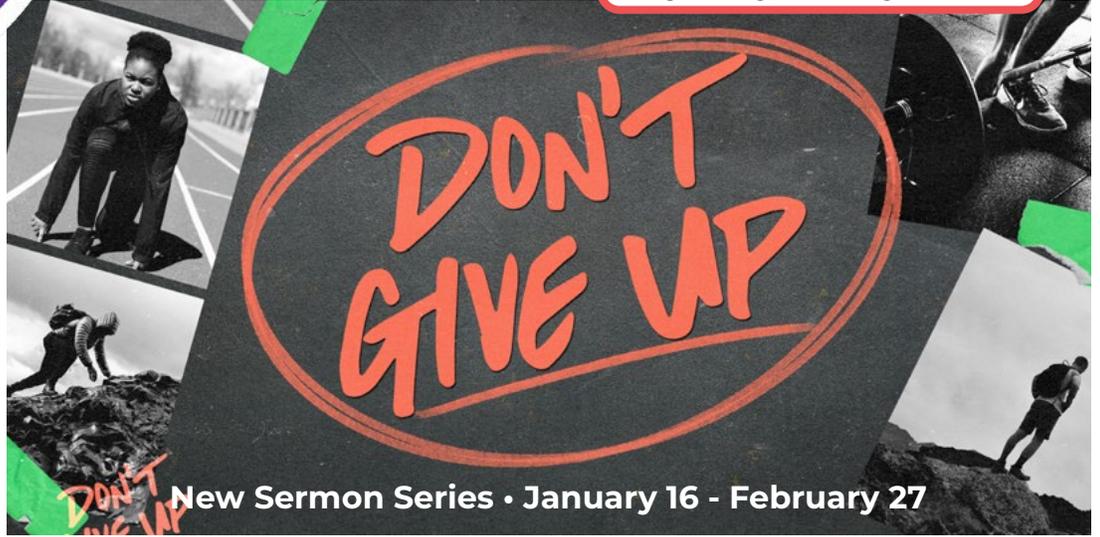


Christ Connections



january/february 2022



New Sermon Series • January 16 - February 27

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

8:45 a.m. **Traditional Worship**

10:00 a.m. **The Bridge Service**

10 - 10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**

11:00 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST SOUTH

10 a.m. **Worship (Polo Ridge)**

11830 Tom Short Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST CONCORD

10 a.m. **Multi-Generational**

Modern Worship

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



Donation Saturday

Saturday, January 29

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 23 • 12:15 p.m.

at Christ Providence -or- Online (via Zoom)



For links to live-stream services, upcoming virtual events, bulletins, ChristKidsTV and more:

christelca.org/online

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

from the Senior Pastor

Pastor's Perspective

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 23

For many churches, the Annual Meeting is a boring, perfunctory event in which we hear about the financials, vote on council members and talk about restriping the parking lot. At Christ Lutheran, it is a celebration of the amazing things that God has done in our midst.

Therefore, I want to encourage you to join in that celebration on Sunday, January 23. The live meeting will be held at Christ Providence in the Sanctuary immediately following the last service—a little after 12:00. You can participate in person at Christ Providence or on Christ Online via Zoom either at Christ Concord or Christ South. You could even watch at home. This will be an interactive meeting in which no matter where you participate, you can ask questions, make comments and cast your vote.

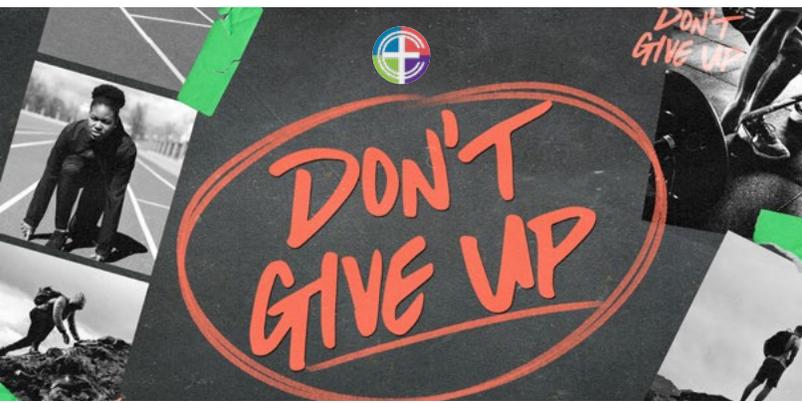
This year, as in past, there are several things to lift up, affirm and celebrate!

- Resuming in-person and online live-stream worship at all four campuses.
- Returning to Polo Ridge Elementary School for Christ South.
- Welcoming Pastor Ryan onboard to the staff.
- Celebrating the many years of service of Pastor Drew, sending him off to the Navy Chaplaincy. His last official Sunday with us will be January 2.
- A committed and generous congregation that supports CLC and provided another strong financial year-end.
- Preparing for our outreach to McClintock Middle School after a long COVID break.

But something big that we need to celebrate and talk about are the next steps for building a worship center on our Christ South land. In the fall, we tapped the brakes on that project as we waited for a new pastor to get on board, provide some stability for that campus and return to in-person/indoor worship. That has now all happened. Now we need to return to those plans, revisit the design and reexamine the costs. At the point of writing this article, I'm not sure the timing on all of that, but it will be an agenda item when we meet on January 23rd.

So come. Come celebrate with your church family. Come hear about who will represent you on council. Come and be a part of the decision on how to move forward with the Christ South building. Come and give thanks to our God who is so good.

How Good, Lord, to be Here!
Pastor Scott



OVERVIEW: *The series is about God entering into our lives and being present in the difficult times. We, as Christians, aren't called away from the difficult times in the world; but rather, Christ/God/His Church is present with us.*

January 16 • Don't Give Up On Justice For All

Christ was made low, like humans. He came into the world to sanctify all people. He could have destroyed it and been done with us all – the Flood. He could have stayed far off and sent another prophet – Isaiah. He could have waved a “magic wand” but He chose to show love, to all. He chooses to take the form of a man and be with us, be our brother. He chooses to link arms and join with us, even die for us. Because, love isn't shown from afar, it shows up, it marches, it sits at counters and sacrifices for others. Love is a verb! *Hebrews 2:9-18; Colossians 3:11; Matthew 28:19; Philippians 2:7; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; John 1:1-14*

January 23 • Don't Stop Believin(g)

The Biblical concept of “hardening hearts” is a shutting down of God's influence in our life. Israelites did this by creating and worshipping a golden calf in the Wilderness. “Today” our hearts are hardened by becoming disillusioned. We take God for granted, treating baptism as an insurance policy instead of an invitation. Expecting that God will forgive and do my bidding; or worse, we become jaded and think that God doesn't care. We can forget who God is and whose we are and go through the motions.

We, Christians, are the continuation of God's great plan. God sends His people out of Egypt and makes His people a great light for the world to see. This continues “today.” Today we are the light bringers. At baptism God enlists us to bring our light into the world. Into the unique place we work and play and live. We get to pray out loud. We get to show people how God is working in their life. We get to invite all people into the house of God to experience the love of God and we don't have to worry if they are godly. We get to be the very presence of God, “partners with Christ” wherever we find ourselves. *Hebrews 3:7-15; Exodus 32:1-6; John 31:36*

January 30 • Don't Stop Being Authentic

Christians are hypocrites. What we believe is in writing. We fall short of that expectation. That tension between how we are supposed to act and how we actually conduct ourselves is the life of a Christian, and makes us hypocrites – and that's a good thing. We don't want to pretend that we're perfect

because there is no way that's going to happen. What is better is that we keep trying. Recognizing our failings and seeking forgiveness. In this way we are living like our Lord. Jesus was perfect but did not glorify Himself. Jesus is the Great High Priest appointed by God to that position forever. He is of a bona fide pedigree: of the Order of Melchizedek. He has every reason to say “look at me” “I am special.” He could have even avoided death but instead he submitted. Our submission is admission. To confess. To recognize that we aren't perfect and then to come, again and again, back to Christ. To say to Christ and anyone who's looking “I have failed to live the life I want to live.” But instead of lowering the bar, instead of accepting things for how they are — we seek Christ and His reconciliation. We come back to His table and receive His Body and Blood and are made clean, if only for the time it takes us to get back to our seats. Are we able to not sin long enough to get back to our seats? The purpose of a Christian life isn't about how perfect we are, it's about how “real” we are when we fall short. *Hebrews 5; John 13:12-18*

February 6 • Don't Give Up on Community

During the pandemic we have had to give up on gathering together in person. Yet, we are called to be a gathered people — to congregate as a people of God and worship, praise and gather around the table to be fed. Then, we go out of the doors to share this message of hope we have with the world. That is what it means to truly be a Christ-centered community. Now that we are slowly gathering back together, how can we support one another? How can we encourage one another? How can we be the church in the world that God has called us to be? *Hebrews 10:19-25; John 17:20-26*

February 13 • Don't Give Up on Stepping Out in Faith

Have you ever heard that faith is belief in action? This chapter in Hebrews outlines a number of heroes of the Bible. All of these heroes of faith struggled with taking the first step. And yet all of them changed the world. What would it mean for us to step out in faith, even when we're not sure where that foot will land? God calls us to put our belief into action. It is in that step that God guides our path. *Hebrews 11:1-3, 39-40; John 15:1-9*

February 20 • Don't Give Up on Yourself

What are some goals you have set for yourself? Exercise more? Read the Bible more? Pray more? Do you start to better yourself, but find you are your own worst enemy? We may give up on ourselves, but Jesus never does. Jesus has faith in us. And Jesus gives us power to run the race. Perseverance comes from two places — keeping our eyes set on Jesus and the community that encourages us. *Hebrews 12:1-3, Matthew 14:22-33*

February 27 • Don't Give Up on Wholeness

Do you ever wake up feeling dreary because of the winter weather? Do you miss spring and summer? Sometimes, those outside factors can lead to feelings of emptiness. Is there any tangible way to find healing and wholeness in the Word? Here in Hebrews, we read that Jesus never gives up on us. Through our struggles Jesus is our helper. With the empowerment from Jesus, we can strive for wholeness. *Hebrews 13:5b-6, 20-21; Matthew 11:25-30 or Mark 5:25-34*



Adult Weekly Classes

**Moms in Prayer • Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.
on Christ Online (Zoom)**

Mothers of children of any age are invited to this virtual-only group with the goal of praying for your own children and those of others in the group. Support one another as we depend on God for guidance & help and find weekly encouragement on this journey of motherhood. *-led by Megan Goodson*

**Digging Deeper • Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.
at Christ Concord -or- Online (Zoom)**

If you've wanted to read the Bible more deeply and talk about it in a safe, friendly and welcoming community, this group study may be right for you. Join us as we dig into the texts for the upcoming Sunday, searching for God's intent in biblical times and in our lives today. *-led by Pastor Tenny*

**Coffee with the Pastors • Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.
at Christ Providence (W150) -or- Online (Zoom)**

Join with a pastor of Christ Lutheran each week to continue the discussion of our current book and how it relates to our Christian lives today. Open to all.

**Women Making Connections • Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm
at Christ Providence (Adult Library) -or- Online (Zoom)**

What happens when good desires become false gods? This 8-week study, based on *No Other Gods* by Kelly Minter, offers a revealing look at the heart of a woman. The book looks into how modern day idols rob us of an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father. Also, she encourages us to discover the freedom in surrender. *-led by Lara Barnett and Brooke Schell*

**Pastor's Class • Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum A&B) -or- Online (Zoom)**

"Don't Give Up." Who said that first to you? A coach during a work out? A teacher after a difficult lesson? A parent teaching you to ride a bike? Don't Give Up! Actually, those words of encouragement were first given to us by God in the Book of Hebrews that calls us to perseverance and strength when we want to call it quits. Hold the line. Don't back down. And Don't Give Up. Join Pastors Scott and Ryan as we together learn this valuable lesson.

Adult Sunday School

CLC Book Club

**Sundays • 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Lackey Parlor)
-or- Christ Online (Zoom)**

We read and discuss books of all kinds, but primarily books on faith, our relationship with God, human nature, scripture, or biographies of faith leaders. The current book we are reading is *Strange Rites* by Tara Isabell Burton. Our discussions can be lively and frank. We do not shy away from controversial topics. We thrive on competing opinions, but we expect civility and respect for one another. Even if you have not read the

assigned chapter, we encourage everyone to attend. We'll catch you up and let you talk anyway! Sometimes there are donuts (when we meet in person). All are welcome. *-led by Dan Hansen and Carl Edgren*

**The Crew • Sundays, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (W150) -or- Online (Zoom)**

The Crew will study St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians beginning in January 2022. *-led by David Deeds*

**Faith Fellowship • Sundays, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum A&B) -or- Online (Zoom)**

Starting January 9th, Faith Fellowship will focus on *The Handwriting On The Wall: Secrets from the Prophecies of Daniel* by pastor and author David Jeremiah. This exploration into the Book of Daniel provides insight into God's specific and powerful promises for our future and tackles such common questions as, "Where is our world going? Are moral absolutes relevant in our society?" Daniel's prophecies and visions come alive through Jeremiah's teachings and point to the pathway for dynamic, faithful living today.

**Emerge: Digging Deeper • Sundays, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Music Room) -or- Online (Zoom)**

All are welcome to the Emerge Sunday School class as we dig deeper on the weekly sermon series. Each Sermon Series at Christ Lutheran is designed to help you go deeper into the Bible, reach higher in the Spirit, and grow stronger in your relationship with Christ. Join this class to discuss the scriptures that are preached on each Sunday. What questions do these passages from the Bible raise for you? How are they challenging you to follow Christ and share your faith with others? *-led by Rob Stark*

**Women's Bible Study • Sundays, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum C) -or- Online (Zoom)**

This women's group is dedicated to the study of God's Word in a relaxed and caring atmosphere of love for one another. This quarter we will again delve into His Word to enrich our faith and seek answers for living in today's world. Using the Augsburg Fortress Bible Study program, we focus on the theme of "Justice, Law, History" based on scripture. What is God's vision for a just world? We invite you to join us as we reflect on how we pursue justice as people of faith. Come join the women of CLC as we explore deeper into God's word in an atmosphere of friendship and love. *-led by Jewel Barber and Joyce Brigman*

Wednesday, January 5
Wednesday Together classes resume

Sunday, January 9
Sunday School classes resume

FIND ZOOM LINKS, LIVE-STREAM SERVICES, BULLETINS & MORE:
christelca.org/online



CHRISTLUTHERAN
providence | south | concord | online

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 23 • 12:15 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)
-or- Christ Online (via Zoom)
christelca.org/online

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Sunday, February 13 & Sunday, February 20
at Christ Providence (Forum) • lunch 12:15pm
-or- Online (Zoom) • class 12:45 - 3:00pm

Register in REALM
More Info: khofmann@christelca.org



CHRISTLUTHERAN
providence | south | concord | online

WE'RE ALL Together
IN THIS  American Red Cross

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE
Sunday, January 16
8:00a - 12:30p at Christ Providence

Signup at redcrossblood.org
SEARCH: "Christ Lutheran Church"



THRIVE DAY SCHOOL

GIFT OF INCLUSION

PLEASE DONATE to the Thrive Scholarship Fund.

Use the QR code to donate online. 

MAIL DONATIONS TO:
305 Reid Dairy Rd. Waxhaw, NC 28173

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?



 christelca.org/prayer-request

AWAKENED FAITH *lecture series*



Sunday, January 9
6:30 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum)
-or- Christ Online (Zoom)

EQUITY IN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

with Judge Elizabeth Trosch

A district court judge since 2008, Judge Elizabeth Trosch has presided over a broad range of matters, including domestic violence, criminal proceedings, juvenile delinquency, custody, abuse and neglect proceedings as well as a variety of civil cases. She is a member of the North Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Public Safety Committee, the Mecklenburg County Anti-human Trafficking Committee and the North Carolina Interagency Collaborative.

Judge Trosch has spearheaded court reform in criminal and juvenile courts. She is the co-founder and co-chair of the Mecklenburg County School-Justice Partnership and the co-chair of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reduction Workgroup. She has worked to implement pretrial release policy reforms and criminal justice debt reforms and is a member of the Race Matters for Juvenile Justice Leadership Team.

In addition, she has served as the Charlotte Model Court Lead Judge, working to carry out systems change that positively impacts outcomes in child welfare cases. She has presented on the topics of trauma informed court practices, the school-to-prison-pipeline and implicit bias at state and national conferences. Judge Trosch is a recipient of the North Carolina State Bar Pro Bono Service Award.

Please register in REALM for this event as we learn together how we can be a force for equality in our community.



Sunday, February 6
6:30 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum)
-or- Christ Online (Zoom)

FAITH AND OUR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

with the Faith Team of PFLAG Charlotte

PFLAG Charlotte strengthens families, empowers allies, and elevates LGBTQ+ communities through support, education and outreach. Join members of the Faith Team of PFLAG Charlotte for a safe and welcoming opportunity to learn, ask questions, and grow in understanding of the challenges and needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families in faith spaces. The presentation will include several personal family stories of PFLAG Charlotte Faith Team members, education about LGBTQ+ nomenclature, and ways to be an ally and be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ members of our church. Local, state, and national resources will also be identified and shared. Please register in REALM.

CLC Endowment Fund Update

by BRUCE VOELKER

Do you ever wonder how the Christ Lutheran Endowment funds are used? We often talk about how much is in the funds, or how they are invested, but too often forget to talk about the impact they have. The first of Christ Lutheran's Endowment funds is directly focused on having impact "Beyond These Walls," and our Benevolence Committee chooses how to spend the distribution from this 'Fund I.' In 2020, the fund distributed \$27,756 and that money was directed toward various ministries to help others. Recipients last year included Crisis Assistance, A Roof Above, McClintock Partners in Education (McPIE), and the ELCA Synod.

Our second fund ('Fund II') is a general purpose fund which is allocated by Church Council, again often for benevolence. In 2020, Council designated \$10,000 to the mobile food ministry that our chef, Mike Wallace, leads to feed people in times of need. Mike and his wife Alicia are having a broad impact with this ministry, including providing meals to volunteers at vaccination clinics, meals for Cooperative Christian Ministries in Cabarrus County, as well as the Charlotte Rescue Mission. Again, our Endowment is helping us "Beyond These Walls" to help people in their time of need.

Our Endowment funds continue to grow, both through contributions from members of the church, as well returns on the investments made. Year-to-date, the funds have returned nearly 15%, reflecting an investment portfolio that balances risk and return. We will make distributions from these funds in early 2022 for both the Benevolence Committee and Council to direct where it is most needed. And we plan to acknowledge those who contribute to our Endowment through a Recognition Dinner on April 24th, 2022.

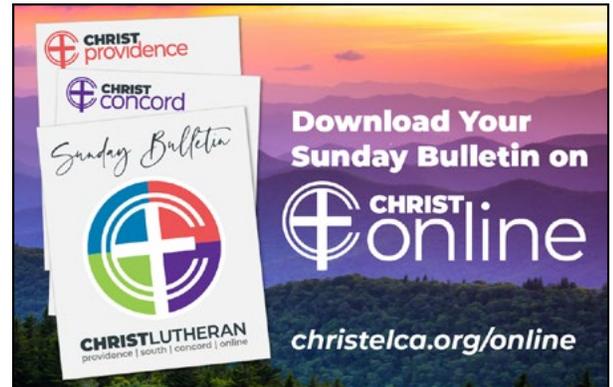
Lastly, we are working to bring more education to interested church members on how they can plan to have a lasting impact with their legacy. While many think that estate planning is only for the wealthy, there are actually many ways people can plan their legacy to both impact the ministries they care about, as well as continue to care for their families. We will be working in 2022 with the ELCA on educational materials and opportunities for those interested to learn more.



Coffee with the Pastors

Wednesdays • 9:00 a.m.
at Christ Providence (W150) -or- Online (Zoom)

 christelca.org/online



CHRIST providence
CHRIST concord
Sunday Bulletin

Download Your Sunday Bulletin on

CHRIST online

 christelca.org/online



CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY

Pastor's Blog

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS FROM OUR PASTORS AND OTHER CLC STAFF

 christelca.org/blog



CHRISTsouth

Looking Forward at South

by PASTOR RYAN

As we round the corner into 2022 I am reminded of this time last year. We had such high hopes that with 2020 behind, we would be in a better place. I have that same hope, still, for 2022. With vaccines in arms and the better part of two years of living a disjointed life we are all ready for "normal."

At South we are reaching to achieve some normalness. We are back in Polo Ridge Elementary and finding the groove stolen over so many months and years apart. It is great connecting and meeting new people. Bringing family and friends back together to praise our LORD.

Through all the turmoil over the better part of two years, it's amazing how all those things we took for granted have flown up into the air. Not the least of which is connecting and being fulfilled by our church family. There is something deeply satisfying about having a cup of coffee and being with fellow Christians. That's our present endeavor - reaching out to those who've gotten out of the habit and welcoming back those who've forgotten how much God loves them. And even those who may have never known that Godly love.

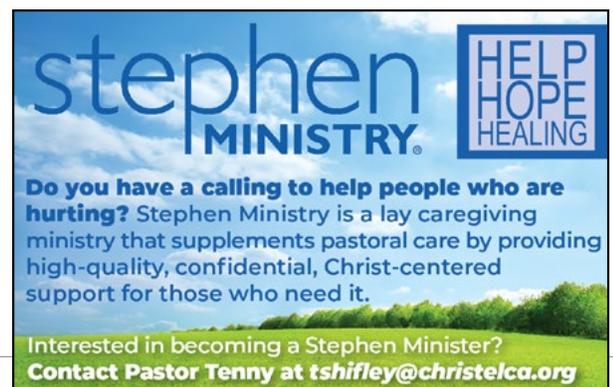


oneblood share your power.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 27
at Christ South

TO REGISTER, GO TO:
oneblood.org/donate-now
use sponsor code: Christ South



stephen MINISTRY. HELP HOPE HEALING

Do you have a calling to help people who are hurting? Stephen Ministry is a lay caregiving ministry that supplements pastoral care by providing high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered support for those who need it.

Interested in becoming a Stephen Minister?
Contact Pastor Tenny at tshifley@christelca.org



Fun & Fellowship!

by PASTOR TENNY

We come together in the name of our Lord, we enjoy each other's company, and we have FUN at Christ Concord!

As we enter the New Year, we invite any who have not yet visited Christ Lutheran's Concord campus to come and witness the FUN, as we learn, worship and witness.

- Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 a.m. (in person & online)
- (We hope to resume Wednesdays Together soon – in person and online. Stay tuned!)
- Saturday workdays (look for announcements of dates. We would welcome your help!)
- Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m. (in person & online)

Highlights:

- We laid the "cornerstone" of the playset on the playground.
- Sacristy/Storage renovations are 99% completed. Next...the kitchen and the Pastor's office!
- Thrive Concord is a blast! Kids are learning and growing. It's FUN hearing the noise of little children in the building!
- Several new members were recently welcomed to the congregation, having decided to "Set Their Roots" at Christ Concord.
- We love to spend time together in conversation, especially while enjoying a meal together.
- Worship, Bible study, Wednesdays Together and Thrive... and all thriving!
- We're having FUN together, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord!



Learn More About Our Upcoming Events

Prayer Stepping Stone

January 9th • 1 - 3 p.m. at Christ Providence (Fellowship Hall)

Prayer is how we communicate with God. All middle school youth and their parents who have not previously attended are invited to this Confirmation Stepping Stone where we explore prayer.

Masks are required. Please eat before you come.

Family Retreat 2022: Treasured

Want to go on a treasure hunt? Come join us exploring the treasure that is family **February 18-20!** This will be an opportunity for families of all shapes and sizes to come for a weekend of fellowship, devotions and treasure hunting in the mountains of Arden, NC at Lutheridge. Lutheridge offers hotel-style lodging with adjoining room options. Mark your calendars and remember "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also!"

Middle School Retreat: Survivor

Middle school is a hard time for our youth. They face many challenges and fears. We want our youth to know that they can do all things with Christ. On **March 11-13** our middle schoolers are heading to Lutheridge for a weekend of bonding and growing closer as a group and to God— learning they can overcome any adversity. Our theme is *Survivor: Overcoming Fears & Challenges with Christ*. Registration opens in February!

Lutheridge

Mark your calendars because CLC is heading to summer camp!! **June 19-25** we're going to Lutheridge in Arden, NC to learn more about God, make friends and explore nature and the world God made! There are camp opportunities for 1st grade through high school. Kairos camp for middle school is an essential part of their Confirmation experience. Mark your calendar and learn more at lutheridge.org/summer-camps/.

Faith Ministry

International mission trips can be a life-changing experience! That's why we are partnering with Myers Park United Methodist and Faith Ministry to start opportunities for our youth and adults of Christ Lutheran to experience community service on a global scale. We're putting together a group to partner with our neighbors to build houses and help with community wellness in Reynosa, Mexico **July 3-9**. For more information, come to an Interest Meeting on January 9th (see ad to the right) or contact Pastor Melody msimpkins@christelca.org or Tammy Sanders tsanders@christelca.org. To learn more about Faith Ministry, visit faithministry.org.

Xperience Tour/ National Youth Gathering

Two of the most incredible, God-moving activities are the Xperience tour and the National Youth Gathering. This year we're putting them together. The National Youth Gathering is where ELCA youth from all over the United States are gathering in Minneapolis for several days of worship, service, fellowship and fun! This year we're heading there early in order for our Xperience group to tour several churches. No, you do not need to be in Xperience to participate. All current high school students are encouraged to attend. This is a life changing experience that you can't miss, **July 20-28**. [Register in REALM](#).

Celebration of Baptism
Sunday, January 9
 during worship at all campuses

In celebration of Jesus' baptism, we will honor all who were baptized in 2021.

Providence • 8:45a, 10a, 11a
 South (Polo Ridge) & Concord • 10a

Stepping Stones
 CONFIRMATION

LORD'S PRAYER
Sunday, January 9 • 1-3 p.m.
 at Christ Providence (Fellowship Hall)

6th & 7th graders will explore the Lord's Prayer in depth during this "hands on" event. A parent is expected to attend with their youth.

Register in REALM

PEER MINISTRY
 LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Sundays • 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
 at Christ Providence (Center 6)

This weekly training is designed to equip high school youth with skills to reach out & care for peers dealing with tough issues. Starts Jan. 9th!

Info: Natalya Legvold (704)258-6162 or nlegvold@carolina.rr.com

MEXICO MISSION TRIP
INTEREST MEETINGS

Sunday, December 12 • January 9
 12:15 p.m. at Christ Providence (Center Six)
 -or- Christ Online (via Zoom)

Next summer, CLC is partnering with Myers Park & Faith Ministry to build houses & help with community wellness in Reynosa, Mexico, July 3-9. **-Participants must be high school age & beyond-**

2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

boundless XPERIENCE Tour

JULY 20-28, 2022
 MINNEAPOLIS & SURROUNDING AREA CHURCHES

Next year, our high school youth is combining the national youth gathering & CLC's annual Xperience tour into one faith-filled week!

REGISTER EARLY IN REALM -or- email acurrier@christelca.org for info

MONTHLY GATHERING
FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

FUSION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

5-7 p.m. at Christ Providence (Pit)

We will welcome back everyone for the new 2022 year of Fusion with food and worship!

More info: acurrier@christelca.org

Stepping Stones

FIRST COMMUNION

for 2nd - 5th graders

Sunday, March 6th
Meaning of the Meal

Saturday, March 26th
Story Day

Sunday, April 10th
Livin' Forgivin'

Thursday, April 14th
First Communion
at the Maundy Thursday service

Save the Dates

Stay tuned for updates or contact
Kristen Rank for details: krank@christelca.org

Save the Dates SUMMER DRAMA CAMPS at Christ Providence



CenterStage
August 1-6, 2022
for grades 6-12



Music, Art & Drama Days
August 8-12, 2022
for grades 2-5

More Info: mjohanson@christelca.org



Save the Date VBS

Vacation Bible School
June 13-17, 2022

More Info: krank@christelca.org

Peer Ministry Leadership Training

MEETS SUNDAYS FROM 5-6 P.M.

at Christ Providence (Center 6)

Our students are on the front lines of ministry every day. Students go to their friends first when dealing with tough issues, choices and life stresses. Now more than ever our students need the tools and support to navigate these issues.

Peer Ministry equips high school students with skills to effectively reach out and care for other students. They learn active listening, observation skills, conflict resolution, decision making, sharing faith, dealing with real issues and leadership skills.

We meet each Sunday from 5-6 p.m. at Christ Providence starting January 9th. For more info or to get involved, contact Natalya Legvold at (704) 258-6162 or nlegvold@carolina.rr.com



Christ Lutheran Youth

SAVE THE DATES 2022

Middle School Youth Events - Spring '22

Sunday, January 9: Fusion
Sunday, January 30: Skating
February 18-20: Family Retreat
Sunday, February 27: Fusion
March 11-13: Middle School Retreat
Sunday, March 20: Fusion - Nerf Battle
Sunday, April 24: Fusion
Sunday, May 15: Fusion
June 13-17: Vacation Bible School (volunteer)
June 19-25: Lutheridge Kairos Camp
July 3-9: Mexico Mission Trip

High School Youth Events - Spring '22

Sunday, January 9: Fusion
January 15-17: T.E.C. Weekend
Friday, January 21: Bowling
February 18-20: Family Retreat
Sunday, February 27: Fusion
Friday, March 4: Lock-in
Sunday, March 20: Fusion - Nerf Battle
April 1-3: High School Trip
Sunday, April 24: Fusion
Sunday, May 15: Fusion
June 13-17: Vacation Bible School (volunteer)
June 19-25: Lutheridge
July 3-9: Mexico Mission Trip
July 20-28: Xperience Tour and National Youth Gathering
Peer Ministry - Sunday nights at 5 p.m.
Leadership lunch - once a month on Sunday afternoon
Samaritan Training - sometime in summer, dates TBA

We're looking forward to a great year! For more information on any of these events, contact Anthony Currier: acurrier@christelca.org.



DONATE YOUR STUFF ON Donation Saturday

Saturday, January 29, 2022 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
at Christ Providence (parking lot)

Declutter your house after Christmas and 'save your stuff' for Donation Saturday! This is a joint event benefitting several different local non-profits:

Assist M.E. provides durable medical equipment to qualified low-income, uninsured and underinsured residents of the Charlotte area. They collect mobility-related rehab equipment (ie. canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, scooters, bath aids, toilet aides, home medical beds, etc). Volunteers prepare and redistribute equipment into the community. *"Previously ignored or forgotten equipment kept in garages, basements and attics finds a new purpose in a new life."* Assist M.E. served nearly 400 people in 2020 and will exceed that in 2021.

Trips for Kids collects donated bikes to support their annual bicycle recycling program for Charlotte Recyclery. Donated bikes are used for the Earn-a-Bike program and are also sold to fund programming.

Crisis Assistance collects furniture and clothing donations to help our neighbors in need.

Goodwill Industries – Electronics will recycle, refurbish and destroy electronic components (please delete any personal information).

Christmas Shopping Thank You!

While the annual Christmas Shopping event looked different this year, the spirit of giving was felt by all! With families struggling again this year, we sponsored 28 families!

"It has been challenging for a single mom to care for autistic teens with no break. That being said, I am super

blessed and filled with joy that I still have my sons to love and care for with the strength of our Lord and Savior. I would like to say thank you for this blessing for our family." – a Mom whose family was sponsored.

Volunteers shopped for wish list items. When families came to "shop" at Christ Lutheran, we had all their wish list gifts set up in a dedicated space for them with wrapping paper, cards and ribbon! In their own private room, families were able to wrap gifts for their children.

"I love seeing the faces of moms and dads who are so grateful to have gifts to put under the tree. - not even a mask can hide their smiles. Because we have had to switch things up a bit with the emergence of COVID, there is more opportunity to spend one-on-one time with the parents and caregivers. I loved hearing about the kids and their interests and different family traditions. One mom I worked with was putting together a scavenger hunt for her kids for Christmas morning. Another family hides smaller gifts in the tree. So many different families, so many different traditions, but all were extremely grateful. We even had a parent ask if she could come back and volunteer with us next year." – Volunteer

Three families came at a time over the course of 3 days. With such an unprecedented year, being able to give back and help our McClintock community was wonderful! THANK YOU to all the volunteers who shopped for gifts, helped set-up, and assisted families wrapping. The spirit of Christmas was alive and well this holiday season!

"The shopping event epitomizes the Christmas spirit and the McPIE mission. Volunteers and sponsors generously (very generously!) donate time, talents and money to ensure families that have very little enjoy Christmas. The wish lists are simple - often just household basics like sheets, towels and cookware, coats and clothing for the kids and a toy or two. In receiving these gifts, the families are lifted up and reminded that they are a part of the McPIE community." - Volunteer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH DONATION DROPOFF TO CRISIS ASSISTANCE

We are currently recruiting volunteers to help with our weekly deliveries of donated items to Crisis Assistance.

Interested?
Contact Neal or Jan Mann for info
(nealmann@bellsouth.net)

HELP FUND A SERVICE PROJECT WITH **thrivent**

Action Teams

For more information:
contact Tammy at tsanders@christelca.org

McPIE McClintock Partners In Education

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Copy Crew

Volunteer an hour or two each week (or every other if enough volunteers) to help save some time for McClintock teachers by taking care of their copying needs. Training provided!
Timeframe is 8:30-10:30 a.m.

To volunteer or for info, email Jill Tan: jillgtan@gmail.com

ROOM IN THE INN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Overnight Hosts
- Drivers (CDL required)

Volunteers must be vaccinated and wear a mask while indoors.

Sign up at signupgenius.com
(search: ckramer@christelca.org)

McPIE McClintock Partners In Education

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: Teacher Appreciation Luncheons

On early release days (and occasional teacher workdays), McPIE serves lunch to McClintock teachers and staff.

Help prepare food and/or serve by connecting with Alice McRorie: alicermcrorie@gmail.com



FAMILY NIGHT IS ON for the Spring Semester!

While the McPIE Challenge Club and Family Night Sampler were successful through the COVID pandemic, it is time to get back into the school building for a full semester - Family Night is ON for Spring 2022!

Beginning February 1st, McClintock classrooms will be buzzing with clubs and classes for families on Tuesday evenings. Middle school students can choose from a variety of clubs to join on Tuesday nights. Clubs have ranged from Innovation Station, Basketball and Woodworking to Cyber Spy, Quadcopters and Top Scot Chef. Share your passions and interests with students and get them excited too! A warm meal, classes for the entire family, and childcare will be provided.

Interested in volunteering? It takes a team of wonderful volunteers to engage students and support families. We need folks to serve dinner, check-in students and families, lead clubs, be a helper/floater, and distribute school supplies. Consider giving your time in 2022! If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more, contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org.

Thrivent Dollars at Christmas

Thank you to the generous Thrivent members who chose to use their Action Dollars to support the Christmas Shopping event. Seven Thrivent members with \$1,750 Action Dollars provided families with home essentials, clothing, and toys for Christmas.

Thank you to all our members that have taken part in a Thrivent Action Team this year! If any Thrivent members have questions about putting their action dollars to use at CLC, please contact Tammy Sanders at tsanders@christelca.org



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



january/february 2022

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Melody Simpkins · Pastor, Family Ministries
Tennyson Shifley · Pastor, Christ Concord
Ryan Ritzmann · Pastor, Christ South
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 hard copy of Christ Connections mailed to your home. You can also view the online, interactive version at christelca.org/latest-news

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2022 EDITIONS

Jan/Feb - December 10 Mar/April - February 15 May/June - April 15
July/Aug - June 15 Sept/Oct - August 10 Nov/Dec - October 15

*Submit stories or other news items at christelca.org/jotform

Ways to Give

Place offering in the plate as you leave worship on Sundays

Text "Praise" to 73256

Choose "Give" on our website (christelca.org)

Mail to the church office

Weekly E-News

Check out this week's announcements!

To subscribe, email awilliams@christelca.org or go online to christelca.org/latest-news