
The InnerNet

Early October 2021

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11.1

Or as the Message Bible puts it... *The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.*

When life is hard and scary has anyone ever said, "Have a little faith," as an encouragement that came off more as warning, or put down for feeling scared? Maybe someone has used those words to try to gain your trust, or accept their ideas that seem less than ideal and leave you feeling uneasy. This kind of faith is not a faith in God, rather a faith in fate, life, another person, or even a put down for being uncertain or having fear. Having faith in God who we cannot see or feel in the way we feel another, seems at time difficult if not impossible. Not surprisingly, we are not the first to experience this.

The letter to the Hebrews was written to 2nd generation believers, a congregation in crisis for their beliefs--facing persecution, even death; fearful and unsure that God in Jesus is with them; trust in God--stagnant, with no daring confidence that the Spirit would show up, use them to grow God's kingdom. They might still show up for worship but their vibrant hope and expectation that God was with them, dim. The writer sought to encourage, warn, instruct, and remind them of God's faithful ones who came before them, that God is with them even as they cannot see God, and that the hope for their future is secure in God's hands.

Perhaps our congregation today needs reminding of the same things. When we see changes that overwhelm our trust in God, divisions over vaccinations, politics, masks, and our fear of the future rises up, remember, faith cannot be separated from hope. Faith, hope, God's love, triumph over fear.

As my friend and colleague Pastor Alice said recently, "the church today needs reminding of the extraordinary truth—our faith in God is alive, energy, breath-giving, framed and fueled by HOPE, and together helps us get through days that are hard, times that are hurtful, weeks that are wearying." Our faith is not ever separated from our hope, because both of them are God's gifts to us through the power of the Holy Spirit, poured out on us in our baptism. We are God's children, and God will never leave or forsake us. We hope for a future we cannot see, we have faith God will see us through. Yes things are different, yes we are facing challenges as we adjust to our new normal in COVID days.

Yet we remember faith is God's assurance that God's promises are sure, trustworthy, true. God is about life, wholeness, love, forgiveness, God invites us to be partners, co-creators of opportunities for health, wholeness, healing, and the sharing of God's love with those in our families and communities.

Replace "I worry" with "I wonder." Then be curious, wonder with me, what is God up to next here in South Charlotte? And watch with me for God's faithful showing up.

Faith over fear, always.

In Christ, Pastor Angela

FAITH
fear

LSLC Council Message

A new roof and a new mortgage...that was the result of the Called Congregational Meeting on September 26th.

It was great to see so many familiar faces at the meeting on Sunday, both in person and online. Here's a recap of what happened.

A motion was made and approved to accept the estimate of \$50,000 from H&S Roofing to replace the Fellowship Hall and Office area roof and skylights. The funding for this effort will come from the Forward from Forty reserve fund, which has a current balance of \$64,282. H&S can get shingles that match the Sanctuary roof, which is very good news! The expected time for completion of the project is 30-60 days. Thanks to Janet Axtman, property person on the Council, and to all who have contributed so generously to the Forward from Forty reserve fund over the years.

A second motion was made and approved to accept the mortgage refinancing agreement with BB&T/Trust. The amount of this mortgage request is \$565,000 plus an additional \$50,000 for a total of \$615,000. This is a 10-year mortgage at a fixed interest rate of 2.5%, with a monthly payment of \$5,798 (which is a \$613 savings per month). Since our current mortgage is with BB&T, we avoid any closing costs. The extra \$50,000 will be placed in a restrictive reserve account that will be used at the discretion of Council and the congregation. Thanks to Tim Goldbach, Treasurer, and the entire Financial Team for their efforts on refinancing.

Praying for Possibilities!

Prayers for renewal and for our congregation, preschool, and staff are vital.

- 10/04-10/10 CD Hathcock and Don Huff
- 10/10-10/17 Ray and Ken Kilminster
- 10/17-10/24 Rev. Jim and Maxine Christ
- 10/24-10/31 Cathy Lyall and Laura Michael



Financial Results for August 2021 Month End

Contribute directly to the church through the on-line button on the website, or by mail to

Living Saviour
6817 Carmel Road
Charlotte NC 28226

While we are not currently in a financial deficit, please do realize that a number of parishioners pre-pay their pledges and we have received their gifts for the year. We are holding a very tight line on expenses as well, and pray for God's continued grace through your generous gifts of thanks to God.

Thank you for your generosity.

General Fund 01	Actual
Contributions, etc.	244,874
Expenses and Transfers	220,237
Net Contributions less Expenses/Tranfers	24,637
Facilities Fund 02-3241-442	
Beginning Balance	83,822
Transfers from General Fund	5,833
Contributions	3,515
Expenditures - H&S Roofing	(24,692)
Expenditures - Adams Heating	(4,197)
Ending Balance	64,282

A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed

An online benefit for ELCA World Hunger

[REGISTER NOW](#)

When: Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. Central time **Where:** Zoom webinar

Dear friend in Christ,

You're invited to join me and [Rick Steves](#), guidebook author and travel TV host, as we celebrate World Food Day!

This online benefit for [ELCA World Hunger](#) will feature interviews hosted by my friend, Rick, with people on the ground who are doing the dynamic work of fighting hunger around the world. Special guests include the Rev. David Beckmann, who is being honored for his lifelong service to end hunger; the Rev. Rebel Hurd; Willie and Anne Langdji; and the Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla. There will also be special performances by Rachel Kurtz, Peter Mayer and the St. Olaf Choir. As a vital supporter of the church, we would love for you to join us as we hear compelling stories, listen to wonderful music and gather in fellowship to invest in this life-giving work.

As a church, we remain focused on supporting our neighbors near and far as the pandemic continues disrupting and impacting lives. At this event, you will learn about the ways ELCA World Hunger is responding. No one is better positioned and more experienced than the church in addressing hunger — both immediate needs and root solutions. We are ready, able, effective and efficient.

Together, we are a people of hope.
I look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

Opportunities for Worship at Living Saviour!

10:30 a.m. in-person
MASKS required

LIVE-STREAM 10:30 a.m. each Sunday
on our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com>



PRESBY PSYCH
WHERE HOPE MEETS HEALING
presbypsych.org



5K Race & Fun Walk

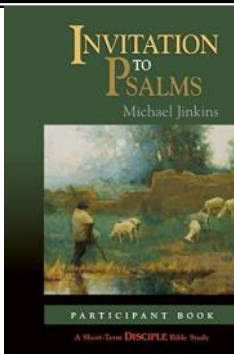
Saturday, November 20, 2021
9:00 AM

Clanton Park * 1520 Clanton Road * Charlotte

Register NOW:

queencitytiming.com

\$40/Adults/\$15 12 & under/\$10 1 Mile Fun Walk



Bible Study!

Friendship, Laughter, Study, Deepening Faith Wednesdays at 10AM

A new Bible Study will be starting on Sept. 29th at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall (or perhaps by Zoom)
The book they will be using is "Invitation to Psalms" by Michael Jinkins.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Mayer at 704-562-8695 or janetmayer@bellsouth.net.



"You are the salt of the earth." Matthew 5:13

Living Saviour Ministry of Health and Wholeness

At its September 19th meeting, Church Council approved the signing of a Faith Community Health Ministry Services Agreement between Atrium Health and Living Saviour Lutheran Church to provide Living Saviour with support and assistance for attaining "physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of healthcare." This support will include but not be limited to providing program structure, educational and spiritual development resources and mentoring to the Faith Community through the efforts of a Health Ministry Team.

This is exciting news! Currently the Health Ministry Team is composed of Laura Michael, RN, Barbara Avard, Linda Frixen, Kristen Alford, Greg Mitchell, and Judy Hughes. The work of the Team will be to Educate, Advocate, Refer, and Screen to minimize Health Risk Factors and Maximize Optimal Health Assets.

Anyone interested in joining the Team is super welcome. **Our Mission Statement: To partner with our Creator to restore and maintain Health and Wholeness to all of Creation.**

In response to the depressing realities that the United States spends more money on health care than any other developed country in the world resulting in the poorest health outcomes along, with creating vast health disparities, the Rev. Dr. Gary Gunderson of Atrium Health has said so eloquently, the cutting edge of health ministries is not technical, but relational, how we care for each other. Dr. Gunderson also stresses that technologies of modern medicine are successfully designed to ward off death, but know little about providing the abundant life. Jesus taught and commissioned that abundant life and healing are the work of his disciples! In **How God Works: The Science Behind the Benefits of Religion** "Scientists and neurologist are reporting that regularly taking part in religious practices lessens anxiety and depression, increases physical health and reduces the risk of early death. These benefits don't come simply from general social contact, but that there is something specific to spiritual practices themselves." For many reasons spiritual communities are THE necessary place where Healing and Wholeness of Body, Mind and Spirit is supported. Watch for information on a new bulletin board under construction in the Narthex and for health tips coming in various forms and communications. We will encourage the participation of all Living Saviour disciples to support one another within the church body and eventually reaching out into the surrounding community in a lifelong journey toward optimal health. Watch for upcoming programming:

Literacy for Investing in Health Assets

October- Prayerful Movement
November- Grace and Gratitude Nutrition
December-Finding the Peace that Passes all Understanding
January- Congregational Health Assessment /Spirituality and Mental Health
February – Create in Me a Clean Heart

Caring & Sharing Group

Friendship, support, and caregiving are needed for those who care for others or themselves during illness, loss and the challenges of aging. The Caring and Sharing Group meets each month of the 2nd Friday from 10-11 AM. All are welcome to find healing, hope, encouragement and support, as well as friendship and laughter. Our next meeting will be on **October 8th**, 10 am. Masks and distance maintained as we meet in the fellowship hall. All are welcome – church members, friends and neighbors - For more information, please contact Betty Reynolds at 704-287-5724 or CoachBettyR@gmail.com.



North Carolina Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



At its September meeting, the North Carolina Synod Council read from the letter shared by the **ELCA American Indian/Alaska Native Association**. A copy of the letter, dated July 23, 2021 can be found here: https://livingsaviourlc.org/wp-content/uploads/remembering_the_children.pdf

Our synod council reviewed the letter and approved a motion from leaders across our synod to engage in this sacred remembrance—and to continue to take steps of lamentation, confession, reconciliation, and healing.

Beginning **Thursday, September 30**, the day when many will wear orange to remember, we too will be wearing orange and draping the synod office chapel with orange fabric.

Will you join us? Join us in draping this fabric, not out of obligation or guilt, but as a sacred remembrance. Make space in your sanctuaries for the memory of children lost far too soon in traumatic and unjust ways. Make space in your sanctuaries for pieces of orange fabric as a commitment to healing with our First Nations siblings.

Orange fabric is only one step in our journey together to honor and heal relationships with our native siblings. Join us in this step. We will continue to share other ways you can grow including making a land acknowledgment, contributing to the AROC Fund of the synod that will support the ongoing work of Living Waters, Cherokee, and lifting up advocacy opportunities in your local community.

Walking with you,

Diana Haywood
Vice President, North Carolina Synod Council

Pastor Jack Russell, a survivor of boarding schools himself, powerfully shares his own story and the ways residential schools took the lives of so many children. Hear from Pastor Jack why it matters that his Lutheran siblings around the synod recognize the lives lost and tell this part of history truthfully. Pastor Jack serves Living Waters Lutheran Mission—the only First Nations mission congregation of the ELCA east of the Mississippi River.

[Sacred Remembering with Jack Russell - YouTube](#)

GATHERING @ THE TABLE

God wants to bless the world! God wants to use the Church to be part of that blessing mission. God wants to be known and for people to know God, love and be loved, to be healed and given hope. God asks the church to do that—yet the truth is, many have been hurt by the church and do not equate God with Church. Yet our call from God is to be God’s voice of hope in this world.

A small group of dreamers have gotten together and are working to bring a new and unique way of gathering people inside the building so that connections, community, and spirituality can flourish. We dreamers want to create with God a Gathering. We want to nourish the body with a good meal, and the soul with a different experience of gathering as God’s people.

Gathering@theTable launches on Thursday night October 28 in the fellowship hall for those who are disillusioned by traditional church, de-churched altogether, or have not ever been in a church. This Gathering will happen around the table with a meal, breaking of bread and the lifting of the cup of blessing. We will talk about life and scripture, practice new ways of experiencing God’s presence, and pray. We might even sing! This is a meal, a gathering to form community, a gathering to nourish body and soul. All are welcome. Let Ruth know if you plan to come by 9/25/21.

OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	4	5 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	6 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	7	1/8 10:00 a.m. Caring & Sharing	2/9
10 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed 3:00 p.m. Council Meeting (in person)	11	12 Columbus/ Indigenous Persons Day 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	13 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	14 7:30 p.m. ELCA World Hunger Benefit (Zoom Webinar)	15	16
17 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed Council Meeting	18	19 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	20 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	25	26 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	27	28 6:15 Gathering@theTable	29	30
31 Reformation Sunday 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed						
<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px;"> <p>October Birthdays</p> <p>10/01 Donna Loges 10/02 Cooper Thom 10/03 Georgia Miller 10/04 Stephen Allen 10/06 William Charnock, Marty Jenkins, Lynn Stephens 10/07 Jean Dunne, Julie Farris 10/10 Jerry Littlejohn 10/11 Frank DeLoache 10/12 Sarah Gist 10/16 Glenda Kilminster 10/17 Shea Berbaum 10/18 Nolan Huber, Henry Schwab 10/19 Geraldine Harbinson, Ian Schwab 10/22 Beth Hawley 10/25 Don Huff, Steve Miller 10/26 Sandra Sample 10/27 Fred Hunsinger 10/28 Reid Huber, Alice Jenkins 10/31 Jan Sundberg</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>						
<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>October Anniversaries</p> <p>10/04 Jim and Alicia Cook 10/09 Laura and Mike Michael 10/12 Jean and F. William Dunne 10/14 Don and Anna Pearce 10/19 John and Patricia Maisel 10/22 Stephen and Emma Allen 10/26 Pat and Robert Snodgrass</p> </div>						