

Christ Connections



september/october 2026

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Summer Worship

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship

Fall Worship Starts September 13

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

*Bridge Service Starts Sept. 20

FALL KICKOFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



NEW SERMON SERIES

Rekindling the Flame

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 25



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

Starts September 16th!!



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Cranking Back up the Machine

I love the summer. I love the warmth and the sun. I love the different schedule. I love getting away for a vacation. I love the water. Summer is a great time... but strangely enough, I love it when summer comes to an end. By September, the heat has gone on far too long. I'm ready to get back to a routine. And I miss the people I haven't seen for months.

It's time to crank back up the machine called Christ Lutheran!

I want to encourage you to find ways where you can get involved, deepen your faith and connect with people. This fall, there are many opportunities.

Kick-Off Sunday is September 13 with a free lunch for all from 10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and the start of Adult Sunday School Classes from 10:00–10:45 a.m. (see page 8 for adult listings). Children & Youth Sunday School will be open-house style where parents can find their child's assigned classroom and meet the teachers.

Fall Worship Schedule kind of starts on September 13, with Traditional worship at 8:45 a.m. and Contemporary at 11:00 a.m. The only difference this year is that The Bridge service will resume at 10:00 a.m. beginning September 20 to give everyone an opportunity to meet teachers and stay for lunch (see page 7 for more on Kick-Off Sunday).

Wednesdays Ablaze begins on September 16 with revamped programming for the whole family. If you are looking for a Bible Study, join me from 6:00–7:30 p.m. in the Forum for an in depth look at Daniel (see page 9 for the entire schedule).

Small Group Emphasis is throughout September. In a large church, small groups are essential for intimacy, growth and a sense of belonging. A booklet will be available on September 20 in worship and on our website, or you can explore small groups and other class offerings in REALM.

New Member Orientation for those who want to deepen their walk with Christ by joining this congregation—we will meet on September 27 and October 4 in the Forum from 12:00–3:00 p.m. with lunch provided.

McPIE's Tuesday Family Nights will resume at McClintock Middle School starting September 29. Consider helping us by serving food, manning the supplies, teaching a class, driving a van or checking in students. We need dozens of volunteers each week.

While I love summer, the fall comes at just the right time. The plans are in place. The rooms are reserved. We are cranking back up the machine. And I invite you to jump in, get involved, strengthen friendship, learn about the Bible and worship God.

**Peace,
Pastor Scott**

2026 Church Council

Andy Brincefield
President

Molly Zmuda
Vice President

Holly Cannon
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Jeffrey Kung

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David Herran

Brad Keller

NEW SERMON SERIES

Rekindling the Flame

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 25

Overview: When God called Moses through a burning bush, he had a strong direction, purpose and passion for his life. How about you? What is your call story? When and how did you discover God's purpose for your life? Periodically, we need to return to our own burning bush to remember our purpose by rekindling the flame.

September 13 • Abraham's Call: Go with Blind Faith

Abraham has a unique call. It isn't specific. It doesn't have a goal. He's not exactly sure where he is headed. He just knows he must leave where he is now and venture out with blind faith that God is leading the way. Is that your call story? A sense that you must leave, but not sure what lies ahead? Rekindle that flame. (*Genesis 12:1–5; Proverbs 3:1–6; Mark 1:16–21*)

September 20 • Gideon: Fake It Til You Make It

Gideon had so many strikes against him. He was the smallest person from the smallest tribe of Israel with the smallest army. He felt like a poser. But he knew that God called him for such a time like this and so he had to fake it until he made it. Perhaps when you got that new promotion or became a parent or volunteered for a ministry you had no idea what you were doing. You are not alone. Many feel inadequate at first. Rekindle that flame. (*Judges 6:11–16; 7:1–8; Luke 5:1–11*)

September 27 • Jeremiah: But You Have No Experience

When Jeremiah was called by God to be a prophet, his first response was that he was too young. No one will take me seriously. I don't have the experience. Paul's friend, Timothy, felt the same. Perhaps you did, too, when you started. But you knew that God had called you, equipped you and was with you. Rekindle that flame. (*Jeremiah 1:1–10; 1 Timothy 4:11–16*)

October 4 • Elisha: Burning Bridges

(*1 Kings 19:19–21; Luke 9:57–62*)

Before Elisha followed the prophet Elijah, he slaughtered all of his oxen, burned his plows and provided a feast for the village. In other words, he burned all of his bridges, there was no going back, there was only one way — and that was forward. Is this your call story? Did you have to make a decision to be all in so you had no distraction? Rekindle that flame.

October 11 • Mary: But I'm a Nobody

When the angel visited Mary to announce that she would be the mother of the Messiah, her first response was, "Who am I? I'm a nobody!" Perhaps you didn't come from the right family or go to the right college or have the right experiences. Perhaps when that call came, you also felt like God had made a mistake. I'm a nobody. Rekindle that flame. (*Luke 1:26–38*)

October 18 • Paul: Heading in the Wrong Direction

Paul was heading in the wrong direction fast when God knocked him down on the road to Damascus. Persecuting Christians with hate in his heart, God had to knock him down and turn him around in a completely different direction. Is this your call story? You were heading in the wrong direction fast until God got your attention and set you on the correct path? Rekindle that flame. (*Acts 9:1ff*)

October 25 • Isaiah's Call: It's Going to be Hard!

On this Reformation Sunday, we are going to see how Luther's call story mirrored Isaiah's. Both had a dramatic encounter with God, both thought that they were too sinful, and both were told that this call was going to be incredibly hard. Sound familiar? Is this your call story? Rekindle the flame. (*Isaiah 6:1ff*)

CHRIST LUTHERAN cornerstone gifts

SUN | TU | W | TH
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

located between
the Ministry Center
& Lower Commons

Are you in the habit of taking a gift to show your appreciation to your host or hostess for the work that they put into hosting a brunch, a dinner party, a potluck supper or even an overnight stay? While you may write a thank-you note, a small gift is a nice way to acknowledge the efforts and hospitality shown by your host or hostess.

Cornerstone Gifts offers a variety of gifts! Candles, soaps, diffusers, tea towels, books, devotionals and honey are just a few of the gifts that we have to offer. Our volunteers will be glad to show you items that might fit the occasion and your budget.

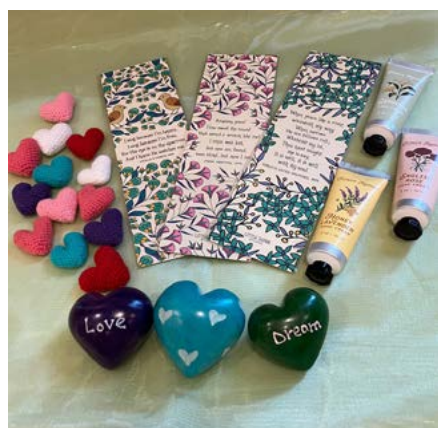
Cornerstone Gifts will be marking down some of our merchandise as we prepare to receive our Christmas merchandise (look for Christmas items to be in the store around November 1). Our clearance merchandise will be ever changing, so be sure to check out the Clearance Corner regularly.

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.

Beginning in September, 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 a private appointment can be arranged for you. We hope you stop by and check out what we have to offer!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

FB: Cornerstone Gifts at Christ Lutheran
IG: cornerstonegifts



2030
somethings

SOCIAL EVENTS
FOR YOUNG ADULTS
IN THEIR 20s & 30s

Friday, September 18 • 6:30 p.m.

Whitewater Center

Join us as Funk You performs from 7-10 p.m.
as part of the River Jam concert series!

Fall Dates to Know

Church Offices Closed • Sept. 4 & 7
In observance of Labor Day

Kick-Off Sunday • September 13
Traditional 8:45 a.m. • Contemporary 11 a.m.
Sunday School Classes 10-10:45 a.m.

Wednesdays Ablaze Resumes • Sept. 16
Dinner 5-6 p.m. • Activities & Classes 6-7:30 p.m.

Bridge Service Resumes • Sept. 20
10 a.m. in Christ Chapel

ADULT 40+

Open Court Basketball

Find your old high-tops & join us for some
exercise, fun & fellowship. Throughout the
summer months, Spirit Hall will be open

Wednesdays • 7-9 p.m.

for adults 40+ to shoot, play a game
or join a pick-up game. Join us for
glory days & remember **MOVING TO MONDAYS
STARTING SEPT 14**



NEW MEMBER CLASS

**Sunday, September 27
and Sunday, October 4**

12:15 - 2:30 p.m. in the Forum

Join us for our upcoming New Member class! This
is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our
pastors & staff while delving into the Lutheran faith
& the history of CLC. Lunch will be provided.



Scan/Click to Register

MORE INFO: khofmann@christelca.org
or mparker@christelca.org

Re-Membering Event

Sunday, September 20
12:15-1:30 p.m. in Forum A&B

If you have joined CLC within the past few
years, we invite you to a special lunch to
connect with others and share
how your journey has been so far.

Scan/Click QR Code to Register



Third THURSDAY
for adults of all ages

September 17
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Pit

Join us for an exciting afternoon of Latin ballroom dancing led by Donna Emmans & National Ballroom Dance Champion Emily Guthrie. No prior dance experience or partner required. Lunch is included!

\$12 • Scan/Click to Register



REALM

Oktoberfest is October 25

by PASTOR RYAN

It's official! We have a new tradition: Oktoberfest.

I just love sharing an invite to people in my world to come to church and have a beer. The look on their face! And I admit it's not the norm, especially here in the South. We all know there's nothing wrong with a responsible drink, and there is a lot right in celebrating the Reformation and Oompa music.

Our Oktoberfest started from a nice event under a tent on the South land to a big blow out. We have food, live music, bounce houses, Trunk-or-Treat and Pastor Adrienne and I are in matching Dirndl and Lederhosen.

The best part though is still that invitation. It is an AMAZING opportunity to break the stereotypes that so many have about what church has to be. It is a celebration all the way through this life and into the infinite celebration in the after life. So many people think of church as a list of do's and don'ts, emphasis on the don'ts. Our Oktoberfest shows that the LORD wants us to be happy.

We know we are supposed to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) but we don't always know how. Well here's your low-hanging fruit. Invite someone from your life to share a beer, a brat or just some fun music.

Prost!

Life in Christ With Kids

by PASTOR RYAN

Put your own mask on before putting on the mask of another. We all know this sage wisdom as the instruction given to us as we taxi toward the runway and approach take off in an airplane. It is such good advice, and applicable in so many other areas. Not the least of which is the family.

Are you paying attention to your faith? How is your walk with our Lord? So often we are busy meeting the needs of the day, or sometimes just getting through the day because the preceding was so demanding. It can be too easy to go through the motions. And when we find ourself in that mode we're not growing, we're just going.

If we are just going through the motions in our spiritual life, how will we help our children fully embody their nascent faith? This is where Life in Christ with Kids comes in. It is a group of parents, with kids of all ages, who come together to get into the Word of God and support each other in the walk of life.

The power of the group is not really the Bible study, although as the one who leads that let me say it's not small potatoes. Really, the strength of the group in the fellowship. Our kids will think of the kids of Christ Lutheran as their cohort. They will think about the families of Christ Lutheran as the families of their life. And the parents of the Life in Christ with Kids group know the kids of all the families by name. And we have more than our fair share of twins and even triplets in our group. This group is living life as the Holy Spirit intended.

If you aren't in a group, or even if you are, come check out Life in Christ with Kids at 6:00 p.m. in Rm. W150 A&B during Wednesdays Ablaze. With a meal made by Chef Mike preceding, this may be the best commitment you make this decade. For a full list of classes, see page 9.

Blessing of the Pets

Saturday, October 3

at our Southland Property



Save the Date!
— more details to come —

2030
some things

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS
FOR YOUNG ADULTS
IN THEIR 20s & 30s

Bible Study

Meets every other Thursday
6:30 p.m. in the Pit

Young adults are invited to join with others in their 20s-30s for a time in the Word.

UPCOMING DATES:

Sept. 3 • Sept. 17 • Oct. 1 • Oct. 15 • Oct. 29

Psalm 8: Eco-Friendly

Saturday, September 12

8:45-10:30 a.m. (meet in the circular drive in front of Ministry Center)

We will be cleaning up Providence Rd. from Sharon Amity to Olde Providence. Bring your own gloves & we will provide trash bags, grabbers and safety vests.

More info: Gordon Miller (gmiller9535@aol.com)

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

meets weekly from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Forum A&B



If you've hit a wall in your faith walk, join this Bible study that journeys through Genesis & John in pursuit of a God who restores our faith in his love & fills us with the wonder of his beauty. **Starts September 17th!!**

MORE INFO: julia.edelson@gmail.com



Xperience Tour 26'

by KEVIN LANE

With the annual Xperience tour in the books for 2026, I always like to look back and reflect upon how our high schoolers here at Christ Lutheran are not only shaping their faith, but those who they touch on their tour while praising Him and His word. We have such an impressive group of students who take this amazing opportunity to spread the word of Jesus and knock it out of the park each and every year.

This year we made stops in three different cities in Texas! We flew 15 students along with seven adults from Charlotte to Dallas, Texas. We were in Dallas for the first three days, then drove to Austin for a day, then to San Antonio, and then back to Dallas for our flight home. Every day we enjoyed a little faith, fellowship and fun.

Our first show was at Faith Lutheran in Flower Mound, just outside of Dallas. The Xperience led worship music during their Sunday service. While in Dallas, we also enjoyed a day of fellowship at a Texas Rangers baseball game, enjoyed AUTHENTIC Texas bar-b-que, and had a nice shopping adventure at The Galleria Mall—IT HAD AN ICE RINK INSIDE! We unfortunately had one student who had to stay behind because of an untimely injury. However, our wonderful students all chipped in and got her a Build-A-Bear with a nice message recorded in it. The hearts of our students shine continuously!

Our second show was in Plano where The Xperience had an amazing worship show at Preston Meadow Lutheran Church. The spirit was really moving through the room that evening. It's incredible to witness the power these students have with their musical gifts and faith.

Our third stop was in Austin, where we enjoyed their South Congress district. It was certainly a highlight as we celebrated one of our students' birthdays. We sang Happy Birthday to her while enjoying one of her favorite foods, pizza, on the patio of a local pizza parlor. A few passersby chimed in and sang along with us! Truly a special time for her. Our third show was at Palm Valley Lutheran in Round Rock. Once again, the spirit was moving—more than usual. There were A LOT of tears flowing... myself included. It was a beautiful evening to say the least. It's those shows and moments that bring everyone together in ways that are unexplainable.



We then drove to San Antonio, where we enjoyed a moment of historical value at The Alamo—which was a huge hit. We then enjoyed the Riverwalk for some more fellowship, shopping and dining. It's times when we unintentionally break into smaller groups that I enjoy the most. You get time with students in a more intimate setting and get to know them better and see what really drives them in not only their personal lives, but their lives in faith as well. We then had a show at Abiding Presence Lutheran in San Antonio. On our last day in San Antonio we went to Schlitterbahn Waterpark. One of our generous congregation members, who works with a partner of the waterpark, was able to get us complimentary tickets. A great day was had by all, and SHOCKINGLY no one got sunburned!

We drove back to Austin so we could all stay at the same hotel together and have a special evening for our seniors. We call it cry fest. This is where we give the entire group a chance to express how much the seniors mean to us, and the seniors express their feelings for the group. There aren't enough tissues in the world to dry up all the tears shed during this particular evening. All of the prayers, stories and love shared are second to none. This was our last night together before the flight back to Charlotte. It's a bittersweet moment as we are soon going to be able to sleep in our own beds again. That also means we all go our separate ways. Although we see each other at church, it's not the same as when you're on the road together for a week building relationships with one another, and more importantly with Jesus.

As I finish this writing, it is again, a bittersweet moment. I got to relive the memories of tour. That is both the bitter and sweet moment. Sweet because of the memories revisited and bitter because I have to wait an entire year for the next one. Peace be to God.



FALL KICKOFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

NEW WORSHIP TIMES

8:45 a.m. Traditional • 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

Adult Classes Resume 10:00–10:45 a.m.

**Bridge Service resumes Sept. 20 (10:00 a.m.)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Children & Youth Sunday School Classes will be open-house style from 10:00–10:45 a.m. Parents can find their child's assigned classroom, meet the teachers and see the other students.

LUNCH (FREE!)

Fair-style food served 10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

**Please RSVP for lunch in REALM*



MINISTRY FAIR & ACTIVITIES

Stop by the Lower Commons between 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to learn about fall programming for all ages. Enjoy live music, games & activities inside Spirit Hall and outside (weather permitting) around the Plaza Fountain.

YOUTH GROUP KICKOFF

Middle and High School students are invited to come to the Pit from 4:00–8:00 p.m. as we kick-off the new school year!



SAVE THE DATE!!



Providence

CHRISTLUTHERAN

online

2026

christelca.org



Adult Sunday School Classes START SEPTEMBER 13th!

CLC Book Club 10:00–10:45 a.m. in Lackey Parlor

The Adult Book Club is open to anyone. We read and discuss books of all kinds, but primarily books on faith, our relationship with God, human nature, scripture or biographies of faith leaders. Our discussions can be lively and frank. We do not shy away from controversial topics. We thrive on competing opinions, but we expect civility and respect for one another. Even if you have not read the assigned chapter, we encourage everyone to attend. We'll catch you up and let you talk anyway!

—Led by Dan Hansen and Carl Edgren

The Crew 10:00–10:45 a.m.

in W150 A&B -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

This fall beginning on September 13th, we will use Marty Solomon's book, *Asking Better Questions of the Bible*. Join this journey away from easy answers and toward a richer encounter not only with the Biblical text itself, but more importantly with our God who beckons us to draw near. This book is an invitation to bring our whole selves to our reading of Scripture, confident that in doing so, God will lead us into a deeper level of meaning and understanding. The pace will be unhurried, giving space to chew on the content, ask questions and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in our discussions. Each week we will also spend intentional time praying within the group, supporting one another.

—Led by David Deeds and Joy Hutchinson

Faith in Action 10:00–10:45 a.m. in Forum C

The Faith in Action women's class seeks to deepen our faith through scripture study and readings for living in today's world. Using Chad Bird's book, *Hitchhiking with the Prophets*, we examine not just Old Testament stories but our own story. *Hitchhiking with the Prophets* involves stories of being lost and yet still finding our way home again. Home is where our Father created us to dwell — in His Son, Jesus. He is our home, where we abide, where we are at peace, and where we can finally look around and say "this is where God wants me to be." We wholeheartedly invite you to join us on Sunday!

—Led by Joyce Brigman and Linda Murdock

Studies of Scripture 10:00–10:45 a.m.

in the Adult Library

This fall, as we continue to study the scriptures of the Bible, we will be going over the second half of the Gospel of John — chapters 13–21. Come and join us!

—Led by John Sensenbrenner and B Crigler

Emerge: Digging Deeper 10:00–10:45 a.m.

in the Music Room

Emerge utilizes faith-based popular media to explore the message of the Gospels and the intersection with our daily lives. Adults of all ages are welcome!

—Led by Rob & Kristen Stark

Faith Fellowship: The Bible and Beyond

10:00–10:45 a.m. in Forum A&B -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

(Sept. 13–Oct. 18) *We Must Plant The Church: The Story of Lutherans in America*. As part of our 250th Semisecular centennial Anniversary this year, Faith Fellowship is embarking on a six-week video series that tells the amazing four-century history of the Lutheran Church in America from its beginnings to modern day. The video presenters are some of the most respected experts on Lutheran history: Kathryn Kleinhans (Former Trinity Seminary President), Mark Granquist (Luther Seminary), Maria Erling (Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg), Richard Stewart (Emeritus of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia), Mark Hanson (ELCA Bishop Emeritus), Martin Marty (Emeritus of The University of Chicago), Gordon Straw (American Indian and Alaska Native Ministries, ELCA), DeAne Lagerquest (St. Olaf College), David Preus (ELCA Bishop Emeritus) and Vivian Jenkins Nelson (Senior Fellow at Augsburg College).

(Oct. 25–Nov. 22) *Experiencing Forgiveness: Enjoy the Peace of Giving and Receiving Grace*. Author Dr. Charles Stanley boldly states that "true freedom is found in forgiveness" — but that many of us live in bondage to guilt and unforgiveness that stifle our ability to love and receive love. In this 5-session series, he identifies the components of forgiveness and teaches us how to forgive others, accept God's forgiveness of sins, and find the freedom and blessings of a full and abundant life.

(Nov. 29–Dec. 20) *Advent Study: On The Way To Bethlehem*. Author and pastor Rob Fuquay plans a 4-stop spiritual itinerary to enrich our observation and celebration of the Advent season. From Rome, to Jerusalem, to Nazareth and ending in Bethlehem, his in-person, on-location DVD narrative provides insight into the geographical and historical significance of each city visited. The reflection we give these places prepares the heart and soul to experience wonder, awe, mystery and joy.

—Led by Barbara Burton, Milt Marin, Miriam Morrison, and Barbara Anderson



For hybrid classes, find Zoom links on
Christ Online's Virtual Schedule:
christelca.org/online

WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

Starts September 16th!!

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.
something for all ages!

christelca.org/wednesdays-ablaze

ADULT CLASSES

Pastor Scott's Class – Daniel: Faith Under Fire
6:00–7:30 p.m. *in Forum A&B -or- Christ Online*

It is hard enough to live out your faith in a mostly Christian nation like the United States. How much harder would it be living in a country that is openly hostile to your faith? That's where Daniel finds himself during the Babylonian Exile. Through his example, we gain encouragement, insight and strength to live our faith under fire.

Pastor Ryan's Class – Life in Christ With Kids
6:00–7:30 p.m. *in W150 A&B*

Do you have kids? Do worship Jesus? Do you want to love them all? Life in Christ with Kids is part support group part Bible study where we can get into the Word of God and the nitty gritty of life.

Gospel Mixxed Fit Class
6:30–7:15 p.m. *in the Dance Studio (C-301)*

Praise God through dance and movement! Gospel Fit is a unique fitness program paired with cardio hip-hop music. With instructor Tracy Reynolds, we will be dancing and exercising to Gospel music and will conclude with prayer. Class will be every Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month. Cost is \$5 per class. ****Starts September 23****

Mother/Daughter Bible Study
6:00 p.m. *in W163 (near Center Six)*

This fall, we are launching a brand new Mother Daughter Bible Study designed specifically for mothers and daughters in middle school and high school. These years are full. They are complicated. They move faster than any of us would like. And sometimes the most important conversations are the hardest ones to start. This study gives you and your daughter a reason to sit down together, open Scripture together, and let God's Word do what it does — open hearts, spark honest conversations, and remind you both that you are not navigating this season alone.

Knitting and Crochet Group 6:00 p.m. *in Forum C*
Join Sandy Harris to knit or crochet — bring your Works in Progress (WIPs) and join us for dinner beforehand when you can. Please bring your own supplies. Contact coolmom@bellsouth.net for more information.

EFFECTIVE DATES: September 16 – December 9, 2026

CHILDREN & YOUTH

WEDNESDAY MUSIC & ACTIVITIES

INFANTS & TODDLERS

6 Weeks – 3 Years Old

Nursery Care Available

6:00–7:30 p.m. in Rm. M230-231

• • • • •

PRESCHOOL

3 – 4 Years Old

Music & Movement

6:00–7:00 p.m. in Rm. M241-242

(optional gym time from 7–7:30 p.m.)

• • • • •

ELEMENTARY

PreK – 5th Grade

Music & Movement

6:00–7:00 p.m. in the Music Room (M248)

(optional gym time from 7–7:30 p.m.)

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MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

6th – 8th Grade

New Program: X-alt

6:00–7:30 p.m. starting in the Gym (Spirit Hall)

(pickup in upstairs classrooms)

• • • • •

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

9th – 12th Grade

The Xperience

6:00–7:30 p.m. in the Pit

ADULT MUSIC

Luther Ringers

6:00–7:15 p.m. in Rm. M245

Christ Choir

7:15–8:45 p.m. in the Music Room (M248)
high schoolers & adults welcome

Mother-Daughter Bible Study

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

A Mother Daughter Bible Study during Wednesdays Ablaze. Make Wednesday nights an opportunity to get into God's Word together. This fall, we are launching a brand new Mother Daughter Bible Study on Wednesday evenings as part of Wednesdays Ablaze. This study is designed specifically for mothers and daughters in middle school and high school — which, if we're being honest, is exactly the season when that connection matters most.

These years are full. They are complicated. They move faster than any of us would like. And sometimes the most important conversations are the hardest ones to start. This study gives you and your daughter a reason to sit down together, open Scripture together, and let God's Word do what it does — open hearts, spark honest conversations, and remind you both that you are not navigating this season alone.

Each participant will receive a devotional book that is relevant, engaging, and genuinely written for this stage of life. Something you will both actually want to read — and talk about on the drive home.

This is for the mom of a sixth grader and the mom of a senior. It is for the daughter who loves church and the one who is still figuring out what she thinks. All that is required is that you come together. Interested? Email Pastor Adrienne (aladd@christelca.org) to learn more.

Confirmation Class of 2026

Each year our 9th graders head out to Awanita Valley in the foothills of South Carolina for a faith-filled and fun weekend. This retreat is the final preparation for their Rite of Confirmation. They studied the promises they will make and how they will live them out.

They discovered how much they have grown over the last three years of Confirmation and the value of this Christian community. The Rite of Confirmation services will be August 30th. Please join us to support them in this step in their faith journey as their fire for Christ is set ablaze.



2026 Confirmands (in alphabetical order): Ainsley Brown, Damon Contreras, William DePalma, Connor Huot, Jordan Melton, Trey Parker, Logan Petrie, Ronan Petrie, Landon Stark, Logan Stine, Ryder Teel, Sawyer Teel, Joe Waskom, Chloe Williams

Baptismal Classes

UPCOMING DATES:

Sun., September 20

Sun., November 1

10 a.m. in Lackey Chapel

For info, email Caroline at cdiffley@christelca.org

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

**FIND THE PLAYLIST ON OUR
CLC YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

HOW CAN WE **PRAY** FOR YOU?



christelca.org/prayer-request



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.

Sunday Bulletin



CHRISTLUTHERAN
providence | online

**Download Your
Sunday Bulletin on**

**CHRIST
online**

christelca.org/online

Coffee with the Pastors
BOOK STUDY

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

 christelca.org/online

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer meetings will take a break from August 10th through Labor Day. We are exploring ways for our meetings to become more Christ-centered and are also looking at changing the date and time that we meet. Stay tuned for updates!

MORE INFO:
Laura Tang (Lttang@earthlink.net)

Trunk or Treat
For 5th Grade & Younger

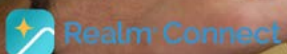
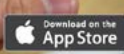
Sunday, October 25
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
in the Parking Lot



Download Our Church App Today!



 onelink.to/connectapp

NEW SERMON SERIES

Rekindling the Flame

STARTS SEPTEMBER 13!!

 **READ MORE:** christelca.org/sermon-series

WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

Think VBS, but Every Wednesday

by PHILIP BIEDENBENDER

As we look past the heat of summer to the leaves of fall, a sense of dread can fill us. There are so many things calling for our attention: the start of the school year, early-morning cross country and swim practices, after-school clubs, weekend tournaments, and all the things we do to keep kids and ourselves engaged and “busy.”

As you’re planning your weeks, we, the Music and Family Ministry teams at Christ Lutheran, encourage you to also make room for relief and rejuvenation, fellowship, friends and food — things that require nothing more than your presence. Let us make dinner for you. Let us watch your kids and give them fulfilling, noncompetitive activities that feed their minds and bodies, but most important, their faith and souls.

Wednesdays Ablaze offers so many opportunities to engage with church in a different, more active way. Think VBS, but every Wednesday.

Preschoolers have rhythm and singing, Bible stories, and playtime with Mr. Dennis. Elementary kids have instrumental and vocal music with Miss Mandy and Mr. CJ, movement with Miss Jennifer, crafts and faith formation with Miss Rachel, Mr. Phil and Miss Kristen. Middle schoolers have music and small-group Bible study and high school students have faith formation and fellowship of the Xperience.

And for adults, there’s something for you, too: pastor-led bible studies, a gospel-centered dance and fitness class, Christ Choir and Luther Ringers — or simply some time to relax while we provide some child-free time for you. Come join us on Wednesdays. Bring your kids, bring a friend, and come be part of the fun.

Think VBS, but every Wednesday.

Wednesdays Ablaze Transportation for Middle Schoolers

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

We are excited to start a new year of programming for Wednesdays Ablaze! Free time in the gym, Bible Study, and music are calling! Come hang out with your friends (or make new ones), dig into faith and real-life questions together, and be part of a community that’s genuinely glad you’re there. Make a space in your life for faith formation during the week.

And if getting there is the hard part, we’ve got you covered: if you attend McClintock Middle School, we can provide transportation straight from school to church, so there’s no need for a parent to make a special trip. Just let us know you’re interested, and we’ll take care of the rest. We can’t wait to see you Wednesday nights!

If you are interested in transportation on Wednesday nights, please contact Pastor Adrienne at aladd@christelca.org.

Gift of the Word Stepping Stone

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

At the baptismal font, a promise is made — not just by parents and sponsors, but by the whole congregation. We promise to place the Holy Scriptures into a child's hands, and to help provide for their instruction in the Christian faith. It's one of the most important promises we make, and one of the easiest to forget once the candle is blown out and the baptismal gown is packed away.

The Gifting of the Word is how we keep that promise, out loud, on purpose — and this September, we get to keep it three times. Over three consecutive Sundays, we'll pause during worship to place a Bible into the hands of some of our youngest and most important members, and to bless them as they receive it. Mark your calendars:

September 13 • Sixth Grade Bibles & Confirmation Blessing

Our 6th graders will receive their own Bibles as they step into confirmation — a milestone that says, in effect, it's time for these words to become truly your own. We'll bless them not just with a book, but with a send-off into the years of questions, study and growth that Confirmation is all about.

September 20 • Second Grade Bibles

Our 2nd graders will receive Bibles built just for where they are — old enough to start reading God's Word for themselves, young enough that every page still feels a little bit like discovering treasure.

September 27 • Three-Year-Old (Spark) Bibles

Our youngest recipients will receive their very first Bibles — colorful, story-driven Spark Bibles designed to make the very first encounters with Scripture feel like exactly what they are: the beginning of a lifelong story.

If you take one thing away from this article, let it be this: reading the Word of God with your child is one of the most important things you can ever do for them. Not the only thing — but among the most important. Every children's ministry activity, every Sunday School lesson, every Stepping Stone we walk through together is meant to support what happens at home, around a kitchen table, in a bedroom before lights-out, and in a car on the way to practice.

So however old your student is this September, we hope you'll be in worship to see this Stepping Stone in person, celebrate alongside these families, and maybe even be reminded to crack open your own Bible together at home a little more often this fall.

Child Protection Training

This September, we will be holding our annual Child Protection Policy training. The Child Protection Policy exists to ensure that anyone involved with our children and youth is equipped to minister in ways that are healthy and appropriate for everyone involved.

Our Protection Policy, developed by our staff and approved by Council, requires volunteers to attend training each year and receive background checks every three years. This requirement is for any volunteer who has in-person interactions with children and youth, including through McPie, VBS, Sunday School, youth group, Wednesdays Ablaze and many other programs.

We will be offering one training opportunity this fall. It will be on **Monday, September 14**, from 6–8 p.m., with dinner included. If you have any plans to work with our children and youth during the upcoming school year, please mark this very important date on your calendars and we'll be glad to see you there!

Saturday, September 26 • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

YOUTHQUAKE

Youthquake is a gathering for 3rd–5th graders from across the NC Synod for learning, service and worship. This year's theme is what it means to be the church and what a synod is.

Cost: \$22/person (includes lunch & a tshirt!)
All adults attending must have Safe Gathering Certification or provide proof of other background check and training approved by the church.

Location: First Lutheran Church
3600 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410

Questions? E-mail covercash@nclutheran.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL **Messy** HIGH SCHOOL

GAME NIGHT

Sunday, September 13
4–8 p.m. in the Pit

THIS IS YOUTH GROUP

It's time for our annual kickoff event of Messy Games! Bring your friends & dress for the mess! Dinner included.

REALM Scan/Click QR Code to Register

WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

ENJOY A COOKOUT OF **BBQ RIBS & CHICKEN** ON SEPTEMBER 16

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.

Starts September 16th!!

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

peer ministry leadership

PEER MINISTRY LEADERSHIP is...
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS equipped with
SKILLS for caring, welcoming, affirming, leading
and serving — LIVED every day, everywhere
and in every relationship — **LOVING**
because Christ first loved us.

To learn more, contact Natalya
(nlegvold@christelca.org)

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING **RESCHEDULED DATE**

Monday, September 14 • 6–8 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall

This training is mandatory for anyone who is interested in assisting children and youth with CLC or McPIE during the 2026–27 school year. The training will review our Child Protection Policy and provide information about updates. Dinner will be provided.

Scan/Click QR Code to Register

REALM



Confirmation Camp 2026

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

The week after July 4th, a few of our confirmation students and I attended Lutheridge for Confirmation Camp. Ellie, Harrison, Logan, and Natalie and I, along with several other churches and campers in our cluster, explored the life of Jesus in the seasons of the church year.

The week was full of swimming, crafts and confirmation learning sessions. On Tuesday, we had a hike at Sam Knob and a picnic at Pink Beds preceding our Wednesday morning service day at Trinity View where our campers interviewed residents about their faith and sang lots of great camp songs. Our campers had a great conversation with a woman who was 102!

Camp is such an important ministry and its value includes all of the special moments as well as its predictable daily schedule that excludes phones and alerts, and instead gives the rhythm of wake, eat, learn, play, rest, worship, sleep. This gives kids something increasingly rare: the security of knowing what's coming next. That security isn't just comforting. It's what makes it possible for deeper things — honest conversations, real questions about faith, genuine friendship — to happen.

The best moment of the week wasn't any single activity. It was watching campers realize these six seasons of the church year weren't six separate stories, but one story, and that the story is now theirs too. That realization doesn't happen by accident. It happens because a steady daily rhythm gave it room to grow, day after day, meal after meal, devotion after devotion, until it had nowhere else to go but to sink in.

That's the practical case for camp: it's not just a fun week away. It's a week where structure itself becomes a spiritual discipline, teaching kids — and honestly, the adults right alongside them — that faith isn't a special event. It's a daily rhythm, worth carrying home into our regular schedules long after the week at Lutheridge ends. If you are thinking about camp for your child next year, go for it! It will be a great week and they too, will learn more about the story that makes all of the difference.

Nursery Update

by RACHEL DYER

If you've been down to the Nursery lately, you may have noticed some exciting changes! The Family Ministry team has been hard at work updating the Nursery to make it more welcoming for our littlest ones ages 2–36 months.

One of the biggest and most noticeable changes is the removal of the temporary dividing wall! We've also added new soft surfaces and updated the flow of the room to help ensure that every child who visits feels comfortable, safe and welcome.

Additionally, we are in the process of creating a "Lending Closet" for families whose children may need a change of clothes during church. The Lending Closet will be a dedicated space in the Nursery stocked with clothing for children of a variety of ages. Parents are welcome to borrow what they need, wash the clothing and return it the next time they're at church. The Lending Closet is still in development, so keep an eye out for more information as we get it up and running!

We're excited about these changes and look forward to welcoming our littlest members to the revitalized space.

Stepping Stones 2026-2027

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Faith doesn't grow all at once. It is a gift that is given and cultivated by the Holy Spirit. It grows step by step, milestone by milestone, moment by moment — and some of those moments deserve to be named out loud, celebrated and blessed. The church gets to be a part of this growth. That's exactly what our Stepping Stone ministry is designed to do. It is a path to equip our families in fulfilling their baptismal promises and growing together in their faith in Jesus Christ.

In teaching the faith of the Church and addressing current topics with knowledge and faithfulness, we walk alongside middle school and high school families through some of the biggest, most real questions and experiences of growing up — not by avoiding them, and not by rushing past them, but by naming them, talking about them honestly, and blessing our students as they step into each new stage. Every Stepping Stone is a chance to say to a student: this moment matters, and God is right here in the middle of it with you. Here's what to watch for this year, for both middle schoolers and high schoolers.

Middle School Stepping Stones

How To Serve (Sunday, Sept. 20): Our middle schoolers learn about all of the different opportunities to serve here at Christ Lutheran and receive the expected service hours for Confirmation. They will learn about the ministries and skills of technology during the service (running slides, sound, cameras) and acolyte training, ushering and greeting.

Drugs & Alcohol (Sunday, Sept. 27): Real talk, real questions and real honesty about substances your student will absolutely encounter — because pretending they won't is never the answer. Register in [REALM](#) or go to t.ly/DldTb.

Church & World on Human Sexuality (Sunday, October 4): Bodies, identity & relationships talked about the way they deserve to be: as good gifts from God worth understanding, respecting & protecting. Register in [REALM](#) or go to t.ly/7ukib.

Ten Commandments (November 15, 2026), Lord's Prayer (February 28, 2027) and Apostles' Creed (April 11, 2027): The core words every Christian carries for life, unpacked line by line until they stop being memorized syllables and start being a students' own.

Media, Technology and AI: The world your student lives in every time they pick up a phone — explored with curiosity instead of panic, and grounded in wisdom instead of fear. Stay tuned for date.

High School Stepping Stones

Dating & Relationships (Sunday, Sept. 20): Honest, unfiltered conversation about love, respect and what it actually looks like to treat another person — and yourself — the way God does. Register in [REALM](#) or go to t.ly/axDvP.

Drugs & Alcohol (Sunday, Sept. 27): A deeper, more grown-up round of the same honest conversation during middle school, matched to the real decisions high schoolers are actually facing. Register in [REALM](#) or go to t.ly/kOOnj.

Leave Your Mark (Sunday, March 7, 2027): Everyone makes a difference! What difference have you made on the community at Christ Lutheran? This is a chance to connect as students and parents prepare to make the next step toward Quillow Sending. Quillow-making workshops will also be offered during the year.

World Religions and Apologetics (Sunday, April 18, 2027)

Driving (Sunday, May 2, 2027)

Watch your inbox and the bulletin for dates and details as each Stepping Stone approaches!



BAGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED
SEPTEMBER 27th
and
ASKED TO BE RETURNED BY
OCTOBER 18th
to benches outside Forum

Bring non-perishable
items (no glass containers)
to help our brothers
& sisters in need here
in Charlotte.

MORE INFO:
krank@christelca.org

NEW CLASS STARTS SEPT. 16!! Mother Daughter Bible Study

**Wednesdays • 6:00 p.m.
in W163 (near Center 6)**

This fall, we are launching a brand
new Mother Daughter Bible Study
as part Wednesdays Ablaze.

This study is designed for mothers &
daughters in middle & high school.

Interested? E-mail Pastor Adrienne
to learn more (aladd@christelca.org)

LOST & FOUND

The church's lost and found table will be
in the Lower Commons on Sundays

September 6 & 13

All items left after September 13th
will be donated or discarded.

PIE-MAKING CONTEST

As part of our Fall Kickoff activities
on Sept. 13, there will be a blue
ribbon Pie making contest.
Dropoff your homemade
pies in Fellowship Hall by
9:00 a.m. for judging at
10:00 a.m. Winners
announced at 11:00 a.m.!!



Registration is under Fall
Kickoff Lunch, just indicate
that you'll be bringing a pie!

Online Study Guide

This online resource is a collection of Bible studies
and sermons that you will find useful for enriching
your spiritual life, on your own or in a group.

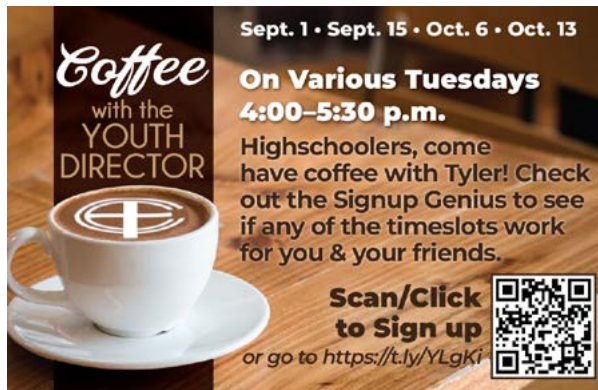
christelca.org/online-study-guide

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Sunday, Sept. 27 • 10–10:45 a.m.
-or- Sunday, Oct. 4 • 12–12:45 p.m.

Are interested in your high school student attending the National Youth Gathering? Come join us for an information session in the Pit and learn all you need to know for registration! Bring your questions and we will bring the answers!

MORE INFO: email tweller@christelca.org



Sept. 1 • Sept. 15 • Oct. 6 • Oct. 13

On Various Tuesdays
4:00–5:30 p.m.

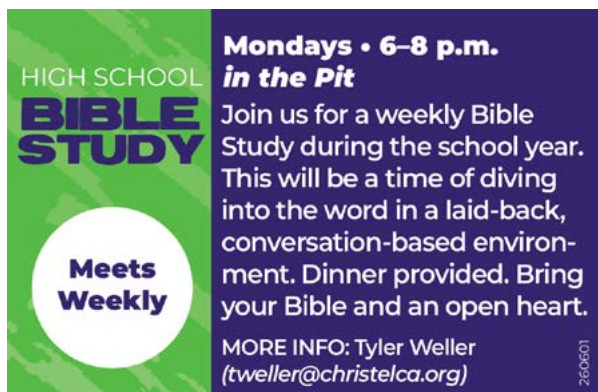
Highschoolers, come have coffee with Tyler! Check out the Signup Genius to see if any of the timeslots work for you & your friends.

Scan/Click to Sign up
or go to <https://t.ly/YLgKi>




CHRIST LUTHERAN
providence | online

For the latest on upcoming events and other announcements:
christelca.org/latest-news

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

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.

Meets Weekly

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

260601



NATIONAL ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
June 26 – July 2, 2027

All 8th–12th grade students are invited to join us in Minnesota for the 2027 Nat'l Youth Gathering. We will spend a week in Minneapolis, worshipping & serving God with 20,000 of our closest friends.

Scan/Click for More Info & RSVP



IMAGINE more

Prayer Book Stepping Stone

by RACHEL DYER

At age three, our children receive their first Bible from the church, the Spark Bible. This is a wonderful milestone as it marks an important transition for both children and their families. No longer in the nursery, these children are now taking their first steps into faith development — joining Sunday School for the first time and participating in Christ Kids during the sermon.

To support this transition, all three-year-olds who will be receiving their Spark Bible this year are invited to the Prayer Book Stepping Stone event on **Sunday, September 27** during the Sunday School hour in the Center Six classroom. At this event, parents and children will work together to create a personalized Prayer Scrapbook. This book gives children a special place to record the people, places and things they wish to pray for in their daily life. It will grow with them over the years, becoming a meaningful keepsake. We will provide all materials—we just ask families to bring any photos that might be meaningful for your child, such as family members, friends or pets. You can register in [REALM](#) or by going to t.ly/UUg42. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at rdyer@christelca.org.

2027 National Youth Gathering

by TYLER WELLER

The summer of 2027 is the next National Youth Gathering! We are travelling up to Minneapolis to join 20,000 of our closest friends for a week of service and worship. The National Youth Gathering is taking place June 26–July 2. All 8th–12th graders are welcome and invited to come!

Registration is OPEN NOW! You have until October 18th to register! Families with multiple students will receive a discount on their second student. Scholarships are available if needed! Don't let your student miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

This Is Youth Group!

by TYLER WELLER

In a world full of overpacked schedules and misinformation, you may ask, what is youth group? Well, the answer to that question is surprisingly complicated because the answer is many things. This year we are putting an emphasis on creating spaces for intentional time with one another.

What Is Youth Group?

Youth Group is comprised of two age groups. There is Middle School Youth Group for grades 6–8 and High School Youth Group for grades 9–12. Both groups meet on Sunday evenings but also do so much more, including Sunday School, Bible Study, Wednesdays Ablaze, Lock-ins, Retreats, Camp, the National Youth Gathering, and so on.

But more than the events, Youth Group is community. It's the friend who runs up and gives you a hug because they haven't seen you in a week. It's knowing that when you need prayer, there's someone there for you. When life gets tough, there's someone walking alongside you.

Middle School and High School will be meeting on Sunday evenings beginning on **September 13**. Middle School Youth Group will run from 4–6 p.m. and High School Youth Group will run from 6–8 p.m. Dinner will be a part of each of these events.

High School students will also have Bible Study on Monday Nights from 6–8 p.m. Be on the lookout for more information about Wednesday Nights in the fall.



Faith In Action Recap

Christ Lutheran showed up and showcased our faith in a strong manner! This year, we revamped 8 Days of Service into a 3-week span of service projects that folks could do in their neighborhoods, around the city and at McClintock Middle School!

Clothing donations to Crisis Assistance were huge! Multiple car loads of gently-used clothing went to support our neighbors who shop for those essentials free of charge! Neighbors prayed for neighbors and the world. A Roof Above was supported with much needed items.

CLC's annual Hunger Fight meal-packing event was a big hit! Over 160 volunteers packed 25,200 meals! The energy was palpable in Spirit Hall and the meals packed will stay right here in our community, between McClintock Middle School and Second Harvest. There are also books that Hunger Fight donates and those go to Smart Start of Mecklenburg County.

Over 300 sandwiches were made to support Roof Above. Meals were delivered through Meals on Wheels. A dinner and service was hosted for Out of the Ashes, an organization that supports those who are grieving the loss of pregnancy, infant or infertility. Volunteers helped unload donated items at Habitat ReStore. Twenty four beds were built for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

McClintock Middle School benefited from our generous

congregation! Classrooms were set up. Copies were made in the teacher work room. The campus grounds were cleaned. Boxes and boxes of student and teacher supplies were donated and delivered. Teachers and students are ready for the beginning of the 2026-27 school year!

A huge thanks to everyone who donated their time, talents and efforts to support service around our neighborhood, city and school. When Christ Lutheran steps up, there is so much to be proud of and thankful for. Not only are people and places around us filled, so are our hearts!

Outreach Spotlight: September and October

Each month, Christ Lutheran is spotlighting an Outreach Ministry. In July, we lifted up our Kairos Prison Ministry. In August, Sleep in Heavenly Peace was the ministry moment followed by a bed-building service project for Faith In Action. These builds provide beds for kids around Charlotte, specifically in the McClintock zip code.

On **September 20th** and **October 4th** we will be showcasing all of our small groups and the CROP Walk, respectively. Please be on the lookout for information on both important ministries that Christ Lutheran supports. Our small groups provide many opportunities for building community, volunteer opportunities, service projects, and more. The CROP Walk addresses hunger in the Charlotte area as well as on the global stage.



A leader is needed for 3-5 Grade Club during Family Night at McClintock Middle School. Arts, crafts, games — make it what you want!
Time commitment: Tuesdays 5:45-7:15 p.m. starting Sept. 29 at MMS.
Contact Sara: srentmeester@christelca.org



NURSERY HELP NEEDED

**Tuesdays • 6:00-7:15 p.m.
at McClintock Middle School**

Help is needed to watch babies - PreK siblings during McPIE Family Night. There is a dedicated class with toys & supplies.

If interested, contact Sara: srentmeester@christelca.org

CROP Walk

CROP Walk raises funds that fight hunger here in Charlotte and in third world countries. For over 50 years, these walks have been empowering communities to respond to the global challenges of hunger, poverty, access to education and clean water. We can transform communities by ensuring access to nutritious foods, clean water and educational opportunities. Together we can help to lift them out of poverty.

On **November 15th**, for the second year in a row, we will be walking at Providence Baptist Church on Randolph Road. This is a very convenient location for us, only about a mile from our campus. The organizers have curated a great plan to either walk on a track on the premises or walk on a marked route in the neighborhood surrounding Providence Baptist. The neighborhood route will be longer this year with the option to complete a shorter route if desired. There will be activities, both educational and fun, for all to participate in to make it a family-focused event.

Although Christ Lutheran is still the leading money-raiser for the CROP Walk, our number of walkers has dwindled in recent years. Please consider walking this year; perhaps ask family members or friends to join you.

How can you join the team? It's really easy!

Go to <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/teams?event=charlottenc>. Type in "Christ Lutheran Church – Charlotte" where it says 'Find an Existing Team to Join' (it should autopopulate when you begin typing). Click 'Join the Team' and follow the prompts for filling in your information and creating your own CROP Walk page.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Sumlin (kensumlin9@gmail.com) or Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org). Thank you for giving this your prayerful consideration.

CMS Volunteer Registration

Every year, anyone who plans to volunteer inside McClintock Middle School will need to complete the CMS Volunteer Registration and background check by going to cmsvolunteers.com. Once that is complete, email Lisa Heirigs (lheirigs@christelca.org) your name, the email address you registered with and your date of birth.

All McPIE volunteers must also complete Child Protection Training with Family Ministry each year. There will be a training session offered on Monday, September 14 at 6 p.m. Please register for this training session in *REALM* or go to <https://t.ly/Mi7ib>.

In-Kind Donations to Support MMS Staff

Are you a season ticket holder for the Carolina Panthers, Charlotte FC or the Charlotte Hornets? Do you have access to tickets for shows at Belk Theater, Blumenthal, etc? Do you have restaurant gift cards (or any gift cards) you won't use? If you ever have tickets that may go unused, please consider donating them to McClintock via McPIE. This has been a great way to support McClintock staff with out-of-school time fun! Teachers and staff are extremely appreciative of these opportunities and Principal Jerrell loves to treat his staff to events around the Charlotte area. If you have tickets to donate or have any questions, please contact Sara Rentmeester (srentmeester@christelca.org).

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

**Monday, September 14 • 6-8 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall**

This training is mandatory for anyone who is interested in assisting children and youth with CLC or McPIE during the 2026-27 school year. The training will review our Child Protection Policy and provide information about updates. Dinner will be provided.

Scan/Click QR Code to Register



VAN DRIVERS WANTED
for McPIE students after
Wednesdays Ablaze &
Sunday Worship



**Wednesdays: 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Sundays: 10:00-1:00 p.m.
(no CDL required)**

If interested, contact:
**Angela (adavis@christelca.org) or
Sharhonda (smorgan@christelca.org)**

HELP FUND A
SERVICE PROJECT WITH

thrivent

Action Teams

For more information:

Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org)



McPIE 20-Year Anniversary

McPIE entered our 20th year of programming this past April! Since then, we have spotlighted a program we provide each month.

Thank you to everyone who donated grocery supplies and monetary funds to support our Feed-A-Family initiative in July! We had an overwhelming number of items donated that will certainly benefit the families we serve weekly! August was Back-to-School! Student and teacher supplies poured into the office and will ensure everyone is prepared to teach, learn and grow during the 2026-27 school year!

September focuses on everything Family Night! This is Christ Lutheran's largest outreach program and will kick-off on September 29th at McClintock Middle School. To learn more about this impactful program, see the McPIE team in Lower Commons on **September 27th** to learn about ways you can make a difference at McClintock on Tuesday evenings!

October will focus on the ways we specifically support McClintock teachers. There are opportunities to be tutors, a teacher partner, treat teachers with lunch, breakfast, holiday treats, etc, and join Copy Crew! We will again be in Lower Commons on **October 11th** to showcase teacher support! We will also collect supplies that teachers need year-round: Kleenex/tissues, Clorox wipes, bags of assorted candy for the teacher workroom, expo markers, sharpened pencils. There are always items on our Amazon Wishlist that support students and teachers during the year. Order items and they will ship directly to the Outreach office – an easy way to support!

McPIE Family Night Kick-off

Coming off a wonderful 2025-26 year filled with exciting programming, McPIE Family Night will return this **September 29th** for nine weeks of family engagement and we would LOVE to have YOU! Again this fall, there are fewer Tuesdays that students are in school, so it will be a shorter Family Night schedule. This semester is a GREAT way to get a taste of the fun and support what happens each week.

Volunteers are the backbone of our mission — calling all engineers, programmers/coders, medical professionals, yoga instructors, drawing enthusiasts and anyone with a passion that they would like to share. We're looking to add a few new clubs, so if you have a passion you'd like to share, now is the time!! We also need more help in the younger sibling's classes — specifically Nursery and 3rd-5th grade. These participants play games, get creative with crafts, read, build with

McPIE 20 YEARS 2007-2027

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. Small gifts can be left at the Info desk in the Lower Commons. If you would like to be a Teacher Partner, contact Jeanne Hunt: huntjeanne961@gmail.com

McPIE 20 YEARS 2007-2027

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Tutors

Volunteers needed to help tutor students needing extra help at McClintock Middle. You can choose the subject and grade, as well as day and time for tutoring!

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

McPIE 20 YEARS 2007-2027

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: Teacher Treats

Support teachers and staff at McClintock Middle School with lunches, breakfasts, holiday treats and more during the school year.

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

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 (704) 806-0064

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)

oneblood 
Share your power.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, October 18

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

TO REGISTER, GO TO:
oneblood.org/donate-now



Family Nights at McClintock
every Tuesday from 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.
STARTS SEPTEMBER 29

To get involved, contact Sara:
srentmeester@christelca.org

260929

McPIE Amazon Wishlist

Items from this list include back-to-school needs for MMS teachers & students, Family Night incentives, snacks & supplies, and weekly grocery bag needs for Feed-A-Family. **This list will be updated frequently!** Simply purchase items from McPIE's Amazon Wish List and they will be shipped straight to the church!

Scan/Click for Amazon Wishlist
or go to <https://t.ly/zxmcZ>



261231

**COME
GROW
WITH US**

MORE INFO:
Walt Roth
wroth1@bellsouth.net

**Growing
TO GIVE
COMMUNITY
GARDEN**

260601

Let's get connected.

Download the **Realm Connect** app today!



Need Help with Realm?
Contact Mary at mparker@christelca.org

Legos and more! It is always a treat to see the smiles and hear the laughter from our youngest participants! Co-lead any club with a friend, co-worker or neighbor if splitting time is what you need!

Is leading or helping with a club not what you're looking for? Join our meals, school store or greeting team!! Help with afternoon clubs if evenings are not ideal for you. Each Tuesday, we provide a warm meal at no cost to the McClintock families that participate. Students are prepared for success when they are equipped with the proper supplies. We will definitely need a few new volunteers to greet our participants and get them checked-in at the door!

If you have an idea you think would be great for our high school participants, please share it! Dana leads our high school students in leadership and life skills and is always looking for ideas that would fit that age group. The high school students also fulfill their volunteer hours during Family Night.

Can't commit each week but want to get involved? Sign up to be a floater. There are weekly opportunities to get involved. We always need volunteers to "fill the gap" if someone is out. Contact Sara Rentmeester at srentmeester@christelca.org to begin making a difference in a child's life! We kick off on September 29th! Come join our incredible team!!!

Summer Recap – It Was a Busy One!

Summer was an exciting time for McClintock students! Freedom School, Science Camp and Lutheridge/Lutherock provided many McClintock students fun, safe and engaging opportunities to learn and explore! Freedom School was full of learning, reading and fun activities for the 70 Scholars who participated this summer.

While learning to foster a love of reading, students built their reading comprehension skills and learned ways to make a difference in themselves, their family, country and world. These Scholars built relationships between each other and with their interns and mentors. Ms. Joosten and her servant leader interns were really wonderful and ensured these students had an impactful summer! Activities exposed students to a variety of crafts including friendship bracelets, floral arranging and calligraphy. They also had a visit from the Charlotte Fire department with the truck and Hugo the Book Bus. Games with Griselda and the ice cream social were also hits!

Field trips included the zMax Dragway, Junior Achievement Finance Park, Raptor Center, Kate's Skate, Ray's Splash Planet, Sunset Farm, Mint Museum and Lake Days! Our CLC Scholars always bring their hearts to Jubilee, a city wide Freedom School competition. They won "The Heart of Jubilee" and overall first place! Participants showcased what they learned this summer through song, dance and skits at the finale. They gave parents and volunteers a glimpse into Harambee cheers and chants and performed the theme song, "Something Inside So Strong."

Science Camp fostered a love of science and technology! 80+ future scientists and engineers experienced hands-on activities, covering topics such as forensics, innovation and design, all things STEAM, mindfulness, engineering, art and math! At the end of camp, participants showcased their hard work and experiments and shared with family and volunteers. Field trips to UNC Charlotte and Beat the Bomb's STEM module enabled students to envision life on a college campus, see majors and classes in action, learn video game ideation and coding, and build their teamwork and communication skills! After analyzing post-camp survey questions, 64% of students said camp helped them understand science better, 71% said camp helped them feel better about their ability to learn science concepts, and 86% are interested and excited about science. Camp was certainly a success!



CHRIST LUTHERAN

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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



september/october 2026

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

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

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

2026

IMPACT HUNGER



Annual Banquet & Fundraising Event



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

6:00-8:30 pm

Christ Church Commons

1412 Providence Rd. Charlotte, NC 28207

Silent Auction • Food
Drinks • Fellowship

impact hunger
locally and globally.



Scan the code
to join us!

2026 Goal
ONE MILLION MEALS
equals \$250,000

Visit javescafeeds.org for more information.