
The InnerNet

Early May 2021

The story is told of a town under an ominous flood threat due to torrential rains and a heavy spring snow melt. The town put out a plea for volunteers to fill sand bags which would help hold back the potential high crest of the river and to avert possible flooding. The response was overwhelming, almost everyone in town showed up to help throughout the long day and into the night. Women and teens filled bag after bag, men carried placed them on the banks of the river and in front of business and homes. Those who could not lift or fill made coffee and sandwiches; the children filled baskets and carried the refreshment to those working. There was something for everyone to do, and all the help was needed so that sand bags were stacked to reinforce banks of the river, and protect lives. The final result averted disaster, and the town was saved.

But. What would have happened if everyone didn't help? If some felt that what they had to do for themselves too important, and thought there would be enough volunteers without them? It would have been harder for those who did step up to help. If too many had thought they were unnecessary, the job would have been impossible, and some parts of the town would have been left unprotected.

The same holds true for work in the church. There is something for everyone to do and all are needed to make the work less of a burden and more of a joy. All are vital and needed to accomplish what is necessary to care for the congregation and the community. We need you! As our church re-opens to worship, and community agencies re-open to volunteer opportunities, we hope you will join in and find a small or large place that will use your gifts for serving. Our scriptures have a word to say in this regard as well...1 John 3.16-18 ¹⁶*We know love by this, that Jesus laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.* ¹⁷*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister^[a] in need and yet refuses help?* ¹⁸*Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."*

This letter written in the 1st century, those in this gathering of Christ-followers are being reminded that what sets them apart from the surrounding culture is the act of serving the ones who need help of any kind. It may be a physical act of service, or an act of giving to help provide food, shelter, clothing. It may be a listening ear, a prayer offered, or simply a hug. Whether the "one" in need is in the community of faith or outside of it does not matter; as your heart is moved, God is at work in you, and the Holy Spirit is prompting you to act.

We serve in the name of Jesus. Because of Jesus' love, we love our neighbors and our congregation. We believe God invites all to serve in truth and action, so where will you find your place to fit in? Where will you find a place to be part of the hands and feet of Christ in this area of the world?

Take note of the opportunities in the InnerNet and in the e-blasts. Then join in, gain community, and serve God and our neighbors. In love, for love, in and for Christ.

In Christ's love, Pastor Angela

DAILY MEDITATIONS: Unwrapping the Gifts of Discipleship

These seven meditations are designed to enhance the living of your baptism. Shape your week around each meditation, taking time each day for personal prayer and reflection. One week is not enough. Over time, a rhythm will develop as you learn to daily unwrap the gifts of discipleship.

- Sunday** **Unwrapping the Gifts of Discipleship**
YES? Take a moment and meditate on how God has said “yes” to you. Reflect on your own baptism and those who have nurtured you in faith. Take time to give thanks for each person who comes to mind. *Question: Who are you being called to disciple?*
- Monday** **Gift of Discipleship: Live among God’s faithful people**
WHO? Take a moment and pray for God’s faithful people. Take note of who the Spirit brings to mind. Whether you know the circumstances of his or her life, hold that person in prayer. *Question: How might you deepen relationships with and among God’s faithful people?*
- Tuesday** **Gift of Discipleship: Hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper**
WHAT? Take a moment and meditate on God’s message for you. This message might be a single word, a verse from scripture, an image of art or a piece of music. Skim through your Bible. *Question: What is God’s word for you in this season of your life?*
- Wednesday** **Gift of Discipleship: Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed**
WHERE? Take a moment and meditate on the “good” aspect of the good news of God in Christ. Name how God’s good news is “good” for you. *Question: How might you be called to witness boldly to the good news of God in Christ with others?*
- Thursday** **Gift of Discipleship: Serve all people, following the example of Jesus.**
WHEN? Take a moment and meditate on Jesus serving all people. Imagine Jesus listening to you. What would you say to him? *Question: What opportunities might you have to serve joyfully—a stranger, friend, or family?*
- Friday** **Gift of Discipleship: Strive for justice and peace in all the earth**
WHY? Take a moment and meditate on the “why” of injustice and unrest. Consider those situations of injustice which trouble your heart. *Question: How might you be an agent of change or support those who are bringing change?*
- Saturday** **Unwrapping the Gifts of Discipleship yet to be opened.**
NOW WHAT? Take a moment and meditate on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Identify areas where the Holy Spirit might be stirring in you. *Question: What gift of discipleship has yet to be unwrapped by you as you discover what it means to live faithfully?*



Living Saviour Lutheran Preschool

The Living Saviour Preschool has been part of our congregation's ministry for decades! Andrew LaFollette was once a student, now in college! The Pandemic has created difficulty for all schools particularly those who are not fulltime. That is true of LSLP as enrollment is down, staff and spending reduced. Jessica Jordan, director is careful with every dollar.

There will be a preschool summer camp and it is 90% full! But they are also ending the 2020-21 school year with no surplus budget to allow the teachers to plan and purchase summer themed items. WE can HELP!

Target or WalMart Gift cards in any amount would allow the LSLP teachers to select their own summer fun and learning items. These can be mailed to the preschool or dropped off in Ruth's office. Thank you in advance for helping our preschool thrive in difficult circumstances.



Opportunities for Worship at Living Saviour!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; reservation only! Please call or email the church office to RSVP (704-542-3626 or ruth@livingsaviourlc.org)

9 AM ZOOM

Participate with the in-person 9 a.m. service through a zoom link.

9:00 AM In person and Zoom worship hybrid.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82944162101?pwd=SzQrWWV1L0FWVdEOWdHbERQSmtJQT09>

Meeting ID: 829 4416 2101 Passcode: 322578

ZOOM HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion via Zoom is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 11:45 a.m.: May 9th and 23rd

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83925826730?pwd=MGdnd3MvcE1qanlnZk40OWkrQ2ZBdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 2582 6730 Passcode: 842543



SUMMER DAY CAMP! EXPERIENCE ALL THE FUN AND JOY OF LUTHERIDGE WHILE STAYING HOME!

After a crazy year of social isolation and limited school, how about a week of reconnecting with each other and our neighbors?

Safety protocols in place, and all CDC guidelines will be followed. **See website for more information.**

CAMPERS (RISING 1-6TH GRADE) ARE INVITED TO CAMP JUNE 21-25, HERE AT LIVING SAVIOUR. GAMES, COOL COLLEGE COUNSELORS, OUTSIDE TIME, FAITH LEARNING, CRAFTS ARE JUST A FEW OF THE PLANS FOR THIS WEEK, AS WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS IS OUR PRAYER.”

REGISTER IN PERSON OR ON-LINE AT OUR WEBSITE. CAMP IS 9-4, WITH EXTENDED DAY AVAILABLE.

Carmel Place Ministry

Do you enjoy worship? Do you have a concern for those who cannot drive to worship here at the church? We have a place and ministry for you!

There is a group of people at Carmel Place who are eager to get back to worship! Remember when, way back before the Pandemic? When a dedicated group of volunteers would go each Sunday morning at 9:30 and lead a simple worship service? It is time to begin planning again for that opportunity. The residents are vaccinated, they are returning to normal visitation, and eager to see old and new faces again. Contact Ray Kilminster for more information.

Lay Visitation Training is being offered by the NC Synod. If interested, register ASAP

The pandemic has changed so much, but it has not changed our need to care for one another in compassionate, Christ-like ways. This May (and a day in June), we will offer a 5-week **training on visitation for lay leaders**. Topics will include: What Not to Say and Invitations for Silence; Logistics of Visits; Home Communion; Praying with Others; and Hospital Visitation. Classes will be held on **Mondays, May 3, 10, 17, 24 and June 7** via Zoom from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Each 90-minute class will include Scripture, teaching, and small groups. Up to five people per congregation may participate.

Your Offerings: Gracious generosity continues!

Thank you to all who support the ministry of LSLC. It is deeply appreciated and used to care for all God has given us. You can mail you offering to the office, drop it off, or use the Simply Giving platform. We also have an on-line giving option on our website. As you give, thank God for our congregation and its ministry work.

Financial Results for March 2021 Month End

Note: The General Fund Contributions included prepaid pledges of \$27,159 from 2020. In addition, there were multiple annual pledges.

March 2021	
General Fund 01	Actual
Contributions, etc.	98,392
Expenses and Transfers	64,763
Net Contributions less Expenses/Tranfers	33,629
Facilities Fund 02-3241-442	
Beginning Balance	83,822
Transfers from General Fund	1,667
Contributions	2,585
Expenditures - H&S Roofing	(11,940)
Expenditures - Adams Heating	(4,197)
Ending Balance	71,937

Vanguard Account

The church has set up an account at Vanguard. If you wish to contribute mutual funds, ETFs or stocks that have an appreciated value, you can contribute these to Living Saviour’s Vanguard account. By doing so, you can avoid capital gains taxes. If you have any questions, please contact Don Hathcock or Timothy Goldbach.

What to expect as we regather

We're so excited to worship together in our Sanctuary Sunday mornings. Thank you for reviewing the checklist below so that you're prepared to regather for worship at Living Saviour!

Be certain you are feeling well. Stay home if you have a fever or any symptoms of illness of any kind. If someone in your household is sick, with anything, COVID OR NOT, please DO NOT COME TO WORSHIP, even if you have a reservation, it is ok, we'll be here next week.

PREPARE before you leave home

- Only those who have a reservation will be admitted to the service.
- Come inside only if you are feeling well, with no symptoms of illness.
- WEAR A FACE MASK *in the parking lot, on the sidewalks, as you enter the building, during the service, and as you exit the building until you re-enter your vehicle.*
- Finish your food/beverage before entering the building. We ask you to refrain from eating or drinking while in worship.

SOCIAL DISTANCE when you arrive

- Please social distance (remain 6 feet apart) in the parking lot and sidewalk, hallways, etc.
- Please do not shake hands or hug one another. **We know that's tough!** Greet each other with a wave instead!
- Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance the building, and we ask you to sanitize your hands as you enter.
- The downstairs entrance is open, you may walk upstairs or use the elevator, and we ask that you refrain from using the restrooms downstairs, and from entering the preschool area.
- The elevator is available if needed; please only 1 "family unit" at a time inside.

GREETING AND SEATING AND WORSHIP

- The door will be propped open for you.
- We ask you to wait outside on the plaza if the weather is nice, while others in front of you find their seats, then you can enter the building.
- On a table in the entryway (Narthex) are bags containing communion elements; take one as you enter worship.
- The kitchen, education building, and offices, are closed.
- The available restroom is in the sanctuary.
- We have spaced the rows and seats such that there is 6' between families or individuals.
- Paper bulletins are provided on your seat, please **take it with you** and recycle it at home.
- The offering plates will be available as you enter and exit the service. You may also use our on-line offering option.
- Please keep your mask on during worship.
- Spoken responses should be done very quietly, into your mask. Singing should be very quiet.

AFTER WORSHIP

When Pastor Angela ends the service, please remain seated.

- She will dismiss each group, starting at the back and moving toward the front.
- If you wish to visit, go outside for that, or as the CDC suggests, keep moving and use a phone to chat.
- WEAR A FACE MASK *and social distance as you exit the building, on the sidewalks, and in the parking lot*

ABUNDANCE
BY Grace Duddy Pomroy

What do we mean when we say we serve a God of abundance? In a world where so few people have so much and so many people have so little, can we truly claim an abundant God? Various forms of the word “abundance” appear 146 times in the NRSV Bible, depicting a God who shares. However, the Bible also describes the abundance of humanity, which can be used for good or for ill.

Who is this God of abundance? The psalms and the prophets sing and shout of God’s abundant character. First and foremost, God abounds in steadfast love for God’s creation (Psalm 5:7). This powerful love — with no beginning and no end — is the foundation of the relationship between God and God’s people. God is love, and through the lens of God’s love we see the rest of God’s character. God is abundant in power (Psalm 147:5), forgiveness (Isaiah 55:7), mercy (Psalm 51:1) and goodness (Psalm 145:7).

God provides for God’s people, lavishly sharing God’s abundance with creation. The psalmist celebrates how God richly supplies food and water to Israelites wandering the wilderness (Psalm 105:40). God showers the earth with rain, watering the earth and giving growth to the seeds (Psalm 65:10). God offers salvation, wisdom, knowledge, and the promise of abundant life (Isaiah 33:6, John 10:10).

However, we cannot ignore that God also blesses many people with wealth and prosperity. Sometimes this promise of prosperity is connected with the people’s relationship with God (Deuteronomy 30:9). Thus, some people preach God’s abundance in hopes that believing in God will provide them with monetary wealth and stability. Yet, as we look more at the text, we see that one’s experience of God’s abundance is not contingent upon one’s faith but rather the generosity of others.

God provides to each person different skills and possessions to be shared and used for the good of the whole world. As individuals, we may not have enough, but together we have more than enough. Gathered together as a community to share our time, talents, and treasures, we experience the gift of God’s abundance.

As we live in community, we have the responsibility to recognize the provider of this abundance. We, like the people of Israel sharing their abundance of wealth and skills to build the temple, join with Solomon in declaring, “O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own” (1 Chronicles 29:16). We recognize that God is the creator, sustainer, and giver of all things. We are only stewards.

Thank you to the women of the Knot Sew Perfect Piecers- a quilting group that Robin LaFollette is part of. They created 125 draw string bags for Beads of Courage to be delivered to Levine Children's Hospital . They are used by critically and chronically ill children while staying at Levine during their treatment as a container to put the beads they receive as a means of hope and encouragement. The fabrics they used are sure to bring a smile to the faces of these precious children. The great big thank you to these women for their support of the project.

Caren Ballantine

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A debt of gratitude and a huge thank you to Caren and Rich Ballantine for the many decades of service they have given to God through Living Saviour. Caren has in the years I have been at LSLC (8) been in charge of many things, most recently the August God's Work our Hands projects, and Smithfield Elementary School coordinator supporting the staff and the Backpack food program. Rich took his turn at a variety of tasks, and has been part of the endowment, and the lawn care team. Both of them helped deliver the food for Smithfield at Easter and Thanksgiving, both organized and helped set up opportunities to fold clothing at Crisis Assistance.

Rich and Caren moved a couple of years ago to a lovely neighborhood 30 minutes from LSLC. After the past year's pandemic, they have decided to move their membership to another congregation much closer to home. We will miss them, their dedication to serving in the name of Jesus, and their energy and passion for outreach.

"Godspeed" Caren and Rich. May you continue to enrich the kingdom of God in new ways and in new places.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDY AND MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:00 a.m., via Zoom. We have finished the study of Lazarus. and Peter. Paul is the final lesson in the book. We will have covered 10 men of the Bible in 247pages. What a story they have to tell.

Contact Janet Mayer with questions **(janetmayer@bellsouth.net)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81907545777?pwd=c0RVTGQ3VWd1UFIVVEhOTDc3L1hOQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 0754 5777 Passcode: 641388

Want to know more? Like to get into the details of scripture? Missing being with others who thirst to understand the Sunday readings? Well, we have a group for you! The Tuesday Lectionary Study group is open to anyone who wishes to Zoom in to discuss the scriptures assigned for the following Sunday. Pastor Angela leads this discussion and we all help pull apart our observations, curiosities, and questions.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81498057510?pwd=VHpkYmVlQ0wwVHY1ZlJlMVVlQZENoZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 9805 7510

Passcode: 500745

Praying for Possibilities!

Prayer for our congregation, preschool, and staff are critically important in these days of closure and social distance.

05/03-05/10 Glenda and Ray

05/10-05/17 Glenda and Maria

05/17-05/24 Anita Mitchell and Glenda

05/24-05/31 Janet Axtman and Cindy Quinlan

05/31-06/07 Cathy Lyall and Laura Michael



You can pray in person, or together by phone. Let us know if we can help by providing a new prayer booklet.

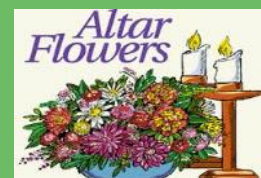
Sharing Thanks

Many thanks to Living Saviour Lutheran Church for all the prayers, cards and the basket of groceries which has been enjoyed during the loss of Charles.

Thanks very much, Zolene Kale

Altar Flowers Sign Up made easy! Call the church office, or use signupgenius option. Click on "Submit & Sign Up" at the bottom of the page; enter your dedication. Fill in your name and email address The cost is \$50.00; checks payable to LSLC with "Altar Flowers" on the memo line; mail or drop off.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/o/10C0C4CACAC29A6F4C16-2021>



MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 a.m. Zoom Traditional 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live	3 6:30 p.m. Lay Visitation Training via Zoom	4 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	5 10:00 a.m. "Ten Men of the Bible" Study via Zoom 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	6	7	1//8
9 9:00 a.m. Zoom Traditional 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed 11:45 Zoom Holy Communion only	10 6:30 p.m. Lay Visitation Training via Zoom	11 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	12 10:00 a.m. "Ten Men of the Bible" Study via Zoom 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	13 Ascension of our Lord	14 10:00 a.m. Caring & Sharing (Zoom)	15
16 9:00 a.m. Zoom Traditional 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	17 6:30 p.m. Lay Visitation Training via Zoom	18 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	19 10:00 a.m. "Ten Men of the Bible" Study via Zoom 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 Day of Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Zoom Traditional 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed 11:45 Zoom Holy Communion only	24 6:30 p.m. Lay Visitation Training via Zoom	25 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	26 10:00 a.m. "Ten Men of the Bible" Study via Zoom 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29
30 The Holy Trinity 9:00 a.m. Zoom Traditional 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	31 Memorial Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>					

May Birthdays

05/05 Lori Davis
 05/07 Indra Persaud
 05/09 Tissie Littlejohn, Lottie Williams, Maggie Williams
 05/13 Lyn Addy
 05/15 Traci Anderson, Susan Hunsinger
 05/17 Sally Ganz, Robin LaFollette
 05/19 James Cook
 05/22 Bill Larsen
 05/23 Elizabeth Golly
 05/27 Rufus Gregory
 05/28 Elizabeth Eissfeldt
 05/29 Bob Honeycutt
 05/30 Judy Gribble
 05/31 Melissa Krantz



May Anniversaries

05/11 Charles and Judy Gribble (58)
 05/15 Jim and Jane Huddle (39)
 05/16 Eric and Joy Forster (39)
 05/17 Eric and Melissa Krantz (7)
 05/18 John and Pam Williams (47)
 05/20 Larry and Janet Wagstaff (43)
 05/24 Gary and Deb Borley (46)
 05/25 Ryan and Jennifer Huber (13)
 05/31 Frank and Betty Kuhn (46)

