



The InnerNet

April 2026

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

I have often said that when there is a tragic death (from suicide or accident or murder or war or abuse or poor choices or just a random unfolding of events...or really anything), that God's tears are the first to fall. But I'm not sure I've ever tied that to God's own self with regard Jesus' life and death. I'm reading a book titled *Separation of Church and Hate*, by John Fuglesang (Well honestly, I'm mostly listening to it as I drive from place to place...But I choose to count that as reading.). And something in it got me wondering about the grief of God, watching as Jesus grew and lived and moved closer and closer to and through the inevitability of Holy Week and on through his trial and execution.

Admittedly, it's always a bit of a balancing act to hold the Trinity together theologically – not separating the Father from the Spirit from the Son from the Father in the divine ongoing dance. And it's really really easy to get stuck in the theological conundrum of it all and so never get beyond the debate. But even when we miss the theological mark, the over-arching of God holds throughout.

In any case, I'm thinking that in sending Jesus, God (from the outset) intended him to embody the reality that there is no length to which God won't go in order to be present with us. Nothing so horrible that we can do or have done to us. Nothing which will keep God's love from being fully present; even if it means that, in the process, God's own heart gets broken and God grieves and cries great divine tears over his torturous death. It costs God everything and God does it – not because God is angry and demands a sacrifice in order to be appeased (ala *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*) – but because God loves us that much and so knows firsthand the deep sobs and silences and love and weight of grief.

That feels really relevant right now, in a cultural climate that claims that God is a warrior who delights in the death and destruction of "enemies." We have a different take on how God's heart breaks with love whenever any of God's children suffer.

To be fair, these are just your Pastor's Ponderings and whether or not what I have said holds theological water I, honestly, am not sure. But (in this season of "Praise-the-Lord-resurrection" joy) if you feel overlooked and are grieving, know that you are never alone, but that the God of all creation knows your grief and has experienced it and is with you and will never leave you – but will sit beside you in the darkness of Holy Saturday and add divine tears to yours and hold the promise of the Light for you, until you can see it for yourself.

Blessings and much love in this season,

+ Pr. Sara

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

UPCOMING IN APRIL

"The Scoop On Being a Senior"

Carolina Caring will present "The Scoop On Being a Senior" on Wednesday, **April 29 from 11:30 am-1pm** in our fellowship hall. Bring your lunch and your questions about what is normal aging and what may be signs of an illness. Come learn how to stay healthy as you get older.

Drinks and desert will be provided by Health & Wholeness Ministry.

NEW MEMBERS!

Living Saviour will be receiving new members during worship on **Sunday, April 19**. If you are interested in learning more, please be in touch with Pastor Sara or contact the church office.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

If you are interested in learning more about receiving Holy Communion, plan to join Pr. Sara for lunch and conversation after worship on **Sunday, April 26**.

All are welcomed to participate – but a special focus will be given to children (with their parents) who are already receiving communion (but haven't had "instruction") or those whose parents are wanting to learn more before their child begins communing.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS

ADULTS—Class will meet at 9:15am 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 9:15am 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 SCHOOLERS - First Sunday in the Youth Room @ 9:30am

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE/BOOK STUDY

The Group meets each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room. We will not meet on April 1st.

On April 8, we will begin discussing our new book, *Matthew for Everyone, Part 1* (20th anniv. edition) by N.T. Wright. The book is available on Amazon or at your favorite bookstore! We hope you'll join us!

G@THERING AT THE TABLE BIBLE STUDY

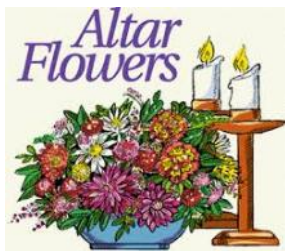
G@thering at the Table meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays and takes a look at the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. We will meet in April on the 9th & 23rd at 6:15 pm. Please bring your own dinner.

NC SYNOD NEWS!

If you are interested in receiving the NC Synod e-newsletters, please sign up at the bottom of their home page:

<https://nclutheran.org/>

NC Synod Gathering: May 28-30, 2026 (registration closes May 5)



ALTAR FLOWERS

The **2026** Altar Flowers online chart is available [here](#). You may also contact the church office to sign up.

Open Sundays are 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10

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.

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



April Noisy Offering

Our April Noisy Offering will go to **KinderMourn**. The KinderMourn story began as the vision of Lucy and Bill Christopher following the death of their infant daughter, Sally. Lucy had a vision to help parents cope with the loss of a child and that vision became KinderMourn. In 1978, the agency began with two volunteers in donated rooms at Dilworth United Methodist Church.

OUR MISSION

KinderMourn provides hope for bereaved parents, grieving children and teens by offering support and counseling programs, creating awareness of bereavement issues and empowering the community to effectively assist those who have suffered an unthinkable loss.

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

Ministry Highlights

During the month of April our special ministry focus is Property. The Property team focuses on maintaining and improving the interior and exterior spaces where we worship, learn and grow. Not surprisingly the warmer months are focused primarily on the exterior (our Lawn Care Team) of our property. We have a variety of wonderful trees, shrubs and grass, all of which needs to be trimmed, mowed and kept free of weeds. On the interior of LSLC, our members take care of any minor plumbing, electrical, or structural issues as they come up. Additionally, we also put up shelves for the preschool, repair Sanctuary chairs, and help clean and organize things as needed. We are ALWAYS in need of members who are willing to pitch in and keep LSLC in top shape. During April, we will be highlighting the many things the Property team handles throughout the year, and hopefully we can add your talents to our team!

Ministry of Health and Wholeness

The April theme is God's Gifts from Nature.

Tip #1: Just a few moments of time in nature can perk up a tired brain. Experiments have shown that students looking out at a flowering green rooftop for 40 seconds during a test made significantly fewer mistakes than students who gazed at a cement rooftop. We are losing the environments that contribute to our flourishing. When people are disconnected from nature, they are not motivated to protect our natural world.

Jeremiah 17:18 He (the one who trusts in the Lord) will be like a tree planted by water. It sends its roots out towards a stream. It doesn't fear when heat comes, and its foliage remains green. It will not worry in a year of drought or cease producing fruit.



Active Exercise Opportunities:

- ◆ Yoga 4 You: (no class 4/11)
 - ◆ 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 (no class 4/2)
 - ◆ Thursdays - 11:00 a.m.

Please reach out to the instructor prior to your first class.

Yoga 4 You with Lori: <https://Ready4Yoga.com/>

Chair Yoga with Debbie: www.feelgoodyogagirl.com

Congregation Acknowledgements

April Anniversaries

4/4 - Matt & Becky VanSandt (11)

4/18 - Cathy & Kevin Lyall (28)

4/22 - Luke & Cindy Quinlan (31)

4/24 - Ken Leeser & Karen Kaufeld (27)

Patricia & Edward Garrison (33)



April Birthdays

4/2 - Jennifer Noonkester

4/3 - Laura Schwab

4/6 - Chuck Lyle, Cindy Quinlan

4/9 - Elisabeth Forster

4/10 - Steve Vick

4/11 - Tony Eller

4/12 - Anita Mitchell

4/17 - Russell Stephens

4/19 - Linda Francis

4/20 - Cynthia Karim

4/21 - Kristen Haigler

4/22 - Samantha Merritt

4/23 - Elizabeth Wise

4/25 - Glenn Stirewalt

4/28 - Sara Melosh

4/29 - Gregg Mitchell

4/30 - Alina Krantz



MUSIC MINISTRY

We are always eager to welcome newcomers to leadership roles in the music ministry. 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.

QUILT MINISTRY

The Quilt Ministry will meet next on April 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Our meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month.

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 April 14, 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.

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 Leeser	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 April 19, 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

Summary of 15 March 2026 Council Meeting

- Finance wants the council to review the wish list and update the information as the current list is dated 2018. It is suggested that our gift policy be posted on our website so that members can see the various ways that they can help our ministries continue to serve our community. In addition, we should post the updated wish list on our website so that members can direct giving to specific needs if they choose.
- Last summer's ABA camp was a success, but it showed that we need to have a long-term rental policy as well as the current rental policy.
- An Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Easter Sunday, as well as the Easter Sunday breakfast.
- The fifth Sunday in May is on the 31st and instead of a potluck lunch, a cookout is being planned for that day.
- There were discussions about the retreat evaluations and the possibility of having a council mini retreat at the six-month point of the year.
- Our church constitution is in the process of being updated to align with ELCA guidelines and once that is completed, a called congregational meeting will be scheduled, and it will be presented to the congregation for approval.
- There was discussion on what projects our church might do for this year's God's Work Our Hands on 13 September 2026.
- There will be new members joining in April as well as several baptisms.

Praying for Possibilities

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

4/6-4/13 - Tom & Barb Tobin

4/13-4/20 - Dawn Gibson & Nancy Mersereau

4/20-4/27 - Jeanne Davis & Janet Mayer

4/27-5/4 - Joyce Godwin & Glenda Kilminster



APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship 6:15 p.m. Yoga	3 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship	4 10:00 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
5 - Easter Sunday 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Instrumentalists 9:00 a.m. Alleluia Ringers 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:40 a.m. Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m. Easter Prelude 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed	6 - Easter Monday Office Closed 6:15 p.m. Yoga	7 6:30 a.m. Coffee for Carmel Chase 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry	8 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	9 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. G@thering at the Table 6:15 p.m. Yoga	10	11
12 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed	13 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	14 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	15 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga	17	18 10:00 a.m. Yoga
19 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	20 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	21 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	22 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	23 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. G@thering at the Table 6:15 p.m. Yoga	24	25 10:00 a.m. Yoga
26 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. Communion Instruction	27 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	28 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	29 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Scoop on Being a Senior Seminar 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	30 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga		