



The InnerNet

February 2024

Ash Wednesday comes pretty early this year (Feb. 14...St. Valentine's Day). It is the day that we hear the words "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." The day that we are reminded that this (this "to dust you shall return" reality of death) is something we share with every single person we will ever encounter. Every living creature, actually.

In her book *Traveling Mercies*, Anne Lamott says this about ashes: "I [am finally] able to see the deeply contradictory nature of ashes...they are both so heavy and so light. They're impossible to let go of entirely...They will not cooperate. They cling. [They ground] us in sadness and mysteriousness" (95-96). It's a great book and I commend it to you. That said, I would add "hope" to her list of what ashes do. "[They ground] us in sadness and mysteriousness and HOPE," as they are held and seen by God. Remember that "In the beginning God gathered up the dust of the ground and breathed life into it" (Genesis 2.7). Incredible! Just as Ash Wednesday unites us in death, so too it unites us in the promised HOPE of new life!

Ash Wednesday begins my favorite season of the Church Year...Yep, my favorite season is Lent. It is that time that we intentionally work to discern what those things are in us that need to "return to dust" as it were. What those things are in us that get in the way of the new creation God intends for us. What those things are in us that need to die so that resurrection can take place. It's not easy work. It takes self-reflection. It can be uncomfortable (lots of us, me included, are WAY more comfortable looking for things in others that need to die). That's okay. While we can't do it **for** one another, we can do it **with** one another – gathering together weekly and mid-week for worship and refreshment as we do this hard work. There's a worship schedule in this Innernet. Please plan to join us as you are able. And maybe this year, as you think about what you may do for your Lenten discipline, consider – instead of fasting just from food – maybe fast from something else that needs to die in you. I don't know what that might be for you: over-working? gossip? thinking the worst of others? thinking the worst about yourself? guardedness? lack of generosity? sarcasm? constant comparisons to others? refusal to forgive? fear?

Be brave to fast and let go and let die...Then, when the alleluias finally ring out on Easter, know that they ring out for you and your new birth created out of the ashes you gave to God.

Blessings,
+ Pr. Sara

Congregation Acknowledgements!!

February Anniversaries

02/06 Chuck and Erin Malinowski (31)

02/10 Pr. Sara and Cliff Ilderton (22)



February Birthdays

02/01 Henry Allen

02/06 Alicia Cook, Maria Rozhin

02/10 Tom Chriske

02/11 Cathy Lyall

02/13 John Maisel

02/14 Ben Thompson

02/15 Eric Krantz

02/16 Patricia Garrison, Linda Poley

02/17 Elsie McGlone

02/18 Victor Leeser

02/19 Collin Quinlan

02/22 Anna Pearce, George Shabla

02/23 Matthew Noonkester

02/24 Janet Mayer, Patricia Snodgrass

02/28 Jeff Haigler



Praying for Possibilities!

01/29-02/03 Frank DeLoache and Marty Jenkins

02/03-02/10 Dawn Gibson and Nancy Mersereau

02/10-02/17 Corky Carver and Shallen Gordon

02/17-02/24 Maria Rozhin and Glenda Kilminster

02/24-03/03 GOD and Janet Mayer



Church Information!!

Your Offerings:

Contribute directly to the church through the on-line button on the website, using the QR code or by mail to

Living Saviour
6817 Carmel Road
Charlotte NC 28226

Thank you for your generosity.



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 Barbara Avard.

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Steven Vick

Janet Axtman

Gregg Mitchell

Barbara Avard

Debby Borrelli

Linda Frixen

Rev. Linda Hatcher

Laura Michael

Pat Sipe

Laura Schwab

The next Council Meeting will be on **Sunday, February 18, 2024** at 12:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

FESTIVAL CHOIR FOR EASTER. If you cannot participate in choir regularly, but would like to sing on Easter Sunday and / or during Holy week, the opportunity awaits you! We'd love to augment our fine choir with additional singers. Please feel free to speak to Don Huff about this opportunity.

Group Activities!!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

We will be doing a study that will fit in well with the Lenten season. We will begin on Wednesday - February 14th at 10 AM and end on Wednesday March 20th. This is a 6 session study.

"Finding Jesus in the Psalms - A Lenten Journey" by Barb Roose. The book is available from Amazon and from Christianbook.com. We encourage everyone to join us for an hour of study and a few laughs. Any questions or concerns please contact Janet Mayer.

GATHERING@theTable

Gathering@theTable weekly at 6:15 p.m. on Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, February 13th , at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will continue having our meetings on the second Tuesday of the 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 with questions.



ROOM IN THE INN

February finds us with four weekends to go serving our homeless neighbors and providing shelter, food, showers and safety. There is still a need for “luggage cars” for Sunday evenings. Please consider helping tote the neighbors’ luggage from downtown to Living Saviour on Sunday, Feb. 11, 18 or 25. Jenkinsalice2019@gmail.com

A couple of stories from our first few Sundays:

A neighbor related to overnight host Cathy Lyall that Living Saviour had offered the best night’s sleep and best experience that he had ever had as long as he had been a part of the program. What a blessing to hear!

A family from Venezuela, who spoke no English, was made comfortable by hosts Pat Snodgrass and Cathy Lyall using Google Translate! And Jerry Putnam’s son spent much time trying to connect them with an acquaintance from Venezuela while Jerry’s grandchildren entertained the family’s children. The children practiced simple tunes on the piano, played games together and had the children laughing and having a grand time.

Sarah Plunkett related how much her boys enjoyed choosing the snacks and other components of the lunches they brought for the neighbors. They had real ownership in making sure the neighbors had an enjoyable lunch to take with them. What a great way to include youngsters in this ministry!

What we do here at Living Saviour DOES make a difference to the neighbors that we serve! Thanks to all who are a part of this ministry!



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is

Joys and Cares Greeting Cards

Did you know that we have a lovely selection of greeting cards for many occasions on the wall display in the Fellowship Hall? These cards are available for a \$1 donation per card that can be left in the box on the display. These funds become contributions to the church. If you have questions please contact Dawn Gibson at (fourleafclovertwc.com)

Financial Results for the Fiscal Year Ending January 2024	Budget	Actual
General Fund 01	\$354,160	\$257,232
Contributions & Other Income		
Expenses	\$392,222	\$198,334
Net Income less Expenses		\$58,898
Facilities Fund 02-3241-442		\$33,895
Shabla Gift Fund 02-3271-379		\$66,564

Notes: The figures above reflect the General Fund results through three quarters of our fiscal year that will end January 31,2024. There will be substantial savings in the Pastor Salary & Related Expenses as the result of the vacancy during the first eight months of the year. Actual expenses for the interim and supply pastors during that same period was approximately \$10,000.

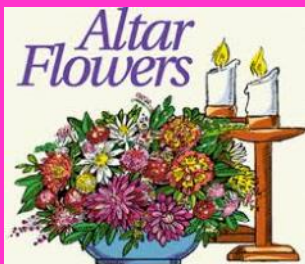
As previously reported, your Church Council is taking every opportunity to generate income while maintaining the safety of the church's funds and in accordance with ELCA guidelines and recommendations. Church expenses are carefully monitored and managed.

Your generosity and dedication to Living Saviour are so appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Avard, Treasurer/Financial Secretary

2024 ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS



The 2024 Altar Flowers online chart is now available at:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoC4CACAC29A6F4C16-46302964-2024>

FAITH FORMATION

- Do you know a teen (rising 9th-12th grade) who may be interested in attending the 2024 **ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans** (July 16-20, 2024)? If so, we need to be in touch with them ASAP!
- Learn more about the Gathering here: <https://www.elca.church/gathering>

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH ASSISTANTS AND ADULTS:

9:15 am Adults in the Education Wing Triple Room

9:30 am Children - ages 3 years through 5th grade (parents[s] welcome) downstairs in a preschool classroom.

Schedule for the Adult class study of **Do I Stay Christian** (Brian McLaren)

Feb 4 - chapters 8-9

Feb 11 - chapters 10-11

Feb 18 - chapters 12-13

Feb 25 - chapters 14-15

You are invited to participate either in-person or remotely via Zoom in our book study. We'll be meeting in the Adult education room.

Topic: Do I Stay Christian?

Time: Jan 7, 2024 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88053906186?pwd=cjdTcWZrek5MZy9KdWhR1hBcnlDQT09>

Meeting ID: 880 5390 6186

Passcode: 397043

- February 25th—Confirmation Class 12:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. (lunch provided)

LIVING SAVIOUR CHURCH STAFF

The Reverend Sara Ilderton—Pastor

pastorsara@livingsaviourlc.org

Don Huff, Minister of Worship and Music

dhuff@livingsaviourlc.org

Ruth Mayes, Administrative Assistant

ruth@livingsaviourlc.org

Nancy Mersereau, Organist and Music Assistant

nancyqqq@aol.com

Carla Gearheart, Childcare Provider

carla.gearheart@yahoo.com

IT'S A NEW YEAR - WE NEED TELLERS – CAN YOU HELP?

It's a new budget year, exciting things are happening at church and we need help with counting the weekly contributions. This takes only about 30-45 minutes after worship and someone will be there with you for help and support. If you can do a month or only a few weeks sometime during the year it will be appreciated!



Contact Barbara (bj1949@bellsouth.net) if you are willing to consider giving some of your time and talent to help with this important administrative support duty. Thank you!

P.S. You will NOT be asked to help count the Noisy Collection!

Financial Results for the Fiscal Year ending January 2024 through December, 2023

General Fund 01	Annual Budget	Actual
Contributions & Other Income	\$354,160	\$325,773
Expenses	\$392,222	\$311,165
Net Income less Expenses		\$14,608
Facilities Reserve 02-3241 Balance		\$37,895
Shabla Gift Fund 02-3271 Balance		\$35,910

As previously reported, your Church Council is taking every opportunity to monitor church expenses.

Your generosity and dedication to Living Saviour, it's mission and ministries, is very much appreciated and reflected in the many activities during the past months and those yet to come this year.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Avar, Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Congregation Council Meeting 21 January 2024

Council voted to approve the new members that will be received on Sunday 28 January 2024.

Confirmation classes began on Sunday with five students and possibly two more to join. The facilities meeting went well and we gathered good information to use going forward with how to improve building use and scheduling.

Health and Wholeness is planning a brief preservice presentation on exercise benefits in early February. There is a seminar planned in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association for 20 April 2024 from 1-5pm in the fellowship hall. The community and neighboring churches will be invited to this free program. Yoga and exercise classes are continuing with its regular schedule.

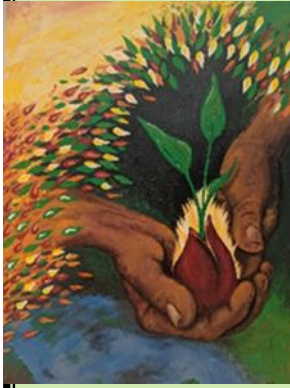
The annual report is ready for the Congregational meeting on 28 January. The final financial report will not be ready as our fiscal year ends on 31 January.

The monthly financial report shows that we should end the year with a slight deficit or surplus depending on one-time yearend expenses.

The facilities report included that the kitchen refrigerator was repaired. The ice machine was cleaned and sanitized. All retrofits to LED bulbs was completed. Confirmed that after the recent hard rains that we have no active leaks in our building. The HVAC units were serviced and tested. Termite service was completed.

We received an update on the digital sign and it should be installed very soon.

The next council meeting will be on 18 February 2024.



Ministry of Health and Wholeness February 2024 Social Isolation and Loneliness

*"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit."
Psalm 25:16-17*

Social isolation is the lack of relationships with others and little to no social support or contact. It was declared a public health crisis in 2023. 15% of adolescents and 1 in 4 older adults are affected by social isolation and loneliness. The risk is greater if social media is used to replace in person relationships.

Active Exercise Opportunities:

Physical Exercise:

- Yoga For 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 at 11:00 a.m.
- Exercise Opportunities - Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE! 2024 Lutheroad!

The 2024 Lutheroad Day Camp has been scheduled!

This year it will be July 29-August 4th.

Please keep an eye out for more information coming soon!!

Giving Information and Practices

Dear Family and Friends of Living Saviour, thank you so much for your generous and dedicated gifts to support our church's mission and ministries. We are excited to look to the future with God's help and the guidance and support of Pastor Sara. We are resuming some of our practices that were put "on hold" for various reasons during the pandemic.

To that end, please note that we are now again passing the collection plate during Worship. Many of you give through the electronic system of Simply Giving or your own bank. In the past (prior to the pandemic) we began using a giving card that you could choose to place in the collection plate as it was passed as an outward symbol of your online gift.

Well, we have resurrected those cards and they are in the THANKFUL box just inside the entrance to the Sanctuary. On the reverse of the card is information about electronic giving and a QR code that can also be used. Please feel free to take a card as you enter to put in the collection plate. We will recycle these cards each week.

Also in this box are envelopes that can be used for miscellaneous or special gifts by check or cash. The label can be completed with information to insure giving credit to the correct account. Members and Visitors are welcome to use these as needed. If you have any questions or need assistance with your giving, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings to you!
Barbara Avard, Treasurer/Financial Secretary.



FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	2	3 9:30 a.m. Exercise Opportunities 10:00 a.m. Yoga
4 Scout Sunday 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	5 6:15 p.m. Yoga	6 6:00 a.m. First Tuesday coffee 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. STEPP Group 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry	7 6:00 p.m. Alleluia Ringers bell choir practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	8 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	9	10 9:30 a.m. Exercise Opportunities 10:00 a.m. Yoga
11 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed	12 6:15 p.m. Yoga	13 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. STEPP Group 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	14 Ash Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	15 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	16	17 9:30 a.m. Exercise Opportunities 10:00 a.m. Yoga
18 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Monthly Council meeting	19 President's Day 6:15 p.m. Yoga	20 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. STEPP Group	21 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Soup & Bread 6:30 p.m. Service 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	22 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 1:15 p.m. LSLC Staff Meeting 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	23	24 9:30 a.m. Exercise Opportunities 10:00 a.m. Yoga
25 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Live Streamed 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Class	26 6:15 p.m. Yoga	27 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. STEPP Group	28 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Soup & Bread 6:30 p.m. Service 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	29 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 1:15 p.m. LSLC Staff Meeting 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable		