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# The InnerNet

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Early April 2022

## Lent: Conviction Not Condemnation

Sunday March 20, 2022 was the spring equinox, and the days are surely getting longer, the nights incrementally shorter! Yay! Spring is coming. This church season of 40 days before Easter is called Lent, originated in the old English word meaning “lengthening” especially as it refers to the lengthening of the daylight. Easter is the ultimate celebration of the Risen Son, the light of the world. As suggested by blogger Jennifer L. Holberg, we Christians might think of Lent as a season of “more light” or a season of opening our eyes to see more clearly the Christ light all around us. She suggests that our Lenten time be thought of “as helping our eyes learn to adjust to the coming radiance...our simple aim might be to open our eyes a little wider, see a little more, Our prayer, ‘just a little more light today...’ especially in these dark days of conflict in our world.

We began Lent with the sign of the Ashen Cross marked on our foreheads, a truth of the reality of our mortality and death, which compels us to “open our eyes to our human limitations...it is a small shaft of light breaking through our closed eyes and darkened lives, she says. As we move through this season of Lent and hear the stories of Returning to God (repentance) our eyes are opened wider and wider to the reality that God is a God of grace calling us to come home, back to our place of being and belonging. Just as the Prodigal Son ‘came to himself’ and thought to return home, so too we are able to ‘come to ourselves’ by God’s power at work in us, convicting us but never condemning us.

We too often confuse conviction with condemnation, says blogger Shawn Brix. Conviction is when our eyes open to the light of God’s wonder, majesty, and holiness and in that light, we see ourselves truthfully—exposed, sinful, unworthy. God’s light shows us a specific named sin that God call us to confess and desires to heal, forgive, make whole and clean. We feel the pang of guilt as we see in the light our sinful nature; and, **if we are listening**, we hear the call to come home, return, repent, and be forgiven and renewed by God’s gift of grace.

Condemnation on the other hand, Brix says, “tends to be general rather than specific. Condemnation’s voice in our head often sounds like this: *“I’m no good. I never get anything right. I always ruin things.”* It shames us and pushes us away from grace, rather than inviting us into the Father’s embrace. And rather than being hopeful, condemnation invariably makes us feel hopeless. *“It’s never going to change. God can’t forgive me.”* In short, the Evil One uses condemnation to destroy us, but the Spirit of God uses conviction to bring us to new life. Conviction is only and always intended for our blessing! Remember, “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8:1). The light that pierces our darkness is the light of cleansing love.

As we live through this season of Lent, moving quickly now to the brighter, warmer, sunnier days of spring and to the drama of Holy Week and Easter, keep inviting God to show you just “a little more light today,” God’s light that is, the light that illuminates and convicts; the same light that forgives and transforms.

Easter Sunday is April 17, and you are invited with your friends, family, and neighbors to plan to attend that Sunday’s worship. You are also invited to open your eyes to the full magnificence of the Holy Week drama by attending Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday worship. Your Easter will sparkle just a little brighter and more clearly, having walked with Christ to the dark of the tomb.

In Christ’s love, Pastor Angela

<https://network.crcna.org/faith-nurture/lenten-lengthenings> <https://network.crcna.org/faith-practices/there-now-no-condemnation>

## Lutheroad Summer camp is coming! Save the date June 20-24, 2022

Rising 1st graders through middle school. Pre-camp and post-camp care available at an additional cost. Camp Monday-Thursday, 9-4; Friday 9-12  
Cost \$80 members; \$110 non-members. SCHOLARSHIPS available.

Returning campers are eligible for a \$10 discount and first chance to register. Registration is now live at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3L1M985>

**Gathering@theTable** returns to Thursday nights at 6:15 p.m. Come and join us as we have a light dinner, share conversation, break bread and share Holy Communion around the table. All are welcome, gathering about 6:15, dinner at 6:30, depart about 7:30. Free meal, lend a hand cleaning up if you can.

### ***Renewed in Faith ---Luther, Oberammergau and YOU***

The Living Saviour-sponsored trip to Germany to visit the significant sites related to the life of Martin Luther, sightsee some of the beautiful places of Germany and the highlight of the trip ---- attending the Passion Play in Oberammergau will take place September 1-12 this. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime trip . There are four spaces left for the trip which will be limited to a small group of 30. If you would like more information please contact Pastor Angela, our Tour Host, or Barbara Avard.

### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

**We met every Wednesday at 10AM in person in the fellowship area. We are discussing "Surprised By Hope" by N.T. Wright. All are Welcome.**

**If you have any questions, please contact Janet Mayer at 704-562-8695 or [janetmayer@bellsouth.net](mailto:janetmayer@bellsouth.net).**

### **Quilt Ministry News!**

A **Quilt Ministry workshop** will be held on April 19, at 10:00a.m. We will assemble at least one quilt, and prepare batting for more quilts. All quilts are being created for use by Lutheran World Relief.

In 2021, Lutheran World Relief distributed 122,400 quilts around the world to people in crisis! Come, be a part of this ministry!



## April Caring & Sharing Group

If you are seeking a safe place to share worries and find strategies for coping with the challenges of caregiving, loss or aging, this small group may be for you. Through our informal conversations, we bring solace and friendship as we support, pray and laugh with one another through our struggles, losses, joys and isolation. All are welcome - church members, friends and neighbors. Our next meeting will be on Friday, April 8, 2022 at 10am IN PERSON at church. For more information, please contact Betty Reynolds at 704-287-5724 or [CoachBettyR@gmail.com](mailto:CoachBettyR@gmail.com).

### Your Offerings:

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

Living Saviour  
6817 Carmel Road  
Charlotte NC 28226



Thank you for your generosity.

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### Financial Results for FEBRUARY 2022 Month End

Feb-22	
<b>General Fund 01</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Contributions, Budget	33,761
Expenses and Transfers	35,384
Net Contributions less Expenses/Tranfers	(1,623)
<b>Facilities Fund 02-3241-442</b>	
Beginning Balance	29,972
Transfers from General Fund	1,352
Transfer From Mtg Reserves	38,280
Contributions	100
Expenditures - Adams Heating	(27,909)
Ending Balance	41,796

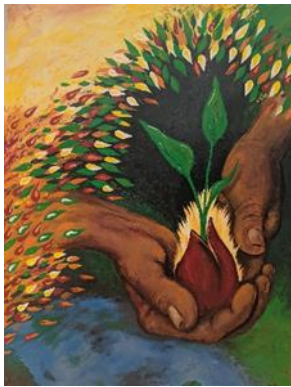
### Vanguard Account

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 Barbara Avard.

### TELLERS NEEDED

Now that our lives are returning to some kind of "normal", church is open and we are welcoming all back to in-person worship, we can use some help with the weekly counting of contributions. This takes only about 30-45 minutes after worship and Barbara Avard or George Shabla will be there with you for help and support.

Contact Barbara ([bj1949@bellsouth.net](mailto:bj1949@bellsouth.net)) if you are willing to consider giving some of your time and talent to help with this important administrative support duty.



## Ministry of Health and Wholeness April's Health and Wholeness focus is Environmental Wellbeing:

"Enjoy the Divine Flow in all of nature. Love rocks and elements first, move to trees and flowers, then animals, and then humans." *Richard Rohr*

"There is one body and one Spirit ... one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

- ◆ As of **March 21, 2022 the COVID positivity rate** is 2.6%. In most settings masks are no longer necessary. At Living Saviour, we will continue to mask during worship out of concern for those who are especially vulnerable in a setting that lends itself to high transmissibility.
- ◆ **Calling Earth Day Art**-- Please bring any artwork you are willing to contribute for display **during April**--- Include pictures, poems, songs, short stories related to caring for creation created by children of all ages. You may place it on the table near the Health and Wholeness Bulletin Board. We will use it for digital and gallery display during the Environmental Wellness focus in April.
- ◆ **Exercise Opportunity:** Health and Wholeness is in negotiation with a Certified Exercise Instructor to begin a weekly exercise class starting after Easter. For planning purposes we need to know daytime preferences. In order to avoid interfering with the Wednesday morning Book Study, **Tuesday or Thursday mornings about 10:45 at Living Saviour** are being considered. Send your preferences for Tuesdays or Thursdays to [healthandwholeness@livingsaviourlc.org](mailto:healthandwholeness@livingsaviourlc.org) and let us know your thoughts and interests.
- ◆ Through the talent and assistance of Pat Snodgrass, Health and Wholeness presented a delightful program on Environmental Awareness to the Living Saviour Pre-School. During April Living Saviour will enjoy the art produced by the 3 and 4-year-old students during that program. Many thanks to Pat.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is li-

## Greeting Cards

Did you know that we have a lovely selection of greeting cards for many occasions on the wall display in the Fellowship Hall? These cards are available for a \$1 donation per card that can be left in the box on the display. These funds become contributions to the church.

We give thanks to Dawn Gibson for her dedicated long-time service to maintain this display and for adding new cards as needed.





### Your Passion, Your Plan...

Your gift for those you love, your church and God's work in the world!

As a resource from our church, Stephanie Burke, ELCA Regional Gift Planner for the Carolinas, is available to help you explore how you can make a difference in the lives of your loved ones *and* to ministry, both now and in the future. She is available to assist in your estate and legacy planning while always considering your current needs as well as your goals for your loved ones. One-on-one appointments, whether in person or virtual, will answer all your personal questions, confidentially, and at absolutely no obligation. It is her ministry to be of service.



**Stephanie  
Burke**

**Regional Gift Planner  
ELCA Foundation**  
*Serving North and South  
Carolina Synods*

Cell: 704-293-9436  
Stephanie.Burke@elca.org

*You may contact Stephanie at  
any time to discuss your  
legacy plans and/or schedule  
a free, no obligation  
appointment*



**ELCA Foundation**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



Palm Sunday April 10, 10:30 a.m. a procession with palm branches and the reading of the Gospel according to Luke from Palm to Passion. Come and hear this ancient story once again.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, at 11 a.m. or 7 p.m. Holy Communion, stripping of the Altar, and the story of Jesus' last night with his friends.

Good Friday, April 15, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the quiet of the sanctuary, we will hear the story of Jesus trial, suffering, and crucifixion. We will leave him, dead in the tomb, awaiting God's miracle of resurrection.

Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m. Gather to welcome the empty tomb, the resurrection light, and the joy of celebration. Holy Communion, choir, and a beautiful sanctuary combine to remind us that Jesus is Risen!

## EASTER MORNING COFFEE

LSLC Fellowship will host an Easter Sunday Coffee (with sweets and treats!) on April 17, beginning at 9:30am. Bring your appetite and your joie de vivre, and let's gather for fellowship and food prior to our Easter worship service! Call Traci Anderson (704-577-6062) or Mark Brennan (704-957-1523) with any questions you may have.



## Praying for Possibilities!

03/27-04/03 Pastor Angela and Dawn Gibson  
04/03-04/10 Jan Sundberg, Corky Carver and Shallen Gordon  
04/10-04/17 GOD and Janet Mayer  
04/17-04/24 Indra Persaud and Pat Snodgrass  
04/24-05/01 Patricia and John Maisel



## Choir News



Please see below for updates to the choir rehearsal schedules:

Chancel Choir will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays

Alleluia Ringers will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays

## April Birthdays

04/02 Jennifer Noonkester  
04/03 Laura Schwab  
04/06 Chuck Lyle, Cindy Quinlan  
04/09 Elisabeth Forster, Andy Williams  
04/10 Steve Vick  
04/11 Tony Eller  
04/12 Jim Christ, Anita Mitchell  
04/16 Richard Tarr  
04/17 Neil Mitchell, Russell Stephens  
04/20 Cynthia Karim  
04/21 Kristen Haigler  
04/22 Eric Greve, Samantha Merritt  
04/26 Lorene Thom  
04/28 Sara Melosh  
04/29 Gregg Mitchell, Jennifer Thompson  
04/30 Alina Krantz

## April Anniversaries

04/04 Matt and Becky VanSandt  
04/12 Donald and Barbara Ferriss (53)  
04/18 Cathy and Kevin Lyall (24)  
04/22 Luke and Cindy Quinlan (27)  
04/24 Patti and Ed Garrison (29) and Ken Leeser and Karen Kaufeld (23)

## Faith and Wholeness Resource Library Publications from Harvard Health Publishing-

Did you know?

There is a room dedicated to the Health and Wholeness Ministry in the educational building? It is a place of peace, with the following publications from Harvard Health available in the resource library in the education building. The list of publications available is below:

- ⇒ Overcoming Addiction: Find an effective path toward recovery
- ⇒ Alzheimer's Disease: A guide to diagnosis, treatment, and caregiving
- ⇒ Anxiety and Stress Disorders
- ⇒ Fighting Inflammation
- ⇒ Life After Cancer
- ⇒ Stroke: Strategies to prevent, treat, and recover from a "brain attack"
- ⇒ Walking for Health
- ⇒ Controlling Your Blood Pressure
- ⇒ Strength and Power Training for Older Adults
- ⇒ Mobility and Independence
- ⇒ Gentle Core Exercises: Start toning your abs, building your back muscles, and reclaiming core fitness today
- ⇒ Pain Relief Without Drugs or Surgery
- ⇒ Positive Psychology: Harnessing the power of happiness, mindfulness, and inner strength.

- Leg•a•cy--

[ˈlegəsē] (**noun**): Something that is handed down or remains from one generation to the next; a heritage; a tradition.

Meet Rita. Rita is a willow-thin “80’s-ish” year-old with an effervescent smile and ice blue eyes that twinkle over the rim of her coffee mug. Over a morning Zoom call she tells me her story. She’s had a good life. Was married to a good man, but she’s a widow now. She has one grown son: he’s single, has no children, and is doing better financially than she could have ever hoped. On screen, she sweeps a delicate hand at the scene behind her: a wide bay window overlooking a sparkling body of water in her home in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

She says, “At my age I don’t need this big of a house, and my son surely doesn’t need it either. The way I see it, God gave it to me and my husband to take care of our family. So the least I could do is give it back to God.”

We talk about Rita’s wishes. Her church means a lot to her. It was there for her when her husband died, and she wants to ensure its ministries continue long after she’s gone. While she has always had the church on her “list”, the pandemic has brought other agencies and needs to mind. She’s thinking about local camps, about her library where she volunteered for years, about scholarship funds. Maybe something named for her husband that will be there for years to come. Rita is not just thinking about her assets, she is planning how her faith story continues long after her lifetime.

***Rita is planning her legacy.***

As the definition at the top shows, our legacy is not simply defined by our will or trust, by some legalese and numbers printed on a page. It is the story of our values and passions and most sacred pursuits. It is the final and ultimate sharing of our life story, our *faith* story.

Have you given any thought to your legacy? What your story will tell? Have you given your plan any consideration, or will you simply leave your legacy to chance? Unfortunately, most of us spend more time planning our next vacation than we do crafting (and/or reviewing) our Legacy Plan.

In my work as Regional Gift Planner, I get to talk with people all over the Carolinas like Rita. I get to hear their stories and link arms with them in shaping a plan that protects their loved ones AND ensures the work of the ministries and organizations they care about most continue. I also get to work with congregations and other agencies to make sure they have a clear, intentional plan in place when Rita’s legacy gift (and others like hers) come their way. And right now, as the global pandemic brings our priorities and values into razor sharp relief, there is no better time for individuals and organizations to have this conversation.

It takes a lifetime to build a legacy. It only takes a conversation to aim it into the future. When you’re ready to take aim on your plan, please give me a call. I’d love to talk.

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*Stephanie Burke is the ELCA Foundation’s Regional Gift Planner for North and South Carolina. Her services are available at no charge to those interested in leaving legacy gifts to local congregations, ministries of the ELCA, and other charitable causes. She can be reached at 704-293-9436 or [stephanie.burke@elca.org](mailto:stephanie.burke@elca.org).*

# APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>3 Lent 5</b> 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	4	5 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom)	6 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	7 6:15 Gathering@theTable	8 10:00 a.m. Caring and Sharing (Zoom)	9
<b>10 Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	11	12 10:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom)	13 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	<b>14 Maundy Thursday</b> 6:15 Gathering@theTable	<b>15 Good Friday</b>	16
<b>17 Easter Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	<b>18 Easter Monday</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	19 10:00 a.m. Quilting Group 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom)	20 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	21 6:15 Gathering@theTable	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	25	26 2:00 p.m. Lectionary Study Group (Zoom)	27 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice	28 6:15 Gathering@theTable	29	30

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on **Tuesday, April 12**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall after the COVID break. We will continue having our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

This ministry makes prayer shawls for church members and others who are in need of prayer and comfort.

If you knit or crochet and would like to participate in this ministry, please join us or contact [Jeanne Davis](mailto:jeannedavisd88@att.net) at [jeannedavisd88@att.net](mailto:jeannedavisd88@att.net) with any questions.

