

Christ Connections



september/october 2025

Sunday Schedule

SUMMER WORSHIP

9:00 a.m. **Traditional Worship**

10:45 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**

FALL WORSHIP STARTS SEPTEMBER 7

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

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

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

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



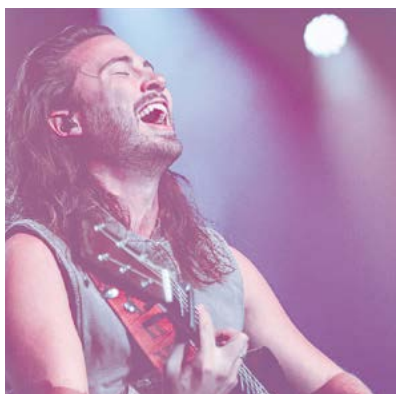
WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

STARTS SEPTEMBER 10!!



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Kick-Off Sunday: September 7 RENEWING YOUR COMMITMENT!

New Years is the time to renew your commitment to lose weight and save money. Anniversaries are a time to renew your commitment to your spouse. And Kick-Off Sunday, September 7, is a time to renew your commitment to your faith.

On September 7, we resume Sunday School along with our three worship times:

8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 a.m. Bridge Service (Christ Chapel)

10:00–10:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)

In addition, on that Sunday, we will have a free lunch for the entire family, serving from 10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come and eat and reconnect with those who have returned from their summer scatterings. Find that Sunday School class that is right for you (see descriptions for adult classes on page 8). And renew your commitment to worship, the most important thing that we do as believers.

And then go one step further.

Wednesdays Ablaze resumes on September 10. There are classes, rehearsals and dinner for the entire family (see page 9). I encourage you to renew your commitment to your faith by joining us on these Wednesdays.

The class I am teaching in Forum A&B coincides with the sermon series, “A Living Hope.” This sermon series and my Wednesdays Ablaze class are both based on 1 Peter, the final letter by the Apostle Peter to the emerging Christian community, struggling with persecution and overcome by impatience for Christ’s return. As Peter addresses these early believers, clearly in the minority in society, the themes become oddly relevant for our Christian walk today.

It is September. It is time to renew your commitment to your faith. And this fall, we have so many opportunities for you and your family to grow. Please take advantage of these classes and worship and fellowship as we return for the Fall Kick-off.

2025

Church Council

Melissa Lanoue
President

Andy Brincefield
Vice President

Cassie Thompson
Secretary

Dave Hutchinson
Treasurer

Holly Cannon

Chad Melton

Molly Zmuda

Lauren Ratcliffe

Janet Wilson

Julie DePalma

David Herran

Brad Keller

**Peace,
Pastor Scott**

Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Christ Lutheran is the official Mecklenburg Chapter for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which is a ministry to build beds for children who do not have one. Over the past several months, a hard working group of volunteers has put together a workshop on Southland to assemble 30-40 beds four times a year. And we are ready for our first build!

On Saturday, September 27 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. we will need about 40 volunteers to do everything from cutting wood to working the drill press to shrink wrap to sanding to helping with lunch. All skill levels are welcomed.

To sign up for this event or to find out more information, please contact our SHP Director, Chris Barkoukis at cbarkoukis@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

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

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

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

STARTS SEPTEMBER 10

LEARN MORE & RSVP FOR DINNERS:

christelca.org/wednesdays-ablaze



NEW MEMBER CLASS

September 28 & October 5

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

REALM

not choir

meets on last Thursday of each month
11:45am • in the Cornerstone Cafe area

Not much of a singer? Join Not Choir, our monthly music appreciation small group, as we listen to & discuss traditional & contemporary worship music. Bring your lunch.

- STARTS SEPTEMBER 25TH -

MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org

Christ Choir

Wednesdays • 7:15 p.m. in the Music Room

Sing with Christ Choir this fall & raise your voice in Traditional worship! Join us for our FIRST REHEARSAL ON SEPTEMBER 3 & afterward for happy hour at Red Rocks.

MORE INFO: pbiedenbender@christelca.org

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build Day!

Sat., September 27

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

at Southland Worskshop

We will be building beds for children. All skill levels needed.

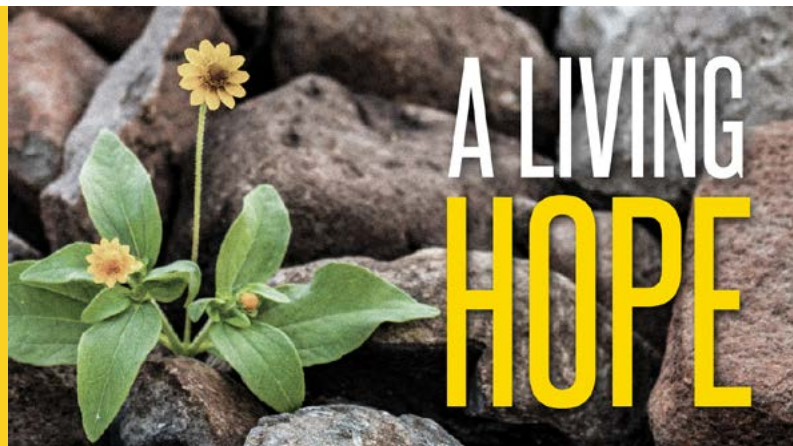
Interested in helping?
Email Chris Barkoukis at cbarkoukis@gmail.com



NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!



SERMON SERIES



A LIVING HOPE

Overview: After a period of anticipating the imminent return of Jesus, Christians have come to the realization that there might be a period of waiting that includes trials and suffering. Christians found themselves foreigners in this pagan and often hostile world. In this epistle of grace, 1 Peter encourages these early believers to hold fast to what he calls A Living Hope.

September 7 • A Living Hope

When we use that word, *hope*, we talk about hoping it will not rain today or hoping that our team wins. This is merely wishful thinking. But when the Bible speaks of hope, it is a "sure and certain" hope that because Jesus lives, one day, so will we. To this group of struggling believers, Peter's encourages them by calling this A Living Hope. *1 Peter 1:1-12; Matthew 5:1-12*

September 14 • A Royal Priesthood

You are royalty! How did this sound to Peter's audience – poor, struggling Gentiles who were persecuted for their faith? "You are royalty, a child of the king, heir to the promise and blessed beyond measure." Pie in the sky platitudes or the reality for those who are in Christ? *1 Peter 1:13-2:12; Matthew 5:13-16*

September 21 • How Then Shall We Live?

Having been saved through faith and named as royalty, how then shall we live? Peter strikes an important balance for the believer. With one eye firmly fixed on the eternal prize yet to come, the other eye remains focused on the work to be done here and now with the breaking in of the Kingdom of God. *1 Peter 2:11-3:12; Matthew 5:17-20*

September 28 • The Necessity of Suffering

Peter affirms the hard teaching of Jesus that in this world, you will have trouble. Who wants to hear that? And yet when we ask where God is in our suffering, he is not avoiding it or preventing it or closing his eyes to it. Our God is a very present help IN times of trouble. Look to the cross to see where our God can be found in our suffering. *1 Peter 3:13-4:11; Psalm 46; Matthew 5:43-48*

October 5 • Never Give Up

In 1941, Winston Churchill gave the shortest, most powerful and memorable commencement speech ever. Speaking at his alma mater, Harrow School of London, he went up to the podium, paused for a moment, and simply said, "Never Give Up!" No one has forgotten it. As Peter concludes his letter, his message is the same, encouraging these believers to stay the course. *1 Peter 4:12-5:14; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Matthew 6:19-21*



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



FALL KICK-OFF

Sunday, September 7

NEW WORSHIP TIMES
8:45 a.m. Traditional (Sanctuary)
10:00 a.m. Bridge (Christ Chapel)
11:00 a.m. Contemporary (Sanctuary)
Sunday School resumes 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

LUNCH
served 10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall • Free!
Please RSVP for lunch

MINISTRY FAIR 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Stop by the Lower Commons to learn about
fall programming for all ages.



REALM

Friday, September 19 • 7:00 p.m.

SEPH SCHLUTER
**COUNTING
MY BLESSINGS**
TOUR

9.19 CHARLOTTE, NC
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

GET TICKETS AT WWW.TPR.LIVE.CO

I, II, III, ∞

Featuring
BODIE



Scan/Click to save on processing fees for general admission
(limited availability in REALM)

TPR.

Compassion

Outreach Associate

full-time (30 hrs. per week)



Seeking an outreach associate with a heart for helping others. Major responsibilities include McPIE Family Night coordination, partnerships and development, general communications & support in Christ Lutheran's ongoing ministries/projects.

If interested in learning more, contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org

Southland Deckbarn is NOW OPEN



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

Church Trip to Italy

June 10-20, 2026

Join Pastor Scott & Gretchen for a faith and food tour of Italy next summer! For more info, contact Pastor Scott (suskovic@christelca.org)



SCAN/CLICK FOR TRIP DETAILS
or go to t.ly/9J4Ar



Summer Hours:
SUNDAYS
9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.



DID YOU KNOW?


We offer a variety of religious gift items to celebrate milestones such as **Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.**

All proceeds are directed to Christ Lutheran's Outreach Ministries.

Coffee with the Pastors

BOOK STUDY

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

 christelca.org/online

Lutheridge 75th Birthday CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

by REV. NATHAN GRAGG, NOVUS WAY

We are grateful to those who have made gifts or gift commitments to the Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Campaign. The generous support from members of Christ Lutheran is vital to the renewal taking place at Lutheridge.

If you have not yet made a gift commitment and would like to do so, please visit <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/congregationintentform>. Statement of Intent cards are also available in the church office.

Your gifts to the Lutheridge 75th Birthday Capital Campaign can be given to Christ Lutheran Church or sent directly to Lutheridge, PO Box 830, Arden, NC 28704. Mark your check for the Lutheridge 75th Birthday campaign. Gifts may also be made online at Lutheridge.org/Campaign (select the "Donate Now" button on the top menu).

For more information about making a gift, including securities gifts or a gift through an IRA or donor advised fund, please contact Rev. Nathan Gragg at (828) 209-6326 or NGragg@NovusWay.org.

Cornerstone Gifts

Cornerstone Gifts, located in the Lower Commons, is bringing in new merchandise for the upcoming fall and christmas seasons! We also have a variety of religious items including Bibles, devotion books, crosses, and gifts for Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Additionally, Cornerstone offers a large variety of greeting cards for every occasion along with home décor, baby gifts, children's toys, jewelry and more! We even have honey from The Cloisters, a local supplier.



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.

Cornerstone is always in need of more volunteers to help with tasks like receiving merchandise, arranging merchandise in the store, conducting sales during regular hours and taking periodic inventory counts. Training is provided! Volunteers also get first view of the merchandise as well as a discount on their purchases. Contact Store Manager Carolyn Usinger (cusinger@christelca.org) if you are interested in volunteering.



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: [Cornerstone Gifts at Christ Lutheran](https://www.facebook.com/CornerstoneGifts)

Join a Small Group This Fall

by PASTOR RYAN

Life, as God intended it, is meant to be lived with each other, yet, the world around us pulls us apart. Many things are good, some not so much, but the end result is that we are not in each other's lives as God would have it. We spend time driving our kids to and from various events, practices and recitals. Americans are the most productive people in the world, but that means that at the end of the day we crash. We move around our nation freely, but the price is that we leave family and friends behind. Many of us have golf buddies and Pickleball partners, but they aren't always the loved ones we need.

Bearing one another's burdens is the essence of love. Burdening ourselves for another is exactly what Christ did when he carried the cross for us. That kind of love doesn't happen on accident; it happens through intentional design.

The Holy Spirit designed the Church in such a way that we would be in each other's lives. That we would see the burdens in others lives and help them bear those burdens; and have our burdens, in the same way, born by others. And a great way to live the life that Jesus intended, a life of abundance, is in a small group.

No one is lost in a small group. On Sunday there are so many of us that could come and go and never speak to anyone. That's not how anyone wants it. What's more, you could live that life, coming and going, for months or years and never grow in faith. Again, that's how no one wants it. The elegant solution is to commit your time to seeking others in Christ, who in turn are committing their time.

We are forming small groups this fall. If you've never joined a group, this is your opportunity. If you have joined a group, and for whatever reason that group has fallen away, here is a chance to reinvigorate your walk with Christ. Look for opportunities to join various ministries, small groups, fellowships and service opportunities this fall on September 14th and 21st. I sincerely hope that you take this opportunity to grow spiritually.

A Word of Big Thanks!

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Stephen and I would like to say a big thank you to Christ Lutheran for the amazing generosity and excitement about our wedding and life together! We have been writing thank you notes and hope everyone has received a note of thanks for any gift given to us.

If you have given us a gift and have not yet received a thank you note, please let me know! As I was moving from my apartment to Stephen's house after the wedding, a couple of cards got misplaced, one of them being the card to a beautiful yellow knitted blanket. We have looked

and looked for the card that goes with it. We would like to thank you, so please let me know if it was from you!

We are excited to start our life together and give thanks to God for belonging to such a wonderful congregation. I am honored to serve with you!



Interested in singing in Contemporary worship with SpiritSong? We would love new singers to consider offering their voice for weekly worship leadership.

Please contact mjohanson@christelca.org to schedule an informal hearing.

MULTIMEDIA INTEREST SESSION

Sunday, September 14 • 12:15 p.m.
in the Sanctuary's Tech Booth

A free, informational overview of visual media used during worship.

for 6th graders–adults • no rsvp
FOR MORE INFO: OGERIK@CHRISTELCA.ORG

Third **THURSDAY**
for adults of all ages

Third Thursdays will resume in November

Stay tuned for details!!

NEW EPISODE EACH WEEK!



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

Check it out now>>
christelca.org/podcast



Bishop's Installation Mass Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, November 15
12:00–1:30 p.m. in the Music Room

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

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



MONTHLY PARENT CLASS: Mental Wellness in a Modern World

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

This year during Wednesdays Ablaze we are offering a dynamic series on mental health. Parents of children of all ages are invited to attend these monthly talks. They will be held in Christ Chapel from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Led by a mental health professional, Trent Morrow, LCSW of L & B Counseling, Trent will address real-world challenges—from technology and parenting to emotional resilience—offering practical strategies and powerful insights to help everyone of all ages thrive. Check out the schedule below!

September 10 • Being a Kid in 2025

Gain insight into the unique pressures children face today—from constant connectivity to performance anxiety—and how adults can meet them with empathy, awareness, and support.

October 8 • Parenting in 2025

Modern parenting isn't just about managing behavior—it's about fostering emotional wellness. Learn tools to build strong relationships and support your child's growth while staying mentally grounded yourself.

November 12 • Resiliency

Explore what it takes to bounce back from life's challenges, both for kids and adults. Learn how to cultivate resilience as a family value and a personal strength.

Dec. 10 • What Does Good Mental Wellness Look Like?

A fresh look at the foundations of mental health—what it means to truly thrive emotionally, mentally, and relationally, across all ages.

January 14 • The Fight for Your Attention

From phones to streaming to non-stop notifications, attention is under siege. Understand how this impacts focus, presence, and wellness—and how to reclaim attention.

February 11 • Are Your Kids Living in a Haunted House?

A creative metaphor for addressing anxiety, unspoken fears, and emotional clutter that affect children's sense of safety and well-being.

March 11 • How the Internet & AI Are Raising Your Children

Examine the hidden influences of screens and algorithms on values, behavior, and mental wellness—and what parents can do to stay in the loop.

April 15 • Technology

Gain balanced, practical strategies for managing technology at home, at work, and in daily life—promoting healthier habits for everyone in the household.

May 13 • Wrapping It All Up

A year-end session that weaves together key themes, offering renewed clarity and motivation for supporting mental wellness in your family, community, and personal life.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Trent Morrow is a licensed clinical mental health counselor and a speaker with over a decade of experience working with children, teens and families. As a therapist at L & B Counseling, Trent is known for his relatable, engaging style and his ability to make complex mental health topics easy to understand and apply. His passion lies in helping people of all ages navigate challenges with clarity, confidence and compassion.

ABOUT L & B COUNSELING

L & B Counseling offers outpatient therapy and personalized mental wellness services, specializing in treating anxiety, ADHD, depression, grief, trauma, substance and behavioral addictions, life transitions and relationship challenges through family and couples therapy. Every service is designed to meet clients where they are and help them build healthier, more fulfilling lives. For more information, visit landbcounseling.net.



L&B
COUNSELING

Adult Sunday School Classes START SEPTEMBER 7th!

Making Disciples

10:00-10:45 a.m. in Cornerstone Cafe area

This class will be going through the Bible, asking and answering the meaningful questions. Join us on *most* Sundays (when Pastor Ryan is not preaching, he will be teaching this class). —Led by Pastor Ryan

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

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! All are welcome.

—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, we are continuing our study of St. Paul's letter to the Galatians (Chapter 5), followed by Colossians. Everyone is welcome to join as we discuss Paul's guidance for the early Church and today.

—Led by David Deeds

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

This class for women seeks to enrich our faith through scripture study and readings for living in today's world. This fall, we will use Chad Bird's *Limping with God: Jacob and the Old Testament Guide to Messy Discipleship*. We will use this book to examine not just Jacob's story but our own story. As children of God we are chosen as His own no matter our flaws and weaknesses. At our most mature, our eyes are opened to realize that we've never run or walked or even limped a single day of our lives; we've been on Christ's shoulders the entire time.

—Led by Joyce Brigman and Linda Murdock

Studies of Scripture 10:00-10:45 a.m.

in the Adult Library

This is a Bible study involving four different scriptures each week. We look for the common thread between a Psalm, Old Testament, New Testament and Gospel lesson. We study each scripture with Biblical history and how it reflects in our lives today.

—Led by John Sensenbrenner and B Crigler

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

in the Music Room

All are welcome in Emerge Sunday School as we dive into The Word and discuss how it relates to our busy lives.

—Led by Rob & Kristen Stark

Faith Fellowship- The Bible and Beyond 10-10:45 a.m. in Forum A&B -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

(Sept. 7 - Oct. 5) *God Never Gives Up On You* by Pastor Max Lucado. Have you ever wondered if you've stumbled one too many times for God to use someone like you? Pastor Lucado boldly states, "God's grace is greater than your biggest setback." No one is more suited to help assure us of God's grace than Jacob. In this 5-session video series, Pastor Lucado assures participants that God enacts His perfect plan through imperfect, everyday people just like us and just like Jacob. He turns brokenness into blessings not just for those in Biblical history, but for everyone who lives in His love and grace. God never gives up on you!

(Oct. 12 - Nov. 16) *In Martin Luther's Footsteps*. After Alex Haley published *Roots*, many people started to comb through old court records, public documents, grave markers, family Bibles and church records in search of their ancestry. Tracing the genealogy of our families often includes the roots of our family faith. In this course, we will be tracing our Lutheran roots to Martin Luther— the man who changed the course of the world when he nailed the 95 theses on the Castle Church in Wittenberg and ignited the Reformation.

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 14) *Prepare The Way For The Lord* by Pastor Adam Hamilton. What does John the Baptist have to do with Advent? And why are two of Advent's four Sundays dedicated to the telling of John's story, his ministry and his message? In this 4-session video series during Advent, Pastor Hamilton reminds us that John the Baptist was the messenger sent by God to prepare the people for the arrival of the long-awaited messianic king.

—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 10!!

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.

christelca.org/wednesdays-ablaze

ADULT CLASSES

Christian Yoga 4:00-5:00 p.m. in Center Six

Christian Yoga is the intentional practice of connecting our entire being, body, mind and spirit with God in Christ. Through Holy Yoga, God invites us to worship and surrender through movement and the breath. —Led by Michele Dudley

Pastor Scott's Class: Final Words: Comfort and Hope from 1st & 2nd Peter

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Forum A&B -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

Join Pastor Scott as we study verse by verse this final letter by the Apostle Peter to the emerging Christian community, struggling with persecution and overcome by impatience for Christ's return. As Peter addresses these early believers, clearly in the minority in society, the themes become oddly relevant for our Christian walk today.

Life in Christ 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Cornerstone Cafe area

Our focus here is on living the way Jesus intended for us. We believe that having Christ in our lives is essential. Together, we will explore how to build a strong relationship with Jesus and nurture our faith to share with others. Discovering God's plan for us, fostering relationships, and spreading love to our loved ones are all part of Life in Christ. Let's embark on this journey together! —Led by Pastor Ryan & Ashley Ritzmann

Moms In Prayer 6:10-7:10 p.m. in the Adult Library

Using the ACTS model—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication—we begin by praising God & move into silent confession. In thanksgiving and supplication, we first pray for others before lifting up our own, building on one another's prayers. Learn more about this global ministry at momsinprayer.org Be encouraged, refreshed & strengthened as we seek the Lord together! —Led by Heidi Cruciana

NEW CLASS! Gospel Mixxed Fit

6:30-7:30 p.m. in Center Six

Let's praise God through dance and movement! Mixxed Fit is a unique fitness program paired with cardio hip hop music. It combines explosive dance moves with toning exercises and is designed to be fun and accessible with easy-to-follow moves set to popular music. With instructor Tracy Reynolds, we will be dancing and exercising to praise and Gospel music and will conclude with prayer. Join Pastor Adrienne for this time of fitness and faith. Class will be every Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month. Cost is \$5 per class.

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

• • • • •

ELEMENTARY

3 Years Old - 1st Grade

VBS-Style Rotations*

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. starting in the Music Room

2nd - 5th Grade

VBS-Style Rotations*

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. starting in the Music Room

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MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

6th - 8th Grade

Music, Activities & Open Gym*

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. starting in the Music Room

*All children and youth (3 yrs. old–8th grade) will gather in the Music Room at 6 PM for a joint opening activity before dispersing to VBS-style rotations for 3 yrs. old–5th grade—including music (vocal and instrumental), Bible story, craft and recreation time—and, for 6th–8th grade, music (vocal and instrumental), activities & open gym.

Preschool and elementary children (3 yrs. old–5th grade) will gather in the Music Room for closing and pick-up at 7 PM. Open gym will be available from 7–7:30 PM.

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HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

9th - 12th Grade

Xperience

6:00 - 7:30 PM 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 Rm. M248

high schoolers & adults welcome

Rite of Confirmation

Our Confirmation Class of 2025 began a new chapter in their faith journey on August 24th as they affirmed their baptism at the Rite of Confirmation service they planned. Our Confirmation program runs during the three years of middle school. They learned about the Old and New Testament and Lutheran theology, and grew in community with fellowship, worship and service projects. We wrapped up these years with a retreat to Awanita Valley Retreat Center in the foothills of SC for a fun and faith building mountain top experience. At this retreat, students learned to articulate what they believe, write a faith statement and prepared to affirm their baptism. Students concluded the weekend by planning the Rite of Confirmation worship service. We look forward to seeing these students live out these baptismal promises in their high school journey!



2025 Confirmands (in alphabetical order): Malachi Bolton, Addison Elliott, William Faile, Emmitt Glidewell, Madeline Hollins, Jonathan Hundt, Samantha Kempter, Jackson Kochan, Abigail Kuznia, Maggie McCann, Eli Maynor, Web Miller, Wynn Miller, Avery Nau, Harper Nau, Gabriel Ritzmann, Elexa Robinson, William Wright, Benjamin Yu.

Annual Nourish Up Food Drive

September 28th we will be handing out bags at all three services with a list of high priority food needs for our neighbors in our community. The need continues to be great as the organization is looking at empty shelves and higher demand. Please prayerfully consider donating food to this amazing program that has been serving the greater Charlotte area for over 50 years.

Last fall over one TON of food was collected and Nourish Up had to send a second truck to take it all back to their warehouse! Let's work together to top that and feed the hungry in our city!

We will be taking donations through October 19th!



MIDDLE SCHOOL **Messy** HIGH SCHOOL
GAME NIGHT

Sunday, September 7
4-6 p.m. • at Christ Providence (Fire Pit)

Join us to kick-off Youth Group! Open to HS & MS students. Be sure to bring some old worn out clothes & a trashbag!

MORE INFO: tweller@christelca.org

XPERIENCE
COME CHECK US OUT!

Wednesday, September 10 • 6 p.m. in the Pit

The Xperience welcomes Bradley Stiver as our new artistic director! Learn how to be a worship leader, either in front of peers or behind the scenes, in the Xperience ministry where everyone's gifts are wanted.

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WELCOME!

HIGH SCHOOL EVENT
RAFTING RETREAT
@ Nantahala Outdoor Center

\$275 includes transportation, lodging, meals & activities
scholarships available

October 10-12 LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

Click/Scan to Register>>
Registration Deadline: Sept. 15
MORE INFO: tweller@christelca.org

CLC YOUTH BASKETBALL

Fall 2025 Season

Registration Coming Soon
STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY SOCIAL
PANTHERS WATCH PARTY

Sunday, September 14
4:00 p.m. at the Southland Deck Barn

Middle schoolers & their families are invited to Southland to watch the Panthers take on the Arizona Cardinals. Main dish provided, bring a football snack to share.

Scan/Click to Register>>

UPCOMING *Baptismal Classes*

Sunday, October 12
Sunday, November 23

1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For info, email Mary Parker
mparker@christelca.org

FOR ZOOM LINKS:
christelca.org/online



**BAGS WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED
SEPTEMBER 28th
RETURN FILLED BAGS
OF FOOD BY
OCTOBER 19th**
to benches outside Forum

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

peor
ministry leadership

Retreat

Saturday, September 20
at the Legvold's Lake House

For information, contact Natalya Legvold
(nlegvold@christelca.org)

XPERIENCE

Next Summer Tour:
June 19-27, 2026

The Xperience will tour
"Deep in the Heart of Texas"
in the Summer of 2026. All
interested rising 9-12 graders are
encouraged to join the Xperience
on Wednesday evenings in the Fall.

More information will be announced in the Fall

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

CHOOSE ONE SESSION:
Wednesday, September 3 • 6-8pm
Saturday, September 6 • 9-11am
in the Forum

This training is mandatory for anyone who is
interested in assisting with children & youth
during the 2025-26 school year. We will review
our Child Protection Policy & provide
information about updates.

Scan/Click to Register

Exciting Nursery Updates for the New School Year

by RACHEL DYER

As we prepare for a new school year, we're excited to share some important updates about our nursery!

Sunday School in the Nursery

Beginning this fall, we'll be introducing Sunday School lessons during the Sunday School hour in the nursery. Since we already stream both Traditional and Contemporary services in the nursery, we wanted to use the time between them to offer meaningful, age-appropriate learning for our youngest congregation members. This new offering will include a short lesson, a story, and a fun craft or activity. We're thrilled to be launching this new initiative!

Staffing and Volunteer Needs

Our nursery is staffed by some incredible individuals; however, it is a lot to expect them to give of their time each and every Sunday. Despite our efforts to hire additional paid nursery staff—through our church, CLCC and Care.com—we've not yet found a suitable candidate.

To ensure we remain in compliance with our Child Protection Policy and continue to provide safe, nurturing care, we are turning to our church families to help fill the gaps. Moving forward, we are asking all families who use the nursery to volunteer at least three Sundays per quarter, during their preferred service. A Sign-Up Genius link will be sent out soon, and a physical sign-up sheet will also be available. We sincerely appreciate your partnership in helping our nursery run smoothly.

A Personal Update

Lastly, I want to share a personal piece of news about why it is so critical that we make updates to our nursery staffing: this October, I'll be taking maternity leave to welcome my first child! I will be out through the end of the calendar year, and during that time will be unable to assist with any emergency staffing needs. My husband and I are overjoyed to welcome our son, and I'm deeply grateful for the support of our Christ Lutheran Church family as we enter this new season. Thank you for your continued care and involvement in this important ministry!

Child Protection Training

Over the past few months, church staff has been hard at work updating our Child Protection Policy. This 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. The updating process is lengthy, but necessary to ensure that our policies are up to date with current needs.

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. This year, we are working to transition back to in-person training, something we had to stop during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will be offering two training opportunities this fall. The first, on Wednesday, September 3, will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m., with dinner included. The second, on Saturday, September 6 will be from 9:00-11:00 a.m. If you have any plans to work with our children and youth during the upcoming school year, please mark these very important dates on your calendars and we'll be glad to see you there!

Peer Ministry

PEER MINISTRY LEADERSHIP is...

STUDENTS equipped with

SKILLS for caring, welcoming, affirming, leading and serving;

LIVED every day, everywhere and in every relationship and

LOVING because Christ first loved us.

Students are not the future of the church... they *are* today's church working on the front lines of ministry every day. Students go to their friends first when dealing with tough issues, choices and life stresses. Now more than ever our students need the tools and support to navigate these issues. Peer Ministry equips high school students with skills to effectively reach out and care for their peers as well as learn about themselves and how to be a leader.

This training is highly experiential with creative ways to learn skills and then practice in real heart-to-heart conversations. Students learn real life



people skills that will benefit them beyond high school and into future relationships and whatever career path they are called to. Skills include active listening, observation skills,

conflict resolution, decision making, sharing faith, dealing with real issues and leadership skills. This training gives students the confidence to be the real friend everyone needs and be the leader our church and world needs.

This year we will kick off with a day at the lake on September 20th for fun and an introduction to Peer Ministry. Trainings will usually be the first Sunday of the month starting October 5th. For more information contact Natalya Legvold 704-258-6162 or nlegvold@christelca.org.

Acolyte and Crucifer Training

by PASTOR ADRIENNE & NATALYA LEGVOLD

We are inviting all middle school students (grades 6–8) to join us for Acolyte and Crucifer Training. Whether you're curious about what it means to serve at the altar or you're ready to take up the torch (literally), this is your chance to step into an important role in our worship life. Our confirmation students who volunteer will also receive service hour credits.

What is an Acolyte? What is a Crucifer?

The word acolyte comes from a Greek word that means "helper" or "attendant." Acolytes assist with worship by lighting candles and carrying the torches. As an acolyte, you are literally bringing light into the church—and not just symbolically! You'll be trained to carry the flame that represents the presence of Christ among us.

The crucifer is the one who carries the cross at the front of the procession. It's a powerful job—leading the people of God into worship and sending them out again into the world. The cross isn't just a decoration; it's a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice and victory, and it leads everything we do.

This is a way of leading worship and worshipping God with your whole being. It also enriches the worship life for all! On Sunday, September 21st we'll meet in Center Six for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and then move to the Sanctuary to learn more and complete training! Contact Barbara Anderson (barbara@amsspecialtysteel.com) or Natalya Legvold (nlegvold@christelca.org) with any questions.

Training for Acolytes & Crucifers

Sunday, September 21

12:30 p.m. in Center Six & Sanctuary

Middle school students (grades 6-8) are invited to learn how to serve in the roles of acolyte & crucifer during Traditional worship.

MORE INFO: amartin@christelca.org

Stepping Stone

Gifting of the Word

Placing the scriptures in the hands of our children is one of the baptismal promises we make at the font. Join us during Traditional or Contemporary services for this important Stepping Stone:

6th Grade Bibles: September 7

2nd Grade Bibles: September 14

Three Year Old's First Bible: Sept. 21

Have you moved or updated your email?

Please update
in REALM or let the
church office know!

Ways to Give

Place offering in the plate
on Sundays

Text "Praise" to 73256

Choose "Give" on our website (christelca.org)

Mail to the church office



Stepping Stones

CONFIRMATION

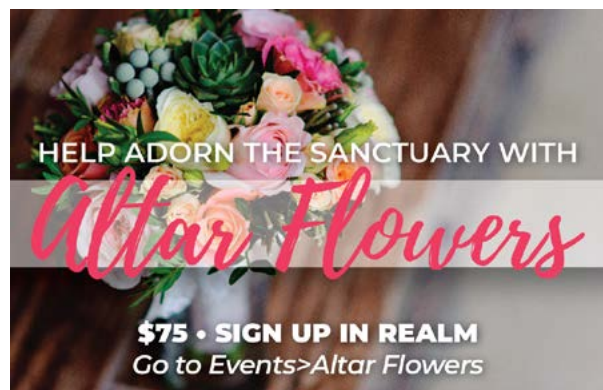
TEN COMMANDMENTS

Sunday, October 5

7th graders and parents are invited to learn about the 10 Commandments and how we can use them as God's guide to living well today.

Save the Date

Registration Coming Soon



HELP ADORN THE SANCTUARY WITH

Altar Flowers

\$75 • SIGN UP IN REALM
Go to Events>Altar Flowers



Download Our Church App Today!



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Realm Connect

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play



Download Your Sunday Bulletin on

CHRIST online

christelca.org/online



review us on Google

★★★★★

CHRIST LUTHERAN
providence | concord | online


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>

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

Middle School Family Social

Middle schoolers and their families are invited to kick off the new school year with a fun social event on Sunday, September 14, starting at 4:00 p.m. We'll gather at the Deck Barn on the South Land to cheer on the Panthers as they take on the Arizona Cardinals. A main dish will be provided—we just ask that each family bring a football snack to share. In addition to watching the football game, there will be outdoor games and activities for the kids, making it a great time for connection and fun. This event also marks the first of our quarterly middle school family meet-ups, so come ready to enjoy community and help shape future gatherings. Registration will be available through REALM. We hope to see you there!

Worshipping Together Stepping Stone: Gifting of the Word

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

In our Baptismal liturgy, we ask parents and sponsors to support their children by bringing them to the services of God's house, teaching them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, and putting in their hands the Holy Scriptures. The Word of God is our ultimate source of authority and light to our path! It is beautiful how this congregation is committed to supporting families in their baptismal life together. One of the ways is through the Stepping Stone called "Worshipping Together" where the Family Ministry Team gifts age-appropriate Bibles to three different ages groups: three-year-olds, 2nd graders and 6th graders.

We invite you to come on those Sundays to receive your Bible!

September 7 • 6th Grade

September 14 • 2nd Grade

September 21 • Three-year-olds

Make sure to attend on that Sunday! We will invite you forward to receive your Bible and a special blessing!

Ten Commandments Stepping Stone

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Seventh graders and parents are invited to attend a Stepping Stone event on Sunday, October 5th to learn about the Ten Commandments. This is important because the truth is, middle school is a wild ride. Friendships shift. Phones buzz nonstop. Pressure builds—to fit in, to stand out, to do well, to stay grounded. In the middle of all that, how do we know what really matters?

That's where the Ten Commandments come in. Yes, I know—they're ancient. But they are also timeless. The Ten Commandments aren't dusty rules from the past—they are God's guide to living well today. And we're inviting our 7th graders and their parents to dive into them together to see that there is more to them than just prohibitions.

We will explore:

Why the First Commandment is the basis for all the others.
How honoring parents is about respect, not perfection.
That "do not kill" also means "speak life" to others.
What "coveting" looks like in the world of social media.
And most of all, how God gives us these commands not to control us, but to free us to live fully and love well.

We will also learn a great way to remember them all!
Register in REALM to reserve your spot.



Angela Davis

New Director of Outreach Ministries

by PASTOR SCOTT

After 36 years of faithful service to Christ Lutheran Church, Amy Daniels is retiring. This congregation has been blessed with the deep impact and faithful service of Amy for so many years. She is a treasure. We are fortunate that she plans on remaining at Christ Lutheran and being an active member of this congregation.

After a thorough search, a Call Committee has selected Angela Davis as the new Director of Outreach. Angela has worked on the Outreach staff for over ten years. During that time, Angela's primary focus has been our work at McClintock Middle School with all of its programs, volunteers and funding. However, she comes with a rich, in-depth knowledge and experience not only with all of the outreach ministries of Christ Lutheran but also with the wider community and the resources they offer.

Angela will begin officially on September 1, 2025. Amy will remain on staff for a while, helping with the transition and assisting in any way she can to bring Angela fully on board. We will soon have a celebration for Amy to thank her for her years of service and to lift up the impact that she has made.

As Angela takes on this new role, we will be back filling her position as Outreach Associate overseeing the work at McClintock. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about this position, please contact Angela directly at adavis@christelca.org.

CROP Walk

by KEN SUMLIN

CROP Walk raises funds that fight hunger here in Charlotte and in Third World countries. For over 50 years the 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.

We will be walking October 19th 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 walk on a track on the premises and also along a route in the neighborhood surrounding Providence Baptist. There will be activities, both educational and fun for all to participate with the hopes the Walk can return to 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! Just access the CROP website at charlottecropwalk.org. Click on 'Register to Walk,' and then 'Join a Team.' Fill in Christ Lutheran-Charlotte in the 'Find an Existing Team to Join' window. 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 Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org).

McPIE

McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Family Night at McClintock
STARTS SEPTEMBER 30!!

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

CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL: GREENSBORO'S CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER

Saturday, September 27
leave church 8 a.m. • return by 5 p.m.

Join us as we travel with Emmaus Church to the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro. Day trip includes lunch (cost tba) & a time for prayer.

\$20 • Scan/Click to Register



Clothing Donations for Crisis Assistance

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

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

Questions? nealmann@bellsouth.net



Sunday, October 19
1:00 p.m.

at Providence Baptist Church
(Randolph Rd.)

Join the Christ Lutheran-Charlotte team or donate now to help families who are struggling with hunger.



<https://t.ly/6g0lw>



Summer of Engagement

Summer 2025 was hot in many ways! Freedom School, Science Camp, Charlotte Latin and Lutheridge/Lutherock provided many McClintock students fun, safe, 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 have exposed students to a plethora of areas around Charlotte and enabled students to explore science, skating, NASCAR, banking and more! Field trips included the Schiele Museum, Kate's Skates, Charlotte Motor Speedway and M&F Bank to learn about the day and life of someone who works in the banking industry.

Level 1's and 2's (elementary aged students) participated in a city-wide field day and won first place!!! Participants showcased what they learned this summer through spoken word, song, dance and skits at the finale. They gave parents and volunteers a glimpse into Harambee cheers and chants and closed with the theme song, "Something Inside So Strong."

Science Camp fostered a love of science and technology! 60+ future scientists and engineers experienced hands-on activities, covering topics such as forensics, innovation and

design, biology, mindfulness, chemistry, 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 Activate enabled students to envision life on a college campus, see majors and classes in action, and build their teamwork and communication skills! After analyzing post-camp survey questions, 88% of students said camp helped them understand science better and 78% said camp helped them feel better about their ability to learn science concepts. Camp was certainly a success!

McClintock students also had the opportunity to experience overnight camps and explore new parts of the North Carolina mountains! Lutheridge and Lutherock were picturesque locations where 16 students explored for a week! Themes included High In The Sky, Hammock Hangout, Fire and Water, Cave N Wave, and Blueridge Expeditions. Camp Agape also hosted three students who participated in the Night Owls program.

Charlotte Latin School was generous again in offering four scholarships for students to participate in baseball and girls basketball! Summer was full of fun, engagement, relationship building and learning!



TOP LEFT: Freedom School; BOTTOM RIGHT: Science Camp

Teacher Partners

Do you have time for one email or note per month? Are you interested in supporting a new teacher as they transition to the classroom? Being a Teacher Partner is a small, but consistent connection that strengthens our commitment to the McClintock community. Teachers know someone is thinking about/praying for them. Requirements include sending a note or email each month offering encouragement and prayers.

The Teacher Partner Coordinator will email you to remind you to reach out and let you know when things of note are happening at the school. While some partners opt to send small gifts or spend time with their partner, there is no obligation or expectation to do so. If you're interested in contributing through this simple service of encouragement, email Jeanne Hunt at huntjeanne961@gmail.com.

Tutor Coordinator Wanted

Tutors are a critical part of academic success for many students! McPIE is looking for a new Tutor Coordinator. The job is simple:

- Advertise for tutors through the church newsletters, e-news, and McPIE table displays at the beginning of the school year
- Gather the preferences for each tutor, ie. subject, grade level, day and time
- Work with Shannon Gibson to place the tutor
- Check in periodically to make sure everything is going okay
- Send out reminders about holidays, workdays, and early dismissal days

Once tutors are placed with a student/teacher, the Coordinator just checks in from time to time. The bulk of coordinating is at the beginning of the school year. If interested, contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org).

CMS Volunteer Registration & Child Protection Training

Every year, anyone who plans to volunteer inside McClintock Middle School will need to complete 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 are two training sessions coming up on September 3th and September 6th. Please refer to page 11 for more information.

Crisis Assistance Donations

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. Crisis ONLY accepts clothing and shoes. Please do not place housing/school/yard items in the bins. If you have any questions, please contact Neal Mann (nealmann@bellsouth.net)

Upcoming Habitat Build Days

September 6 • Framing Punch List
October 3 • Drywall
October 4 • Drywall
October 17 • Interior Paint
October 18 • Interior Paint
October 30 • Interior Trim
October 31 • Paint
November 1 • Punch List



Scan/Click to Register
 (use group number 6011)
<https://t.ly/WYnmC>

oneblood 
 Share your power.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, October 19

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 at Christ Providence

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: **McPIE**
 Tutor Coordinator McClintock Partners in Education

Responsibilities include:

- Recruiting tutors through church publications & a table display at the start of the school year.
- Gather preferences & coordinate with school rep to place tutors.
- Send out reminders & check in periodically with each tutor.

If interested, contact:
 Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org)

McPIE
 McClintock Partners in Education

Harris Teeter
 Empowering lives & communities

together in education

LINK YOUR VIC CARD

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

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

253006



Fall Family Night FUN!

Coming off a wonderful 2024-2025 year filled with exciting programming, McPIE Family Night will return this September 30th for nine weeks of family engagement and we would LOVE to have YOU! This fall has 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 and anyone with a passion that they would like to share. We're looking to add a few new clubs, specifically in the medical field and STEAM areas!! We also need more help in the younger sibling's classes. These participants play games, get creative with crafts, read, build with 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!

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 Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org to begin making a difference in a child's life! We kick off on September 30th! Come join our incredible team!!!

Benevolence Update

Did you know that a minimum of 11% of the church budget goes to Benevolence? A large portion of those funds come from Thrivent Choice Dollars, Cornerstone Gifts profits, and Endowment II.

Benevolence dollars go toward non-profits and organizations outside of our church walls. These dollars support large CLC initiatives including McPIE, NC Synod, Crisis Assistance, A Roof Above, mission trips and Lutheran Disaster Relief. Other funds are directed toward Kairos Prison Ministry, Charlotte Rescue Mission, Hunger Fight, community crisis needs and more.

Efforts such as Freedom School fundraising, McPIE General Fund donations, Alternative Gifts Market, CROP Walk, and Feed A Family are invaluable dollars, that while raised at CLC, are not from the budget. These avenues all increase the level of generosity of Christ Lutheran well above the 11% from church budget. Thrivent Action Teams are another way to support projects at the church and McClintock Middle School.

Giving matters and enables the church to be the hands and feet of Christ to support neighbors outside of our walls. Whether it is Benevolence funds from the church budget through member giving, Cornerstone Gifts, Endowment or other fundraising initiatives through the church, Christ Lutheran is making a difference not only in Charlotte, but around the world!

Feed A Family

McClintock is growing and so is the need! First, thank you for contributing to the Feed A Family Fund! Your generosity is overwhelming and greatly appreciated! Prices are still going up and we have gone to skipping canned vegetables when we are graced with produce from the gardeners. We shop online and compare prices. We are always open to suggestions!

We have a large class of 6th graders coming into McClintock and some of those families will be struggling and will end up on our list for groceries. A bag of groceries isn't much, but a little help is better than no help. Please consider donating to Feed a Family and ensure that we can continue in our small way to provide a bag of groceries, a little help and some hope. These bags are invaluable to families who struggle weekly and when school is out on weekends and holidays. This ministry is important to stand in solidarity with neighbors who experience food insecurity.

In-Kind Donations to Support McClintock 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? If you ever have tickets that may go unused, please consider donating them to 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 Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org).

CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL: CHARLESTON CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

October 15-16

We will travel on Wednesday evening to stay overnight in Charleston, visit the museum on Thursday morning and return that evening after lunch, discussion and prayer.

Museum cost, payable at the door: \$22.50

Scan/Click to Register by Sept. 8



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 Melinda Dale at melinda28226@hotmail.com

McClintock Partners In Education

McPIE
McClintock Partners In Education

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY:

Teacher Partners

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

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

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

HELP FUND A
SERVICE PROJECT WITH

thrivent

Action Teams

For more information:

Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org)

**FEED
A FAMILY**

DONATE onrealm.org/christelca/-/give/how

McPIE



Soup Kitchen is Back!

by AMY DANIELS

For over 30 years, Christ Lutheran Church has been providing the meal and volunteers to serve lunch at Roof Above on the third Sunday of every month. The longest tenured leader has been Celeste Lupo-Hack who began this ministry commitment with her husband Sutton, along with Chuck and Amy Saunders. Their children grew up serving there along with youth groups, small groups, church council, and countless others. Celeste's daughter Liza has been involved since she was born. I remember her there in an umbrella stroller before she could walk. And over the past several years, the torch has been passed, and Liza is in charge now. She is now married, and she and her chef husband Dan run the show on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

During COVID, the number of volunteers was severely restricted, but as soon as Roof Above would allow them, Liza and Dan went back. They are now ready for small groups to join them in serving. It is a distinct privilege to help fix and serve the meal to over 200 of our neighbors. Almost every month we have a Thrivent Action Team to provide most of the groceries, and now up to eight people can volunteer to help.

Show up at Roof Above's Soup Kitchen on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Volunteers age 16 and over can work in the kitchen while any younger folks can help clear and clean tables in the dining room. Liza is happy to coordinate with potential volunteers by text (her cell is 704-806-0064). Let's make sure that this ministry continues far into the future. Consider volunteering in the coming months. Our Benevolence dollars also have supported A Roof Above for over 30 years. We send monthly contributions there and to the Crisis Assistance Ministries.

McClintock Teacher Luncheons

Support teachers and staff at McClintock Middle School with lunches on early release days. Volunteers are needed to shop for ingredients, prepare dishes and help serve! Early release days for the 2025-26 school year are October 1, November 19, February 11 and April 29. If you are interested in joining this team, contact Melinda Dale at melinda28226@hotmail.com.

Refugee Update!

by CHRISTOPHER YOUSE

There is some wonderful news to share with the congregation on our refugee ministry! Khatera Osmani, the mother in our Afghan family we have partnered with for three years, just successfully completed her U.S. citizenship interview and will soon be sworn in as a U.S. citizen. Though she spoke no English when the family arrived in Charlotte in 2021, Ms. Osmani worked tirelessly to prepare for and pass her citizenship test. Father Mohammad has submitted his application and is anxiously waiting for his citizenship appointment. The family purchased their first home in Southeast Charlotte in late 2024 and feel blessed being homeowners in their new hometown. Thank you to the entire congregation for your continued support of this ministry.

Civil Rights Trail: GREENSBORO & CHARLESTON

Two great, short trips are on the horizon. We all owe it to ourselves to learn what we have barely been taught. Join together for these two important trips.

On Saturday, September 27, we will take a trip to the Greensboro Civil Rights Museum with members from Emmaus Lutheran (the newest chartered congregation in our synod). We will meet at the church in the morning, travel to the museum, have a tour and time looking around, and then lunch, discussion and prayer together. We will return to Charlotte by late afternoon. The entrance fee cost will be \$20. Please register and pay in REALM.

On October 15-16, we will go for an overnight trip to Charleston, SC to visit the Civil Rights Museum. We will travel on Wednesday evening to stay overnight at the Coastal Retreat Center, visit the museum on Thursday morning (entrance fee is \$22.50 per person, payable directly to the museum), and return that same evening after lunch, discussion and prayer. Register in REALM by September 8. For lodging inquiries or more information, reach out to Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org). Don't miss out on this enriching experience!

Habitat Build Dates & Sign-Up

Habitat Charlotte Region acquired land at below market value between Highway 16 and Beattie's Ford Road, thanks to a vote from the generous congregation of Greater Bethel AME Church. Christened "Hope Springs," the property is being developed as a neighborhood of 29 Habitat homes. Christ Lutheran will build one home in this new neighborhood. We are looking for volunteers to help on a variety of dates to make this goal a success!

Go to the [Habitat Charlotte website](#) and search by group number 6011. Choose the "Christ Lutheran Church Volunteer Team" and click "Select." On the next screen, leave the fields blank and click "Search." This will pull up all available shifts to sign up for. If you are interested in providing lunch on any of our build days, contact the Outreach Office!



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



september/october 2025

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

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

Save the Date!



Food! Live Music! Games!
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 26

Trunk or Treat

For 5th Grade & Younger
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

