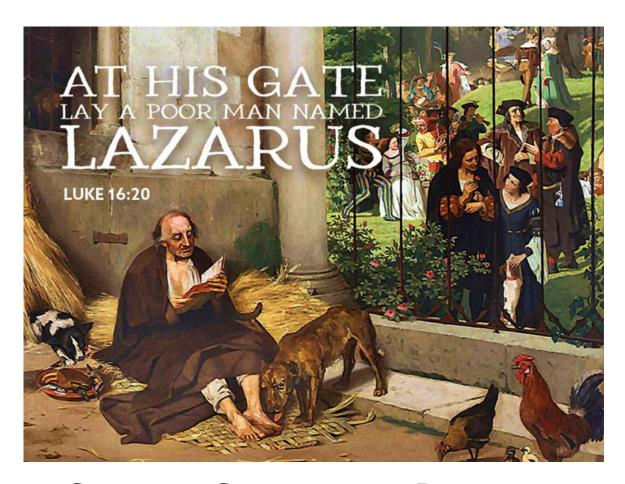
LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 28, 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 - Aliah Church Crucifer - Rhys Plunkett Acolyte - Cole Plunkett

INSTRUMENTALIST TODAY:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann**Woodwinds - **Barbara Tobin**

THE ALTAR FLOWERS for this Sunday are given by Pat Snodgrass to the Glory of God.

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.

SEPTEMBER 2025 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

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

Tip#4: The practice of mind-body connection exercises can increase self-awareness, reduce stress, and promote emotional resilience. (Carl Jung) Mindfully be aware of all the parts of your body. Notice where you are holding tension and breathe into that area. Release that stress from your body with slow deep breaths. Meditation, Yoga and Tai Chi are practices that integrate breath, gentle motion, and focused attention to cultivate energy flow and healing.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Immortal, Invisible" (Sandra Sample, piano)

Joseph Martin

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God whose mercy endures forever.

Siblings in Christ, in God's presence, our lives are exposed, our words are shown for their hollowness, our need is revealed. Let us confess who we are, as we ask God to embrace us with grace and hope.

God who saves,

we confess how often we are not content with the simple gifts and lives you offer.

Tempted by everything, we can become insensitive to those who have nothing.

Encouraged by the world to accumulate more, we may miss the chance to share generously with those in need.

Chasing after all which has no value, we may not have the energy to pursue the faith, the love, the gentleness you have for us.

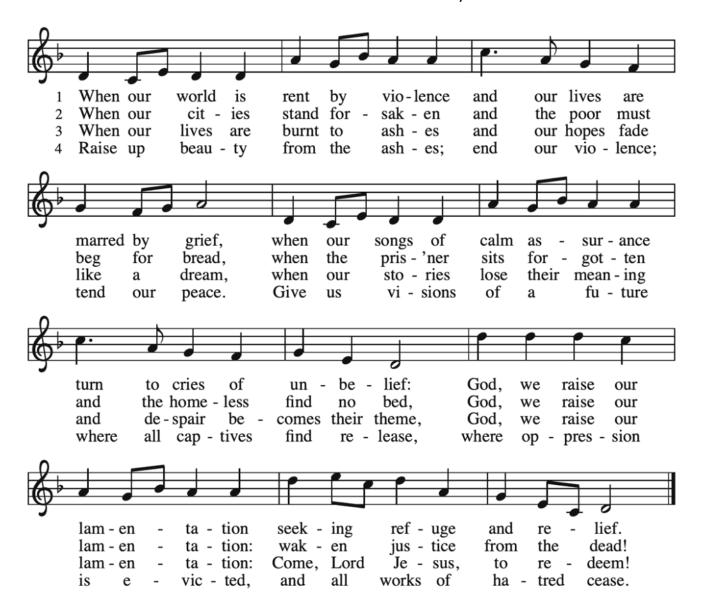
Forgive us, God of reversals. You have sent the One who speaks the words we need to listen to in order to have life.

Help us to remember how you have redeemed us, and in remembering, may we follow the example of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

This is the good news that comes from God: I will hear your prayers, I will answer with hope and peace, I will deliver you from your sins. With joy I declare to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son and of the Holy Spirit.

God has covered us with grace; under God's hope we will find shelter. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: FORTUNATUS NEW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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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, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

A reading from Amos.

- ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
 - ⁴Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall,
 - ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music,
 - ⁶ who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
 - ⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146

Cantor sings refrain (R). All repeat refrain. Cantor sings verses. All sing refrain.



The LORD gives jus-tice, the LORD gives jus-tice to those who are op - pressed.

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
- ²I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- ³ Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.
- ⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish. **R**
- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;
- ⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.
- ⁸The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
- ⁹The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- ¹⁰The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! **R**

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

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



Lord, to whom shall we go?

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' 27 He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' 30 He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

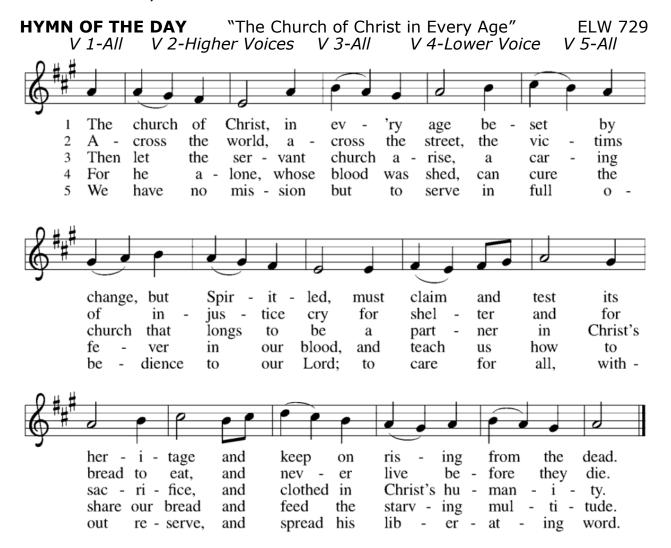
Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Sara Ilderton

Please stand as you are able.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (adapted from the Carolinas Lutheran Disaster Response prayers for the anniversary of Hurricane Helene)

Trusting in the God who is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble, let us offer prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

God who stills the storm and speaks peace over the waves, we remember the winds that roared and the waters that rose. Even now, as we mark the year that has passed since Hurricane Helene, we carry grief, gratitude, and hope in the same breath. Be near to all still recovering—those rebuilding homes, communities, and hearts. Strengthen those whose work of restoration continues even when headlines have faded.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

>>>Cont'd>>>

God of all creation, you laid the foundations of the earth and set boundaries for the sea. We pray for your world—fragile, fierce, and beautiful. Teach us to live as careful stewards of this planet. Give us courage to address climate disruption with urgency and justice. Make us mindful of those whose lives are most vulnerable to disaster.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, you see and hold every loss we carry. In this moment, we name before you the people, places, homes, and hopes we lost in the storm. We pray for all who are sick, suffering, or afraid today. For those whose trauma still lingers, for those navigating chronic illness or mental health struggles, for those displaced or unhoused, and for any who feel alone. We pray for all those whom we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts... Calm their storms and speak your peace.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of presence and power, even in the chaos, you were near. In the boat with your disciples, in flooded streets, in the hands of neighbors and strangers—you were there. For every act of courage, every sign of hope, every reminder that we are never alone—we give you thanks.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, we pray for leaders—local, national, and global. Give them hearts for service, courage to speak truth, and wisdom to prepare and respond with equity in times of disaster and in all times. May they serve not for power, but for the good of all.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your strong and tender hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy made known through Christ our Lord.

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

MINISTRY MINUTE

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

"Poor Man Lazarus"

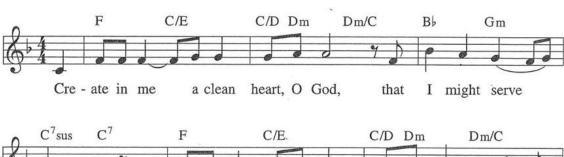
arr. Jester Hairston

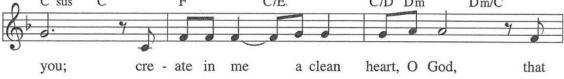
Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING HYMN

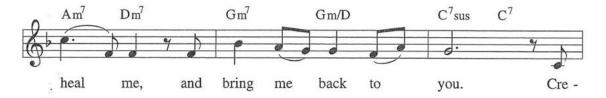
"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

W&P 35











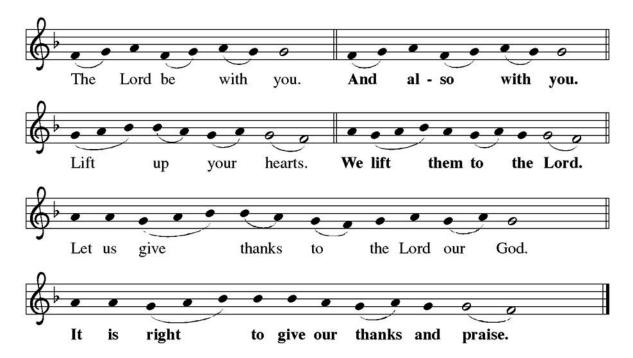
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

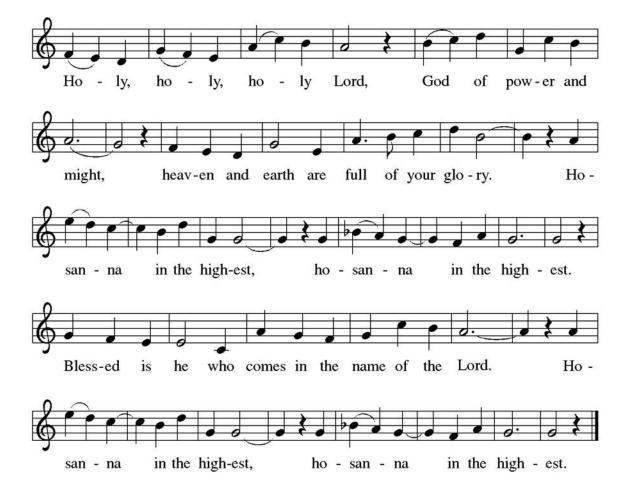
Lord of the harvest,

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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

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, wine and white grape juice. If you need a gluten free wafer, please make that known to the pastor.

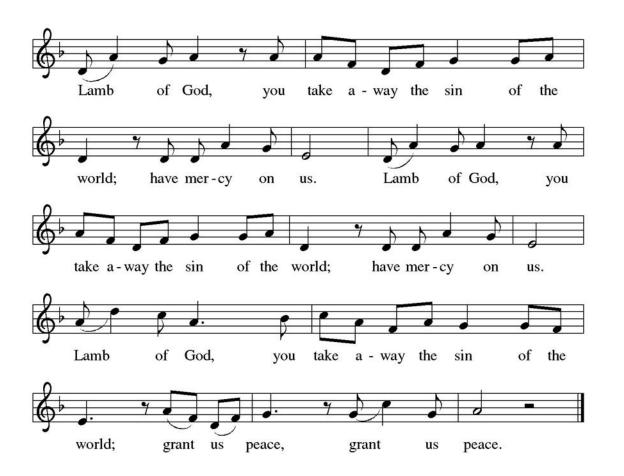
For any who desire a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed.

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" Setting 9



HYMNS DURING SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Please join in singing the hymns.

"This is Christ's Body"

ACS 967



Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960

Music: BROKEN AND BLESSED, Anne Krentz Organ

Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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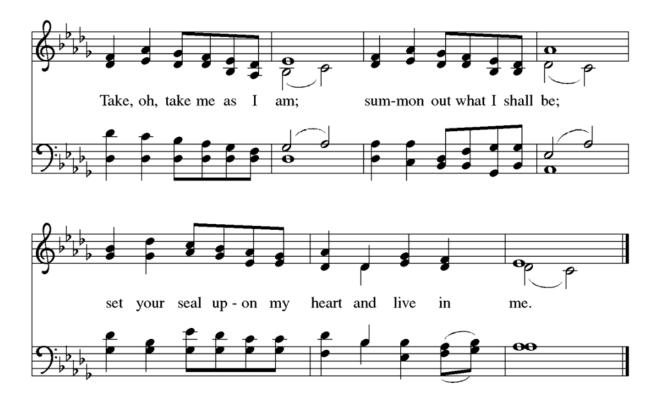
Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak



Text: African American spiritual

Music: WELCOME TABLE, African American spiritual; arr. Mark Hayes, b. 1953

Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
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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.

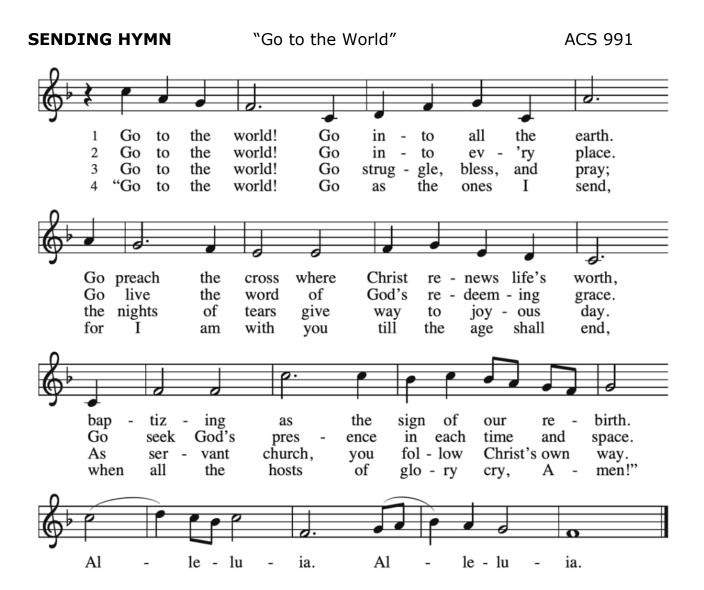
Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

Amen.



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE "Hymn to Joy" Burkhardt

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Confession and Forgiveness: Thom Schuman. Adapted

Psalm 146

Psalm 146:7

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"The Church of Christ in Every Age"

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768

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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@qmail.com or Ginger Kern at vakern@att.net

Link and QR Code below:

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



THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: September 28

- 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 29

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You
- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165

Tuesday: September 30

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 11:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 265

Wednesday: October 1

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

Thursday: October 2

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga
- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You

Friday: October 3

8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA

Saturday: October 4

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 1:00 p.m. Ready Set 4 ABA Training Session

Sunday: October 5

- 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
- 11:45 a.m. "Support Through Loss and Grief" Program



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:





