



LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



Special Points of Interest:

- ✝ Christmas
- ✝ St. Nicholas Service
- ✝ Progressive Dinner
- ✝ Single Service the weekend after Christmas @ 10AM on Sunday Dec 27th.
- ✝ Children’s Christmas Play

Reason for the Season

How in the world could you talk about December without mentioning Christmas? I'm not sure you can. To borrow a phrase from our Baptist brothers and sisters, "Jesus is the reason for the season!" It is only slightly ironic to me that as I write this, (it is still before Thanksgiving)

I've already received some rather in your face emails that tend to bash those who for one reason or another choose to say "Seasons Greetings," or "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas."

Wait isn't this the Peace on Earth, goodwill to all season? But this letter isn't intended to "preach" it is intended to help the reader, "prepare the way of the Lord!" Part of that is remembering Christmases past.

What was your all time best Christmas ever? Maybe it was the first Christmas with your very own children who were finally old enough to "get it." Maybe it was celebrating Christmas far far away? The list of places where my family has celebrated Christmas borders on the ridiculous, but New York City and Germany are especially fond memories.

Perhaps your fondest memories of Christmas are church related. My guess is those who celebrated

the first Christmas in our current sanctuary would hold that Christmas in a special place in their hearts.

I've known people whose family has grown and gone who do something totally selfless on Christmas day like visit a homeless shelter or serve food in a soup kitchen and it burns an indelible warm feeling in their hearts.

One time so long ago it seems like another life I was really blue because I was having to celebrate Christmas away from my family. There was a war on and war does those kinds of things to soldiers. I spent about half of the morning feeling sorry for myself, then I jumped in my truck and took off on a mission to see all the soldiers in the command I could see. I didn't get back until the next day; I was

exhausted, I was in trouble for leaving with out telling anyone, but I felt great.

One of the big church words we talk about at Christmas is Incarnation (Churches are sometimes named that) literally it mean in the flesh and it tells us that the Word of God became flesh and lives with us. Jesus comes to us, Christmas reminds us of that. We know Jesus is with us, but at Christmas we are reminded again of God's love, of God's plan, of God's new birth in the world.



It takes a while for Christmas to get here, if you don't believe me ask a child, or remember the old saying, "He is as slow as Christmas!" but during that time we make preparations, we light candles of love, hope, peace, and joy. We get ready to exchange gifts that remind us of the greatest gift, and we prepare to welcome Jesus again in our lives. What is the best Christmas ever? The one that is coming soon!

See you in Church

Pastor Bob



From the Preschool

Hello and Happy Holidays to everyone! We had a wonderful time at the Thanksgiving Feast. We were able to share food, fellowship and fun!

We are gearing up for the holiday season downstairs. We are singing Christmas carols, making cards and starting our Advent Calendars.

Please feel free to join us for our Christmas Program on Dec. 11th, the ½ day will be at 10:30 and the Full day and ASC will be at 4:15.

May you have a wonderful season filled with love and blessings.

Love,

Tammy



LSLC Ladies Book Club

Book: *Marry a Pregnant Virgin*
by Frank Honeycutt
Time: 7:00 PM
Date: Monday, December 7, 2009
Host: Travinia's
Address: 101 Sparkleberry Rd Crossing.
Columbia SC 29229
Phone: 803.699-9956

A sign-up sheet is in the administration building please sign up by the 1st of December.

Karen Kranz
699-9566

From the Office

Merry Christmas!!

News from the office:

I hope you are all already having a wonderful winter! I know I am already excited for this Christmas season and I hope you are as well.



The office is looking for some volunteers who would be willing to give their time. If anyone would be willing to give a few hours to answer phones, stuff bulletins, or just help out around the office please contact me at livingspgslutheran@sc.rr.com or, put it on your Time and Talent sheet and send it to Angie at adyches1@yahoo.com.

Also, a sign-up sheet for Worship Assistants will be located in the Admin Building, and at the back of the Sanctuary after service for the next 2 weeks. This sheet is to sign-up for one of our three **Christmas Eve Services**. If you would like to participate please put your names down!



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

During this busy time of year, plan now to attend the Advent Lessons and Carols Service, on December 13th, at 8:15 and 10:45. We will once again hear the story of God's plan for our salvation through the reading of scriptures, and the singing of Advent carols. The Chancel and Sanctuary Choirs will 'Prepare the way for Christ's coming' by sharing their gifts through music. Please make this service a priority for you and your family this season, as we prepare for His coming.

FOOD FOR THE POOR INC.



We welcome to worship on December 4 and 5 The Rev. Ronald C. Starenko on behalf of Food for the Poor. He will let us know about a ministry providing direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Pastor Starenko will share what he has witnessed about Food For the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another.

FAST FACTS ABOUT FOOD FOR THE POOR

Now celebrating its 27th year of operation, Food For The Poor (FFP) is an interdenominational Christian relief and development organization working primarily in 17 countries in the Caribbean, Latin America, as well as the United States, to assist the poorest of the poor. By working together with pastors, missionaries and churches in these regions, we ensure that the aid is reaching those who need it most.



- Food For The Poor does much more than feed the millions of hungry individuals. We drill life-giving water wells for those who otherwise wouldn't have clean drinking water; we provide lifesaving medical care; we build homes for families without adequate shelter; we provide skills training and micro-enterprise opportunities that enable the poor to work; and we give children an education that will enable them to break free from the cycle of poverty that has ensnared generations.



- Since our founding in 1982, Food For The Poor has distributed more than 48,000 tractor-trailer loads of aid to the poor. We have also built more than 55,000 housing units for people desperately in need of adequate shelter, and completed more than 750 water projects that provide lifesaving water and sanitation to hundreds of thousands of villagers in need.



- In 2008, Food For The Poor shipped 4,637 tractor-trailer loads of aid and built 8,417 new housing units in the countries we serve.



- Fundraising and other administrative costs in 2008 comprised less than 4% of our expenses; more than 96% of all donations go directly to programs that help the poor.



- FFP supplies destitute coastal villages with four fiberglass boats with outboard engines, global positioning systems (GPS), fishing tackle, 100-quart coolers, safety equipment, a gear shed with freezer, generator and a powerful solar light for the village common area. Fishing villages transform communities by offering residents hope and an opportunity to improve their lives. There are currently 17 Jamaican and 18 Haitian fishing villages in operation. An additional three fishing villages are nearing completion in Haiti.



- Our fruit tree program, started in 2007, has accomplished the planting of more than 100,000 fruit trees in Haiti and Jamaica. Our goal for 2009 is to multiply this achievement.



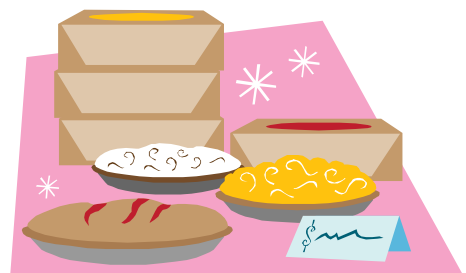
- We have completed 212 tilapia ponds that supply much-needed protein to communities, feeding programs and schools.



- Our Angels Of Hope program sponsors more than 3,400 children in 89 orphanages throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. The children receive food, clothing, shelter, education and lots of love and attention.



- In a survey of the 200 largest U.S. charities, *Forbes magazine* has given Food For The Poor outstanding ratings of 97% in charitable commitment and 98% in fundraising efficiency.



Counters Schedule for September

12/06/09 - Lead Counter- Jennifer Wiggins, Sally Moore, Trish Davidson

12/13/09 - Lead Counter- Jan Berger, Todd Gunvalson, Bill Franck

12/20/09 - Lead Counter- Jeff Day, Cathy Bruffey, Karlene Stuart

12/27/09 - Lead Counter- Kathryn Padgett, Peter Moore, Lee Collins

....A
Place for
Bible Study

✚ Adult Bible Study every Mon @ 7PM

✚ Women's Bible Study every Tues @ 10AM

✚ Weekly Pericope Study every Wed @ 7PM

Rice Home Bus Drivers for October

12/6/09 Lee Harmon

12/13/09 Jim Lentz

12/20/09 Bill Franck

12/27/09 Neil Fletcher



Christmas Eve Services

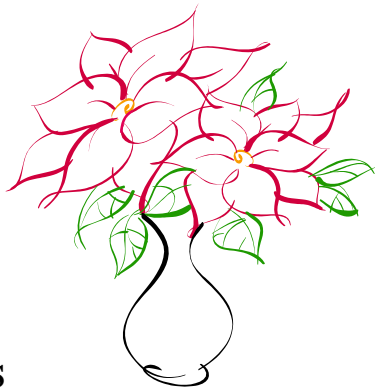
December 24

All service will have candle lighting and Holy Communion

5:00 PM
Children's Service
(children are invited to bring a gift for baby Jesus)

7:00 PM Festival Service

10:00 PM Traditional Worship



POINSETTIAS

You may give in honor or memory a poinsettia or candle for Christmas Eve worship services.

Forms are in the back of the Sanctuary.

Poinsettias \$12
Candles \$5

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Month Ending: October 25, 2009

Actual Giving : \$28,154.89

Spending Plan: \$32,750.00

Capital Campaign \$77,540.16



ST. NICOLAS CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Please join us at 5pm on December 6th for a German inspired holiday service! Coffee and Kuchen will be served after! Come experience how a different culture celebrates the holidays.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

IMPORTANT

- November 1** Megan Compas
Karrah Vermillion
- December 3** Nevaeh Fulton
- December 4** John Ducate
- December 5** Elise Brennan
- December 7** Craig Stoxen
- December 8** Steve Barrier
- December 9** Jill Grivois
- December 10** ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Rybicki
Andrew Barrier
- December 11** Jessica Bazemore
- December 13** Allie Fox
- December 14** Peggy Collins
- December 15** ♥ Mr. & Mrs. David McDaniel
Karen Harmon
Amy Olsen
- December 17** Dan Camp
Devon Fletcher
- December 18** ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Dick Collins
- December 19** ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Lee Collins
Chris Horan
Adele Lindberg
- December 20** Christian Grohman
- December 21** ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Steve Barrier
♥ Mr. & Mrs. Darin Sensabaugh
Rob Phoenix
- December 22** Dan Walnock
- December 24** Matthew Brouwer
- December 25** Nicolas Creticos
Molly McCloskey
- December 28** Jennifer Rice
Leena Skiba
- December 29** ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Hurlbert
Goldie Harmon
Jeannie Hurlbert
- December 30** ♥ Mr. & Mrs. Lee Harmon
♥ Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kopec
Alaia Guterrez
- December 31** Robert Barnhill
Jeremy Niemeyer
Trish Sampedro
Randy Sides

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY WORSHIP FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS

On the weekend of December 26th and 27th we will have worship on Saturday at 5:05 and one service on Sunday at 10:00 AM. Join us for Christmas Carols and Christmas Readings with Holy Communion .

MOROVIAN CANDLES

The Moravian Candles for the Christmas Eve service are ready to be assembled and are in the workroom.

The kits contain the beeswax candles, tacks, red crepe-paper strips, directions and the tray. The filed trays need to be returned to the workroom by December 10th. If anyone has any questions contact Judy Lawrence at 803 446-8442.



Many Thanks for the donations of food for our Preschool Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon. The Luncheon was served with plenty of food and tables were set with colorful Fall Harvest decorations. A fun skit was performed on "The History of the Apron", read by Marlene Jorgensen. Adele Lindberg sang a few wonderful songs for the Teachers to learn and sing to their class of young children.

We Thank the Preschool teachers for their Love and Care they give to the children daily.

WELCA will not meet in December or January.



Please join us as we celebrate the
Christmas Season on Sunday,
December 13!

5pm-Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

6pm-BedBug Bible Gang Christmas Pageant

The Elf Store will be open following the Pageant!



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Christmas will be here before we know it, so it's time to get ready for our annual Christmas Pageant! This year's production, *The Bedbug Bible Gang Christmas Pageant*, will be performed on **Sunday, December 13 at 6pm**. Join us for a Spaghetti Dinner at 5pm and the Elf Store immediately following the Pageant. All children ages 2-6th grade are invited to be a part of the production. Middle/high school youth are invited to assist the Director with Stage Production. There are many opportunities to volunteer! Please sign up in the Administration Building. Practices will begin **Sunday, November 22**. Contact Josie Wolfe (josiewolfe@msn.com or 667-4573) or Amy Sensabaugh (amys@sc.rr.com or 691-5993) for more information.



Christmas Tree Sales Fresh Frazier Fir!!!

The youth will be pre-selling Christmas trees from now until Sunday, November 22nd. Advance sale prices are 6' - 7' - \$40, 7' - 8' - \$60, and 8' - 9' \$75. Please complete the order form and place in offering plate or youth box in the workroom with payment attached. Advance sale trees will be available to be picked up by Sunday, November 29th. The lot will open on Friday, November 27th for regular sales with the price being 6' - 7' - \$45, 7' - 8' - \$65, and 8' - 9' \$80. Proceeds will be used for youth events.

Also at the Christmas tree lot, we will be selling fresh Christmas Wreaths that will be made by volunteers and we need you to volunteer. If you know how to make wreaths from the cuttings of the trees and/or how to make the bows to go on them, and would like to help, please contact Jan Berger. Small wreaths will be \$25 and large ones will be \$35. The selling of the wreaths really helps make this youth fundraiser a success.



Christmas Tree Sales Volunteer

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity of enjoying the Christmas season by volunteering to help out on the lot (sign up sheet in the Education Building). All volunteers must be in middle school or above to volunteer without their parent. Those younger than middle school will be allowed to volunteer with a parent present.

Living Springs – 20th Anniversary Commemorative Ornaments

The youth will be selling 20th Anniversary Commemorative Brass Ornaments. The ornaments will be packaged in a blue velveteen folder with the history of Living Springs.



These will make wonderful Christmas gifts, especially for those former members who have moved away from the Columbia area. These will be on sale for \$10.



CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

At our Christmas Tree Lot this year! We will be setting up a tent, and inviting children to come and hear Christmas stories being read while mom and dad shop for a tree! This is a multi-ministry-team effort and we need YOU to sign up to read to make this a success! Dates and times are:

Sunday, December 6th or 13th, from 1 - 3pm
Talk to Vicar Sarah for more information or to sign up! (Sarah.flatt@gmail.com)

GIVING TREE



Opportunities abound to share in the Christmas Spirit. Living Springs Social Outreach Committee will again sponsor the Giving Tree for children of families that utilize God's Storehouse here in the Northeast area. You may bring items for babies to teens by picking a star (representing a boy) or an angel (representing a girl) from the Giving Tree. The gift may be new or like new and they prefer no stuffed animals. Donations of unopened packages of batteries are also appreciated. Please place your gifts in the boxes placed in the church narthex by December 18th. Remember, your gifts should NOT be wrapped. You are not required to sign up for a particular age child. You make the choice of what you would like to give. Gifts for teens are especially needed.

Living Spring Quilters
First Annual Holiday Sale
Sunday December 13, 2009
4PM-8PM

All proceeds will be used to pay for the cost of making quilts for our graduating seniors, as well as quilts for the children at the Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter in Lexington.

Items for sale include

- Assorted Ornaments
- Crib size quilts
- Twin size quilts

- **Preview items online at**

<http://livingspringquilters.yolasite.com/>



NEEDED-ITEMS FOR THE ELF STORE

We are looking for handmade items or any other suitable items that can be sold in the Elf Store on December 13th. The Elf Store is open after the Children's Christmas Program for the kids to shop for loved ones (typically parents, grandparents and siblings). The items are kept under \$4 a piece, with proceeds being used to support youth activities. Please place all donations in box in the Katie Room Sunday, December 6th. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy McKenzie at 865-9018 or wendy.mckenzie@sc.edu.



Mothers' Group

The Mother's Group will meet the third Wednesday of each month to engage in discussion and bible study.

This year we will be reading Life on Planet Mom: A

Down-to-Earth Guide to Your Changing Relationships by Lisa T.

Bergren. With in-depth research, heartfelt personal experience, and expert advice, Bergren shows you how to keep vital relationships during the parenting years. **Our next meeting is Dec. 16th at 9am.**



Childcare will be provided at a cost of \$2 per child.

For Additional Information Contact Shannon Pinel Johnson 865-6253 or spineljohnson@hotmail.com



**The Sunday School Classes
are held 9:30 to 10:30**



**CHRISTMAS
BREAK
DECEMBER 20 &
27
NO SUNDAY**

Come & See Jesus

Lesson Topics are

12/6 The Birth of John The Baptist
12/13 Rehearsal for Children's
Christmas Program

PreK & K meet in the Busy Bugs room and are
taught by Sarah Sweitzer.

Gr 1 & 2 meet in the Farm Friends room and are
taught by Sherri Staudt.

Gr 3 & 4 meet in the Rain Forest room and are
taught by Diane Rager.

Gr 5 & 6 meet in the Teacher's Lounge and are
taught by Steve Cronin.

Beginner's Bible Kids

Ages 2 & 3 meet in the Forest
Friends room in the lower level of
the administration building. Jean
Cronin is the teacher. Lesson
Topics are:

12/6 Baby Jesus is Born
12/13 Rehearsal for Children's
Christmas Program

Here We Stand

Confirmation Lesson Topics are

12/6 Ruth
12/13 Samuel and Saul

The Confirmation students meet in the Katie
room on the main level and are taught by
Mike Davidson.

The ***High School Youth*** meet in the Luther room
on the main level and are taught by Sharon Fletcher.

Dan Wuori leads the ***Large Group Study*** for
adults in the FH. The lesson topic is ***Bad Kids of the
Bible (And What They Can Teach Us)***

*Children's songs are led by Sharon Fletcher at 9:15 on the lower level of the
administration building. Church nursery is available at 9:30 in the Mother Goose
room.*

COOL STUFF! FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Join us for youth events!!! Check your Sunday school room for sign up/info or contact Adam Woodruff or Sharon & Neil Fletcher. Sign up sheets are also posted on the "Sign up Sheets" Board in the Admin Building.

Monday Nights Beef O'Brady's "GBC" (Get Better Connected) Hardscrabble location 7 pm

Nov 27-Dec 20 Christmas Tree Lot Fundraiser (hang with us at the Pavilion!)

Sign up sheets will be available in early November

December 13 Youth Fundraiser-Christmas Program Spaghetti Supper & Elf Store

December 18 Christmas Party Night

January 16-18, 2010 Ski Trip to Wolf Ridge, NC
Skiers/Snowboarders: \$195.00;
Going/not Skiing: \$125.00

Sign up/deposit of \$100 due by October 25

CLUB3456

Club 3456 December activities coincide with the upcoming festive season. **December 4th** takes us to Riverbanks Zoo for 'Lights before Christmas'. Join us as we enjoy the lighted decorations, leaving the Church at 5:30 PM. We will eat on the way, enjoy the Zoo and return by 9:00 PM. **Cost is \$10.00.**

December 20th, immediately after Church and a light lunch, we go caroling at the Rice Home and Wildwood Downs. We will distribute small gifts made by the K thru 2 youth group. Plan to join us as the older folks look forward to our visit and raising our voices. Of course, we will enjoy ice cream at Brusters before returning to the Church at 3:00 PM. There is no charge.

We look forward to seeing everyone and would appreciate your 'signing-up' for these activities.

MOVING WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Join us for youth events!!! Check your Sunday school room for sign up/info or contact Brantley Davidson or Jan Berger. Sign up sheets are also posted on the "Sign up Sheets" Board in the Admin Building.

December 13 Youth Fundraiser-Christmas Program Spaghetti Supper & Elf Store

December 18 Lock-Out, from 6PM-12PM.
Sign up by Sunday December 13

January 16-18, 2010 Ski Trip to Wolf Ridge, NC
Skiers/Snowboarders: \$195.00;
Going/not Skiing: \$125.00
Sign up/deposit of \$100 due by October 25



K-2nd Travel the World Youth Group Events

Dec 20 Visiting the Rice Home to go Caroling. There is no cost to the children, just spreading good cheer and the coming of our Lord.

CHURCH STAFF

Christine Stoxen- Senior Pastor

Bob Helton- Pastor

Sarah Flatt- Intern

Shawn Dunn- Office Manager

Sherry Forsgren,- Bookkeeper

Nickie Riley- Music Ministry Director
Organist, Director: Chancel Choir, Saturday Alive &
Children's Choir

Laura Turnmire– Director
Adult and Junior Handbell Choir

Dr. Don Hillyard- Counselor
LifePoint Counseling Satellite Center

Tammy Mancuso- Preschool/ASC Director

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mike Davidson: President

Pat Dickerson: Vice President

Brenda Grohman: Secretary

Steve Cronin: Treasurer

Ken Creticos: Financial Secretary

Jan Berger

Ed Brennan

Jeff Day

Todd Gunvalson

Kathryn Padgett

Jennifer Wiggins

Adam Woodruff

Andy Wyka, Youth Rep.

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Archives

Judy Lawrence

Christian Education

Jean Cronin

Amy Sensabaugh

Communications

Cara Johnson

Evangelism

Charles Tracy

Facilities

Joe Canterbury

Finance

Dan Camp

Lutheran Men

Mike Wyka

Personnel

Jim Lentz

Social Outreach

Renee Branham

Social Inreach Co-Chairs

Becky Sides

Anthony Gutierrez

Youth

Contact Pastor Bob

Worship

Kathy Brennan

LIVING SPRINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Phone: 803-736-0661 FAX: 803-865-8252

Email: cstoxen@sc.rr.com - Pastor Stoxen

pbob@sc.rr.com- Pastor Helton

sarah.flatt@gmail.com- Vicar Sarah

nsriley@sc.rr.com- Nickie Riley

livingspgslutheran@sc.rr.com Shawn Dunn

sforsgren@sc.rr.com- Sherry Forsgren Bookkeeper