
The InnerNet

JULY 2019

Vitality: Communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, each other, and the world.

What does it mean to be vital? A vital person? A vital community? A vital congregation? That is the question that has been at the forefront of our NC Synod's collective mind this spring. Beginning with the Holy Innovations retreat I was invited to attend in April, to the 2019 NC Synod Assembly, (Thank you Maureen Lange for attending as our voting member representative), the leaders of our synod are wrestling with how to define and measure vitality.

Congregational Vitality is currently measured by the average number of worshippers and average giving. As the world and culture continues to shift, our congregations become progressively more gray-haired and attendance decreases, a new way to see what is vital is needed; so new measurement tools and a new definition were created. NC Synod staff believe God unfolded to them the following definition, "Communities of Jesus that nurture life-changing relationships with God, each other, and the world."

We are a vital congregation. We are already meeting this definition, yet the excitement to me is that we can continue to expand and refine what that looks like now, and in the future. What the vitality looks like in each season of congregational life is fluid and expansive, not nailed down and fixed by data and numbers alone.

We are a community of Jesus—we gather around Jesus' words, the sacraments of Jesus' body and blood. We proclaim our good works done in Jesus' name. We are a community, and each person finds connections through the various ways we offer to nurture relationships. Relationship growth with each other happens in classes/studies; relationships to God are nurtured through study, worship, even outreach. Life changing relationships to the world are experienced in serving outside our doors—Countdown to Summer, Smithfield, Room in the Inn, Crisis Assistance Ministry, are a few examples of how we experience those life changing relationships.

A great example is fellowship. Many think it is only for...the older, the retired, the people who are really friendly, extroverts, like to cook, eat out, etc. Yet fellowship is for all of us---from coffee time on Sunday to Dinner Night out, there is a purpose and reason we have many fellowship offerings. The purpose—to nurture life changing relationships; those who participate are known by and get to know others in a deeper relationship. Granted, not everyone wishes to participate or can, but it is there and the purpose is not only fun, but relationship building.

Outreach and service nurtures all three of these relationships.

A great illustration is the prayer shawl group. These folks gather regularly for the production of prayer shawls, prayer squares, and other items; in doing so, they fellowship, laughing with each other, sharing treats and coffee. They also listen to other's concerns, and hold those in confidence and prayer—nurturing life changing community. The prayer squares and shawls connect to the wider world, through the prayers in each one and the blessings they receive, these little bits of yarn impact lives! I've been able to share these with many people and the receiver feels God's presence, knows God is with them, and feels the prayers and care of others—nurtured relationships!

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This is a great example of a vitality! A group which is part of our congregation and contributes to life of vitality. Using only the numbers of worshippers and financial giving might feel disappointing, yet looking more deeply, you see how vital this ministry group and congregation really is—how nurturing, life-changing, relational. That is vitality!

We are a community of Jesus. Celebrate. Give thanks to God for the ways you participate in life-giving relationships with God, others, the world. Then find something new to try out, see if it fits you. Keep trying until you find that event, activity, place that nurtures you in Christ. As a congregation and leaders, we will work to implement other events and activities, and continue to highlight how we already create, nurture and connect to God, each other and the world in God's web of love.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Angela



CONGREGATIONAL
VITALITY

Unity Sunday

THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 30, IS UNITY SUNDAY AT LIVING SAVIOUR.

We will have only one service of worship at 10:30 a.m.

with a Potluck Luncheon in the fellowship hall, following worship.

Please bring a food dish of your choice to share.

All are invited. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to worship together and then enjoy a meal and the fellowship of friends, family and fellow worshippers. (September 29 will be our next Unity Service.)

At 9:30 Pastor Angela will offer another teaching time on her pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey in the fellowship hall. She looks forward to teaching and preaching on her experience and to share her appreciation for St. Paul, the earliest days of Christianity and the impact they have on our lives and faith in Jesus Christ today.

Thank you to everyone who made Lutheroad Day Camp a ripping success! We had 23 campers, 4 counselors, and a number of volunteers who had a fabulous week of learning about Peace through bible stories, activities, and crafts. We played games, sang songs, and learned more about each other. The field trip was amazing, we saw a gigantic rock formation, Big Rock Preserve and went to the park and played on the playground. Thursday night's campfire was so exciting with songs, skits, and marshmallows.

We are already planning for Lutheroad 2, summer of 2020. Thanks to those who helped make it a huge success—from registration, to snacks, to giving financially, to volunteering to campfire maker to those who made sure we had water and snacks! Wow, so many people who gave freely of their time to make it all happen. Thank you for creating a vital congregation which nurtures life-changing relationships to God, each other and the world and hosted a day camp for our neighborhood kids, and our own.

Pastor Angela



Announcements

Living Saviour Church Softball Remaining Schedule

Our Church softball season ends on July 19, with make-up games and tournament play scheduled July 22 through July 29. Games are played on Monday and Friday nights at 6:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.



Monday, July 1 at 6:15 p.m. we play at Mason Wallace Park

Friday, July 5, there will be no game

Monday, July 8 - 6:30 p.m. we play at Jack Hughes Park in Pineville

Friday, July 12 - 6:15 p.m. we play at Mason Wallace Park

Monday, July 15 - 6:15 p.m. we play at Mason Wallace Park

Friday, July 19 - 7:30 p.m. we play at Idlewild Rd. Park, field #2

Please plan to come out to have fun, enjoy good conversation with fellow members and friends of the congregation.

And, of course, bring your enthusiastic support for our coed team!!

Wayne Thom, LSLC Team Coach

COFFEE GIVEAWAY



Tuesday, July 2, 6:30- 9:00 a.m. Share coffee and muffins, good will and fellowship with our neighbors those who are driving by the church and might stop by for coffee and conversation. All are welcome and encouraged to join this valuable ministry. If you would like to help, please let us know or just show up. Thanks to all our muffin makers!

Frank DeLoache (frank.deloache@yahoo.com)

INDEPENDENCE DAY

On July 4, 1776, the final wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved, and the document was published. Independence Day is a day of family celebrations with picnics and barbecues, showing a lot of emphasis on the American tradition of political freedom. Some of the activities generally associated with the day include watermelon or hotdog eating competitions and sporting events, such as baseball games, three-legged races, swimming activities and tug-of-war games. However each of you individually and/or with your families and friends celebrate Independence Day this 4th of July, we pray that it will be a good day for you, filled with rest, relaxation and things that make you happy and peaceful.

The church office will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of the Holiday.



RECYCLING HELP NEEDED



Recycling is important to us at Living Saviour because we care for God's creation and want to do our part in preserving it. For the past couple of years, **Tim and Cindy Meadows** have faithfully done our recycling, taking it to the Foxhole Recycling Center on Lancaster Highway. They will not be able to continue this service, because they live in South Carolina and as of **July 1** the Foxhole will no longer accept recyclables from anyone who does not reside in the state of North Carolina. If you live in North Carolina and have some time to help out or are available to serve on a team of volunteers who can take care of our recycling needs, your assistance will be welcomed!

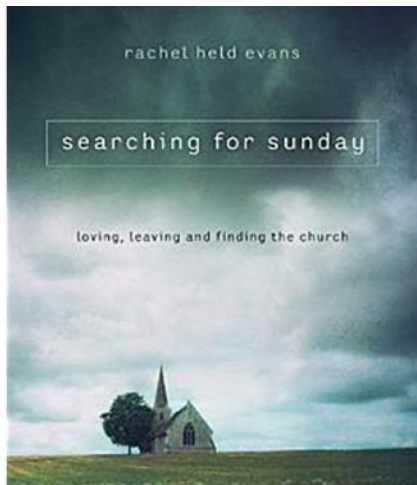
Please contact Pastor Angela (pastorangela@livingsaviourlc.org) or call the church office (704-542-3626).

WOMEN OF THE ELCA Activities for July



Quilt Ministry is on summer break! During July and August, we are asking our at-home sewing team members to either sew squares together to create quilt tops, or to finish quilts by stitching the perimeter of assembled quilts. The co-ordinated quilt squares, with sewing instructions, are in plastic bags located on top of the Quilt Ministry cabinets in the short hallway between the fellowship hall and the Ed building.

The assembled quilts, ready for perimeter stitching, are located on top of the bookcase opposite the Quilt Ministry cabinets.



Hope Circle is also on summer hiatus. As is our tradition, we will read a book during our time off and discuss it when we meet again on Thursday, August 22. Our summer reading is a suggestion from the recent Bible Study by the author Rachel Held Evans. Please read Searching For Sunday, Rachel's story of loving, leaving, and finding church.

Alice Jenkins (alicej101@carolina.rr.com)

CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY



Help Wanted: Come help sort through donations at Crisis Assistance Ministry on Friday, July 12 from 1-3PM at 500 Spratt Street. Many hands are needed to get the best clothing into the hands of those that truly need it.

Questions? Contact **Caren Ballantine**

2019 NC SYNOD BIBLE READING PLAN - SUMMER OF PSALMS



It is that time of year again! Another summer, another NC Synod online Bible study sponsored by the NC Synod's **Engage the Bible Task Group** (a Book of Faith ministry).

This year's study - Summer of Psalms - begins July 7.

Participate in the Bible study in three ways:

1. As a PDF on the synod's Engage the Bible web page. Nclutheran.org/congregations/engage-the-bible
2. As daily posts on the synod's Facebook page. ("Like" and "Follow" the page to see the daily posts in your newsfeed.) facebook.com/NCSynod
3. As a daily reading arriving in your email inbox. Subscribe from the footer of the synod web page (nclutheran.org look for "Click to Join")

Join us as we get to know more about Psalms and each other through this study!

CELEBRATING SUMMERTIME STEWARDSHIP

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick o visit and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36



School is out and as the popular song says – "Summertime, and the livin' is easy." Maybe for most of us, but not for everyone. The working poor and other homeless will be seeking refuge from the blazing sun and the July and August heat. In the summer months, they find it especially difficult to keep enough food on hand to feed their families with the children out of school. We continue our generous giving of food to Loaves and Fishes in summer to offset their plight. In February LSLC held it's first Jazz Concert, "Jazz for a Cauzz," to raise the money needed to fund this outreach. Not only was the event a financial success but we had individuals from the greater community and from

other groups become aware of our Outreach Ministries and want to participate along with us in our Outreach Ministries. Lutheroad Day Camp and Camp Vivace bring youth from outside of our Family of Faith to join with our younger disciples. We celebrate the ongoing activities of those participating in the different activities that we engage in with Crisis Assistance Ministries as well as God's Work Our Hands and the numerous other Ministries of Living Saviour.

Art Lange, Council Representative for Stewardship

MOWING THE CHURCH LAWN



During Summer and Fall we need to mow the lawn every week, either on Fridays or Saturdays. If you are available and would like to volunteer, your help will be appreciated very much. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the kiosk in the fellowship hall.

If you have questions or want more information, contact **Frank DeLoache at 704-245-2985**.

RESULTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JANUARY, 2020

Below is a brief report for the Fiscal Year ending January 31, 2020; as of the end of May (which is our fourth month of the fiscal year). We had a net income of \$30,568, which is primarily the result of being over on contributions. In addition, we are under on expenses. Some of the expense variance, \$1,817, is associated with utilities, which is a good thing! Unfortunately, this is partially offset by an increase in insurance expense.

I have updated my projection of contribution income and I now believe we will have additional contribution income of about \$15,000 for the fiscal year. Our annual budget was prepared assuming we would have a (loss) of \$(9,692). So that means we will do better than break even.

As the year progresses, I will continue to look at our performance to budget.

General Fund	Actual	Compared to Budget
Contributions, etc.	\$158,799	\$19,677
Expenses	<u>128,231</u>	<u>(5,358)</u>
Net Income (loss)	\$ 30,568	\$25,036

Contributions to Forward from Forty include a contribution of \$20,000 from Preschool.

Expenses were for the Canopy Education building, Drain installation, Fire Panel replacement and telephone system upgrade.

Forward from Forty	Actual
Transfers in (from Capital Reserves)	\$ 7,611
Income to date	61,506
Expenses to date	<u>(13,097)</u>
Balance at month end	\$ 56,020

2nd Quarter Giving Statements

These will go out by mid-July. There will be a change to the statements. ALL amounts given will be reported even though some will not be deductible. Non-Deductible amounts will be indicated. The reason for this is to help us identify any missing amounts. If an amount you gave (except of course cash given anonymously), is not reported on your giving statement, please let **Jim Huddle** know. (jrhuddle@carolina.rr.com)

Thank you!

CHECK OUT THE LIVINGSAVIOURLC.ORG WEBSITE! There you can find a link to our You Tube channel where the worship services are archived. A sermon download link is also available as well. Just because you are away doesn't mean you cannot listen. You will find links to past newsletters, announcements, and to on-line giving. Check it out!

Sunday and special services are streamed to our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com>

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

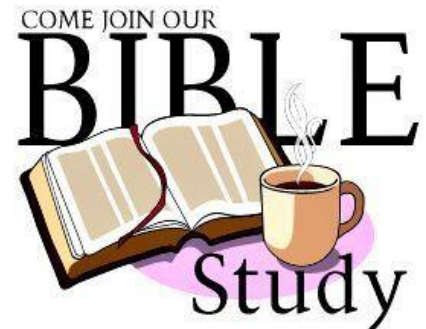
I hope everyone is having a beautiful summer. While you are busy enjoying summer, please think about the following selections.

1. "Manna and Mercy" by Daniel Erlander & Alan Storey - studied in 2015.
2. "A study on Psalm 23" by Jennifer Rothschild..
3. "The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi" by Kathie Lee Gifford.
4. "Twelve More Women of the Bible" by several authors.
5. "Searching for Sunday" by Rachel Held Evans.

Please prayerfully consider what interests you the most and let me know.

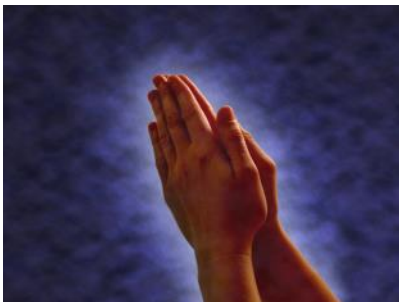
Blessings,

Janet Mayer



PRAYING FOR POSSIBILITIES

Our Mission is to Grow God's kingdom through the power of prayer. We pray for the possibilities that can happen in and of our building; for all the people volunteering, working and participating here, activities for all, visitors and those that God gathers and the opportunities for witnessing. Ideally, we walk the property to pray for the possibilities that can happen in each place. If you cannot walk it or be there with us, we have made booklets with pictures for you to use. So, please join us! For more information, contact glendakilminster@gmail.com.



July "Weekly Prayer Teams"

6/30-7/7	Anita Mitchell and Glenda Kilminster
7/7-7/14	Ann Chriske and Janet Mayer
7/14-7/21	Ray and Ken Kilminster
7/21-7/28	Art Lange and Frank DeLoache
7/28-8/4	Jean Dunne and Janet Wagstaff

BREAKFAST IN JULY

Come celebrate summer in the South on **July 21** between the first and second services. You won't find a breakfast more Southern than sausage gravy and biscuits made by our own Lorene and Wayne Thom. And your breakfast donations will help us continue serving disadvantaged students, their families and the hardworking staff at Smithfield Elementary School. Breakfast in July is always a fun time to relax with friends and family over good food and a good cause. We will have other breakfast options for those looking for a lighter repast or gluten-free options. We serve from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., and breakfast is **free**.

Please sign up in the fellowship hall to let us know if you are coming and if you can help with decorating, serving, or ESPECIALLY cleanup. If you have questions, please contact **Wayne, Lorene or Frank DeLoache**. See you there!





Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

"A way to reach out in Christian love to those who need special blessings"

Who We Are: A group of 8 to 10 ladies who knit/crochet prayer shawls at our meetings and at home. Each prayer shawl receives a special blessing.

Who Receives the Prayer Shawls: People in our faith community who are seriously ill, have major surgery, have long term medical treatment, long hospitalization, a long recovery period, or going through distressing times. We have given over 180 since our inception in 2012.

When Do We Meet: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month. In July -
Tuesday, July 9 and Tuesday, July 23, 10:00 a.m.

We welcome all who knit, crochet, whether beginner, expert or would like to learn. We have yarn and patterns to get you started. Come join us for great fellowship, as we create a special gift for someone in need of prayer, comfort and blessings. They will be wrapped in God's love. If you have questions or want to learn more about this valuable ministry, please contact **Jeanne Davis** (jeannedavis88@att.net)

DINNER NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, July 9, 6:30 p.m.

Great Wall of China, Carmel Commons Shopping Center

(6666 Carmel Rd, Charlotte, NC 28226)

Please plan to join us for an evening of fun, good food, drink and conversation.

There is a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall. All are welcome!!



Questions? Contact **John and Pam Williams** at jfwilliams7200@aol.com.

PRIMETIMERS

will meet on **Wednesday, July 17, 11:30 a.m.**

Red Lobster Restaurant in the Carolina Place Shopping Center

All age 50 and above welcome!

Please join us and invite a friend!



For more information, contact: **Tom and Jeanette Schick** (miners28269@yahoo.com) or **704-910-4146**

CAMP VIVACE 2019!



What is it? Camp Vivace (vi-VAH-chay) is Living Saviour's very successful music, drama and art camp.

When is it? July 15-19. Hours: 9:00 to 2:30 daily. Friday night 7:00 p.m. presentation of the musical we learn during the week.

Who can attend? Ages 7 - 12

Cost? \$75 for the week. Please register by July 8.

Registration brochures are on the welcome table in the gallery and in the church office. If you don't have kids who are eligible, share the news with neighbors and friends who do! This is an outreach project for Living Saviour.

This year participants in the camp will present "Life School Musical." The setting is in a school classroom where the "Professor" (John the Baptist) and others from the New Testament explain what faith, hope and love is all about, and help the students see that Jesus Christ is the Key to life. The story is presented through spirited music and oftentimes humorous dialog.

The congregation, families and friends are invited to the presentation of the musical on Friday evening, July 19 at 7:00 p.m.

For more info, please speak with Don Huff.



ONGOING MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

You are welcome to join in musical leadership of worship through one of the following music ministries:

Joy Children's Choir, rehearsing on announced Sundays at 10:15, currently on summer break;

Alleluia Ringers, rehearsing Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m., currently on summer break;

Chancel Choir, rehearsing Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. September-May, currently rehearsing on announced Sunday mornings.

Festival Choir: Would you love to sing in the choir but don't have time to devote to choir rehearsals all season long? Then Festival choir is for you. Join the choir for special events such as Reformation Sunday, Christmas Concert, Easter or other festival Sundays.



We are looking for experienced instrumentalists for 8:30 and 10:30 services - Guitarists, percussionist, brass, woodwind, string players. For more information on any musical opportunities, **please see Don Huff.**

SMITHFIELD ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP 2019

THANK YOU to the many Living Saviour volunteers who help each year to make our partnership with Smithfield Elementary so successful during the school year! We send in many goodies for the staff and tennis balls for chairs and tables. We provide volunteers for tutoring reading and math, Bingo and other activities throughout the school year, donate school supplies and food items for students (and their families) in need and support fund raisers. All of our efforts are appreciated by the school staff and students.

If you want to work with students, you must register with CMS as a volunteer <https://www.cmsvolunteers.com>

Even if you have registered before, you must resubmit your application each year.

The following stores contribute part of their earnings towards schools, but you must register each year:

Harris Teeter: Re-link your VIC card- - Smithfield is 3050- - ask a cashier to link your card.

BiLo: Relink your card 55292 with a cashier or go to www.bi-lo.com

Target: ask a cashier for details.

Caren Ballantine, Partnership Coordinator



Thank you for your donations of nonperishable food items to LOAVES AND FISHES all year long, every year.

Because of the generosity of the people in the Charlotte area, Loaves and Fishes emergency food pantries have never had to turn away a client in Charlotte Mecklenburg. The food wagon is located in the gathering area under the coat rack. All canned goods and other non-perishable food items may be placed in the wagon any time. Priority needs are canned meats, soup, canned fruit, peanut butter and 100% fruit juice. **No glass, please.**

Many thanks, also, to those of you who deliver our gifts of food to Loaves and Fishes on a regular basis. Your faithfulness to this valuable ministry is appreciated!!

CARING AND SHARING GROUP



The Caring and Sharing group will gather for our monthly meeting on Friday, July 26, 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the church. All are welcome who seek inspiration and support while caring for others or caring for themselves during an illness or loss.

For more information, contact **Betty Reynolds** at **704-287-5724**.



Registration is open for Next Year (2019-2020), so please tell your family and friends.

Jessica Jordan
Preschool Director

jjordan@livingsaviourlc.org

704-542-9110

Living Saviour Lutheran Preschool

2019 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS and Areas of Responsibility



Shallen Gordon - President
Frank DeLoache - Vice President
Cathy Lyall - Secretary
Janet Axtman
Kristen Haigler
Joe LaFollette
Art Lange
Kari Proctor
Pat Snodgrass
Steve Vick

Stewardship and Finance
Samaritan and Outreach
Administration
Property
Young Youth
Personnel
Stewardship and Finance
Lay Care
Christian Education
Worship and Music

Church Council will meet on July 28, following 10:30 Worship Service. There will be no Council meeting in August.

LIVING SAVIOUR CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Angela K. Powell, Pastor
Don Huff, Minister of Worship and Music
Sherry Wooldridge, Office Administrator
Nancy Mersereau, Organist and Music Assistant
Carla Gearheart, Childcare Provider

pastorangela@livingsaviourlc.org
dhuff@livingsaviourlc.org
sherry@livingsaviourlc.org
nancyqqq@aol.com
carla.gearheart@yahoo.com

Live Streaming of Service of Worship


Go to the Living Saviour Website for live streaming of the Service of Worship (www.livingsaviourlc.org).

If you have an article that you would like to have included in our monthly newsletter, please send it to the church office at sherry@livingsaviourlc.org by the 21st day of the month before.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

Pastor Angela can be reached on her day off or on weekends at pastorangela@livingsaviourlc.org or 704-408-9534. She will return your call as soon as possible.

JULY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7PM Boy Scouts 6:15 PM Softball game at Mason Wallace Park	2 6:30-9AM Free Coffee Give-a-way	3	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 No Softball game	6
7 8:30AM Worship 10:30AM Worship 6PM AA Group	8 6:30 PM Softball game, Jack Hughes Park in Pineville	9 9:30 AM Finance Committee 10AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 Dinner Night Out Great Wall of China South in Carmel Commons	10	11 8AM Men's Bible Study 10AM Bridge Group	12 6:15 PM Softball game Mason Wallace Park	13
14 8:30 AM Worship 10:30 Worship 6PM AA Group	15 9:00-2:00 Camp Vivace 6:15 PM Softball game, Mason Wallace Park 7PM Boy Scouts	16 9:00-2:00 Camp Vivace	17 9:00-2:00 Camp Vivace 11:30AM Primitimers at Red Lobster in Carolina Place Shopping Center	18 9:00-2:00 Camp Vivace	19 9:00-2:00 Camp Vivace –7:00 PM Closing Presentation 7:30PM Softball game Idlewild Rd. Park, #2	20
21 8:30 Worship Service 9:15 Breakfast in July 10:30 Worship Service 6PM AA Group	22 Softball team has a BYE/Make up/ Tournament 7PM Boy Scouts	23 10AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	24	25 8AM Men's Bible Study 10AM Bridge Group	26 10AM Caring and Sharing Group Softball team BYE Make up/Tournament	27
28 8:30 AM Worship 10:30 Worship Church Council Mtg. 6PM AA Group	29 Softball Makeup/ Tournament	30	31			

July Birthdays

7/2 Ron Gordon
 7/3 Abigail Huber, Chuck Malinowski
 7/6 Russell Hinson
 7/7 Shirley Fitts, Rachel Powell
 7/9 Russ Krause
 7/11 Nora Cook, Pastor Angela Powell
 7/15 Jeff Heverley, Erin Malinowski
 7/17 Kate Bucci, Colin Gregory, Esther Lapomarda
 7/18 Chuck Moore
 7/20 Riley Karim, Cathy Shabla
 7/22 Terry Godwin
 7/23 Laura Michael
 7/24 Julie Brennan, Chuck Gaddis
 7/26 Betty Kuhn
 7/27 Zolene Kale
 7/28 Collin Bucci
 7/30 Art Lange, Kariya Proctor

July Anniversaries

7/1 Steve and Janet Axtman
 7/4 Pat and Sarah Plunkett
 7/11 Tom and Jeanette Schick
 7/18 Terry and Joyce Godwin
 7/26 Jose and Alice Royo
 7/30 and Lauren Campbell; Pete and Dominique Greve
 7/31 Ron and Kathy Biggs

