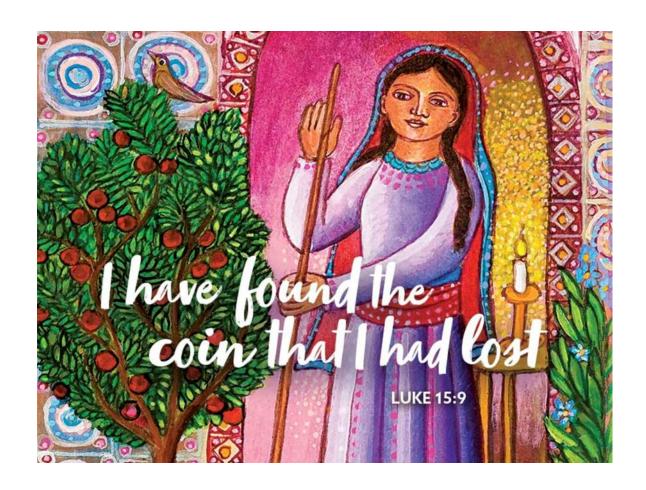
# LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Living Saviour Lutheran Church is a faith community striving to live and love as Jesus did, eagerly welcoming all and bringing healing, help, and hope to the world.

#### **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

#### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY:**

Assisting Minister – **John Williams** Crucifer - **Cooper Thom** Acolyte - **Benjamin Thom** 

### INSTRUMENTALIST TODAY: Barbara Tobin

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** for this Sunday are given by Linda Poley & Anita Mitchell in memory of their parents', Jim & Nadara Andrews, wedding anniversary.

**THIS WORSHIP FOLDER** contains all elements of the worship service. It is designed to encourage your participation. Please read the words in bold print and join in the singing of all hymns. Italicized words are instructions.

**RESTROOMS** are located at the back of the sanctuary and down the short hallway.

#### WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!

Parents, you are always welcome to bring your children to worship with you. If you are comfortable and prefer having them in supervised childcare, it is available and is under the very capable and loving supervision of Ms. Carla. The Childcare Room is down the steps as you enter the gathering area outside the sanctuary. Someone will be happy to direct you there.

- **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS** for readers and non-readers are available on the welcome table where the worship folders are located.
- **QUIET BAGS** for use by children during worship have been updated and arranged by age groups. They are located to the left as you enter the sanctuary. Please feel free to pick one up and replace it on the hooks when you leave.
- **SPARK FAMILY MAGAZINES** are available on the welcome table and are free for the taking!

**NEIGHBOR BAGS** have been assembled and are located in the blue bin outside of the sanctuary. Please take a few to keep in your car and hand out when the opportunity arises.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES** are on page 22. **PRAYER LIST** is on page 20.

#### **SEPTEMBER 2025 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS**

The September theme for Health and Wholeness is Mind, Body & Spirit Connection.

**Tip#2:** Studies show that chronic illness, hormone imbalance, poor nutrition, and gut health disruptions influence mood, depression, anxiety and impact cognitive function. Inversely, emotions can affect the health of the body. Stress, joy, and fear trigger biochemical responses to change heart rate, digestion, immune function, and pain. Finding your joy serves your body, mind, and spirit!

**Psalm 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me.

#### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### **WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME**

#### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PRELUDE "How Great Thou Art" arr. Robert Hobby

Please stand as you are able.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.** 

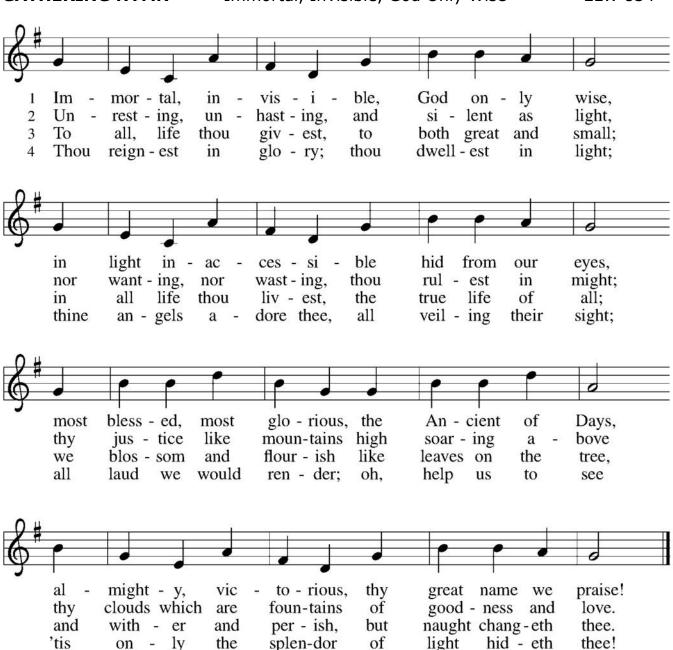
Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.** 

Please turn to face the processional cross. As the cross passes, please turn to the altar.



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

#### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you desire to lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

#### WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-12

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

A reading from Timothy.

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

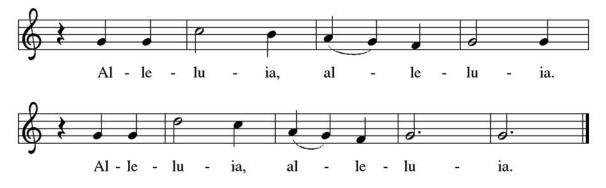
#### Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Setting 9

Cantor sings Alleluia. All sing Alleluia. Cantor sings verse. All repeat Alleluia.



Verse



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

#### **GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

- <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
- $^{8}$  "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?  $^{9}$  And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'  $^{10}$  Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**SERMON** 

**Pastor Sara Ilderton** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Please stand as you are able.

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Hyfrydol

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good; there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood. There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this; there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own; and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all: greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word, and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain especially those we name silently or aloud...

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

After exchanging the peace with those near you, please be seated.

#### WE SHARE THE SUPPER OF THE LORD

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

The offering plate is passed. You may also give electronically using the QR code on the back cover.

**MUSICAL OFFERING** 

"Let All the People Say Amen"

Pote



Please stand as you are able.

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

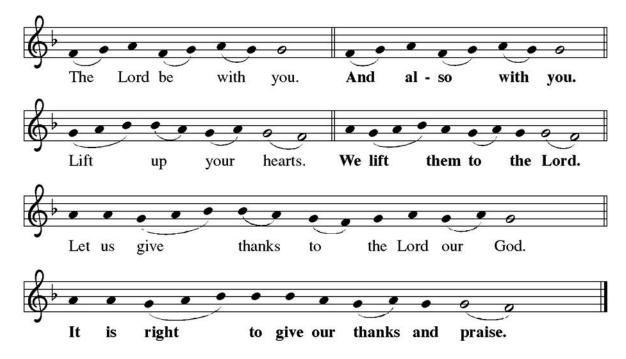
Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



It is indeed right, our privilege and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

>>>Cont'd>>>



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you are the immortal invisible God of the ages, and your grace has overflowed for us in Christ Jesus.

In your great mercy, you sent your Son Jesus among us to save sinners. His hospitality and compassion so radically threatened the power of the religious leaders that he was sent to the cross to die, but you raised him from the dead. In him you are calling us to turn from our pasts, empowering us to be servants to all.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution

We ask now that you send your Holy Spirit to bless this meal and to bless us as your children redeemed by your grace.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, Through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church without end. **Amen.** 

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

An usher will direct you forward for Communion.

Communion is served around the altar rail. You may kneel or stand.

We use wheat wafers and wine. If you need a gluten free wafer, please make that known to the pastor. White grape juice is also available.

For any who desire a blessing, please come to the altar rail with your arms crossed.

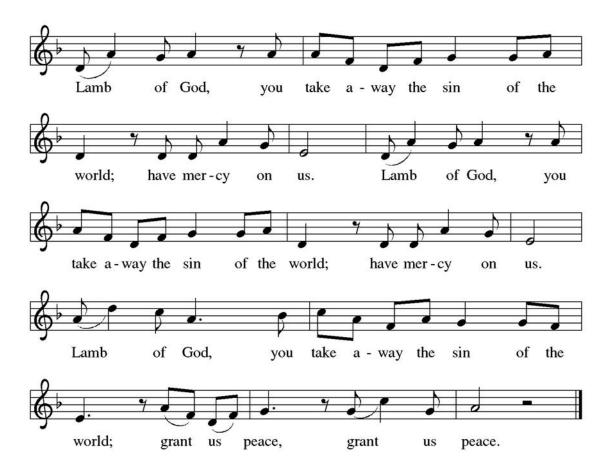
#### SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

"Lamb of God"

ELW Setting 9



#### MUSIC DURING SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Please join in singing the hymns.

"Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup"

**ELW 492** 



Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34 Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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"Build Us Up" ELW 670



Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952 Music: BUILD US UP, Mark Glaeser and Donna Hanna Text and music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community
Music: CONFITEMINI DOMINO, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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Please stand as you are able.

#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood, strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

Amen.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

O God,

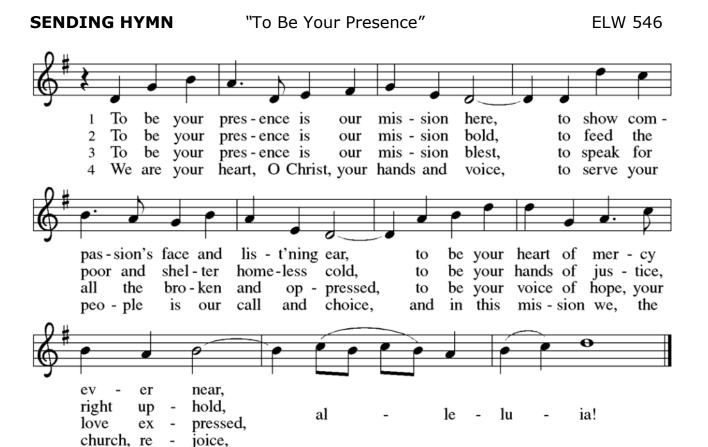
through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good striving to live and love as Jesus did, eagerly welcoming all and bringing healing help and hope to the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

#### **BLESSING**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.



Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Harmon

#### Health and Wholeness Ministry Wants to Hear from You!

In order to better serve our congregation, the Health and Wholeness Ministry is asking you to fill out a survey to see what topics you are interested in having us present, how we should present them, and what are the best days and times for the presentations.

We have partnered with Atrium Health, who provided us with the survey and will tabulate the results for us. We have paper copies available as well as a digital version you can access with the QR code provided by Atrium. We hope to have it available on our website as well. You only need to fill out the survey once in whatever method you choose

This survey is strictly voluntary and anonymous. Any questions that members do not feel comfortable answering can be left blank. As stated above, we are most interested in topics, method of presentation, and day and time for presentation.

We hope everyone will participate in the survey and help us to help you get information and answers to those health and wholeness topics that concern you. The Health and Wholeness Ministry thanks everyone in advance for giving us your input and guidance.

We ask that surveys be completed by September 30, 2025. You may return completed paper copies to the marked box in the entryway of the church.

If you have questions, please contact Laura Michael at lmichael9901@gmail.com or Ginger Kern at vakern@att.net

#### Link and QR Code below:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XYJ3CNX



#### **Prayer Requests**

Kevin Ballantine Mo Megan

Jim Crawford Linda Melissa Jones Lois DeLoache Marilyn P Charlie A Terry Godwin Marilyn M Kristine Ray K Tim Elsie M **Kippie** Joe C Dean Trudy Terlinde Gaza Linda B

Traci A Mary Gonnelli John Claire & Family Patricia Julie

Fred Nancy T Carla G & Family

Geraldine Barbara Dawn

Dawn Ken

#### \*Prayers for the Grieving

Family of Indra Persaud Family of Bob Loges
Family of Carolyn Thompson Family of Trudy Haseley
Family of Bill Keasling Family of Rufus Gregory
Family of Leslie Tripp Family of Libby Boatwright

#### **Prayers for Engaged Couples**

Matt Tittle and DeeDee Williams Elizabeth and Kevin

#### **Prayers for Expectant Parents**

Sarah & Aaron Gabriella & Jay Gonnelli Kevin & Leslye Young

## Prayers for all First Responders, Veterans and for those in Active Military Service

Grayson Jenkins
Marine Cpl. Josh Harbinson
Army Ranger Sgt. Tyler Gironda
Michael Whetstone & family
Townsend Noonkester
Staff Sgt. Grace Gonnelli
Andy Williams
Neil Mitchell
Corey Young

\*For Prayers for the Grieving - Church Members and Relatives of Members will remain on the prayer list for one year. Others will remain on the list for one month, unless otherwise requested.

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"Create in me a clean heart"

Text and music: Mary Rice Hopkins

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#### THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

#### **Sunday: September 14**

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Worship

#### **Monday: September 15**

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165

#### **Tuesday: September 16**

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 265

#### Wednesday: September 17

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 12:30 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### **Thursday: September 18**

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You

#### Friday: September 19

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 11:00 a.m. Choir Retreat

#### **Saturday: September 20**

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Retreat

#### **Sunday: September 21**

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Worship



Living Saviour Lutheran Church 6817 Carmel Road Charlotte, North Carolina 28226 (704) 542-3626

The Reverend Sara Ilderton, Pastor Don Huff, Director of Music Ministry Nancy Mersereau, Assistant Musician Laura Schwab, Administrative Assistant Susan Hall, Treasurer Elsie Davis, LS Preschool Director

QR for donating online:





