

The Living Springs Journal

**“CELEBRATE...SHARE...SERVE”
ACCORDING TO GOD’S WILL
September 2026**



Engage4 Learning, Meaning, Living, Belonging, PART TWO! (from Pastor Eric)

I never cease to be amazed at how the Spirit works with joy and inspiration among this community of disciples! Back in July, we first met to pray over what might be our 2026-27 Faith Formation Theme (within our ongoing ministry focus of *"Listen! God's Voice Calls...in Every Wilderness Space of Life!"*). I am never sure what the Spirit will reveal—but as always, I was inspired when the discussion among our ministry leaders led to **"Engage4... Learning, Meaning, Living, Belonging!"**

And oh, how we've already experienced that theme lived out during the past month! We found ourselves *engaged 4 learning/meaning/living/belonging* with so much joy:

- At Pastor Laura's amazing & inspirational installation service and fellowship!
- At Stuff-a-Bus with so much food & funds donated by community members for CAB pantry and our Backpack Food ministry!
- At Rally Day worship with the incredible sharing from our children, youth, and adults—and our Blessing of Bibles!
- At the outdoor blessing of our Campus Project & new Bus—and aerial photo!
- At Rally Day Scripture Bingo with shouts of Engage4 & the cong. fellowship lunch!
- At Rush Hour Ministry with smiles & holy words shared via 320+ blessing bags!
- At NE Beer & Hymns with joyful singing and conversations with community folks!
- At the Welcome Tent for our LS-CDC Families on the first day of school!
- At LS-CDC Sunday with incredible stories of hope shared by parents & staff!
- At the first 2 of our 4 Justice House Gatherings, with all the discipleship sharing and powerful conversations!
- At new Mah Jong & Card-Playing fellowship groups to offer support & care!
- At our first 2 Football Ministry meals with Scripture devotion cards we make & share with the 100+ players/staff each Thursday!

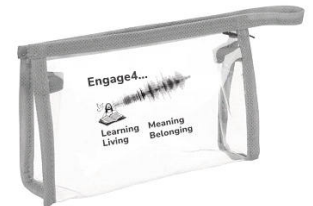
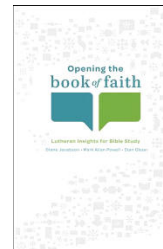
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SUNDAY, SEPT. 13: "God's Work. Our Hands!"

8:15 & 10:30—Bishop Wade Roof, Preaching
9:20—Seminararian Jace Presentation (Chile Mission)
11:45—GWOH Meal Packing & Delivery



+ + +
SUNDAY, SEPT. 20
9:20—Emotional-Mental Wellness
 + + +
SUNDAY, SEPT. 27
Lutheran Men's Sunday



"Opening the Book of Faith" - Lutheran Insights for Bible Study Tuesdays Online @ 7pm: Sept. 15, 22, 29

Together we bring our questions and learn more about who we "open the book of faith" and Lutheran insights for engaging the Scriptures. Books are available at nominal cost, if you would like a copy (but not required). Sign up here or at office: forms.gle/Y13YZh8DhnbMtUYTA

Engage4 Pastor Bible Q&A: 9/6 @ 9:20am; 9/30 @ 10:30am
Engage4 Bible Online Postings: Wednesdays @ Noon

From Pastor Laura....

As we move into Fall, I am so excited about all of the ways God has been at work in and through the community of Living Springs. Looking back at this past month, the installation service was such a time of joy and community. I am so grateful for everyone who planned, participated, and prayed for this service and call process. What a powerful time to feel the Spirit at work and wonder at all that God does and will do here at Living Springs! The joy of the installation was continued into such a meaningful rally day worship and time of fellowship. It is such a gift to engage in the Word together and to hear how God's Word (Jesus!) is at work in everyone.

Reading our weekly scripture stories and recording our Wednesday Bible videos, has been a really enriching time for me to reflect on the Engage4 theme. It's amazing how these texts, many of which are already so familiar, can hold even more meaning for us as we read them with our Engage4 theme in mind. I encourage everyone to find their own time, either by yourself or with family or others, to read these foundational stories and look for the ways they shape your learning, meaning, living and sense of belonging. God has blessed us with this faith formation theme this year and I look forward to all that is to come! God's peace, Pastor Laura



- At the Lutheran Campus Ministry BarBQ to support this ministry that touches so many young lives!
- At the Columbia airport with our buses & prayer bears & welcome banners to greet 2 Lutheran Services refugee families!
- At the church kitchen with folks preparing & sharing our CDC Bus Fundraising casseroles (thanks to everyone who responded)!
- At our Wednesday night Sr. Youth Gatherings—where our teenagers continually astound in the sharing of their faith and scriptural insights!
- At weekly CDC Chapel Times & Bible Times, renewed fall Bible Studies, at Jr. Youth gathering, Choir/Handbell/Ministry Team devotions, Mental Health First Aid class, Boy/Girl Scout gatherings, NA Recovery groups!

Now, as we move into September, it is equally exciting to anticipate how the Spirit will continue to take us deeper in this journey to engage God's Word and the Scriptures for learning/living/meaning/belonging!

I pray that in your homes (and with others at church) you are finding joy and meaning in exploring our **weekly 52 Bible stories** with suggested questions for dialogue & exploration—and maybe using your Bible highlighter (make sure to keep up with your Engage4 Scripture tool bag)!

I pray that you have found Pastor Laura's suggested **Bible Apps** to be useful in your daily/weekly—along with the Living Springs page feature.

I pray you are finding joy in the Sunday children's message focusing on our 52 stories—and all of re-learning the **66 Books of Holy Scripture**.

I pray you have been able to watch and share our new weekly **online Engage4 Scripture Postings**—they show up every Wednesday at noon, but you can view them anytime!

I pray you might find joy and meaning in our upcoming **"Opening the Book of Faith" Tuesday night online series** in September!

I pray you might find joy and meaning in either of our two monthly pastor **"Engage4" Scripture Q&A times** (Sept. 6 and Sept. 30)!

I pray you might find joy and meaning in any of our opportunities in the box at the right to engage, respond, and echo God's voice—perhaps through our monthly Cristo Rey Mission Partner visit, new fellowship groups, weekly fall Football ministry, backpack food packing, remaining Justice Ministry disciple house gatherings, or any other service/study/support/worship times!

Even beyond these opportunities, here in September, we have an incredibly special **"God's Work. Our Hands!" Sunday on Sept. 13**. After worship, we will be preparing, backing, and delivering 180+ old-fashioned meat loaf dinners for Keepin' It Real homeless ministry, Palmetto Youth, Children's Hospital, first responders, Meals-on-Wheels, and more. We are also very blessed to have our new SC Synod Bishop Wade Roof here at Living Springs to preach on GWOH Sunday! Come out to meet Bishop Wade (and join with him in helping pack some meals)! Bishop Wade once served as our Seminary student—and so it is very appropriate that on GWOH Sunday with Bishop here, we will welcome home our most recent Seminary Student, Seminarian Jace (and Julia), who have returned from their internship ministry year in Santiago, Chile. Jace will make a special presentation about his ministry in Santiago at 9:20 in the fellowship hall—don't miss it!

Yes, there are so many "wilderness spaces" in life—and over the generations, God's people have truly heard God's voice of love calling in all those spaces, inviting us to bring our burdens to a loving Jesus and find deeper connectedness with God & others. I pray that by engaging God's Word & the Holy Scriptures, we may indeed find joy in learning/living/meaning/belonging—in order to respond & echo God's voice of love for others every day!

As always, with much love & thanksgiving for God's always amazing work in you, *Pastor Eric*



Mark Your Calendars!

FOOTBALL MINISTRY - Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24
CRISTO REY CHILDREN MINISTRY - Sept. 6
BACKPACK FOOD BAGS - Sept. 6, 30
JR. YOUTH POOL PARTY (+Justice) - Sept. 13
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID - Sept. 17
JUSTICE HOUSE GATHERINGS - Sept. 20
BLESSING OF ANIMALS - Oct. 4
BUS CELEBRATION EVENT - Oct. 11
LS WOMEN'S RETREAT - Oct. 16-18

+ + +

PALMETTO PLACE MEAL - 3rd Thurs
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEAL - 4th Thurs
MEALS-ON-WHEELS - Mon & Tue
NA RECOVERY GROUP - Mon & Thurs
CARD-PLAYING FELLOWSHIP - Wed @ 1pm
MAH JONG FELLOWSHIP - next tba



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!**

++++

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!

Notes from: Living Springs Child Development Center

Hello and welcome to September!

August moved quickly, almost quietly, carrying us into the second month of school before we even realized it. And what a gift it has been to watch our children settle in — learning, exploring, and growing with joy that seems to spill out of them.

But beginnings are rarely simple. We forget, as adults, how overwhelming a new year can feel. New classrooms, new routines, new expectations — even familiar spaces can feel different when life shifts. Change has a way of stirring questions in our hearts: Do I fit? Am I ready? Will I belong?

Belonging is not just a desire; it is a God-woven need. We were created for connection, for community, for places that feel safe enough to exhale. And here at LSLC-CDC, that is the ministry we hold dear — to build a space where belonging is not just offered but lived.

When you walk through our doors, you are stepping into more than an early education setting. You are stepping into a place that welcomes you as you are, just as you have been created to be. A place that hopes to be a soft landing on a hard day. A place where a smile, a hug, or a kind word reminds you that you are seen, valued, and supported.

A place that whispers, even when life feels heavy: You belong here. Truly.

As you move forward through the month, know that you are held and loved as we wish you well,

Tammy

Child Development Center Sunday



Notes from: *Emotional - Mental Wellness*

LS Emotional-Mental Wellness Team invites you...

FREE ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CERTIFICATION

* join others for this wonderful 1-day opportunity *

Adult Mental Health First Aid Certification is a FREE, Virtual, those living in SC funded by Prisma Health, their SAMHSA and presented by their community educator, Robyn Ellison. You must live/work in South Carolina to attend.

All sessions are held virtually from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. You are also welcome to join fellow participants in person at the church to take the class together. We will take a lunch break at 11:30, and 10-minute breaks will be scheduled throughout the day. Upcoming options are: Sept. 17 or Oct. 8. You can come to church to take the class with other

Topics covered in this course are depression & mood disorders; anxiety disorders; psychosis; trauma; substance use disorders; and more. Mental Health First Aid teaches about recovery and resiliency – the belief that individuals experiencing these challenges can and do get better, and use their strengths to stay well.

After completion of this course you will receive a MHFA Manual, 3-year certification in Adult Mental Health First Aid, 7.5 hours professional development, CEs, etc. for attendance. Sign-up sheet is at the church, to indicate which day you would be interested. OR use our Living Springs QR code link on the right...



Living Springs Emotional/Mental Wellness Support Fund

For assistance, please see
Pastor Eric.

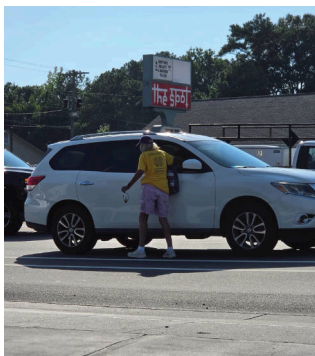


If you or someone you know
needs support now,
call or text 988
or
chat 988lifeline.org



Notes from: *Good News Team*

Rush Hour Ministry



Beer & Hymns



Notes from: *Fellowship & Mutual Care*

Wednesday Card-Playing Fellowship

Wednesdays at 1 pm

Looking for a fun way to enjoy fellowship and learn an easy new card game called "Hand & Foot"? We are looking to start a group to meet every Wednesday from 1:00–3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

Whether you're new to card games or already enjoy playing, everyone is welcome. Come laugh, learn, and spend time in Christian fellowship.

If you're interested, please sign up at the Welcome Table and let us know if you are interested. We look forward to seeing you there! Contact Susan Stewart, stewartsusankay57@gmail.com/231-349-0062 for more info.



New MahJong Fellowship Group



Watch for more
upcoming dates to play!



CRAFT NIGHT

Thursday, September 10 @ 6:30 pm

We're having our first craft night on September 10th, beginning at 6:30pm. The craft night will include making cards for the card ministry, a couple items for people to work on that will go into the Elf Store and felt Chrismons.

If you are ambitious and would like to try to make a beaded Chrismon, contact Laura Turnmire (803-361-1143) and she will get a kit together for you.

Notes from: *Hope Ministry* God's Work. Our Hands.

September 13

Desserts needed. Help pack or deliver meals.



God's Work. Our Hands. is an ELCA annual day of service usually designated to be the second Sunday in September. Living Springs has used this day to do a meatloaf dinner for the community. We pick several organizations - this year we are providing meals for Keepin' It Real, the 5th Floor of the Children's Hospital (cancer patients), Palmetto Place (both the unaccompanied youth house and the young adult house), our Meals on Wheels clients, and our local area first responders. We will assemble approximately 200 meals (looks like it could be more) that consist of homemade meatloaf, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans and a dessert that is either homemade or store bought. The meatloaf preparation will start about 8:30 am. While the meatloaf is cooking, we start preparing the potatoes and green beans and package the desserts. After the 10:30 worship, there is an assembly line to put the meal in takeout containers which will then have to be delivered to the various locations. The Keepin' It Real meals will be delivered Monday morning. The big ask from members is dessert items - we need at least 200 dessert items that will be boxed in 6x6 containers - cookies, cakes, pies, brownies - please nothing runny or gooey that will ooze out of the container and can be cut for individual servings. Look for the sign-up sheets to help in any of the different ways. See Karen Kranz for information.

Backpack Food Ministry

Thank you to all who volunteered to help at our stuff a bus event - on the actual day and the days after unloading the buses, sorting, putting it away, delivering to CAB. God's voice of Love is calling you -- our theme Engage4 is captured in this event. One of the students I was talking to when Pastor Eric showed up & Engaged a little conversation with him - the boy's comment after PE left was 'I never talked to a pastor before'. That sort of took me by surprise, but I didn't question him about it. This same student at first was getting very nervous about asking people to donate and I could see he was uncomfortable with handing out flyers - "I never did this before"; so we talked about his career goal, what school he attended, etc. and I asked him if he would rather load the bus as food items came out. That did it! At the end of the four-hour day, he was excited about doing the event again and asking about coming to Rally Day to help. I'm sure this student had a sense of Belonging after it was all done.

The shelves are full, but now is a good time to start purchasing one or two items each week to keep replenishing our inventory. It goes fast with 80 bags packed each week - you figure we go through 160 applesauce cups each week! We use non-perishable food items in individual packaging. If you need more information about the program, see Karen Kranz.

Christian Assistance Bridge was excited to receive their items also - there was a crew of students waiting to help us unload and I could see from their shelves, they are needing support on items for their clients. It's good to know if a Living Springs family is in need of help, they can get personal support from CAB because of our partnership with them.

The backpack schedule is set for the first half of the year - the bags will be packed on the first and fourth Sunday after both worship services. If you know of any students looking for community hours, we set the tables up with the food items on Saturday morning at 10:30 am (it takes about an hour) and another opportunity would be to help on the Monday the CDC packs. The Child Development Center is doing the third week and Girl Scouts are doing the second week of the month.

Stuff-a-Bus



Deliver to CAB



LS Hope Sunday #3

Senior Resources & Christian Assistance Bridge

We had Danielle from Senior Resources and Kate from Christian Assistance Bridge speaking for their organizations. Click the video above to watch the presentation. Senior Resources recently had to let go of 104 senior clients because of cut-backs and the rising cost of meals. Christian Assistance Bridge continues to help clients with food and other support - we are now going into the third year of our partnership to help with that support - thank you to everyone who joined us on August 9.



CAMPUS MINISTRY

The BBQ event on August 15 was well-attended and Living Springs had a good representation. This ministry is supported by our Lenten fish fry but another opportunity is to supply a Sunday meal for the students. The Hope Ministry team has signed up for a date in January, the Senior Youth has a date, so if you would like to sign up for a night: Gamecock Lutheran: Gamecock Lutheran Sunday Meals 2026-2027. The meal is served at 6:30, but you are invited to come to their worship at 5:30 pm.



Rice Estate Dinner

Saturday, October 10

The date is Saturday, October 10 starting at 3 pm. At 3 pm, we start decorating and setting up for the arrival of Rice Estate residents and a few church members that are at other facilities. The Oktoberfest menu has been established, and the volunteers lined up to prepare and help serve the meal. Gail Buchanan is the leader of this event, so if you want to participate in this enjoyable activity, contact her. The residents have such a good time and are always asking when the next event is.

ORGANIZATION FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Senior Resources: Biscuits & Bluegrass on Saturday, October, 17 from 10 am to 1 pm at Hunter-Gatherer Brewery

Family Promise Gala: April 23, 2027

Palmetto Place: Hero Hustle 5K run/walk on September 19 at 8:30 am - All Good Books, 734 Harden St.

Notes from: *Justice Ministry*

Fall House Gatherings – September 2026

The Living Springs annual fall House Gatherings began in August and will continue into September. Every year we look forward to this opportunity to get to know each other better and talk about our faith and ministry.

At this year's House Gatherings, we will continue to build on our bigger Living Springs ministry focus: "Listening for God's voice of love calling you in all the life's wilderness spaces – to bring our burdens to Jesus & find comfort in deeper connectedness with God and others." A major part of our House Gatherings is Justice Ministry, which is a core part of the work that we do together.

Similar justice house gatherings are happening in over 25 congregations across the Midlands this month. Hundreds of people of faith will share their stories and their input as we seek God's call this year in choosing which community problem to tackle together. In past years we have worked on issues of affordable housing, neighborhood gun violence, food security, and mental health care. All of the people of Living Springs are invited to participate in a House Gathering and share their input on making Columbia a better place for everyone.

Upcoming September House Gatherings:

- September 17, 6:30 pm – Senior Youth (Fellowship Hall)
- September 20, 4 pm – Gail Buchanan, 803-727-4311
- September 20, 4 pm – Mike Davidson 803-609-9162 & Gwen Furcron 216-659-5754 & Mia Rapport 803-609-4474

We hope that everyone will take the opportunity to participate in a House Gathering. The concerns raised will be taken to our partner congregations in October, where we will compile everyone's concerns and vote on what we will prioritize this year. We pray that the Spirit will be with us in our conversations and in our deliberations as we listen for God's call!



Notes from: *Men's Ministry*

LS FOOTBALL DEVOTION MINISTRY

Every Thursday thru October 29

We can use at least 4-5 helpers for each pre-game meal, usually around 3-4pm (but time varies depending on home/away game, etc.). Exact time will be posted in each week's enews. Go ahead and check your calendars to see which Thursdays you could help serve food and/or help with meal prep. For each meal, we also need 100-110 pre-packaged cookies. You can bring to church by the morning of game day (or sign-up to make a monetary donation and we will buy cookies for you.) Sign up sheet will be in the admin hallway and Sunday welcome table - or you can contact Bob Turnmire or call the office. *As always, we can use a Thrivent Card for each date, so if you are a Thrivent member, remember you have access to two \$250 community care cards every year. Please let Karen Kranz know, as she is our LS Thrivent card coordinator. Please keep this life-impacting ministry in your prayers - the time we spend fostering relationships with these young men makes a huge difference in breaking down barriers, shaping hearts, and reinforcing the genuineness of our weekly devotional messages!!!! Even if you have to get off work early one Thursday, we encourage everyone to share in this experience at least 1 week during the season. Thanks so much for your witness, men/women are welcome!

Upcoming events for LS Lutheran Men

Bibles and Biscuits - 9/10 and 9/17

Midlands Conference meeting - Tuesday 9/15 @ 6:00 pm

St Michael's Lutheran Church by the dam

400 River Rd

Columbia, SC 29212

Guest speaker - Irena Roof (wife of Bishop-elect Wade Roof)

Monthly breakfast meeting at Living Springs - 9/26

LMM Sunday - 9/27

Men of Living Springs will participate and share for both services.

Contact Bob Turnmire or Steve Bloss to see how you can help.

SCLMM Beach weekend @ Isle of Palms - 10/2-4

Notes from: *Women's Ministry*

2026 WOMEN'S RETREAT: FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE: BORN FOR THIS October 16-18, 2026



(Saturday only option available!)

*For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well
Psalm 139:13-14 NRSVUE*

☀️ **Save the Date!** ☀️ Join us for the **2026 Women's Retreat: Fearfully & Wonderfully Made: Born for this**
— a spirit-filled weekend you won't want to miss!

💎 **What to Expect:**

- **Inspiring messages** from three amazing women
- **Fun and fellowship**, including birthday themed projects and events
- A meaningful walk through the of the Stations of the Cross

It's going to be a truly special time of reflection, celebration, and connection. We hope you'll be part of it!

Cost: \$170 for two nights (shared room), includes breakfast on Saturday & Sunday, lunch & dinner on Saturday and supplies.

Saturday only options: \$30 lunch only; \$45 lunch & dinner

Go to Realm Connect to register or look for a signup at the Welcome Table or lobby. You may pay through Givelify or include with your Sunday offerings, indicate for "women's retreat"

For questions, feel free to reach out to Lisa Petty, Jan Berger, or Karen Kranz.

LADIES BOOK CLUB

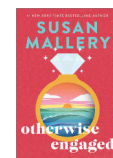
Monday, September 7 @ 6 pm



Our read is *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

We will meet and discuss the book at Peggy Merrill's, 110 Clay Ridge Rd (off North Springs) on Monday, September 7 at 6 pm. Peggy's phone: 803.727.2640. There will be refreshments, so consider joining us for fellowship. This is not specifically for Living Springs members - all are welcome, we hope to see some new faces.

For our next meeting we will be switching to Sunday afternoon because of the time change. Sunday, November 1 at 2 pm - our read is *Otherwise Engaged* by Susan Mallery.



Notes from: *Mission Partnership Team*

LS Ministries with Cristo Rey!

Today @ 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: *Lifelong Discipleship*



ADULT FAITH FORMATION....

something for everyone!

The Holy Scriptures can seem overwhelming when looking at the size of scope of the 66 books of the Bible. We hope to help make the Bible inquiry non-threatening and fun.

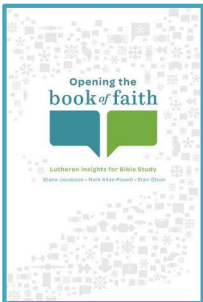
There's more than one way to learn more about the Bible. So, it's a good thing that we have various approaches to engage adults with Scripture. Try one...or more to see how the Bible speaks to you. [Click here to get the information sheet that lists all of these options:](#)

Did you miss Rally Day?

Clear Engage4 bags were handed out. You are welcome to use them to hold bible study material, or whatever you need. Items to go with the bag included: August & September's Scripture Readings, highlighters, and bookmarks listing all the books of the bible. There are still some available. Stop by the office or look for a basket with them on Sunday.



"Opening the Book of Faith" – Lutheran Insights for Bible Study



Tuesdays in September (9/15, 9/22, 9/29)

Together we will bring our questions and learn more about who we "open the book of faith" and Lutheran insights for engaging the Scriptures. Books are available at nominal costs if you would like your own copy (but not required).

Please sign up here: forms.gle/Y13YZh8DhnbMtUYTA to indicate your interest so we can order a book for you. Online Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.

Adult Mission Trip

November 13-16

You have heard our Youth tell about their great Mystery Tours with serving, fellowship, worship and sharing. Where will we go? We have several options from the last two youth trips: Knoxville, TN and Cherokee, NC, or Virginia. Serving in meaningful ways, sharing in reflection and worship, with some fun outdoor activities included. Lodging will be in hotels. [Please sign up here to indicate interest.](#)



Sunday Adult Bible Class

Meets in the Fellowship Hall and Online at 9:20

Gathering in person Sunday mornings at 9:25 to explore the lectionary readings for worship that day and consider what is God saying to us in the readings. Can't be there, then join via Google Meet: meet.google.com/son-mbei-trj Or dial: 1 347-941-1164 PIN: 787 946 867#

Women's Bible Group

Women having a great time journeying through Season 3 of The Chosen! It has been amazing to see scripture brought to life in a new and powerful way. Watching the characters' moments of struggle, courage, and faith has been so moving! The group is now meeting ONLINE only for our study discussions and are planning to gather every so often for dinner together! September 7 we will gather online at 7pm to discuss Season 3. Study guides for each episode are available. If you have questions or would like to join, please let Pastor Laura know

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

Meets on Tuesdays at 6pm

A traditional Bible study with study notes provided ahead of each session. 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#

Bibles & Biscuits Men's Bible Study

2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7am

Men gather at 7AM on 2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 7am. We use the Lutheran Men's Bible and pursue questions and observations about how scripture relates to men's lives. Interested? Just show up for biscuits, coffee, study and fellowship. Spread the word.

Ladies Bible Study

Wednesdays in the Katie Room

Resumes 9/9. We are using the study *Fierce* by Jennifer Cowart about women of the bible who changed the world

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

Adult Faith Milestones

Lutherans Living Our Faith

Deitch Bonhoffer and Civic Engagement

Pastor Eric and others share perspectives on how Christian living connects with the secular world in which we live..."In the world, but not of the world"...coming later this fall at 9:25 on Sunday mornings for 3 weeks.

LS 2026-27 "Engage4" Scripture Stores for August & September

Week of Aug. 23 - Creation: Genesis 1:1—2:4

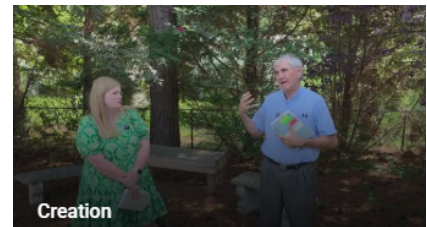
Week of Aug. 30 - Garden of Eden: Genesis 2:4—4:16

Week of Sept. 6 - Noah & Flood: Genesis 6:1—9:17

Week of Sept. 13 - Abraham/Sarah: Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-18:15

Week of Sept. 20 - Isaac/Rebekah/Leah: Genesis 24:1-67

Week of Sept. 27 - Jacob/Esau: Genesis 25:19-34; 27, 32, 33



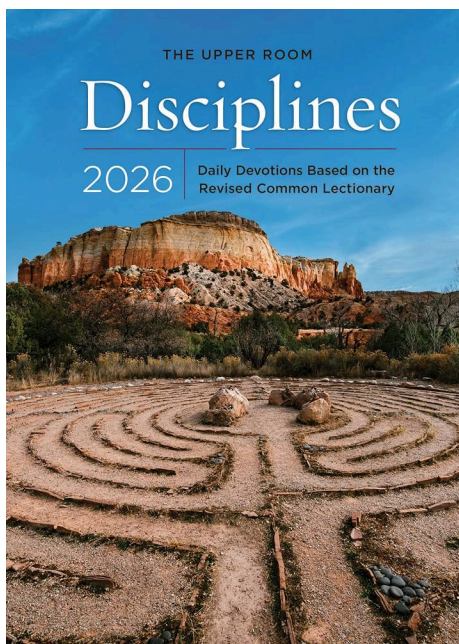
For reflection/dialogue to engage each story:

- What *LEARNING* do you take away from this story (about God, self, humanity, world)?
- What *MEANING* does this story give for you amid the wilderness spaces of life?
- What insight does the story provide for *LIVING* out your daily life as a person of faith?
- How might this story increase your sense of *BELONGING* with God and others?

Each Wednesday, we'll share a Bible story from our "Engage4" Scripture Stories, followed by discussion with our pastors and congregation readers. You can watch the reading and discussion live on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Catch all stories here in our [YouTube "Engage4" Playlist/Podcast](#)



💡 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!



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!

The book is still available at Amazon and several other book outlets!

Bible App Recommendations

YouVersion Bible App

- Download your preferred Bible translation(s) for easy use. *NRSVUE is the one we use in worship.*
- Add Living Springs as your church on the app and get posts from LS about weekly readings!
- Access many free Bible reading plans.



Download the App



Bible App Recommendations

BibleGateway App

- Download your preferred Bible translation(s) for easy use. *NRSVUE is the one we use in worship.*
- Access a few reading plans, including a daily lectionary.
- Also easily accessible on a desktop computer



Download the App



Notes from: *Worship & Music Ministry*

Blue Bloods is a TV show about a family with many members (Tom Selleck, etc.) in law enforcement. Multiple plotlines unfold in each episode, but the heart of the series is when the Reagan family comes together each week for Sunday dinner. Those not-to-be-missed meals bind them together in love as they tackle challenging lives.

We too gather weekly to share a meal. We remember our baptism and receive forgiveness together, sing hymns of praise, hear the Word read and proclaimed, confess our faith and pray together, and receive Holy Communion. Then, built up as a family, we go out to share Christ's unconditional love and grace. A lot happens in our worship services, all knit together by the liturgy, but here are just a few things that stand out in my mind during August . . .

- The Disciples of Harmony singing: "Where do I go when there's no one else to turn to? Who do I talk to when nobody wants to listen? Who do I lean on when there's no foundation stable? I go to the rock of my salvation, I go to the Rock!"
- The beautiful long line of our students (pre-school -- university) and educators for the School Bag Blessing ...and Pastor Eric taking time to include some kids Lauren saw outside racing for the sanctuary.



- Powerful Rally Day testimonies of our youth, parents and others describing how they see God at work in their lives and families.
- The meaningful sermons of both our pastors who make the Word of God come alive for us every week.
- The beautiful movement of God's people coming forward to receive communion.
- The beautiful sound of our congregation singing and praying to the Head of our family who, though unseen, is present through the Spirit in each weekly gathering (Ps. 22:3).

Every worship service is to be savored. No one is a spectator. All are welcome and all are essential, cherished participants. I'm so glad to be a part of our family with you, my brothers and sisters, as we continue to engage and enjoy!

Shirl Schiffman



College Blessing



Pastor Laura Installation



JuBELLation

JuBELLation is back at practicing on Tuesdays from 7pm-8pm in the bell room. We have several open spaces (1 bass section and 1 highest treble). Both of these positions are excellent for new ringers, as they do not play constantly. We welcome high schoolers to the choir. If you are interested, come check us out. We would love to have you there!

Please let Laura Turnmire know if you have any questions.

The choir has decided to attend Lutheridge Handbell Retreat, February 19th - 21st. We will take a bus up. The price for the weekend is \$325 (Tier 1 pricing). This includes the 2 workshop, meals and lodging. Clinicians have not been announced, but Lutheridge has excellent clinicians attend.



Bishop Wade Visiting LS on 9/13

Preaching at 8:15 & 10:30

Be sure to join us in person or online for worship on Sunday, September 13th, as Bishop Wade preaches for our special God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday!

You can read the message he recently sent out here: [Walking Together into God's Future: A Message from Bishop Wade Roof](#)

Jace & Julia Martinez to Visit LS

Sunday, Sept. 13 @ 9:20

Seminarian Jace Martinez and his wife Julia have returned from Chile and will be joining us on Sunday, September 13th. They will be sharing their journey with us during the 9:20 hour.



Notes from: *Youth Ministry*



Youth Ministry at Living Springs

September 9 - Sr. Youth Gathering (Zaxby's)

September 13 - God's Work. Our Hands.

September 13 - Confirmation Class

September 13 - Jr. Youth Pool Party (Flynn's)

September 16 - Sr. Youth Gathering (LSLC)

September 23 - Sr. Youth Gathering (Taco Bell)



Grace Space

Available during the
10:30am Worship Service

(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 At Work

Rally Day 2026



God's Corner



Dear Living Springs,

Thank you so much for granting me the opportunity to receive the scholarship fund. I deeply appreciate you helping me through my college.

With love - Lina Mooney

I See God At Work...

Dunk Tanks & Divine Trust

Yesterday, I surprised my husband at his workplace charity event, where he and other executive leaders were sitting in a dunk tank to raise money. With the heat index pushing 106 degrees, they were constantly dumping ice into the water to keep the "bosses" cool—while direct reports lined up to take their best shot. Knowing my own lack of hand-eye coordination, I bypassed the throwing line, paid a little extra, and walked right up to press the bullseye myself! Down he went with a massive splash that drenched me too. We both ended up soaked, laughing, and thoroughly cooled off.

Afterward, my husband said something that really struck me: "I don't mind getting wet; it's actually refreshing. What gets me is the anticipation of waiting to see if this throw will be the one to take me down." That hit home. I realized that recently I've felt a bit like I'm sitting in that dunk tank lately—tense, bracing, and wondering when the next "ball" will hit the target.

I'm realizing that the balls thrown at the target are just life happening—they will fly, and sometimes I'll hit the water. The real shift is reframing the plunge. It's not about bracing for the fall; it's about trusting myself, trusting God, and knowing that falling in can sometimes be refreshing, because I will get back up every single time.

Where in your life are you holding your breath in the dunk tank right now, and what would it look like to trust the plunge instead of dreading the splash?

Floating in the Current: Group Wisdom and Solo Faith

Recently, close friends invited us on an afternoon adventure floating down the Saluda River in Lexington, SC. It was absolutely glorious!

Our friends came prepared with all the gear and guidance, while we brought the water, ice, and snacks. We started out linked together, creating a circle of tubes around the cooler. Facing each other made space for hilarious conversations, deep laughter, and storytelling as the river carried us along.

Before long, we heard the rumble of upcoming rapids. Anticipation built as we listened to groups ahead of us squealing with excitement. When our turn came, the frigid water splashed over our group—and we released our own chorus of squeals! It was pure joy shared in community.

Shortly after, our friends advised that the next set of rapids would be best taken solo rather than linked up.

Unhooking from the group shifted my entire perspective. Suddenly, the experience became deeply reflective:

Where will I float?

Who is in control—and do I actually want to be?

Do I dare drift toward the side with bigger rocks and drops?

What happens if I step back and simply let God's current carry me wherever it leads?

Stepping into that trust felt invigorating and freeing. I reconnected with my inner child, spinning my tube in circles, leaning back to take in the beauty of creation—towering trees along the banks, turtles basking on logs, and even a muskrat swimming nearby. I was completely present with God.

Yet after a while, I found myself longing to link back up with our friends—those who had the map, the wisdom, and new what lay around the next bend.

Reflecting on the afternoon, I realized both experiences hold profound spiritual value. Floating solo allowed for quiet trust, surrender, and personal encounter with the Creator. Floating linked up brought safety, collective wisdom, shared joy, and community strength.

Neither was better than the other; rather, both are vital paths within God's constant, faithful current. Some seasons of life call us to trust God in the quiet, independent spaces, while others require us to lean heavily into the wisdom and companionship of community.

Scripture to Ponder: *"For in him we live and move and have our being."* — Acts 17:28

A God Moment in Aisle 8: Generosity Multiplied

I wanted to share a quick story of how God works in the ordinary moments of our weekly routines when we step out in faith and love.

This week, my son's school is participating in a friendly food drive competition to collect canned goods, pasta, fruit cups, and granola bars for our local neighbors in need. As I pushed a shopping cart overflowing with food toward the registers at Kroger, a fellow sister in Christ stopped to ask if I was hosting a big party.

I smiled and explained that it was for a school food drive. She asked what the kids win, and I replied, "Bragging rights and a scoop of ice cream!" She chuckled and pointed out that for the cost of all those cans, I could just buy him a whole gallon of ice cream myself.

I told her, "Yes, absolutely! But this is about so much more—it's an opportunity to feed hungry families right here in our community, teach my child about giving to others just as others have given to us, and he gets ice cream!"

She smiled warmly and said, "Well, those are wins all the way around!"

Then, right there in Aisle 8, she handed me \$40 and asked if I would go back and buy more food on her behalf so she could give back, too. The cashier and the customer behind her both watched this beautiful exchange unfold.

2 Corinthians 9:7 reminds us that "God loves a cheerful giver." When we simply act in love and look out for our neighbors, God takes our small acts of obedience and multiplies them in ways we never expect. May God continue to multiply love in all our hearts this week!

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!

MAIN SUNDAY SCHEDULE 1030A WORSHIP (Sanctuary/Online/Parking Lot)
 815A WORSHIP (Sanctuary) - Includes Children's GIFT Faith Experiences
 920A Adult Faith Formation (Growing in Faith Together!)

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ENGAGE4 Bible Story This Week: Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:4-4:16) 6 *See box above After each worship-Backpack Food Ministry 8:05 & 10:20 Summer Favorite Hymn-Sings 920A Pastor Bible Class 5P Cristo Rey (meet at 4:15) ENGAGE4 Bible Story This Week: Noah & Flood (Genesis 6:1-9:17) 13 *See box above God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 Bishop Wade Preaching 920A Seminarian Jace Presentation 1145A GWOH Meal Packing/Delivery 12P Confirmation Class 230P Girl Scouts/Backpack Food Ministry 3P Jr. Youth Pool Party (Justice Gathering)	7 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P Women's Book Club (Merrill) 7P Women's Bible Group 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout #737 14 1030A Meals on Wheels 6P E-M Wellness TF 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Fellowship & Mutual Care 7P Boy Scout #737 8P Exec Team	8 1030A Meals on Wheels 2P Finance Committee 330P CDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells 15 1030A Meals on Wheels 2P Safety TF 330P CDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 6P SCLMM Midlands Conf. Meeting (St. Michael's) 7P Handbells 7P "Opening the Book of Faith" (Online)	9 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A Ladies Bible Study 12P "Engage4" Posted 1P Card Playing Group 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 630P Sr. Youth (Zaxbys) 16 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A Ladies Bible Study 12P "Limitless Light" Posted 1P Card Playing Group 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 630P Sr. Youth Justice (LSLC)	10 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 11A Good News Team TBA Football Ministry 630P Craft Night 630P Recovery Comes First 630P LSCDC Board 730P Lifelong Discipleship 17 9A Mental Health First Aid TBA Football Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Council Meeting Children's Hospital Meal	11 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits 11A Good News Team TBA Football Ministry 630P Craft Night 630P Recovery Comes First 630P LSCDC Board 730P Lifelong Discipleship 18 9A Mental Health First Aid TBA Football Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Council Meeting Children's Hospital Meal	12 930A Crafty Ladies
ENGAGE4 Bible Story: Abraham & Sarah (Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-18:15) *See box above 920A Emotional Mental Wellness Program 12P Confirmation Class 4P Justice Min. House Gathering (Davidson) 4P Justice Min. House Gathering (Buchanan) ENGAGE4 Bible Story: Isaac/Rebekah/Leah (Genesis 24:1-67)	20 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P Backpack Food Ministry (LS Afterschool) 7P Women's Bible Group 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout #737	22 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P CDC Chapel 6P Facilities Team 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells 7P "Opening the Book of Faith" (Online)	23 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A Ladies Bible Study 12P "Engage4" Posted 1P Card Playing Group 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 630P Sr. Youth (Taco Bell)	24 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits TBA Football Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First Celebration (FHall) Palmetto Place Meal	25 7A Men's Bible & Biscuits TBA Football Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First Celebration (FHall) Palmetto Place Meal	26 8A Men's Breakfast 930A Crafty Ladies
ENGAGE4 Bible Story: Jacob/Esau (Genesis 25:19-34; ch. 27, 32, 33)	28 1030A Meals on Wheels 630P Worship/Music Team 7P Recovery Comes First 7P Boy Scout #737	29 1030A Meals on Wheels 330P CDC Chapel 6P Adult Bible Study 7P Handbells 7P "Opening the Book of Faith" (Online)	30 10A Preschool Bible Time 1030A Pastor Bible Study 12P "Engage4" Posted 1P Card Playing Group 330P Afterschool Bible Time 515P Disciples of Harmony 6P Choir 630P Sr. Youth (LSLC)	1 TBA Football Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Lifelong Discipleship	2 TBA Football Ministry 630P Recovery Comes First 7P Lifelong Discipleship	3 SC Lutheran Men in Mission Beach Weekend 10/2-10/4 @ Isle of Palms

Birthdays, Wedding and Baptismal Anniversaries

September 1	♥ Gary & Susan Bradham	September 17	London Olszyk
September 3	♥ Bob & Laura Turnmire	September 18	Collin Flores
September 4	Steve Bloss		Nancy Franck
	Peg Fox	♥	Bill & Nancy Franck
September 6	Karlene Stuart	September 23	Scott Graves
September 7	♥ Steve & Elouise Niemeyer		Midge Gunvalson
September 8	Tom McLean		Cathy Loman
September 10	Anne Ducate	September 24	Susan McLean
September 11	Hunter Prest	September 28	Logan Smith
September 12	Helen Doerpinghaus		
	Bob Turnmire		



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 printed the names of who are celebrating a baptismal anniversary ***in that week***. When gathering music begins, individuals come forward to Pastor Eric at the baptismal fountain. There, he will re-trace the cross with the water on your forehead and 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!

September 3	Josh Holmstrom
September 7	Bob Gabbard
	Ed Brennan
September 15	Meredith McKenzie
September 18	Vickie Crapps
September 24	Mike Davidson
September 25	Susan Bradham
	Gail Buchanan
September 29	Ginny Devereaux



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Shirl Schiffman - Music Director

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Laura Turnmire – Handbell Choir Director

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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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Mia Rapport - Vice-President

Becky Flynn - Secretary

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Prayer Requests