



The InnerNet

March 2026

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I recently heard Lent explained as a time to “reset” our hearts to receive the gift of Easter...An opportunity to clean out our “backpacks” as it were. Granted this was from a children’s message I heard during worship at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Fuquay-Varina (where your council worshiped on Sunday, Feb. 22 at the close of our retreat), and obviously it is a metaphor. But I think it works. Our proverbial “backpacks” are filled with all kinds of things that weigh us down: old partially eaten sandwiches and homework we forgot to hand in and water bottles that are now moldy, on and on and on. Or grudges, guilt, anger, insecurity masked as superiority, a need to be right all the time, fear of the “other” which causes us to demonize them and on and on. Things that it would be helpful to clear out and let die, so that there is space to receive the coming resurrection.

Pope Leo, talking about the Lenten practice of fasting offers a list of things we might abstain (or fast) from during Lent. Things (to continue the metaphor) we could clean out of our backpacks/hearts. For example, he suggests we refrain from words that hurt our neighbor and avoid:

rash judgement, slander, speaking ill of those who are not present, hateful rhetoric that tears down, manipulative language, language which calls itself “Christian” but does not reflect Jesus.

He continues: “Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others.”

All of our backpacks are filled with so much noise that it is difficult to hear the voice of God, and we find ourselves weary with trying. During this time of doing “less” and listening more, of letting die those things that keep our ears stopped and our hearts fearful, maybe we accept the invitation of Jesus: “Come to me all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens//backpacks, walk alongside me and learn from me for I am gentle and humble and you will find rest.” In so doing, perhaps, the noise of our own fears will give way to listening more closely to what Pope Leo calls “the cry of the poor and of the earth” making us ready and eager to use words of hope and healing that “contribute to building a civilization of [resurrection] love.”*

God’s peace and much love ~

+ Pr. Sara

*All quotes from Pope Leo’s Lenten message.

Worship Service Live Streaming:
<https://www.youtube.com/@livingsaviourlutheranchurch/streams>
or through our website: www.livingsaviourlc.org.

Congregation Acknowledgements!!

March Anniversaries

3/11 - Marty & Alice Jenkins (59)



March Birthdays

3/3 - Alexander Hatcher, Nicholas Sample

3/5 - Bailey Biggs

3/6 - Steven Kooi

3/7 - Linda Lyle

3/9 - Cardon Hawley

3/13 - John Williams

3/14 - Marjorie Sahr

3/15 - Eric Forster

3/18 - Joyce Godwin

3/20 - Linda Hatcher

3/21 - Deb Borley

3/26 - Wendi Mayer

3/27 - Jerry Putnam

3/28 - Carla Gearheart



Summary of 22 February 2026 Council Meeting

- President Linda Hatcher welcomed the newly elected Council members: **Aliah Church, Margie Peters, Paul Sullivan, and Amanda Thom.**
- Council approved Executive Committee motion to install Gregg Mitchell as Recording Secretary. Gregg will not be a Council Member and will have no vote in council matters.
- Summaries of attendance data for 2025 were received from Office Administrator, Laura Schwab. A comparison spreadsheet will be created to follow attendance trends.
- Health & Wholeness is progressing with plans to develop a meditation garden in the outdoor space behind the Narthex Greeter table. Discussion surrounding the key for the AED box determined that the key is not necessary and the box will remain unlocked and the alarm will be disabled.
- Fellowship reminded council that 5th Sunday pot-luck luncheons will be held on March 29 and May 31. Easter Breakfast on April 5th will be held from 8:30-10 am. Help is needed to set up tables for all meals.
- Congregational officers for the 2026-2027 year are:
Linda Hatcher, President
Debby Borrelli, Vice President
Pat Snodgrass, Secretary

A new Church Council Covenant was signed by all council members.

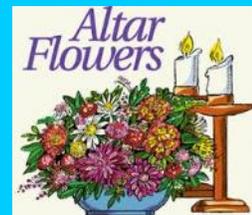
Council Liaison Assignments for 2026-2027 church year.

Communications – Paul Sullivan	Outreach – Donna Thomas
Faith Formation – Aliah Church	Property – Ken Leeser
Fellowship – Margie Peters	Stewardship - Linda Frixen
Finance – Debby Borrelli	Technology – Kay Zimmerman
Health & Wholeness – Laura Michael	Worship & Music – Pat Snodgrass
Lay Care – Linda Hatcher	Youth – Amanda Thom

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

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

<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
Pat Snodgrass	Secretary/Worship & Music
Aliah Church	Faith Formation
Linda Frixen	Stewardship
Laura Michael	Health & Wholeness
Ken Leaser	Property
Margie Peters	Fellowship
Paul Sullivan	Communications
Amanda Thom	Youth
Donna Thomas	Outreach
Kay Zimmerman	Technology
Susan Hall	Treasurer
Pr. Sara Ilderton	Pastor
Janet Axtman	Property

The next Council Meeting will be held on March 15, 2026.

LIVING SAVIOUR CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Sara Ilderton , Pastor	pastorsara@livingsaviourlc.org
Don Huff , Minister of Worship and Music	dhuff@livingsaviourlc.org
Nancy Mersereau , Organist and Music Assistant	nancyqqq@aol.com
Laura Schwab , Office Administrator	office@lslc.church
Susan Hall , Treasurer	finance@lslc.church
Carla Gearheart , Childcare Provider	carla.gearheart@yahoo.com
Elsie Davis , Preschool Director	preschool@lslc.church

March Noisy Offering

Our March Noisy offering will go to Anchor of Hope Sober Living. They strive to be the pinnacle of sober living in the Charlotte area and surrounding communities. Their core belief is to offer a home anchored in faith and rooted in 12-Step recovery. These proven methods of combating the disease of addiction will offer residents a founded method to foster and develop their recovery.

Anchor of Hope has 24 homes offering residential sober living to 160 individuals.

“We believe that fellowship is the opposite of addiction.”

Learn more on their website: www.anchorofhopesoberliving.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



Room In The Inn - End of Season Wrap Up

Our Shelter season for Room In The Inn once again only operated during the coldest winter months of January and February. We were scheduled to welcome men, women and children to our facility for eight Sundays in a row. For the second year in a row, only women and children were sent to us. This reflects the sad state of homelessness as more families are experiencing homelessness and families are prioritized for shelter by Roof Above.

For the first time in our Shelter history, two of our Sunday evenings were cancelled due to extreme winter weather and hazardous conditions on the roads and on our property.

Our homeless neighbors, vetted and sent to us through Roof Above were transported to our church every Sunday evening from January 4 through February 22. Twelve neighbors each of 6 Sundays, that's 72 people to cross our threshold!

We were able to offer a warm, safe and comfortable place for our vulnerable neighbors to spend the night. Our facility gave them comfortable beds, warm showers and comfortable seating for TV and movie watching. But our people offered hospitality to them way beyond the ordinary!

Hospitality started on Sunday morning when the beds were rolled into place by loyal volunteers. Next these beds were made up with fresh sheets and blankets by willing members of the congregation each week to make our "bedrooms" cozy and welcoming. About 5:30 pm, our guests arrived after being picked up by our evening van driver and greeted by two hosts who would be with them all night.

Dinner was served at 6:00 by the individual, family or group that had prepared it. The Meal Team also shared table space with our guests and joined in conversation with our neighbors. Listening to life stories and the challenges of others is a stereotype-changing experience!

In the early morning, our guests had several options for breakfast, including pork sausage or turkey sausage biscuits, oatmeal, cereal, fruit, juice and coffee. They each would leave with a bag lunch and kind words from the overnight hosts. The van would drop many off at the downtown Transit Center so those with jobs, and yes, many homeless folks have jobs, could get to their jobsites. Others would be dropped off at the Roof Above Center, for school bus or vehicle accessibility.

Room In The Inn - End of Season Wrap Up

There are so many people to thank for the success of this important ministry! A minimum of 50 people from our congregation, or friends of our congregation (plus Sunday morning bed makers) were involved in this ministry! A special thank you to these is needed:

- The 12 LSLC members who volunteered as Overnight Hosts, several who did overnight hosting twice
- **25+ members who prepared and served Sunday evening meals to our neighbors.** A special thank you to Russell Hinson and the Sunday School parents who brought their Sunday School children to interact and play with the children who were our guests that evening.
- **The 4 men who drove the van (we could use more!)**
- **The 9 volunteers who drove the designated luggage car, Sunday evening and EARLY Monday mornings.**
- **The 6 members of the Monday morning clean-up crew**
- **The team of 10 who did weekly Laundry**
- **13 members, our Preschool Director, plus Troop 165 members, signed up to provide 12 bag lunches each week.**
- **Jeanne and Lori Davis for Sunday morning bed set up**
- **Chuck Moore for rental and upkeep of the van**
- **Thank you to new members Paul and Michelle Sullivan,** Paul for his service as overnight host and Michelle for volunteering to serve as co-coordinator of Shelter Ministry

God's blessings to each and every one of these people who acted as God's hands in service to our vulnerable neighbors.

Alice Jenkins, Shelter Coordinator

Ministry of Health and Wholeness

The March theme is Dental Health.

Tip#1: Maintaining good care of your teeth, mouth, and gums can affect your overall health. It prevents bad breath and tooth decay, tooth and mouth abscesses, and jawbone infection. Brush teeth twice daily for two minutes with fluoride toothpaste. Floss or use a water flosser daily.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

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.



Ministry Highlights!

During the month of March our special ministry focus will be our **Youth Ministry**. We have a wide variety of options available for youth to participate in at Living Saviour. We have Sunday morning opportunities for all ages as well as ongoing fun activities for middle and high schoolers. Our youth room renovation is well underway, with our recently confirmed youth spearheading the process. Over the summer we will host Lutheroad day camp for elementary aged campers. This is one of our most exciting youth adventures. Additionally, we will be planning for the upcoming 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering. We look forward to ways to continue to support our growing youth ministry!

QUILT MINISTRY

The Quilt Ministry will meet next on April 7, 2026. Our meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Our March meeting is cancelled as LSLC is a polling location for the Primary Election.

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, or just come to a workshop!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on March 10, 2026. We will continue having our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room.

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.

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 *The Artifice of Intelligence: Divine and Human Relationship in a Robotic Age* by Noreen Herzeld.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming ubiquitous. Whatever its arrival portends for our future, whether riches or ruin, it cannot be avoided. This book explores two questions at the heart of a theological response to AI. Is it possible for human beings to have authentic relationships with AI? How does the increasing presence of AI change the way humans relate to one another?

CHILDREN—Class meets at 9:15 a.m. downstairs.

- 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

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE/BOOK STUDY

The Group meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room.

We are currently discussing, *With Open Hands* by Henri J. M. Nouen. It is available in Barnes and Nobles, as well as on Amazon. We would love to have you join us!

GATHERING@theTable

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

We will meet in March on the 12th and 26th at 6:15pm.

Please bring your own dinner.

Praying for Possibilities!



2/23-3/2 - Lillian Stephens & Nancy Mersereau

3/2-3/9 - Carla Gearheart & Sherry Wooldridge

3/9-3/16 - John & Patricia Maisel

3/16-3/23 - Bruce Melosh & Frank DeLoache

3/23-3/30 - Cathy Lyall & Laura Michael

3/30-4/6 - Faith & Ed Long

MUSIC MINISTRY

We are always eager to welcome newcomers to leadership roles in the music ministry. Winter months are a perfect time to join since preparations begin for Lent and Easter. Opportunity for serving is available in several areas.

CHANCEL CHOIR

- Rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, and again on Sundays at 9:15 AM
- Leads worship each Sunday as well as special seasonal worship services
- No experience required. We'll teach you!

ALLELUIA RINGERS (HANDBELLS)

- Rehearses on Sunday mornings before or after worship and on Wednesday at announced times.
- Ring for worship approximately every 5 weeks.
- Experience—NONE required. We'll teach you!

FESTIVAL CHOIR

- For folks who just can't make a weekly commitment but would like to sing occasionally
- You choose when you want to sing: Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Reformation, Advent, Christmas Concert, Christmas Eve, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, just to name a few.
- Festival Choir participants augment our Chancel Choir

INSTRUMENTALIST

- We love to have people play instruments during worship. Sometimes
- during prelude or communion times. Sometimes to accompany service music or the choir.

Consider being a part of the music ministry team. Oftentimes, music speaks to people in ways that mere words do not. It is a powerful gift from God. As a leader in music ministry, you will be a blessing to those you serve, and I guarantee that that blessing will be returned to you in huge measure! Please speak with Don to explore the possibilities.

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Alleluia Ringers 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Election Setup 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165</p>	<p>3 - Primary Election</p> <p>6:00 a.m. First Tuesday Coffee 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Lent Soup, Study & Sacrament 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Alleluia Ringers 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Lent Soup, Study & Sacrament 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable 6:15 p.m. Yoga</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Yoga</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Alleluia Ringers 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed 12:00 p.m. Monthly Council Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Lent Soup, Study & Sacrament 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Alleluia Ringers 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Lent Soup, Study & Sacrament 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable 6:15 p.m. Yoga</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Yoga</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Alleluia Ringers 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265</p>				

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays @ 5:30 p.m. for a time of conversation and communion. We will share a simple meal of soup, as we gather around tables, watch a short video, share thoughts reflecting on how what we watched speaks to living and loving like Jesus and then worship together. We hope you'll be there.