

Christ Connections



november/december 2020

WORSHIP ONLINE or
ATTEND IN PERSON*

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

9 a.m. Traditional Worship
11 a.m. Contemporary Worship
10 a.m. Adult Sunday Classes
4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte



CHRIST SOUTH
10 a.m. Casual Family Worship
315 Reid Dairy Rd., Waxhaw

CHRIST CONCORD
10 a.m. Blended Worship
240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord

The Experience
Virtual Christmas Show

December 6

christelca.org/online



For links to live-stream
services, bulletins,
ChristKidsTV and more,
go to christelca.org and
click Christ Online

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



first
ridays
family
ellowship



*Masks, social distancing and RSVP
are currently required for in-person
worship. Walk-ins are welcome
as long as current maximum
capacities allow for each campus.
RSVP on REALM or christelca.org



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

from the Senior Pastor

In-Person Worship at all Campuses

With Governor Cooper easing restrictions with Phase 3 of the Covid protocol, we are now allowed to have in-person worship service. I am so excited for this reunion! As we carefully have put together specific guidelines to do this safely, we seek to fulfill what Jesus described as the two greatest commandments. The first one is **Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and soul and strength and mind**. Corporate worship has always been at the heart of our spiritual lives.

Luke 4:16 -- He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.

Hebrews 10:24, 25 -- And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together,...

The second greatest commandment, Jesus said, was like the first, **Love your neighbor as yourself**. While we will still offer online worship for all of our campuses (that is never going away), we have adopted this covenant for those who desire to join us in-person. In-person worship is not mandatory in any way. However, those who choose to join us are asked to follow these procedures out of love and respect for our neighbor.

1. If you are sick or have been in contact with someone testing positive, please stay home for 14 days and worship online.
2. Each campus will have a limited number of people per service. RSVP is required through REALM, calling the church office (704-366-1595) or emailing Connie Kramer (ckramer@christelca.org). RSVPs will open each Mondays prior to the following Sunday worship.
3. Doors will be opened 30 minutes before each worship service.
4. No nursery will be available at this time.
5. All doors will remain open to limited physical touch.
6. While stairs will be encouraged, the elevator will be available.
7. Masks will be mandatory. Please bring your own masks!
8. Temperatures will be checked as people enter inside.
9. Ushers will seat people from the front of the sanctuary to the back, ensuring that we achieve social distance between families.
10. Only worship leaders on the chancel will lead worship without masks.
11. There will only be a verbal sharing of the peace.
12. Offerings will be received as people exit worship.
13. There will be no coffee hour before or after worship. Worshipers will be asked to leave the building after the service has ended.
14. Communion will be distributed outside following worship.
15. The worship spaces will be cleaned afterwards.

The Providence Campus will limit worship to 100 people each for the 9:00 Traditional Service and the 11:00 Contemporary Service. There will be no Bridge Service at this time.

The Concord Campus will limit worship to 25 for their 10:00 Blended Service.

The South Campus, because they lack a building to meet indoors for worship, will host outdoor worship beginning on October 25 at 10:00 (weather permitting) for 100 persons.

We ask that those who choose to join us live for worship be mindful and respectful of these procedures, realizing that we all have different levels of comfort with this virus. Furthermore, we ask for everyone's patience and understanding as we figure out how to regather the people of God safely.

I'm looking forward to being reunited as a church once again. It's not complete. It's not final. But this is the first step towards that glorious goal.

**Peace,
Pastor Scott**



ADULT CLASS
**FAITH FELLOWSHIP:
 THE BIBLE & BEYOND**
 Sundays • 10 a.m. on Zoom

Join a new 6-week study on the prophet Jonah, as author Timothy Keller reveals a hidden, deeper meaning to his familiar story and the powerful Christian message at its heart.

Find the Zoom link at christelca.org/online

TIMOTHY KELLER
 THE PRODIGAL PROPHET
 Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy



Christ Lutheran, 1959

Renewing Connections

by ED EDDLEMAN

ADULT CLASS
**FAITH FELLOWSHIP:
 THE BIBLE & BEYOND**
 Sundays • 10 a.m. on Zoom

This Advent, join us for a 4-week video study with author James Moore, as we are reassured that God can bring Christmas into our chaos.

**Starts November 29th!
 Find the Zoom link at christelca.org/online**

Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam

About four months ago I realized how powerful a Zoom meeting could be to reconnect people. I also was thinking about the people that have had a significant impact on Christ Lutheran – pastors and lay people that are part of our legacy. These people, who were at CLC, made a lot of acquaintances and were part of the building blocks for CLC's growth. I was missing them. They are a part of our legacy. Let us not forget them!

I have been a longtime member of the McKnight group that met for lunch at Johnathon's on Wednesdays before the pandemic. The group model was to invite a CLC staff member for lunch and listen to their story – and we paid for their lunch. They look forward to the free lunch. This helps everyone develop a closer relationship with that person as well as learn about things going on behind the scenes at church. Of course, the McKnight group had to switch to Zoom for meetings, and many members resisted. However, those that did do the Zoom meetings found an alternative option to meeting in person.

So, I was talking to some of my friends, and they thought it would be good to Zoom with some non-staff people that we know and would like to reconnect with. I called the new group McKnight Zoom Extra because I was using McKnight group as my model. We were not attracting many people to the Zoom gatherings (even though the meetings themselves were a success).

So, I reached out to Laurie Carter for advice. She advised a name change, a REALM group and exposure through Christ Lutheran's communication channels.

So, 'McKnight Zoom Extra' was renamed to 'Renewing Connections.' Our purpose is to reach out to notable people who are no longer at Christ Lutheran and have lost connections with a lot of us. This will happen through a one-hour Zoom meeting. Our schedule is the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. Our previous guests have been David Misenheimer, Jeff Gardner and Jon Bustard. Our next guest for November 12 is Troy Elhke.

We ask them two basic things:

- What is your story?
- What are your fondest memories at CLC?

They all revealed a close relationship with the church staff while they were here. This relationship seems to deeply feed their ministry and help them to be better pastors.

So far, all the guests have been excited to attend. Renewing these relationships has been a blessing to us during these COVID-19 days.

All church members are invited to join the Renewing Connections group in REALM. Once you join the group, you will be included on our mailing list for updates. To suggest a future guest or for more information, please email me at ed.eddleman@edata-charlotte.com.

**A NIGHT WITH
 COACH BOB MCKILLOP**

**Monday, November 16
 7 p.m. on Zoom**

All are welcome for a virtual presentation and Q&A on faith and basketball with the head coach of the Davidson Wildcats!

Register on REALM for link
 hosted by CLC's Arrows of Adam men's group

ADULT SMALL GROUP:
Renewing Connections
 formerly called 'McKnight Zoom Extra'

**meets 2nd Thursdays of the month
 10 a.m. on Zoom**

Reconnect with former CLC staff and others who've impacted our ministries through a one-hour Zoom gathering each month.

Guest for November 12: Troy Elhke

Register in REALM

PRAYER
for Our Nation

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SERVICE OF PRAYER & MEDITATION THE DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION

Nov. 2 • 12 p.m. at Christ Providence

Register for In-person Worship or Watch Online | christelca.org

What's Happening at Christ South?

by PASTOR MATT

The weather is changing, the air is crisp, and by the grace of God, we have college football again! The fall is always a time that reminds me of changes. As the leaves begin to turn, I think about how life is one big cycle and change is all part of His plan. This year, 2020 brought with it changes that we didn't see coming, and it has forced us to rethink how we connect with people. My prayer has always been that something good would come out of these new approaches to worship and community.

Christ South is officially worshipping in-person and outdoors again, using the Old Dairy Farm as our natural sanctuary. What better way for us to reconnect as a community than gathering on the land that we are learning to call home? While 2020 has brought uncertainty, the constant faith and determination of this congregation has been amazing. We look forward to seeing everyone again, and while it may feel different, this is the first step toward returning to the normalcy we all crave.

Speaking of our home on the farm, I'm pleased to share with you all that the town of Weddington unanimously approved phase 1, which includes developing all the infrastructure that will be necessary for our worship space and community buildings that will allow us to fulfill the vision for Christ South and Old Dairy Farm. We are now moving into our next stage of the plan, which includes developing financial partners who will move us forward in our entrepreneur church model. We are excited to be able to share our progress with you and ask for your continued support.

Some Quick Updates

Pastor Matt and music team lead Ashley Cooke have launched a new web series called Crosswalks: Intersections of Life and Faith, where we discuss family, faith, mistakes and the messiness of life. Make sure you watch out for new episodes!

On September 30th, Lyric United had a virtual worship night on Facebook and then launched their new album, Gravity. Check it out on Spotify or any digital music outlet.

We've been hosting a lot of in-person events at the farm: our s'mores night was an amazing time for people to reconnect, and by the time you're reading this, our youth, Southman and South Sisters groups have already hosted some outdoor gatherings at the farm. We've even begun our new Wednesday night bible study on the farm. It's starting to feel like February again!

It's an exciting time at Christ Lutheran when our congregations are again experiencing the close bonds and friendships of the people we walk with.

Continue to pray for His will in all of this craziness the year has brought us. Through all of this change, He is still constant and it takes more than a virus to keep His people from being the church. I can't wait to see you all again!

A Night with Coach Bob McKillop

by PASTOR DREW

Head Coach of the Davidson basketball team, Bob McKillop, is going to join us at Christ Lutheran by Zoom on Monday, November 16! Start time is 7 p.m. This event is hosted by Arrows of Adam, a men's ministry at Christ Lutheran, and is designed for boys and men to encourage us in our walk of faith.

7:00 PM - Welcome, Prayer, Program

7:30 PM - Q & A

Born in Queens, NY, Coach McKillop was head basketball coach at Long Island Lutheran school before joining the Davidson Wildcats in 1989. He has won 230 games and is the winningest coach in the Southern

Conference and has taken his team to the NCAA tournament seven times, including in 2008 with a team led by Steph Curry.

Coach McKillop is a Christian whose faith shapes his leadership in every way. Join us for this special event! Register on REALM.



Youth Christmas Shopping Event

by CAROLINE TARGONSKI

Each year our middle and high school youth gather to shop in teams for Christmas gifts for sponsored families in the Charlotte area to help spread holiday cheer! Due to COVID-19, this year will look a little different, but your help will be just as important and make just as big of an impact!

While we are not able to gather in one large group and shop all together on one evening, there are a few different options if you are interested in participating:

- Shop in-person in an assigned small group on a scheduled day using a family gift wish list.
- Shop online over Zoom in an assigned small group on a scheduled day using a family gift wish list.
- Shop online or in-person in a small group of your choosing on a scheduled day decided among your group using a family wish list.

Christmas shopping will take place both in-person (in small groups) and online from December 2-7. Please register on REALM for this service event and let us know your preference of shopping online or in-person as well as what day and time works best for you. Caroline will be in touch once groups are created letting you know who you will be shopping with and when!

We are so grateful for your help in shopping and spreading Christmas cheer to all during this wonderful season!

If you are an adult who is interested in helping or chaperoning a small group with their Christmas shopping, please email ctargonski@christelca.org.

first
ridays
family
ellowship

CHRIST
concord
meets in-person
from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES

Friday, November 6
Register on REALM

Friday, December 4
Register on REALM

**Youth
Netflix Parties!**

middle school
Friday, Nov. 6 | 7pm | high school
Sunday, Nov. 8

Youth are invited to gather on Zoom for
movie night! Each age group will choose
by vote and watch a Netflix pick together!

For Zoom links: christelca.org/online

CHRIST
providence

THE EXPERIENCE

Virtual Christmas Show

Sunday, December 6 • 6:00 p.m.

Watch Online at christelca.org

CHRIST kids

VIDEOS FILLED WITH SONGS, ACTIVITIES
A WEEKLY LESSON AND MORE!
- for elementary students & younger -

FIND THE PLAYLIST ON OUR
CLC YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Baptismal Class

Sun., November 1
12:15 p.m. on Zoom

Find the Zoom link at
christelca.org/online

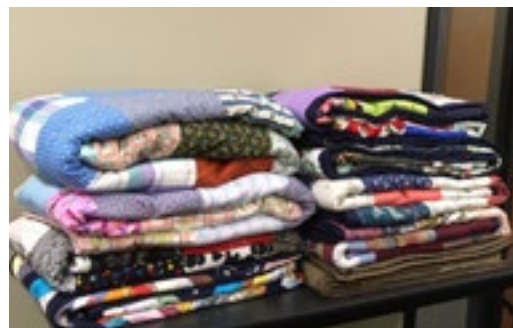
Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent Action Team projects have been a tremendous help in our efforts to support the community during the COVID-19 crisis. Over 20 Thrivent projects have provided food each week to add to all that we have collected and bought to support families in our immediate area. We have also been able to help add to our efforts to collect school supplies for students. Our quilters have used quite a few Action Team projects for some of their materials. Individuals and small groups have joined our team to continue our outreach to families at McClintock Middle School and beyond.

If you are looking for a way to lift-up others, it only takes a few minutes of time and you could contribute up to \$500 a year for CLC ministries. If you do not have a ministry or project you are involved with, we have several projects that may interest you, including:

- Feed-A-Family/McClintock Food Drive
- Christmas Sponsorships of Families (linens, toys, hygiene, home furnishings, clothes etc.)
- Teacher Appreciation

For more information about starting a Thrivent Action Team to support Christ Lutheran ministries, please contact Tammy Sanders at tsanders@christelca.org or (704)430-9775.



thrivent

Thrivent Action Team Supports Our Quilters

Lois Witham requested a Thrivent Action Team grant to support our Quilting Ministry. They purchased 2 rolls of batting, 2 bottoms for quilts and completed 9 quilts in September. Ten people gathered to work on the project.

'Tis the Season!

The holidays are quickly approaching, and that means it's time to start thinking about Christmas! The Christmas Shopping Event will take place over several days this year in order to keep everyone socially distanced and ensure our family's and staff's safety. Many families in our community need our help, especially during this unprecedented year. With the help of benevolence money and individual monetary donations, we will sponsor up to 30 families this Christmas Season!! It will look differently, but the Christmas Spirit will be STRONG!

This Christmas, the actual shopping will take place over several days. Students and families will purchase wish-list items and drop them off at the church by December 8th. Afterward, we will set-up our "store." Each sponsored family will have a personal shopper come in advance to organize that family's gifts.

Then, from December 10-12 the parents of the sponsored families have an opportunity to come to Christ Providence and wrap their families' Christmas gifts from the wish-list items purchased and organized.

There are several ways to get involved with this wonderful ministry! Participants can:

- Be a personal shopper for a family and organize their gifts December 9-10
- Donate new items (or gently used items)
- Support this ministry with monetary donations
- Sponsor a family. Contact Amy Daniels at adaniels@christelca.org
- Administrative help
- Set up the "store" December 8-9
- Assist families with wrapping their gifts December 10-12
- Advanced shopping for items needed

Donations accepted include:

- New board games
- Game systems
- New books, toys, minority baby dolls
- New clothing, coats
- Bikes and scooters
- Wrapping paper, tissue, boxes, tags, tape, scissors

***donated items may be dropped off at Christ Providence in the Lower Commons by December 8th.*

Household goods accepted:

- Paper towels, toilet tissue
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Hand/dish soap
- Laundry detergent, dryer sheets
- Kitchen utensils, place settings, silverware
- Cleaning supplies
- Towels, washcloths
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss
- Pots and pans



Get into the Christmas spirit of giving at the big Christmas Shopping Event! *"The joy of sharing gives a special feeling to the one giving at Christmas!"*

Contact Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org) or Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) to sign up!

Room In The Inn Changes for 2020/21 Season

For many years Christ Lutheran has been involved in the Room In The Inn program. Other than changing locations on our campus, it has run about the same each year. COVID-19 has changed all that.

With all the complications of transporting our neighbors from A Roof Above (formerly Urban Ministries) and then the logistics of keeping both our volunteers and neighbors safe, the decision by A Roof Above has been to establish a central location instead of individual churches. At this point in the process there are still no firm plans as to how it will run or where it will be. Our hope is that we can still utilize as many of our dedicated volunteers as we can in some capacity. But for now, we do not know how it will work. As soon as we receive a firm plan, we will be sure to pass it along to everyone. ~Your Room in the Inn Team

CROP Walk Thank You

Thanks to our walkers and all of our supporters for the Charlotte CROP Walk, Christ Lutheran is on the top of the leader board for donations so far this year. If you have not supported a walker yet, you can go to our team page and support a walker before its too late! Go online to crophungerwalk.org/charlottenc/ChristProvidence to help us impact hunger in Charlotte through 3 local agencies, as well as Church World Service on a global level.

We have raised over \$19,000 so far, which is well on our way to our short-term goal of \$25,000. The Charlotte Walk has earned over \$87,000 altogether, so our donation can help propel it over \$100,000!!

McPIE Grant Funding

McClintock Partners in Education (McPIE) works diligently on securing resources and funding for our school year and summer programming. We are excited to announce that we have recently received several big grants!

The Longleaf grant was awarded this summer to support new machinery for McClintock's Innovation Lab. This lab is already filled with 3D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, AR/VR goggles and software, and several iMac computers. To add to this library of technology, McPIE was awarded \$12,500 to supply the Innovation Lab with a new embroidery machine with cabinet, two sewing machines, and supplies. Access to 21st century technology will enable McClintock students to gain a glimpse into future careers and college dreams during the school day and during McPIE's Family Night programming (once we can get back into the building).

To support our efforts in feeding families, McPIE was awarded \$1,000 in Food Lion gift cards. These funds will enable us to continue to provide grocery bags for our neighbors in need. We are currently distributing 100+ bags of groceries per week!

Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation (CMCF) awarded McPIE \$10,000 toward our Family Night programming. These funds will help provide much needed student engagement and family support. Funding from CMCF is geared toward family stability and will also be used toward Family Night Pathways Out of Poverty virtual classes for parents.

\$20,000 was awarded from the United Way / Foundation for the Carolinas fund. These funds will enable McPIE to further continue providing groceries and helping students with a virtual learning environment.

McPIE is blessed to have been awarded funding toward these much-needed programs. With the help of generous funders, McPIE's dream and mission of *Creating Future Stories... Building Community... Supporting Families... and Inspiring Volunteers... So that ALL McClintock students succeed*, is moving forward!



McPIE Family Nights

McPIE Family Nights has kicked off (virtually) for the 2020-2021 year! While it looks different this year, the engagement and support for McClintock students and families remains the same. Since COVID closed schools in March, we have been providing weekly STEAM Challenge Packs for students and grocery bags to help support families. No afterschool activities are currently allowed on the school campus. With the success of Spring and Summer Camp Remix, we decided to continue distributing STEAM Challenge Packs and grocery bags. Fall began with the Bits and Bytes Challenge and had students coding SCOTS on a fun backpack carabiner!

This fall, other fun challenges will include wiring circuits, constructing a wooden candy dispenser, science in a Ziploc bag, robotics, food science and MORE! Challenge Packs and grocery bags are distributed on Tuesday and Friday at McClintock. Over 100 Challenge Packs and grocery bags are distributed each week!

Crisis Assistance

If you have clothing that you are looking to send to a new home, please drop bagged items off at the Outreach Office from Monday - Friday. Clothing will be taken to Crisis Assistance for those in need!

Give Back to Schools with Office Depot

Whenever you make a purchase at Office Depot (in-store or online), you can provide your school's ID at checkout and your designated school will receive 5% back in credits for FREE supplies! McClintock Middle School's ID is 70060639. For more information, visit officedepot.com for their Give Back to Schools program.



CHRISTLUTHERAN
providence | south | concord | online

4519 Providence Road • Charlotte, NC 28226

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charlotte, NC
Permit No. 1741

return service requested

Christ Lutheran's **Newly Redesigned** Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Christ Connections



november/december 2020

Scott Suskovic • Senior Pastor
Drew Goodson • Pastor, Evangelism & Adult Ministries
Melody Simpkins • Pastor, Family Ministries
Matt Simpkins • Pastor, Christ South
Tennyson Shifley • Pastor, Christ Concord
Amy Daniels • Director of Outreach
Mark Glaeser • Minister of Music
Gregg Huether • Director of Property and Finance

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST!

E-mail Connie Kramer at ckramer@christelca.org and let her know you'd like a copy of Christ Connections mailed to your house. You can also view the newsletter through the link on E-news or online at christelca.org.

To submit a story or news item,
Fill out a Communications Project Request Form,
found online at form.jotform.com/80496362784165.

Worship with Us **LIVE!**

christelca.org

- ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE
- LIVE ZOOM AND YOUTUBE LINKS
- ADULT CLASSES, SMALL GROUPS
BULLETINS, VIDEOS & MORE!

 **CHRIST**
online