

Christ Connections



july/august 2023



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

9:00 a.m. **Traditional Worship**
10:45 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**
no Sunday School during the summer

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST CONCORD

10:00 a.m. **Multi-Generational Modern Worship**

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



SMALL GROUP ministries



Honoring Our COLLEGE GRADUATES class of 2023



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



8

DAYS OF SERVICE





PASTOR
SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Sabbatical Plans

The Council and Personnel Committee have always been very generous and supportive of the wellbeing of the staff. For those on Leadership Team, they provide time for a sabbatical of 6 weeks every five years. This time away is not just an extended vacation but a time of education or writing or spiritual renewal or wellness.

I will be taking the month of July off as my next sabbatical for a time of getting healthy. Not that I am unhealthy, but as I've entered into my 60's, I want this decade to be one of establishing healthy patterns that will take me long into retirement—one day, many years from now!

So, I will be focusing on several different aspects of wellness:

- While I exercise several times a week, I want to establish a more intentional work out routine.
- With many evening commitments, Gretchen and I have found ourselves eating our meals closer to 9:00 p.m. That seems to work for the Italians, but I'm not sure if that is the healthiest pattern for us!
- It has been a couple of busy years with my work/life balance a bit askew. There have been a lot of changes at the church that have demanded my attention. So, Gretchen and I will take time to be together, hiking and traveling Iceland.
- It will also be a time of reconnecting. We will spend some time with family at a couple of lakes in Minnesota as well as travel to see our son, Nathan, and his wife in Boston doing their residencies.
- I also want to work on some more consistent spiritual disciplines that will keep me centered and focused.

July is the best time for me to do this as many of the activities at church have slowed down in preparation for the fall. We will have complete pastoral coverage with Pastor Ryan and Deacon Kenny. I encourage you to reach out to them with any needs you might have.

I am very appreciative of the Council and Personnel Committee allowing me this time for health and wellness. It will give me the rest and excitement I need to return in August to start planning and preparing for a busy fall. I seek God's wisdom and direction during this time to give me new bold visions for the future ministries and deep impact for Christ Lutheran.

Many times during his ministry, Jesus spent time apart to pray and recenter. Jesus modeled this practice of a sabbatical. This time apart, granted by the Council, is truly a gift for which I am deeply thankful.

**Peace,
Pastor Scott**





Jesus Never Said That

We have heard many sayings – that seem full of wisdom – attributed to the Bible or Jesus.

Regularly, these sayings aren't found in the Bible, and sometimes, they are contradictory to the teachings of Jesus.

Join us on Sundays starting July 2nd for this new series as we explore some popular sayings and find what Jesus would have really said.

NEW SERMON SERIES July 2 - August 20

July 2 • God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle

When we read what Paul was telling the Corinthians, we can see that he wasn't trying to tell them that they would only ever get trials and temptations that they could handle. He was telling them, and specifically them: "buck up." They (the Corinthians) aren't experiencing wildly different trials. These tests are regular enough to be common. But we shouldn't expect that this test, or any other, is within our means to handle. We are sinners and are very capable of creating situations that are beyond our ability to navigate. In fact, the very notion of sin puts us into a debt with our LORD that we cannot overcome. Thank God for Jesus and His unending grace. –I Corinthians 10:13

July 9 • That's Not Fair

Bad things happen in the world. When they happen to us, sometimes we can put God on trial. There are also some who decide they will live by their own rules, living by the motto "no one can judge me but God." We don't have the mind of God, which is why you wouldn't want to be judged by Him. He knows all about us. Our thoughts, our words and our deeds. His judgment is much more severe, taking into account every possible outcome. But He gives grace. Grace isn't fair. It is given repeatedly to the point of being ludicrous. Our Lord is not fair, thanks be to God! –Acts 10:34-40; John 7:21-27

July 16 • Everything Happens for a Reason

The problem with this often-recited trope is that it removes personal responsibility. How could we fight against God's will!? I guess we should let cancer ravage our bodies. We should let warlords continue pillaging and destroying. This way removes God from the world. He sent His Holy Spirit into the world to guide His people. Not that their free will be limited but rather that they might be harnessed for the good of the Kingdom of God. –Romans 8:28

July 23 • God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

This saying speaks to the American ideal of individualism. That we can pull ourselves up by our bootstraps and in so trying we will be aided by God. This saying is not in the Bible. It could even be interpreted as heretical (Pelagian)! But we still hold onto the idea. We like that we can have control. Our world is full of situations in which we find ourselves hopeless. But the LORD God is God of the hopeless. He sent His son to help precisely because we could not help ourselves. –John 11:38-44; Ephesians 2:1-9

July 30 • Money Is the Root of All Evil

Money is not the problem. Love of money is always a problem. Loving money is loving a thing that would take the place of God. This idolatry leads the wayward to decisions and lifestyle choices that seem reasonable but are, in fact, evil. Money is a tool and a very effective one. It allows for the smooth trade of goods and services so that our society can function, but it is not the goal of a life well lived. We know money has power and we can either use it, which is good and as God intended, or fall into its grasp. –I Timothy 6:6-10; Matthew 6:19-24

August 6 • Listen to Your Heart

If it feels good, do it; if it doesn't, don't. These are the words of wisdom that many hear and think of as truth. Emotion, however, is not truth. Emotions are gifts from God to pay attention to things in our life. To help us experience, recognize and enjoy the events of this gift of life. But they aren't the deciding factor. Imagine if Jesus didn't feel like mounting the cross? What would have happened if the Israelites actually did turn back to Egypt? We are the master of our emotions. God gave us all these as gifts to use; let's make sure we use them well. –Romans 5:1-5

August 13 • Christians Have to Always Be Nice

All Christians are nice, always. Yes. And if you believe that, there's some ocean-front property I want to sell you in Kansas. There is no way a Christian, or anyone else, can be nice all the time. Christians, like everyone else, are allowed to have different emotions. Jesus Himself wept, and overturned tables in anger. What a Christian is supposed to do is not plot against others. We are to seek their well-being and make the concerns of others our concerns. –Ephesians 4:31-32

August 20 • Love the Sinner Hate the Sin

"I love you, but..." The love of God is unconditional. Anything less than unconditional love is not the love of God. We, Christians, are to reflect God's love in the world, and that love is not stipulated. So we love like God loved us. What is more, we can recognize that He loves us with our sin. We don't need to be judgmental about another's sin because we are not perfect ourselves. We don't need to point out those sins which are not socially acceptable. We can love 'em all and let God sort 'em out. –Romans 12:9-18



christelca.org/sermon-series



SMALL GROUP ministries



The Importance of a Small Group

by PASTOR RYAN

I miss my small group. We met each week during Wednesdays Together. We started out as a group whose only connection was that we had children of a similar age and we were willing to meet.

We did some book studies. Nothing fancy. Nothing amazing. I lead, but I'm a pastor and it's easy for me to lead; and I didn't pull any rabbits out of any hats. Super basic, super easy, slow pitch softball kind of stuff. We meet at worship or social events and talk about our group. We talk about an event we put on the calendar to all get together. Talk about how there is this void in our lives. Because, well, there is a void. We met almost every week for months. That kind of commitment builds into something meaningful and because the calendar marches forward our patterns changed, but not our needs.

Over and over again we see that God's intention is to bring people together. We are supposed to be together and when one leaves the 99 we reach out and bring that one back in. When one who has gone astray is found back in the fold we celebrate.

There is a deepness about our Lord that transforms us. There is so much that we could have. Blessings on top of blessings. All that is required is to seek first the Kingdom of God. This seeking the Kingdom of God can be a nebulous endeavor. How do we grow? What is the mechanism? How do I know if I'm doing it right?

My advice to you is: get into a small group. Or, start one yourself, if you are advanced in your faith. The time and commitment is real. You have to show up. But that's how it works. That's how everything works. You can't eat a bowl of Cheerios before you go in for your blood work and expect your cholesterol to be lowered. No one has ever paddled a surfboard out into the choppy waves for the first time and began riding a tube. Spiritual growth, like fine wine or a beautiful marriage takes time and commitment. Then, one day you look back and see what goodness has sprung up.

The Lord God is a being who is for others. Our LORD God literally created everything so that we could share in this gift of life. He wants us to be together, serve one another and love each other. Church is where we gather, Small Groups are where we grow.

We will be looking for leaders this summer to start new groups. There is a training for new leaders, or even those veterans who still want to learn more. There is also a mixer where new and veteran small group leaders can get together and learn what was good, bad, and best. There are staff and pastors at Christ Lutheran to help you learn and grow, no matter where you are in your spiritual journey.

PRIMEtimers
A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+
Hawaiian Luau
Saturday, August 12 • 2-6 p.m.
at the Leffler's Home (Lake Norman)
Register in Realm & sign up for a dish to bring.
Prizes for best Hawaiian outfit. Cost: \$5
RSVP by August 5th!
For more info, email EricLinda@comcast.net

LUTHERAN MEN CHICKEN & CORN ROAST
Saturday, August 19
12-3:30 p.m. at Christ Providence (Spirit Hall)
Enjoy an afternoon with other Charlotte-area Lutheran men, great food, guest speakers, door prizes and more!
Keynote Speaker: Mr. Larry Sprinkle
For tickets (\$) or more info:
ed.eddleman@edata-charlotte.com

SMALL GROUP
FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN
Calling all golfers! Come out and join with other CLC members at our next co-ed golf outing. These outings are scheduled once per month at various area courses. All are invited!
Scan or click to Join REALM Group for updates (login required) or contact Joel Barber for info:
joel.barber@gmail.com

SMALL GROUP ministries
LEADER TRAINING WORKSHOP
Wednesday, August 9
6-8 p.m. (Christ Providence - Forum)
CLICK -or- SCAN TO REGISTER
or for more info: mparker@christelca.org

SMALL GROUP ministries
SOCIAL MIXER FOR LEADERS
Wednesday, August 16
6-8 p.m. (Christ Providence - Forum)
Join Pastor Ryan & other small group leaders for light snacks & beverages as we gather to discuss small groups.

CLICK -or- SCAN FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER



Reception & Vote

on extending a call to Pastor Adrienne Martin as new Family Ministry Director

Sunday, July 9

Meet & Greet (Lower Commons, 10:00 a.m.)
Congregational Vote (Sanctuary, 11:45 a.m.)
at Christ Providence -or- Online

FOR ZOOM LINK: christelca.org/online

Summertime Spirituals

Sundays • 8:00 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Music Room)

Traditional worshipers are invited to join us for a new, intergenerational pickup choir that will sing a well-known Spiritual for the preludes in August and Labor Day weekend. You don't need to know how to read music, just come and have some fun!

starts August 6!

More info: mjohanson@christelca.org



FALL PROGRAMMING - DATES TO KNOW

September 10: Kick-Off Sunday & New Worship Times

8:45a Traditional • 10a Bridge • 11a Contemporary

Sept. 13: Wednesdays Together Begins

5p Dinner (\$) • 6p Classes (for all ages)

September 17: Sunday School Begins

10-10:45a (for all ages)



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Sunday, September 24 & Sunday, October 1

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 Sept. 17

More info: mparker@christelca.org or khofmann@christelca.org

Xperience Kickoff Party

by MARK JOHANSON & BILL PORTER

Now that our Awakening Tour has come to an end this past June, we are inviting all rising high schoolers to come check us out and consider joining in the fall! Come and check out the Xperience, Christ Lutheran's unique high school worship arts program. We're throwing a kick-off party at church on August 8th. Come for the icebreakers and a pizza dinner, stick around for some social time, and we'll finish the night with a movie. The Xperience is for youth who are interested in worship arts, including singing, drama, dance, band/orchestra music, worship technology, lighting, sound, graphic design and more. Come and check it out! Current and prospective members are both invited!

For more information on joining the Xperience or attending this Kickoff Party, please contact Bill Porter (bporter@christelca.org).



Xperience Tour 2023: The Awakening

Summertime Spirituals

by MARK JOHANSON

Traditional worshipers, make a joyful noise this summer– and have fun doing it! Summertime Spirituals is a new, intergenerational pickup choir that will sing a well-known Spiritual for the preludes in August and Labor Day weekend. You don't need to know how to read music, just come and have some fun!

Starting August 6th, bring your family or friends, and meet us in the Music Room at 8:00 a.m. for some social time and refreshments, after which we'll learn an easy song for worship. You can return to your pew after the prelude.

Special Thanks

A Thank You Note to All Our Friends at Christ Lutheran Church:

My family and I would like to express our gratitude to all of you who paid their final respects to my wife, Sigrid. Many of you attended the celebration of her life service on April 22. We received lots of cards and phone calls expressing your gratitude for the influence Sigrid had on your lives in many different ways. It has been humbling to us to hear and read about how she touched you. We thank the Christ Choir for participating in her service. All of us will think of Sigrid for a long time. Thanks again.

Love and Peace, Hans Teich



review us on Google



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



<https://g.page/r/CQ3ErPywQgeREB0/review>



Honoring Our COLLEGE GRADUATES

Class of 2023



Heather Artis graduated from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. She will be moving to Houston, Texas to teach in the elementary school system.



Emily Lynn Barnes graduated cum laude from Mercer University with a degree in education and 4 years of playing D1 lacrosse. She will be attending UNCC to pursue her master's.



Bennett Clapp graduated from NC State University with a B.S. in Engineering/Computer Science. He will be working as a data engineer for Fidelity Investments in Durham.



Robbie Eudy graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in Accounting. He will be attending law school at UNC-Chapel Hill.



Christianne Sloop Faulk "CC" earned her Master's in Business Administration from USC-Aiken while being a wife, mother of two and working full time. Congratulations and kudo's!!



Liam Feeny graduated from UNCC with a B.S. in Business Administration. He plans to continue his internship with Harris Teeter's Tech Department in hopes that they will keep him on full time as an employee.



Andrew J. LaFollette graduated from Winthrop University with a B.S. in Business Administration. He plans to stay in the Charlotte area and research opportunities to give him the experience necessary to own a business.



Christopher Ortega graduated from UNC-Charlotte with a B.S. in Earth & Environmental Science. He is looking to work as an arborist in the greater Charlotte area.



Sarah Ellen Overby graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a B.S. in Biology and Exercise & Sport Science. She will be attending graduate school at Penn State University in the fall.

congrats from your church family!
CHRISTLUTHERAN



Matthew Rank graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Carolina Wilmington with a bachelor's degree in Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management. Matthew will begin his career at Carmel Country Club in Charlotte in August.



Nicholas Stotts graduated from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with a B.S. in Business and Economics. Nicholas will be working at Ernst and Young in New York City in technology consulting.



Connor Targonski graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.S. in Business Operations and Supply Chain. He will be working as a sourcing specialist for Dominion Energy in Columbia, SC.



Megan Weisenberger graduated from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach with a B.A. in Digital Culture and Design. She plans to pursue a master's degree in Animation and VFX from the Academy of Art University.



CHRIST
providence



CHRIST
concord



CHRIST
online

8 Days of Service

It's Back! Save the date for August 20-27 and mark your calendars now for our campus-wide outreach effort of 8 Days of Service!! We will have volunteer and service projects every day and most evenings that week at a variety of non-profits and partner agencies in town. You can pick one or as many as you like – there will be something for every age group and many family-friendly options! The last day of 8 Days of Service on August 27 will feature Hunger Fight meal packing at Christ Providence. Interested in leading a project, or have a non-profit in mind you would like to benefit? Contact Amy Daniels at adaniels@christelca.org. Stay tuned for more information.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement

It's been almost a year since our church and our Afghan Ministry team were blessed to enter into a relationship with the Osmani family. It's definitely been an enlightening and rewarding relationship that has developed over the past months. We've helped Mohammad and Khatera get connected with community services, secure doctors for all of the family members, pursue alternative housing options, and now, we embark on the most daunting task yet, helping Osmani family members in Afghanistan join Mohammad and Khatera here in the U.S.

Not only will this allow for family members to be reunited, but it will give their family members a chance at a life without the fear and violence they face on a regular basis.

Our team has begun the Humanitarian Parole process for Arash Shirzad, one of Khatera's brothers (currently in Turkey). Humanitarian parole is given to those hoping to enter the U.S. under emergency circumstances. While parole allows for temporary lawful presence in the United States, it does not give you immigration status, nor a path to lawful permanent residence (a Green Card), nor other lawful immigration status. Anyone receiving parole will remain an applicant for admission and may be able to apply for lawful status in the United States, if eligible. Parolees can apply for legal status through the asylum process or other forms of sponsorship, if available, once they're in the U.S.

Multiple documents and attestations are part of the Humanitarian Parole application process. One key part of completing the application is securing sponsorship for the beneficiary, Arash. Normally a family member would sponsor the family member trying to gain entry to the U.S. In order for Mohammed and Khatera to sponsor Arash, they would need to make a minimum of \$50,350 per year to qualify. Their annual income is well short of this despite working multiple jobs including a full-time job during the week.

An attorney from the International House has kindly donated time to help us get the application started. Now we need to secure a sponsor for Arash. We have learned a lot, yet still have many questions regarding sponsorship. Anyone interested can reach out to Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org) and she can coordinate a meeting to learn more.

Here are the nuts and bolts (provided to us and shared below) of what is required of a sponsor. We may need to schedule a question and answer session in order to gain more clarity for interested individuals. The request for Humanitarian Parole, which involves a temporary stay in the United States, requires the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to determine whether the beneficiary of the request has sufficient financial support to live without concern of becoming reliant on U.S. Government welfare.

A sponsor provides this financial support by submitting a Form I-134. The individual who signs and submits Form I-134 (the sponsor) must establish that he/she has both sufficient financial resources and access to those funds to support the beneficiary for the duration of the beneficiary's stay in the United States. Whether or not the beneficiary will have sufficient means of support while in the United States is an important factor in determining whether to exercise discretion to authorize parole. USCIS requires evidence that the beneficiary has financial support for the duration of his stay in the U.S. Lack of evidence of financial support while in the U.S. is a strong negative factor that may lead to a denial of parole.

The sponsor will be required to verify their immigration status. If the sponsor is a U.S. citizen, this can be a copy of the sponsor's birth certificate or a copy of the biographic data page of a U.S. passport. USCIS may require that the sponsor appear for an interview or provide biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature) at any time to verify his/her identity, and may require additional information such as background and security checks before making a decision on the application. The sponsor will be notified if any of the above is needed.

Financial information required from the sponsor:

- Assets that will be used to support the beneficiary for the anticipated period of his stay in the U.S. (only assets that can be converted into cash within 12 months).
- Statement from an officer of the bank or other financial institutions with deposits, identifying the following details regarding the account: date account opened, total amount deposited for the past year and present balance.
- Statement from employer on business stationary showing: date and nature of employment, salary paid and whether the position is temporary or permanent.
- Copy of last U.S. federal income tax return filed.



**American
Red Cross**

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE:

Sunday, July 23

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

at Christ Providence

Signup at redcrossblood.org

SAVE THE DATE • SIGNUP STARTS IN AUGUST

**8 DAYS OF SERVICE
AUGUST 20-27**

Interested in leading a project or
have a non-profit in mind to benefit?

Contact Amy Daniels:
adaniels@christelca.org

FREEDOM SCHOOL
volunteers

Volunteer opportunities are still available
during Freedom School June 20 – July 27.

Opportunities include DEAR time readers
(read with a Scholar), field trip chaperones,
afternoon activities, family engagement,
dinner hosts and more.

If interested in volunteering, email:
dpetronis@christelca.org

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



FREEDOM SCHOOL
finale

Thursday, July 27 • 1:00 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

Save the date for the closing program of
Freedom School, where Scholars' get to
showcase all of their hard work through
song, dance, spoken word, video and more!

Uniting for Ukraine

by ELIZABETH MARQUARDT

A few months ago, I was tiptoeing through the grocery store while my infant son napped in his car seat in the cart when suddenly, a stranger grabbed my arm. An elderly woman with a scarf knotted under her chin pulled me over to a BOGO sign and asked, in accented English, "What does this mean?" I stammered an explanation, hoping she would let go before the baby woke up. Later, I wished I had responded with more compassion and offered more help: this woman was not used to shopping in an American supermarket. I suspect she was from Ukraine.

According to Ukrainians of the Carolinas, southeastern Mecklenburg County is home to hundreds of recent immigrants from Ukraine, more than any other part of North Carolina.

Many of these people are here because of the federal Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program, which expedites the humanitarian parole process for Ukrainians so they can get here in weeks instead of years. Once they arrive, they are eligible to receive the same services as a person with refugee status, with a catch: while a refugee would automatically be connected with a service provider, humanitarian parolees have to seek these services out for themselves. Many recent arrivals don't know what kind of help is available to them.

And that's where we (you?) come in. A number of the recent Ukrainian immigrants in our area were sponsored by other Ukrainian immigrants who arrived here over the past 20-30 years. These people acted quickly to get friends and relatives out of a war zone, but they didn't know how to connect the newcomers with a resettlement agency. We have the opportunity to step into this gap by forming a Circle of Welcome and connecting a family with resources from Lutheran Services of the Carolinas (LSC). LSC helps navigate government programs such as work permits, health insurance and ESL classes. The Circle of Welcome helps a family with needs such as finding donated furnishings, clothing and transportation. They might also accompany a recent arrival to the grocery store for the first time so that they aren't forced to solicit strangers for explanations of American shopping culture (imagine the courage required to do that in a foreign language!).

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You can help by:

- Being part of a Circle of Welcome to support our Ukrainian neighbors who are already here (time commitment).
- Providing short-term housing for an individual or family.
- Donating frequent flier miles, credit card points, or money to defray travel expenses for someone coming to the U.S.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, you can attend one of two informational meetings at Christ Providence on Sunday, July 30 or Sunday, August 6 at 10 a.m. in Forum A&B. You can also email me at marquardt.elizabeth@gmail.com.

Elizabeth serves on our NC Synod Immigration and Refugee Task Force. She has also been involved with our Afghan Refugee Resettlement Task Group. We have the opportunity to do most of the same things for our Afghan family and extended family that would like to escape to the United States.



Freedom School Funded & Underway

Freedom School is back at CLC's Providence Campus! This summer, we will welcome even more Scholars than last – 90 total – ages K-8th grade! They will be enjoying a fun, safe summer. This class of Scholars will build Something Inside So Strong in hopes of breaking the cycle of poverty. Through the tools they receive in Freedom School, Scholars foster a love of reading and learn that they can make a difference in themselves, their families and the world. Please continue to pray for our Scholars, their families, Freedom School team leaders and volunteers. We hope that the Holy Spirit touches them daily and blesses and empowers them to make a difference this summer! Thank you to everyone who donated toward our fund raising efforts! Due to your generosity, Freedom School is FULLY FUNDED and will make a real impact on these Scholars. If you are still interested in making a donation, the McPIE general fund accepts donations year-round to support Family Night and other initiatives.

Teacher Partner Leader Wanted

Teacher Partners is a wonderful way to support McClintock Middle School teachers once a month with prayers, cards, small tokens or emails. They are especially important for first-year teachers to keep them encouraged throughout the year. We have had a really great team the past few years, and an incredible Teacher Partner Coordinator, also. With her growing duties as mom, wife and employer, Diane Gavarkavich is stepping down from our Coordinator role.

With this, we are looking for another eager volunteer who can coordinate volunteer partners and match them with a teacher to support. This is an easy volunteer position – a few hours to coordinate in September, then less than an hour per month afterward – and Diane will provide you with everything you need to get prepared for this upcoming school year. If you are interested in being our new Teacher Partner Coordinator, please contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) and I can connect you with Diane for a full overview!

Teacher Luncheons

Want to support teachers at McClintock through food? Christ Lutheran has a group of dedicated volunteers who prepare and serve lunch to teachers and staff on Early Release days. We could use more volunteers to make casseroles, bake desserts, provide drinks, bread and salad ingredients, as well as help serve. The next early release days/luncheons are September 20 and October 19 (according to the CMS calendar). If you are interested in supporting teachers and staff in this manner, please contact Alice McRorie (alicemcrorie@gmail.com).

Science Camp!

After several years of no camp and a year of partial camp, Science Camp is BACK in FULL swing this summer at McClintock Middle School! Rising 6th-8th graders will explore science, technology, engineering, arts and math in engaging science modules, followed by Friday field trips to tie it all together! Camp Invention curriculum for 6th graders has our future scientists exploring circuits, sound, animatronics, business/marketing, velocity, mimicry, patents and so much more! Field trips to Discovery Place Science will allow them to investigate other science concepts and a trip to UNCC will allow them to take a glimpse into college life and science majors.

(story continues on next page...)



Clothing Donations for
Crisis Assistance

Bring new or gently used clothing to donate to our neighbors in need!
Drop off clothing at the Outreach Office M-F. On Sunday, the blue bins will be outside the Outreach Office doors.



Community Partner SPOTLIGHT

This year, we'd like to lift up community partners that do amazing work in and around Charlotte. If you volunteer for a local organization that you would like others to know about, let us know!

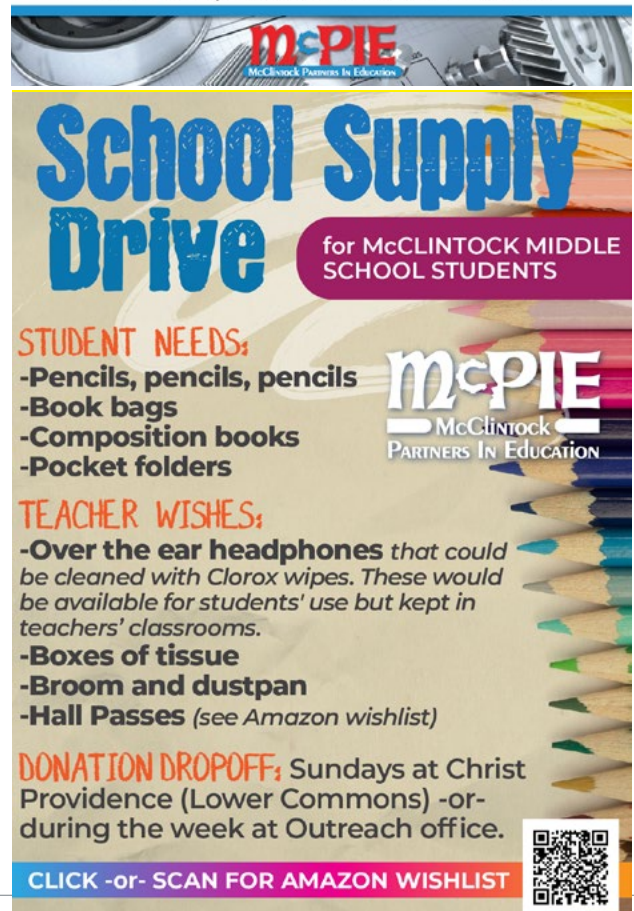
Contact Angela Davis with your ideas!
adavis@christelca.org

SCIENCE CAMP *showcase*

Thursday, July 13

1:00 p.m. at McClintock Middle School

JOIN STUDENTS FROM THE SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP AS THEY SHOWCASE ALL THEY HAVE LEARNED, ENGINEERED & INVENTED!



School Supply Drive for McCLINTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

STUDENT NEEDS:


- Pencils, pencils, pencils
- Book bags
- Composition books
- Pocket folders

TEACHER WISHES:

- Over the ear headphones that could be cleaned with Clorox wipes. These would be available for students' use but kept in teachers' classrooms.
- Boxes of tissue
- Broom and dustpan
- Hall Passes (see Amazon wishlist)

DONATION DROPOFF: Sundays at Christ Providence (Lower Commons) -or- during the week at Outreach office.

CLICK -or- SCAN FOR AMAZON WISHLIST



This summer, our older camp, Career Track Explorers, is back for the first time since 2019. These older researchers will have fun diving into concepts surrounding water and environment, food science, tessellations and the science of racing using momentum, velocity and speed. Field trips to Discovery Place and STEAM day at the Speedway will certainly be fun opportunities to learn more about science and technology and see careers in action! We are excited to host 100 MMS students for two, 2-week sessions of camp!

Feed A Family Update

If there is one thing learned from the pandemic, it is that families are still in need of support – specifically, food security. McPIE will continue to provide 31 grocery bags each week to McClintock families this summer. A big THANK YOU to the Garden Ministry for donating fresh produce each week. This is a highlight for many families! Pick up has moved to the Outreach office. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated to fund this important ministry. Donations can be made to the "Feed A Family" Fund via [REALM Giving](#).

Family Night Volunteers

After a successful first FULL year back during the '22-'23 school year, McPIE Family Night will be back again this fall for the '23-'24 school year! While the pandemic definitely put a wrench in the momentum that we were riding on, last year was a true testament to the importance of this programming. Students, families and volunteers were full of smiles each week. The warm meal was delicious, clubs were engaging and fun, and parents felt a sense of community with each other. Last year, we added a few new clubs, welcomed new volunteers and started a true rebuilding process! If you have ever considered volunteering for Christ Lutheran's largest Outreach program, NOW is the time! We will begin at the end of September. To learn more, contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org.

Community Spotlight

This year, Outreach has been including community partners that YOU want to lift up. So far, we have spotlighted the Alzheimer's Association of the Western Carolinas and Getsamane Gardens Christian Centre. If you volunteer for a community organization that you would like others to know about, let us know! There are so many great organizations in and around Charlotte that do amazing work– let's share them with others! Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) with your ideas!



Lutherock Confirmation Camp

by DEACON KENNY CHAMPAGNE

Eight middle schoolers and two adults spent a week in the North Carolina mountains at Camp Lutherock in June. It was a wonderful week filled with lots of fun, friendships, challenges and faith formation. The students are put in groups for the week that are led by young adult camp

counselors who invest all kinds of time and love in our students. Our students got a week of time in God's creation while participating in all kinds of activities and learning about how



our God is the same God who created all things, who called Abraham, who led Moses, who is incarnate in Jesus, and who is with each and every one of us in the Holy Spirit.

While it was a wet and rainy week, our students loved all the activities provided by the camp and certainly didn't mind playing in the rain! The week kicked off with the Group Interactive Course which puts the students in groups to work together in accomplishing different challenges. It is always fun to watch the growth during those challenges as the students learn the importance of communication and teamwork! Rain caused the plans to change on Tuesday and instead of a creek walk (which would have been whitewater walk!) the students participated in a scavenger hunt around the camp. On Wednesday, the rain continued but the students were able to make a trip off property to Grandfather Mountain and do some site seeing. Thursday was a day of hiking around the camp to see different sites. Friday was our day to do the high ropes challenge course where our students climb high and walked on wires, and through obstacles to complete the course!

The week concluded with students celebrating Friday night with a big party for the whole camp! Each day included confirmation teaching time, silly songs and worship. Our students were fantastic. They bonded with each other and with other kids from other churches. We saw a lot of growth out of our students and are proud of the way they met the challenges of the week, remained positive through a lot of rain, and listened deeply for the Spirit. We think it is safe to say, they can't wait to head back up the mountain next summer and are excited to bring even more friends! God was most definitely present and at work giving us all literal mountain top highs that will be remembered for a lifetime! Thank you, Christ Lutheran for supporting these young people, for your prayers, and for the many ways you invest in our youth!

Shining the Light of Jesus!

This year's VBS "Stellar" finished up June 16th and it was a great week! Campers enjoyed activities, music, dancing and more! They also raised over \$300 for Ronald McDonald House and made 232 greeting cards for seniors.



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july/august 2023

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



SUMMER MUSIC WEEK

FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH IN RISING GRADES 3-12

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