# 2022 Annual Report

**January 29, 2023** 



## CHRISTLUTHERAN

providence | south | concord | online

### **2023 Continuing Council Members**



Mark Ficken



Eric Trosch



Luann Martinson



Chad Mohn



Billy Mussari



Jessica Shurley



Eric Runge



David Brown



### 2023 Congregational Meeting Agenda

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**Opening Prayer** 

**Approval of 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes** 

**Recognition of Outgoing Council Members** 











**Amy Kochan** 

**Amy Kochan** 

Pastor Ryan Ritzmann

**Pastor Scott Suskovic** 

Dean Emmans Thomas Sallach

Amy Kochan

Margaret White

Peyton Youse

•	Council Flections	see nominee biographies p. 6	S) Amy	/ Kochan
•	Council Liections	see nonniee blograpines p. C	<i>))</i>	/ NUCHAH

President's Report **Amy Kochan** 

**Treasurer's Report David Brown** 

**Benevolence Amy Daniels** 

**Endowment Tom Brydon** 

Pastor's Report

 Christ Providence **Pastor Scott Suskovic** 

 Christ Online Alexis Williams

 Christ Concord **Pastor Scott Suskovic** 

• Thrive School Report

 Christ South Pastor Scott Suskovic & Pastor Ryan Ritzmann

Campus

Land/Building

2023 Budget Presentation **David Brown** 

**New Business Amy Kochan** 

**Motion to Adjourn Amy Kochan** 

**Closing Prayer** Pastor Ryan Ritzmann

## **Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes**January 23, 2022

The 2022 Annual Meeting was held on January 23, 2022 in the Sanctuary at Christ Providence. The meeting was brought to order at 12:18 P.M. by Amy Kochan, Council President. Pastor Scott opened with prayer.

Amy Kochan provided motion to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Recognition of Outgoing Council Members

- ♦ Lane Goode
- Ralf Meyer
- Melissa Topinka
- Corey Ford
- Christina Masters
- ♦ Hannah Webster

Council Elections were held. The following are Council Nominees:

- ♦ Eric Runge
- Billy Mussari
- Jessica Shurley
- David Brown
- Peyton Youse

Votes were tallied (79 from Providence, 10 from Concord, 48 Online) and the nominees were unanimously approved.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT Kelli Addison

 2021 Revenues came in at \$3,400,176 with \$3,084,606 in expenses, resulting in a surplus of \$316K. Highlights include:

- Congregational care expenses were down due to the pandemic
- Worship & technology expenses rose with remote worship
- Christ South expenses were down due to lower facility costs.
- Personnel expenses were down following Pastor Matt's resignation

### 2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Kelli Addison

2022 is a balanced budget with an increase of ~\$113K from the 2021 budget.

#### Expenses:

- Christ South is up due to facility costs at Polo Ridge.
- Debt Service is up due to the mortgage from Christ South moving into the operating budget (previous gift exhausted).
- Personnel is down given the decision not to replace Pastor Drew immediately.
   2022 Budget total is \$3,260,851.

Amy Kochan provided motion to approve the 2022 budget as presented and it was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **BENEVOLENCE**

Amy Daniels

Amy praised the congregation for its continued generosity throughout COVID. While face-to-face interactions have been down given the ongoing pandemic, we are still finding ways to support those in need.

- Benevolence supports various institutions (Roof Above, Crisis Ministry, Cooperative Christian Ministry, etc.)
- Supported 25-30 families for Thanksgiving
- Provided regular groceries to families on a weekly basis
- Worked to wrap gifts for Christmas

Amy is hoping that things open up this year so that more people have the opportunity to take part.

Benevolent Funds include 12% of the overall church budget (\$300K+) and a gift from Endowment1.

#### **ENDOWMENT**

Tal Owen

2021 was a good year for the Endowment funds. We ended with \$1,253,000, roughly \$144K more than at the end of 2020.



Thomas Sallach Secretary



### Meeting minutes cont.

Funds are invested 60% in equities, 25% in fixed income and 5% cash. •

Distributions totaled \$44,510 (~\$7K more than 2020)

- ♦ \$30,612 given to Benevolence (up from ~\$26K in 2020)
- \$13,988 available for use at Church Council's discretion •

#### Looking at 2022:

- Hoping to host a recognition dinner in April to say THANK YOU to all donors.
- Planning to host an educational session with the ELCA that will provide information on leaving legacy gifts.
- Ken Sumlin and Joe Wall have completed their terms. Wayne Clark and Bob Frost will begin their terms in January.

### PASTOR'S REPORT CHRIST CONCORD

Tenny Shifley

Christ Concord merged with Christ Lutheran in September of 2017

- Currently working with a task force to see where we are after 4 years.
- The church recently completed a vitality survey and had stellar marks.
- Attendance

quadrupled in the first 2 years, pre-COVID

#### **Programming**

- COVID has threatened to take programming away, though it was flourishing before.
- Pivoted to blended experiences, both for Worship and midweek gatherings.
- Extensive renovations have been done, including:
  - · Full paint job
  - Sacristy
  - Space for Thrive School
  - Playground opening 2022)
  - Flower beds and community garden

#### **People**

- Splash was not held in 2020 but returned in 2021 with great enthusiasm.
- 70% of the people associated have come since 2018

Pastor Tenny closed by welcoming all to come and see what's going on at Concord.

#### **CHRIST SOUTH**

Pastor Ryan Ritzman

Pastor Ryan introduced himself after joining Christ Lutheran at the end of November 2021. He will be taking over Small Groups for Drew, doing mid-week bible study with

Pastor Scott, and will also be taking over Events and Evangelism.

Ryan praised Amy Topping, Ashley Cook and Danny Cooper, among others, for being great leaders at Christ South. They have been instrumental in his transition.

Christ South is currently worshipping at Polo Ridge again (about 6 weeks in).

#### **CHRIST ONLINE**

Alexis Williams

This year's story is very different from 2020, which thrust us into a primarily online experience.

Sunday morning online worship has a small chat team that engages with attendees.

There is a strong partnership with the Worship and Tech teams to help make the online worship experience great.

We have learned some new ways to measure attendance, something that was unclear for most of 2020. For example on January 9, 2022 we had about 335 reliable views (178 from YouTube concurrent views and 157 via Facebook for more than 1 min).

The Online team will continue to find ways to keep everyone connected, both during service and throughout the week.



### Meeting minutes cont.

#### CHRIST PROVIDENCE

Pastor Scott Suskovic

With so many changes, the church continues on:

- CLC was closed for the first time on March 15, 2020
- Christ South was kicked out of CMS's Polo Ridge
- We've seen low inperson attendance during last couple of Easters and Christmas
- New member classes have people that have never stepped on a Christ Lutheran property

#### **SCOTT'S TEAM**

- Music & Worship is led by Mark Glaeser. His team has worked to bring a quality worship experience, both in person and online. Scott also recognized Mark's coming retirement in the spring.
- Online Ministry is led by Alexis Williams. She has had to create an online experience on the fly, much faster than was originally expected. She is now helping other churches across the country given our successes.
- Christ Concord is led by Pastor Tenny. His mission of a restart is

harder than starting a brand new church as it involves changing culture and traditions. Scott and Tenny are both part of a vitality task force working to shape a vision for Concord's future.

- Pastor Ryan. South was doing extremely well, then COVID hit and suddenly they had no place to worship and Pastor Matt left in Summer 2021. Ryan is meshing well with the South community and is working to restore enthusiasm.
- Benevolence is led by Amy Daniels. As Amy touched on earlier, we are still finding ways to help those in need even while McPie has been shut down.
- Facilities is led by Gregg Huether. He continues to do a great job making sure that we are safe and compliant with an ever-changing COVID environment.
- Scott is also thankful for having Amy Kochan as Council President. She has been a great help and trusted advisor.

In-Person attendance is roughly 50% of what it was prior to COVID, and programming attendance is about 30%. Giving has increased however and

has allowed us to do ministry.

#### **LOOKING TO 2022:**

We will hold a celebration for Mark Glaeser as he retires after 32 years.

Transition plans will form quickly.

- Good Soil/Christ
   South Working to
   assemble the Design
   Team again with
   Ryan fully on board. •
   Capital Campaign to
   be picked up again at
   a time TBD. The
   vision is still good.
- The Christ Concord Vitality Task Force is meeting to figure out a go-forward strategy.

We will not be replacing Pastor Drew's position right away, instead waiting for things to ramp back up. COVID restrictions play a big part in this.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Floor was opened. Nothing was raised.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Amy Kochan

This has been a year of transition as schools and businesses have opened back up and masks came

off (though they are back now). It is GREAT to see people back in person at worship, especially the packed house at Christmas. Acting as Council President you really get to see how much our pastors give to



this church and just how wonderful the staff is. We owe them many thanks! • We learned a lot in 2021 and are looking forward to a great 2022. God will guide our path. • Amy read Psalm 98:1 to close.

Meeting Adjourned:

Amy Kochan provided a motion to adjourn the meeting. A second was received from the congregation and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 P.M.

Pastor Ryan closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Thomas Sallach

### 2023 Christ Lutheran Church Council Nominees



**Janet Wilson** 

Janet has been married to Richard Wilson since April 2007, and they are both members of Christ Lutheran. She grew up in the Midwest and in the Lutheran church, Missouri Synod. Janet's children, Hailey Kessler Hourigan and Kyle Kessler grew up at CLC. Both are now married and she is grateful that they both live in North Carolina. Richard and Janet enjoy traveling and spending time with family.

Janet is Vice President, Human Resources and Organization Development, with Premier, a healthcare performance improvement company.

Janet previously served on the CLC Personnel committee and looks forward to supporting and contributing to the church's mission as a member of the council.

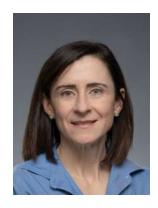


Reneau Van Landingham

"I am a child of God. a lifelong Lutheran, and a native Charlottean". Reneau and his wife. Laura have been members of Christ Lutheran for two years worshipping at the Christ South campus. Reneau and Laura discovered Christ South in 2020 during the beginning of the pandemic and worshipped online until inperson worship was available again on the land. They have five children, four of which are adults, two of them are married, and one of those couples will have their first grandchild in April! Their daughter Natalee, is in heaven after 11 beautiful years together with her.

They enjoy sailing on their catamaran, white water canoeing, hiking, and vegetable gardening.

Reneau is an aerodynamic production manager on a NASCAR race team. "My faith journey continues as I navigate through life trusting that God will guide me to opportunities to serve in ways that I am prepared for and ways that I am uncomfortable with. Hopefully I can play a small role in His will for this congregation, our community, and beyond."



**Cassie Thompson** 

Cassie grew up in Hickory, NC, where she attended Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church from birth. Church was a big part of her development and it was a priority for her family growing up. Cassie left home to attend UNC-Chapel Hill (go 'Heels!) where she earned an undergrad degree in Business and a Masters of Accounting. The summers after her sophomore and junior years of college, Cassie worked as a camp counselor at Lutheridge in Arden, NC.

After college, she moved to Charlotte where she

### 2023 Christ Lutheran Church Council Nominees

learned about Christ Lutheran from a neighbor. "CLC felt like the perfect fit, and I've been attending for over 20 years now."

Cassie and her husband, Lee, have been married to for 17 years. They have three children: Natalie (13), Wells (10) and Katie (7). Cassie and her family have enjoyed teaching/attending Sunday school, participating in Saturday evening Veggie Tales in the Pit, and dropping off meals to folks in need weekly during the early days of COVID. "I am excited about an opportunity to serve the church in the capacity of church council."

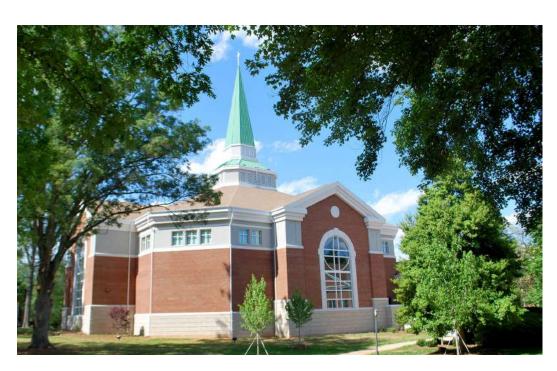
Cassie is in charge of Corporate Accounting at Hendrick Automotive Group. "Because I have a desk job, I seek out any and every opportunity to be physically active outside of work. I love to run, walk, row, play tennis and do anything else my kids talk me into. I also enjoy reading and cooking."



**Melissa Lanoue** 

Melissa was born and raised in the ELCA.. Her husband, Mark and their two boys, Evan and Drew, have been members of Christ Lutheran for about

10 years. Melissa has been involved as a Sunday School teacher for elementary age kids and is now teaching the high school Sunday School class with Mark. Over the years, she has helped with Christmas programs, Urban Ministry's Soup Kitchen on Sundays, and has helped with a variety of other outreach programs supported by Christ Lutheran. Melissa's career has been in consulting, alliance management, and technology/solution sales. She enjoys spending her time volunteering at her kids' schools and supporting them in their activities. In her free time, she loves spending time with family and friends, traveling, trying new things, and spending time outside in nature.





### 2022 Financial Report & 2023 Budget

### 2022 Operating Fund Performance

2022 was a strong year for Christ Lutheran financially. Our members continued to contribute generously, and our church staff did an excellent job of controlling expenses. Overall revenue and expenses both increased compared to 2021, and we ended the year in a similar surplus position compared to previous years.

Revenue increased slightly from the previous year. In 2022, our total revenues were \$3,415,564, or \$15,388 higher than 2021 revenues. However, the 2022 revenues came in \$154,713 over budget.

Our 2022 budget anticipated we would be breakeven for the year. Our expenses for the year, including our mortgage principal payments, totaled \$3,124,513 and were \$136,728 under budget which means we had a surplus of \$291,050 for the year.

A few key expense items in 2022 were as follows: 1) Benevolence paid from the Operating Fund totaled \$368,664, 2) Property Expenses totaled \$309,993, and 3) Debt Service on the Worship Center mortgage was \$295,319.

At the end of the year, we had \$318,827 in our checking account and

\$25,496 in our brokerage account available to meet our operating needs. The new balance on the Worship Center mortgage and Christ South land was \$3,746,859 compared to \$3,918,000 year-end 2021

#### 2023 Proposed Budget

Like last year's budget, the projected revenue for the 2023 budget is expected to meet the projected expenses. The overall budget is down by \$138,934 since we expect a decrease in overall contributions, which exceeds the decrease in overall expenses.

The 2023 budgeted revenue is \$3,121,917. This is \$293,647 lower than the actual revenue received in 2022 and the 2022 budget. About \$2,233,546, or 72% of the revenue budget, is supported by pledge cards that were received from the congregation. In 2022, \$2,333,000, or 72% of our revenue budget was supported by pledge cards from our members.

The budgeted expenses for the upcoming year are also \$3,121,917. This is lower than the 2022 expense budget and the 2022's actual costs, which reflects our best estimates for programming, payroll, and property expenses.

Benevolence expenditures are budgeted to be \$279,687,

or 10% of our member contributions. In 2022 our actual benevolence expenditures were \$368,664, which was 12% of budgeted member contributions.

Property expenses are projected to be \$321,250 which is higher than the actual 2022 costs due to expected increases in utility and maintenance 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 is positioned to continue to have a solid financial future. Our contributions have remained positive during the past year of continued disruption and uncertainty. Due to our financial position in 2022, we can carry a surplus into the 2023 year to help us meet our operating expenses. The financial result of the past year serves as an example of God's abundant blessings. As always, we are thankful to the faithfulness of the congregation in giving generously.

Peace,

David Brown Council Treasurer



David Brown Council Treasurer



# 2022 Operating Fund Performance & Proposed 2023 Budget

Categories	2	023 Budget 100%		2022 Budget 100%	2022 Actual	2022 Actual s Budgeted	2	Change 2023 vs 2022 Budget	% Change 2023 vs 2022
REVENUES									
Contributions	\$	3,087,917	\$ 3	3,226,851	\$ 3,397,291	\$ 170,440	\$	(138,934)	-4.3%
Other income	\$	34,000	\$	34,000	\$ 18,273	\$ (15,727)	\$	-	0.0%
	\$	3,121,917	\$ 3	3,260,851	\$ 3,415,564	\$ 154,713	\$	(138,934)	-4.3%
EXPENSES									
<b>Total Missions</b>	\$	279,791	\$	332,505	\$ 368,664	\$ 36,159	\$	(52,714)	-15.9%
<b>Congregational Care</b>	\$	2,000	\$	3,950	\$ 1,659	\$ (2,291)	\$	(1,950)	-49.4%
Worship & Music	\$	34,300	\$	32,800	\$ 32,017	\$ (783)	\$	1,500	4.6%
Media & Technology	\$	16,800	\$	16,300	\$ 13,520	\$ (2,780)	\$	500	3.1%
Evangelism	\$	30,500	\$	49,180	\$ 36,939	\$ (12,241)	\$	(18,680)	-38.0%
<b>Christ Concord</b>	\$	35,100	\$	38,100	\$ 34,777	\$ (3,323)	\$	(3,000)	-7.9%
<b>Christ South</b>	\$	51,494	\$	55,200	\$ 37,620	\$ (17,580)	\$	(3,706)	-6.7%
Fellowship	\$	11,600	\$	10,700	\$ 9,386	\$ (1,314)	\$	900	8.4%
<b>Adult Ministry</b>	\$	3,050	\$	3,150	\$ 2,723	\$ (427)	\$	(100)	-3.2%
Family Ministry	\$	53,350	\$	64,850	\$ 45,853	\$ (18,997)	\$	(11,500)	-17.7%
Property Expense	\$	321,250	\$	302,250	\$ 309,993	\$ 7,743	\$	19,000	6.3%
Admin. Expense	\$	100,600	\$	105,250	\$ 88,073	\$ (17,177)	\$	(4,650)	-4.4%
Debt Service	\$	295,319	\$	295,319	\$ 295,319	\$ -	\$	-	0.0%
Misc Expense	\$	17,025	\$	16,525	\$ 16,065	\$ (460)	\$	500	3.0%
Pastors Payroll	\$	514,694	\$	593,529	\$ 558,796	\$ (34,733)	\$	(78,835)	-13.3%
Lay Staff Payroll	\$	560,562	\$	565,490	\$ 536,524	\$ (28,966)	\$	(4,928)	-0.9%
Support Staff Payroll	\$	693,705	\$	677,126	\$ 645,445	\$ (31,681)	\$	16,579	2.4%
<b>Ancillary Personnel</b>	\$	14,500	\$	12,000	\$ 10,157	\$ (1,843)	\$	2,500	20.8%
Other Payroll	\$	86,277	\$	86,627	\$ 80,984	\$ (5,643)	\$	(350)	-0.4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	3,121,917	\$ :	3,260,851	\$ 3,124,514	\$ (136,337)	\$	(138,934)	-4.3%

Net Difference \$ - \$ - \$ 291,050

#### **Notes**

- \* Christ South added property expenses for south land to budget
- \* Have added personnel committee recommendation of 5% COLA equates to \$55,000
- \* 2022 Actual Income includes \$315,570 carry over from 21' & special gift of \$140,409. Actual new giving was \$2,959,585 in 22
- \* 2023 Budget Income assumes carryover usage of \$291,050



### Council President's Report



Amy Kochan Council President

"For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20-21

The best gifts don't have bows. I heard that expression this Christmas, and it resonated with me. As I think about that in terms of our Church, we have so many gifts. 2022 was a year of full programming, returning out of Covid and rebuilding. Life changed in the 2 years of Covid for us all, but the one constant was our Church.

2022 brought the opportunity for us to celebrate staff that had dedicated many years of service to Christ Lutheran. Mark, Laurie, and Gretchen gave so much of themselves to grow and evolve our Church through their service. It was also a year of change, as we said thank you to Pastor Melody and Pastor Tenny as they embarked on new opportunities.

2022 was a year of transition, not only for our church, but for our community. We entered the year with increased optimism as we continued to operate in our post Covid world.

In 2022, our focus continued to be one church and one mission with four campuses. We navigated our changes and put our trust in God's vision for our Church. We continued to rebuild our ministries that were so

impacted by Covid and looked forward with optimism as to what the future may hold. We welcomed new staff in Deacon Kenny Champagne and Eric Hauck, and their talents have been such wonderful additions to CLC. All in all, 2022 was a great year full of potential for the future.

I encourage you to read each report for specific updates on our various ministries at Christ Lutheran.

Our church is so blessed to have great staff and committed volunteers to support these ministries. I'm also thankful for the congregation's commitment fiscally year after year.

In 2022, we had many reasons to celebrate, many reasons to say thanks and even more reasons to thank God for the many blessings of our Church. As I stated in the beginning, we received many gifts, most of which didn't have bows.

As I close, I'd like to personally thank the congregation for allowing me to serve as your President these last two years and on Council for three years. As I end my term, I leave with a renewed appreciation for all the gifts within CLC. I

also leave with optimism for the future of our church – for anything is possible if you have just a little bit of faith.

"For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17:20-21.

Our greatest gifts don't have bows and with God's help, nothing is impossible.

Peace to You All

Amy Kochan
Council President





### **Pastor Scott's Reflections on 2022**



Scott Suskovic Senior Pastor

God has always done his best work with the remnant. and I believe that is happening right now. Instead of trying to recapture a past "normal," it is better to move forward with those who are present and engaged, and ask the new question, "What is God up to and how can we be a part of it?" In so many ways, 2022 was one of those years that many were glad to see pass.

Economically, the stock market dropped almost 20%, interest rates went from 3.5% up to 7.5%, gas prices rose 33%, inflation rose to 8.5% and housing prices rose over 25% with many houses being sold without showings and with multiple offers 10-20% over asking price. It was crazy.

Politically, the Supreme Court overturned the "right" to an abortion, a record number of migrants crossed our borders (two million), Russia invaded Ukraine in what they thought was going to be a quick war (now into its 10th month with Ukraine standing strong) and the hearings over the January 6, 2021, insurrection of the capital following the 2020 presidential vote.

In addition, gun violence continued, racial divisions widened and Covid lingered longer than anyone expected making 2022 a weary year for many.

Where is God in all of this?

God is right there in the midst of it, giving strength to the weary, hope for

those in despair, unity in the face of division and light where the world only focuses on the darkness. God is right there where God always is.

Nationwide, church attendance waned considerably. The average church in 2022 saw church attendance at about 60% of their pre-Covid numbers (CLC was closer to 70%). Some blamed laziness of getting out of the habit, others pointed to the ease of online worship and some simply focused not on who was missing but on those who have returned as being the ones who are deeply committed and ready to regather as the community of believers after living in isolation of Covid for so long.

God has always done his best work with the remnant, and I believe that is happening right now. Instead of trying to recapture a past "normal," it is better to move forward with those who are present and engaged, and ask the new question, "What is God up to and how can we be a part of it?"

At Christ Lutheran, plenty.

If you believe what Jesus said about our treasures are placed where our hearts are, then Christ Lutheran is filled with faithful people who gave abundantly and faithfully even with a lowered attendance. We ended the year with a surplus of \$291,000. Financially, even with a sinking economy and lower attendance, the good people of CLC continued to give generously.

Attendance did continue to grow, though more slowly than I had hoped. Christmas attendance, though not quite at the pre-Covid level, rose from 1560 to over 2100. All pointing in the right direction.

The staff remained strong and committed to the ministries of Christ Lutheran. This year we saw several changes. We bid farewell to several staff members including my wife, Gretchen, who served as the welcoming face for visitors for 20 years; Mark Glaeser, who served this congregation so faithfully for 32 years as Music Director; Pastor Melody Simpkins left to pursue other opportunities, Pastor Tenny Shifley resigned from Christ Concord to become the Development Officer for Lutheran Services for the Carolinas, and Laurie Carter, after 22 years as Director of Communications,

decided to enjoy the gift of retirement.

Well done, good and faithful servants!

In 2022, we welcomed several people to staff, including Rich Sampson to help with property concerns at South and Concord, Eric Hauck as the Assistant Music Director, Aimee Hawkins as the coordinator of Family Ministries at Christ Concord and most recently, Deacon Kenny Champagne as the Director of Family Ministries.

What will 2023 bring? We have lifted up a single word for the year, *Hineni*. It is a Hebrew word that means, "Here I am!" It doesn't mean, "Here I am!", as if you are answering a roll call. It doesn't mean, "Here I am!", as if people are looking for you. It is a stepping forth in commitment, to hear the call and answer it with a definitive, "Yes!" In the truest sense, *Hineni* means, "The answer is yes before you even ask."

With this strong, faithful remnant, we will keep this word forever before us in 2023

#### to say:

- Here I am to worship
- ♦ Here I am to give
- ♦ Here I am to forgive
- ♦ Here I am to serve
- ♦ Here I am to share

And then we are going to trust in the God who abundantly blessed his servants of old, who also heard the call, who also answered the call and who also lived the call with a resounding, **Hineni**. Here I am, send me!

With Great Expectations,

Peace.

/ Scott Suskovic

Senior Pastor



How
CHRIST
LUTHERAN
COMPARES
TO THE
ELCA

2022	ELCA	Christ Lutheran
Average # Baptized Members	375*	3015
Confirmed Members	295*	2504
Average Worship	95*	612
Members to Worship Ratio	26%*	20%*
Avg. Gift per Baptized Member	\$595*	\$953.80

<sup>\* 2019</sup> Numbers were used due to COVID Shut-down

Page 14 2022 Annual Report

### Christ Lutheran Membership 2012-2022

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Membership 1/1	2808	2728	2837	2832	2876	2920	3072	3006	3007	2925	2958
Child Baptism	42	49	42	44	31	42	45	40	32	33	47
Adult Baptism	9	4	1	2	5	2	2	4	1	0	1
Affirmation	48	42	64	23	32	64	36	39	30	4	11
Lutheran Transfer	46	39	28	42	64	108	45	58	12	9	45
Non-Lutheran Transfer	9	26	23	30	23	22	13	30	23	14	9
Statistical Change	0	8	0	0	1	5	0	11	25	3	0
Total Received	154	168	158	141	156	243	141	182	123	63	113
Death	7	15	22	13	19	9	8	15	20	14	18
Transfer	92	44	68	22	21	45	24	38	31	16	38
Statistical Change	135	0	73	62	72	75	175	128	154	0	0
Total Removed	234	59	163	97	112	129	207	181	205	30	56
Membership 12/31	2728	2837	2832	2876	2920	3072	3006	3007	2925	2958	3015
Avg. Worship Attendance	1157	1188	1141	1058	1032	1067	1070	1034	1034*	481	612

<sup>\*</sup> 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. 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.

The value of the two funds on December 31, 2022 totaled \$1,061,523. The 'Outreach Fund' was \$716,002, a decrease of about \$140,000 from 2021. Contributions to this Fund during the year totaled \$250. The distribution from the Fund in January 2023 was \$31,190, a slight increase over January 2022.

The value of the 'General Purpose Fund' at year-end

was \$345.521. Contributions during the year were \$13,351 and the January 2023 distribution was \$14,469. This Fund decreased in value by \$51,000 from 2021 and the January distribution increased slightly. The Endowment Funds are invested similarly. They are invested to balance risk and reward. At year-end, the portfolio was approximately 68% equities and 32% fixed income and cash. The return on investment for the year was negative 13%.

The Endowment Committee held its third bi-annual dinner in April to recognize those people who have contributed to our Endowment over the years. Approximately 60 people attended and Pastor Scott and Amy Daniels provided overviews of how distributions from the Funds have been used in the recent past.

In addition, the Committee

sponsored a Legacy Planning lunch and presentation by our own, Stephanie Burke of the ELCA Foundation in November. Over 25 people attended this event.

At the end of 2022, Glenda Jones and Tal Owen completed their terms on the Committee. Rae Eagle and Pam Wingard are joining the Committee in January. The Committee thanks Glenda and Tal for their service and commitment.



Chair
Committee
Tom Brydon
Wayne Clark

Bob Fraas Glenda Jones, Sec. Tal Owen Bruce Voelker Pastor Scott Suskovic

	VALUES D	ISTRIBUTIONS
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
1/1/2023	\$1,061,523	\$45,659

ENDOWMENT FUND

### **Evangelism & Adult Ministry**

2022

You know how when you get a cold and feel all cruddy? And then the cold starts to dissipate and that normal feeling comes back. There's a relief and comfort in the normal. Sometimes it takes a cold to remind us how wonderful "just" normal can be. After three years of having to mask-up, stay back, and postpone being Church it was a great year to finally be getting back together doing all those things we had taken for granted.

### EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

There are a plethora of opportunities for getting into the Word of God. There are many groups getting together on Sundays and continuing their time with each other and the Word.

This Fall we (re)launched our small groups. There are presently over 15 groups meeting. These groups have a variety of subjects, demographics, times and locations. If you are in a small group then you know how powerful they are to your spiritual growth and wellbeing. If you aren't in a group, I would encourage you to contact me or hop on Realm and take some time to find a group to join. There are other groups still forming and you can always start one yourself. We have training for small group leaders in late Summer to set up even the most novice with

success. The groups that have been formed span from traditional small groups going through the bible to fellowship groups to meet and watch movies. There is even a group forming presently which is focused on the environment and they plan to pick up litter around our church's area.

Don't run in the halls! Now, I know, as a pastor, and dad, that running in the halls is not a good idea. A child rounds a corner and slams into an unsuspecting person. The chaos that can ensue is real. But if I'm being honest. I secretly love it. Is there anything better than a child feeling so comfortable with their church that they can just be free and run?! Again, I know, I know, no running in the halls, but it makes me so happy to have to remind our children to walk. I love seeing the rosy cheeks and sweaty foreheads as they chase each other in the gym. Chad Mohn does saintly work getting them together to play basketball. Then they all scatter after dinner to their various groups, projects, and songs. This stuff isn't just stuff, it's the good stuff. It's the best stuff. This is where the kids will make the memories that last them a lifetime; where they will know they were loved and build their relationship with each other and our LORD. And, we know the single best way to impart faith to our child is by

practicing our faith ourselves. When our children see we, parents and church family members, going to our groups and studies then they see that this stuff isn't just stuff, it's important spiritual practices.

Wednesdays Together is just the right mix of spiritual growth and sweaty kids. We have (re)launched several groups, lectures and activities for adults and children every Wednesday. Chefs Mike and Alicia make a different meal each week, after which we all go to our various groups. I know that, on a personal level, the group I have ioined has been delightful. I enjoy studying the same material with my wife. which has enriched our spiritual life together. And most recently I laughed so hard I almost peed my pants. Jesus and belly laughs, the only thing better would be running in the halls of the church you call home.

#### **FELLOWSHIP**

Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

After getting into the Word, the teachings of the Apostles, the second most important thing the early Christians did was Hang out. Being Christian and being together is critical to a life in Christ. We have had a series of events this last year in an



Ryan Ritzmann Pastor, Christ South

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### **Evangelism & Adult Ministry (cont.)**

2022

effort to create opportunities to "just" hang out. We went to the Charlotte Knights baseball game. We had a series of events outside by the fountain where we ate great food from Chefs Mike and Alicia. We listened to music from our own church band. Bill Porter and Mike Wilder. We had some good beer from Divine Barrel and had great fellowship. The capstone fellowship event was our Oktoberfest on the land. What a blowout! We had a trunk-or-treat and bounce houses. Chef Mike proved he is the master of all things food and provided a fabulous brat and sauerkraut meal. Connie Kramer served warm pretzels and we all talked and danced to an amazing German styled oom-pah band. Did you catch when they did their version of Toto's Africa? Brilliant! Oktoberfest was an absolute blast and if you missed it you really did miss out on something special.

We are continuing the Fellowship series into 2023. We will have a Fellowship at the Firepit where we will gather in the Pit and have a fire outside for roasting marshmallows and drinking hot chocolate as well as listening to music and fellowshipping. I don't think Jesus ever mentions s'mores during His ministry, but I'm sure that He would approve and would have the most perfectly golden-brown marshmallow smushed

between His graham crackers. I don't have the patience. My marshmallows always catch on fire and then I blow them out. Mark your calendar for February 11<sup>th</sup> and join in the fun and fellowship.

#### COMMUNICATION

You may not be aware, but there is a whole team of people who manage our webpage, brochures, and create the kiosk posters in the upper commons that advertise the sermon series and upcoming events. They manage our ministry tool Realm and put together E-news. Christ Connections Newsletter, manage our social media, and most everything that informs you and our quests about what's going on at all our campuses. It has been my honor to work with this team this last year. The Communication Team includes: Marcie Kelliher, Alexis Williams, Kathy Hofmann, Aimee Topping and Mary Parker.



**Laurie Carter** 

Laurie Carter served CLC and the Communication Team (among other things!) for over two decades. In November, she retired from her position as Communications Director, but along with her family, Laurie will remain an active member of Christ Lutheran. She has served our church admirably. You may not know all of the people who pour themselves into their work for our church, but you should know how special Laurie is. If you see her, give her a hug and thank her for her years of service. We are all better off for having been served by Laurie these many years.

Ryan Ritzmann Pastor, Christ South



Family Ministry

2022



Kenny Champagne Deacon, Family Ministry

This past year we baptized 48 people, 21 children took the First Communion Class, and 23 students affirmed their faith through the rite of Confirmation!

2022 was a year of change and transition for the Family Ministry Team as we bid multiple staff members farewell and continued to build back ministries that evolved through the pandemic. While I have only been with you all for two months now, I am amazed and energized by the commitment, fortitude, and excellence the Family Ministry Team has shown throughout 2022! It is an amazing thing on its own to say that the Family Ministry Team has fully restored and built back ministry coming out of the pandemic. It is a whole other achievement and miracle to say that they accomplished this task severely under-staffed! I commend this team of paid and unpaid

In 2022, we baptized 48 people, 21 children took the First Communion Class, and 23 students affirmed their faith through the rite of Confirmation! WOW!

servants who have

given the families and

themselves so that they

God's presence in their

young people of this

might know and hear

congregation all of

lives!

Kristen Rank has helped lead the team during the transitions continuing to provide incredible ministry to our elementary kids and their families while also helping to make sure middle and high school

youth and Stepping Stones continued with excellence in the absence of a youth director and Pastor for Family Ministries. Kate Harrison continues to provide wonderful ministry to preschoolers and their families. She manages nursery attendants and continues to foster relationships between the church and the Children's Center through chapel time and other offerings during the year. Aimee Topping has her feet in many different ministries and continues to shepherd children and Family Ministry at Christ South with multiple family events, Confirmation, and middle school nights. Aimee Hawkins joined the team in November as Karen Costea took on other responsibilities at Christ Concord. Aimee has continued to nurture the wonderful ministries at Christ Concord with the families of The Gathering and dreaming up new ways to connect families there. Jane Satterfield held the team together with her gifts of organization and details providing support for everyone with scheduling, emails, supplies, and just an overall ability to keep all the balls in the air! Marsha Voorhees continues to provide a loving and hospitable place for the youngest of our community in the nursery. The smile that

greets children and parents is infectious and you can see the wonderful ways the children find comfort in her arms. Our amazing volunteers have stepped up and given freely of their time to make sure our young people are loved and cared for. Natalva Legvold continues to pour into our high school and middle school youth with her leadership in Peer Ministry, helping to write and create Sunday School curriculum, and being present for students. Brad Gilliam has been key in keeping our middle schoolers connected through his support of Fusion nights, leading small groups on Sunday mornings, and helping to build connections amongst the students. Bill Porter has given generously of his time, above and beyond his "official" capacity at Christ Lutheran, to support our youth throughout the year during Dinner and Devotions, Fusion Nights, and with youth events at the South Campus. Our dedicated and Spirit-filled volunteers have allowed us to continue to build back our ministries in new and exciting ways! The Family Ministry team is a gift not only to Christ Lutheran but to the new guy who has come into a large system trying to learn all the ins and outs! I can see why Family Ministry at CLC has continued to be successful and it is -



because of the many people God has given to us for this time and place!

The Xperience, our high school touring choir, was back in action with the Comeback Tour during the summer of 2022. They rocked it out and came back in the fall ready to prepare an incredible Christmas concert with the addition of a clever telling of the Christmas story written by the students! Great show, terrific music, storytelling, and an incredible display of silk dancing that took our breath away!

Christ South returned to in person worship at Polo Ridge in December of 2021, so this past year has been focused on finding our way! We celebrated a Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. A highlight for our kids, and all of Christ Lutheran, was Trunk or Treat during Oktoberfest- especially the candy cannon! For our ongoing ministries, children from Preschool through Middle School come to BLAST (Bible **Learning Activity Station** Time) for fun, interactive faith building during the sermon on Sundays. The mix of ages allows the children to stretch their understanding of bible stories and develop caring relationships. South has several Middle Schoolers who get together monthly at the Christ South campus to "hang out" and they also attend Confirmation Class with Pastor Ryan before Worship. For the high

schoolers at South, most have joined the Guest Experience Team which helps set up and break down the gym for worship each week. Additionally, our families join with those at Providence for activities like Stepping Stones, Fusion, the Xperience, and more.

Christ Concord began offering a shush-free, family-centered worship service at 11:00 Sundays. Several families with special needs children attend. The campus also began hosting Faithful Friends Fellowship monthly to reach families who benefit from a more casual and personal church experience.

We revamped **VBS** in 2022 and continued to offer it at no cost to the community! With 97 campers and over 30 adult and youth volunteers, we were able to lavishly scatter the seeds of faith in our kids. High energy group openings and closings, spontaneous dance parties and learning about the amazing love of Jesus jump started our summer in the best way!

While I was only present for a month out of all of 2022, the year ended with a bang and a combined Christmas party with middle and high schoolers. 38 students attended with 7 adults and included a terrific Chinese dinner, games, music, and white elephant gift exchange! I could see the energy that is present and the sprouting of new

life for Christ Lutheran Church. Then I got to be a part of the Family Christmas Eve Worship where 150 people joined us at 10:00 for a rambunctious and joyful worship with bells, song, laughter, and learning. Sparks of new life are sprouting up all over CLC! I can sense the energy coming into this new year and it is so good!

In one of our last Family Ministry Team meetings, one of us said, "We are back!" I think this captures exactly where we are; we are back! How exciting! And yet, challenges still lie ahead of us. We remain short staffed and continue the search for a youth minister to fill out our Family Ministry team. We are back! But the way we used to do things doesn't necessarily work for the world that is ahead of us. The beauty is, we worship the God of resurrection! This coming year will be an exciting one as we are back, and we will continue to grow and listen to the ways God is calling us to be church together. We will continue to evaluate our ministries, make changes, adapt, experiment, innovate, and grow. We will do so faithfully, trusting in the God who raises the dead and knowing that new life is, in fact, springing up all around us!

What could be more exciting than witnessing resurrection right in front of your eyes! Come and see with us, it is glorious, hard, and beautiful work and we are back! Thanks be to God! Come and see!

Peace!

Description of the page of the pag

Deacon Kenny Champagne

### **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.

#### 2022 Benevolence Committee

Thom Uhlir Gwen Glaeser Dennis Getter Chad Mohn Amy Daniels, Staff Liaison

#### **Outreach Staff**

Amy Daniels, Director of Outreach

Angela Davis, Outreach Associate

Sharhonda Morgan, McPIE Community Liaison

Dee Dee Petronis McPIE Programs Assistant

Lisa Heirigs, McPIE Programs Assistant

In 2022, we added a couple of new recipients of our benevolence dollars. As part of our 8 Days of Service, we supported and worked with Hunger Fight to package meals that stayed right here in the Charlotte area. One of our wonderful accomplishments was to form an Afghan Refugee Support Team and we have a family with whom we are partnered. One of the projects at our Alternative Gift Market supported this effort as well as a Thrivent Action Team and individual donations.

At the end of the year, we made contributions to Matthews Habitat for Humanity and Mitey Riders. We hope to deepen these relationships in 2023. We also want to spotlight community agencies and programs that are important to our members already. We hope to hear from folks about places that they are involved.

- 8 Days of Service was a great success:
- 1- We hosted
  McClintock Teacher
  Meeting providing 80
  McClintock teachers with
  donated homemade
  morning and afternoon
  snacks, drinks, and a
  delicious lunch by Mike
  Wallace.
- 2- We hosted Hunger Fight and 17,472 meals were packaged by close to 200 volunteers and we distributed 9 boxes to Greenway Park

Elementary, 6 boxes to Idlewild Elementary, 6 boxes to Rama Road Elementary, 12 boxes to McClintock Middle, 15 boxes to Cooperative Christian Ministry of Cabarrus County, and 42 boxes to Second Harvest Food Bank.

- 3–10 volunteers made and donated 48 Spa Bags, 20 more partial bags.
- 4- A few volunteers worked at Classroom Central for a couple of hours.
- 5 10 volunteers provided Roof Above Drink Service for 2 lunches, buying, chilling, and serving 700 canned drinks.
- 6 Volunteers worked at Roof Above Garden.
- 7 Stuffing event filled over 1,000 drawstring backpacks.
- 8 One member enlisted her whole office to donate and fill 96 Backpacks full of supplies and delivered them to McClintock.
- 9 A large number of backpacks full of school supplies were collected also.
- 10 Voter Registration Training was held and 2 Events held to encourage voter registration.
- 11 Teacher Partner
  Project 20 boxes made
  for newest teachers and 60
  more boxes made and
  delivered to rest of teacher
  classrooms
- 12 6 volunteers provided copy service for

McClintock teachers including \$250 of paper and over 15,000 copies.

- 13 5 volunteers worked at Samaritan's Feet Warehouse sorting 350 pair of shoes.
- 14 Hygiene Kits and Hope Notes made for Samaritan's Feet.
- 15 Campus Clean Up on Saturday morning with volunteers spreading mulch.
- 16 Protecting Medicare Forum held at Providence Campus one Sunday morning.
- 17 Dove's Nest Collection of specific items and men's clothing for Crisis Assistance adding to what we collect all year long.

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 almost monthly now hosting 8 drives in 2022. 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 almost ten thousand dollars for Samaritan's Purse projects, Lutheran World Relief, and McPIE. Many small groups and classes supported these and other ministries as part





### Benevolence and Outreach (cont.)

of their work together. We have been able to answer the call of specific agencies during this 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.

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 church budget has supported these ministries for over a decade now. 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 Freedom School fundraising, McPIE General Fund donations, Alternative

Gifts Market, CROP Walk, the Feed a Family Fund, grocery and clothing donations, all increase the level of our generosity as well. We helped our members plan and execute well over 60 Thrivent Action teams which provided over \$16,000 in funds for those projects.

In order of descending amounts, Benevolence distributed over \$420,000:

- NC Synod of ELCA
- McClintock Partners in Education
- A Roof Above
- Crisis Assistance Ministries
- Charlotte Community
   Outreach
- Novus Way
- Christmas Family Sponsorships
- Lutheran Services
   Carolinas
- Faith Ministries
- CROP Walk Administration
- Lutheran World Relief

- Habitat Matthews
- NC Synod Lifeline
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank
- Charlotte Rescue Mission
- Cooperative Christian Ministries (Cabarrus County)
- Emmaus
- Agape/Kure Beach
- Hunger Fight
- Kairos Prison Ministries
- Loaves and Fishes
- Mitey Riders
- Quilters

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 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Janes

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.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued to linger during 2022, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools were back to in-person learning. This gave McPIE a great opportunity to slowly get back inside the school building with in-person programming.

#### **Spring 2022 Family** Night returns. **In-Person**

Spring 2022 began a little later than usual trying to navigate another COVID strain. We finally kicked-off Family Night in March! Students and families were eager to get back into out of school time activities. We provided 8 weeks of programming, dinner, and educational fun!

Over the course of Spring, we served 799 meals (averaging ~100 per week), hosted middle school clubs, younger siblings activities, and parent classes. Middle School students were able to choose from 5 clubs. Coding allowed students the opportunity to learn the basics of computer programming. Sketch Squad is for our budding artists. This clubs teaches sketching, shading, and line work. What do you "see" you can draw? Options are endless! Students created spectacular art with basic tools. Woodworking is our

loudest club. Participants build games and boxes and earn tools to put in a new toolbox. Top Scot Chef may be our tastiest club. Learn new foods and how to prepare them. Sports Drills is for students who want to release some energy, run around, and learn basketball and soccer. These clubs combined gave students a well-rounded list of options to choose from and they were all well attended.

Parents chose from 3 different classes. Women's Journey is truly all about healing and restoration for the woman. English as a Second Language (ESL) is for those interested in working on their English language and conversation skills. Let's Race was open to the community and included informal conversation with individuals with different life experiences with the goal to listen, learn, and improve communications between people of different races and ethnic backgrounds.

#### McPIE celebrates 15 years!

Spring 2022 also saw a major milestone for McClintock Partners In Education – we celebrated our 15 year partnership with McClintock Middle School in April! Several events were held to honor such a big achievement

including a volunteer and donor event at Edge City Brewery, cupcakes and fundraising at each campus, as well as the publication of a 15-year newsletter detailing major steps to get to this point. This milestone was certainly not possible without the constant support from dedicated volunteers and donors. Thank you to all who have helped keep our ship afloat!

#### Summer - Science Camp, Freedom School, and more

Over 150 students enjoyed a fun, safe, educational summer, as we swung back into whole summer, in-person, regularly scheduled programming -Thank YOU!!! 50+ Scholars spent six weeks at Christ Providence developing a true love of reading and discovering "Something Inside So Strong." While focusing on literacy, Freedom School Scholars read books that empowered them to make a difference in themselves, their families, their communities and their world. Daily reading was just a part of Freedom School. Scholars participated in many different activities around the city to gain new experiences and insight into the world all around them. Pool days at Ray's Splash Planet and →



### McPIE (cont.)

Cordelia Pool, trips to Discovery Place, bowling, library visits, and Sky Zone, and lake days at the Daniels' Lake Wylie home provided Scholars with an all-around, enriching summer!

Over at McClintock, 80+ future inventors and scientists learned science in a FUN way with hands-on STEAM activities. Whether it was ocean research in Robotic Aquatics, building their own spinning art robot with materials science in The Attic, or exploring innovative space devices in Spacecation, students left camp with an interest in science and science related careers! Donated recyclables were transformed into marble arcades, innovative gadgets, fish tanks, astronaut space packs, and other cool inventions! After learning concepts in the classroom, Friday field trips allowed students to see science come to life and see careers in action! Trips to Brand RPM and University of North Carolina - Charlotte were a highlight of camp for everyone!

McPIE was also awarded scholarships to send students to Charlotte Latin sports camps, Lutheridge, Lutherock and Camp Agape. Students enjoyed learning new sports and spending time outdoors while exploring nature.

### Family Support – weekly grocery bags

Going through the COVID-19 pandemic, one issue we realized that plagued many families is food insecurity. At the height of COVID, McPIE was distributing 150+ bags per week. While that number has certainly decreased, the need still remains. Bags are still distributed weekly at McClintock Middle School to a group of families who have been identified by school counselors as most in need. Bags are filled with canned meat, vegetables, rice/beans, spaghetti, cereal, breakfast bars, and cleaning/hygiene supplies. These purchases are thanks to individual donors to the Feed A Family fund, Thrivent Action Teams, and a small amount of grant funds. The Garden Ministry grew and donated 2000+ pounds of fresh vegetables that were very well received and appreciated by our families. In all, over the course of 2022, McPIE averaged a weekly distribution of 31 bags of food.

#### Teacher & staff support – heat & eat meals, teacher partners, tutors, staff luncheons

With stress still plaguing McClintock teachers, staff and administration, the weekly Heat & Eat meals distributed on Thankful

Thursday's at the school were a big hit! Each meal was enough to feed 2 people. This was a win for teachers who needed to free up time to focus on teacher grading and planning at home instead of cooking dinner. So much time during the school year was spent covering classes, being out due to quarantine or sickness, and overcome with feelings of overall burnout. Thankful Thursday meals were a way to "give back a little time" to those whose plates were already full. Weekly, 120 containers, containing 2 meals each, 25 weeks, amounted to 6.000 meals for teachers and staff during 2022!

Other teacher support included Teacher Partners (support individual teachers the full school year), Teacher Appreciation Luncheons (provided on early release days in addition to beginning and end of semesters), and Tutors (support individual students and specific teachers). These avenues of support are volunteer driven – thank you to all who support teachers!!

# Fall 2022 Family Night – officially back to a full semester of programming!

Fall of 2022 saw the return of our first FULL semester of Family Night programming. Registration kicked-off in September and clubs and classes met through mid-December. The energy and excitement in the building was contagious. Families loved the support and students loved the engagement. Volunteers were thrilled to connect to students and families again.



### McPIE (cont.)

Classes and clubs met for 9 weeks. Middle School students had some of the same clubs from Spring (Woodworking, Top Scot Chef, Sports Drills, and Sketch Squad) but several more were added. Chess was led by a McClintock teacher. Cyber Security met at Christ Lutheran where students learned about the ethics of hacking and their digital footprint. In Men About Progress, young men learn life skills. Outdoor Adventure is sponsored by Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation. Students enjoy the outdoors, learn teambuilding exercises, and discover nature all around. Ten8o Racing is comprised of a group of students who are on the McClintock competition team where they design, build, and market their racing team. Hands 2 Heart was brand new! Boys and girls were mentored by a group of JCSU graduates. Adults participated in 4 classes: Getting Ahead - a

pathways out of poverty class, Women's Journey – women empowering one another, ESL – learning English language skills, and Foresight 20/20 – trades and technical training.

Our amazing Meals Team served 1705 meals, averaging 171 meals per week. The group of dedicated check-in ladies greeted students and families with a smile each week and the School Store team was busy distributing much needed school supplies.

Each year, the dedication of our Family Night team of volunteers gets better and better. McPIE is blessed to have such a strong group of folks who believe in our mission and the students and families of McClintock Middle School.

#### **Future - 2023**

Spring 2023 Family Night is already in the works. Registration begins Jan 31

and classes/clubs meet through April 25. It takes a group of dedicated volunteers to make this happen each week. From serving meals, distributing school supplies, checkingin and greeting families, to leading clubs, each volunteer is important to this program. Interested in joining our team? Contact Christ Lutheran's Outreach office to get started!

Summer programming is currently being discussed. McClintock Middle School will host Science Camp for a group of budding scientists and inventors. Christ Providence will host up to 90 Freedom School Scholars. Stay tuned throughout the Spring to hear about the ways you can continue to support our summer mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Daniels

Amy Daniels and the McPIE team







### Worship/Music/Technology

In 2022, the Music/ Worship/Tech team of Christ Providence continued to exemplify excellence in worship leadership; serving the Kingdom as the most important thing our church exists to do. Our worship, our musicmaking, the use of technology, and the combination of all three has continued to support a strong and vibrant ministry that has continually included all of God's children in worship, ministry, and mission.

In spite of major changes, worship remains the most important thing the Church exists to do. Word and Sacrament continues to be rightly preached and administered, and our worship continues to return to God all praise and glory, with untiring thanks for His divine providence.

Several highly noteworthy milestones and celebrations occurred in 2022; most notably was Mark Glaeser's retirement. Mark served Christ Lutheran as Minister of Music and



Mark Glaeser

Worship for over thirty years. We give thanks to God for Mark's time as Minister of Music and Worship. His fingerprints can be seen not only on the facilities, but also, and more importantly, on the hearts of those whom he touched through music, worship, and ministry. In May, a large retirement party was held where we celebrated with a joyful evening of music, food, and fellowship.

Upon the announcement of Mark's retirement. I felt uncertain of the timing. but once again. God proves that His timing is always best. Merging into the Leadership Team and working alongside other key ministry leaders, I am privileged to be growing more and more each day as I lead this team of diverse, unique, and dedicated individuals. To those on the various committees at Christ Lutheran who oversaw and fostered this transition. I extend my most sincere appreciation.

As part of the transition of Mark Glaeser retiring, the hiring of a new Music Associate was necessary. After a nation-wide search and several interviews with potential qualified candidates around the United States, we were contacted by Eric Hauck. a local church musician who had seen our job posting. Further interviews were conducted, and after considering multiple candidates we were delighted when he



Eric Hauck

accepted our offer. Eric brings a wealth of musical expertise, exemplary keyboard skills, and a love of working with children, youth, and adults to encourage the love of music.

The Experience high school ministry, rebranded as the Xperience, assumed new leadership in 2022 and ten high schoolers toured western North Carolina and Tennessee. Rebranding of the ministry brought with it a new vibe and overall appearance, and homecoming shows at both the Providence and South campuses were well-received.

Our summer theater camp for elementary schoolers, rebranded as SpotLight. took place in August with fifteen children performing in a fun production of Disney's 101 Dalmatians, Jr. In the Fall, our team reinvigorated the Wednesdays Together programming with more options for children beginning with age 2 and continuing through high school. Several new classes, including arts & crafts, a wider variety of music and faith-formation classes for middle schoolers, and an "open



Mark Johanson Minister of Music & Worship

gym" with several adults leading basketball and games, bolstered attendance and overall enthusiasm. Attendance was consistent and healthy in our children's choirs, Faith and Grace Choir, along with Preschool Music. Faith Jam. and our Middle School Choir. These children and youth presented music regularly in worship throughout the Fall and Advent/Christmas seasons. Additionally, new staff and volunteers were hired and recruited to serve the Wednesday night programming options.

New tech and music equipment was purchased through generous donations to improve the overall quality of worship: notably, a battery of new lighting fixtures for the sanctuary, a new acoustic drum set for SpiritSong, and a new baby grand

### Worship/Music/Technology (cont.)

piano for the balcony of Christ Chapel.

Over the past twenty years, I have observed churches and other organizations which have only honored the past with no regard for the future; ultimately these organizations have become obsolete. Perhaps you have seen similar scenarios and can relate. In times of monumental transition, as which occurred on our team in 2022, focus must always remain on what is yet to come. While we do indeed honor the past of our church, our question must always remain, what's next? What is God calling us to do, today?

The Church exists to serve the world of today, and I believe God is still speaking because 1) He continues to bless us with a marvelous and unique facility in a growing community, 2) His Spirit fans into flame ministries that serve all people, and 3) we are seeing measurable, data-driven increases in ministry participation from one year to the next as we exit Covid. However, as new ministries are explored, we must also consider which legacy ministries are to be retired. I am grateful for the work of those who have served before me, and I fully intend to propel our church's music, worship,

and tech ministries into their next chapters. What awaits us brings me great excitement, as I hope it does you, too. The success of that next chapter depends significantly on the work and efforts of those who serve the organization. Positive growth will unequivocally occur as a direct result of the tireless efforts of all volunteers who give their personal time to help with worship, music, and technology at Christ Lutheran. It requires an enormous amount of coordination and communication to properly execute worship at Christ Lutheran; to that end, if you are able to serve in any way, please

contact me directly so that we can utilize your gifts for service. Whether it's setting up a Christmas tree, serving the body and blood of Christ to a parishioner during Communion, or enthusiastically singing every week in one of our several ensembles, Christ Lutheran exists nay, succeeds-because of her people.

Respectfully submitted in service to God and His Kingdom,

Mark Johanson, Minister of Music & Worship





### **Christ South**

At Christ South, the Word of God is preached. And God's Word is not just informative. Of course. God teaches us what is the best way to live and how to interact. He informs our lives, but God's word is also creative. God speaks and galaxies are created. At South we are building a Covenant Community, a Spirit-filled congregation created by God. We are focusing on who and whose we are: loved children of God. We are taking time to get into each other's lives and love. Over the past three years all of the Body of Christ has had a rocky road. Instead of coming together and greeting each other with a holy kiss (Rom 16:16, 2 Cor 13:12), we masked up and slopped on hand sanitizer. We stayed six feet apart or were virtual and "Zoomed" in. Thanks be to God those days are behind us and it's time to get back to work; to step up and put our shoulder into the work of being the Church.

At South we are forging relationships that serve to build the Kingdom of God. The women of the congregation are gathering and having retreats to further support each other and Christ's mission. We are bridging relationships with the local food network in Waxhaw. We are developing relationships and raising money to feed God's people.

I am happy to report some stability. We have a solid core of members who gather to set up, worship and praise the LORD. We stay after worship and take down the equipment and curtains and lighting and speakers and stands and wires and coffee and table and chairs and equipment and altar. We have begun the work of the Holy Spirit and have baptized our first person in years. And, once again, welcomed new families into the Body of Christ at Christ Lutheran - South.

I realize that these things may seem mundane, and to an extent, they are, but I feel like only now can we all truly realize how beautiful all the "normal" things are. We took for granted that life would continue to chug along, then - wham! Everything came to a screeching halt and the norm became rare. So. let's celebrate the basics. The givens. The mundane returning to mundane.

Christ South is trying to be as creative as possible in the use of the land. And we have found ways to get together and be community inside Polo Ridge elementary and in other venues. We are using the houses on the land to meet and find ways to have worship in the Deck Barn.

Helping all this happen is a truly amazing team. Our site coordinator: Aimee Topping hasn't walked on water yet, but I won't be



Aimee Topping

surprised when it happens. Aimee sees that our children are loved and cared for. She oversees BLAST! by creating lessons and activities for South's children during sermon time. Aimee leads the middle school group, giving them an opportunity to get together and grow in their relationship and faith in Christ. She creates opportunities on the land so they can meet regularly. She also orchestrates all the volunteers who come to help set-up and take down every Sunday, as well as learning and teaching the audio and video software needed to have a modern worship experience.



Another of the saints serving at the South campus is our music

Ashley Cooke director, Ashley Cooke. Ashley brings rocking music that leads the people of Christ Lutheran – South in praise. He manages musicians, and adapts music to the season and



Ryan Ritzmann Pastor, Christ South

At South we are building a Covenant Community, a Spirit-filled congregation created by God.
We are focusing on who and whose we are: loved children of God. We are taking time to get into each other's lives and love.

### **Christ South (cont.)**

setting, and sees that our worship is modern and spirit-filled. I know it's good when I catch myself singing too loudly. The LORD doesn't care how loudly we sing but maybe the band's tired of hearing me sing off beat.

We are looking forward to reaching out into the Weddington and Waxhaw area and building a community that is centered around our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you haven't worshiped with us recently, come on down and check it out!

Peace,

Ryan Ritzmann

Ryan Ritzmann, Pastor, Christ South





























### **Christ Concord**

2022 has been a year of change at Christ Concord. We've grown in people and the number of worship expressions available to congregants every week. We've lost and added staff and members. We've learned the "unpublished beatitude" ... Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not break!

The first of the year saw the departure of Tech Director Aaron Anderson, but we were blessed to find his replacement right in our congregation. Bobby Costea officially joined the CLC Staff in February as Tech Director on the Concord campus. He has worked closely with Bill Porter and Thomas Cole to iron out some wrinkles we'd been having and has overseen even more technology upgrades, improved livestream processes, and recruited three additional volunteers to our tech team.



Tennyson Shifley left us to pursue a astor Tenny new

Pastor Tenny Shifley

new ministry avenue with

October

another

departure

saw

when

Pastor

Lutheran Services of the Carolinas. His vibrant and welcoming personality are certainly missed, but we wish him all the best in his new endeavor and are taking on his challenge of "Change brings opportunity." The fall season brought a number of visiting pastors to our pulpit and Christmas Eve



Pastor Marco Segovia

we welcomed our interim pastor, Marco Segovia. Pastor Marco brings a unique brand of humor and pastoral touch to our congregation and we look forward to his season with us to be a time of growth and deepening in our faith journeys. We appreciate having the pulpit filled during the transition period by Brook Seaford, Stan Ott, Charlie Zimmerman, and Jeff Topinka; these "guest pastors for the day" made this season of uncertainty much smoother than it might have been otherwise and we pray for continued blessings on each of their ministries!

Wednesdays Together looks a little different at Christ Concord nowadays, with a morning adult Bible

study that's thriving! Under the leadership of Billy Mussari and Bobby Costea, with occasional visits from the pastoral staff, there's lively discussion of the scriptures in context and how they apply to us today. And don't forget ... lunch anyone? We gather around the table to continue the discussion and deepen relationships as we fellowship together at rotating restaurant locations. We currently have no evening programming but hope to add classes for families & children in the fall.

In July we hosted our first "Friday Night Live" with a fabulous band, Chef Tenny grilling dogs, Rob & Kathy Roginski showing all of us how cornhole is REALLY supposed to be played, and several couples turning the parking lot into a dance floor. The fellowship was great and spending a summer evening listening to tunes from Motown to Bruno Mars was "just what the doctor ordered" for many of us. We saw some folks we've been missing and renewed relationships with others who just haven't been able to get back to Sunday worship yet. We hope to do it again soon!

Summer saw our first in-person VBS since the COVID lockdown of 2020.



Karen Costea Christ Concord

In July we added a service specifically for families who don't feel comfortable attending a traditional worship service because their children might be a little fidgety, noisy, have special needs, or are sensitive to lights and loud sounds. So we added The Gathering each Sunday at 11:00 for those families.



### **Christ Concord**

We had 24 participants and a "passel" of teachers and volunteers. Thrive Day School teachers were on hand to lead classroom activities and church volunteers rolled up their sleeves for craft time, outdoor playtime, and snacks. That refurbished playground really came in handy with something for just about everybody! VBS week ended the way people have come to expect around here - with SPLASH DAY 2022! It was a soaking success! 60 people donned their suits and lined up to take their turns with water balloons, super soakers, an inflatable waterslide and the traditional slip & slide course down The Christ Concord Hill. If you haven't seen that hill, just know that it's especially popular whenever we have snow. For those who preferred to "just observe" and soak up a little summer sunshine. the misting station was a welcome treat!

In July we added a service specifically for families who don't feel comfortable attending a traditional worship service because their children might be a little fidgety, noisy, have special needs, or are sensitive to lights and loud sounds. So we added The Gathering each Sunday at 11:00 for those families. If you have a child, know a child, or have ever been a

child (special needs or not), this might just be the place for you! Sensory aids and toys are available for those who need them. Sofas, soft spaces, freedom to move about, and a shush-free environment contribute to the comfort of this worshipping congregation. Music time is particularly special as some of our youngest eagerly participate with Ms. Aimee and Morley as they lead music with motions. Once a month, there's an afternoon Faithful Friends family fellowship with a Bible lesson and themed crafts and snacks, led by Family Ministry Director Aimee Hawkins. Watch for the next one and... Y'all come!

Our worship team of faithful musicians expanded to include a new bass player in September with the addition of Greg Twait. He claims this is the first time he's picked up his bass guitar since "retiring" from Spirit Song in 2000. Well, if what we've been



hearing is any indication, he certainly hasn't lost his licks! Greg joins Ralf Meyer, David Yu, and Susan Myers in a cozy little combo that enjoys

worshipping through music together. We're still in prayer for a lead-singing, guitar-playing worship leader who can be involved in both the traditional blended service at 10 as well as in The Gathering. Pray with us, won't you?

We celebrated four baptisms over the course of the year and welcomed six new families to our congregation. Sunday attendance is growing, we have an average of one to two visiting families each week, and we pray that trend continues.

Christ Concord demonstrates what it means to be "Jesus with shoes on" as we minister one-to-one in our community; members doing what they can without looking for acclaim. Isn't that what it's all about? We also have home communion partners who deliver communion to our shut-ins or those who cannot get here on Sunday and request communion.

In 2023 we plan to double-down on our partnership with Cooperative Christian Ministry with a monthly food drive. The need is great in the Cabarrus County area, more than you'd think possible. To that end, each week we post a list of "Urgent Pantry Needs" in our pre- and post-service slides so people can obtain and give the most needed non-perishable food and paper supplies. We hope to get our garden growing this spring so that we can provide fresh vegetables, too.



### **Christ Concord**

Under the

direction of



Jackie Maire, Thrive Day School completed their first Jackie Maire school

year at Christ Concord in 2022, and TDS continues to be a dynamic part of what happens here on our campus every day during the week. There are many more friends enrolled this school year than last and

we are encouraged by the number of parents who've heard about the school, the miracles happening here in that program, and want to take a tour to see for themselves what's going on here. It's an exciting time!

Even while we celebrate the growth of programs and people, we mourn those who have left us, whether through death or moving forward to other chapters of life and

ministry. If you've never visited our campus, I encourage you to do so, to see in person what's happening here and feel the warmth of our worshipping community. As you've heard before, Come and see!



Karen Costea Campus Administrator & Music Associate, **Christ Concord** 



























### **Christ Online**

This is how I started off my 2021 report: "Another year has come and gone, and online worship seems to

be here to stay." I think it's now safe to say that online worship is a way of life. It has a valuable, comfortable authenticity now, and here at CLC we're working behind the scenes to constantly improve getting the message through to you on Sunday mornings (and special occasions) over the inter-webs.

The greatest accomplishment of the last



Blair Barbour you on Sunday mornings! Blair Barbour started helping me early on, and we juggled a few other folks helping with Christ Concord, and for

Emily Porter

Porter to the team and now we're three strong, and guess what? I don't have to work all services

added Emily

2022 we

every Sunday. In fact, I often worship in person with my family, knowing everyone at the Christ Online campus is well taken care of by these ladies!

This being said... it would still be wonderful to add some more folks to our small-but-mighty team, especially if you are closely connected to either the Christ Concord or Christ South campuses! Just reach out to me at awilliams@christelca.org if you'd like to help welcome and engage folks through the online chat on Sundays!

In 2022 I also worked to narrow down the way I calculate who is participating in online worship. Anyone who's working with social media and streaming will tell you that this is an enigma; it's nearly impossible to find out the who and where and how to calculate based on the numbers you can pull from each platform. This year however, based on advice from several sources. I focused more on those folks who watch worship Live on Sunday mornings on Facebook for 1min + along with folks YouTube labels as "Concurrent Viewers".

The 1-min and Concurrent Viewers make up my Liveon-Sunday-Morning numbers for attendance purposes. A few months ago, I started looking also at those folks who worship online maybe Sunday evening. Or Monday evening with family. I pull that number through Wednesday morning (in time for bulletin printing) and that number in addition to the Sunday live numbers becomes Christ Online's attendance for the week.

We're looking forward to another great year at Christ Online with more interactions, more relationship-building, and maybe even something new called Christ Home!! If you'd like to learn more about that or have any questions, never hesitate to reach out!

Respectfully submitted,

aleaswel

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.o



### **Christ Lutheran Children's Center**

It has been another big year here at the Children's Center! The amazing teachers and parents of our center have embraced the new events we have introduced and we are excited for more fun this year!

We hit the ground running this year to step CLCC into a fresh new look! We began with a brand new logo that coincides with the colors of the church. We also added murals and scriptures to our walls inside to brighten the feel of the center. This led us to creating a brand new website to represent our updated center.

As we headed into our new school year this August, we took our whole school digital! We are now operating off of a preschool aligned app called Brightwheel. The parents and teachers have loved this change and it enables us to have all of our communication in one easily accessible place!

This fall we had our first ever Fall Festival. We were so excited to hold this event and bring back some school wide fellowship! It was so much fun and an overwhelming success. We plan on doing many more in the future!

In December, we wrapped up the year with a whole school Christmas program in the Sanctuary. It was truly a delight to have all 14 classes in one place and to celebrate the season of joy with the children! Following the program, we continued

the celebration outside with Cookies and Cocoa with Santa. Another fellowship event that let us see the love and comradery within the CLCC family. It will definitely become a tradition!

We continue to work for grants to help us support our teachers and update some facility needs and renovations in the center.

We are very grateful to have the support of the church, the community and all of our families! We look forward to an exciting 2023!

Blessings,

Meg Semm Director



Meg Sem Director, Christ Lutheran Children's Center



### Cornerstone Gifts

I am happy to report that Cornerstone Gifts did well enough in 2021 to present Outreach with a check for \$2500 bringing our total to \$15000. The final numbers are not in yet for 2022 but they are looking as good if not better than the year prior.

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, greeting 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 for 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.

The store is currently only open Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday 9:30-12:30. We are still hoping to one day return to normal prepandemic operations. Volunteers are key to that success and we need more volunteers to help keep our good work going. Please reach out to any staff member or the manager of the store.

In addition to the volunteers. Cornerstone Gifts has a parttime manager and accountant.





Tom Kramer Cornerstone Manager

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



# 2022 Scrapbook



































Memories!

































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