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# The InnerNet

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February 2025

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

As this new year begins, it already feels heavy to me.

So many sound bites and video clips. So much anxiety and fear...Some totally legitimate, some perhaps not. So many concerns about how/what we as a church and congregation are to address - if anything - in the current cultural and political climate. It feels like an especially relevant "What would Jesus do?" time.

Even approaching the subject feels risky.

And yet, it is important to remember that there is a distinct difference between political and partisan. The word "politics" itself has to do with how people live together ("polis"=city or community) and is the root for words like "policy" (guidelines about how we live together). Also, it is important to remember that, Jesus, the one we claim to follow and strive to live like, was decidedly political in his teachings and healings and advocacy – modelling and calling for dignity, compassion, care, for all...especially for the least of these (Matthew 25). My prayer is that LSLC be a place that allows for intentional contemplation and conversation around current issues. Always leading with love and looking out for the least. It is certain that we will **not** likely agree on "What is to be done" (e.g. What is to be done about immigration or housing or gender-identity and care, or... or...or...?), but I am confident that the answer to "How it is to be done" is always "Like Jesus" (e.g. with dignity and compassion and love)...Always leading with the understanding that every single human is created in the image of God and so is deserving of dignity. Too, I am confident that our "Why" is clear. Why do we behave this way? Because we follow the way of Jesus; which is the way of love.

May "they know we are Christians by our love."

+ Pr. Sara

Worship Service Live Streaming: on-line <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuMJ5vxpQpMZLB8638JxE> w or through our website: [www.livingsaviourlc.org](http://www.livingsaviourlc.org).

## Congregation Acknowledgements!!

### **February Anniversaries**

**02/06 Chuck and Erin Malinowski (32)**

**02/10 Pastor Sara and Cliff Ilderton (23)**



### **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  
02/19 Collin Quinlan  
02/22 Anna Pearce, George Shabla  
02/23 Matthew Noonkester  
02/24 Janey Mayer, Pat Snodgrass  
02/28 Jeff Haigler



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**Coming soon—information for Ash Wednesday on March 5th!**

## Church Information!!

### 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rev. Linda Hatcher	President/Lay Care
Debby Borrelli	Vice President/Christian Education
Gregg Mitchell	Secretary
Laura Schwab	Financial Secretary
Linda Frixen	Outreach
Laura Michael	Health & Wholeness
Ken Leaser	
Pat Snodgrass	
Donna Thomas	
Kay Zimmerman	

The next Council Meeting will be on **Sunday, February 16, 2025**  
at 12:00 p.m. 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>Ruth Mayes</b> , Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:ruth@livingsaviourlc.org">ruth@livingsaviourlc.org</a>
<b>Nancy Mersereau</b> , Organist and Music Assistant	<a href="mailto:nancyqqq@aol.com">nancyqqq@aol.com</a>
<b>Carla Gearheart</b> , Childcare Provider	<a href="mailto:carla.gearheart@yahoo.com">carla.gearheart@yahoo.com</a>

## ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

*The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, February 11th, 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](mailto:jeannedavis88@att.net) with questions.*

### **Your Offerings:**

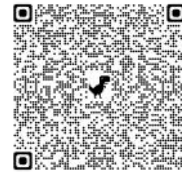
Contribute directly to the church through the on-line button on the website, using the QR code or by mail to

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 the church office.

### **"NEW for Contribution Statements going forward into 2025."**

According to standard accounting practices, "gifts in kind" include purchases made for the church and paid for by a parishioner. These items can be deducted on the individual's tax return but the church cannot put a value on their contribution statement. The value is to be determined but the donor (using a receipt if available) and the church will recognize the gift through a letter.

If you have any further questions, please contact Susan Hall at [finance@livingsaviourlc.org](mailto:finance@livingsaviourlc.org). Thank you,

## **ROOM IN THE INN**

Our Room In The Inn shelter season is underway and each Sunday night from Jan. 5 until Feb. 23, we will welcome twelve homeless neighbors, sent through Roof Above, who will spend the night and experience Living Saviour's hospitality. Sunday mornings you can be a part of this ministry by heading over to our "bedroom" and putting fresh, clean sheets on the beds for tonight's guests. Just a few minutes of your time will add a welcoming coziness for our homeless neighbors!

## **LSLC YOUTH**

Did you know that we have a youth group at LSLC? Spread the news! We do!

I hope you will join us for the "kick-off" on Sunday, Feb. 23 and we hope you'll bring friends.

We will gather from 4-6 p.m. at the home of Amanda & Andrew Thom. Youth will hang out and eat in one area. And parents will hang out and eat in another (and swap stories and ideas and "what ifs").

For more information, please reach out to Amanda Thom (704.488.3285)

## Praying for Possibilities!

01/29-02/03 Pastor Charlie and Kay Zimmerman

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

02/10-02/17 Ray and Ken Kilminster

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

02/24-03/03 Pastor Sara and Corky Carver

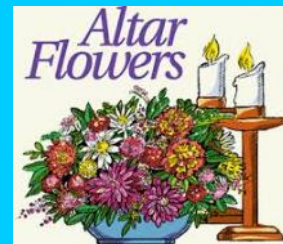


## 2025 ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

The 2025 Altar Flowers online chart is now available at:

- ◆ <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoC4CACAC29A6F4C16-50072720-2025#/>

**Open dates: February 23, March 2**



## WE NEED COUNTERS – CAN YOU HELP?

If you are interested in assisting with counting contributions after service, please contact Laura Schwab (980-229-3900 or [laboatwright@gmail.com](mailto:laboatwright@gmail.com)). The task can usually be completed in less than 30 minutes.

## **Open Letter from Lutheran Services Carolinas**

Dear Friends,

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus says, "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in." This powerful verse reminds us that, as Christians, we are called to show compassion and hospitality, especially towards those who are most vulnerable.

In today's ever-changing world, filled with challenges and divisions, Lutheran Services Carolina (LSC) continues to stay the course to ensure we are there to serve the marginalized. For over 45 years, LSC has cared for refugees through its New Americans Program. I have personally witnessed many changes over my 24 years as LSC President—in the world, in politics, and in our work. However, one thing remains steadfast: as Lutherans, we have a long tradition of "welcoming the stranger." This tradition dates to World War II, at least to my knowledge, when my mother's home church in Dallas, NC, welcomed a family fleeing war and persecution.

Over the coming years, LSC expects changes in the number of legal refugees arriving in the Carolinas. However, our commitment remains unwavering: we will continue to support the individuals and families in our programs. Thousands of individuals who have become our neighbors in the last few years still rely on LSC's support, and with your partnership, we can sustain and expand our services to meet their needs.

These vital programs require funding, and we hope you will consider helping us continue the work we are called to do as Christians. Your support can help us provide resettlement services, language and cultural orientation programs, trauma-informed care, and educational programs for children and adults. This work of welcome transforms lives and communities.

Thank you again for supporting the mission of LSC. This important work depends on partnerships like yours to continue helping those in need. If you have any questions about how LSC will continue serving refugees and immigrants, please email me at [tgoins@lscarolinas.net](mailto:tgoins@lscarolinas.net).

To donate, visit:

[https://lscarolinas.net/donate-to-refugee-services/?bbeml=tp-IPd8tX2oIUeI\\_bUkmTBBsA.jAmjXRNC3nEa4faSZkKU6g.rveNArPJ3z0qtEJRIa5N9fQ.l2gJJgsh0dEG7zwp6bcWsYQ](https://lscarolinas.net/donate-to-refugee-services/?bbeml=tp-IPd8tX2oIUeI_bUkmTBBsA.jAmjXRNC3nEa4faSZkKU6g.rveNArPJ3z0qtEJRIa5N9fQ.l2gJJgsh0dEG7zwp6bcWsYQ)



## Ministry of Health and Wholeness February 2025

### Focus: Home Safety

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

If you call 911 do you really know what is going to happen? Come talk with paramedic Andy Williams on Sunday February 16 at 9:00am in our fellowship hall. He is Gregg and Anita Mitchell's son in law and serves Mecklenburg County EMS.

Coming on a Saturday this Spring- Alzheimer's Awareness seminar presented by the Alzheimer's Association. Excellent speakers, question and answer opportunities, vendor tables with resources are all included. Watch for the date and be sure to join us in our fellowship hall for this valuable community event!

### Active Exercise Opportunities:

- ◆ Yoga For You:
  - ◆ Mondays - 6:15 p.m.
  - ◆ Tuesdays - 9:30 a.m.
  - ◆ Thursdays - 9:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.
  - ◆ Saturdays - 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ Chair Yoga - Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ Strength and Stamina - Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.



# FAITH FORMATION!!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH ASSISTANTS AND ADULTS:**

**ADULTS - 9:15 am in the Education Wing**

**CHILDREN - 9:30 am Downstairs**

Adult Sunday School is discussing *Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions* by Jacqueline Bussie. Please join us in the

Education Wing!!

Discussion Schedule:

Feb. 2 - Recap

Children (ages 2 years through 5th grade) will have Bible stories and hands-on experiences that support the story. Parent(s) are welcome to join in the class!

## **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

**BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE FOR The First Advent in Palestine:**

### **GATHERING@theTable**

Gathering@theTable will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. The next meetings are February 13th and 27th.



There will be a blood drive at Living Saviour on Sunday, February 16th from 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. in the parking lot.

### **Summary of 19 January 2025 Congregation Council Meeting**

The Council continued working with the financial committee to finalize the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year so that it can be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on 26 January 2025.

A thermostat in the preschool malfunctioned leaving the preschool without heat. The thermostat was under warranty and has been repaired. One of the HVAC units had a faulty ball bearing and it has been repaired under warranty.

The treasurer report stated that in December we had a net loss of income of approximately \$8,000 but that we should end the fiscal year with a slight surplus.

Health and Wholeness reported that chair yoga classes will resume on 6 February 2025. On 21 January 2025, there will be a lunch and learn on anxiety and mental health in the Fellowship Hall from 11am to 1pm. On 16 February 2025, Andy Williams, a paramedic with Mecklenburg County EMS (Medic) will have an informal question and answer session from 9am to 10am about what to expect if you call 911 with a medical emergency.

The confirmation youth have expressed interest in having a dinner meeting monthly at someone's home and doing a service project quarterly.

Pastor Sara attended a zoom meeting with Mecklenburg Ministries and they have many inter faith programs available for adults and youth.

Council expressed their thanks to the outgoing members, Steve Vick, Pat Sipe, and Janet Axtman for their service and contributions. Steve and Pat Snodgrass have agreed to be our lay ministers at the Synod Assembly in May.

The slate of candidates running for Council at the Annual Meeting, Ken Lesser, Kay Zimmerman, Donna Thomas, and Pat Snodgrass was approved by Council. New Council members will be installed at the worship service on 2 February 2025.

The Council will have a retreat on Saturday 8 February 2025 at LSLC with Rev. CeCee Mills to focus on our core values.

## **Summary of LSLC Annual Congregational Meeting**

26 January 2025

The meeting was led by the Council co-presidents, Steve Vick, and Pr. Linda Hatcher. They reminded members of our mission: We welcome people to Jesus Christ, we equip them to grow in faith, and we send them to serve others. Pastor Linda gave the opening prayer.

There was a motion to approve the minutes of last years Annual Meeting, held on 28 January 2024. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

There was a power point presentation of the events that happened since the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Elsie Davis took over as interim preschool director.

In the 14 months since Pastor Sara accepted our call, we have added 29 new members. We have had baptisms, weddings, and our annual Christmas concert. We had the confirmation of Nora Cook, a retreat for the youth, the start of Strive AOB (affirmation of baptism), the addition of noisy offerings (which has raised over \$4,000), inner generational Sunday School classes as well as adult Sunday School classes. Members have volunteered for Room at the Inn, the blood mobile, help for victims of hurricane Helene in the mountains of North Carolina, and assistance for Ukrainian refugees.

The Health and Wholeness ministry has continued with yoga and exercise classes and has presented seminars and lunch and learn events. LSLC has provided food assistance and hospitality, clothing assistance, presented a Craft Fair, Breakfast with Santa, helped at St. Matthews meal preparation, offered and supported Lutheroad day camp, first Tuesday free coffee giveaway, and our longest running outreach program, the cub and boy scouts.

The four candidates for Congregation Council are Ken Lesser, Donna Thomas, Kay Zimmerman, and Pat Snodgrass. There was a motion to approve these four candidates for election to three-year terms on the LSLC Council beginning on 26 January 2025. This motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

There was a motion to approve Steve Vick and Pat Snodgrass as our Lay Ministers to the Synod Assembly in May 2025. This motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

There was a report on facilities needs and repairs. Facilities expenses have increased due to the age of our building and its increased use.

Debby Borrelli of the finance committee presented a financial review of the 2024-2025 budget and the proposed 2025-2026 budget. Final figures for the 2024-2025 budget will not be available until the year closes out on 31 January 2025 but it looks like we have turned a projected deficit of \$31,264 into a surplus of \$2,141, a swing of \$33,405, all due to the generous giving of our congregation. The proposed budget for 2025-2026 estimates income of \$440,815 and expenses of \$451,218, leaving us with a deficit of \$10,403. Considering the turnaround this congregation did with the current budget, the Council feels confident that by next years Annual Meeting, that deficit will be lower or we will have a balanced budget.

There is a motion to approve the proposed 2025-2026 budget. The motion is seconded and approved by voice vote.

Pastor Sara gave the closing prayer.

# FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Strength & Stamina 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You
<b>2 Room in the Inn</b> 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed 2:00 p.m. Lay Communion Training	<b>3</b> 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	<b>4</b> 6:30 a.m. Coffee for Carmel Chace 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry 6:00 p.m. Scout Troop 265	<b>5</b> 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers	<b>6</b> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Council Retreat 9:30 a.m. Strength & Stamina 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You
<b>9 Room in the Inn</b> 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed	<b>10</b> 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 p.m. Scout Troop 265	<b>12</b> 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers	<b>13</b> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Strength & Stamina 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You
<b>16 Room in the Inn</b> 9:00 Health & Wholeness Preparing for Emergencies class 9:00 Blood Drive 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed 12:00 p.m. Monthly Council Meeting	<b>17 President's Day</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	<b>18</b> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Scout Troop 265	<b>19</b> 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers	<b>20</b> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Strength & Stamina 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You
<b>23 Room in the Inn</b> 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship Live Streamed 4:00 p.m. Youth Gathering @ Thom's	<b>24</b> 6:15 p.m. Yoga 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165	<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 6:00 p.m. Scout Troop 265	<b>26</b> 10:00 am. Bible Study 5:30 Chancel Choir 6:30 p.m. Alleluia Ringers	<b>27</b> 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga 6:15 p.m. Yoga 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable	<b>28</b>	