

# The InnerNet

January 2026

Grace to you and peace.

As I write, we are a couple of days shy of Christmas...And as you read, we are a few days beyond Christmas and barely into the new year. Liturgically, as of January 6, we are in what is called the season of Epiphany...A pretty short "season" that kicks off with the arrival of the Magi who visit the baby Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12) and follows on through the time when that baby and his family find themselves as refugees fleeing to another country in fear for their lives (Matt. 2:13-15). It recounts the story of Jesus' baptism where we get a glimpse into the relationship between Jesus and the God of all creation (Matt. 3:13-17) and moves on through his calling his first disciples (Matt. 4:18-22) and into some of the early parts of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:1-12), where we hear him speak of how blessings belong to those who mourn and are meek and merciful. How they belong to those who hunger and are peacemakers and who are willing to suffer for the cause of love. In short, during the season of Epiphany we begin to have the curtain "pulled back" as it were, so that we can see how, in Jesus, we come to know God in the flesh and God's willingness to travel with and among those who are refugees, to stand alongside those who are sinners, those who know hunger and those who know grief and uncertainty.

It seems appropriate, then (doesn't it?), that it is during this season that we begin our 2026 Shelter Ministry, welcoming in from the cold our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Among the least of these, we come to know Jesus. Among the least of these, we come to know God in the flesh, who insists that there is no place that the creator will not go to be in solidarity with those he loves.

If you have never done so, I encourage you to join these neighbors here for dinner on any of the Sunday evenings in January and February. To sit beside them and be blessed. It may very well feel a bit uncomfortable for you...that's okay. How uncomfortable it must be for them to be completely dependent on the hospitality of others. How incredible it is to know that as we welcome them, we welcome Jesus and in welcoming Jesus, we welcome Love.

May you know peace in the new year, and may you know courage to see and sit with Jesus, wherever he shows up.

Much love,  
+ Pr. Sara

# Congregation Acknowledgements!!

## January Anniversaries

No January Anniversaries



## January Birthdays

- 1/4 - Rodney Valentine
- 1/5 - Alexandra Leeser
- 1/6 - Greg Krause
- 1/7 - Rhys Plunkett, Penelope Zeis
- 1/13 - Preston Hawley
- 1/15 - John Sahr
- 1/17 - Sarah Plunkett
- 1/18 - Michele Sullivan
- 1/19 - Pastor Sara Ilderton
- 1/21 - Nancy Mersereau, Janet Wagstaff
- 1/24 - Emily Malinowski, Townsend Noonkester
- 1/25 - Jeanne Davis
- 1/26 - Ken Leeser
- 1/29 - Steve Axtman



## Summary of 21 December 2025 Council Meeting

Property reported that the thermostats are not working with the HVAC sensors, and they need to be replaced. This needs to be done before the change from heat to air conditioning. It is decided to put this off until February. Property would also like to have a volunteer act as a janitorial oversite person for our janitorial team. The lights in the sanctuary blink whenever the HVAC kicks on or off. The HVAC system has been examined and is in proper working order, so an electrician will be contacted to check out our circuit breaker box.

Candidates for election to the council need to have a photo and a short biography to the office by 5 January 2026.

There will be an eBlast with copies of the proposed budget for 2026-2027 on Tuesday 20 January 2026.

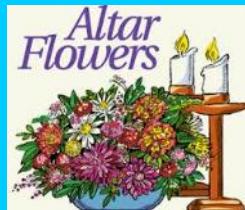
Fellowship would like the church to continue to have a relationship with the ABA group, and maybe we could have a giving tree for them next year

## ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

The **2026** Altar Flowers online chart is now available at:

Available Sundays: 1/18, 1/25, 2/8

[https://www.signupgenius.com/  
go/10C0C4CACAC29A6F4C16-59914487-2026#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CACAC29A6F4C16-59914487-2026#/)



# Church Information!!

2026	LIVING SAVIOUR CHURCH LEADERSHIP
Name	Council Position
Rev. Linda Hatcher	President/Lay Care
Debby Borrelli	Vice President/Finance/Stewardship
Gregg Mitchell	Secretary/Personnel/Technology
Linda Frixen	Faith Formation
Laura Michael	Health & Wholeness
Ken Leeser	Property
Pat Snodgrass	Fellowship
Donna Thomas	Outreach
Kay Zimmerman	Worship and Music
Laura Schwab	Financial Secretary
Susan Hall	Treasurer
Pr. Sara Ilderton	Pastor/Youth

The next Council Meeting will be on **Sunday, January 18, 2026**  
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>Nancy Mersereau</b> , Organist and Music Assistant	<a href="mailto:nancyqqq@aol.com">nancyqqq@aol.com</a>
<b>Laura Schwab</b> , Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:office@lslc.church">office@lslc.church</a>
<b>Susan Hall</b> , Treasurer	<a href="mailto:finance@lslc.church">finance@lslc.church</a>
<b>Carla Gearheart</b> , Childcare Provider	<a href="mailto:carla.gearheart@yahoo.com">carla.gearheart@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Elsie Davis</b> , Preschool Director	<a href="mailto:preschool@lslc.church">preschool@lslc.church</a>

## January Noisy Offering

Our January Noisy Offering (1/18/26) will go to **Pineville Neighbors Place**. Pineville Neighbors Place is a non-profit established in 2016 to serve those struggling with poverty and homelessness. Even though Pineville is a growing and trendy community, there is a significant number of working poor who need help. Their services are available to anyone living in the 28134 zip code or have students at Pineville and Sterling Elementary schools.

Their vision is to eliminate financial insecurities, support economic mobility and promote a healthy community despite social disparities that exist today.

Learn more on their website: <https://pinevilleneighbors.org/>

## 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 the church office.

## Your Offerings:

Contribute directly to the church through link on the website,  
using the QR code or by mail to:

Living Saviour  
6817 Carmel Road  
Charlotte, NC 28226



## Ministry of Health and Wholeness

### A Faith-Filled Approach to New Year's Resolutions

The New Year invites us to reflect, reset, and begin again. As people of faith, our resolutions can be more than goals to achieve—they can be prayerful commitments that draw us closer to God and help us care for the bodies and lives we've been given. Rather than making long lists, consider choosing one or two intentions that align with your values and asking God to guide them (Proverbs 16:3).

Keeping resolutions is easier when we start small and remain realistic. Lasting change grows from daily faithfulness, not perfection. When we stumble, grace invites us to begin again. Simple, consistent practices—like a daily walk, gentle core-strength exercises, a yoga class, or choosing nourishing foods—can lead to meaningful improvements over time. Sharing our goals with a trusted friend or faith community can also provide encouragement and accountability (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10).

Caring for our physical health is an important way to honor God. Regular walking helps strengthen the heart and clear the mind, core strength supports balance and mobility for everyday living, and healthy eating provides the energy we need to serve others well. These habits do not need to be extreme to be effective; small, steady steps can greatly improve both physical and mental well-being. As this New Year begins, may our commitments be shaped by hope, led by faith, and sustained by God's grace.

## Ministry of Health and Wholeness

### The January theme is Making a New You.

**Tip#1:** Walk with intention. Start the year by adding simple movement to your day. A short walk, whether five minutes or fifteen, helps strengthen the heart, clear the mind, and create space for prayer and reflection. As you walk, thank God for the gift of your body and the ability to move and enjoy nature. The American Heart Association recommends 150 minutes per week of moderate exercise or walking. That's 30 minutes five days a week. Remember, beginning is more important than doing it perfectly.

**Proverbs 16:3** Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

### Active Exercise Opportunities:

- ◆ Yoga 4 You:
  - ◆ Mondays - 6:15 p.m.
  - ◆ Tuesdays - 9:30 a.m.
  - ◆ Thursdays - 9:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.
  - ◆ Saturdays - 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ Chair Yoga
  - ◆ Thursdays - 11:00 a.m.



## Room In The Inn - Winter 2026

### January Volunteer Schedule:

DATE	SUN. VAN DRIVER MON. VAN DRIVER	LUGGAGE CAR SUN PM MON AM	SUN MEAL PROVIDER	OVERNIGHT HOSTS	BAG LUNCH PROVIDER	MON CLEAN UP	LAUNDRY
JAN. 4	Chuck Moore Chuck Moore	Amanda Thom Debby Borrelli	DeLoache family	Chuck Moore Alice Jenkins	Aliah Church	Marty Jenkins	Linda Frixen
JAN. 11	Frank DeLoache Frank DeLoache	Laura Schwab Debby Borrelli	Putnam family	Frank DeLoache Laura Michael	Tim & Cindy Meadows	Gregg Mitchell	Amanda Thom
JAN. 18	Kevin Lyall Kevin Lyall	Alice Jenkins Cathy Lyall	Debby Borrelli	Pat Snodgrass Cathy Lyall	Karen <u>Kaufeld</u> & Ken Leeser	Don Huff	Pat Maisel
JAN. 25	Steve Axtman Chuck Moore	Tom Tobin Tom Tobin	Mon. Night Book Club (Don Huff)	Paul Sullivan Pastor Sara	Dawn Gibson	Karen Kaufeld	Laura Schwab

Need more information?

Contact Alice Jenkins at [jenkinsalice2019@gmail.com](mailto:jenkinsalice2019@gmail.com) or  
Michele Sullivan at [tiainsley2@gmail.com](mailto:tiainsley2@gmail.com)!

A few items that are needed for the comfort and well being of our neighbors:

- Travel size deodorant
- Travel size toothpaste
- Word search booklets
- Washcloths

These items can be found at Dollar Tree stores.  
A collection basket is located near the mailboxes.

## **QUILT MINISTRY**

The Quilt Ministry will meet on January 6, 2026. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

If you are unfamiliar with this ministry, we create three layered, pieced and tied quilts of a specified size for Lutheran World Relief. These quilts are sent to areas in crisis around the world.

While we have plenty of fabric to create the quilts, we are in need of three things for the success of this ministry...

- New or gently used twin sheets, preferably darker colors or prints. These are the perfect size to serve as the backing fabric for the quilts.
- At-home sewing participants to sew quilt squares together for the quilt tops and for the final straight-line border stitching to complete the quilts.
- Additional workshop participants! No experience needed and all supplies are provided. Interested? Contact Alice Jenkins at [jenkinsalice2019@gmail.com](mailto:jenkinsalice2019@gmail.com), or just come to a workshop!

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on January 13, 2026. We will continue having our meetings on the second Tuesday of each 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).

# FAITH FORMATION!!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS:

**ADULTS**—Class will meet at 9:15 a.m. in the Education Wing. We will be reading *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde. All are welcome!

*How We Learn to Be Brave* is a book that explores how to find courage in pivotal life moments, blending personal stories, scripture, and history to guide readers in responding with faith and clarity during difficult times.

**CHILDREN**—Class meets at 9:15 a.m. downstairs. (no class 1/4)

- Children (ages 2 years through 3rd grade) will have Bible stories and hands-on experiences that support the story. Parents are welcome to join in the class!
- Upper Elementary/Middle Schoolers (4th-7th) will be exposed to relevant subjects (pop culture, trending topics and fascinating events) that will help them recognize how God's Word relates to them here and now.
- High School Hangout - Monthly in Pastor Sara's office (no hangout 1/4)

## WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE/BOOK STUDY

The Group meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and will resume meeting on January 7, 2026.

The current book is *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road* by Brian D. McLaren. The book is available on Amazon or at your favorite book store. The January meeting will begin at Chapter 17.

## GATHERING@theTable

Gathering@theTable meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month.

We will meet in January on the 8th and 22nd at 6:15pm.

Please bring your own dinner.

## Praying for Possibilities!



12/29-1/4 - Patricia & John Maisel  
1/4-1/12 - Julie Brennan and God  
1/12-1/19 - Mary Ann Eller and Janet Axtman  
1/19-1/26 - Pastor Charlie & Kay Zimmerman  
1/26-2/2 - Ray & Ken Kilminster

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 COMMUNION VISITATION VOLUNTEERS!

Many thanks to the 18 volunteers from Living Saviour who have brought communion to those who cannot make it to church. Each person is visited once a month with teams of two volunteers rotating months, supplementing Pastor Sara's visits. Currently there are seven people who are visited monthly.

Thank you to:

Pat Snodgrass	Millie McWilliams
Steve Vick	Russell Hinson
Pr. Charlie Zimmerman	Kay Zimmerman
Ken Leeser	Karen Kaufeld
John Soileau	Bruce Melosh
Pat Sipe	Sherry Wooldridge
Joyce Godwin	Michele Sullivan
John Williams	Pam Williams
Cathy Lyall	Laura Michael

We are blessed to have so many people dedicated to representing church this way! I am filled with gratitude for the work being done!

Pr. Linda Hatcher

# JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <b>Happy New Year!</b> Church Office Closed	2	3 10:00 a.m. Yoga
4 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed	5 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	6 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	7 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable 6:15 p.m. Yoga	9 Cub Scout Pack 265 Shut In	10 9:00 a.m. Cub Scout Derby Car Workshop 10:00 a.m. Yoga
11 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed	12 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	13 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	14 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga	16	17 9:00 a.m. Cub Scout Derby Car Workshop 10:00 a.m. Yoga
18 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed 11:30 a.m. Monthly Council Meeting	19 <b>MLK Jr. Birthday - Office Closed</b> 6:15 p.m. Yoga	20 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	21 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable 6:15 p.m. Yoga	23	24 10:00 a.m. Yoga
25 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed	26 5:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165 Court of Honor 6:15 p.m. Yoga	27 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	28 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	29 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga	30 5:00 p.m. Pinewood Derby Registration & Setup	31 8:00 a.m. Pinewood Derby