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# The InnerNet

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January 2023

January 1, 2023

To all the Disciples of Christ who are the Church of Our Living Saviour,

Greetings and Happy New Year to you all! On this first day of the year of our Lord 2023, I pray that the coming year will bring you happiness, good health, prosperity, and all good gifts from God our Father. Last year, 2022, seemed to speed by so fast. One task was barely completed when another one needing attention popped up, culminating in the resignation of Pastor Angela at the start of the Holiday season.

The main reason for this communication (but please read it all) is to inform the congregation of a **“Congregation Study”** scheduled to take place on **Sunday, January 22 immediately after the worship service**. Representatives from Bishop Smith’s Office will be here to lead this study, which is expected to take approximately 90 minutes to complete. Those present will divide into small groups and provide answers to a few questions posed by the representatives. Bishop Smith indicated the questions are designed to determine what the congregations believes are important aspects for LSLC going forward. He suggested three questions would be similar to the following:

1. What are the ministries we don’t want to lose?
2. What are we not currently doing that God might want us to do?
3. We believe that Living Saviour Lutheran Church’s next pastor should be someone who \_\_\_\_\_?

The information gathered during this meeting will be compiled by a small group from the Council and a report will be written and shared with the congregation. This study will form a part of the Ministry Site Profile which will be developed and used by a Call Committee to discern the best candidate to call as the new Pastor of LSLC. Please set aside 90 minutes after worship on January 22 to join your friends at LSLC for this important Congregation Study. Thank you in advance for your willingness to listen, think and share your insights.

Now, I wish to bring you up to date on the progress made in preparation for the call of a new Pastor for Living Saviour Lutheran Church. After saying Farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Angela and Brian, the next necessity was obtaining pastoral coverage for the remainder of December, with the holidays complicating matters. With the dedicated help from the Bishop’s Office, we obtained necessary pastoral coverage through January 1, 2023. Please join me in thanking Rev. Linda Hatcher for agreeing to consecrate and serve communion when an ordained pastor is not available, as happened on Christmas Day and New Years Day. *(Continued on page 7...)*

# Congregation Acknowledgements!!

## January Birthdays

01/02 Kathy Biggs, Alexandra Lesser  
01/07 Don Pearce, Rhys Plunkett, Penelope Zeis  
01/09 Shyanne Turner  
01/13 Preston Hawley  
01/15 John Sahr  
01/17 Sarah Plunkett  
01/18 Betty Reynolds  
01/21 Nancy Mersereau, Janet Wagstaff  
01/24 Emily Malinowski, Townsend Noonkester  
01/25 Jeanne Davis  
01/26 Ken Leeser  
01/29 Steve Axtman  
01/30 Jennifer Huber



## January Anniversaries

01/03 Robert and Judy Hughes (47)  
01/17 Betty and Carl Reynolds (53)



## **Praying for Possibilities!**

01/01-01/08 Traci Anderson and Will Charnock  
01/08-01/15 Lillian Stephens and Nancy Mersereau  
01/15-01/22 Sherry Wooldridge and Don Huff  
01/22-01/29 Jeanne Dunne and Janet Wagstaff



**CHOIRS TO RESUME ON JANUARY 18.** New members are always welcome. Consider joining for the opportunity to offer great music to the Lord and for the inspiration of our congregation. You'll also enjoy being among a great group of friendly folks. "Use what talent the Lord has given you. The woods would be filled with little song if only those birds sang who sang their song best."

For information on times and other questions, please see Don Huff.

## Church Information!!

### 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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### 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.

### SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM

We are pleased to announce a wonderful opportunity for your child to learn about **God, the Bible, Important People** in the **Bible**, and the **liturgy** of the **Lutheran Church**. Your child will experience lessons in **learning, music, arts and crafts**. This will be led by Cathy Shabla and Russell Hinson.

**Adult Sunday Morning Faith Formation/Faith Forum meets at 9:15 in the Ed. Wing. All are Welcome!**

## Craft Fair Update!!!

Our 26<sup>th</sup> annual Craft Fair held on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year was a wonderful success! There was a wide variety of vendors, a great response from the community and our church family as visitors (and purchasers), good response to the traditional hot dog sale, and pretty good weather! Many thanks to Anita Mitchell for coordinating the Fair and to her team for doing their part!

Proceeds from the Craft Fair came to just over \$2,000! A great day! The Bake Sale, filled with home baked items from our generous congregation, sold just over \$500 worth of goodies. Thank you Living Saviour bakers!

With that \$2,000 our plan is as follows:

- ◆ \$500 in support of the child we support through Compassion International. Rhoda, who lives in Ghana, is almost 12 years old. We have been supporting children through Compassion International for eight years.
- ◆ \$200 to the Be The Light Campaign through Lutheran Services Carolina.
- ◆ \$200 to Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee in support of their food pantry.
- ◆ \$100 to the Quilt Ministry at LSLC for supplies as needed
- ◆ \$200 to Lutheran World Relief for their work to assist people in crisis around the world.
- ◆ \$250 for Room In The Inn expenses here at Living Saviour in January.
- ◆ The remainder stays in our treasury and will be used as needed for offerings to NC and National WELCA, purchase of books for infant baptism, postal supplies as needed and service projects as they come up.

## Community Outreach Projects!!!

*Welcome the Stranger*



**Bishop's Challenge**

Living Saviour Lutheran Church accepted the Bishop's Challenge to Welcome the Stranger. I am pleased to let you know that the offering from our

Christmas Concert totaled over \$7,000. Thank you, your generosity and compassion to assist Ukrainian refugees in need are simply amazing. We will be sending this offering to Lutheran Services Carolinas right after New Year's Day. If you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to Living Saviour Lutheran Church with a memo line of "Bishop's Challenge" or "Be the Light Campaign."

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35*

Steve Vick – Congregation President

### ROOM IN THE INN

Thank you Living Saviour Room In The Inn volunteers! We are all set to welcome our homeless neighbors to our campus in January! Each Sunday night in January, volunteers will pick up 12 homeless neighbors from Roof Above Center (formerly Urban Ministry) and bring them to Living Saviour. They will be greeted by other volunteers who will offer them a bed, clean showers, and a hearty meal shared with the volunteers who prepared the food. Two volunteers will spend the night and wake everybody up at 5:00am for breakfast, a bagged lunch-to-go and then the shuttle bus ride back downtown to the Charlotte Transit Center (convenient for those who catch an early bus to get to their jobs). Later on Monday, still other volunteers will launder sheets and towels and others will clean showers and bathrooms.

Thanks to each volunteer for the time you will invest. **The blessing for you** is the knowing you have helped a person in need, keeping them from the cold, and offering them nutritious food, clean sheets, a hot shower, and at least one night to relax, converse with others, or just go to bed early. **All things we take for granted.**

Alice Jenkins

## Group Activities!!

### *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

*The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. 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 at [jeannedavis88@att.net](mailto:jeannedavis88@att.net) with questions.*

### **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Bible Study Group will resume meeting on Wednesdays], January 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Caring & Sharing Group: Next Meeting January 13**

We encourage you to stay in touch with one another by email, text, phone call or getting together for coffee. A friendly voice or message can really brighten someone's day. We will meet at a place to be decided due to the floors being treated at the church. For more information, please contact Pat Sipe at [psgsipe@gmail.com](mailto:psgsipe@gmail.com).

### **Quilt Ministry News!**

Quilt Ministry on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. We will next meet on January 3rd. We will be assembling, pinning and tying quilt layers together. All supplies are here and waiting for volunteers to arrive. No actual "quilting" is needed for these quilts destined for people in crisis around the world, due to weather, war, famine, etc.



Ministry of Health and Wholeness  
**January 2023 Health and Wholeness focus:**  
**New Beginnings- Assessing and Planning**



“The Christian is to “put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness....according to His power that is at work within us.” *Ephesians*

The Health and Wholeness Ministry Team is highlighting the benefits of New Year’s Resolutions in keeping with the tradition of seeing the New Year as a time of reflection and an opportunity for focusing on how we can continue to grow into the image and likeness of God. As a tool of reflection and discernment, the Health and Wholeness team has prepared a wholistic assessment organized around the ELCA Wholeness Wheel. We invite you to pick up a copy of the Health and Wellness Assessment. When you have taken time to complete filling it out privately, we ask that you respond to the survey on the last page and return the Survey page only to the basket on the tea cart. This will assist us in program planning for the year. Thank you for your participation.



**NEW OFFERING: Tuesdays beginning October 18, 2022 at 10:00 AM – A Deeper Dive: 12 Steps to Wellbeing** Develop a practice described by Jesus in the Beatitudes, modeled in his ministry, and practiced by the early church—a practice that guarantees a life abundant in the Fruit of the Spirit; peace, love, joy, patience, gratitude, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, generosity, and self-control. A warm and developing group welcomes all curious visitors and Prodigal Pilgrims.

**NEW OFFERING:** Grief Specialist Holly Gainsboro, is once again being rescheduled to allow for a meeting with the Bishop on January 22, 2023. We are in the process of picking an alternate date for Holly to be with us. Watch for the dates. This will be an opportunity for healing those painful experiences resulting from any undesirable change in life. Most adults carry some form of grief that complicates our activity in the present. Participate to form a supportive community of healing so that we are free to embrace an uncertain future with hope, curiosity and courage.

**ONGOING OFFERINGS:**

- **Thursdays at 11:00 AM Chair Yoga**- This has become a cherished physical exercise activity at the intersection of faith and health. You are invited to join this delightful group of people in support of health and wellbeing.
- **Saturdays at 10:00 AM Aerobic Exercise** – Another delightful exercise group with an excellent opportunity to get that heart rate up, build some muscle strength and receive supportive meaningful coaching from a talented instructor.

**Smithfield School Needs Increase**

Smithfield packs backpacks every week filled with food that the children take home on a regular basis to assist with food insecurity. Below are ways that Living Saviour can help:

1. Contribute the following food items: (drop in red boxes in Narthex)

<b>Canned Chicken</b>	<b>Granola bars (breakfast bars, protein bars)</b>
<b>Canned soups/chili</b>	<b>Raisins</b>
<b>Rice-a-roni</b>	<b>Individual packs of trail mix or other individual snack items</b>
<b>Spaghetti Os/canned ravioli</b>	<b>Boxed individually packaged grits</b>
<b>Fruit cups (preferably not cans)</b>	<b>Boxed individually packaged oatmeal</b>
<b>Applesauce cups or squeezable (preferably not jars)</b>	<b>Canned/packed tuna</b>
<b>Packs of crackers (individual</b>	<b>Easy mac and cheese</b>





*(... continued from page 1)*

The next goal was to engage an Interim Pastor. It was my great delight to announce one surprise gift to you all during our Christmas Eve services by introducing Rev. Charlie Zimmerman as our Interim Pastor. Pastor Charlie has served as a supply pastor at LSLC in the past. He was well received by you all and came highly recommended by the Bishop's Office. I also was able to announce that Pastor Brook Seaford, also highly recommended by the Bishop's Office, is now engaged as our secondary interim. Engaging two pastors is a new plan for the call process. As a result, an official title for Pastor Brook hasn't been determined. Pastors Charlie and Brook will preach and conduct worship service on alternate Sundays going forward. You will be able to meet Pastor Brook this coming Sunday, January 8. Pastor Charlie will also provide assistance to the Council and me as we navigate the call process and will provide a pastoral presence during our Council meetings. Making this a viable plan is the willingness of Pastor Linda, Don Huff, and Pastor Jay to assist in pastoral care, including visitation, preparing and/or conducting other services such as baptisms, weddings and funeral/memorial services. In addition, our depth in Lay-Care volunteers, Carmel Place leaders, and the Congregation Council will be called upon for home shut-in visitation and communion. This interim period plan was developed with the Bishop's Office in recognition of our record in these areas. I would ask you to include in your prayers all those involved in this plan during the upcoming days.

As I mentioned at the New Year's Day service, a significant message we, as a congregation, can send to potential, available pastoral candidates is about the health of our congregation. Let's face it, a significant aspect of that health is whether we have the funding to allow us to continue our current and future internal and outreach programs as well as the ability to meet the salary requirements of a pastor for LSLC. Our stewardship program was clearly impacted by the resignation of our pastor. We believe we are significantly behind where we should be in returned pledge cards and, therefore, behind in our ability to develop a budget for 2023. So, take this as an urgent request to return your pledge cards by mail, in person, or, if necessary, by email to Barbara Avard as soon as possible. Please return a pledge card even if your offering is by electronic means. An appropriate budget is a critical element examined by possible pastoral call candidates.

As I mentioned on Sunday, please consider satisfying your offering by way of a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA to LSLC. If you intend to use your IRA in this manner, you may not be taxed on the value of your offering, which just might allow to increase your offering by your tax savings. As always, please consult your financial specialist before you use this method of making charitable offerings.

And finally, the offering from our Christmas Concert earmarked for Lutheran Services Carolinas and the Bishop's Challenge will be at a minimum \$7,000 and will be used to resettle Ukrainian refugees in our state. Remember Jesus' words – "What you do for the least of these you also do for me." This amount will be noticed and speaks volumes about the generosity and missional orientation of LSLC to potential candidates as well as to the Synod.

May the Love and Peace of God flood your soul during this New Year.

Steve Vick – Congregation President

# JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 New Year's Day</b> 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Children/Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	<b>2 Church Office closed</b>	3 10:00 a.m. 12-Step Discussion Group 10:00 Quilt Ministry	4	5	6	7 10:00 a.m. Exercise Opportunities
8 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Children/Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	9	10 10:00 a.m. 12-Step Discussion Group 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	11 11:30 Gentle Exercise	12 11:00 Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	13 10:00 a.m. Caring and Sharing	14 10:00 a.m. Exercise Opportunities
15 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Children/Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	<b>16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed</b>	17 10:00 a.m. 12-Step Discussion Group	18 11:30 Gentle Exercise 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	19 11:00 Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	20	21 10:00 a.m. Exercise Opportunities
22 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Children/Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed 11:30 a.m. Cong. Study	23	24 10:00 a.m. 12-Step Discussion Group	25 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	26 11:00 Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	27	28 10:00 a.m. Exercise Opportunities
29 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Children/Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed 11:30 a.m. Annual meeting	30	31 10:00 a.m. 12-Step Discussion Group				