

Christ Connections



january/february 2024

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28 12:15 p.m.

at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)
-or- Christ Online
christelca.org/online

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

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

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

10:00 - 10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**

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

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST CONCORD

10:00 a.m. **Family-Friendly**

Worship

4:00 p.m. **Life of Faith**

Bible Study

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



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

christelca.org/online

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 14, 2024 • SAVE THE DATE



GARDEN MINISTRY
CHRIST south CHRIST concord



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Checking Off The Big Rocks of 2023

When our Church Council gets together after every Annual Meeting (this year on January 28), we always put together a list of The Big Rocks that we want to tackle during the year. In the beginning of 2023, we laid out eleven of these major goals:

1. Good Soil Campaign: Completed! With the closing of Christ South, we gave people the option to move their donations earmarked for the worship center for South to someplace else. Most kept their money in this fund while a few moved it to the Endowment, another ministry or to the General Fund.

2. South Land Vision: In Process We have a task force that met all year to dream big about a new vision for the South land. While we have several options, zoning has become a problem. We will present these options at the Annual Meeting on January 28 with town meetings to follow.

3. Thrive Financials: Completed! We worked with Thrive Day School as they struggled with finances. Because of the ratios, the needs and the requirements, this is a difficult ministry with a huge and generous heart. Christ Lutheran helped with strategy and loans.

4. Land Trust: On Hold We had a task force to dream of ways that we could help with affordable housing. Because of the enormity of this problem in Charlotte, we need to find ways to partner with other agencies to make a difference in our community.

5. Evangelism Strategy: Never Ending! The best evangelism is a one-on-one conversation with someone in your life in need of the Gospel. It is never a one and done talk, but an ongoing conversation and talk, trusting that the Holy Spirit will move hearts.

6. Christ Lutheran Children Center Kindergarten Expansion: Completed We looked into expanding our CLCC ministry and quickly discovered that because of codes and restrictions, we cannot expand our Center to include Kindergarten.

7. Christ South Community: Completed Following the closing of Christ South, we made a concerted effort to reach out to those who attended that campus for pastoral care and guidance as they searched for a new home and wrestled with questions.

8. Music and the Community: Completed! Following Covid, we wanted to make an intentional effort to use our facilities to welcome the community through the arts. With many concerts, community events and the Tasha Layton concert, we feel good about this outreach.

9. Lessons Learned from Christ South: Completed We had a task force put together to review the closing of Christ South and ask what we did well and where we stumbled. Those lessons were shared and discussed at Council.

10. Strategy for Capital Improvements: Completed With a building that continues to age, we put together a list of capital improvements and set aside money for future repairs. The replacement of the carpet and tile downstairs was a result of this intentional upkeep.

11. Christ Concord Success: Completed With the decision to continue with Christ Concord, we tasked our Minister, Willie Pinson, to work with a team for a strategy to grow. They have done this, wrote down a plan and are working together for success.

It was a busy and productive year. I felt the Council kept their eye on these Big Rocks all year long. And by the time we have our next newsletter, I'll be able to report the new Big Rocks for 2024.

**Thankful for 2023... Hopeful for 2024,
Pastor Scott**

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

Fearless: Lessons from David

There might be more written about David in the Bible than any other person outside of Jesus. We follow him from being anointed as a young shepherd boy, to being on the lam as a fugitive, to ruling as a beloved king all the way to his death. If there were a single word to describe his life, it might just be FEARLESS.

January 14 • Fearless Youth

David was the runt of the litter, the youngest of seven sons to Jesse. When Samuel anointed him out in the field as the next king of Israel, this pre-teen received it not with brashness but with a humble confidence in God. He was fearless. --1 Samuel 16:1-13; Matthew 19:13-14

January 21 • Fearless Integrity

After his anointing, David didn't begin as king. For a while he served King Saul until Saul's jealousy over David's popularity drove David into the Wilderness as a fugitive. When given the opportunity to kill Saul, David refused. It was a matter of integrity. He was fearless. --1 Samuel 24:1-7; Philippians 4:8-9

January 28 • Fearless Worship

When is the last time you danced as if no one were looking? When they brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem in a parade, David danced and worshipped as if only before his God. While some sneered and ridiculed him, he was fearless. --2 Samuel 6:12-16; Psalm 100

February 4 • Fearless Decision

The Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. At some point, while fearless in so many ways, David lost his fear of the Lord and made a decision that he not only regretted but would mar his reputation and memory forever. Unfortunately, he was fearless. --2 Samuel 11:1-27

February 11 • Fearless Death

How does one respond to their impending death? We would like to think we would be full of faith and fearless. But no one knows until that time comes. King David, a man after God's own heart, knew that he was near the end. And he faced it, as he did most of his life, fearlessly. --1 Kings 1:1-4, 2 Kings 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 4:6-8

SUNDAY LENTEN SERIES

Villains, Heroes & Nobodies

God uses all kinds of people to reach His ends. God calls on those who are able and willing to build His kingdom. We may judge those people and regard them as Villains, Heroes or Nobodies, but we would do better to see them for who they are: His hands and feet in the world.

February 18 • Esther

Esther was a nobody. She was not born of a noble family. She possessed no great talents of leadership, wasn't a military strategist, and had mastered none of the arts. But when called upon to do what must be done, she mustered the bravery to stand in the gap. She

advocated for her people and shows us that we all have a part to play, however humble our beginnings. --Esther 7:1-10; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

February 25 • Nicodemus

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, which makes him a villain. Aren't all Pharisees evil? Weren't they all constantly seeking to trap Jesus and undermine His authority? While Nicodemus was, indeed, a Pharisee, he didn't exhibit the characteristics we so often associate with that ilk. Nicodemus was curious, a truth seeker. He came humbling to our Lord. He knew that God was active, and rather than writing Jesus off as an interloper, he sought out truth that would shake his worldview. --John 3:1-21; Micah 6:6-8

March 3 • Cyrus of Persia

The Messiah is the one person God has anointed to lead His people. He is THE agent of the LORD. How can it be that the Prophet Isaiah calls Cyrus the King of Persia the Messiah!? The Messiah, or Christ (Messiah in Greek) is a very special person. Cyrus was just that. We think we understand what God is going to do. We think we know who God wants. We think there is a divine order that is completely understood. Cyrus the Polytheistic ruler of the blood thirsty conquering nation of Persia is a villain. But of course, no one is just one thing, even "villains." We think we know God, but we should always be ready to see Him, in all people, in any place, and at any time. --Isaiah 44:24-45:1; Matthew 9:9-13

March 10 • Joshua

Joshua was a hero of great faith. He and Caleb were undeterred about the Giants they saw in the land. It was an exceedingly good land and the LORD saw fit to give it to them. His faithfulness was in the minority, and because of it the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. It can be hard to stand for what you know to be true; Joshua did it for generations. 40 years later, he finally walks into the land that was given to his people and is informed that the Israelites had a reputation that preceded them. A reputation that sapped the courage of the inhabitants. Our strength comes from the LORD and Joshua knew it. --Joshua 2:9b-11; John 20:26-29

March 17 • Centurion

Roman oppressors are not welcome among the Jewish people. To the Roman Imperial command, the Jewish people are nothing more than a trouble and tribute. Sometimes the mold is broken, as when a Centurion sought Jesus out to heal his servant. Jesus would have been right to point out all the evil Romans had done to God's Chosen people, but instead engages and shows us that the humility of even a Roman Villain can be edifying. --Matthew 8:5-13; Philippians 2:6-11; Philippians 2:25-29



READ MORE & WATCH THE SNEAK PEAK
OF EACH SUNDAY'S SERMON:

christelca.org/sermon-series



Caring for God's Creation

by GORDON MILLER

Psalm 8: Eco-Friendly is a small group that takes a look at God's creation and our role as stewards of what He has given us. We meet in the evenings on the last Monday of each month at Christ Providence (except around Christmas) to discuss various environmental topics from air pollution to waste water management. We also have taken on a project through the NCDOT's Adopt-a-Highway Program to conduct litter cleanup along 2.8 miles of Providence Road in front of Christ Lutheran's Providence campus. During 2023, we collected 49 large bags of litter and recyclable materials during four quarterly cleanup events.

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for January 29th at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Providence. Stay tuned to our weekly E-News for more information, or contact Gordon Miller directly at gmill9535@aol.com.

Home Communion Assistants

Communion is a vital part of our faith. It is the opportunity to literally commune with our Lord. It is also a chance to be part of community. When we eat we tend to do so with others; it's natural to share a meal. Our Lord knew this when He instituted His Supper.

Not everyone has the ability to meet us in person on Sunday mornings. For various reasons they have found themselves home-bound or in rehabilitation facilities and can't make it to worship and communion.

To ensure that these members of our community are not forgotten and have His blessing that is the Eucharist, we send people out to bring communion to them. In this way, they know they are missed and are a part of the Body of Christ at Christ Lutheran.

We need help. We need volunteers to bring communion to those who are unable to come to worship. As a volunteer, you would be given the elements in a kit on a Sunday and be responsible for visiting those who are home-bound. There is some training to help you with the rite of administration and material to remind you. The commitment is minimal but the impact is huge. You will bring the joy of fellowship and the very grace of God to one of our brothers or sisters in Christ.

If you would like to help in becoming a Home Communion Assistant, please contact Pastor Scott at suskovic@christelca.org.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

**Sunday, January 21
& Sunday, February 4**

12:15 - 2:30 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum)

Lunch will be provided. Childcare available for ages 0-36 months.



Register in REALM by Jan. 15
More info: mparker@christelca.org
or khofmann@christelca.org



CHRIST LUTHERAN
providence | concord | online

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28 • 12:15 p.m.

at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)
-or- Christ Online (Zoom)

FOR LINK: christelca.org/online

Ash Wednesday FEBRUARY 14



12:00 p.m. in Christ Chapel
followed by a light lunch in Forum • \$5

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

SAVE THE DATE



CHRIST
providence

JOIN US FOR

Wednesdays During Lent

FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 27

12pm • Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)
followed by a light lunch in the Forum • \$5



WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE
christelca.org




CARING TEAM OPPORTUNITY


We are in need of volunteers to help distribute Home Communion to our homebound members.

If you'd like to get involved with Home Communion distribution, please contact Pastor Scott: suskovic@christelca.org

Coffee with the Pastors
BOOK STUDY

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

 christelca.org/online

 **American Red Cross**

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE:
Sunday, January 21
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence

Signup at redcrossblood.org

Psalm 8: Eco-Friendly

We will meet monthly to go over plans to clean up Providence Rd (NCDOT Adopt a Highway). Cleanup will be 4 times a year.

NEXT PLANNING MEETING:
Monday, January 29 • 7 p.m.
at Christ Providence

More info: Gordon Miller (gmill9535@aol.com)


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



<https://g.page/r/CQ3ErPywQqeREB0/review>


CHRIST LUTHERAN
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Third THURSDAY
for adults of all ages

January 18 • 11:30 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Pit)

Bring your favorite chili for a chance to be our first ever Third Thursday Chili Champion!
Toppings, corn bread, chips & drinks provided

\$10 • Register in REALM



My Experience with GriefShare

by CHRIS MENGEL

GriefShare is a ministry that offers hope and healing to those who have lost a loved one. I participated in GriefShare and it helped me realize that what I was feeling and experiencing was normal and natural. I was grateful to meet in a group setting, where I felt seen and heard by other people who understood what I was going through. I also appreciated the reminders of God's promises made in scripture.

These reminders helped me gain a much needed perspective on my situation. The format of GriefShare, which includes group time, a video and individual work, helped me process my thoughts and feelings in a healthy way. I learned a lot about myself, my faith and God through this experience. I highly recommend GriefShare to anyone who is grieving a loss. It is a safe and supportive environment where you can find comfort, hope and a way forward.

GriefShare will start on January 10th at Christ Providence in the Church Office Great Room (6-7:30 p.m.) and will be led by Chris and Kimberly Mengel. Please register for this class in REALM or for more information, email cpmengel@gmail.com.

Garden Ministry Yearly Recap

Christ Lutheran's Garden Ministry has been blooming with fresh vegetables all year! Through November 2023, our "Growing to Give" Garden Ministry has participated in 44 "Pickin' Parties" – and the results are impressive! Compared to 2022, the difference in total produce donated increased by over 1000 pounds! This increase is particularly important for our community, whom this ministry donates pounds of vegetables each week.

2023	2022	Net Difference
2,654.25 lbs	1,572.75 lbs	+ 1,081.50 lbs

In 2023, CLC's Garden Ministry partnered with Roots Farm. The Farm also donated vegetables to pair with CLC's Garden to help serve our McClintock community each week. These vegetables were included in McPIE's "Feed A Family" initiative to add fresh vegetables in family grocery bags.

"To God alone be all the praise, glory and honor. For those who are faithful, trusting and obedient to His will, He promises to bless their efforts in spite of all the bumps and hiccups along the way. His Spirit is at work in the hearts of the members of the Garden Ministry."

Thanks so much to our Growing to Give Garden Ministry for all the blood, sweat and tears they put into growing delicious food for the benefit of our community! This helps feed neighbors experiencing hunger and adds healthy options for so many!





Adult Sunday School Classes

START JANUARY 7th

Faith Fellowship:

The Bible & Beyond 10:00-10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum A&B) -or- Online (Zoom)

(JAN. 7 - FEB. 11) *Isaiah For You*. The man Isaiah was called by God to be a prophet some 700 years before the coming of Christ. Beginning in 740 B.C., he stepped into his role as God's mouthpiece proclaiming God's Truth to His chosen people in Judah for possibly 60 years. The times were tumultuous due to the people's unfaithfulness to God and constant threats of powerful neighboring nations. Isaiah was sent to deliver the message of both God's great judgment of the people for their infidelity followed by a time of great comfort and restoration – and ultimately the beautiful prophecy of eternal salvation for all believers. The Biblical book of Isaiah, whose contents can be challenging and length intimidating, provides the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ in the entire Old Testament and is most often quoted in the New Testament as the prophecies unfold.

(FEB. 18 - MARCH 24) *Luke – Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws*. "Jesus came for all" is the important message pastor and author Adam Hamilton heralds in his most current series, a Lenten study of Jesus's life and ministry as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find His care and compassion for all as He welcomes both sinners and outcasts, often to the dismay of his closest followers. He came to lift up the lowly and all whom society considers insignificant or unfit by worldly standards. He came to give us His all-encompassing love and mercy, the mercy of the Cross.

(APRIL 7 - MAY 12) *The Early Church*. How did the early church begin? By whom? How did it sustain persecution, controversy, division? What can we learn from the past? This study seeks to answer these questions and more by leading us through different topics related to the early church. Each topic presents a corresponding key question for us today. How can we evangelize effectively? How can we stand up for our faith? How do we present faith to an unbelieving world? What does it mean to be truly spiritual? These age-old questions are both inspiring and eye-opening, prompting believers of each generation to think deeply about the past, present, and future of the church and our dynamic role in keeping the faith.
—led by Miriam Morrison, Barbara Burton, Milt Martin, John Stensrud and Christine Berling

CLC Book Club 10:00-10:45 a.m.
at Christ Prov. (Lackey Parlor) -or- Online (Zoom)

The CLC 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! Sometimes there are donuts (when we meet in person). All are welcome. —led by Dan Hansen and Carl Edgren

The Crew 10:00-10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (W150 A&B) -or- Online (Zoom)

The Crew will continue to study the New Testament. Come join the discussion. All are welcome!
—led by David Deeds

Faith in Action 10:00-10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum C)

This women's group is dedicated to the study of God's Word in a relaxed and caring atmosphere of love for one another. This January we again delve into His Word to enrich our faith and seek answers for living in today's world. Using the Augsburg Fortress Bible Study program, we focus on the theme of "God's Law is Love" based on scripture largely from the New Testament, guiding us in how to live our lives celebrating God. Come join the women of CLC as we explore deeper into God's word in an atmosphere of friendship and love. —led by Jewel Barber and Joyce Brigman

Emerge 10:00-10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Music Room)

All are welcome in Emerge Sunday School as we dive into The Word and discuss how it relates to our busy lives. We will be continuing with The Chosen series.
—led by Rob and Kristen Stark

Studies of Scripture 10:00-10:45 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Adult Library)

This class studies and discusses lectionary lessons from the Lutheran Book of Worship. Find out what the Bible has to say by journeying through the lectionary with others. The lectionary is a collection of appointed Scripture Readings for each Sunday and for other occasions. The lectionary readings for each Sunday typically include an Old Testament reading, a New Testament reading, and a passage from one of the four Gospels. Many Protestant and Catholic churches use the lectionary readings on a weekly basis. —led by John Sensenbrenner

Wednesdays
together

at  CHRIST
providence

Starts January 10th

DINNER

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$7 adults, \$5 children • RSVP required

CLASSES

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

See description and locations below

 christelca.org/menu

Wednesday Adult Classes

Women Making Connections 6:00-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Worship Parlor)

Women Making Connections is a women-centered Bible study filled with laughter and Jesus. Join this spirited group of ladies to discuss the seasonal bible study selection. —led by Lara Barnett and Brooke Schell

Pastor Scott's Class:

Life Lessons from King David 6:00-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum A&B) -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

Outside of Jesus, there is no one in the Bible that we know more about than David. We encounter him as a pre-teen taking care of sheep, hide with him as a fugitive on the lam, worship with him before the Ark of the Covenant, reign with him as a king after God's own heart, confess with him after adultery and even walk with him to death. There is much to learn about life's ups and downs through our study of Israel's most beloved king.
—led by Pastor Scott Suskovic

Pastor Ryan's Class:

Life in Christ with Kids 6:00-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (W150 A&B)

While kids are attending their Wednesdays Together classes & activities, parents are invited to join us for fellowship with other parents. What does being a parent look like when you're following Christ? How can you have faith and children at the same time with busy schedules, sports, school and everything else? Come join the conversation. —led by Pastor Ryan & Ashley Ritzmann

Pastor Adrienne's Class:

Entrusted: A Study of 2 Timothy 6:00-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Center Six) -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

Find your "one." Entrusted with gifts and the Gospel, we have a directive to invite others into the faith. In this study of 2 Timothy, we will explore Paul's letter to Timothy, his coworker and son in the faith. In this letter, he guides Timothy in his ministry in Ephesus. Based on Beth Moore's study *Entrusted*, we will learn how to walk with others in their faith journeys. The study guide can be purchased online. —led by Pastor Adrienne Martin

GriefShare 6:00-7:30 p.m.

at Christ Providence (Church Office Great Room)
—led by Chris and Kimberly Mengel

music.tech.drama

ACTIVITIES BY AGE GROUP

PRE-K (AGES 3-5)

Music 6:00-6:20 p.m. (M237-238)

• • • • •

KINDERGARTEN – 5TH GRADERS

Open Gym 5:30-6:00 p.m. (Spirit Hall)

Grace & Faith Choirs 6:00-6:45 p.m. (M245)

Grace is K-2nd • Faith is 3rd-5th

Grace & Faith Dance or Open Gym

6:45-7:30 p.m. (C301 or Spirit Hall)

• • • • •

6TH – 8TH GRADERS

Open Gym 5:30-6:15 p.m. (Spirit Hall)

Middle School Dance 6:00-6:45 p.m. (C301)

Middle School Music 6:15-7:00 p.m. (M245)

• • • • •

9TH – 12TH GRADERS

Pit Unplugged 5:30-7:15 p.m. (Pit)

• • • • •

HIGH SCHOOL & ADULTS

Luther Ringers 6:00-7:15 p.m. (M245)

Christ Choir 7:15-8:45 p.m. (M248)

GRIEF SHARE®

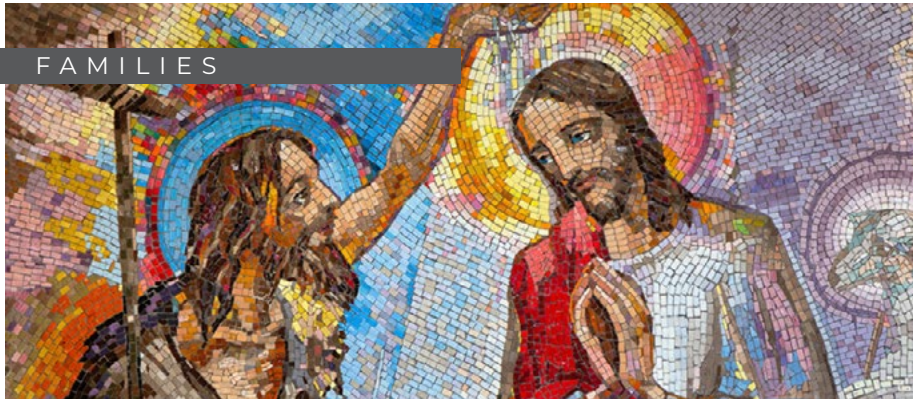
Wednesdays • 6-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Church Office Great Room)

This Christ-centered, grief support group helps those who have lost loved ones find healing and hope. Open to members & nonmembers.

Griefshare follows a 13-wk. curriculum which includes a DVD-lesson, small group discussion & workbook. Cost: \$20

Starts Jan. 10th • Register in REALM





Celebration of Baptism

by PASTOR ADRIENNE & KATE HARRISON

On January 7, we will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. It is an important observance because it encapsulates a convergence of divine elements—earthly waters, heavenly revelation and the proclamations of God. This sacred event marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, setting in motion a narrative of redemption and salvation that would unfold on the earthly stage. On this special day, we will also have the opportunity to celebrate all those who have been baptized in the past year. What a special day to celebrate!

In 2023, there were almost 40 baptisms at our Christ Lutheran Church campuses! During the service on January 7, we will honor all who were baptized in 2023. Children and youth who were baptized will receive a personalized Baptism Blessing and Prayer Card and a candle holder. These gifts can be kept inside your child's heritage chest and used each year when lighting his or her baptismal candle on their anniversary date.

A member of the Family Ministry Team will be reaching out to these families with more information about how they will be honored during worship on January 7, 2024.

NEW NEXT YEAR!

Family Fun & Fellowship Events!

by KRISTEN RANK

Looking for a way to connect with other families? School, sports, activities and everything else can make it a challenge to get together and create community. And while Christ Lutheran's current "Fellowship at the Fountain, Ballpark, Firepit, etc." events offer great congregational fellowship time where all ages are welcome, there wasn't a strong focus on family-focused activities. (But don't worry, those events aren't going away!)

Family Ministry's goal for 2024 is to have one family-focused event per quarter where we gather, play games, have fun and (spoiler alert), no teaching! We are created to be in fellowship with one another and we are excited to provide opportunities for families to hang out together.

Our first Family Fun & Fellowship event will be **Winter Bingo!** Mark your calendars for **February 4th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.** and join us at the Providence campus for family-style Bingo, prizes, snacks and fellowship! Future events that are being planned include Spring Berry Pickin', Summer Ice Treats to closeout VBS week and Fall's Oktoberfest featuring Trunk-or-Treat.

Stay tuned for updates in E-News or christelca.org/latest-news, or contact Kristen Rank for more info (krank@christelca.org).

Celebration of Baptism

Sunday, January 7

In celebration of Jesus' baptism, we will honor all who were baptized in 2023 with a special recognition, gift and a prayer.

Christ Providence • 8:45, 10 & 11 a.m.
Christ Concord • 10 a.m.



Baptismal Class

Sun., January 14
1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For info, email Jane at jsatterfield@christelca.org

Find Zoom link at christelca.org/online



Stepping Stones



PREPARATION CLASSES

Feb 25 • Meaning of the Meal (1-3 p.m.)
March 2 • Story Day (8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
March 24 • Livin' Forgivin (1-3 p.m.)

First Communion will take place during Maundy Thursday's service at Christ Providence on March 28th (after the completion of the Seder Meal). Prep classes are for 2nd graders & their parents to attend together.

For RSVP & details: krank@christelca.org

TEC Retreat



Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a teen-led, faith-focused retreat where students have the opportunity to listen to others tell their faith stories. Open to rising 9th graders through adults.

January 13-15, 2024
at Tekoa Foothills in Casar, NC • Cost: \$100

hihtec.org/tecite-application

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

Training for Acolytes & Crucifers

**Sunday, January 7 • 5-6:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)**

Confirmation students are invited to learn how to serve in the roles of acolyte, crucifer and usher for worship.

MORE INFO: amartin@christelca.org



First Communion Preparation

This February during Lent, 2nd graders will start preparing for First Communion with three Stepping Stone events. These events will explore the stories significant to the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. On Maundy Thursday (March 28), students and their families will partake in a traditional Seder Meal in Spirit Hall before being received in the evening worship service for their First Communion. Save the dates and stay tuned for sign up information for the following events:

Sunday, February 25
MEANING OF THE MEAL
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum)

Saturday, March 2
STORY DAY
8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Pit)

Palm Sunday, March 24
LIVIN' FORGIVIN'
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

Lutherock Confirmation Camp

In June of 2024, current middle school students in grades 6th-8th are invited to a week-long camp experience filled with adventure, fun and growth! We will travel to Lutherock where students will participate in multiple different activities for a week of camp. Trained Lutherock counselors will lead our students through high and low ropes courses, creek walks, hikes, rock slides and more.

Each day, students will join our pastors and adult leaders for a few hours of community-building and confirmation lessons. It is truly a wonderful week to escape the hustle and bustle of life and enjoy God's creation in the mountains with friends and God!

The registration deadline for this event is March 1. Register in REALM by scanning the QR Code found in the ad to the left, or contact Tyler Weller for more information (tweller@christelca.org).

Nursery Care Assistants

paid, part-time

Family Ministry is seeking High School students or older to help provide care to babies & toddlers in the Nursery at Christ Providence on Sunday mornings and some Wednesday evenings. Holiday hours vary. Flexible scheduling.



If interested, contact:
Kate Harrison (kharrison@christelca.org)

CONFIRMATION CAMP
for 6th - 8th graders
June 16 - 22
at Lutherock
TOTAL COST: \$650

More Info & Register in REALM >>
DEADLINE TO RSVP: MARCH 1

Stepping Stones
CONFIRMATION
DRUGS & ALCOHOL
Sunday, February 4 • 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum A&B)

Middle School students and parents will discuss how drugs & alcohol can affect students and their faith journeys.

Register in REALM >>
amartin@christelca.org | nlegvoid@christelca.org

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH
LOCK-IN
Friday, March 22 (7 p.m.) -
Saturday, March 23 (8 a.m.)
at Christ Providence (Pit)

Register in REALM
more info: tweller@christelca.org



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

AGM Sunday was December 3 and the online store remained open until December 15th. Total amount raised was \$10,478. Thanks to all who participated!



McPIE Family Night Update

Fall Family Night at McClintock Middle School has come to an end, and boy was it a fun semester! The building was buzzing with energy from students and club leaders alike. Students and families were greeted by smiling volunteers before heading to dinner.

This past semester, dinner service was wonderful with delicious food and fast-serving volunteers. Over 2300 meals were served, averaging 235 meals each night. Family Night participants left happy and full! Clubs were fun and engaging with dedicated leaders. Students enjoyed art, chess, robotics, sports, woodworking, tennis, hiking, soccer, crafts, Ten80 racing, food science and outdoor adventures – and they also received mentorship opportunities. Younger siblings were well loved by volunteers where they had the best crafts, puzzles, snacks and games. Parents came in strong and had multiple classes to choose from including Getting Ahead, Women's Journey and ESL. Back again this fall was a Bible Study led by CLC pastors and Parent U led by community partners.

This has been a great semester of programming at McClintock. While we are taking a break over Christmas and New Year, we are excited for an equally exciting Spring semester!

New Year... New Resolutions... New Volunteers?

It's that time of year where resolutions are made and habits change. If you are looking to get involved with McClintock Partner in Education (McPIE), please contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org. There are MANY ways in which you can support McClintock students, teachers and families. Opportunities are as easy as serving dinner all the way to leading a fun club for students. Start the New Year with purpose and make a difference in a student and family's life!

Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn has begun its season, hosting our first night on Thursday, December 7th. Thanks to everyone who responded to our calls for volunteers. We had great response for setup, overnight hosts and even a few bus drivers. Your support makes this ministry possible. We have a few spots still open for overnight hosts.

To sign up, go to christelca.org/outreach and scroll down to the "RITI 2023-2024 Volunteer Signup" under Helpful Links, or go directly to Signupgenius.com and search by email: lane.goode@gmail.com.



CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION SUPPER

1st Monday of each month • 3-6 p.m.

4-8 volunteers are needed each month to cook and serve dinner for CRM's Rebound program (907 W 1st St). Great for individuals or a small group!

To volunteer yourself or a group, text or call Melinda Dale: 704-277-0868 (each participant will need to fill out a form)



SERVING & OUTREACH

Christmas Shopping Thank you!

The spirit of giving was felt by all at our annual Christmas Shopping Family Sponsorship Event December 8-11! With families still in need of some Christmas magic, we sponsored 31 families!

Multiple comments of "Perfecto/perfect," "You all are always so good to us," and "This means so much to our family" were heard throughout the weekend by grateful moms, dads and grandparents.

Volunteers shopped for wish list items. When families came to "shop" at Christ Lutheran, we had all their wish list gifts set up in a dedicated space for them with wrapping paper, bags and ribbon. Families were able to wrap gifts for their children while volunteers built important relationships with family members while helping add the perfect bow to their gifts.

"I look forward to volunteering at this event every year. Helping parents wrap gifts and listening to them brag about their children is so heartwarming. One of the Moms I helped this year was moved to tears when her shopper purchased a hoodie and bedding in her son's favorite shade of blue - just by chance!" This mom that our volunteer was referring to was so very grateful for the Christmas help. She had just moved to the McClintock community to start a new job. She was overjoyed that she was going to be able to do something special for her child.

Several families came over the course of the weekend. Being able to give back and help our McClintock community was wonderful! THANK YOU to all the volunteers who shopped for gifts, helped set up, and assisted families wrapping. The spirit of Christmas was alive and well this holiday season!

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

Calling all Thrivent Members!

by DEE-DEE PETRONIS

As a Thrivent Financial member, are you aware you are able to apply for a Community Impact Card through their Thrivent Action Teams program? These cards provide \$250 of seed money that allows you to sponsor projects that support many of CLC's outreach initiatives; or you can use them to support causes near and dear to your heart. Full members can receive two impact cards per year and associate members, one.

Please contact Dee-Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org) for more information and assistance.

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Tutors



Volunteers needed to help tutor students needing extra help at McClintock Middle School.

Contact Celia Owen if interested in volunteering:
cwown92@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.

If you are interested in joining this team, contact:
alicermcrorie@gmail.com

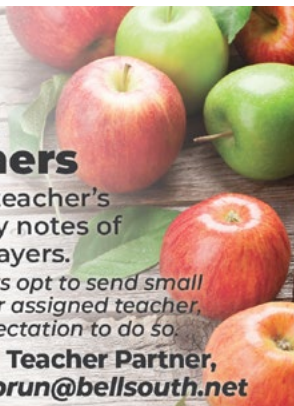


DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: Teacher Partners

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 Betsy at: betsybrun@bellsouth.net



ROOM IN THE INN

Christ Providence is currently hosting our neighbors in need each Thursday night.



Overnight hosts, drivers and other volunteers needed.



Info & Signup:
signupgenius.com
lane.goode@gmail.com



CHRIST LUTHERAN

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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



january/february 2024

Scott Suskovic · Senior Pastor
Ryan Ritzmann · Pastor, Evangelism & Faith Formation
Adrienne Martin · Pastor, Family Ministry
Willie Pinson · Minister, Christ Concord
Alexis Williams · Minister, Christ Online
Amy Daniels · 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

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!
-Christ Lutheran Pastors & Staff

