
The InnerNet

Early January 2022

The 3-year-old in our family is a precious and precocious child. He lives far from NC and so we video-chat regularly. Recently, while reading him a book about why we have Christmas, as I read the opening page, “this is the story of Jesus Christ,” he stopped me and loudly said, “Nona! Don’t say that!” Puzzled, I asked what I said, to which he replied, “Jesus Christ. That’s a bad word Nona, we don’t say that.”

More puzzled than ever, as to what I had done, his dad explained, “when he was 2, someone in the extended family frequently and loudly would say, ‘Jesus Christ!’ as a sort of expletive, and he copied it. So, we had to stop him, and told him that was a bad word.” Ah, clarity. To this little boy, the only way he’d ever heard of Jesus the Christ, was as an explosive word of anger, surprise, dismay; as a casually thrown out comment. Jesus Christ as a loving child born in a stable, long ago, as God’s gift of grace and love was not part of his day to day reality. Yes, he does attend a Christian church-based preschool, and so yes, he heard the story and participated in songs and a program where he was an animal in the stable, but other than an occasional table grace, Jesus has little space in his life, or the life of his family.

As a pastor in the 21st century, and as a person of faith, this is an all too true reality in our world. Fewer than 50% of the population claim a Christian belief, report ever attending a worship service, or even being religious. Too frequently even those of us who are persons of faith, spiritual AND religious, who attend worship services regularly, have a sort of tepid faith life. One which rarely reads scripture, rarely prays out-loud or even silently, and for whom “Jesus Christ” is both Lord and a word of frustration. What has the church done in creating disciples who struggle to articulate faith, belief, trust in a living God, and who find it all too easy to use terms such as “Oh God” or “Jesus” as words that do not invite God into the situation but rather simply express emotions? How has the church failed so miserably to teach, encourage, and invite people into a life as a disciple of Jesus the Christ?

2022 is here: A New Year, a time to try new things, to be encouraged to live as a baptized follower of Jesus Christ; To spread God’s love and grace to the world we inhabit; to take time to learn something new.

- ◆ Families are encouraged to consider coming back to in-person worship as the nursery will be staffed beginning January 9 with Ms. Carla, and we will be very flexible on the ages of those who attend.
- ◆ You are encouraged to try the Centering Prayer information session January 9 at 11:45 a.m. one of the ancient ways of connecting in relationship to the Trinity.
- ◆ Zoom in for study each Tuesday at 2 p.m. for a casual, no-pressure, time of learning about the upcoming worship scriptures. Attend in person Wednesday morning 10 a.m. book/bible study in the fellowship hall.
- ◆ Make plans to attend Bishop Smith’s virtual Zoom Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke, **Thursdays from March 10 to April 7** from 7-8:15 p.m. Registration information will be available in January.
- ◆ Other opportunities to learn and expand the faith will be coming in the winter.

Jesus Christ is more, much more than a simple expletive. Jesus Christ is the heartbeat of God’s love, made real and visible to us, who lives now and is part of the Trinity—Father, Holy Spirit, Son. Teach the children, learn yourself, Jesus is our Savior who invites us into relationship. Come and see.

In Christ, in 2022, Pastor Angela

Rising COVID 19 RATES

During this time of rising COVID rates, we are considering how to keep all safe and what is in the best interest of all regarding Holy Communion, singing and in person worship, as well as re-opening the nursery to the youngest ones.

Currently nothing is changed, except we even more STRONGLY urge you to stay home and use the Live Stream of worship if you are at risk for severe illness from this highly contagious variant, Omicron.

If you choose to attend in-person worship, we suggest you upgrade your mask to a KN95, an N95, or a KF94, which is designed to better provide protection. Alternatively, double masking is also suggested, with a cloth mask worn closest to the face and a surgical mask over that. This 2nd layer is typically provides a reduction in the rate of infection and has a higher rate of reducing the virus spread.

Remember to discard, change, clean, or sanitize your mask daily.

The staff and the NC Synod support vaccines and boosters for all who attend worship, lead worship, and conduct business in our building.

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—to be God's voice of hope and love 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

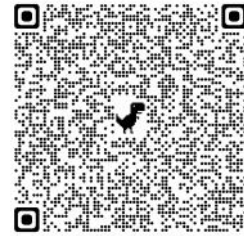
We will begin a new study on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 10AM. "Surprised by Hope" by N.T. Wright.

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.

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.

Please return your intent cards as soon as possible. These provide important information to the Council for the budget planning process. Please know that if you make a pledge for 2022-23 and must change it for some reason, we understand. In such a case, please contact our Financial Secretary, Barbara Avard (bj1949@bellsouth.net), to let her know of the change so she can update the giving records. These records are confidential and shared on a very limited basis for "need to know". Your contributions to support Living Saviour and its ministries are very much appreciated and needed.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Living Saviour friends and supporters. December provided many opportunities to gather together—the Christmas Concert, the worship services each Sunday, Christmas Eve, and the Gathering@theTable each Thursday, provided time to praise and pray. Thank you to all who made each special.

Many thanks to all who provided the gift of time—to sing, play instruments, decorate, set the altar, clean up, and generally make things run more smoothly.



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

Donating Blood saves lives, and it is a gift that you can do when you are healthy and able to do so.

The One Blood Center is located in the EarthFare shopping center, 12239 N. Community House Rd #100 Charlotte, NC 28277 and allows appointments to be made on-line or by phone.

American Red Cross blood donation center on Park Road also allows appointments to be made on-line <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood>

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!

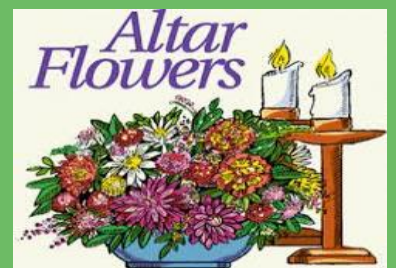
You may call or email Ruth at the church office 704-542-3626 to sign up: M-F, 9-2. Your \$50 donation may be dropped off on Sundays, mailed, or by using the on-line giving. Please just note "Altar Flowers" on the memo line.

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.





Ministry of Health and Wholeness

Peace Surpassing All Understanding

Remember GRACE:

G– greens & grains

R– rest/ relax

A– activity/ exercise

C– cease smoking

E– emotional peace

(Created by Linda Frixen)

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

January will be a busy time of growth for the Health and Wholeness Ministry with exciting activities which include:

- Laura Michael, RN, is enrolled in the Faith Community Nursing (FCN) Foundations course which will certify her as one of two Faith Community Nurses at Living Saviour
- The Health and Wholeness Ministry is currently setting up a space at Living Savior (2nd room on the left entering the Sunday School hallway) to house medical assessment equipment provided by Atrium as well as a library of health information resources. This space will provide the opportunity to offer health education consultations for members of the congregation as well as residents of the surrounding community. (The space will also continue being shared by the Scouting program and would be available for Sunday School as well.)
- During January the Health and Wholeness Ministry Team will conduct a paper and digital survey of the Congregation to gather feedback regarding health and wholeness needs and interests which would guide program planning. Members of the congregation could also be contacted personally for thoughts regarding how the Health and Wholeness Ministry might be helpful. We look forward to talking and engaging with you.
- On **Sunday 01/09/2022 following the 10:30 worship service at approximate 11:45**, the Rev. Richard Little (retired from NC Synod Office) will assist with a short introduction to Centering Prayer. This will be a hybrid event. If you are present for church please plan to stay for a few minutes to be introduced to this ancient Christian Prayer Practice proving to be beneficial to us today. If you are not present in person, consider joining us virtually. A Zoom link will be coming soon. (See Living Lutheran for testimony <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2015/01/contemplate-spiritual-practices-for-lent/>)
- Research is clear that regular daily calming practices such as good sleep, contemplation, meditation, and mindfulness provide significant benefits to physical, mental and spiritual health. Hope you can plan to join us for this introduction to Centering Prayer, a Christian Prayer Practice of being present with God.
- Looking ahead to February, a CPR certification class will be offered with lunch on **Saturday 02/05/2022 from 11 am to 2pm**. Cost will be \$45 or less depending on number of participants. This is an important class for people of all ages as well as those in professions requiring CPR certification. Mark your calendar for the 02/05/2022 class with lunch. Contact Laura Michael, RN lmichael9901@gmail.com if you are interested of if you have questions.

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	3	4 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom) 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice 6:30 p.m. Sout Pancake Dinner	5 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	6 6:15 Gathering@theTable	7 10:00 a.m. Caring & Sharing	1 New Year's Dau 8
9 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed 11:30 a.m. Centering Prayer introduction	10	11 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	12 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	13 6:15 Gathering@theTable	14 10:00 a.m. Caring and Sharing	15 1:00 p.m. Scout Pinewood Derby Workshop
16 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed	18 6:45 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	19 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehear	20 6:15 Gathering@theTable	21	22
23 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	24	25	26 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Zoom Choir Rehearsal	27 6:15 Gathering@theTable	28 Scout Pinewood Derby set up	29 9:00 a.m. Scout Pinewood Derby
30 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	31					

January Birthdays

01/05 Kathy Biggs, Alexandra Leaser
 01/06 Greg Krause
 01/07 Don Pearce, Rhys Plunkett
 01/09 Shyanne Turner
 01/13 Preston Hawley
 01/15 John Sahr
 01/17 Sarah Plunkett
 01/18 Jennifer Lange, Betty Reynolds
 01/21 Nancy Mersereau, Janet Wagstaff
 01/24 Emily Malinowski, Townsend Noonkester
 01/25 Jeanne Davis
 01/26 Ken Leaser
 01/29 Steve Axtman
 01/30 Jennifer Huber, Brian Powell



Praying for Possibilities!

12/26-01/02 Lillian Stephens & Nancy Mersereau
 01/02-01/09 Mary Ann Eller & Janet Axtman
 01/09-01/16 Glenda Kilminster & Anita Mitchell
 01/16-01/23 Anne Chriske & Janet Mayer
 01/23-01/30 Patricia & John Maisel
 01/30-02/06 Tracie Anderson & William Charnock

January Anniversaries

01/01 Pastor Angela and Brian Powell (39)
 01/03 Robert and Judy Ann Hughes (46)
 01/17 Betty and Carl Reynolds

