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# The InnerNet

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May 2026

Red Dress Day is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). Beginning in Canada in 2010, it is now observed across America and Mexico annually on May 5th. As a congregation, we will observe Red Dress Day on Mother's Day (May 10) in acknowledgment of those who lost mothers or never had the chance to embrace motherhood due to the historical and ongoing violence against our Indigenous siblings.

A variety of factors (including confusing laws between tribal, federal, and state law enforcement that often allow non-Native perpetrators to evade justice, particularly for crimes committed on reservations<sup>1</sup>) play into the fact that American Indian and Alaska Native women experience a murder rate **10 times higher** than the national average.<sup>2</sup> Because LSLC takes seriously our mission of bringing healing, help and hope to the world, our ministry of eagerly welcoming all and our baptismal promise of striving for justice and peace in all the earth,<sup>3</sup> we acknowledge and repent of our hesitancy in speaking up, and we strive to do better. Too, we acknowledge that state of North Carolina<sup>4</sup> and the land on which our building sits belonged to others before us.

In November 2024, this LSLC Land Acknowledgement was developed:

*The building of Living Saviour Lutheran Church, and the larger area surrounding it, is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Catawba, Cheraw, Sugaree and Waxhaw people. We acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial, and we honor those who lived here before this congregation, or this city, came to be, who were the first stewards of the land, the first people who offered the first prayers and sang the first songs into the very soil under our feet.*

North Carolina has a long history of treaty negotiations, land use conflict, immigrant settlement, and federal administration. In order for us to move toward healing and a more just future together, it is imperative that we remember this history, listen to the stories of those we have wounded, confess our complacency and the systemic greed from which we have benefited and work with our Indigenous siblings to do better.

God give us wisdom and courage ~  
+ Pr. Sara

<sup>1</sup> Statistics show that over 90% of Native victims have a non-Native perpetrator:

<https://theredroad.org/issues/missing-murdered-indigenous-women/#:>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.niwrc.org/mmiwr-awareness>

<sup>3</sup> ELW, p. 236

<sup>4</sup> You may read the NC synod Land Acknowledgement here:

<https://nclutheran.org/public-witness/land-acknowledgement/>

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

## UPCOMING IN MAY

### YOUTH HANGOUT

Join us May 17 at Big Rock Nature Preserve for an afternoon of hiking, playing and enjoying nature. If you've never been, it's a hidden gem! Fun to explore for all ages.

**Who:** Kids and their families!

**Time:** 3-5pm

**Address:** 6500 Elm Stone Drive

\*carpool if possible, only on-street parking available

**What to bring:** closed toed shoes, water, snacks if you feel so led, and an adventurous spirit!

Contact Amanda Thom with questions! 704.488.3285

### FIFTH SUNDAY COOKOUT

On Sunday, May 31st we will have our Fifth Sunday Potluck - Cook Out Style! Be on the lookout for more information.

**Red Dress Day** is observed Tuesday, May 5, 2026. It is a Remembrance Day to honor the lives of missing and murdered indigenous women, girls and two-spirit peoples. To commemorate this movement, red dresses are hung from windows or trees to represent the pain and loss from survivors and their loved ones. The Red Dress is a visual reminder of the violence against the indigenous community. In honor of this day, our May Noisy Offering will go to Living Waters Lutheran Church.

### NC SYNOD NEWS!

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

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

<https://nclutheran.org/>

# FAITH FORMATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS

**ADULTS**—Class will meet at 9:15am in the Education Wing. We will be reading *Hope: A User's Manual* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana.

Hope is not optimism. It's not toxic positivity. It's not a promise of future success or progress. And it's definitely not something that can be reduced to a scripty-font platitude on an Instagram post. So what is it? One thing is certain: real hope demands that we do something with it. That we live it out. That we use hope to participate in a bigger story playing out behind the bleak world we see on the news or in our social media feeds every day.

**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 are currently reading and discussing,  
*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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays and takes a look at the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. We will meet in May on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm. Please bring your own dinner.

## MAY NOISY OFFERING

Our May Noisy Offering will go to **Living Waters Lutheran Church** in Cherokee, NC. Living Waters is a small but dynamic mission congregation located on the Cherokee reservation in Western N.C. This ongoing ministry is led by the Rev. Jack Russell, who is the only full-blooded Cherokee pastor in the ELCA. Its vital work includes not only multicultural worship and other services that blend together both native and Lutheran (liturgy) language and culture but also a variety of community outreach programs to both natives and non-natives, including a crucial food pantry that supplies a four-county area, as well as varied counseling programs.

You can follow them on Facebook here:

<https://www.facebook.com/LivingWatersCherokeeNC/>

## ALTAR FLOWERS

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

**Open Sundays are 5/17, 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 6/21 and 6/28**

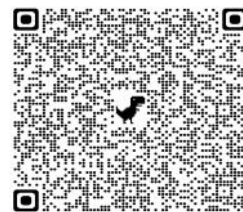
## VANGUARD ACCOUNT

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



Thank you for your generosity.

# Together, We Have Enough

2025 Mission Support



to the members of  
Living Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church

of the North Carolina Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
in grateful appreciation for giving  
\$25,883.15

for Mission Support beyond the congregation  
for synod and churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily K. Hartner".

Bishop, North Carolina Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Neil" followed by a large flourish.

Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The above was received along with a letter from Bishop Hartner. If you would like to read the letter, please contact Laura in the church office.

## Ministry of Health and Wholeness

### The May theme is Healthy Living in Your Senior Years!

**Tip #1:** Eat a rainbow! Seniors need less calories. Choose nutrient rich foods including a wide range of colorful fruits and vegetables. The healthiest and longest-lived people in the world eat a whole-food and plant-based diet.

**Isaiah 46:4** Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

#### Active Exercise Opportunities:

- ◆ Yoga 4 You: (no class 5/2-5/16)
  - ◆ 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 5/7; make up class on 5/19)
  - ◆ 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](http://www.feelgoodyogagirl.com)

## Ministry Highlights - Lutheroad

Lutheroad is around the corner and will be July 27-August 31. We can accommodate up to 32 campers this year! We started 4 years ago with 16 campers – God has truly blessed this camp! The Bible Study theme for the summer is "**Creation Speaks**". Each day we will use a different Bible story to understand how creation can tell us more about who God is. Kids between kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to attend this camp. You may sign up on the Living Saviour website. Please lift Lutheroad up in your prayers that God will be visible in our camp. If you wish to provide a scholarship for a camper, the cost is \$100. Many of our Ukrainian campers need scholarships. Members of our church assist in providing art and music experiences with our campers. **Please share Lutheroad information with others!**

# Congregation Acknowledgements

## May Anniversaries

- 5/5 - Steve & Bianca Kooi (14)
- 5/11 - Charles & Judy Gribble (63)
- 5/16 - Eric & Joy Forster (34)
- 5/17 - Eric & Melissa Krantz (12)
- 5/18 - John & Pam Williams (52)
- 5/20 - Larry & Janet Wagstaff (48)
- 5/24 - Gary & Deb Borley (51)
- 5/31 - Frank & Betty Kuhn (51)



## May Birthdays

- 5/2 - Diego Kooi
- 5/5 - Lori Davis
- 5/13 - Lyn Addy, Henry Ilderton
- 5/15 - Sue Hunsinger, Margie Peters
- 5/17 - Sally Ganz
- 5/18 - Jackson Mitchell
- 5/19 - Heather Langan
- 5/22 - Bill Larsen
- 5/23 - Leandro Kooi
- 5/25 - Henry Borelli
- 5/27 - Emma Allen
- 5/30 - Judy Gribble, Matthew Parham
- 5/31 - Melissa Krantz



## **MUSIC NOTES**

Summer is quickly approaching and with it comes an opportunity for you to be involved in the music ministry and music activities at Living Saviour. Consider being a part of either of these summer offerings.

### **SUMMER CHOIR:**

During the summer months, the choir is on break from Wednesday rehearsals. We will rehearse prior to worship on Sundays. The summer choir wears no robes and sits with the assembly, coming to the choir loft to sing the musical offering at the offertory.

You are invited to join summer choir on one or more Sundays during mid June through mid August. We will be glad to teach you what you need to know and it is a great opportunity to experience leading worship through song and fellowship with regular choir members.

### **SUMMER HANDBELLS:**

Come experience the joy of handbell ringing. We'll start from scratch, which means not only learning handbell ringing technique, but also developing musical note reading and rhythm skills. You won't be alone because some of our regular handbell ringers will be right there as we ring together. They would be happy to welcome you. A great opportunity for your summer. Plans at the present would be to have about a 45 minute session as often as agreeable for everyone on Sunday morning, either before or after church.

Interested in either or both of these summer opportunities? Please feel free to speak with Don Huff with any questions you might have.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Don

## **QUILT MINISTRY**

The Quilt Ministry will meet next on May 5, 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](mailto:jenkinsalice2019@gmail.com), or just come to a workshop!

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on May 12, 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](mailto: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
Janet Axtman	Property
Pr. Sara Ilderton	Pastor

The next Council Meeting will be held on May 17, 2026.

### LIVING SAVIOUR CHURCH STAFF

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

## Summary of 19 April 2026 Council Meeting

Council discussed several projects that the congregation might want to do for this year's God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on 13 September 2026. Suggestions included backpacks for Smithfield, Neighbor bags, landscaping on the church grounds and the Carmel Chase entrance, and offering landscaping and yard maintenance for seniors who are unable to do that themselves.

The council has revised the church wish list and discussed putting it on our website, but only available to members. Also discussed was whether to put our gift policy on the website as well as a waiver for photos that would be posted on our website.

Faith Formation and Youth are investigating a program offered by Lutheridge. Soon they will present this to the congregation to determine whether there is enough interest in implementing the program.

Property discussed the need to remove a tree in the back of the church property. It was also discussed how to streamline the process for getting janitorial supplies.

Both monitors to stream the upcoming events are now operational. We are also projecting the upcoming events in the sanctuary prior to worship service. A member suggested that we should put a monitor and speakers facing the seats in the back alcove where the line of sight to the service is limited. Technology and Communications will investigate how best to provide this improvement.

### PRAYING FOR POSSIBILITIES

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

5/4-5/11 - Linda Hatcher & Anita Mitchell

5/11-5/18 - Marty Jenkins & Don Huff

5/18-5/25 - Julie Brennan & God

5/25-6/1 - Mary Ann Eller & Janet Axtman



# MAY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed	4 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	5 6:30 a.m. Coffee for Carmel Chase 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	6 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9 1:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony
10 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 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	12 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	13 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	14 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. G@thering at the Table	15 10:30 a.m. Preschool Moving Up Ceremony	16
17 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 3:00 p.m. Youth Outing - Big Rock Nature Preserve	18 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	19 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	20 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	21 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:45 a.m. Preschool Graduation 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga	22	23 10:00 a.m. Yoga
24 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed	25 - <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 6:15 p.m. Yoga	26 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265	27 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	28 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	29	30 8:30 a.m. Linda Francis Piano Recital Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. Yoga
31 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. Fifth Sunday Cookout 3:00 p.m. Linda Francis Piano Recital						