calming feeling when we are walking and see such pretty things, it just makes be feel better."

During the Move-It Music Monday, children and staff had fun dancing and moving their bodies in fun and expressive ways.

Since this year marked the 100th anniversary of NAEYC, we celebrated by having a 100 things Tasty Tuesday Trail Mix; a combination of different shapes, sizes and colors of cereals and crackers, a simple way to express that even though there are differences, we can create something wonderful.

Work our Bodies Wednesday! We worked our bodies for 120 seconds, a quick reminder to treat our bodies well!

Togetherness Thursday was filled with a school wide planting party. We filled our new planters with dirt, planted our flowers and herbs and added worms to work the soil. Thank you to everyone for the donations of items, and time, it certainly made a difference. If you would like to weed or water at any time, please feel free to stop in, we would LOVE the help, and we would love to see you!

Friendship Friday was filled with fun as we decorated the chalkboard on the walkway down to CDC with the many handprints of children and staff, serving as a reminder that we are all part of what makes the world a beautiful place to be. If you have a moment, please stop by and check it out!



Wishing you well, Tammy



LS Child Development Center Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week at the CDC is coming up [May 4-8], and we'd love your help blessing our Child Development Center staff. We've put together a SignUpGenius with several ways to contribute. Many options can be done anytime during the week, and a couple have specific deliver-by dates so we can plan ahead. If you feel called to participate, please sign up for any slot that fits your schedule.

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0945A8A92BAAFE3-63655817-teacher>



Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

Mother's Day Worship

Sunday, May 10

Next Sunday, be sure to be present for worship as we offer special prayers and remember the mothers, grandmothers, and other women who have provided motherly care in our lives.

HS Graduate Quillowing

Sunday, May 17

Be sure to be present Sunday, May 17 for the always-moving HS Quillowing Milestone (and Legrand-Lowman Scholarship presentation). **We would like to thank Judy Lawrence for her hard work in this labor of love. If you can help next year, please see Judy.*

Notes from: *Hope Ministry*

BACKPACK Food Ministry

It's hard to believe we are at the end of the school year already! An eventful year - packing the bags involved many people by packing on two Sundays of the month (with Saturday set up including the Imberts and their grandsons and the Crafty Ladies), girl scouts took on one week of the month making it a learning experience for the girls, our two stuff a bus events where we got to know Richland 2 students that were so excited about helping at the stuff a bus, they were eager to participate in other events (i.e. the fish fry), our CDC continues to include the after-schoolers in packing on the first Monday of the month, and this year, Living Springs got recommended to a USC student that did a detailed project on the Backpack Program. God works in so many ways and if we can reach out to children in the wilderness who do not have the means to get food for their weekend meals, we've **RESPONDED** to God's voice with service & active love for our neighbors.

FAMILY PROMISE

"Our mission is to help families experiencing homelessness in their quest to achieve sustainable independence. While our guest families work toward that goal, congregations in the faith-based community provide them with temporary shelter and hospitality." Family Promise of the Midlands (FPM) partners with congregations in Columbia, individuals, families, other social service agencies, foundations, and businesses to provide shelter and solutions for families who have children and are facing a housing crisis. Our partner congregations assist in providing temporary housing solutions, meals, essential needs, and companionship. Living Springs is a partner congregation with Forest Lake Pres. (host), Francis Burns UMC, and Northminster Pres. June is our month to serve, so watch the next newsletter and e-news on how to engage with this activity.



RICE ESTATE DINNER

Saturday, May 9

The Living Springs Horse Derby will host Rice Estate residents, Harmony & Vitality members at 5:00 pm. The new bus will pick the residents up and bring them back for a fun-filled night of a delicious meal, horse racing activities, games and a treat to take back home with them. Let Gail Buchanan know if you would like to participate in this quarterly activity.



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

Thursday, May 7 at 10 am

We will be assembling the flowers in bud vases - anyone who would like to help with this project is welcome. The delivery to Rice Estate women will be on Friday, May 8 at 11 am - you can meet at Living Springs around 10:30 or meet us at Rice Estate (100 Finley Rd.). The staff will guide us around the rooms to deliver the flowers along with the cards you all signed the last couple of weeks. The CDC will help pass out the flowers also. What a joy to see faces light up when we hand the flower to them!

Another opportunity will be to help deliver flowers to our homebound and members at other facilities - this can be done any time after the flowers have been assembled - Thursday PM, Friday or Saturday. Contact Karen Kranz or Gail Buchanan if you would like to participate in any of the above.

We will have flowers for the men also in June - if you have any bud vases taking up space, we could use them.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Summer is coming up and a great opportunity to take on one day of the week to deliver meals on one of the routes. Living Springs does Route 221 (Fontaine Rd area) **on Monday and Tuesday**, but there is always a message asking for help on the other days also. Take your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbors and experience helping elderly get a nourishing meal. You can deliver from Millwood Ave. (this is where Living Springs picks up) or Spring Valley. See Mike Davidson for information.

PALMETTO PLACE/CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEALS

On the fourth Thursday of the month, we determine a menu and then deliver it around 4 pm to Samantha House where 4-8 young adults who have transitioned from the unaccompanied youth house are learning to budget and live on their own. Palmetto Place provides a room and will transport them to jobs until they can move out and provide for themselves. We prepare one meal a month - usually the menu includes a meat, starch, veggie or salad and a dessert.

Children's Hospital lunches are prepared and delivered by Travis & Melanie Mooney of Carolina Deli. I would suggest dropping in and giving them a "hi-5" for doing this on the third Thursday of the month. Our CDC children draw "Jesus Loves You" or cards that say "hope you get better soon" - I know the patients on the 5th floor going through chemo treatments will have a smile on their face when they open their lunch bag and find one of these cards in it. You can write an encouraging word too - leave it in the box on the counter in the workroom and we will see it gets to them.



BLESSING BAGS/SUMMERFEST

MAY 31

The Hope team is planning on assembling blessing bags that we have available to take (located in the big blue container as you enter the admin bldg.). We include a bottle of water, comb, small soap or body wash, shampoo/conditioner, granola bar - **if you would like to donate any of these items, put them in the container next to the big blue container.**

THANK YOU

This past month, Living Springs was able to purchase 23 needed clothing items for Keepin' It Real organization who provide meals and clothing items to the homeless, the 40x40 Lenten items were delivered to Christian Assistance Bridge, Keepin' It Real, our backpack program, and our blessing bag program. Thank you for **RESPONDING** with love for our neighbors.

Gamecock Lutheran Campus Ministry

We recently gathered together in worship at the USC Gamecock Lutheran Campus Ministry with these amazing students and to present a special gift. That gift, \$7,600, was raised through our Friday Fish Frys!

The Fish Frys were a true community effort, and a big part of their success was the enthusiastic help of USC students who came out on a couple of the evenings and took to the sidewalk to draw in the crowds. They joined Ena, sporting her iconic umbrella fishing hat, and Pastor Eric, decked out in his fishing hat and wielding a pole with a fake fish — waving and "reeling in" passersby to drive right in!

The USC Gamecock Lutheran Campus Ministry provides a vital community of faith for college students, offering worship, fellowship, and spiritual support during some of the most formative years of their lives. This gift went a long way in supporting that important mission.



Notes from: *Justice Ministry* Justice Ministry Matters!

More than 700 people participated in the Nehemiah Action on April 27th to answer God's call to "do Justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8) We listened to our neighbors who are affected by the lack of affordable housing and accessible food in Columbia and found out what MORE Justice is doing to address these problems.

The news was good!

- Will Brennan, Columbia City Councilor, District 3, highlighted how Columbia would not have mobile food markets for underserved neighborhoods if it were not for MORE Justice and the "people power" we bring!
- Don Weaver, Richland County Councilor, District 6, and newly elected Chair of Council, said that in May the County Council agenda includes a discussion of establishing and funding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund that MORE Justice has been seeking for years. Both Don Weaver and Paul Livingston (Richland County Councilor, District 4) gave a resounding "Yes!" when asked individually if they would support these measures!
- Rep. Carla Schuessler (SC House Representative from District 61) updated us on bills in the SC House (H 4270) and Senate (S 983) calling for eviction filings to be removed from public record after 5 years. With S.C. eviction rates more than double the national rate, this can make a significant difference in renters' access to housing. She reported that the House bill recently passed and that the Senate bill is up for vote next week. She noted that the push from our Justice ministries across the state (Columbia, Greenville, and Charleston) has made a difference in advancing the first housing bill to move out of a subcommittee hearing in SC in over a decade!
- The news also was good from our MORE Justice Monitoring Campaigns of Mental Health and Gun Violence Prevention. Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott and Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook reported on continued Crisis Intervention Training for officers. The Columbia Office of Violent Crime Prevention reported a 30% reduction across several types of gun violence incidents.

Justice Ministry matters!

Our work together at Living Springs makes a difference. Our partnership with 25 other congregations in the Midlands is shaping our community to look more like God's beloved community, a place of justice for everyone. Our partnership across the state with Justice ministries in Greenville and Charleston make a difference.

Let's celebrate! Join us for the Justice Celebration on Monday, June 1st at 6 pm at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church. Keep an eye out for Living Springs House Meetings early this fall.





Access the links below for:

- News article highlighting the Nehemiah Action Assembly and the work of MORE Justice, including quotes from one of our members, Wayne Kannaday [Faith community demands action on affordable housing crisis at MORE Justice assembly](#)
- SC House Bill 4270 passed the House, Tuesday, 4/28 (related to our statewide effort on affordable housing)!
- [Nehemiah Action Agenda Packet](#) with:
 - ⇒ Summaries of our work on issues impacting our community: Mental Health, Gun Violence, Affordable Housing at the state and local level and Food Insecurity
 - ⇒ QR codes with additional information along with ways we can engage to actively do justice!

Notes from: *Lifelong Discipleship*

Pastor Eric Monthly Bible Class



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](#)



- Week of May 3** Acts 3,4,5
- Week of May 10** Acts 6,7,8
- Week of May 17** Acts 9,11,12
- Week of May 24** Acts 13,14,15
- Week of May 31** Acts 16,17,18



Women's Bible Group

Monday, May 4 @ 7pm

We are continuing to gather online on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month! On May 4th, we will discuss the final episode of the first season of The Chosen and decide on our next study! Please see Pastor Laura if you have any questions.

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/rbc-cytq-grx>
Or dial: 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 Hoppert.

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 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!

Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

LS Ministries with Cristo Rey!

Sunday, May 3 @ 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.



I See God At Work...

Stronger Than the Storm: A Ministry in Scrubs

I walked into the dermatologist's office this week for a routine mole check, carrying more than just the physical weight of the day. I was wearing a shirt that read "Stronger than the Storm." It wasn't just a fashion choice; it was a prayer. Since my mother passed, I've been navigating the daunting, high-stakes paperwork of her estate—relying on a mix of God, Google, and a good lawyer to keep my head above water. I felt the storm, and I needed the reminder.

The appointment shifted quickly. When the doctor pointed to a suspicious spot and said, "He looks suspicious; let's cut him off and have him tested," my anxiety spiked. I immediately grabbed my favorite shield: humor. "I love that you're using male pronouns for this," I joked. "Let's definitely get him out of here."

While the room laughed, my nurse, Brittany, looked at me. Truly looked at me. "I see your shirt," she said quietly. "I see you. No matter what happens today, you are stronger than the storm."

As she prepped the site, Brittany didn't just perform a clinical task; she performed a witness. She shared how she meets patients exactly where they are—especially the ones paralyzed by the "not knowing." She told me about a patient so terrified of a bad diagnosis they could barely step through the door. Brittany sat with them, gently explaining that while the truth can be scary, it is the only path to the answers that make things better.

Then she said the words that stopped me cold: "I see this job as my ministry to God's people."

In a sterile room filled with the scent of rubbing alcohol and the sting of lidocaine, I found a sanctuary. Brittany reminds us that "faith in action" isn't always a sermon from a pulpit. Sometimes, it's a nurse holding a hand, calming a heart, and reminding a grieving daughter that she isn't weathering the storm alone.

I went in for a skin check, but I left with a soul check. I am profoundly grateful to be in her hands—and God's—in this beautiful, messy thing we call life.

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: *Women's Ministry*

Women's Bible Group

Monday, May 4 @ 7pm

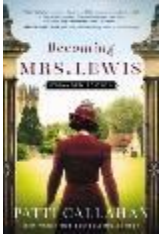
We are continuing to gather online on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month! On May 4th, we will discuss the final episode of the first season of The Chosen and decide on our next study! Please see Pastor Laura if you have any questions. [The study guide for The Chosen Season 1, Episode 8 is here.](#)

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/rbc-cytq-grx>

Or dial: 484-909-0335 PIN: 334 815 455#

LADIES BOOK CLUB

Monday, May 4 at 6 pm



We will be discussing *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* by Patti Callahan. We are meeting at Susan Ramsey's home, 18 Tavish Ct. in Elgin - ph: 734.355.0683. Please join us even if you haven't read the book - we enjoy fellowship and get to ECHO God's voice of unconditional love & grace for all!

Our next gathering will be at Jan Epperson's, 608 Cold Branch Dr (North Springs) on Monday, July 6 at 6 pm. We will be discussing *These Summer Storms* by Sarah MacLean.



The Crafty Ladies — Quilting 101

Saturday, June 13 @ 9:30 am

Are you curious about quilting? What to just get together with the ladies to get crafty? The Crafty Ladies are inviting anyone interested in learning this timeless craft to join us on **Saturday, June 13 at 9:30 AM!** We'll kick things off with a little history of quilting, then dive into the hands-on basics — including how to layer a quilt and essential quilting techniques. No experience necessary! Come ready to learn, create, and connect with fellow crafters. We'd love to see you there!



Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

On behalf of the South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your warm hospitality in hosting our 83rd annual Convention at Living Springs. Your willingness to open your doors and serve in so many ways made the gathering both meaningful and memorable for everyone who attended.

We are truly thankful for the time, effort and care that you and church members invested in preparing the facilities and ensuring that everything ran smoothly. Your kindness, generosity and spirit of service created an atmosphere that allowed fellowship and the spirits of light to flourish.

Please know how deeply we appreciate your partnership and support. It was a blessing to gather in such a welcoming environment, and we are thankful for the role Living Springs played in the success of the convention.

May God continue to bless you, your congregation and the work you are doing in the community.

With Sincere thanks and appreciation,

Tom Ramsey

Executive Director - South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission

Men's Breakfast

We will be back on schedule for May and plan to meet on the last Saturday, May 30th.

Midlands Conference meeting

The next Midlands Conference meeting will be held on Tuesday May 12th, at St. Andrews Lutheran Church beginning at 6:30. Sheriff Leon Lott will be the guest speaker and will be discussing youth violence.

Notes from: *Boy Scout Troop 737*



Boy Scout Troop 737 continues to shine as we celebrate TWO Eagle Scouts in the SAME Family! Matthew Bradshaw received his Eagle Scout Rank on March 10th, and Younger Brother Andrew received his Eagle Rank on April 14th! This now marks the 48th and the 49th Eagle Scout from Troop 737!! What a great Blessing to have such a great program that continues to teach Leadership Skills and Service to others! Troop 737 is very grateful to have Living Springs as our Sponsor and allows us

the opportunity to continue to give back to the church and community!! Thank You LSLC for your support of our Troop!!



Upcoming Opportunities at Living Springs

LUTHERAN/LS INFO SESSIONS

Today @ 9:20am

Plans are being made for our next Member Welcome Blessing to welcome persons into Christ's family of faith here at LS. Info sessions will be held on Sundays, April 26 & May 3 at 9:20 (between worship services). These informative sessions are not only for "new members," but for anyone who would like to know more about LS congregation and our faith as Lutheran Christians, including long-time or recent members who may just want a "refresher" or have questions. Please see Pastor Eric or call the office.

LS Outdoor Volunteer Work Morning!

Thursday, May 7, starting at 9am

Come out for as much time as you can at any point during the morning, to help with some outdoor cleaning and clearing! You can bring gloves, clippers, rakes, chainsaws - or just bring yourself with a heart for helping and joyful fellowship -- as we take care of a few needed areas here at the Lord's House. Contact Jim Zieche for any questions.

LS Child Protection Training Session: Several OPTIONS

For everyone who participates in any Living Springs ministry where youth or children might be present!

Sunday, May 10 @ 9:15
(between worship services)

Sunday, May 17 @ Noon
(after 2nd worship service)

Monday, May 18 @ 7pm
*(in fellowship hall, virtual also available -
meet.google.com/hkb-mswv-txc)*

Training needs to be renewed every other year (if you are not sure if it's time for your renewal, contact the office or see Pastor Eric). This training protects you & our children/youth - and most importantly, creates a safe haven for all of God's children. Includes **ALL PARENTS** and **any others who are present for Jr. Youth, Sr. Youth, Confirmation, GIFT Worship, etc.** -- plus **all teenage Sr. Youth and worship ushers** and **everyone helping with summer VBS, Graceworks, CDC, Scouts, etc.**

YOU'RE INVITED!

Hunter's Eagle Scout

COURT OF HONOR

Join us in celebrating Hunter's accomplishments! Ceremony held in the sanctuary with refreshments to follow in the fellowship hall.

MAY 3 • 3:00 PM

At Living Springs Lutheran Church
4224 Hard Scrabble Rd, Columbia, SC 29223

Call or text Raegan Prest to RSVP
704-961-2958

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!)

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 *See box above</p> <p>After each worship-Cong Q&A Time</p> <p>920A Membership/Inquirers Session</p> <p>12P Jr. Youth Faith Formation</p> <p>3P Hunter Priest—Eagle Court of Honor</p> <p>430P Girl Scouts</p> <p>5P Cristo Rey Ministry (carpool 41.5)</p>	<p>4 1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>330P Backpacks (LS-CDC)</p> <p>6P Ladies Book Club</p> <p>7P Recovery Comes First</p> <p>7P Boy Scout #737</p> <p>7P Women's Bible Group</p> <p>Pastor Eric Vacation Week - thru Saturday</p>	<p>5 1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>330P LSCDC Chapel</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>29 8P Called Council Meeting</p>	<p>30 230P LS Safety Task Force</p>	1	2
<p>10 Mother's Day</p> <p>*See box above</p> <p>After each worship-Cong. Q&A Time</p> <p>After each worship-Backpack Food Ministry</p> <p>920A Child Protection Training</p> <p>430P Girl Scouts</p>	<p>11 1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>1P LS Justice Team Leaders</p> <p>7P Fellowship & Mutual Care</p> <p>7P Boy Scout #737</p> <p>7P Recovery Comes First</p>	<p>12 1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>3P Finance Committee</p> <p>330P LSCDC Chapel</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p> <p>630P LMM Midlands Conf (St. Andrews)</p> <p>7P Handbells</p> <p>Administrator - Vacation Week thru Sunday</p>	<p>13 10A Preschool Bible Time</p> <p>1030A Pastor Bible Study</p> <p>12P "Limitless Light" Posted</p> <p>330P Afterschool Bible Time</p> <p>515P Disciples of Harmony</p> <p>6P Choir</p> <p>630P Sr. Youth (San Jose)</p> <p>7P Cong. Virtual Q&A Time</p>	<p>14 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits</p> <p>2P Safety Task Force</p> <p>630P Recovery Comes First</p> <p>630P LSCDC Board</p>	15	16
<p>17 *See box above</p> <p>**915A Called Congregation Meeting</p> <p>1030A HS Graduate Quilting</p> <p>12P Confirmation Class</p> <p>12P Child Protection Training</p> <p>430P Girl Scouts</p>	<p>18 1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6P Worship Team</p> <p>7P Child Protection Training</p> <p>7P Boy Scout #737</p> <p>7P Recovery Comes First</p> <p>7P Women's Bible Group</p> <p>730P Exec Team</p>	<p>19 1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>1145A Staff Lunch Mtg</p> <p>330P LSCDC Chapel</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p> <p>7P Handbells</p>	<p>20 10A Preschool Bible Time</p> <p>1030A Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>12P "Limitless Light" Posted</p> <p>315P Afterschool Bible Time</p> <p>4P CDC Family "picnic"</p> <p>515P Disciples of Harmony</p> <p>6P Choir</p>	<p>21 630P Recovery Comes First</p> <p>7P Council Meeting</p> <p>Children's Hospital Meal</p>	22 CDC Closed—Staff Workday	23
<p>24 Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>*See box above</p> <p>815 & 1030 PENTECOST WORSHIP (Camp Counselor Sending)</p> <p>920A "Faith & Life" Pastor Session — "Hearing/Engaging/Responding/Echoing God's Voice"</p> <p>430P Girl Scouts</p>	<p>25 Memorial Day (Office/CDC Closed)</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>7P Recovery Comes First</p>	<p>26 1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>330P LSCDC Chapel</p> <p>6P Facilities Team</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p> <p>7P Handbells</p>	<p>27 10A CDC Bible Time</p> <p>1030A Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>12P "Limitless Light" Posted</p> <p>515P Disciples of Harmony</p> <p>6P Choir</p>	<p>28 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits</p> <p>630P Recovery Comes First Celebration (FHall)</p> <p>Palmetto Place Meal</p>	29	30 8A Men's Breakfast
<p>31 Holy Trinity Sunday</p> <p>*See box above</p> <p>920A "Faith & Life" Pastor Session — "Hearing/Engaging/Responding/Echoing God's Voice"</p> <p>4-6:30P LS Summerfest & VBS Kickoff</p> <p>430P Girl Scouts</p>	<p>JUNE 1</p> <p>1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>7P Recovery Comes First</p> <p>6P Justice Min. Celebration (St. Martins)</p> <p>7P Boy Scout #737</p>	<p>2 1030A Meals on Wheels</p> <p>6P Adult Bible Study</p> <p>7P Handbells</p>	<p>3 1030A Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>12P "Limitless Light" Posted</p> <p>515P Disciples of Harmony</p> <p>6P Choir</p>	<p>4 630P Recovery Comes First</p> <p>7P Lifelong Discipleship</p>	5	6 Pre-Worship "Summer Hymn Sing" starts June 7 Sr. Youth Mystery Mission Trip: June 7-10 SC Synod Assembly, June 11
Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School, 6/1-6/4: 830A—1P						

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

May 4 Lindsey Pittman
May 6 Judy Lawrence
May 7 Bernadette Striggles
May 12 Peter Creighton
May 13 Charles Pollard

May 21 Lina Mooney
May 23 ♥ Eric & Kris Fink
 ♥ Eddie & Daisy Rivera
May 25 ♥ Steve & Kathryn Padgett



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!

May 1 Gay Walter
 Jim Zieche
May 2 Noah Mason
 Gabriel Mason
May 3 Caroline Berger
May 8 Kristen Mattson
 Karl Schmidt
May 10 Parker Thoma
May 14 Ruth Pollard
 Anna Kate Swanson
May 16 Maggie Pittman
May 17 Todd Gunvalson

May 20 Ron Ramsey
May 22 Bill Franck
May 23 Laura Swanson
May 26 Collin Flores



CHURCH STAFF

People of Living Springs - Ministers

Rev. Eric Fink – Senior Pastor

pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org

Tammy Mancuso- Dir. of Child Development Center

tmancuso@slccdc.org

Lisa Petty – Good News Coordinator

lisaoffice@livingspringscolumbia.org

Shirl Schiffman - Music Director

shirl@livingspringscolumbia.org

Laura & Mark Cunningham - Food Resource Persons

laurafood@livingspringscolumbia.org

Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

laurabells@livingspringscolumbia.org

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Debbie Zvejnieks - 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 Ministries

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 Requests