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# The InnerNet

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November 2023

Happy November LSLC Family!

It is time to talk about stewardship...Which really ought to be an “all the time” conversation. After all, “stewardship” is really just a word that has to do with tending to what has been given into our care. Remember when flight attendants were called stewards or stewardesses? They were tasked with caring for the lives that have been given into their care. Same with us.

Stewardship is a way of life. It has to do with how we tend to what has been given to us by our God who provides all that is needed that we may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10)...Our time, talent and (yes) treasure.

In the first chapter of his book *Abundance*, Rev. Michael Ward, says “Biblically...we should ground our stewardship efforts in Jesus’s words from Matthew 6:21. Jesus says, ‘Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’ I was nearly done with seminary,” Rev. Ward continues, “when I finally understood what Jesus meant. I thought that where our hearts were, our treasures naturally followed behind. I thought that if we got people to like the church more, they would give more. Jesus says that is backwards. It is where our treasures are that we will find our hearts” (8). In other words, we can choose where to put our heart...It will follow where we put our treasure. Makes sense.

Over the next several weeks, we will be hearing short stories of thanksgiving for all that your generosity has allowed Living Saviour to do and be for the sake of the world both within and outside of our congregation.

And, while there are those who, during the special campaign this past August, made pledges that would carry through 2024, many did not. So, on Sunday, November 19, we will have a “Commitment Sunday” during which our individual Statements of Intent (or Pledges) for Giving for 2024 will be received and offered to God during the service. We know that setting an intent makes a significant difference. In fact, “Even beginning with a pledge of \$1 per day makes a difference (and would, for many, double their giving or better)...And Lutherans who pledge give 45% more than non-pledging Lutherans” (*Abundance*, 37). God is a God of abundance and has created us to be people of abundance. Living from a place of scarcity, naturally, keeps us operating in fear and survival mode. It causes us to be less than we were created to be – gracious stewards of all God has given us.

The ability to vision and dream grows from generosity. Executing that vision and those dreams requires an understanding that loving and giving go hand in hand. Rick Warren said it best, “We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving” (Purpose Driven Life).

Your partnership and your gifts make a difference.

Blessings to each one and all,  
+ Pr. Sara

## Congregation Acknowledgements!!

### November Anniversaries

- 11/09 Gregg and Anita Mitchell (49)  
11/19 Jeanne and Brook Davis (57)  
11/22 Sue and Fred Hunsinger (33)



### November Birthdays

- 11/03 Judy Hughes, Samantha Stogner  
11/04 Corky Carver, Amanda Thom  
11/05 Tom Tobin  
11/08 Barbara Tobin  
11/11 Karter Haigler  
11/15 Cindy Meadows, Cole Plunket  
11/19 Debby Borrelli, Logan Campbell, Margaret Krause  
11/20 Kathy DeLoache  
11/23 Caroline Cochran  
11/26 Benjamin Thom  
11/27 Johanna Krause



### **Praying for Possibilities!**

- 10/27-11/03 Dawn Gibson and Nancy Mersereau  
11/03-11/10 Corky Carver and Shallen Gordon  
11/10-11/17 Maria Rozhin and Glenda Kilminster  
11/17-11/24 GOD and Janet Mayer  
11/24-12/01 MaryAnn Eller and Janet Axtman



## 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.



### 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.

### 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS and Areas of Responsibility

Steven Vick—President	Administrative/ Worship & Music
Janet Axtman—Vice President	Property
Gregg Mitchell—Secretary	Personnel & Admin
Barbara Avard	Financial Secretary & Treasurer
Debby Borrelli	Christian Education
Linda Frixen	Outreach
Rev. Linda Hatcher	Pastoral Care
Laura Michael	Health & Wholeness
Pat Sipe	Lay Care

The next Council Meeting will be on **Sunday, November 19, 2023** at 12:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

### LIVING SAVIOUR CHURCH STAFF

<b>The Reverend Sara Ilderton</b> —Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastorsara@livingsaviourlc.org">pastorsara@livingsaviourlc.org</a>
<b>Don Huff</b> , Minister of Worship and Music	<a href="mailto:dhuff@livingsaviourlc.org">dhuff@livingsaviourlc.org</a>
<b>Ruth Mayes</b> , Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:ruth@livingsaviourlc.org">ruth@livingsaviourlc.org</a>
<b>Nancy Mersereau</b> , Organist and Music Assistant	<a href="mailto:nancyqqq@aol.com">nancyqqq@aol.com</a>
<b>Carla Gearheart</b> , Childcare Provider	<a href="mailto:carla.gearheart@yahoo.com">carla.gearheart@yahoo.com</a>

## Group Activities!!

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study

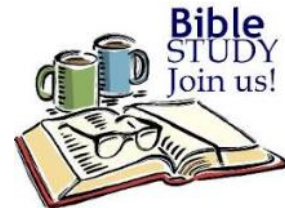
We will finish "The Red Sea Rules" on Wednesday November 15th.

We will be off the Wednesday before Thanksgiving - November 22.

Starting Wednesday November 29th we will begin "AN UNLIKELY ADVENT" By Rachel Billups. The book has 4 sessions so will finish on December 20, 2023. You can purchase the book on Amazon.

We will look at extraordinary people of the Christmas story in the eyes of HOPE, JOY, PEACE, AND LOVE. The 4 candles on the Advent wreath symbolize Hope, Joy, Peace, & Love.

Please join us on Wednesday mornings to learn & laugh & perhaps learn something new about Advent. All are welcome.



### *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, November 14th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. 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

## MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

### CHANCEL CHOIR

- Rehearsals are ongoing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings
- Rehearses and serves weekly during choir season (Sept.-May)
- Ages high school through “mature” adulthood
- Offers musical training, a sense of satisfaction knowing that you are serving our Lord and his church in worship leadership
- A great opportunity for fellowship and being a part of a terrific group who are not only talented, but caring and just plain fun!



### ALLELUIA RINGERS

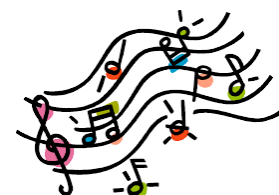


- Rehearsals ongoing at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings
- Rehearses weekly during the choir season (Sept.-May)
- Ages high school through “mature” adulthood
- No prior ringing experience necessary
- A very fundamental knowledge of music reading is helpful, such as being able to tell a line from a space on the music page, counting to four, etc.
- See bullets 4 and 5 above!

### FESTIVAL SINGERS

Opportunities are offered for those who would like to sing in the choir, but whose schedule does not permit regular participation. Such opportunities this fall include:

- Reformation Sunday (Oct 29)
- Advent and Christmas (First Sunday of Advent is December 3)
- Christmas Concert (December 10)



### JOY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

- At the time of this writing, details are in planning stages.
- Please watch weekly eblast for further information and updates

If interested in any of the above opportunities, Don Huff would love to speak with you!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

### Joys and Cares 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. If you have questions please contact Dawn Gibson at ([fourleafclovertwc.com](http://fourleafclovertwc.com))

<b>Financial Results for the Fiscal Year Ending January 2024</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
General Fund 01	\$354,160	\$257,232
Contributions & Other Income		
Expenses *	\$392,222	\$198,334
Net Income less Expenses		\$58,898
Facilities Fund 02-3241-442		\$33,895
Balance		
Shabla Gift Fund 02-3271-379		\$66,564
Balance		

**Notes: The figures above reflect the General Fund results through three quarters of our fiscal year that will end January 31,2024. There will be substantial savings in the Pastor Salary & Related Expenses as the result of the vacancy during the first eight months of the year. Actual expenses for the interim and supply pastors during that same period was approximately \$10,000.**

**As previously reported, your Church Council is taking every opportunity to generate income while maintaining the safety of the church’s funds and in accordance with ELCA guidelines and recommendations. Church expenses are carefully monitored and managed.**

**Your generosity and dedication to Living Saviour are so appreciated.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Barbara Avard, Treasurer/Financial Secretary**

*Thank You to all who gave gifts during Pastor Sara’s Installation Service  
\$791 was given and has been donated split equally between Lutheroad for 2024 and Lutheran World Federation. Your generosity is very much appreciated.*



## DIANA'S BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Many of you may remember Diana Slusser, wife of Dan and sister of Linda Honeycutt. The area at the rear lower entrance was created in Diana's memory. Linda, Frank DeLoache and Larry Wagstaff recently cleaned up and refurbished the area, added some Fall flowers and adjusted lighting.



This is now a lovely and welcoming entrance to church and a beautiful memorial to Diana.

THANK YOU, Linda, Frank and Larry!

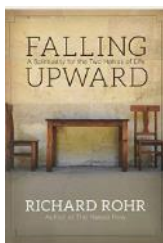
## IN-KIND GIVING TO LIVING SAVIOUR

We have many wonderful congregation members who regularly donate goods and items for various events and ministries during the year in addition to their gifts of money. We give thanks to all who donate! If you would like contribution credit for such non-cash donations you can complete a pink form (found in the Workroom), attach your receipt(s) and leave in Barbara Avard's mailbox in the Workroom.

The church records these donations and the amount appears in our financial reports as well as on individual giving statements. This gives a snapshot of support for the many collections and generous donations for events and ministries held during the year. This can include food donations for Smithfield, Loaves & Fishes, lunch supplies for Room in the Inn and various other items.

If you would like more information about this please see Barbara.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



The next Adult Sunday School Study will begin on Sunday, November 5th.

Rev. Charlie Zimmerman will lead discussions of the Richard Rohr book, *Falling Upward*. Please acquire the book and read the Intro and chapters 1 & 2 to begin the study.

***Please join us at 9:30 am in the Education Wing (room TBD 😊 )***

## 2023 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

December 9, 2023 – 9:00-11:00am

Breakfast served 9:00-10:00

Activities from 9:30-11:00

For kids of all ages – come join us for pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage.

Engage in lots of activities. Hear the Christmas Story, write birthday cards to Jesus, visit the Kid's Shopping Store , and music.

Visit with Santa, have pictures taken with Santa and photos-in-the-manger booth – with costumes.

Pre-Registration is required and available online on our website.

## SHELTER MINISTRY UPDATE

Thanks to the outpouring of support, we will easily be able to provide shelter to our homeless neighbors for all eight Sundays in January and February! These are the coldest months of the winter season and our participation in Room In The Inn during those months will serve as a very needed hospice.

here are a couple of areas that could use a few more volunteers. Please consider adding your name to serve in these positions:

- Laundry Team
- Monday clean up crew
- Overnight Host

The sign up/information sheets will remain out on display should you hear the call to serve!

As we get closer to our time to serve, a schedule will be sent out. Also we will have a "training" session for newcomers to this ministry in December. Many thanks to our generous congregation for the support of this meaningful ministry! Alice Jenkins



## Property Work Day!

**Please mark your calendar** and plan to join us for a Property Work Day on Saturday, November 4th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.! Food will be provided. ALL ARE WELCOME!

As we look at the projects we hope to tackle on our Work Day, here are the tools/items we need:

- 1) Tree trimming pole. Electric or gas preferred.
- 2) Tree Trimmers/shears
- 3) Pruners
- 4) Chain saw
- 5) Cordless drill & Circular Saw to rebuild the water hose box.
- 6) Paint brushes.
- 7) Tarps
- 8) Ladders for washing windows
- 9) Window cleaner & towels

If you have any of these items that we can use for the day, please be in touch with Steve Axtman and let him know (704.258.6324)

### Summary of October Council Meeting

The congregation council met on Sunday 15 October 2023. Pastor Sara requested that the offering at her installation service be designated to Lutheroad or Lutheran Disaster Relief or divided between the two.

At her first council meeting in September, Pastor Sara had mentioned that she thought it would be great if tee shirts with the number 8 on the back (for the eighth commandment) be made for council members to wear on days that the council was meeting and Pastor Linda Hatcher and Debby Borrelli had a sample tee shirt to show members. That sample was approved and tee shirts will be made for each council member.

Barbara gave a financial report and overall, the budget looks good and contributions are doing well. The budget committee needs to meet early next year to begin work on next year's budget.

The Stewardship committee has met and drafted an initial letter to be sent out to all congregation members by 23 October 2023.

The Shabala Gift committee has met to begin discussing how the remainder of the gift will be spent, now that the initial projects are nearing completion.

Health and Wholeness is continuing to develop plans for a fire drill practice.

Plans for Pastor Sara's installation service on Sunday 22 October at four pm are underway and there will be a work day at church on Saturday 4 November 2023.

Laura Michael gave a report for the Health and Wholeness ministry highlighting how classes are doing and what new events they would like to provide to the community.

The next council meeting is set for Sunday 15 October 2023 after services.



**Ministry of Health and Wholeness  
November 2023**

**Caring for the Caregiver**

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9



**November Focus:**

November is the month that ushers in the busiest holiday seasons of the year- Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Family Caregiver Alliance acknowledges that “for many caregivers the holiday season gives rise to stress, frustration and anger instead of peace and good will.” In place of the usual newsletter, please pick up a publication ***Caregiving and the holidays: from stress to success***, by the Family Caregiver Alliance and the Alzheimer's Association filled with suggestions that may help make the holidays more enjoyable for the caregivers and for loved ones. The Association also reminds us that the “holidays can in fact provide unique opportunities to seek better communication, connection and support from family and friends.” The Alzheimer's Association reminds us that “everyone is unique and finding a plan that works can involve trial and error.” The tips made available each week in the worship bulletin and through these two groups can help make the holidays easier and happier occasions for families.

**ONGOING OFFERINGS: (Space made available by Living Saviour for Community Health and Wholeness Programming)**

**Monday 6:15 PM – Beginner/Intermediate Yoga. Class provided by Lori Walker of Yoga for You Studios**

**Tuesdays 9:30 AM- Beginner/Intermediate Yoga. Class provided by Lori Walker of Yoga for You Studios**

**Tuesdays 10:00 AM –STEPS to Wellbeing: Start to Experience Peace, Potential and Serenity Peer Support**

Develop a practice described by Jesus in the Beatitudes, modeled in his ministry, practiced by the early church, used by Native Americans, and most recently promoted by the 12 Steps of AA—a peer support practice that leads to a life abundant in the Fruit of the Spirit. A valuable resource for those dealing with depression, grief, anxiety, medical recovery or seeking a deeper spiritual connection. A brochure can be picked up from the tea cart. All are welcome.

**Thursdays 9:30 AM- Beginner/Intermediate Yoga. Class provided by Lori Walker of Yoga for You Studios**

**Thursdays at 11:00 AM Chair Yoga-. Class provided by Debbie Mangeney of Feel Good Yoga Girl**

**Thursdays 6:15 PM- Beginner/Intermediate Yoga. Class provided by Lori Walker of Yoga for You Studios**

**Saturdays at 9:30 AM Aerobic Exercise. Class provided by Lyn Addy, Certified Group Fitness Instructor and Health Coach.**

Another inspiring exercise group of all ages with an excellent opportunity to get that heart rate up, build some muscle strength and receive supportive meaningful coaching from a talented instructor.

**Saturdays 10:00 AM- Beginner/Intermediate Yoga. Class provided by Lori Walker of Yoga for You Studios**

## Giving Information and Practices

Dear Family and Friends of Living Saviour, thank you so much for your generous and dedicated gifts to support our church's mission and ministries. We are excited to look to the future with God's help and the guidance and support of Pastor Sara. We are resuming some of our practices that were put "on hold" for various reasons during the pandemic.

To that end, please note that we are now again passing the collection plate during Worship. Many of you give through the electronic system of Simply Giving or your own bank. In the past (prior to the pandemic) we began using a giving card that you could choose to place in the collection plate as it was passed as an outward symbol of your online gift.

Well, we have resurrected those cards and they are in the THANKFUL box just inside the entrance to the Sanctuary. On the reverse of the card is information about electronic giving and a QR code that can also be used. Please feel free to take a card as you enter to put in the collection plate. We will recycle these cards each week.

Also in this box are envelopes that can be used for miscellaneous or special gifts by check or cash. The label can be completed with information to insure giving credit to the correct account. Members and Visitors are welcome to use these as needed. If you have any questions or need assistance with your giving, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings to you!  
Barbara Avard, Treasurer/Financial Secretary.



## GATHERING@theTable

Gathering@theTable weekly at 6:15 p.m. on Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us! This week we are asking people to bring their own entree and dessert and beverage will be provided. Next week, 9 November, a complete meal will be provided.

# NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	2 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable 6:15 p.m. Yoga	3	4 <b>9:00 a.m. Church Workday</b> 9:30 a.m. Exercise Opportunities 10:00 a.m. Yoga
5 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	6 6:30 a.m. Coffee for Carmel Chace 4:00 p.m. Troop 165 Court of Honor 6:15 p.m. Yoga	<b>7 Election Day</b> 6:00 a.m. First Tuesday coffee 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. STEPP Group 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry	8 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable 6:15 p.m. Yoga	10	11 9:30 a.m. Exercise Opportunities 10:00 a.m. Yoga
12 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	13 6:15 p.m. Yoga	14 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. STEPP Group	15 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Ringers bell choir practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	16 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 1:15 p.m. LSLC Staff Meeting 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable 6:15 p.m. Yoga	17	18 9:30 a.m. Exercise Opportunities 10:00 a.m. Yoga
19 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Monthly Council meeting	20 6:15 p.m. Yoga	21 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. STEPP Group	22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>23 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed</b>	<b>24 Thanksgiving Holiday Church Office Closed</b>	25 9:30 a.m. Exercise Opportunities 10:00 a.m. Yoga
26 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	27 6:15 p.m. Yoga	28 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. STEPP Group	29 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	30 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 1:15 p.m. LSLC Staff Meeting 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable 6:15 p.m. Yoga		