
The InnerNet

Early December 2021

Generous. Gracious. Giving. Would you use these words to describe God? Why? Why not? When you look at the whole of God's word, the Bible, you get to see where and how God is generous. From creating the world and all that is in it, to calling out the people of Israel, leading them from bondage in Egypt, creating a covenant, loving and forgiving them time and again, to sending a savior for all the world's redemption, to creating a church and empowering it to love and live as the Body of Christ for the sake of the world, we experience a Generous, Giving, Gracious God.

As we read the stories Jesus told we hear and see more fully God's generosity. Imagine the 5000 people with no food, and the generous act of a child who shared a basket of bread and fish. See the Prodigal Father watching and waiting for a wayward son to return, who greets him with open arms and heart, full of forgiveness. See the act of our Lord opening his arms on the cross so that all the world might be reconciled to God once again. These stories and more show us God's generosity, God's ever-expanding love and grace; God's "antidote to the greed and hoarding that lead to scarcity, the means by which God brings forth the abundant life that Jesus promises. Generosity is no less than the means by which God ushers in the Kingdom," according to Ann A. Michel in her article on stewardship.

At the end of our Church year, as we end November, we may spend some time in gratitude reflection--in fact, I encourage it! Many social media posts during the month of November ask us to name things for which we are grateful, and I strongly encourage you, as an act of discipleship, to spend 15 minutes this week to reflect on all for which you are thankful. Give thanks to God for the wonders of creation, the beauty of earth, sky, and nature's vast variety. Give thanks to God for the many ways you are able to live, love, work, play, enjoy life. Give thanks to God for God's gracious gift of GRACE shown to us in the empty cross and tomb, celebrated in the Resurrection every week as we gather in worship.

As you reflect on the things for which you are grateful, consider how God invites you to collaborate in ushering in God's kingdom here where our church is located, and in your own home and neighborhood. Consider how God invites you to partner in being generous with your time and money.

As I reflect on with gratitude for the past year, I give a special thanksgiving prayer for all who contributed to the \$40,000 challenge gift, for God's care and prompting of the donor who challenged us all, for the ways we continue to be faithful stewards of all God has gifted us. Thank you to the finance and stewardship teams who have worked to bring us good news of generosity. Thank you to Tim Goldbach and Barbara Avard who tend and steward the financial matters of Living Saviour with great care.

Being God's partner in the mission of loving and redeeming the world is to be a steward; a disciple of Christ "who acknowledges God's sovereignty in all that we do and to understand that God wants us to use what has been entrusted to us to serve God's purposes," says Ann A. Michel. As we use the resources we are entrusted we are partnering with God in acts of generosity, grace, and giving. As we partner with Living Saviour by returning our stewardship statement of intent cards, and making our offerings, we are doing more than fundraising. We are being disciples and God's partners in loving the world God graciously made, generously gave us to inhabit, and graciously invites us to model for others God's acts of generosity, grace and giving.

In Christ, Pastor Angela

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 the Church. Yet our call from God is to be God's voice of hope in this world.

Gathering@theTable is each Thursday night at 6:20 pm in the fellowship hall and seeks to offer God's hope and love to 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.

All are welcome, and if you invite a guest, we hope you plan to come as well, for a meal, community, nourishing body and soul. Let Ruth know if you plan to come by the Tuesday before each meeting.

Bible Study!

Friendship, Laughter, Study, Deepening Faith Wednesdays at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall

We will finish "Invitation to Psalms" by Michael Jenkins. on December 15th.
We will break for the Holidays until January. Our next study is "Surprised by Hope" by N.T. Wright. You can purchase the book on Amazon - perhaps other places too. Paperback is \$10.70 and Kindle is \$4.99. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Mayer at 704-562-8695 or janetmayer@bellsouth.net.

Living Saviour Ministry of Health and Wholeness

Our November Health focus on Nutrition will end on December 5th. Nutrition and Exercise rank as the 2 most important health assets and determinants of our health and wellbeing. It is vitally

important to be mindful of food and exercise choices as we care for the body as the Temple of God and live out our life dreams. The November Nutrition Guidelines were:

- ◆ Eat Fresh whole food that your ancestors would recognize.
- ◆ Eat mostly plants- vegetables, fruits, whole grains with fish and lean meats on the side.
- ◆ Gather at the Table with
- ◆ Grace and mindfulness rather than at the TV or car
- ◆ Eat smaller portions- use a small dessert or salad plate.



These Guidelines are simple yet not easy in our highly processed fast food Western Diet. If you have questions, would like additional information, or would like support with developing healthy diet and lifestyle patterns please contact the Health and Wholeness Ministry for a complimentary appointment at **Phone: 704-542-3626** or **Email: healthandwholeness@livingsaviourlc.org** Recognizing that Nutrition is a complex issue involving our own health, the well-being of others, justice in the supply chain, and care of creation; Nutrition is a topic that will continually be revisited. There is so much to learn.

In December our focus will shift toward Finding the Peace that Passes all Understanding. Watch or the December Newsletter the Second Sunday in December.

Your Offerings:

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



Another option is to use this QR code to make an on-line payment. It will take you to the church VANCO on-line payment portal. A general fund offering can so be made through this QR code.

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Thank you for your generosity.

Financial Results for October 2021 Month End

General Fund 01	Actual
Contributions, Budget	297,129
Expenses and Transfers	277,267
Net Contributions less Expenses/Tranfers	19,862
Donor Challenge Contributions	15,955
Facilities Fund 02-3241-442	
Beginning Balance	83,822
Transfers from General Fund	7,500
Contributions	3,725
Expenditures - H&S Roofing	(47,113)
Expenditures - Adams Heating	(4,197)
Ending Balance	43,737

Holy Communion Distribution

During December Sunday morning worship, we will return to continuous standing communion. This will remain a modified style in that we will use a wafer with wine imposed on it, as we have done for November. As we become more accustomed to continuous communion, we will continue to modify our method.

Pastor will remain masked and will use hand sanitizer immediately before distribution.

Pastor will invite forward one section at a time to receive and return to their seats.

Remain masked and come forward at the invitation of each section. Pastor will drop a wafer in your hands. You will move to the left of Pastor and consume the wafer, then return to your seat.

For those who choose not to come forward, a basket of wafers will be available by the font. You may take your communion and return to your seat.

If mobility is a difficulty, communion will be brought to you.

This is a work in progress, we invite your feedback, and your patience as we seek to keep all safe.

Early Action Is Important for Stroke

Know the warning [signs and symptoms](#) of stroke so that you can act fast if you or someone you know might be having a stroke. The chances of survival are greater when emergency treatment begins quickly. Arriving at the emergency room within 3 hours of first symptoms often means less disability 3 months after a stroke. Delayed care may result in more disability.

F.A.S.T. Warning Signs Use the letters in F.A.S.T to spot a Stroke

- **F = Face Drooping** – Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?
- **A = Arm Weakness** – Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- **S = Speech Difficulty** – Is speech slurred?
- **T = Time to call 911**

Quilt Ministry News!

The LSLC Quilt Ministry will resume their workshops in January. This ministry creates pieced quilts that are three layers thick and tied at intervals for shipment to Lutheran World Relief. No experience in quilting is needed and all supplies are provided. We would love to welcome new participants this year! Come enjoy fellowship and know working to complete quilts is working to ease the struggles of someone in need, somewhere in the world.

We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, January 4. from 10:00-12:00 p.m.**



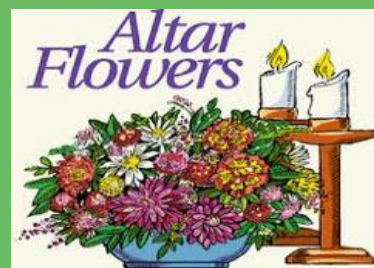
Altar Flowers for 2022!

You may call or email Ruth at the church office 704-542-3626 to sign up: M-F, 9-2. Your \$50 donation may be dropped off on Sundays, mailed, or by using the on-line giving. Please just note "Altar Flowers" on the memo line.

OR

On Line to use sign up genius

Just click on the link, <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CACAC29A6F4C16-2022> and find the Sunday you wish to honor or remember a loved one and beautify the sanctuary. Then click on "Submit & Sign Up" at the bottom of the page; enter your dedication(s). You will be asked for your name and email address (you should then receive a confirmation email and then a reminder email later on). Then click the sign-up link and it's all taken care of!



VOLUNTEER WITH HEART MATH TUTORING!



Want to make a difference in a student's life in just one hour a week?
Tutor with Heart Math Tutoring!

Why Heart Math Tutoring?



- ▶ Tutors build students' confidence and math skills with every visit, while also serving as a positive role model.
- ▶ Our program is organized and effective – training, lesson plans, and staff support are provided.
- ▶ An on-site staff person is there to help you during all sessions!

“My students look forward to going with their tutor every single time. **It's amazing to see all the growth they can make in one year!** The tutors truly care. They are encouraging and help them build academic confidence. **It is so important for our students to feel loved and confident in school, and Heart Tutoring definitely fosters that.**”

-Ms. Hammond, 4th grade teacher at Sterling Elementary

What if I'm not a "math person"?



- ▶ Advanced math knowledge and tutoring experience are not required! Our students are in grades 1-5. If you can do basic math and have a passion for helping kids, you can tutor with Heart Math Tutoring.
- ▶ We supply all the tools you'll need. You will play games and other fun activities that help strengthen your students' foundational math skills.
- ▶ Get support from an on-site staff person who is there during all sessions!

What is the commitment?

Virtual

- ▶ Work 1:1 with the same students each week for 1-hour, tutoring each student for 30 minutes back-to-back.
- ▶ Volunteer tutors deliver the curriculum via Zoom using Google Jamboard.
 - ▶ Volunteers will need the ability to connect to the internet on a laptop/tablet.
 - ▶ An in-school Program Coordinator will monitor student progress and the tutoring space, while a virtual PC will be available to help you with any issues that arise.



In-person

- ▶ Work 1:1 with the same student each week for 30 minutes, or two students back-to-back for 1 hour.
- ▶ Flexible locations and times—stop by on your way to work or break away from the office at lunch.
- ▶ You can switch your day if your schedule changes.
- ▶ A Program Coordinator will be available to help you and monitor students' progress!




*Photo taken pre-COVID-19



Sign up now at www.heartmathtutoring.org/become-a-volunteer!

DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	2 6:15 Gathering@theTable	3	4
5 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	6	7 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	8 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	9 6:15 Gathering@theTable	10 10:00 a.m. Caring & Sharing	11
12 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	13	14 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	15 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	16 6:15 Gathering@theTable	17	18
19 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	20	21 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	22	23 6:15 Gathering@theTable	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. Worship 8:00 p.m. Worship	25 Christmas Day
26 10:30 a.m. No in-person worship. Live-stream Lessons and Carols only	27 Church Office Closed	28	29	30 6:15 Gathering@theTable	31 New Year's Eve	
<u>December Birthdays</u> 12/02 Barbara Avar, Lisa Krause 12/03 Dawn Gibson, Nancy Hann 12/06 Gordon Hann 12/07 Ryan Huber 12/08 Maxine Christ 12/09 Millie McWilliams, Emily Zeis 12/11 Larry Wagstaff 12/13 Matthew VanSandt 12/14 Damien Staton 12/15 Bob Fleischacker 12/16 Susan Phipps 12/20 Karen Kaufeld 12/21 Rebecca VanSandt 12/23 Kenneth Kilminster, Ray Kilminster 12/26 Polly Farris 12/31 Joy Forster				Praying for Possibilities! 11/28-12/05 Anne Chriske & Janet Mayer 12/05-12/12 Patricia & John Maisel 12/12-12/19 Indra Persaud & Pat Snodgrass 12/19-12/26 Traci Anderson & William Charnock 12/26-01/02 Lillian Stephens & Nancy Mersereau		
				<u>December Anniversaries</u> 12/08 Russell and Lillian Stephens (31) 12/21 Eddie and Pat Sipe (58) 12/25 Preston and Sarah Gist (52) 12/30 David and Linda Frixen (38)		