



Find Community. Build Faith. Reach Beyond.



2021

Annual Report

CHRISTLUTHERAN
providence | south | concord | online

January 23, 2022

2022 Continuing Council Members



Dean Emmans



Thomas Sallach



Amy Kochan



Mark Ficken



Eric Trosch



Luann Martinson



Chad Mohn



CHRISTLUTHERAN
providence | south | concord | online

2022 Congregational Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order **Amy Kochan**
- Opening Prayer **Pastor Scott Suskovic**
- Approval of 2020 Congregational Meeting Minutes **Amy Kochan**
- Recognition of Outgoing Council Members **Pastor Scott Suskovic**



Lane Goode



Ralf Meyer



Melissa Topinka



Corey Ford



Christina Masters



Hannah Webster

- Council Elections (see nominee biographies p. 6) **Amy Kochan**
- Treasurer's Report **Kelli Addison**
- 2022 Budget Presentation **Kelli Addison**
- Benevolence **Amy Daniels**
- Endowment **Tal Owen**
- Pastor's Report
 - ♦ Christ Concord **Pastor Tenny Shifley**
 - ♦ Christ South **Pastor Ryan Ritzmann**
 - ♦ Christ Online **Alexis Williams**
 - ♦ Christ Providence **Pastor Scott Suskovic**
- New Business **Amy Kochan**
- President's Report **Amy Kochan**
- Motion to Adjourn **Amy Kochan**
- Closing Prayer **Pastor Melody**

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2021



Amy Kochan
Council Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Phil Chubb, Council President. We have individuals gathered in person at Christ Concord and at Christ Providence. The meeting is also streaming live online and via Facebook. Online ministry leader, Alexis, is taking questions and comments from Facebook. Pastor Scott opened us in prayer.

Attendees reviewed the minutes from January 2020 meeting. No updates were made to the minutes. A motion was made by Hans to approve the minutes. A seconded was made of the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The minutes were approved.

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members

- ◆ Joanie Hunt – liaison from Christ South.
- ◆ Jennifer Youse – Jennifer fulfilled a one-year term on Church Council and on the CLCC Board
- ◆ Tucker Whittington – Tucker served for three years on the Church Council and two years on the Executive Committee as Secretary.
- ◆ Phil Chubb - Phil served three years on the Church Council, serving as President during his last term.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

We have four individuals on the slate for Church Council. All for three-year terms. These are:

- ◆ Mark Ficken,
 - ◆ LuAnn Martinson,
 - ◆ Chad Mohn,
 - ◆ Eric Trosch
- Ballots were handed out to in-person attendees at both Christ Providence and Christ Concord. Votes were collected.

The four new Church Council members were unanimously voted in.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Kellie Addison provided the Treasurer’s Report.

Kelli first reported on the 2020 operating fund performance.

- ◆ Revenue/Income was \$3,000,000
- ◆ Overall operating expenses were \$3,130,721 against a budget of \$3,293,916
- ◆ Ended the year with a \$328,000 surplus that will be carried to 2021.

2021 PROPOSED BUDGET – REVENUE

Revenue: \$3,293,000

Expenses: \$3,147,992 (a 4.4% decrease from 2020)

A motion was made to approve the budget and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BENEVOLENCE

Amy Daniels gave her annual update on

benevolence. 12% of the annual budget goes out into

The endowment committee, Cornerstone and other events like the Crop Walk also designate funds to the Benevolence committee for use in the community

Amy commented on the Racial Equity – 21 day challenge that many folks completed in July and a second is underway now through the United Way

Her full report can be found within the meeting program agenda

ENDOWMENT

Tal Owen provided the Endowment Fund update

In 2020, our Endowment fund reached \$1 million ending the year with \$1,110,000.

The first fund is the Outreach fund and has been in existence since 1989 and is only used for outreach of the church. The balance of this fund at the end of 2020 was \$767,000.

The second fund is used at the discretion of the Church Council. At the end of 2020, this fund had \$343,000.

We will distribute \$37,000 from the Endowment Fund for year-ending 2020.

The committee would like to thank Linda Cagley for her three-year service on



Meeting minutes cont.

the committee and welcome Bruce Voelker to the Endowment Committee for a three-year term.

His full report can be found within the meeting program agenda

- ◆ Rebuild the church community as they figure out how to get back together in person
- ◆ Break ground on a space that the church family can gather in on the land

Pastor Scott offered thanks for:

- ◆ First, the worship and technology team – what a difference they have made this year. It is engaging, authentic and real.
- ◆ Kudos to Alexis for how she pivoted after two weeks on the job.
- ◆ To Pastor Matt and Christ South. Their ability to adapt and continue with an authentic ministry even without a building.
- ◆ Pastor Tenny and his focus on re-development of the Christ Concord campus. Karen Costea and Pastor Tenny have really expanded their reach.



PASTORS' REPORTS

Christ Concord Update:

Pastor Tenny Shifley provided the update. They are a growing congregation, during Covid they focused on outreach to the Concord community and are preparing a vision for the future for the Concord campus.

Christ South Update:

- ◆ Christ South's reach grew 1000% for 2020.
- ◆ Phase one is in full effect at the Christ South land.
- ◆ South Sisters and South Men is a thriving ministry at Christ South
- ◆ Thrive School is functioning well
- ◆ Lyric United – the Christ South Band – recorded and released an album in 2020.

Christ South 2021 Plans

- ◆ Build on the technology ministry at Christ South

ONLINE MINISTRY

Alexis Williams' first day was March 1, 2020 as the new online ministry lead.

Alexis had a three-part focus in the beginning (online streaming, in person meet and greets, and assistance with online church)

2020 was a year to be flexible. In 2020, online worship has become a lifeline to the Church. Alexis is looking to build her 'online team' in 2021 so she is not the only voice online/chatting.

Online ministry has reached well beyond the Church's walls. Alexis is developing her online/social media expertise that she can apply to expand the doors of Christ Lutheran.

In 2020, Christ Lutheran gained 750 followers on the three campus Facebook pages.

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

Pastor Scott Suskovic opened with a song from Bob Dylan. When will the church get back to normal?

As we look at the coming year, there are three 'big rocks' that we will be pouring a lot of energy into:

- ◆ What does the post Covid church look like? #1 is to see Jesus
- ◆ 'Christ Home' – we know that online worship is not going away, instead, it will probably expand what we are doing. Pastor Scott is looking for 30-50 homes who will open their homes on Sunday morning and invite 1-2 families to worship together. We need to expand our ministry to the 'unchurched.'



Meeting minutes cont.

- ◆ We will break-ground at Christ South by the end of 2021!

How are we going to pay for Christ South. We aren't going to vote on it this evening, but I want to share an idea. About four years ago, the church purchased an acre lot adjacent to the Providence campus. The garden ministry has been utilizing this land. We've talked to the Garden Ministry and they are supportive. We've like to go out and see what kind of offers that the Church may get on the acre of land. We can not sell the land without a congregational vote. At the time we have an offer on the land, we will give

the congregation notice and come together for a vote.

Times are a changing. Our God has always been on the move and we are in a new reformation accelerated by a virus, we have a new opportunity because the times they are a changing.

NEW BUSINESS

Phil Chubb asked if there was any new business to bring forth. Having none, we moved to the President's report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Phil Chubb provided the President's Report and

referred to his written report in the meeting packet for full details.

MEETING ADJOURNED

A motion to adjourn was presented by Hans. The motion was second by Chad Mohn. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:41p.m. and was closed in prayer by Pastor Drew Goodson.

Respectfully submitted:
Amy Kochan
Council Secretary



2021 Christ Lutheran Church Council Nominees



ERIC RUNGE

My wife, Allison, our two teenage sons, Owen (17) and Baker (14), and I have been Christ Lutheran Church members for about fifteen years. Both Allison's and my faith have been centered around our Lutheran families and our connection to our churches. My father and grandfather were both Lutheran pastors and in my teenage years, I pondered whether or not I should seek a service life as a pastor. But while my faith journey did not lead me to seminary and a pastoral life, I have always felt I could serve the Lord's mission without preaching from the pulpit.

Professionally, I have worked in healthcare since I completed my master's degree. I have worked in operations, finance, medical education, and now I am also involved with physician recruiting. I have also been a board member of Teen Health Connection, a non-profit organization that champions health and mental-health care for adolescents for over ten years. For most of my service with Teen Health Connection, I served as

the Finance Chair.

At Christ Lutheran Church, I have served on the Personnel Committee for three years and was the committee Chair in 2021. My wife Allison and I have taught Sunday School for a number of years, and our family loves to work with our Room In the Inn ministry. This coming Spring, if COVID restrictions allow, I will continue Erik Walder's work on Wild at Heart for our middle school boys. I also enjoy participating in Arrows of Adam and Southman events.



BILLY MUSSARI

Billy joined Christ Concord in 2018. He retired from the steel industry after a 35 year career. He began as a tool and die maker/machinist and eventually worked into sales. He also served 8 years of active duty in the United States Air Force after completing two years of college.

Billy was very active in the Catholic church serving as a Lecturer and his sons were altar boys.

He is a Stephen Minister and a Home Communion

Minister. He enjoys golf, walking, playing guitar and harmonica and he is a poet at heart. He has two sons and three grandchildren.



JESSICA SHURLEY

I joined Christ Lutheran, with my mother, Barbara Handschin, in 1992. In 2002, Pastor Scott married my husband, John and I. We have two sons, Braden (16) and Logan (12). We attended the Providence campus, and in 2018, we started worshipping at the South campus. I believe that taking an active role in your community is key to the success of that community, as such, I volunteered regularly at Cornerstone, taught Sunday School, and was active in several small groups while attending Christ Providence. At South, my family is actively involved in whatever capacity is needed whether it be hospitality, setting up chairs for worship, giving communion, or greeting guests. I also serve as a leader for the South Sisters women's ministry. I am honored to be

2021 Christ Lutheran Church Council Nominees

chosen to serve on council, and help with the mission of Christ Lutheran.



DAVID BROWN

I am a Charlotte native and graduate of South Mecklenburg High School and Appalachian State University. I met my wife, Emily, at ASU. Emily and I have two children, William (5.5 years old) and Audrey (2.5 years old).

I currently work for Premier, Inc., a healthcare improvement company, as a Contracting Director. I lead a team of individuals in negotiating and managing purchasing agreements for hospitals to access.

Our family joined Christ Lutheran in 2015. I have participated in Arrows of Adam, The Emerge Class, with my wife, and I have played on the Men's Softball Team.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and doing just about anything outdoors, including visiting breweries, grilling out, runs/bike rides on the greenway. I also enjoy home improvement projects and staying active through exercise. During football season, the Mountaineers will be on the TV on Saturdays and the Panthers on Sunday.

PEYTON ROUSE

Youth Representative



2021 Financial Report & 2022 Budget



Kelli Addison
Council Treasurer



2021 Operating Fund Performance: 2021 was a very strong year for us financially, our members continued to contribute generously and our church staff did an excellent job of controlling expenses. Overall revenue and expenses were both slightly down compared to 2020 causing us to end the year in a similar surplus position.

Our revenue decreased from the previous year. In 2021 our revenues were \$3,400,000, or \$58,000 lower than 2020 revenues. However, the 2021 revenues came in \$252,000 over budget.

Our 2021 budget anticipated we would be breakeven for the year. Our expenses for the year, including our mortgage principal payments, totaled \$3,085,000 and were \$46,000 under budget which means we had a surplus of \$316,000 for the year.

Some key expense items were as follows: 1) Benevolence paid from the Operating Fund totaled \$341,000, 2) Property Expenses totaled \$293,000, and 3) Debt Service on the Worship Center mortgage was \$184,000. We also refinanced the mortgage in 2020 which caused debt service to decrease.

At the end of the year we had \$70,000 in our checking account and

\$28,000 in our brokerage account that were available to meet our operating needs. The new balance on the Worship Center mortgage was \$3,918,000 as compared to \$3,895,000 at the end of 2020. There is a slight increase due to the refinancing that was completed in January of 2021.

2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

Like last year's budget, the projected revenues for the 2021 budget are expected to meet the projected expenses. The overall budget is up by \$113,000 since we expect an increase in overall expenses as we return to campus full time.

The 2022 budgeted revenues are \$3,261,000. This is a \$139,000 lower than the revenues actually received in 2021 but higher than the 2021 budget. About \$2,333,000, or 72% of the revenue budget, is supported by pledge cards that were received. In 2021, \$2,417,000, or 77% of our revenue budget was supported by pledge cards.

The budgeted expenses for the upcoming year are also \$3,261,000. This is higher than the 2021 expense budget and higher than 2021's actual costs and reflects our best estimates for programming and

payroll as we transition back to in person services.

Benevolence expenditures are budgeted to be \$333,000, or 12% of our member contributions. In 2021 our actual benevolence expenditures were \$341,000, which was 12% of budgeted member contributions.

Property expenses are projected to be \$302,000 which is higher than the actual 2021 costs due to expected increases in utility costs. We expect property expenses to continue to be a growing expense item in future years as the worship center ages and we will need to continue to plan to allocate budgeted funds to meet these needs.

Christ Lutheran continues to have a strong financial future. Our contributions have remained strong during the past year of continued disruption. Due to our strong financial position in 2021 we are able to carry a surplus into the 2022 year. The financial results of the past year serves as a example of God's abundant blessings. We are thankful to the faithfulness of the congregation in giving generously, as always.

Peace,

Kelli Addison
Council Treasurer

2021 Operating Fund Performance & Proposed 2022 Budget

Categories	2022 Budget	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	21 Actual vs Budget	Change 22 vs 21	% Change 22 vs 21
	100%	100%				
REVENUES						
Contributions	\$ 3,226,851	\$ 3,113,992	\$ 3,383,564	\$ 269,572	\$ 112,859	3.6%
Other income	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 16,612	\$ (17,388)	\$ -	0.0%
	\$ 3,260,851	\$ 3,147,992	\$ 3,400,176	\$ 252,184	\$ 112,859	3.6%
EXPENSES						
Total Missions	\$ 332,505	\$ 340,788	\$ 340,783	\$ (5)	\$ (8,283)	-2.4%
Congregational Care	\$ 3,950	\$ 6,550	\$ 1,166	\$ (5,384)	\$ (2,600)	-39.7%
Worship and Music	\$ 32,800	\$ 26,500	\$ 38,590	\$ 12,090	\$ 6,300	23.8%
Media and Technology	\$ 16,300	\$ 9,800	\$ 17,732	\$ 7,932	\$ 6,500	66.3%
Evangelism	\$ 49,180	\$ 50,680	\$ 43,706	\$ (6,974)	\$ (1,500)	-3.0%
Christ Concord	\$ 38,100	\$ 38,600	\$ 37,757	\$ (843)	\$ (500)	-1.3%
Christ South	\$ 55,200	\$ 44,200	\$ 39,249	\$ (4,951)	\$ 11,000	24.9%
Fellowship	\$ 10,700	\$ 9,950	\$ 6,439	\$ (3,511)	\$ 750	7.5%
Adult Ministry	\$ 3,150	\$ 3,750	\$ 2,975	\$ (775)	\$ (600)	-16.0%
Family Ministry	\$ 64,850	\$ 54,900	\$ 41,006	\$ (13,894)	\$ 9,950	18.1%
Property Expense	\$ 302,250	\$ 278,550	\$ 293,378	\$ 14,828	\$ 23,700	8.5%
Administrative Expense	\$ 105,250	\$ 105,050	\$ 102,900	\$ (2,150)	\$ 200	0.2%
Debt Service	\$ 295,319	\$ 182,528	\$ 184,295	\$ 1,767	\$ 112,791	61.8%
Misc Expense	\$ 16,525	\$ 16,725	\$ 15,771	\$ (954)	\$ (200)	-1.2%
Pastors Payroll	\$ 593,529	\$ 655,271	\$ 645,996	\$ (9,275)	\$ (61,742)	-9.4%
Lay Staff Payroll	\$ 565,490	\$ 444,766	\$ 451,740	\$ 6,974	\$ 120,724	27.1%
Support Staff Payroll	\$ 677,126	\$ 774,077	\$ 733,010	\$ (41,067)	\$ (96,951)	-12.5%
Ancillary Personnel	\$ 12,000	\$ 18,680	\$ 7,301	\$ (11,379)	\$ (6,680)	-35.8%
Other Payroll	\$ 86,627	\$ 86,627	\$ 80,812	\$ (5,815)	\$ -	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,260,851	\$ 3,147,992	\$ 3,084,606	\$ (63,386)	\$ 112,859	3.6%
Net Difference	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 315,570			



Council President's Report



Amy Kochan
Council President

This year it felt good to come back to church, it felt good to come home. It felt good to be with our church family and it's exciting to see what 2022 holds for our church.

Greetings to you and happy New Year. While you never want to wish away the years, the last couple of years have been tough for all of us. While 2021 brought some relief to the pandemic, we still found ourselves navigating the challenges and working hard to keep ourselves and our community safe.

2021 was a year of transition, not only for our church, but for our community. We entered the year with increased optimism regarding the pandemic. A vaccine was on the horizon for the broader population, schools were opening, and people were starting to feel comfortable about re-engaging in person, rather than by video.

Our focus continued to be one church and one mission with four campuses. All three of our physical campuses transitioned back to in-person worship during 2021 and Christ Online continued to thrive. Church programming evolved, often offering a hybrid approach either online, in-person or both. In all, we continued to learn how to live and operate in our new normal.

While we weren't back to pre-Covid programming all year, with the support of our dedicated Pastors and Staff, as well as many volunteers, we celebrated many significant milestones. A sampling of those were:

- ◆ The approval and sale of the acre property adjacent to the Providence campus with proceeds going to the Garden Ministry and Good Soil campaign
- ◆ Kick-off of the Good Soil campaign for Christ South in May
- ◆ Welcoming members back to all three campuses with Covid protocols in place
- ◆ Garden Ministry – we moved the church garden to Christ South land and started a garden at Christ Concord.
- ◆ An adapted Freedom School program this summer
- ◆ Fall kick-off returned with Sunday School and Wednesday programming
- ◆ Kicked off the Awakened Faith Lecture Series
- ◆ Launched Thrive Day School at all three campuses
- ◆ Restarted Room in the Inn after a Covid hiatus
- ◆ Welcomed Pastor Ryan to the Christ Lutheran staff
- ◆ Returned to Polo Ridge Elementary School for Christ South
- ◆ Hosted Pastor Drew's Navy commissioning and wished him well as a Navy Chaplain
- ◆ And welcomed our largest attendance since March 2020 on Christmas Eve

This year it felt good to come back to church, it felt good to come home. It felt good to be with our church family and it's exciting to see what 2022 holds for our church. It has been a pleasure for Church Council to work with an amazing team of Pastors and staff that have remained true to our core – to serve our members and community – even during an unprecedented pandemic.

Thank you to this congregation for your unwavering support. You have stood by our church in prayer, in service and in giving. We are so grateful to all of you. As we begin a new year, may the words of Psalm 98:1 resonate in your heart – 'Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.'

Peace

Amy Kochan
Council President



Pastor Scott's Reflections on 2021



Scott Suskovic
Senior Pastor

What does 2022 hold in store for us? More than ever, I say, "God only knows!" But I can say that the Holy Spirit has blessed us in so many ways. First, with a generous, supportive and committed congregation that remains strong and faithful throughout this storm. The giving in 2021 was like nothing we've seen.

You've heard it before. It is a broken record. It's Déjà vu all over again. Covid now has plagued the world for almost two years. In the United States, 828,000 deaths have been attributed to Covid. Worldwide, that number is a staggering 5,500,000. Countries have closed their borders to tourists. Cities are on lock-down. People are somewhere between scared and weary because there is no end in sight.

The good news is that about 75% of adults have received at least one dose of the two-dose vaccine (plus a booster). And even that is a source of great controversy. Lines are hotly drawn in the sand on both sides about whether or not to be vaccinated, impose mandates, and restrict mobility. Even with the vaccine and boosters, people are still getting sick with Covid.

The Delta variant was a deadly strain, overwhelming hospitals and responsible for many of the deaths. The current strain, Omicron, seems to be much more contagious but results in less severe symptoms (some people report not even realizing that they tested positive with Omicron.)

This virus has changed the way we live. We are not seeing large gatherings of unmasked people (except,

perhaps, outdoor football games). Many businesses have gone under. WFH is the newest acronym. And we have also seen a dramatic rise in depression, anxiety, addiction, and domestic abuse.

The church has also felt the impact. When we cancelled in-person worship in March of 2020, we thought it might last until Easter, then Mother's Day, then Summer, then who knows? We have stopped trying to predict when masks and social distancing will be done. Long range planning is now about three weeks into the future because the rules constantly change and new variants arise.

At Christ Lutheran, we resumed in person worship in the summer of 2021 with masks mandated and roping off every other pew. We've said that we want to provide consistency between what Mecklenburg County, CMS and the CDC are recommending. However, programming remained at a minimum and limited meals were served. Christmas Eve had the largest worship attendance since pre-Covid—and even that was about a third of a typical year.

One interesting note; this year we had, I believe, three or four new member

classes in a hybrid form, welcoming people who attend all four campuses. We even had several people join Christ Lutheran who don't live in North Carolina and worship exclusively with Christ Online. Covid, for all of its troubles, has opened up a new door of outreach and made online worship a legitimate and authentic campus of Christ Lutheran.

The greatest changes in staffing this year was on the pastoral team. Pastor Matt Simpkins chose to resign his call as the campus pastor of Christ South and pursue other interests. He served us well in establishing this campus and leading us through many changes. In record breaking time, we interviewed and unanimously called Pastor Ryan Ritzmann to take his place. Pastor Ryan comes with great theological depth, unlimited energy and a heart of evangelism. This will all be necessary as Christ South went from only online worship to outdoor worship on our Christ South land to most recently returning to our origins at Polo Ridge Elementary School until we can build a worship center.

We also wished Pastor Drew Goodson Godspeed and Anchors Away as we held a Commissioning for him in December to become a Navy Chaplain.

After seven years of an amazing and deeply felt ministry, his last Sunday was on January 2, 2022. In other staffing changes, Gretchen Suskovic stepped back from much of her duties to care for an aging parent, bringing in Kathy Hoffman to work with visitors and the greeting team.

For youth ministry, we brought onboard two individuals. Following the resignation of Caroline Targonski who moved with her husband to Texas. We hired two individuals—Anthony Currier to oversee all of youth ministry and Max Waterhouse to be Christ South specific.

In technology, we also saw several changes. After years and years of faithful and excellent work, we said goodbye to Boo English up there in the tech booth. With this opening, we hired Bill Porter who has built mightily on Boo’s foundation. Also in technology, Aaron Anderson joined us for several months at Christ Concord before taking a “real” fulltime job as an engineer in Raleigh.

For the Children’s Center, we said goodbye to the long years and faithful service of Linda Warren Sidway and are pleased to welcome Meg Semm as the new director of the Center. Meg brings years of experience and has transitioned very smoothly into that new role for her.

What does 2022 hold in store for us? More than ever, I say, “God only knows!” But I can say that the Holy Spirit has blessed us in so many ways. First, with a generous, supportive and committed congregation that remains strong and faithful throughout this storm. The giving in 2021 was like nothing we’ve seen.

Second, we are blessed with an amazing staff that is just as dedicated to the ministry as ever before. We are all in; pivoting, envisioning and encouraging one another. And third, with the gift of His Presence to breathe life into us when we are surrounded by death, light when the darkness overwhelms, hope

when the world is full of despair and joy even in the midst of suffering.

When the mandates and masks are removed, I don’t anticipate the floodgates to open with everyone returning. I believe it will be a slower, gradual ramping up. People have developed different habits these past 23 months. Some will be hard to break. But God’s Church will remain, always working with the remnant with a message of grace and forgiveness.

In a world full of chaos and covid, I give thanks to God for his stability and healing.

Peace,



Scott Suskovic
Senior Pastor

**How
CHRIST
LUTHERAN
COMPARES
TO THE
ELCA**

2021	ELCA	Christ Lutheran
Average # Baptized Members	375*	2925
Confirmed Members	295*	2412
Average Worship	95*	1034*
Members to Worship Ratio	26%*	34%*
Avg. Gift per Baptized Member	\$595*	\$1,080

* 2019 Numbers were used due to COVID Shut-down



OUR MEMBERSHIP 2010-2020

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Membership 1/1	2792	2808	2728	2837	2832	2876	2920	3072	3006	3007	2925
Child Baptism	34	42	49	42	44	31	42	45	40	32	33
Adult Baptism	4	9	4	1	2	5	2	2	4	1	0
Affirmation	45	48	42	64	23	32	64	36	39	30	4
Lutheran Transfer	46	46	39	28	42	64	108	45	58	12	9
Non-Lutheran Transfer	20	9	26	23	30	23	22	13	30	23	14
Statistical Change	0	0	8	0	0	1	5	0	11	25	3
Total Received	149	154	168	158	141	156	243	141	182	123	63
Death	5	7	15	22	13	19	9	8	15	20	14
Transfer	62	92	44	68	22	21	45	24	38	31	16
Statistical Change	66	135	0	73	62	72	75	175	128	154	0
Total Removed	133	234	59	163	97	112	129	207	181	205	30
Membership 12/31	2808	2728	2837	2832	2876	2920	3072	3006	3007	2925	2958
Avg. Worship Attendance	1183	1157	1188	1141	1058	1032	1067	1070	1034	1034*	481

* used 2019 numbers due to Covid 19 Quarantine

Endowment Committee

At Christ Lutheran, we have two Endowment Funds. The original one, or 'Outreach Fund,' is used for outreach and missions only.

Recipients of the Fund's annual distribution are determined by the Benevolence Committee. In 2021, these recipients included Crisis Assistance and McClintock Partners in Education, among others. The second fund, or 'General Purpose Fund,' was created in 2017. The use of distributions from this Fund is determined by the Church Council and may include outreach. In 2021, \$10,000 was designated to the Mobile Food Ministry, led by Mike Wallace, to feed people in times of need.

The value of the two funds on December 31, 2021 totaled \$1,253,274. The value of the Outreach Fund was

\$856,339, an increase of about \$90,000 from 2020. There were no contributions during the year to this Fund. The distribution from the Fund in January 2022 was \$30,612.

The value of the General Purpose Fund at year-end was \$396,935. Contributions during the year were \$13,170 and the January 2022 distribution was \$13,898. This Fund increased in value by almost \$55,000 from 2020.

The Endowment Funds are invested similarly. They are invested to balance risk and reward. At year-end, the portfolio was approximately 68% equities, 27% bonds and 5% cash. The return on the investment for the year was over 15%.

The Endowment Committee is planning on having its bi-annual dinner in April to recognize those who have contributed to our Endowment

over the years. More information will be forthcoming. In addition, the Committee will be working with the ELCA on opportunities to educate people who are interested in learning about legacy planning.

At the end of 2021, Ken Sumlin and Joe Wall completed their terms on the Committee. Wayne Clark and Bob Fraas are taking their places. The Committee thanks Ken and Joe for their service and commitment.



Tal Owen
Chair

Committee

Tom Brydon
Linda Cagley
Wayne Clark
Bob Fraas
Glenda Jones, Sec.
Tal Owen
Bruce Voelker
Pastor Scott Suskovic

	VALUES	DISTRIBUTIONS
1/1/2018	\$ 781,520	\$ 22,636
1/1/2019	\$ 747,546	\$ 23,280
1/1/2020	\$ 975,285	\$ 33,392
1/1/2021	\$ 1,109,695	\$ 37,767
1/1/2022	\$ 1,253,274	\$ 44,510

Endowment Fund

Evangelism & Adult Ministry

An early symbol of Christian faith is a ship's anchor. The anchor is always with the ship. In stormy times, the anchor holds us steady. It provides rest, comfort, and hope. Other times we are called to set sail and actively go to serve others. I thank God for being Christ Lutheran's anchor during 2021 – a year of change and growth.

ADULT CLASSES & GROUPS

Four years ago, I thought "Wouldn't it be great if we could read and study the entire Bible together as a congregation?" Having now read all four Community Bible Experience books, our church has met this goal! We drank deeply from the well of God's Word. I loved watching God's Story shape our stories. From November through December 2021, we read "The Community Bible Experience: The Writings". Everything from the Psalms to Daniel. We have consistently offered 7-8 adult classes that meet online and in-person.

Another significant milestone this year was upfitting all adult classrooms at Christ Providence with computers, screens, and speakers to facilitate HYBRID classes. Many classes have a mixture of in-person and online attendees. Special thanks to our technology staff, Thomas Cole and Bill Porter, who installed the equipment. Many Small Groups meet online also. To all of our volunteer Group Leaders, thank you!

Thanks to you, we were able to "Build Faith" this year. A wide range of adult education classes and groups along with their Zoom links are on our website and on Realm. Learn more: www.christelca.org/online

CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Still cautious about gathering in large groups, we looked for ways to safely build community as a church family. On Kick-Off Sunday in September, we had an outdoor festival at Christ Providence with live bluegrass music, tailgate food, balloon artists and more. It was amazing to come together in the sunshine and reconnect with each other. It allowed many to Find Community.

We hosted two sets of New Member classes, which were offered in a hybrid form for the first time. Staff from all of our campuses came together to host these events. We welcomed new members who live close by and some that live across the country.

About 30 men gathered in September for an Arrows of Adam Panthers football night with fire pits, devotions, great food, and a chance to pull for the Panthers. Keep pounding! We are all looking forward to coming together in larger settings. Until then, we will pursue smaller, intentional gatherings.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our communications goal is to help all people "See

Jesus", sharing opportunities to grow spiritually through our many events, programs, and ministries. We remain partnered with consultant ProMedia Fire to think strategically and creatively about our communication efforts. ProMedia supports us with an:

- ◆ **Enhanced Website** – Fresh, engaging updates convey the energy and the variety of our congregation and its four campuses.
- ◆ **New promotional tools** – Videos for sermon series and other church initiatives reflect modern styles in a compelling way.
- ◆ **Ongoing strategy** – We look for ways to regularly engage and connect people across all of our social media platforms with posts.

There are many channels that we use to share information with you. These include,

- ◆ **Weekly E-News** featuring ads for all four campuses.
- ◆ **Bi-monthly newsletter** "Christ Connections."
- ◆ **Bi-monthly postcards** highlighting special programs and events.
- ◆ **Facebook and Instagram.**

REALM

Realm is our congregation's main communication software and allows you to see the Groups we offer at Christ Lutheran and connect with other people and events.



Drew Goodson
Pastor, Christ
Providence

What a gift to know God as our ANCHOR in faith. It has been my joy to preach, teach, counsel, baptize, and more as your pastor during these last seven years. As my family and I now set sail on a new adventure in US Navy Chaplain Corps in 2022, I pray that God will bless you - dear Saints of Christ Lutheran—forever.



Evangelism & Adult Ministry (cont.)

WELCOME

If you want to be a part of transforming lives, be a Greeter or Usher at Christ Lutheran. The welcome you provide can literally open the door for someone to find hope, grace, and peace in relationship with Jesus. Reach out to Mary Parker our Pastoral Assistant to learn more.



Kathy Hoffman joined our staff this year as “Guest and Hospitality Director.”

Kathy took on the role of leading our welcome experience on Sunday mornings at Christ Providence and following up with guests as they become involved. Kathy has blessed us with fresh energy, a caring heart, and

a passion for Jesus that makes her a dynamic fit for this role. Gretchen Suskovic is our “Guest and Membership Director” and I thank God for her loving ministry.

During my seven years at Christ Lutheran, the staff on my Welcome Team have been incredible to serve with. Laurie Carter, our Communications Director, works passionately to keep our large congregation informed. She is driven, creative, and dedicated to Christ Lutheran. Marcie Kelliher wows me with her graphic design abilities. She manages design needs in a timely way and is a great team player. Alexis Williams is consistent, talented, and reliable with all her tasks as Communications Associate—in addition to being our Online Minister! I

am thankful for all of them.

Adjunct members of this team are Mary Parker and Amiee Topping who serve as counsel and a great resource to all of us.

What a gift to know God as our ANCHOR in faith. It has been my joy to preach, teach, counsel, baptize, and more as your pastor during these last seven years. As my family and I now set sail on a new adventure in US Navy Chaplain Corps in 2022, I pray that God will bless you - dear Saints of Christ Lutheran—forever.

Anchors Aweigh,

Pastor Drew Goodson

Stephen Ministry

Christ Lutheran is blessed to have Stephen Ministers across our 3 physical campuses, serving care receivers from Waxhaw to Concord. Stephen Ministers work with members of the congregation and the community, providing one-to-one, high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to individuals who are hurting. Our Stephen Ministers meet regularly in supervision groups and participate in continuing education events.

In 2021, Julia Edelson, Melissa Topinka, and I served as leaders of our church's Stephen Ministry

(SM) program. We also sponsored one other person to attend the SM Leaders Training Course in 2021 and will have at least one other person attend in 2022.

We have been had almost all of our current Stephen Ministers serving at least 1 care receiver each throughout the pandemic, utilizing safe and effective ways to meet—whether virtually, or safely in person—in order to help provide care for their care receivers. The inquiries about SM continue to increase each year.

Just prior to the start of the pandemic, we started a

training class for new Stephen Ministers. After reformatting the training for a virtual environment, we resumed training in December, 2020, and had 4 people stick with us, working through the challenges of a start-and-stop, in-person/virtual training program, to complete the training in the Fall of 2021.

We look forward to continuing to expand the Stephen Ministry program at Christ Lutheran so that we might be better able to walk with people who are experiencing some kind of challenge.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).



Melody Simpkins
Pastor, Family
Ministry

What a year 2021 has been! We thought 2020 was challenging, but we learned fast that 2021 would be even more challenging. The biggest hurdle that the Family Ministry Team faced during 2021 was how do we safely return from quarantine back to in person.

Family Ministry

What a year 2021 has been! We thought 2020 was challenging, but we learned fast that 2021 would be even more challenging. The biggest hurdle that the Family Ministry Team faced during 2021 was how do we safely return from quarantine back to in person. We are blessed here with an awesome Family Ministry Team who has had to not only look at how we do ministry but also what we can do safely in person while analyzing what has been learned from this experience.

Our Family Ministry Team has done an amazing job. It consists of the following: Jane Satterfield is our Family Ministry Administrator; Kate Harrison is our Preschool Ministry Director; Kristen Rank is our Elementary School Director; and Anthony Currier is our Youth Director. They are all at the Providence campus. We work closely with our Christ South campus where we have Aimee Topping who is the Executive Minister and currently, we don't have an Assistant Youth Director at South. We work with Karen Costea at Christ Concord. This team has gone above and beyond to make ministry continue during this time of uncertainty and has developed creative and engaging ways to support our children and youth in their faith development.

They have worked very hard moving from quarantine-life to in person.

CHRIST KIDS' TV

2021 started with most of our activities being virtual. Christ Kids' TV was a new way to develop children's faith. Through the creative minds of Kate Harrison, Kristen Rank, Aimee Topping, myself and the rest of the staff, Christ Kids' TV was developed. This is a ministry for children preschool thru elementary where they get songs and memory verses, skits, Bible stories and activities. We continued this ministry even with in person gathering because it has made such an impact in the faith life of our children. Once we started gathering back for in person worship, we used pieces of CKTV for the children's sermon that is now known as Christ Kids' at the Providence campus and Blast at the Christ South campus.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS (Vacation Bible School) is an amazing time for proclaiming God's word to kids for a whole week. This year we did a hybrid VBS. We had a great time sharing the message that we are Treasured while Discovering We're Priceless to God. We provided a way for children to participate

virtually or both virtually and in person. What a wonderful week! This same week we had Good Samaritan Training for the middle schooler where they learned what it means to be a Christian friend. Plus, for the high school youth we had Leadership Training where they learned what their God given gifts are for leadership and how to use them.

STEPPING STONES

The Stepping Stone ministry where the congregation and parents come together to fulfill the baptismal promises we made at the children's baptism has been a blessing for many families. A few of these highlights this year were Quillows (high school graduation), First Communion and Confirmation. Quillows is the sending and blessing of our high school graduates. We were able to do private blessings, and then we had families come by the outside of the church for a blessing. In total we had 24 youth participate.

This year we were able to have the Rite of Confirmation in person for those who felt comfortable. It was a powerful experience of the Holy Spirit. During the 9th grade retreat a week before the rite, the youth worked to put together the worship service where they chose and read the



lessons, wrote and delivered the sermon, and participated as the worship leadership. We had 19 middle schoolers confirm their faith: 17 at the Providence campus and two at Christ South.

First Communion was a powerful experience where God was at work. We did most of the teaching through Zoom. The Family Ministry team made home visits with the First Communion children to talk with them and deliver their supplies. We had 28 children take their 1st Communion: 26 at Providence and two at Christ South.

This fall we were able to have our first in person Stepping Stone in a long time. We gathered both in person and through Zoom to learn about the 10 Commandments. It was good to see each other again.

Jane Satterfield did an amazing job working with families and setting up times for all of these Stepping Stones. Plus, she worked with all 33 baptisms we had at Christ Lutheran.

AFFIRM: LIFE

Affirm: Life is our Confirmation ministry. We now offer three different ways to teach the foundations of our faith: in person, on demand and by Zoom. All are available so anyone can still participate depending on their comfort level and what's going on in their life. There were several highlights with Affirm: Life. Last spring, we had a mini retreat. This was a day-long retreat where we did a service project, Bible study, played games and had a great time reconnecting.

In August we had two more daylong retreats: 6th grade

retreat and 9th grade retreat. The 9th grade retreat was another wonderful time to reconnect. Here we had a great experience on a ropes course, planning the rite of confirmation, and had an overall great time. The 6th grade was an opportunity when we could introduce both the youth and their parents to middle school. Both of these retreats supported the youth's transition to middle school and to high school.

YOUTH MINISTRY

This year we welcomed Anthony Currier as the new Youth Director. We began by taking children and youth to Lutheridge for a week of fun, connecting and becoming closer to Christ. Then, we started the year with a luau party that was over the top fun!! Next, the year continued with a lot of different youth events from Fusion Nights to Christmas

Shopping to Alternative Gift Market to Game Nights.

The Holy Spirit is moving here at Christ Lutheran! With a wonderful Family Ministry team and an awesome congregation, anything is possible! I look forward to the future!

Peace,

Pastor Melody Simpkins
Pastor for Family Ministry



Benevolence and Outreach



Amy Daniels,
Director of Outreach

We all become more generous and more aware as we give and grow. Our efforts at diversity, equity, and inclusion also expand our hearts and minds and keep our individual and collective faiths growing.

2021 Benevolence Committee

Thom Uhlir
Gwen Glaeser
Dennis Getter
Amy Daniels, Staff Liaison

Outreach Staff

Amy Daniels,
Director of Outreach

Angela Davis,
Outreach Associate

Sharhonda Morgan,
McPIE Community Liaison

Tammy Sanders,
McPIE Programs Assistant

Lisa Heirigs,
McPIE Programs Assistant

Our congregation is very generous to our NC Synod of the ELCA, our McClintock neighbors, and several key community agencies. Twelve percent of our annual budget supports these ministries. In addition, our Endowment Committee and Cornerstone Gifts distributions and Thrivent Choice Dollars add to what is available for disbursement. Thrivent Action Teams, McPIE donations, efforts such as Alternative Gifts Market, CROP Walk, the Feed a Family Fund, grocery and clothing donations, all increase the level of our generosity as well.

In order of descending amounts, Benevolence distributed over \$380,000:

- ◆ NC Synod of ELCA
- ◆ McClintock Partners in Education
- ◆ Crisis Assistance Ministries
- ◆ A Roof Above
- ◆ Novus Way
- ◆ Charlotte Rescue Mission
- ◆ Christmas Family Sponsorships
- ◆ Habitat El Salvador

- ◆ 2nd Harvest Food Bank
- ◆ Cooperative Christian Ministries (Cabarrus County)
- ◆ Emmaus
- ◆ Habitat Clay County (Yankton SD)
- ◆ CROP Walk Administration
- ◆ Thompson Child & Family Focus (A Child's Place)
- ◆ Agape/Kure Beach
- ◆ Thrive Day School
- ◆ Quilters
- ◆ Loaves and Fishes

We have been able to answer the call of specific agencies during this pandemic year because we keep some funds available for when needs arise. Our hope is that our financial giving supports the places where our hearts and hands and feet are also giving through volunteer efforts and our prayers.

We accepted and directed donations of clothing and food year round, bikes, electronics and furniture in January. We support Room in the Inn and the Soup Kitchen. McPIE was very active (see separate report).

We support many families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We host Blood Drives monthly now, expanding this fall. In 2022 there will be four drives at each physical campus. We remain one of CROP Hunger Walks largest fund raisers. Our Quilter's Group supports Lutheran World Relief with their work. The Alternative Gift Market raised several thousand dollars for Alternative Gifts International projects and Center Lumiere. Many small groups and classes supported these and other ministries as part of their work together.

We all become more generous and more aware as we give and grow. Our efforts at diversity, equity, and inclusion also expand our hearts and minds and keep our individual and collective faiths growing. May God continue to work in and through us in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Daniels
Director of Outreach



McClintock Partners in Education (McPIE)



McClintock Partners In Education (McPIE)

Creating Future Stories...

Building Community...

Supporting Families...

Inspiring Volunteers...

So that all McClintock
students succeed.

McClintock Partners In Education Board of Directors

Officers:

Amy Daniels, President

Linda Cagley, Vice
President for Funding and
Partnerships

Cindy Covill,
Vice President of
Programming

Dee Dee Petronis,
Treasurer

April Storey
PTO President

Church Council Liaison

School Representatives

Mark McHugh, Principal

Shannon Administrator and
McPIE Liaison

Willie Pinson, Chorus Teacher

Jennifer Parker, CMS
Partnerships Representative

At Large Representatives

Lawrence Cruciana

Jane Fisher

Kelli Cook, Parent

Tahira McCoy, Parent

McPIE Spring STEAM Challenge Club and Virtual Parent Classes

McPIE engaged students and supported families while the pandemic continued. With school buildings remaining closed at the beginning of 2021, McPIE offered weekly STEAM Challenges and parent classes throughout the spring semester.

Challenges were a great way for students to continue learning while also participating in a fun activity at home. Students explored 3 areas of STEAM – Tinker Time, The “A” in STEAM (art), and Outdoor Adventure. Tinker Time was a fun, technical theme where students learned about gears, hydraulic claws, projectile motion, and potential and kinetic energy. The “A” theme required students to look for art in many different forms. Can you find a face in a household item? How do you make art look 3-dimensional with a single perspective drawing? Art is also to feel, not just see, by creating rubbings of surfaces. Students also headed outdoors to explore! Sunny days call for sun dials, nature scavenger hunts and exploring flight with bubbles, kites, and paper airplanes. Students who completed the challenge and participated in a Friday Zoom party to discuss science concepts learned were eligible to earn incentive prizes throughout the Spring semester!

Parents were also eligible to join virtual adult classes! Thanks to our wonderful team of leaders, parent options included Getting Ahead, Women’s Journey, English as a Second Language (ESL) and our new class, Let’s Race. These classes met weekly via Zoom.. In Getting Ahead, participants gained a better understanding of the language and patterns of poverty, middle, and wealth classes, while building the resources needed for a better life. Women’s Journey is truly all about healing and restoration for the woman. ESL is for those interested in working on their English language and conversation skills. Let’s Race included informal conversations with individuals with different life experiences. The goal was to listen, learn, and improve communications between people of different races and ethnic backgrounds.

Grocery Support

What began as 20 grocery bags a week in March 2020 grew to 150+ bags of groceries distributed to McClintock families each week through August and then tapered off to 40 bags per week. Grocery bags distribution happened at McClintock every week for the entirety of 2021. In all 3,400 bags of groceries were distributed this year. These bags were filled with canned meats, vegetables, rice/beans, spaghetti, cereal, breakfast bars, in addition to cleaning supplies and paper products. Fresh

produce was also donated by the Garden Ministry. Families remarked how appreciative they were for the groceries and what a difference it made for them. This was all possible from donations to the Feed A Family fund, Thrivent Action Teams, grants, and food donations. Volunteers helped purchase groceries, deliver them to the church, fill each bag, and distribute. Special groceries and menus were included at holidays.

Teacher and Staff Support, Tutors

This pandemic has added so much additional stress on our teachers, staff, and administrators. We have worked hard to encourage and support their efforts. Teacher Partners support individual teachers year round. Teacher Appreciation lunches were offered on Early Release Days in addition to beginning and end of semesters. We added heat and eat meals for two given to every staff member on 5 Thankful Thursdays this fall and are continuing that into 2022. School supplies were greatly appreciated at the beginning of the year and are still available for teachers and students.

Tutors support individual students and particular teachers. A special reading emphasis has been started to work with individual students 4 days a week at the start of the school day.

Summer: Freedom School at Christ Providence, Camp CMS, and More



McClintock Partners in Education (McPIE) cont.



Christ Providence provided space and custodial services to support Freedom School Partners and Scholars during the summer! Scholars were on campus from June 14th – July 30th to participate in the Children's Defense Funds literacy program. Our site typically houses Scholars strictly from McClintock and their siblings. This past summer, Christ Providence provided space for 8 elementary classes with Scholars from Rama, Oakhurst, and Billingsville Elementary, as well as one middle school class with Scholars from McClintock and Alexander Graham. This summer provided valuable lessons on how Scholars can make a difference in themselves, school, family, community, and country, all while focusing on literacy.

Close to 400 students from McClintock and Alexander Graham Middle Schools filled the campus of MMS for 6 weeks. Camp CMS was a learning and enrichment program to help students. Enriching activities enhanced thinking, alongside fun and engaging programs to sharpen skills with physical fitness to motivate their minds and bodies. Transportation, breakfast, lunch, and social emotional learning supports were included. McPIE encouraged all scholars to attend Camp CMS and supported the site at McClintock with supplies and incentives.

For our adventure loving students, there were opportunities to spend a

week away in the beautiful North Carolina Mountains at Lutheridge and Camp Agape in Fuquay Varina. These camps offer a secluded setting for spiritual renewal, team building, and outdoor adventures. Athletics camps were also available for students who have a passion for sports. Students chose to participate in girls' and boys' basketball, baseball, and soccer. Thirty-six students participated in these summer camps.

McPIE Family Night Sampler – October 2021

After a 19-month hiatus, McPIE was back in the school building! Our Fall Family Night Sampler kicked off at the beginning of October with success! Each week, students and families arrived at McClintock and were greeted with warm smiles and a warm meal. After the meal, students and parents were engaged in classes and clubs. Childcare was available for babies through 5th grade, breaking barriers to participation. Adult options included Getting Ahead in a Just Getting by World, Women's Journey, ESL, Let's Race, and Foresight 20/20. Middle School students had 3-4 different club options each week to "sample." Students sampled Top Scot Chef, Soccer, Robotics, Rugby, Coding, Sketch Squad, Hiking, Woodworking, Medical Explorers, Outdoor Adventure, Innovation Station, Quadcopters, and

Crafts!

Future – 2022!!

For over a year, McPIE continued to engage students and support families through the COVID-19 pandemic. What began as a "quick pivot," turned into an array of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) Challenges, recipes, grocery bags, meal deliveries, incentive prizes, support through adult classes, and a Fall sampling of what will come for Family Night 2022.

Family Night is ON for Spring 2022! Likely beginning on March 1st, McClintock will be buzzing with clubs and classes for families on Tuesday evenings. Middle school students can choose from a variety of clubs to join. 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Outreach Staff & Amy Daniels, Director of Outreach and President of the McPIE Board of Directors

Worship/Music/Technology

When I accepted my call to Christ Lutheran in March of 1990, I had no idea what I was in for. I had served a very historic Lutheran church in Savannah, Ascension ELCA (founded in 1741). My interview committee and the senior pastor at that time, David Misenheimer, told me to "trade a church with a proud past for one with an uncharted future." So I did. And what an uncharted future it has been!

In 1990, there was one campus, 2 worship services, a staff of 5, a parsonage for an office, 4 octaves of handbells, 1 music stand, and 2 choirs.

Now I have a staff of 10 (yes, many are part-time) we have 5 campuses (Go, Christ Navy!), lots of choirs and ensembles, and more music stands than I can count. And the future is still uncharted.

Our team has spent a lot of focus and dollars (and donated gifts) on our online worship services. All of our rooms are able to livestream with lots of extra cameras and switchers and staff and volunteers. Our goal has been to make online worship beautiful, compelling, spiritual and worshipful. Of course, it's worshipful, you might think. No. It wasn't. Not like it is now. Camera shots are varied, planned, beautifully transitioned. Words on the screen guide the online congregation in ways those "in the house" never see. It's a wonderful thing, but I hope it hasn't made it too easy for many of you not to return to in person worship after we (hopefully) outlive

this global pandemic! Our team carefully and critically watches our services after the fact to take notes of needed improvements and involve suggestions from the congregation. Thanks to our Communications Team, online worship services, funerals and other events have never been easier to find on the home page of our website. I feel as though we have done more with less this year: less people comfortable singing in a mask (it's NOT fun), less people coming to worship in person, less people sending their children and youth to choirs or The Xperience, less ushers, less greeters and less servers on the altar guild.

And yet, the story is still told. Those who have served and sung and greeted and showed up have told the story in so many ways. No matter how many people show up for worship, it's important to remember that God is the audience of our worship. We offer our utmost for His highest.

This year we said goodbye to one of our own-Boo English. He hasn't left the church-he still plays guitar in SpiritSong. He simply had an opportunity to retire and took it! We filled his position with Bill Porter (formerly the music guy at Concord a few years back), but recently of Atlanta. Bill has been an incredible addition to the team. Bill's instincts and relentless attention to detail are spot on and really are pushing us to offer our utmost for His highest.

This team has worked hard on uncovering the infrastructure already built into our beautiful building. Sacred music plays on our distributed audio throughout the campus. Our monitor screens are showing our church in action rather than showing a black screen. Wires and conduit have been uncovered and utilized to aid our church-wide pivot to hybrid classes. Screens have been added all over the campus (have you been in Fellowship Hall lately? The PIT had numerous updates: a new stage back drop, new house and stage lighting, sound board and so much more.

This is my report, and I'm going to get real personal for just a moment. Thank you to many of you who constantly reach out to me, check on me and my family, ask about my health, pray for me, and support me. You make my job a joy. I am doing well, health-wise for now. My PSA is remaining at a zero (which is what you want) because of some very expensive hormonal chemotherapy pills. How long it will hold the cancer at bay, no one can say. I am grateful for this gift of time and I plan to continue to work as long as I am able and as long as it makes sense for me to do so.

More than ever, I am grateful for the talents and efforts of my team as they keep worship reverent, beautiful and compelling in the middle of a global pandemic! Don't quote me on this, but we have a lot of



Mark Glaeser
Minister of Music
& Worship

fun each and every day. They make it fun to come to work! They are:

Mark Johanson-Minister of Music (least fun)
Bill Porter-Technical Director (most fun)
Dennis Contreras-Music Associate (shakes his head)
Craig Cole-Music Associate (enjoys observing the fun)
Will Kleckley-Lighting Director
Harrison Reid-Lighting Consultant
Olivia Gerik-Media Director (she is the one controlling all those beautiful camera shots)
Thomas Cole-Director of Information Technology (mostly fun)
Kristin Cavazos and Bill Porter-Co Directors of The Experience
AJ Calpo and CJ Michael-Directors of Grace and Faith Choirs
Raf Meyer-Church Council Representative
Kathy Keller-Personnel Committee Representative
Dee Sumlin-Star Volunteer (always fun)

Respectfully and gratefully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Glaeser". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Glaeser
Minister of Worship and Music

PS. We need a choir librarian/helper person. terested? Let me know! No musical knowledge needed.



Christ South

If you've come to the Christ South section to see what the new pastor is up to, you're too late. You've missed the boat. Christ South has been kicking and swimming all of 2021; the pastors are just trying to keep up. If you don't know Aimee Topping then let me help you get with it. Officially, she is the Campus Director. That's a nebulous enough title so that whatever is asked of her can sound like something she is supposed to do. Thing is, whatever is asked of her she actually does. Aimee has stepped up and been THE point person at Christ South. She has managed tech problems and there have been more than a few as we have tried to record worship outside in a tent. She has corralled children through Blast, the children's Sunday school program. She has come to the Providence campus and sat in on leadership meetings. She has managed property issues. I heard a tale of a well catching on fire that she remedied. How does a well catch on fire?! Aimee has stepped up from the side lines helping with everything from the kids to putting the whole of the Christ South campus on her back. She has done it admirably and with grace. And she is just one of the myriad of unsung servants of Christ ministering at Christ South.

Every week the God-loving people of South are led in the praise of God by Ashley Cook. Ashley has

led the people of God in praise with his guitar and voice. He selects hymns and orchestrates musicians. Danny Cooper and Jacob Ingram get all the machines, cameras, lighting, and microphones in line so that we can hear and see the worship on the property and be heard and seen online. They have done this out in the tent with all the wild variables, as well as setting up every week in a gymnasium.

Maybe you're saying to yourself that's what Church is, singing songs or setting things up... and it is, but I hope you see that there are real servants of God making worship happen. And these servants are doing this in the second year of Covid, as a pastor leaves and another arrives, and as we are changing locations and dealing with the weather. This isn't church as normal. This is a "both ways up-hill and in the snow" kinda church. This is what we're made of y'all! This is carrying the cross, bearing one another's burdens, church. Church as Christ intended it.

Move to Polo Ridge

I'm still acclimating to what's what and how things go. I can assure you within all the chaos that was 2021, the one we call the Truth and the Light has never stopped being worshiped at Christ South. We have moved from worshiping on the property back to Polo Ridge Elementary school, which is a part of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School

system. We rent space from them and have all of our equipment in a barn that we have bought and put on the school property. Each Sunday we pull the equipment out and set up everything that it takes to have a space that feels more than a gym, that feels like our space, sacred space. Then after worship we take it all down. Coffee machines, table, lights, camera, drums all go back to be stored till next week.

This is a tedious process but it is part of what it looks like to be the Church at Christ South. Indeed, this is what it looks like to be the Church. Men and women have, for millennia, gone to extraordinary lengths to see the light of Christ brought to every corner of the world. Christ Lutheran is continuing in that noble tradition in South Charlotte. While no one would say that our present situation is ideal, it is preferable to being outside and at the whim of the weather. Especially as winter begins to make itself felt.

Future

If you haven't been to Christ South or don't know the people I'm talking about maybe take a Sunday and come down and find out. See that our mission to welcome ALL people continues on. That the great tradition of the Church to weather all trials and persevere through all difficulties is alive and well and that the Body of Christ thrives in the wilderness of South Charlotte.



Ryan Ritzmann
Pastor, Christ South

*If you haven't
been to Christ
South or don't
know the people
I'm talking about
maybe take a
Sunday and
come down and
find out. See that
our mission to
welcome ALL
people
continues on.*

Christ South (cont.)

As we look into the future, I look forward to leading the people of Christ Lutheran, at all campuses. My prayer, and really all our prayers, is that the pandemic subsides and we can begin to develop and redevelop those spiritual patterns that gave us such fulfillment. I hope that we might be able to have some events for the whole church and invite our community, neighbors and friends. I hope that we can see our kids sweaty after running around, and hear them complain that they don't want to go home;

they want to stay at church. I hope that we can, once again, start up small groups and develop personal relationships with each other and our LORD. That we can get into each other's lives and "love one another" (John 13:34), "be devoted to one another" (Rom 12:10), "serve one another, (Gal5:13), "bear with one another" (Col 3:13) and "make love increase and overflow for one another" (I Thes 3:12). God intended for His people to come together. If ever we realized how much we have

taken that simple gift for granted it is now.

I don't know what God has in store for us in 2022, but I've been around long enough to know that those who rely on the LORD are blessed for it. I'm excited to see what the future will look like.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Ritzmann
Pastor, Christ South



Christ Concord

Despite COVID, 2021 was another great year at Christ Concord!

While our regular in-person events have gone through a number of iterations, we were able to still find ways to reach out to the community, minister to our members, engage in service projects, and have fun in the process!

WORSHIP

Lenten services originated from Christ Concord online in 2021, and Holy Week services were offered both in-person and online.

2021 saw a migration from online-only worship to both in-person and online. We quickly reached 100% of our pre-COVID attendance at Christ Concord.

In 2021, we continued to upgrade our online worship broadcast with new equipment, new looks, new ways of “doing” worship, and fresh energy. Collaboration with other campuses has been helpful in sharing ideas and resources.

In addition to our regular group of faithful technology volunteers and David Essick doing production work for us from Florida, Aaron Anderson joined us for the 2nd half of 2021 as our Director of Technology.



Karen Costea, our fantastic music associate, continued to develop her technological skills in video editing and production.



Christmas Eve. It’s always special!



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Our members remain connected and care for one another. Since becoming a campus of Christ Lutheran Church, the members at Concord have developed into a close, caring, community of believers, who not only care for one another, but also express love, faith, hope, and service to those who live next door, around the corner, and across the globe.

Stephen Ministry is represented at this campus by Pastor Tenny and Billy Mussari, a recent graduate of the Stephen Ministry training program.

SERVICE

Food pantries are constantly running low, since the onset of COVID. We collect food in a bin outside the main entrance of the church and make regular deliveries to the



Tennyson Shifley
Pastor,
Christ Concord

In 2021, we continued to upgrade our online worship broadcast with new equipment, new looks, new ways of “doing” worship, and fresh energy.





Christ Concord

food pantry at Cooperative Christian Ministry in Concord (which serves all of Cabarrus County).



Some of our Christ Lutheran members at Concord have also generously donated time, food, and money to people in the McClintock community, and to Christ Lutheran's other outreach ministries.

EVENTS

Splash Day After a one-year sabbatical, Splash Day resumed in 2021. Great fun! (**Kickoff Sunday** was a blast for all ages!

Wednesdays Together We resumed Wednesdays Together in the Fall of 2022 for a few sessions, before pandemic prudence necessitated eliminating the evening meal. We hope to resume again soon!

2021 News and Improvements

Thrive Day School began in August, 2021, and are expanding their student enrollment and teacher staff to accommodate the demand!



Sacristy/Storage Room renovations are complete (except for some minor electrical work)!



Interior painting is almost completed! We are looking for places/ways to add more individual workstations to accommodate the Thrive staff and support organizations, and our CC staff and volunteers!



New/refurbished playground equipment will be installed early in 2022! Many people worked in the heat of the summer to clean and stain the playground pieces. Assembly awaits!



Christ Concord

I give thanks for the terrific staff at Christ Concord:

In Christ,



Karen Costea
Music Associate and Campus Administrator

Karen shares with us weekly her creativity, her incredible piano skills, and a willingness to do whatever is necessary to build God's kingdom! We are blessed to have Karen on staff. Thanks, Karen, for all you do!

Pastor Tennyson Shifley



Aaron Anderson
Technology Director

While we are saying "good-bye" to Aaron in January, 2022, as he moves to Raleigh for a full-time job after graduating from UNCC with a degree in electrical engineering, we say "thank you" for working with us for the last 6 months to so capably improve our technology and online broadcasts. You will be missed!



Eddie Summers
Security

Eddie serves as our security person on Sunday mornings. Thank you, Eddie, for keeping us safe!



Look for more news in 2022. God is doing great things through Christ Concord!



Christ Online

Another year has come and gone, and online worship seems to be here to stay. It wasn't just a one-and-done, 2020 was just a "weird" year, kind of band aid for in-person worship! We're back in person and still seeing the value of online! I have learned so much about social media, online worship streaming, and continuing and fostering online engagement over the last 18 months or so (basically the entirety of the COVID pandemic).

In 2020, my primary focus was making sure as many people as possible were aware of and had access to Christ Lutheran's online worship services when so many churches closed their doors to in-person worship. As we started to slowly transition back to in-person, I expanded my outlook, and the hope is to continue to get closer to the original goal of Christ Online ... but I'll get to that in a moment.

The Worship & Technology team worked tirelessly this year to make worship the very best of the best, and they achieved so much. I am blessed to work side-by-side with them, and I'm proud to think our online worship is touching lives far beyond the walls of our buildings. I participated in New Member classes this year, and I'm happy to report that we've taken in new members who don't even live in North Carolina!

Our Welcome & Communications team continued to keep everyone connected through E-News, our Christ Connections Newsletter, and focused, scheduled, and informative posts to all our social media platforms.

The New Year brings new challenges and new opportunities for growth for our fourth campus. As I've mentioned several times, the original design of Christ Online was three-fold. Sunday morning worship was the central and first component to be sure. We threw around the idea of a mid-week Bible study second, and then the pandemic forced so many of our classes into online-only or hybrid sessions that took care of itself and will continue to operate in a hybrid way. But the third, the community aspect, was to be extremely important, and in the physical sense I haven't been able to work on that much. I'm hoping to explore ways the folks who comment on Sunday morning or participate in mid-week Zoom classes can somehow develop a space for online OR physical gathering in 2022.

My mission does not lack in volunteer need! I've been SO thankful for the Online Chat team that has begun to develop across the campuses. Thank you to Andy Bell and Debi Taube for chatting with worshippers

at Christ Concord and thank you SO much to Blair Barbour for being so flexible and helping me chat with our Christ Providence folks on Sunday mornings. In the coming year I'd love to add many more voices to Sunday morning chat, so please reach out to me if you're at all interested at awilliams@christelca.org.

I'm the first person to encourage everyone who can to come home to the house of the Lord and worship in person with us each Sunday. However, ignoring the potential that online worship has to reach well beyond our walls, well beyond our city, and well beyond our state would be short-sighted and not spreading the seed we've been called to spread. So as we enter a new year, I'm once again buckling up to see what new challenges come my way; I'll see you online!!

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Williams
Online Minister



Alexis Williams,
Christ Online
Minister

*If you'd like to help
with Sunday
morning chat,
or if you have
ideas for ways
to engage our
people more
online, contact
Alexis at
awilliams@christelca.org*

Christ Lutheran Children's Center

It has been a big year here at the Children's Center! The amazing teachers and parents of our center made it through the first half of the year dealing with all the trials of the pandemic and saying goodbye to their beloved Director, Linda Warren-Sidway. She was part of CLCC for over 25 years and was loved by all. She had a special place in her heart for this center and all the children and teachers here. We are grateful for her many years of service. She made a difference in so many people's lives. Linda retired in May and the Children's Center welcomed me with open arms.

We hit the ground running in June with Summer Camp. It was a great success and a fun time for me to get to know the teachers and families

before we started the new school year. We allowed parents to return into the building but continued with all the other protocols for the pandemic. It proved to be a welcome change and little bit of normalcy for us all.

We brought on many new teachers as we extended our operational hours back to normal. They have fit right in with our incredible staff and we have quickly become a new and bigger family! We added teacher workdays this year to help support our teachers in their planning and professional development. They were so pleased to be able to have the time and resources to make this center the best it can be.

This year we were able to add in some fun events like Trunk or Treat and the

Turkey Trot. They were so much fun and an overwhelming success. We look forward to more events this spring and eventually having the parents be able to attend when we feel it is safe.

We worked for and received a grant this winter to continue to help us support our teachers and families through the ever-changing needs of the pandemic. We are very grateful to have the support of the church, the community and all of our families as we get through this tough time. We are looking forward to an even better 2022!

Blessings,



Meg Semm
Director



Meg Semm
Director,
Christ Lutheran
Children's Center





Thrive Day School is Blooming

Thrive, a preschool, kindergarten, and homeschool co-op for children with exceptional learning needs, is midway through its 4th year of operation and has been, in a word, “Thriving”. With the expansion from the South campus to Providence and Concord campuses, the opportunity to impact more families and a larger community has grown exponentially. From a single student, a teacher, and a director four years ago, the school has grown and now has over 60 students not counting teachers, therapists, and other staff.

Each number represents a story. That first student was non-verbal when he started and spoke his first word “car” by Christmas that year. Now that student is in kindergarten and loves to talk. His favorite “outdoor activity” is to take a book to the playground and read it out loud (or just make up a story and tell it out loud”). If you attended the Trunk-or-Treat, you probably met him (he talked to everyone) and maybe didn’t even know it.

We had a Christmas program at the Providence campus last month where 27 students and their families attended. For some elementary students it was their first time to ever participate in a program. The atmosphere of “inclusion” is just amazing. One family, from Gastonia, visiting for a tour, marveled how other Thrive Home students quickly befriended their child - something that had *never* happened and what they wanted for her so much. They immediately joined Thrive and have been so excited about the program ever since.

In Concord, there is a strong sense of community among those attending. Families have been posting many positive comments about Thrive on Facebook and other social media sites, sharing it with other families of children with special needs. As a result, Thrive Concord has more than a dozen tours and continues to grow. The families of the students have been enjoying being

part of the weekly chapel. Several families that came to CLC’s Trunk-or-Treat also attended the Christmas Eve service at Providence. The opportunity to be used by God to make a transformational impact on these young lives, their families, and their community is tremendous.

Such a great opportunity also comes with increased challenges. Expanding to multiple campuses has not been easy. There have been many staffing and facility challenges, but God’s hand of favor and providence has been clearly evident.

We are excited about the future of Thrive and welcome your continued prayer and support. If you would like to know more about how you can help or just want to hear more of the great (and funny) stories, please ... just ask.

Laura Scott
Director



Laura Scott
Director
Thrive Day School





Cornerstone Gifts

It was another challenging year for Cornerstone Gifts due to the pandemic. As we were pretty much shut down the year before, Cornerstone Gifts was unable to present any money for Outreach. We saw the return of BSF in the fall and much more activity at the church overall, which has translated into better sales this year than last. The final numbers are not in yet and it may be we will have a little left over so hopefully we will have a donation to present this year.

Cornerstone Gifts is constantly looking for ways to improve our growth and actively searching for the newest and best products and prices available, which creates an ever-changing line of affordable gifts, cards and jewelry. We also carry several local products and are looking to expand our local/regional product lines with gifts by church members and staff. Cornerstone Gifts also looks to products from vendors who give back to their communities or worthy organizations.

Cornerstone Gifts continues to be blessed with an extraordinary group of volunteers whose dedication keeps the doors open for business. They work extremely hard to make Cornerstone Gifts your place to shop for gifts of all kinds, including cards, jewelry, and home décor, as well as Bibles.

Cornerstone Gifts needs more volunteers to help keep our good work going. Please reach out to any staff member or the manager of the store. We have current needs for more team members. The store is currently only open Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday 9:30-12:30. Once things return to a more normal state, and we can get more volunteers, we will resume our pre-pandemic hours.

In addition to the volunteers, Cornerstone Gifts has a part-time manager and accountant.

All of us at Cornerstone Gifts want you to stop in to browse, shop and visit with us throughout the year!

Cornerstone Gifts opened April 23, 2013 as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit entity. Profits from the sales go towards Christ Lutheran sponsored outreach. Cornerstone is in the Worship Center at Christ Providence.

CORNERSTONE CAFÉ

Cornerstone Café is also in the Worship Center just outside the doors of Cornerstone Gifts. It offers a place to come and enjoy God's peace and meet friends, gather in small groups or just to work and play on your laptop. Cornerstone Café is open whenever the Church is open and offers free coffee and Wi-Fi. Please stop by and enjoy. If you are working from home and need a change of scenery, stop by.

Tom Kramer,
Cornerstone Manager

cornerstone
gifts



Tom Kramer
Cornerstone Manager



**4519 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
704-366-1595
www.christelca.org**