
The InnerNet

Mid-December 2021

Oh the joy of Christmas when celebrated with children—they are so full of hope, excitement, wonder. What is in that box? What is under the wrapping? The hope that they receive exactly what they wanted is almost palpable. How about you, when you were younger did you feel this way? Do you now? What is one of the most memorable gifts you ever received? Was it the most amazing doll, with open and shut eyes that really wet it's diapers? Maybe it was a building set with all the pieces you really were dying to have? Was it a train set or a puzzle? Maybe it wasn't from your childhood, but from a special someone who put so much thought into what you would love to have?

Whenever you received it, you were overwhelmed with happiness, joy, love. You opened it, used it, and thanked the giver over and over for the generosity. Whatever the gift, you remember it to this day because it made an impression on you. It represented the greatest love you could feel because the gift was especially for you, and it was the best day with the most happiness because you were sharing it with those you love.

But what about those gifts you receive you really were puzzled over—what does it mean; why would they gift it to you? It wasn't what you asked for—it was the "off-brand" not the name brand, because they didn't know better, or could only afford what they gave. Maybe it was an obligatory gift—aftershave, dusting powder, fruitcake, the flashlight meat thermometer. You mumble out a thank you; but are still puzzled. Maybe you always intended to re-gift it, but somehow it just didn't feel right. So it sat there, unused, not really wanted, but kept out of obligation.

The child we celebrate on Christmas Eve is God's gift wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. In the gospel of John (3:16) tells us the why of the gift—God so loved. God so loved us and the entire creation that God sent us the best gift of all. In the gospel of Luke, the angels told the shepherds about this gift—Good news, a Savior, the Messiah, (the shepherds understood what that meant—God was at work finally rescuing the people from bondage and creating a new world full of justice and peace). This gift would be found as a baby, swaddled in bands of cloth, laid in a feed trough, and they were invited to find this gift. What I like to imagine is what happened after the angels—did the shepherds argue about going? Did they wonder if this was fake news? Did they wonder if they were seeing things and it had not really happened? Whatever went through their minds, they eventually decided to go and see, test out the truth. What they found, accepted, took to heart, was life-changing. They told all they had heard, and amazement was over everyone. This was good news for certain. They opened this gift and made full use of it. But not everyone did and could. The story Matthew tells involves fear, terror and exile because King Herod could not open the gift, in fact he was threatened by it and wanted to destroy this gift.

So how about us? How do we receive this gift given to us, for us, by our Gracious God? Do we open it with joy and happiness, taking it out and loving it? or do we smile nicely and mumble politely, "why thank you, but you didn't have to, so thoughtful.." and we put the gift somewhere safe, and just let it be. Maybe it feels like a piece of useless, unneeded junk. Maybe if we unwrap it, we'll feel obligated to use it, or give a gift back to the giver. So it sits there..until one day, our loneliness, pain, sorrow, utter desperation forces us to pick it up, un wrap the swaddling clothes, hoping against hope, that somehow, this One will be what we need and long for, and as we hold it, it is...unconditional love. Give to us, for us, to fill us. Merry Christmas! May you unwrap this gift and hold it in hope.

In Christ, Pastor Angela

The **Blood Mobile** will be on site at LSLC this Sunday, Dec 19, 2021, beginning at 9 a.m. Contact Ruth in the church office (704-542-3626) to sign up prior to Sunday or plan to donate the gift of life when you are here Sunday morning.



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 come. 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 begin a new study on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 10AM. "Surprised by Hope" by N.T. Wright.

You can purchase the paperback book for \$10.70 & Kindle for \$4.99 from Amazon. Barnes & Noble also carry the book. Don't know the price. In the six sessions a few of the things we will look at is - 1. Hope for the World, 2. The Hope of Heaven, 3. The Hope of the Church.

Join us on Wednesday at 10AM. All are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Mayer at 704-562-8695 or janetmayer@bellsouth.net.

Caring & Sharing Meeting:

“Give all your worries to him, because he cares about you.” – 1 Peter 5:7. When Josh Wullenweber started this support group several years ago, his mission was to bring solace to those who struggle with the challenges of caregiving, illness and aging and to teach us to give our worries to God.

Over the years, our group has continued this mission by praying with, supporting and laughing with one another through our struggles, losses, joys and pandemic isolation. All are welcome – church members, friends and neighbors - who seek friendship, support, and strategies for caring for others or themselves during illness, loss or the challenges of aging.

We meet at church on the second Friday of every month at 10a.m. Our next meeting will be on **Friday, January 14, 2022**. OUT OF RESPECT FOR ONE ANOTHER AND THE HEALTH CONCERNS WE ARE COPING WITH, PLEASE WEAR A MASK. For more information, please contact Betty Reynolds at 704-287-5724 or CoachBettyR@gmail.com.

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 also be made through this QR code.

Thank you for your generosity.

Financial Results for November 2021 Month End

General Fund 01	Actual
Contributions, Budget	321,130
Expenses and Transfers	307,839
Net Contributions less Expenses/Tranfers	13,291
Donor Challenge Contributions	65,995
Facilities Fund 02-3241-442	
Beginning Balance	83,822
Transfers from General Fund	8,333
Contributions	3,825
Expenditures - H&S Roofing	(47,113)
Expenditures - Adams Heating	(4,197)
Ending Balance	44,671

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.

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.



Tutor with Heart!

-  Help Charlotte elementary students build math skills and confidence!
-  1 hour per week commitment
-  No math expertise or teaching experience required
-  In person and virtual opportunities

sign up today at heartmathtutoring.org

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!

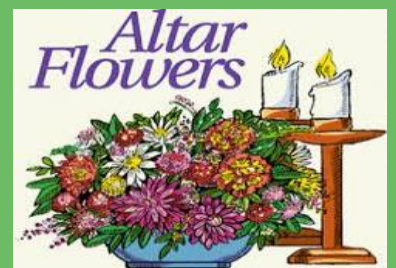
You may call or email Ruth at the church office 704-542-3626 to sign up: M-F, 9-2. Your \$50 donation may be dropped off on Sundays, mailed, or by using the on-line giving. Please just note "Altar Flowers" on the memo line.

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!

Also, the 2022 Altar Flower chart has been posted on the bulletin board.



Women of the ELCA

Thank you to our generous congregation for the wonderful contributions to the Bake Sale at the recent Craft Fair! The Bake Sale was a wonderful success, selling out of everything! Many thanks to Anita Mitchell and Lorene Thom for the festive packaging items, they made the table especially enticing!

We were able to collect \$487 through sales and donations! This money will help support the ministries of our organization, including the Quilt Ministry, support of a child through Compassion International, special books at infant and toddler baptisms, assistance for Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee and support of the ministries of NC WELCA.



Living Saviour Ministry of Health and Wholeness

Peace Surpassing All Understanding

"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest"
(Matt.11:28)

Remember GRACE:

- G**– greens & grains
- R**– rest/ relax
- A**– activity/ exercise
- C**– cease smoking
- E**– emotional peace (Created by Linda Frixen)

In December our focus has shifted toward **Finding the Peace that Passes all Understanding**. In the hustle and bustle of the typical holiday season, the 3rd essential Lifestyle Habit identified by the AMA as important for good health is sleep and relaxation. While developing the habit of sleep and relaxation, it is also important to maintain walking/exercise as emphasized in October and eating fresh whole food as emphasized in November. Read a copy of the December Health and Wholeness Newsletter for more information regarding the essential health benefits of sleep and relaxation for adults and children, as well as tips for getting a good night's sleep.



Teach relaxation and deep breathing to children having them to pretend to smell a flower and blow out a candle.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cbr8Evh3Nvo>

Relaxation can be a benefit of Centering Prayer, which is an ancient distinctively Christian form of meditative prayer that is about opening ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in ways that transcend our thoughts and feelings by sitting in silence with God. more common types of prayer, centering prayer is wordless. Advent is the perfect time of the year to begin a Centering Pray practice, opening ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit, so that the Holy child of Bethlehem will "descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.." "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in."

For additional information regarding the practice of Centering Prayer see the Newsletter or view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aQmQu4lufo>

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 11:00 a.m. Nancy Mersereau Recital
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 Church Office Closed	

December Birthdays

12/02 Barbara Avard, 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 Ken and 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

December Anniversaries

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)

