

Christ Connections



november/december 2025

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. **Traditional Worship**
10:00 a.m. **The Bridge Service**
11:00 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**
10-10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**



2025
HOLIDAY
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
Save the Dates



**ALTERNATIVE
GIFT MARKET**



For links to live-stream services,
upcoming virtual events, bulletins,
ChristKidsTV and more:
christelca.org/online

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Installation of Bishop Emily Hartner of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church

Saturday, November 15 at Christ Lutheran Church

We are excited and pleased to host the installation of our new Bishop, Emily Hartner, on November 15 at 2:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. This is kind of a big deal! Each Synod of the ELCA elects a bishop who serves for a six-year term. In most synods, you can serve multiple terms. A couple of months ago, our synod met with over 600 delegates in Greensboro and elected Pastor Emily Hartner as the 79th bishop of our synod, and the first female to hold that office.

Bishop Hartner grew up at Beth Eden Lutheran Church in Newton, NC. She graduated from Davidson College and received her Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. She went on to earn her Masters of Sacred Theology degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

Most recently, Bishop Hartner served as associate pastor of St. Marks in Charlotte and for the past eight years, she has been the pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, also in Charlotte.

Like I said, this is kind of a big deal!

First, we are the only church in the synod with a large enough sanctuary to host this event. We are anticipating about 900 people to come from all over North Carolina and far beyond to be a part of this celebration.

Second, our new presiding bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Yehiel Curry, will preside over the installation and preach. This will be quite an honor.

Third, dignitaries from several other full communion partners with the ELCA will be present as part of the installation, as well as a very large processional of our own North Carolina pastors and deacons.

Fourth, if you have ever wanted to experience high church pageantry at its finest, this installation will be filled with all of the pomp and circumstance.

Fifth, Mark Johanson and his team are assembling a mass choir made up of churches from around the entire state. The music and the size of this production will be overwhelming.

This is kind of a big deal! And I would encourage you to come and be a part of this celebration. Together, we are part of the ELCA, and this installation brings us together to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit among us.

**Peace,
Pastor Scott**

2025 Church Council

Melissa Lanoue
President

Andy Brincefield
Vice President

Cassie Thompson
Secretary

Dave Hutchinson
Treasurer

Holly Cannon

Chad Melton

Molly Zmuda

Lauren Ratcliffe

Janet Wilson

Julie DePalma

David Herran

Brad Keller

Join us for
THANKSGIVING WORSHIP
November 26 • 6:30 p.m.
in Christ Chapel & Online
After worship, stay for pumpkin pie
in Fellowship Hall.
No Wednesdays Ablaze Dinner/Classes

Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday, December 24

10 a.m. Children's Service
(Sanctuary • in-person only)

3 p.m. Contemporary Service (Sanctuary)

5 p.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

7 p.m. Contemporary Service (Sanctuary)

9 p.m. Traditional Service
(Christ Chapel • in-person only)

WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE christelca.org/online

Dates to Know

Wednesdays Ablaze
ends December 10 • resumes January 7, 2026

Sunday School
ends December 14 • resumes January 4, 2026

Worship on December 28
There will be only 1 service on Dec. 28
at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary & Online

 **CHRIST providence**

Third THURSDAY
for adults of all ages

November 20
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Join us for lunch & a Thanksgiving pie-making class!
Choose from cherry, apple or pumpkin. Ingredients
& disposable pans provided. Bake your pie
at church or take home to bake later.

\$15 • Click/Scan to Register>>
MORE INFO: awallace@christelca.org

 **REALM**

 **Lutheran Disaster Response**
LDR Carolinas

Join LDR Carolinas for a book study beginning on January 8 and lasting through February 12, 2026. Each session will be on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Get a free copy of the book when you register.

Scan/Click to Register
or go to t.ly/Xlbn5



A READY HOPE
Effective Disaster Ministry for Congregations
Kathryn M. Hansen and Carol H. Flores
Foreword by Kathleen Smith

Sermon Series: Give It a Rest!

Overview: The number of people who work over 40 hours a week is staggering. The number of vacation hours unused is unbelievable. The pride that some people have of being busy is simply arrogant. The Bible says, "Give it a rest." First introduced in Creation and later reaffirmed during the Exodus was this concept of the Sabbath; a day to rejuvenate, reflect, reconnect. In short, a day of rest.

November 9 • Forced Sabbath

Psalm 23; Matthew 11:28–30

There are times in our lives that we are forced to rest. Covid was a forced Sabbath. Post-surgery recovery is a forced Sabbath. Unemployment can be a forced Sabbath. Instead of twiddling our thumbs, how does God use these periods of forced Sabbath to get our attention, redirect our priorities and give it a rest?

November 16 • The WHY

Genesis 1; Psalm 46; Mark 2:23–28

Innovative companies don't start with the WHAT; they start with the WHY. When we talk about the Sabbath, we begin not in a legalistic manner of what I can or cannot do, but rather we start with the WHY? Why do we even take that time to rest?

November 23 • Restoration

Exodus 20; Luke 5:12–16

The Sabbath is certainly to reconnect with God and with one another, but it is also for me. I need to rest. It is in that rest that my soul is restored so that I can be of use for others. If Jesus needed that time apart to rest, how much more do I need the same amount of rest?



WATCH THE SNEAK PEEK OF EACH SUNDAY'S SERMON,
CHECK OUT THE PROMO VIDEO & READ MORE:
christelca.org/sermon-series

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Next Build: November 22

At our first build, we were overwhelmed by the support and participation. About 75 people showed up at the workshop at Southland to cut, drill, sand and assemble about 35 beds in a couple of hours. Thank you to all who volunteered and who bought a bed for \$250.

Most of those beds have been delivered, and now these children no longer have to sleep on the floor. The thrill in their eyes to see that bed coming into their home and being set up in their own bedroom brought tears to the eyes of our delivery team.

But it is time to do it again!

On November 22 beginning at 9:00 a.m., we need another crew of volunteers to help build beds. For some jobs, no experience is necessary. But we also need generous donors to purchase a bed for \$250, which you can do on our REALM website, designating your gift to SHP.

This is an awesome new ministry that has provided hands-on work for the volunteers and immediate results for the children receiving the beds. Come and enjoy the fun! Register to help by emailing Chris Barkoukis at cabarkoukis@gmail.com.

Christmas Wreath-Making Class

Christmas decor at Christ Lutheran Church is getting a refresh this year, and we're looking for some "eager elves" to help assemble wreaths which will be used to decorate the campus! Join us for an afternoon class on Wednesday, November 19th at 4:00 p.m. in the Lower Commons led by Christmas decor extraordinaire Caroline Diffley. Instructions will be provided, so both novices and experts are encouraged to attend.

We are asking that attendees consider giving a donation of \$10 to help offset wreath materials. Please register in REALM by Nov. 6 so we can be sure we have enough materials (see ad to the right).

Thank you for helping prepare our campus for a beautiful Christmas!

This December, Our Sanctuary Becomes a Concert Hall!

by SHELBY JOHNS

Get ready for a weekend of joyous music in our Sanctuary this December! Christ Lutheran Church will be hosting two different ensembles—Charlotte Pride Band on Saturday, December 13th and Charlotte Concert Band on Sunday, December 14th. These skilled musicians are known to put on wonderful, high-caliber programs each season, especially during Christmas. Come out and support the local arts that Charlotte has to offer!

Tickets and further information for each of these events can be found on charlotteconcertband.org and charlotteprideband.org.



Luther Ringers & Joyful Noise Boys Concert

Tuesday, December 16
7:00 p.m. at Windsor Run

Residents of Windsor Run & their families are invited to a Christmas concert in the new Carolina Hall Auditorium in the Fincher Building. Please invite fellow neighbors of Windsor Run to this concert!



Christmas Wreath-Making Class
Wednesday, November 19
4:00-5:30 p.m.
in the Lower Commons

Join us for an afternoon class led by Caroline Diffley to help assemble wreaths that will be used to decorate the campus! No experience necessary. Consider a \$10 donation to help offset the cost of materials. Register by Nov. 6!!



REALM

Click/Scan to RSVP>>

The Charlotte Concert Band presents

Holiday Echoes

Sunday, December 14 • 3 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Tickets: \$14 in advance or \$15 at the door

 **CHARLOTTE CONCERT BAND**

MORE INFO & TICKETS:
charlotteconcertband.org/holidayechoes

Charlotte Pride Band presents

Home for the Holidays

Saturday, December 13
4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Free and open to the public

 **CHARLOTTE PRIDE BAND**

MORE INFO: charlotteprideband.org



XPERIENCE Christmas Show

December 5 & 6 • 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary & Livestreamed Online

Honoring Our Loved Ones

All Saints' Sunday is the time we set aside to remember all those who have passed on before us. Join in the remembrance of our loved ones with a lighting of a candle at this special service.

All Saints Sunday
November 2, 2025

Members of Christ Lutheran that have passed since last year's All Saints Day include:



Leslie Baudauf



Gene Baucom



Joan Freshcorn



John Barringer



Susan Brackett



Doris Creason



Richard Goodall



Donna Hanna



Del Eck



Harriet Jenkins



Michael Nash



Wendy Ruocco



Welcome Our New Members!



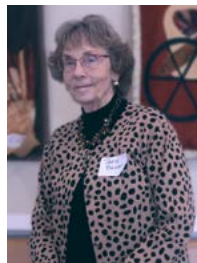
Scott Burton



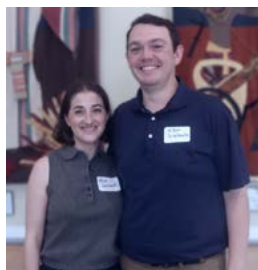
Amanda & Mike
Roynesdal



Cheryl & Jerry
Wantz



Jane Bauer



Miller & Misti
Sokolowski



Rob Cameron &
Christine Gerrish



Crystal Forkey &
Ashley Benz



Misha, Richard,
& Piper Brown



Dale, Jalen, &
Alexis Hanna



Bill, Onna, Sally,
& Liza O'Meara



Derlaine & Andy
Russell



Julia, Richard &
Caroline Boyle



Jen, Marc, Emilia
& Stella Yahl

MONTHLY PARENT CLASS

Mental Wellness in a Modern World

meets on 2nd Wednesday of each month
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Forum C

November 12
Resiliency

December 10
What Does Good Mental Wellness Look Like?

January 14
The Fight for Your Attention

February 11
Are Your Kids Living in a Haunted House?

March 11
How the Internet & AI Are Raising Your Children

April 15
Technology

May 13
Wrapping It All Up



Led by a mental health professional,
Trent Morrow, LCSW, of L&B Counseling.
Parents of children of all ages welcome!

Quilters FOR CHRIST Donations Needed

The Quilting ministry is in need of flat sheets in good condition, any color & size. Bring donated sheets to the Info desk in the Lower Commons.

MORE INFO: Lois Witham
(lowitham@carolina.rr.com)

251251

Third THURSDAY for adults of all ages

December 18

11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

We invite you to join us for a festive Christmas Carol event filled with music and a delicious lunch. This is a great opportunity to come together and celebrate the holiday season!

\$15 • Click/Scan to Register>>
MORE INFO: awallace@christelca.org



REALM

Christmas Shopping for Nursing Home Residents

Last year, we were able to provide gifts for 100 residents at Trinity Place Lutheran Home in Albemarle. Thank you for your support!

We will be helping again this Christmas. Stop by the table in the Lower Commons

November 9th and 16th

to pick up a resident's name & wishlist. Bring back wrapped gifts by Dec. 7th.

MORE INFO: mparker@christelca.org

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
meets weekly from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Forum A&B

Starting Oct. 30, we'll begin a 6-session Bible study on *Romans: In the Grip of Grace* by Max Lucado.

BOOK CAN BE PURCHASED ON AMAZON.COM

MORE INFO: julia.edelson@gmail.com

Decorating for Christmas

Helpers are needed to make Christ Lutheran Bow-dacious and Bough-tiful for the Christmas season. Families with supervised children are encouraged to help! No sign-up needed.

WE WILL MEET FOR SETUP ON Saturday, November 29 (9:00am)

No RSVP Needed - Just Show Up!
MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org
(teardown will be Jan. 10, 9:00 a.m.)

2030 somethings Coffee with the Pastors
POTLUCK MASHUP
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 - 11:15-2 P.M. IN THE PIT

Members of Young Adults 20-30 Somethings & Coffee with the Pastors are invited to have lunch together. -Bring a dish to share-

Scan/Click to Register
MORE INFO: ritzmänn@christelca.org

Re-Membering Event
Sunday, November 23
12:30 p.m. in Forum A&B

Members who have recently joined CLC are invited to get together for lunch to talk about how your first steps into your new congregation are going.

Scan/Click for info & to register

Centering Prayer

Are you searching for a few moments to be still & meet God in silent prayer?

Join us 2nd & 4th Mondays at noon in the Worship Parlor

MORE INFO:
[Laura Tang \(Lttang@earthlink.net\)](mailto:LauraTang@earthlink.net)

Centering Prayer

by D'LINDA HIGHUM

"Be still and know that I am God." -Psalm 46:10

Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer meant to foster a deeper relationship with God. This prayer method gives the participant an opportunity to be still in the presence of God and welcome His work in their life.

A simple step-by-step guide for the beginner:

1. Choose a sacred word, such as "mercy," as a symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.
2. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and introduce the sacred word in your mind as the symbol to your consent to God's presence and action within.
3. When your thoughts intrude, gently introduce your sacred word in your mind again.
4. At the end of the prayer period (usually 20 minutes), remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.
5. End with the Lord's Prayer.

The prayer can be practiced alone, but starting in a group gives you a sense of the prayer and group members can answer questions that may come up.

Please join us on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at noon in the Sanctuary Parlor for a 20-minute prayer session, education and discussion. Contact Laura Tang for questions (Lttang@earthlink.net).



Contemplative Outreach also offers a Centering Prayer app. Look for it in the Apple Store or on Google Play.



Re-Membering Event

by PASTOR RYAN

Have you joined Christ Lutheran recently? Then you should come and be a part of the Re-Membering event on **Sunday, November 23rd**. We will get together for lunch in Forum A&B and see how your first steps into your new congregation are going.

Your faith journey is your own. No pastor can read your Bible for you, but we want to help you take the steps to deepen your relationship with Christ and those at your home church. Plan to come to lunch after Contemporary worship and share how things are going. Connect with other new members. Chat with spiritual leaders about being a disciple of Christ.

Jesus calls us to follow Him and that means more than just being a member of a church on paper. It means worship, daily devotions, connecting with other members in the congregation, learning about our faith deeply and serving others without any expectation of return.

All of these, and more, are available at Christ Lutheran, and we want to see you engage your faith and build it and the Kingdom of God. Whether you are well plugged in or are lost as to what your next steps are, I would love to talk about your first impressions as a member. Join me there. To help us plan, please register in [REALM](#) by clicking or scanning the ad to the left..

Psalm 8: Eco-Friendly Group

Five dedicated volunteers participated in the recent Roadside Clean Up event, contributing a total of ten hours of their time to the cause. Together, they collected six bags of litter, making a significant impact on the cleanliness of the community. Additionally, they were able to gather three bags of recyclables, promoting environmental sustainability. Come join us at the next Roadside Clean Up, scheduled for Saturday, December 6th, we will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the church. For more information, contact Gordon Miller (gmliller9535@aol.com).

Oyster Roast: Calling All Men!

by PASTOR RYAN

We are having an Oyster Roast Saturday, **November 8th** at 6:00 p.m. on the South Land. We will have a fire and Chef Mike is making Oysters. This is a free event for our men, but please register in REALM so we know how many to prepare for. BYOB and a chair and fellowship with other men in our congregation.

As men it is easy to neglect ourselves. Taking care of what needs to happen and meeting the daily requirements can leave us vulnerable. We can begin to close off and forget that we are meant to be in community. God created us to be in relationship with each other. This is His intention, but studies reveal that we are too busy, too tired, and too scared. We are scared of showing who we really are because we seldom encounter someone who accepts us. This is why we all need a brother in faith. Not a drinking buddy. Not a fair-weather friend but someone who will be there, for the long haul. That person might not exist in work or in your neighborhood but he does exist in your church. Christ Lutheran is full of men who love Jesus and are going through the same things as you are. The good and the bad. Our Lord wants us to be in each other's lives. To support and celebrate. Come have a beer with me. Celebrate the good times. Further your spiritual journey. Develop and maintain relationships with other men in our congregation.



Josiah Hawkins and several helpers built 3 new vegetable garden beds for his Eagle Scout project to help feed the hungry.

Psalm 8: Eco-Friendly

Our small group sponsors roadside cleanup for 2.8 miles of Providence Road in front of the church and you're invited to join us for our next cleanup date:

Saturday, December 6

8:30 a.m. meet in church parking lot
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. cleanup

More info: Gordon Miller (gmliller9535@aol.com)

Men's Oyster Roast

Saturday, November 8

6 p.m. at South Land
(315 Reid Dairy Rd. in Waxhaw)

CLC men are invited to our South Land property for an Oyster Roast! Bring your favorite drinks & a chair as we fellowship together & grow in our faith.  REALM

FREE! • Scan/Click to Register

All Saints Day

Honor loved ones who have passed on by lighting a remembrance candle in their honor at this special service.

Sunday, November 2

Christ Choir Join Us for Christmas!

Join our Traditional worship choir for a joyful Christmas season of music & fellowship! Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:15-8:45 pm in the Music Room. All are welcome to lift their voices & celebrate with us!

MORE INFO: pbiedenbender@christelca.org



**Installation
of the
Bishop**

Emily K. Hartner
North Carolina Synod ELCA

**November 15 • 2 p.m.
in the Sanctuary**

also on  YouTube LIVE
FOR LINK: [christelca.org/online](https://www.christelca.org/online)



located between the Ministry Center & Lower Commons

SUN | TUE | WED | THU
9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.

or by private appointment
call 704-366-1595 ext. 0

**BEAUTIFULLY
UNIQUE
CHRISTMAS
GIFTS
FOR SALE
STARTING NOV. 2**



FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK!

IGNITE! Panthers Tailgate Party

Sunday, November 2

**1 - 5 p.m. at the South Land Deckbarn
315 Reid Dairy Rd. in Waxhaw**

Wear your Charlotte Panther's gear as we cheer them to victory against the Green Bay Packers. Please bring an appetizer to share.

**\$5 AT THE DOOR TO COVER THE COST OF BEER & WINE
RSVP in REALM within the Ignite! Group
or email laurie.carter57@gmail.com**

Southland Deckbarn is NOW OPEN



-located at 315 Reid Dairy Road in Waxhaw-

TO RESERVE THE SPACE FOR YOUR
SMALL GROUP, EVENT OR MEETING, EMAIL:
thyde@christelca.org or awallace@christelca.org

Bishop's Installation Mass Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 15

12:00-1:30 p.m. in the Music Room

Come sing with us! All are invited to join the mass choir for the Installation of Pastor Emily Hartner as the Bishop of the ELCA North Carolina Synod at Christ Lutheran Church. Service follows in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m.

**If you'd like to participate, email
Phil at pbiedenbender@christelca.org**

NEW EPISODE EACH WEEK!



Led by Christ Lutheran pastors,
Deeper Dive will tackle your big
questions about religion & life.

Check it out now>>>
christelca.org/podcast



Christmas is Right Around the Corner

Cornerstone Gifts, located between the Ministry Center and the Lower Commons, is preparing for Christmas with Advent wreaths and candles and is decking the halls with Christmas merchandise! From ornaments to Nativity scenes to stocking stuffers for Mom, Dad and the kids, you will find a great variety of items. We also have a variety of religious items such as Bibles, devotion books, crosses, and even a replica of our Sanctuary cross for your Christmas tree. You may also find a Christmas gift from our stock of home décor, baby gifts, children's toys, jewelry and more!

We are also now offering gift certificates to Cornerstone Gifts. Denominations are \$10, \$20, \$30 and \$50 and will be valid for one year from date of issuance. Gift certificates could be great Christmas gifts or even stocking stuffers!

Net proceeds from the sales at Cornerstone Gifts benefit the Outreach Ministries at Christ Lutheran Church. When you shop with Cornerstone, not only are you purchasing something for yourself or as a gift, but you are also providing a gift to others in need in our community.

Our regular hours are Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If those hours don't work for you, contact the church office and we can arrange an appointment for you. We hope you stop by and check out what we have to offer! Follow us on Facebook at Cornerstone Gifts at Christ Lutheran.





Join us for
THANKSGIVING
WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 26
in Christ Chapel & Online
*After worship, stay for pumpkin pie
in Fellowship Hall.*
No Wednesdays Ablaze Dinner/Classes

WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE
christelca.org/online   



 **CHRIST**
providence

Poinsettias

Help us adorn the Sanctuary and Christ Chapel with poinsettias for the celebration of Christmas. Purchased plants can be donated in memory or in honor of a loved one and may be taken home following the Sunday, December 28 worship service.

\$20 EACH • ORDERS DUE BY DECEMBER 10


REALM

Scan/Click to Order
or go to <https://t.ly/luLIP>

2025

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Save the Dates

CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday, December 24

10:00 a.m. Children's Service
Sanctuary • in-person only
for families with children aged 5th grade & under

3:00 p.m. Contemporary Service
Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. Traditional Service
Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Contemporary Service
Sanctuary

9:00 p.m. Traditional Service
Christ Chapel • in-person only

Sunday, December 28

10:00 a.m. One Service in the Sanctuary
-no Sunday School-



CHRIST
providence



CHRIST
online

WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE!
christelca.org/online

Tutors and Homework Helpers Needed on Wednesdays

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Wednesdays Ablaze is such an important time that we set aside for faith formation during the week. As a church, we are blessed to have regular midweek programming and to have robust Wednesday evening programming. We have Adult Bible Studies, Small Groups, exercise classes, and engaging programming for children and youth. When we make time for faith, study and community during the week, we are living into the truth that discipleship is not just from Sunday to Sunday, but every day.

On Wednesday evenings, our rooms are buzzing with lively three-year-olds, curious kindergarteners, active elementary school students, and creative high schoolers practicing in the Pit for the Xperience. There is one group we are missing: our middle schoolers and families.

While we have a strong confirmation ministry for our middle schoolers, we know how important it is for them to come midweek as well. They have a lot going on in their world from school... to sports... to social media (and more!). Wednesdays are an opportunity for faith development as well as a respite and rock for finding strength and community during the week. They need each other!

We are working on bringing in middle school students for Wednesdays Ablaze. With parental permission, we will be picking up the participating youth to bring them to church. We will be going to their school to help families manage schedules, pick-up times and traffic so that our middle schoolers aren't missing out on faith formation. Faith formation that we pray sets their hearts ablaze for Christ.

We are still working out pick-up schedules and details, but in the event that our middle schoolers arrive before dinner, we would like to have tutors and homework helpers available from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. This may help them get an edge on their work and leave room for fellowship and fun for the rest of the evening.

If you are trained in a certain field and can tutor, wonderful! If you think you can sit with a student to walk through instructions or be a supportive presence, wonderful! We would very much appreciate your help as we do our best to support our students. If you can help or if you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you!

Parent Connection

Every year we are blessed to have a member of our congregation, Sergeant Rob Stark (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Special Investigations – ABC Unit) educate families on the dangers and emerging trends of drug and alcohol use among teens. This is a powerful and eye-opening event for youth and their parents to learn about the realities teens face today—and how parents can stay involved, informed and supportive. Last year Sergeant Stark shared stories from the field. He discussed how drug dealers are disguising dangerous substances to look like harmless everyday items—particularly candy. We also talked about the marketing of vapes and alcoholic drinks to target youth. These products are intentionally deceptive, designed to lure in young people and make dangerous substances seem harmless or fun. Parents have said how valuable it is to attend each year as their children grow and develop, as it makes an impact on them where they are at that time. It is an opportunity for parents to have these important and continuing conversations. We are thankful to Rob Stark for his service to our community and to our church.

HIGH SCHOOL Lunch

Sunday, November 9 • 12:30-2 p.m.

Let's go out for lunch! Join us after 11 a.m. worship and we will walk over to Mezeh for some time of fellowship. Everyone is welcome, parents and siblings as well!

MORE INFO: tweller@christelca.org

mezeh

Baptismal Class

Sun., November 23

1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For info, email Mary Parker
mparker@christelca.org

ZOOM LINK:
christelca.org/online



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Sunday, November 23
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
in the Lower Commons



Children's Christmas Eve Service

Special service geared towards families with children aged 5th grade & younger with christmas carols, fun stations & engaging story time

Wednesday, December 24
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary



Stepping Stones

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

2nd Grade: Worshipping Together
Sunday, December 7
10:00 a.m. in room M239/240

Save the Date

MORE INFO: krank@christelca.org

Stepping Stones

CONFIRMATION

TEN COMMANDMENTS
Sunday, November 16
 4-6 p.m. in the Forum

7th graders and parents are invited to explore the 10 Commandments, discover their significance in their faith journey and create a keepsake.

Scan/Click to Register



REALM

Homework Helpers Needed

Tutors and/or homework helpers for middle schoolers are needed from 4 to 5 p.m. before Wednesdays Ablaze starting in January.

Contact Pastor Adrienne if you are interested:
 (aladd@christelca.org)

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PARENT CONNECTION

Sunday, November 2
 4-6 p.m. in the Forum "Drugs & Alcohol"

Parents & youth are invited for a presentation from Sgt. Robert Stark about dealing with Drugs & Alcohol. There will also be an opportunity for parents to ask questions while students have fellowship time.



Click/Scan to Register>>

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

Meets Weekly

Mondays • 6-8 p.m.
in the Pit

Join us for a weekly Bible Study during the school year. This will be a time of diving into the word in a laid-back, conversation-based environment. Dinner provided. Bring your Bible and an open heart.

MORE INFO: Tyler Weller
 (tweller@christelca.org)

2606501

WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

Dinner 5:00-6:00 p.m.

in Fellowship Hall (\$8 adults/\$6 child/\$30 family max)
 To speed up your check-in, prepay for dinner in Realm

Activities & Classes 6:00-7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 10 - DECEMBER 10

LEARN MORE & RSVP FOR DINNERS:
christelca.org/wednesdays-ablaze

New Family Tradition!

by KRISTEN RANK

Calling all families with children in preschool through 5th grade! Join us on **Sunday, November 23rd** in Fellowship Hall immediately following Contemporary worship for an opportunity to create a family Advent wreath! We will provide lunch, all materials and guidance to create a wreath that your family can use throughout this Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brings. To help us plan, please register in REALM. Scan the QR Code or go to t.ly/YQJly.



2nd Grade Stepping Stone: Worshipping Together

by KRISTEN RANK

Second grade is a big year in the faith life of our kids! In September they received a new Bible that will grow with them through the rest of elementary school. During Lent, the kids and their parents participate in events that prepare them to receive First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Between these big events, we have a Worshipping Together Stepping Stone on **December 7th** from 10:00-10:45 a.m. As our 2nd graders are aging out of going to Christ Kids during worship, we walk with families to equip them through this transition. We will explore the altar together as a group, then have time for the parents and kids to meet separately.

There is no need to register for this event, just meet in the Sunday School classroom (M239/240) at 10:00 a.m. on December 7th. We look forward to walking together in our baptismal promises!

Children's Christmas Eve Service: Happy Birthday, Jesus!

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Come celebrate the birth of Jesus! At 10 a.m. on **December 24th**, families with children aged 5th grade and younger are invited to the Sanctuary for a time of worship that includes Christmas carols, fun stations and engaging story time. Together, we will learn about that Holy Night and the birth of Jesus—the very heart of Christmas. After worship, everyone will be invited downstairs for a party to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Our celebration will include hot cocoa and birthday cake!

Anniversary of Baptism

On January 11, 2026 during Traditional and Contemporary worship, we will commemorate all 2025 baptisms with our Anniversary of Baptism Stepping Stone. The newly baptized and their families will be asked forward during their chosen service to receive a blessing. This annual celebration is a time for our church community to remind families of the support and care we pledge when a child is baptized. It is also a time for families to remember the promises that they made when they brought their child to the font for baptism. Recognizing the importance of those promises and to help support you in your calling as parents, we have expanded our Anniversary of Baptism Stepping Stone to also include a brunch that will take place during the Sunday School hour. This brunch will be a time of fellowship, but also education. Pastor Adrienne and Rachel Dyer will lead a short seminar focusing on faith development for families and their young children. Nursery care will be available so parents can fully participate in the seminar and enjoy time for fellowship. Invitations to register will be sent to families in December, but if you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Adrienne (aladd@christelca.org) or Rachel Dyer (rdyer@christelca.org).



Coming

Soon!

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Sunday, November 23
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

On **Sunday, November 23** from 9:30am-12:30pm, the Lower Commons at Christ Lutheran will be transformed into a festive marketplace by our Middle and High School Youth and Outreach groups. Come learn about causes from all around the world and "shop." Choose causes you would like to support and make donations in honor of someone you appreciate/love. You will receive cards explaining the project(s) you supported and use them as Christmas

gifts to family, teachers, neighbors, etc. These are gifts you can be proud to give. We will also have a bake sale with homemade goodies-all proceeds will support an outreach project. Any bakers interested in donating a baked good can bring them to Lower Commons at 9am that morning. Stay tuned to social media and E-News for updates. **Please help our efforts to support our brothers and sisters throughout the world.**



Last year, the Lower Commons was all abuzz with shopping for the Alternative Gift Market.



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Family Sponsorship Event

December 10-15

'Tis the Season!

The Holidays are quickly approaching and that means it's time to start thinking about Christmas! The Christmas Shopping Event will take place over several days again this year. Many families in our community need our help. With the help of benevolence money and individual monetary donations, we will sponsor over 35 families this Christmas season!! The Christmas spirit will be STRONG! This Christmas, the actual shopping will take place over several days leading up to December 12. Families and/or small groups can "Adopt a Family" and purchase their wish list items during this time and then drop them off at Christ Providence beginning December 10. From December 13-15, parents of the sponsored families will have an opportunity to come to Christ Providence and wrap their families' Christmas gifts from the wish list items purchased and organized.

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

- Be a personal shopper for a family and deliver to Christ Providence December 10-12 or as scheduled.
- Donate new items (or gently used items).
- Support this ministry with monetary donations.
- Sponsor a family. Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org)
- Administrative help.
- Assist with set up and helping families with wrapping

their gifts December 12-15.

- Advanced shopping for items needed.

Donations accepted include:

- New board games
- Game systems (new or refurbished)
- New books, toys, minority baby dolls
- New clothing, coats
- New bikes and scooters
- Wrapping paper, tissue, boxes, tags, tape, scissors
- Yard sale (gently used) items

Household goods accepted:

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

Get into the Christmas spirit of giving at the big Christmas Shopping Event! *"The joy of sharing gives a special feeling to the one giving at Christmas!"* Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) or DeeDee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org) for information and to sign up!

Hnatenkos Family Update

by CHERYL SPAINHOUR

In early July of 2024, the Hnatenkos family traveled over 5,000 miles to Charlotte to find refuge from their war-torn homeland of Ukraine. Yana, Sasha and Polina, along with their little dog, Mila, have settled in, thanks in part to our CLC community. Sasha, who co-owned a saw mill in Poltava, has been doing carpentry and tiling work. When time permits, he makes wooden chairs, benches and swings (which make great Christmas gifts)! Yana teaches Ukrainian children online, who at times have their lessons with her while sheltering in underground bomb shelters. She's also a member of the CLC ladies' Wednesday Quilting group, and she's a fabulous cook! Polina is thriving in her final year of middle school and continues to study dance here after competing in aerial dance in Ukraine. Look for the Hnatenkos family on Sundays at the traditional CLC service.



(Left) The Hnatenkos family hosted a picnic this summer for their CLC friends to mark the first anniversary of life in the United States.



(Right) Sasha, Polina, and Yana celebrated the first anniversary of their stay in the United States with a summer picnic.

Habitat House Built!

by AMY DANIELS

By the time you are reading this, our Habitat Work Days will be completed (November 1). Thank you to everyone who worked one or more days of our 13 work days. The sub floor, the framing, the drywall, the painting, the trim work and the punch list tasks were good work that our volunteers helped with in order to reduce the price of a house by up to 20%. Thank you to all those who made donations when we were raising funds in July. Between individual gifts and Benevolence grants (and some money council earmarked from the sale of the Concord campus), we raised the \$100,000 to build this house. Thank you to those who helped provide a lunch or Thrivent Action Team to cover snacks, Gatorades and lunches. Thank you to those who pray about affordable housing, our efforts, etc... I am proud to be a part of a congregation that works to accomplish something this significant for a neighbor here in Charlotte. Maybe we can do it again next year!



Volunteers working on the Habitat House on October 4.



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on Google
★★★★★



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providence | online

Please take a second
& let the world know
about Christ Lutheran.
Click or Scan QR Code
to get started:



<https://g.page/r/Cc4CicBGr9juEAE/review>



LINK YOUR VIC CARD

It's time to link your Harris Teeter VIC Card to support McClintock Middle School. (Remember, you need to relink each year). Here's how:

1. Click ad or go to:
tie.harristeeter.com/together-in-education
2. Enter code for McClintock: 2042

namiwalks

Saturday, November 8
at the Mint Museum Randolph
(2730 Randolph Rd, Charlotte)

Registration: 9 a.m. • Walk 11:00-11:45 a.m.

Choose "Christ Lutheran Church" team
to register and donate.

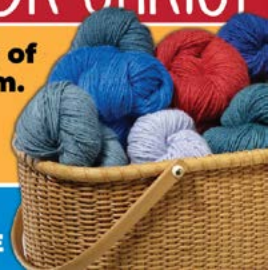
CLC Team Page:
namiwalks.org/teams/80142

-SMALL GROUP- KNITTERS FOR CHRIST

**meets the 3rd Sunday of
each month • 10:00 a.m.**

at Christ Providence
(Cornerstone Cafe)

**ALL KNITTERS &
CROCHETERS WELCOME**



Clothing Donations for Crisis Assistance

Bring new or gently used clothing to
donate to our neighbors in need!

Drop off **CLOTHING ONLY** at the Outreach
Office Mon-Fri. On Sunday, the blue bins
will be outside the Outreach Office doors.

Questions? nealmann@bellsouth.net



McClintock PARTNERS IN Education

Family Nights at McClintock
every Tuesday from 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.

To get involved, contact Angela:
adavis@christelca.org

HOW CAN
WE **PRAY**
FOR YOU?



christelca.org/prayer-request

Quilters
FOR CHRIST

**Wednesdays • 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Center Six)**

*If you can not make the Wednesday mornings, you
can still be part of this ministry by cutting out or
sewing squares at home. No experience necessary.*

MORE INFO:

Lois Witham (lowitham@carolina.rr.com)

Let's get connected.

Download the **Realm Connect** app today!



Need Help with Realm?

Contact Mary at mparker@christelca.org



North Carolina Synod
ELCA

**We encourage you to sign up
for weekly e-newsletters from the
North Carolina Synod.**

To sign up, go to nclutheran.org and
select 'Events & Communications' from
the main menu.



SERVING & OUTREACH



Family Night Update

McPIE Family Night is back and we started with a bang - steadily building community and energy in the school building!! It was contagious on September 30th during Registration Night. We served 194 meals that night; smiles were all around; and club leaders were excited to talk with students and families!

This fall, we have ten middle school evening clubs, four middle school afternoon clubs, four parent classes, three younger sibling offerings, and a new high school class!

Middle school students can choose to participate in the afternoon, evening, or both. Afternoon clubs include Trailblazers, Gardening, Game On!, and Nova Star RPG! Evening clubs are a combo of new and old- Art, Computer Building, Girl Scouts, Hands 2 Heart, Sports Drills, Ten80 Racing, Top Scot Chef, Volleyball (with new leaders), Center Stage Drama (NEW) and Woodworking.

Let's not forget our siblings! Younger sibling classes are led by dedicated and loving volunteers from Christ Lutheran. These children aged newborn through 5th grade are loved on, learn through play, are enjoying arts and crafts, sports, and focus on projects requiring teamwork. This semester, our 3rd-5th grade class is learning robotics and coding through our partnership with You Can Tech! High school students have a new class focusing on leadership, financial planning, resume and application completion, and will earn volunteer hours by helping leaders in Top Scot Chef, Sports Drills, and other clubs as needed.

Parent offerings include Getting Ahead, Women's Journey, ESL and Walk and Talk! ESL continues to be highly attended and parents are on pathways out of poverty in Getting Ahead and Women's Journey! Walk and Talk is a new parent-led club where parents can get their steps in and build community with each other.

This is an exciting time for McPIE Family Night, watching momentum build, smiles on the faces of volunteers and participants, and the hope of what programming brings to students and families. Our full mission comes to life each and every Tuesday at McClintock Middle School! We are creating future stories... building community...supporting families...inspiring volunteers... to ensure all McClintock students succeed! To get involved in this amazing outreach, contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org).

Retirement Celebration Thank You

by AMY DANIELS

Dear Pastor Scott, Church Council, Personnel Committee, Retirement Celebration Committee, and all congregational members –

I was overcome with emotion on Sunday, and overwhelmed by the generosity and depth of the comments and work done for the celebration of my ministry among you. The speakers covered it all in such a special way. The handbell pieces were lovely. The congregational hymns special. The quilt is absolutely gorgeous and the congregational gift so generous. The food was over the top of anything I could have imagined and the desserts amazing. The honoraria given to The McPIE Fund will help enable that ministry to continue to flourish. And finally, the embraces and comments and fellowship were so very special. Thank you for such a lovely expression of gratitude and celebration of my ministry among you.

I am most thankful for the 36 years of shared ministry. The participants, volunteers and the pastors and staff members over these years– in Family Ministry, Small Group Ministry, and all of the Outreach and McPIE ministries were always the hands and feet of Christ ministering with and to me. The memories are vibrant and special. I have been telling way too many stories and sharing these memories a lot in this season of retiring. Thank you to each and every one of you for smiles, encouragement, shared ministry, donations.

I am blessed beyond measure and thankful that I am able to continue as a member still here among you.

In gratitude, Amy

Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn (RITI) starts Thursday, December 4th and runs each Thursday evening (through Friday morning) from December to March. We are excited as we up our guest count from 10 to 12 this season.

We are blessed to have a new passenger van to utilize, so we could really use some help with VAN DRIVERS. And as always, OVERNIGHT HOSTS are a priority need. For donations/supplies for RITI, Amazon gift cards are ideal (email marciarow10@gmail.com). Sign up on our SignUp Genius page (click [CLC RITI Signup 2025-26](#) or search under lane.goode@gmail.com). For questions, email lane.goode@gmail.com.

Afghan Family Update

Mrs. Osmani is officially a United States citizen! She was sworn in at a ceremony in September with several Christ Lutheran friends by her side. Her hard work and dedication of becoming a citizen paid off!



Drivers Wanted

Every weekday, it takes more than 60 Nourish Up volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels to our homebound neighbors. We need you!

TO HELP, PLEASE EMAIL: volunteer@nourishup.org



ROOM IN THE INN

Christ Providence will be hosting our neighbors in need each Thursday starting Dec. 4!

Overnight hosts, drivers and other volunteers needed!



<< Info & Signup:

signupgenius.com

Q lane.goode@gmail.com

*Have you moved
or updated your email?*



Please update
in REALM or let the
church office know!

HELP FUND A
SERVICE PROJECT WITH

thrivent

Action Teams

For more information:

Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org)



SOUP KITCHEN

3rd SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH
at Roof Above

Serve up a warm meal
for those in need!
Limited volunteer capacity.

To get involved, contact:
Liza Snow liza.hack1994@gmail.com

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Tutors

McPIE
McClintock Partners In Education

Volunteers needed to help tutor
students needing extra help at
McClintock Middle School,
especially 6th grade math.

**Contact Emma LeSaint if
interested in volunteering:**
emma.n.lesaint@gmail.com



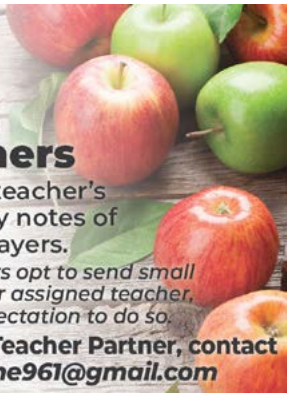
McPIE
McClintock Partners In Education

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: Teacher Partners

Brighten a McClintock teacher's
day by sending monthly notes of
encouragement and prayers.

*While some Teacher Partners opt to send small
gifts or spend time with their assigned teacher,
there is no obligation or expectation to do so.*

**If you would like to be a Teacher Partner, contact
Jeanne Hunt: huntjeanne961@gmail.com**



DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FALL: Teacher Luncheons

Support teachers and staff at
McClintock Middle School with
lunches on early release days.
Volunteers needed to prepare
dishes as well as help serve.

Next Luncheon Date: Nov. 19th

**If you are interested
in joining this team,
contact Melinda Dale at
melinda28226@hotmail.com**



GATHERED IN PRAYER

Do you have the desire to lift others & our
community up in prayer? Do you often wish
you had taken the time to pray for those
on the back of the bulletin?

**Come join us every Thursday morning
9 a.m. in the Worship Parlor**

MORE INFO:
D'Linda Highum (206) 310-6037

CROP Walk Thank You

by KEN SUMLIN

The Charlotte CROP Walk was held on October 19th and once again Christ Lutheran set the pace! As this newsletter goes to press, Christ Lutheran has raised over \$33,000, by far the largest amount of any church in the city. And we are not done; we will continue to collect funds for some time, at least until the end of the year. Although it's nice to keep score, the real reason for the Walk is to glorify God by feeding those in need.

A big thank you goes out to our CROP Walk heroes. No, we are not talking about our walkers. Rather, we mean our donors who went online or gave checks or cash to support our CROP team. Some walked at Providence Baptist, the site of this year's Walk. Our youth groups did their own walks. Some walked in their own neighborhoods.

We will provide a report with our updated numbers in the next Christ Connections. Thanks again to all those who fought hunger and made a difference.



**Thanks to your generosity 3,399 lbs of food were donated to Nourish Up.
That is 1.7 TONS of food to feed our neighbors in need!**



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



november/december 2025

Scott Suskovic • Senior Pastor
Ryan Ritzmann • Pastor, Evangelism & Faith Formation
Adrienne Ladd • Pastor, Family Ministry
Alexis Williams • Minister, Christ Online
Angela Davis • Director of Outreach
Mark Johanson • Minister of Music
Tony Hyde • Director of Property and Finance

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In your REALM profile, you can set newsletter mailing preferences to USPS mail or online delivery. Hard copies are available for pickup at each campus. You can also view the online, interactive version at christelca.org/latest-news

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2024 EDITIONS

Jan/Feb - December 11 Mar/April - February 15 May/June - April 15
July/Aug - June 14 Sept/Oct - August 9 Nov/Dec - October 15

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

Advent Wreath Making Event for Families

Sunday, November 23
12:15 - 2:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a new family tradition as we create Advent wreaths to take home & enjoy for many years to come. Lunch, wreath supplies & candles are provided. This event is geared to preschool & elementary families. Cost: \$15

To help us plan for food & supplies,
Please Scan/Click to Register



REMINDER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

**Sunday, November 2
at 2:00 a.m.**

**Don't forget to set
your clocks back 1 hour!**

