

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

February 2020

## Living under the Star



*7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense,*

*and myrrh. Matthew 2:7-11*

We are living in the time after Epiphany. January 26 is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany. Epiphany is day in which the church celebrates the wisemen arriving and seeing Jesus. The wise men are overwhelmed with joy when they realize the star has reached a permanent place. The star is no longer moving, no longer something which they might never identify. This star is no longer moving, but rather, a permanent marker. The star points from the heavens to a specific place on earth. The heavens and the earth have a connection.

They followed the stationary star. They arrive at the spot and they see Jesus. They fell to their knees. They were in the presence of holiness. These wisemen are in the connection between heaven and earth. These wisemen are in a sanctuary, a holy space.

In Bethlehem and Judea, and all of the surrounding area in Israel, there are holy spaces and permanent sanctuaries. In each of these spaces where events in Christ's life occurred, a worshipping community have claimed the spots on earth and have built sanctuaries and places of worship over these exact spots.

The place where we come together to worship at 3011 Leaphart Road is a holy space. It is a place where we join to mark the connection of heaven and earth. We meet to worship God and give thanks for God's continued connection from heaven to earth in our daily lives.

Our world in which we live is also a Holy space and place, too. In our worlds we see trees burst with leaves. We see flowers bloom. We encounter Holy moments with family and friends. We are living under the star where Heaven and Earth are connected. We encounter the Holy Spirit and we are connected to God. May we find sanctuaries, those places where we realize we are in the presence of God. May our lives be filled with holy spaces!

Sister in Christ,

*Pastor Gina*

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## *Cantor's Corner*

It is difficult to believe we are already looking at the Lent/Easter season! Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, begins a change in our choir rehearsal schedule. Since we will be having a service and meal on Wednesday evenings, our choir rehearsal and handbells will move to Thursdays, beginning February 27<sup>th</sup>.

As we begin the Lenten season, we are preparing our Good Friday Cantata, "Come, Touch the Robe". We invite anyone to come join our choir in preparation for this meaningful service!

We will have a Candlelight Dinner on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-7:30pm. Entertainment will be Matthew Dickerson, dulcimer. Please remember that these dinners are supported by donations from attendees to cover expenses first. The remainder of funds will go to our Fund for the Arts. Thank you for supporting this program.

***Calling all puppeteers*** – be on the lookout – another is on the horizon! More info at a later date.

Many Blessings!

*Ruthie Brannen*



**Worship  
February 26, 2020  
6:30 pm**



Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30  
Meal following worship



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## Congregational Council Mini Minutes for January 2020

**ATTENDANCE:** All were present

**CARES AND CONCERNS:** Received concern from congregational member about how our financial receipts, over/under budget figures are reported in the weekly bulletin. They were concerned we should not list budget over/under figures as this might worry visitors about our financial status. Recommend we report in weekly bulletin only the amount of money received for each fund and in monthly newsletter report a running total of receipts, and where we stand up to that point for the year of deficit or surplus for each fund—Approved.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** The agenda for January was adopted

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the December council meeting were accepted

**Member Care:** New care team lists distributed to council members and reminded to make contact with each member at least quarterly.

### **REPORTS:**

Pastor Gina- Written report received for January

Treasurer- Written report received for November, awaiting final figures for 2019

Financial Secretary: Written report received for December, fourth quarter 2019, and entire year 2019. Our total receipts for Current and Benevolence were \$219,526.00 for 2019 exceeding our budget for the first time in several years!

**Executive Committee:** Recommend send an additional \$1000 from Current and Benevolence in addition to the \$498 collected from Advent offering to Abundancia Appeal—Approved.

Recommend give Epiphany service offering (not yet counted) to Fund for the Arts to help defray the cost of the Palmetto Master Singers—Approved.

Read letter Pastor Gina sent Bishop Yoos informing him of our 10% budget increase to synod. Pastor Yoos also sent a return thank you letter.

### **Team Report/Recommendations:**

1. Care Team: Written report received
2. Outreach Team: Oral report given. Helped at least 60 families at Free Garage Sale Friday and additional day on Wednesday with leftover donations picked up by Salvation Army. Angel Tree Participants were invited to Free Garage sale as were students from 5 elementary schools who receive snack packs. A kindergarten teacher at Riverbanks Elementary donated bags of food her church collected that we distributed to Angel Tree participants.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Farming Church: Terry Swygert will lead final session at council retreat
2. Cemetery Upkeep: Our current provider not returning our calls or cashing checks but doing the work
3. Parsonage meeting on January 19 to narrow options to final choice for usage
4. Leadership Retreat: January 31 thru February 2 at Isle of Palms Coastal Retreat Center. Cost is \$75 per night and \$15 per person for 3 meals. We will have first session Friday night on Farming Church, second session Saturday on Funeral, Wedding, Communion policies and third session for followup.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Council member for February: Devona Price
2. Send or talk to Pastor Gina about policy review concerns prior to retreat

After Feedback, the meeting was adjourned with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Robin Ellisor,

Council Secretary

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## Outreach Happenings



**Story Readers Needed** – Cayce Elementary has many students who need extra help with reading. They are looking for adults to read a story with an individual student or an entire class during the school day. Just 30 minutes each week can make a huge difference. If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a child, please complete the Lexington District Two volunteer form.

Lexington School District Two  
Application for 2019 – 2020 Volunteer Services  
715 Ninth Street West Columbia, SC 29169  
Submit a copy of your Driver's License with your completed application

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Street Address Apartment/Unit # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security \_\_\_\_\_  
Race: Black \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M / F (circle)  
Driver's License \_\_\_\_\_  
1) Areas of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
2) What volunteer responsibilities are you seeking? (e.g., coach, PTA, tutor, field trip chaperone, etc.)  
If coach, which grade? \_\_\_\_\_  
3) Are you currently a District employee? (Yes/No) \_\_\_\_\_  
4) Have you been convicted of a crime? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, give date(s), charge(s) and disposition(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I have completed this application to the best of my ability and believe all information to be correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand fully and agree that misrepresentation of any facts in this application is sufficient cause to declare this application null and void. Authorization is hereby given to the school district to investigate my records with past employers, school, police, FBI and driver records. I hereby consent to be tested for drugs and/or alcohol at the discretion of the school district and understand positive test results could be cause for the removal of my volunteer privileges. I hereby release all sources from all liability.

Return completed forms to Diane Boulware or the church office.

School Employee that recommends/endorses this volunteer Candidate  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Approval to Initiate Background Check

School Administration Approval - Circle One	Approved	Not Approved
Principal's Signature _____	_____	_____
	Date _____	



## Christo Rey Lutheran Church Building Project

If you are interested in helping with the Christo Rey Building Project, please complete the form that is in the narthex. In addition to people with building skills, they need people to provide snacks and/or meals for the workers. This is a Mission Builder Project so many of the workers are volunteers.

Give your completed form to Diane Boulware or the church office.



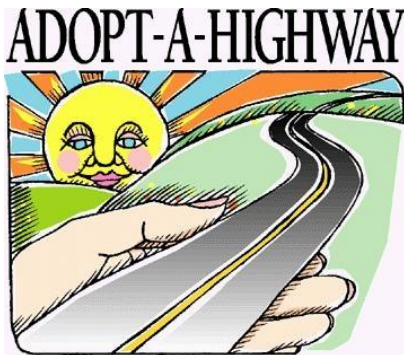
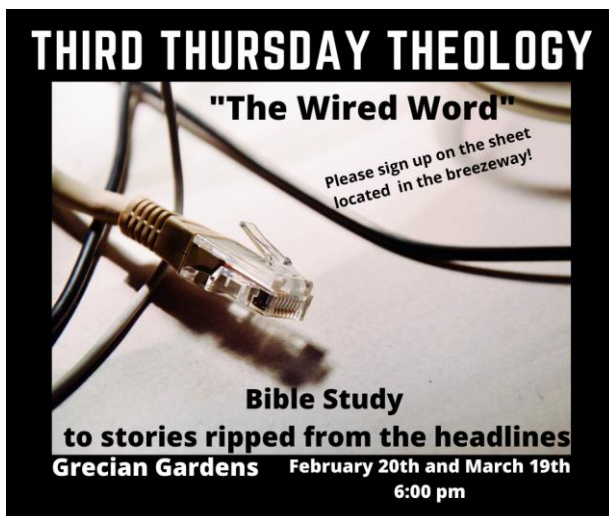
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**Blood Drive** – Mt. Hermon is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, April 26 from 11:30 – 4:00. Please save this date and make plans to donate life giving blood.

**Angel Tree/Free Garage Sale** – Thank you to all who donated gifts, items and time to help so many families. We were able to help approximately 75 families with these two events. Thank you for being God's hands helping these families.

*If you are interested in joining the Outreach Team, please let us know. Our email is [MTHOutreach@gmail.com](mailto:MTHOutreach@gmail.com)*



**Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 am  
Church Parking Lot  
"Keeping the Midlands Beautiful"  
Next pickup May 9, 2020



**Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Parker Boulware's Chicken Bog  
12:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

## Lutheran Men Events...

Friday, February 21  
Past President's Dinner  
Old Mill Brew Pub 7pm

Special workshop  
for women led by  
Pastor Gina Metze

Hygiene packs for  
the Pee Dee Indian  
Service Project

77th Annual  
SCLMM 2020 Convention  
**Using Our Talents  
To Serve Others**

Feb 21-22  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
Lexington, SC

Guest Speaker:  
Pastor Robert Johnson  
Louisiana Avenue UMC  
Lafayette, LA

Saturday, February 22  
Starts at 10 a.m.  
Lunch Provided by:  
Boy Scout Troop 202



LUTHERAN  
MEN IN MISSION

[sclmm.org](http://sclmm.org)

**\*SEE RONNIE FULMER TO REGISTER\***

*Pastor Gina is the 2020 SC Lutheran Men in Mission Chaplain!*

## News about this event . . .

*Pastor Gina will be preaching at the state convention. Ruthie Brannen and Ryan Price will be providing all of the music for convention.*

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## ***Shrove Tuesday Pancakes***

Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

## ***Congregational Valentine's Meal***

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm

Fellowship Hall



## ***LMIM – Wheelchair Ramp Ministry***

**January 2020**

Bottom row (L-R): Earl Sease, Wynne Price, Joel Price, Sr.

Top row (L-R): Ronnie Fulmer, Marion Leaphart, Perry Bouknight, Teddy Koon



## MT HERMON PRAYS ...

### ***Homebound and Care Facilities***

Nell Buff, *Home*

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*

Hazel Bockus, *Carolina Gardens*

Lynwood Crout, *Presby. Home*

Margie Hook, *Home*

Lois Watson, *Lexington Place*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Rev. Everette Price, *Providence*

### ***Members in Special Need of Prayer***

Alberta Berry

Connie Bucknam

Lila Catt

Tom & June Roof

Ernie Swygert

Jeff Bucknam

Jim Whitaker

### ***Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers***

Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*

Gary & Linda Hodgin, *friends of Herb & Connie Bucknam*

Lois Moore & family, *family of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*

Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Don Morris, *father of Keith Morris*

Lynn Zarpentine, *friend of Susan LaCons*

Cheryl Coureville, *friend of Herb & Connie Bucknam*

Mary Frances Hamilton, *friend of congregation*

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Jimmy Mills, *father of Tommy Mills*

Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*

Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*

John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*

Jenifer Gooding, *co-worker of Joel Price Jr. & Mary Price*

Todd Hewitt, *friend of Missy Addy*

Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*

Jane Park, *friend of Pastor Gina & Dion*

Patricia Barber, *sister of Danny Scott*

Jean Wooten, *friend of Linda Waters-Hamilton*

Tommy Roof, *son of Tom & June Roof*

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*

Eric Powell, *friend of Kim Fulmer*

Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*



# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Harold & Mary Prater, *parents of Ray Prater*

## **Serving Schedule: February 2020**

**COUNCIL REP:** Devona Price

**ALTAR GUILD:** Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease

**TABULATORS:** Parker Boulware, Mary Frances Sease, Jean Shealy  
(Annette Price )

**USHERS:** Dennis Thurman, Al Stevens, Jim Whitaker, Marion Leaphart

### **Altar Flowers:**

2 Marie Kleckley  
9 Dion Metze  
16 Joel & Devona Price  
23 Ronnie & Debbie Fulmer

### **Food Pantry:**

5 Doris Maddox  
12 Angie Hydrick  
19 Becky Koon  
26 Annette Price

### **Greeter:**

2 Al Stevens  
9 Faye Sox  
16 Youth Sunday - TBA  
23 Jim Whitaker

### **Crucifer:**

2 Mitch Stevens  
9 Skyler Miller  
16 TBA-Youth  
23 Josh Koon

### **Lector:**

2 Trudy Bouknight  
9 Kay Bryant  
16 Josh Koon/Jackson Price  
23 Buddy Hydrick

### **Children's Sermon:**

2 n/a  
9 Daryl Leigh Anthony  
16 TBA-Youth  
23 Diane Boulware

### **Acolytes:**

2 Tanner Addy, Mackenzie Burns  
9 Josh Koon, Sam Koon  
16 TBA - Youth Sunday  
23 Brayden Rutherford  
Hayden Eargle

### **Communion Assistants:**

2 n/a  
9 Skyler Miller, Angie Hydrick,  
Breanna Metze  
16 Jackson Price, Mitch Stevens,  
Brayden Rutherford,  
Mackenzie Burns  
23 Josh Koon, Joel Price, Sr.,  
Lynn Bouknight

### **Nursery:**

2 Kay Bryant, Larry Amick  
9 Emily Arroyo, Jennifer Miller  
16 Larry Amick, Kay Bryant  
23 Haley Addy, Karen Nicholson

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**Feb 03**

Fran Bouknight  
Terry Swygert

**Feb 04**

Tommy Mills

**Feb 05**

Rick Anthony

**Feb 06**

Kay Bryant  
Connie Bucknam  
Breanna Metze

**Feb 07**

Leah Rawl

**Feb 09**

Ronnie Fulmer  
Gina Metze

**Feb 10**

Tom Allen  
Spencer Price

**Feb 16**

Scottie Marsh

**Feb 19**

Bryce Addy  
Keith Morris  
Brayden Morris

**Feb 21**

Jacob Marsh

**Feb 22**

Jeff Bucknam

**Feb 23**

Marvin Bouknight

**Feb 24**

Al Stevens

**Feb 25**

Connor Eargle

**Feb 26**

Sheila Eargle  
Lawson Morris

**Feb 29**

Nell Buff

**Feb 05**

Earl & Mary Frances  
Sease

**Feb 17**

Jim & Kathy  
Whitaker

*If your birthday or anniversary is missing from this list, please contact the church office at 803.794.6430 or send an email to [office@mthlc.org](mailto:office@mthlc.org).*

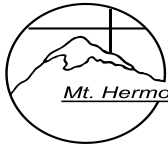
*We are sorry we did not have the information in time of printing!*

# AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

February 2020

This Month Around the Mountain

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> <b>Leadership retreat</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 3:30 pm Conf - cancelled 5:00 pm LCY Meets	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:00 pm Staff meeting 6:00 pm CR: Pastor Gina	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:30 pm Executive committee	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Adopt-A-Highway
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Council Meets	<b>10</b> 2:00 pm Woman's Club of W 6:30 pm Cola - Conf Rm Luth. Men	<b>11</b> 1:00 pm PG: conference Staff meeting 6:00 pm CR: Pastor Gina	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm PG: conference Handbells 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm PG: conference FH: Congregational meal	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 am LCY Oliver gospel mission 10:15 am Worship - Youth Sunday Sunday School	<b>17</b> Presidents' Day (regional holiday)	<b>18</b> 1:00 pm Staff meeting	<b>19</b> 10:00 am FH: Young at Heart 12:00 pm Young @ Heart 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm Bible Study-Grecian Gardens	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Lutheran Men convention LM Past Presidents Dinner Old Mill Brew Pub Lex	<b>22</b> Lutheran Men convention SC Lutheran Men 10:00 am Convention Pilgram Luth Lex
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am CFF - Danny & Jenny Scott 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Staff meeting 6:30 pm LM Shrove Tues Pancake 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Worship	<b>27</b> 6:00 pm Handbells 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>



*Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church*  
3011 LEAPHART ROAD  
WEST COLUMBIA, S.C. 29169

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Rev. Gina D. Metze, <i>Pastor</i>	803.951.3784	<i>PastorGinaMetze@gmail.com</i>
Ruthie Brannen, <i>Cantor</i>		<i>RuthieBrannen@gmail.com</i>
Susan LaCons, <i>Parish Administrator</i>		<i>office@mthlc.org</i>

## Table of Contents

3011 Leaphart Road  
West Columbia, SC 29169  
[office@mthlc.org](mailto:office@mthlc.org) 803.794.6430  
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Pastor Gina 803.951.3784

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