

Christ Connections



CHRIST
providence



CHRIST
south



CHRIST
concord



CHRIST
online

march/april 2022

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

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

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

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

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

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST SOUTH

10 a.m. **Worship (Polo Ridge)**

11830 Tom Short Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST CONCORD

10 a.m. **Multi-Generational**

Modern Worship

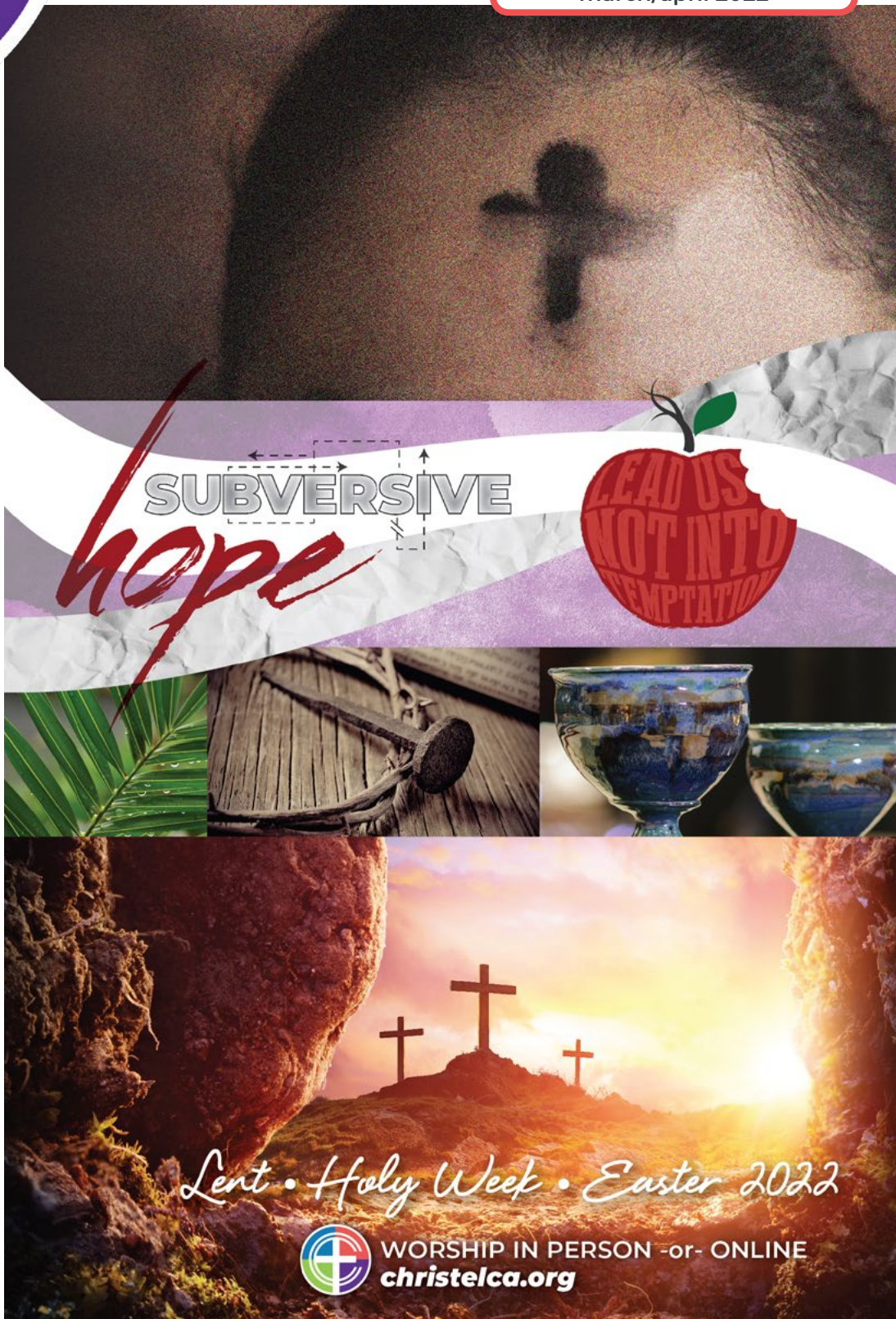
240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



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

christelca.org/online

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE
christelca.org



from the Senior Pastor

Pastor's Perspective

COUNCIL GOALS: 2022

I'm very pleased to be working with our new council this year. At our annual retreat, we elected the executive team:

Amy Kochan • President
Dave Brown • Treasure

Eric Runge • Vice President
Tom Sallach • Secretary

PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Each year is a significant one for our council to wrestle with important decisions that affect all 3000 members of Christ Lutheran. This year, with the hopeful easing of Covid restrictions, will be no exception. In anticipation of this coming year, Council identified four big rocks to keep their eye on as our focus:

1. Groundbreaking for Christ South - We don't know when, but it is our goal to break ground sometime this year. We cranked up the design team once again, looked into permitting, and revisited the capital campaign to be ready when Council convenes a congregational meeting later on to vote on moving forward. Stay tuned!

2. Celebrate the unity of Christ Lutheran - By design, each of our campuses has a unique expression, programming, worship and branding. However, we never want to lose sight of our unity. Therefore, we will intentionally schedule all-campus celebrations throughout the year to gather everyone together as one church.

3. Christ Concord vitality - As promised, when we adopted this struggling church in Concord four years ago, we have a task force that is studying the vitality, programming, outreach and impact of this campus. This team will report to Council and, in turn, Council will communicate to the rest of the congregation following this study.

4. Proactive re-entry strategy - Surely, Covid will end one day, right? Surely, we will be able to remove the masks and gather freely once again, right? We don't know when but we want to be prepared with a strategy to re-engage people, invite new ones and revitalize the youth programs, Wednesdays Together, McPIE and all the ministries that have suffered for two years. We don't want to be passive or reactive. This is a time to have a proactive re-entry strategy of moving beyond the restrictions of Covid.

I'm sure there will be many more unforeseen things that emerge throughout the year, but these will be our four big rocks for 2022. We want to put them out there for everyone to see and to keep us all accountable to the greater vision.

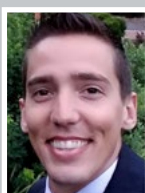
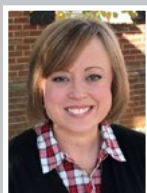
I want to thank Council for their boldness and commitment to envision a Christ Lutheran that is not a replica of the past, but a new church to meet new people for a new time.

Beloved, come join us on this exciting new path.

Thy Word is a Light Unto Our Path,
Pastor Scott

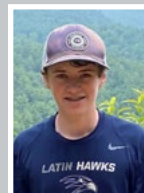
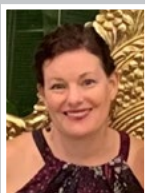
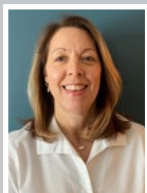


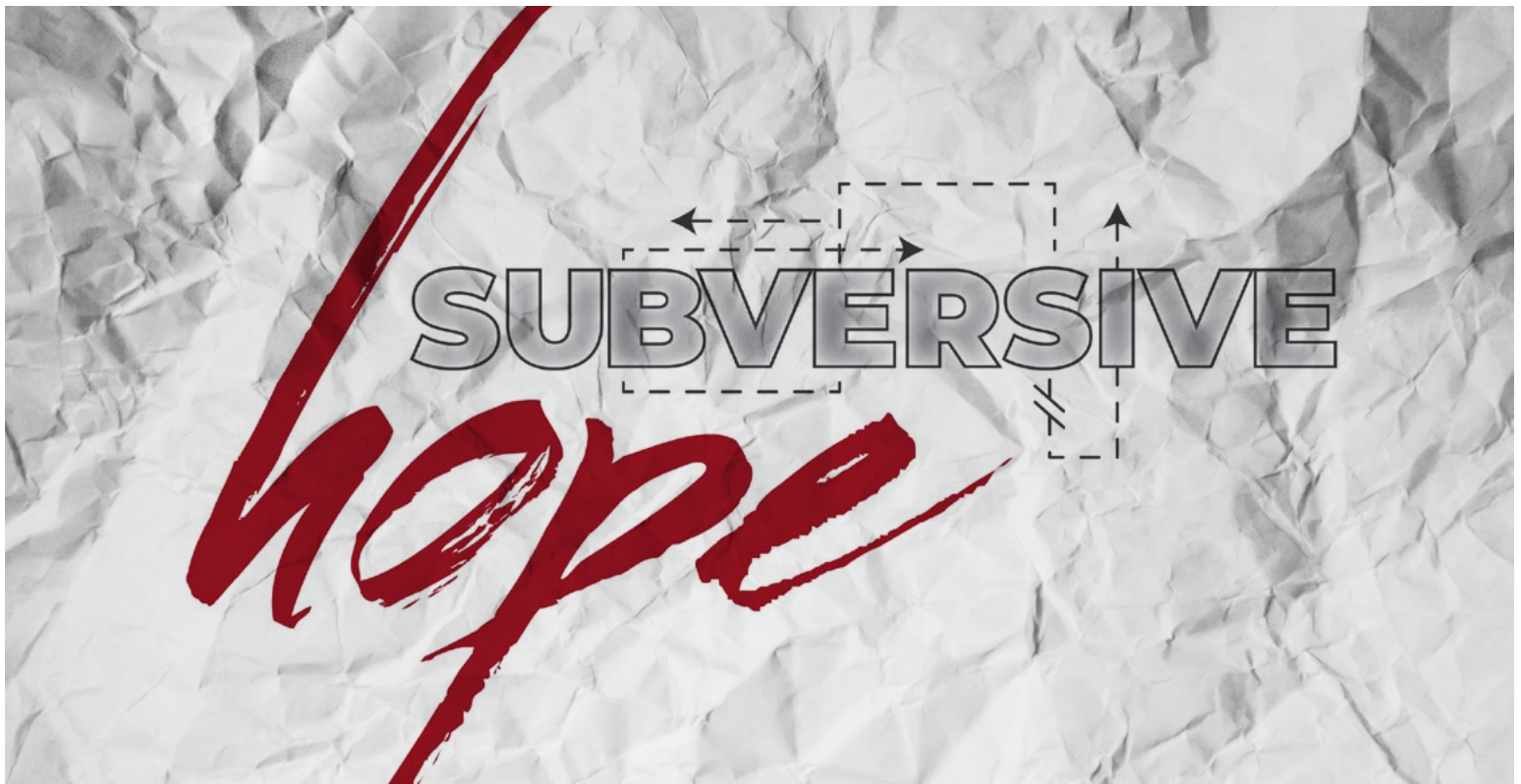
MEET THE 2022 CHURCH COUNCIL



PRESIDENT Amy Kochan **VICE PRESIDENT** Eric Runge
TREASURER David Brown **SECRETARY** Thomas Sallach

LuAnn Martinson • Jessica Shurley • Mark Ficken
Chad Mohn • Eric Trosch • Margaret White • Dean Emmans
Billy Mussari • Peyton Youse youth rep





SUNDAY LENTEN SERMON SERIES: SUBVERSIVE HOPE (March 6 - April 10)

Taken from Tim Keller's book, Hope in Times of Fear, our Sundays throughout Lent will show the upside-down nature of the Gospel, in which God uses the foolish things to shame the wise, the weak things to shame the strong, the lowly things to shame the proud. And in doing so, ushers into the world through our believing hearts a hope that cannot fail.

March 6 • The Upside-Down Kingdom

The Gospel always takes us by surprise, always keeps us off balanced. It comes as that two-edged sword, comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable. Those things that the world loves—strength, power, pride and success—are the very thing that this God overthrows with his upside-down kingdom. *1 Corinthians 27-31; Luke 14:7-11*

March 13 • The Boys Nobody Chose

It is a horrible feeling when picking sides for the game when you are the last one chosen. But in God's Subversive Hope, all that changes with the last becoming first and the first becoming last. From Gideon to Jephthah, Jacob to Moses, throughout the Bible, God chooses the least likely to transform his world. *1 Samuel 16:1-13; Luke 2:1-14*

March 20 • The Women Nobody Wanted

What skeletons do you have in your family's closet? The lineage of Jesus contains several that those concerned about a perfect bloodline would just as soon omit. Prostitutes, foreigners, unwed mothers and adulterers—the women nobody wanted were just the ones that God raised up for a greater purpose. *Joshua 6:20-25; Matthew 1:1-7*

WATCH THE PROMO VIDEO & READ MORE!
christelca.org/sermon-series



March 27 • The People Whom Everyone Despised

You would be hard pressed to identify another group of people that the world over thousands of years has systematically tried to exterminate more than the Jews. And yet, we don't encounter many Hittites today. Very few Amorites are our neighbors. Can't remember the last conversation I had with a Babylonian. And yet the people whom everyone despised became the source of redemption for the whole world.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8; Hebrews 11:32-35; Luke 4:14-30

April 3 • The Storyline Nobody Wants to Be In

We want the storyline to go from weakness to strength, from rags to riches, from defeat to victory. But the storyline of the Bible looks completely different. Triumph through defeat, strength through weakness, even life through death. *Judges 6:11-16; Isaiah 29:19-21; Philippians 2*

April 10 • The Gospel People Do Not Want to Hear

It's not that we don't want to hear it. It's that we want to hear it on our terms, in our ways, with our expectations. As the people celebrated Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, they had a preconceived notion of what the Gospel should be. When Jesus spoke of a different Gospel, they didn't want to hear. Crucify him! Crucify him! *Zechariah 9:9-10; Matthew 16:13-25*



Read about the Wednesday Sermon
Lenten Series *Lead Us Not Into Temptation*
on page 6 of this newsletter or go online to
christelca.org/sermon-series.



The New Mask Protocol

BEGINNING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022

by PASTOR SCOTT

Throughout this pandemic, one of Christ Lutheran Council's goals was to provide consistency in regards to protocols between schools, businesses, the government and Christ Lutheran. Towards that end, we have done so in order to be good citizens, obeying and reinforcing county mandates.

Beginning February 26, however, both the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have lowered their mask mandates for indoor gatherings. Effective Saturday, February 26, masks will be optional in all City of Charlotte government buildings for staff and members of the public. (CMS voted on February 22 to eliminate the mask mandate beginning March 7).

While people can still certainly continue to wear masks and individual organizations can enforce stricter rules, masks are now optional in our county. On Monday, February 21, the Council of Christ Lutheran met to review these new mandates and discussed what that means for our church at all three campuses.

Specifically, we have decided to:

1. Make masks optional for all events, indoors and outdoors, passing no judgment on those who choose to wear them.
2. Continue to provide safe distance at worship.
3. Encourage people to stay home if they test positive and/or aren't feeling well.
4. Mandate that staff and volunteers working with children 5 and under are vaccinated and continue to wear masks.

In addition, we will begin serving congregational meals once again on Wednesdays following the noon Lenten worship services, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

Now what?

No one believes that this means we will immediately go back to pre-Covid activities and numbers. We are living in "new normal" times. We have created strong habits over these past two years that will take time to amend. It is our hope that with the easing of these mandates, we can resume having meals together, open up ministries, offer more classes and organize congregational events. But it will take time to ramp up as people will need to feel confident enough once again to gather.

Thank you for your patience during these past two years. They have been trying on everyone. There is a real "Covid-Crankiness" out there that needs the Church to provide examples of patience, grace, forgiveness, and peace.

It's time. It's time to gather back together. It's time to see faces. It's time to share the peace. It's time to be the Church together once again and be that example of humanity and kindness for all the world to see.

AWAKENED FAITH
Lecture series
 DIVERSITY • EQUITY • INCLUSION
Sunday, March 13 • 6:30 p.m.
 at Christ Providence (Forum)
 -or- Christ Online (Zoom)
 Welcome LSC rep Bedrija Jazic as we discuss the challenges & opportunities in helping immigrants, refugees & other vulnerable groups build a better life at home & in their new community.
Register in REALM

STARTS BACK ON MARCH 3!

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
 meets weekly from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 at Christ Providence (W150 A & B)
 For Info: julia.edelson@gmail.com

Lenten Sermon Series'

SUBVERSIVE hope
SUNDAYS MARCH 6 - APRIL 10
WEDNESDAYS MARCH 2 - APRIL 13
christelca.org/sermon-series

ADAM HAMILTON
 Author of *What Christians Believe and Why*
THE WALK
 FIVE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
FAITH FELLOWSHIP STUDY:
The Walk - Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life
Sundays • 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
 Christ Providence (Forum)
 -and- Online (Zoom)
 This 6-wk. video series based on *The Walk* discusses 5 essential practices that grow our faith & church unity: worship, study, serving, giving and bearing witness. Study starts March 6!
christelca.org/online

Fellowship of Entrepreneurs & Business Advisors!

March 4th
 8AM - 9AM
Business Owners & Advisors Roundtable Discussion
 Hi! Are you in business or retired and still interested in business matters?
 Come Join Us!
FEBA
 Place: Christ Providence
 Cornerstone Cafe
 Coffee & Snacks provided



Visit the CLC Adult Library!

Come visit the Adult Library, located at Christ Providence across the forum lobby from Cornerstone Gifts. On display are books about or by famous Americans and books on love & relationships.

Check them out!

Let's get connected.

Download the **Realm Connect** app today!



Need Help with Realm?

Contact Laurie at lcarter@christelca.org

**ETERNITY
IS NOW
IN SESSION**

A RADICAL RECOVERY OF WHAT JESUS
REALLY TAUGHT ABOUT SALVATION
ETERNITY: ASKING GETTING TO THE GOOD PLACE

**JOHN
ORTBERG**

**FAITH FELLOWSHIP STUDY:
Eternity is Now in Session**
Sundays • 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
Christ Providence (Forum)
-and- Online (Zoom)

After Easter, join us for a 5-wk. video series that unpacks the truth in trusting Christ. The moment we do, we are initiated into "eternal living" with God as the HERE and NOW reality!

christelca.org/online

PRIMEtimers

A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+

Improv Comedy Night

Friday, April 1 • 7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (the Pit)

Join us for a night of fun & comedy featuring Stephanie Burke's drama group. Seats are limited. Light refreshments \$5 per person.

RSVP IN REALM by March 23
or email [**Don Essick \(dessick@me.com\)**](mailto:Don Essick (dessick@me.com))



Wednesdays • 6-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (church office)

This Christ-centered support group uses a DVD lesson, small group discussion & workbook to help those who have lost loved ones find healing & hope. Open to all. Cost: \$20

Register in REALM
or email [**mparker@christelca.org**](mailto:mparker@christelca.org) for info

Giving Thanks

by **BRUCE VOELKER, CLC ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

On April 24, the Endowment Committee will be hosting a recognition dinner to thank those who plan to or have contributed to Christ Lutheran's Endowment. Our endowment has been built through gifts, bequests and memorials and each year provides funds above and beyond the church's operating budget.

Some of these funds are specifically earmarked for Benevolence, while others are used at the discretion of Church Council for any needs of the church. And with approximately \$40,000 in distributions, the endowment makes a meaningful impact on our ministries.

While the dinner is primarily for recognition and thanks, we will have a short program to allow you to hear specific examples of how our endowment funds are being used to have an impact both within and beyond our walls. We are planning to send invitations in early March, and will continue to monitor the Covid environment before finalizing the agenda.

AWAKENED FAITH *lecture series*

Sunday, March 13 • 6:30 p.m.
**at Christ Providence (Forum) -or-
Christ Online (Zoom)**

**LUTHERAN
SERVICES
CAROLINAS**

**REFUGEE &
IMMIGRANT SERVICES**
with *Badriji Jazic, LSC*

On Sunday, March 13th we welcome Badrija Jazic, Director of Refugee and Immigrant Services at Lutheran Services of the Carolinas (LSC). As a former refugee from Bosnia, Jazic has dedicated most of her adult life helping others at LSC, where she has been Director since 2007.

Bedrija holds a BA degree in English and Literature from the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. After moving to South Carolina in 1996, she was hired by Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas as an administrative assistant, then Area Manager for South Carolina Refugee Resettlement before assuming her current position of 13 years as LSC Director of Refugee and Immigrant Services.

Driven by her own experience and passion for serving most vulnerable immigrant communities, Bedrija worked tirelessly to expand programs which provide comprehensive, culturally, and linguistically appropriate services so all refugees, immigrants, unaccompanied minors and survivors of human trafficking can build a better life for themselves, their families and their new communities across South and North Carolina. [Register in REALM.](#)

Ash Wednesday

MARCH 2 • COMMUNION & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

12 p.m. (Christ Chapel) & 7 p.m. (Sanctuary)

noon service will be followed by a light lunch in the Forum • \$5

CHRIST CONCORD

12 p.m. ^ & 7 p.m. followed by Drive-up Imposition of Ashes

CHRIST SOUTH

7 p.m. ^ (The Farm)

^ in person only

WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE



christelca.org



Wednesdays During Lent

MARCH 2 - APRIL 13

CHRIST PROVIDENCE 12 p.m. in Christ Chapel
followed by a light lunch in the Forum • \$5

CHRIST CONCORD 12 p.m. (online only)

As the classic story of *The Temptation in the Wilderness* marks the beginning of Jesus' early ministry, this year it does the same with our Lenten journey. After 40 days of fasting, at his weakest moment Jesus comes under attack by the devil, tempting him with power, with food, with physical safety. The takeaway is more than an exhortation that if Jesus can withstand such temptations in the wilderness for 40 days, we can certainly give up chocolate for Lent. The message gets

to the very core of our greatest temptations that we will face during these midweek Lenten services.

March 2 • Temptation in the Wilderness

March 9 • Temptation in the Garden

March 16 • Temptation at Night

March 23 • Temptation in the Wilderness

March 30 • Temptation at Worship

April 6 • Temptation in the Boardroom

April 13 • The Temptation Around the Fire

WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE



christelca.org



Holy Week & Easter Sunday

2022 WORSHIP SCHEDULE



^ IN PERSON ONLY

^^ ONLINE ONLY

* nursery available (0-36 months)

** nursery rsvp required (signup in REALM)

Palm Sunday

April 10

8:45a • Providence Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
10a • South Family Worship (Polo Ridge)
10a • Concord Multi-Generational Modern Worship
10a • Providence Bridge Service (Sanctuary)
11a • Providence Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)

Wednesdays During Lent

April 13

12p • Providence Lenten Service (Christ Chapel)
followed by a light lunch in the Forum • \$5
12p • Concord Online Lenten Service ^^

Maundy Thursday April 14

12p • Providence Midday Worship (Christ Chapel)
7p • Providence Evening Worship (Sanctuary)**
7p • Concord Evening Worship *

Good Friday April 15

10a • Providence Family Svc. for Prek & Elementary (Sanctuary)
12p • Providence Seven Last Words (Christ Chapel)
12p • Concord Midday Online Service ^^
7p • Providence Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary)**
7p • Concord Evening Worship*

Easter Sunday April 17

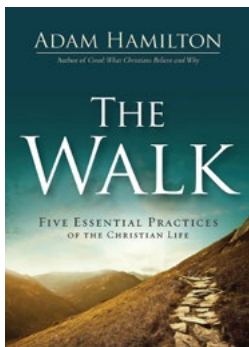
7:30a • Providence SonRise Service (Fountain Plaza)^
8a • Concord Easter Worship*
8:45a • Providence Traditional Service (Sanctuary)**
10a • Concord Easter Worship*
10a • South Easter Sunday Worship (Polo Ridge)
10a • Providence Family Svc. for Prek & Elementary (Pit)**
10a • Providence Bridge Service (Christ Chapel)**
11a • Providence Contemporary Service (Sanctuary)**

WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE



christelca.org

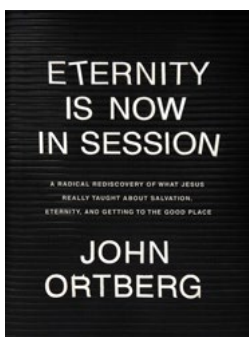
UPCOMING STUDIES FOR **Faith Fellowship Sunday Class**



March 6 - April 17
The Walk – Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life
(author Adam Hamilton)

Pastor and author Adam Hamilton focuses this 6-session DVD study on 5 essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and are taught throughout the New Testament. In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. For over 2,000 years, the Church has pursued these practices to support our own daily walk with Christ and to contribute growing together as a church: worshipping, studying, serving, giving and sharing.

Hamilton is senior pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, one of the fastest growing, influential mainline churches in America, averaging 8,000 weekly worshippers. He has authored 13 books and several small group studies on diverse topics such as forgiveness, simple living, love & marriage, morality, politics, God's will and world religions. He has a passion for helping Christians grow in their faith and to see the implications of the Christian Gospel for daily life. He studied at Oral Roberts University before attending and graduating from Perkins School of Theology.



April 24 - May 22
Eternity Is Now In Session
(author John Ortberg)

Pastor Ortberg opens a dialogue about the true meaning of "eternity" by stating that most people believe it is something that begins after we die. In this 5-week DVD study, filmed on-site in Israel, Ortberg presents Jesus' definition of eternity – which He stated only once and with great precision. The author then leads participants to the radical rediscovery

of what the Bible really says about salvation and how believers can experience the unspeakably rich, interactive fellowship and joy that exists between Father, Son and Holy Spirit that is eternal life here and now, every minute of every day.

John Ortberg is an evangelical Christian author, a speaker and former senior pastor of Menlo Church in Northern California, a Presbyterian Church with over 4,000 members. He has published many successful books and small group studies. He received a degree from Wheaton College and his Master of Divinity and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Fuller Seminary. A central theme of his teaching and books is personal spiritual formation, the transforming of character through authentic experiences with God.

Join our Faith Fellowship Sunday School class from 10 - 10:45 a.m. weekly either in person at Christ Providence (Forum) or online. Find the Zoom link at christelca.org/online. All are welcome!

SUNSET BEACH
Memorial Weekend Worship
Sunday, May 29 • 10:00 a.m.
at Sunset Beach (6th Street)

Join Pastor Tenny for worship on the beach over Memorial Day weekend. Make your plans and housing reservations now! Bring your own chair.

Register in REALM or contact Tenny for info: tshifley@christelca.org

Missing Library Book

The CLC Library is missing Vol. 15 of the *MacArthur New Testament Commentaries* on Romans 1-8.

If you have this book, please return it to the library. This excellent set was given in memory of Ben & Mary Jones.

Thank you!

Baptismal Class

Sunday, March 27
1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For info, email Jane at jsatterfield@christelca.org

Find Zoom link at christelca.org/online

Hi. Are you in business or retired and still interested in business matters? Come Join Us!

FEBA

Fellowship of Entrepreneurs & Business Advisors!

Bruce LaRowe
Interim Executive Director
Charlotte Arts Organizations
Retired Director
Charlotte Children's Theater

Date: Friday April 1st
Time: 8am - 9am
Place: Cornerstone Cafe
Christ Providence
Coffee & Snacks provided

CHRIST concord

HELP ADORN THE SANCTUARY WITH

Altar Flowers

\$50 • SIGN UP IN REALM
Go to Events > Concord Altar Flowers

Church Outside the Line

by PASTOR RYAN

Remember when this Covid nonsense started? We all thought it would blow over quickly. Ha! Despite our trials, we continue on. The reality is that the Church has been through worse, and will go through things in the future again. Our job is to never lose sight of what matters: Christ is the center of life.

At South, we have soldiered on. We are back at Polo Ridge Elementary and worshiping every Sunday at 10 a.m. We have great music and are looking to get back into rhythm and patterns that are new and yet not so new. We have South Sisters events planned and we will be meeting at our local bar after worship. That may seem weird to you. I have to admit that I don't hear a lot of

people saying that they meet their pastor in the pub after worship. But why not? There is nothing wrong with a glass of wine or draft of beer – everything in moderation. What's more, we are Christians, Monday through Saturday, wherever we find ourselves. There is a wrong idea that Christians are perfect or only exist in churches. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Jesus made a point to call Zaccheus out of the tree and let everyone listening know that He would be eating at his house that night. Zaccheus was a sinner. And people grumbled behind Jesus' back – but do you know what else happened? Zaccheus recognized the amazing event. It became a turning point in his life. He made reparations to any he took advantage of and gave half his wealth away.

We are called to be more than a church on Sunday. We are called to *be Church* Sunday to Sunday. I'm excited that Christ South is stepping outside the lines of what "normal" is and seeking Christ wherever He may be found. Come join us on the last Sunday of each month, starting in March. First beer is on me.



Spring is Busting Out!

by KAREN COSTEA

Groundhog or no groundhog, spring is busting out all over at Christ Concord! Thrive is thriving with new families joining us and expanding our ranks. The chatter of children learning and praising God and the patter of their active little feet is a joyful sound!!

Playground equipment is stained and ready for installation; expect to see children exploring new heights within the next few weeks! Our grounds are great for those snow sledders and thrill seekers, but we're already thinking ahead to Splash Day 2022 and hope you'll make plans to be here for that. Stay tuned for date and time.

The Garden Ministry is just waiting for the spring thaw and volunteers will get to the business of preparing the ground for growing crops to nourish our community.

Our collaboration with Cooperative Christian Ministry is blessing the Cabarrus & Rowan County communities with food and necessary supplies. Please help us pray for additional ways that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who are in need.

Worship continues in person and online every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. During Lent, we will have special services on Ash Wednesday (12 p.m. and 7 p.m.) as well as weekly Lenten meditations each Wednesday at 12 p.m. on Youtube or Facebook. Find the full schedule for online and in-person worship (with links!) at christconcord.org.

If you haven't been here in awhile, come on back! We have a place just for you at Christ Concord – a multigenerational modern congregation with plenty of chairs and multiple opportunities for you to use your gifts in His service.



PASTOR'S BLOG: **Reconnected**

by PASTOR MELODY

I don't know about you, but lately my life has been a rollercoaster. Last year, we had a great middle school mini retreat where 40 youth got together safely and worked in small groups to have a Bible Study, played games, and did a service project. Then, we took kids to camp. Lutheridge was a wonderful experience! We started the school year with an outdoor luau for the middle and high school youth! It was great. Things seemed to be getting "back to normal." Then Omicron hit.

We were back isolating. I had multiple families tell me they would see me in February, and now March. I'm tired. I think we're all tired. I want my faith family back. I want to keep everyone safe, but I miss you. Our children and youth need each other. The adults need each other. We're better together than we'll ever be apart.

Jesus recognized that we needed each other, too. In the Gospel of John, he was praying to God the father and said this, "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one — I in them and you in me — so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

I have been thinking about how we can start gathering again, feeling like we're one again. What can reunite us when people have lost connections with their faith family? Children and youth's friend groups have shrunk. Children don't want to go to things where they won't know anyone. Youth don't want to take the step out of their comfort zone. We need to reconnect again.

I'm planning on some low-commitment, easy family events to get people connected again. The first is in connection with our Middle and High school Fusion Nights. Fusion events are youth group time once a month where youth share a meal, devotion and some kind of activity. While Fusion is happening in the Pit, parents with or without younger children can have Family Infusion. This is a gathering of adults (and young children, if they have them...but you don't have to) that also share in a meal and gather for devotion and to connect (or reconnect!). We'll meet at the same time as Fusion to make it an easy night for the whole family. Everyone has something to do.

Then once a month we'll have an intergenerational family event. This can be a movie night on Christ South's land or strawberry picking – something fun for the whole family. Children and youth can make friends while the adults are too!

Our first Family Infusion event is Sunday, February 27 from 6-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (Providence campus). Here we'll plan out our first few event days. Come join us to connect, reconnect or just meet some amazing people! *Register in REALM.*

Find more Pastor's Blogs at christelca.org/blog.

FAMILY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
for pre-k & elementary children and their families

Friday, April 15 • 10:00 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary) -or- Online

christelca.org

Family Easter Service
for pre-k & elementary children and their families

Sunday, April 17 • 10:00 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Pit) -or- Online

christelca.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

March 11 - 13
5p Friday - 11a Sunday at Lutheridge

Join us for a weekend of group bonding & growing closer to God. 8th graders will spend some time preparing for Confirmation.
Cost: \$150 per student. Adult chaperones needed.

Register in REALM by February 27

Family Infusion
FIRST EVENT:
Sunday, February 27 • 6-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Fellowship Hall)

While Fusion is happening in the Pit, parents with or without younger children can gather for devotion and to connect (or reconnect!).

Register in REALM

Save the Date VBS

Vacation Bible School
June 13-17, 2022

More Info: krank@christelca.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help us pass the faith to our preschool and elementary kids on Sunday mornings!



Contact Kristen: krank@christelca.org

HIGH SCHOOL

LOCK-IN

**Friday, March 4 • 6 p.m.
TO Sat., March 5 • 8 a.m.
at Christ Providence (The Pit)**

Fun and games with movies and music! Dinner will be available.

Register in REALM



**MONTHLY GATHERING
FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH**

FUSION

**MEETS ON THE THIRD SUNDAY
OF EACH MONTH**

More info: acurrier@christelca.org

FAMILY MINISTRY
Save the Dates

June 18-23 Xperience Tour
June 26 Xperience Homecoming at Providence campus
July 3-9 Faith Ministry Mexico Mission Trip
July 17-23 CLC Week at Lutheridge & Kairos Confirmation Camp (for middle schoolers)

Stay tuned for details or contact Pastor Melody for more info: msimpkins@christelca.org

Stepping Stones

FIRST COMMUNION

PREPARATION CLASSES

March 6 • Meaning of the Meal (1-3 pm)

March 26 • Story Day (8:45 am - 12 pm)

April 10 • Livin' Forgivin (1-3 pm)

First Communion will take place during Maundy Thursday's service on April 14th. 2nd-5th graders who have not completed these classes are invited to attend either in person (at Christ Providence) -or- online.

For RSVP & details: krank@christelca.org

Monthly Service Projects

by KATE HARRISON

At the beginning of 2022, Christ Kids kicked off an ongoing service project with the Preschool and Elementary Sunday School classes. Each month, we choose an organization to support and each week, the kids are invited to bring an offering to Sunday School. At the end of the month, we total the offerings and purchase items of need for the organization we've chosen to support.

In January, we chose to support A Roof Above, the parent organization of our Room In the Inn ministry. The children donated over one hundred dollars throughout the month! We were able to use that money to purchase laundry soap, gloves, Irish Spring soap and other necessary items to help people in our community facing homelessness.

In February, the offerings we collect will support McClintock Partners in Education (McPIE). McPIE continues to provide food every week to 30 families. At the end of the month, we will use the money collected to purchase groceries and other household essentials for these families.

Family Lenten Devotions To Go

by KRISTEN RANK

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will have Family Devotions To Go available to pick up at worship, in the church office or access online. There will be six cards clipped together with a Bible verse and a couple of questions to talk about as a family to enhance your Lenten journey.

There will be questions for Preschool/Elementary and Middle/High School – it is very portable and perfect for carpool conversations! They do not need to be completed in any particular order, so you can go at the pace that best suits your family. We are looking forward to walking through Lent together!

Celebrating 15 Years!

McPIE

McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

AN OUTREACH OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**On Sunday, April 3rd,
come help McPIE celebrate**

15 Years

**of ministry with
McClintock Middle School!**

- Recognition during worship at all campuses
- Reception at Christ Providence in the Lower Commons from 10-11 a.m.
- Join us afterwards at Edge City Brewery in MORA from 2-5 p.m. (6209 Old Post Rd • Charlotte)

Room In the Inn

Room in the Inn has several open slots we need to fill through the end of the season (March):

- March 3rd: setup and serve dinner
- March 24th: setup and serve dinner, overnight host
- March 31st: setup and serve dinner, overnight host

Signup on signupgenius.com (click url or search by email: "ckramer@christelca.org"). For more information, email Lane Goode (lane.goode@gmail.com) or Randy Satterfield (rpsatterfield@carolina.rr.com).



McPIE Grocery Distribution

While it may seem the end of the pandemic is nearing, families are still reeling from the effects of unemployment and financial strain. One of the best ways McPIE has continued to support our families is through weekly grocery distribution. We partner closely with McClintock counselors to support some of the most at-risk families each week. What began as 20 bags per week in March 2020, ballooned to 140 bags in 2021 – and is now a targeted 42 bags per week.

To date, McPIE has distributed 574 bags of groceries since the beginning of the school year! Families are supplied with a nutritious recipe, ingredients to create that dish, and weekly staples such as cereal, granola

bars, fruit, canned meat, beans/rice, and bread. A small, dedicated group of volunteers keeps this going by packing bags and sitting at the school to distribute bags as families drive through. Thank you to all who have donated monetary funds or food to keep this mission going. Families are truly appreciative of this support every week!

Supplies for Bucks Bus

The Bucks Bus at McClintock Middle School is a way to incentivize students and reward them for good behavior, daily attendance, and being a kind friend. Students earn "bucks" that they can shop with on Fridays. McPIE helps with this by providing snacks and candy. However, a few other items are very popular with students: mechanical pencils, ear buds and jibbitz charms (for crocs – search Amazon). If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to the Outreach office!

Link Harris Teeter VIC Card

Buy groceries and support McClintock! Link your Harris Teeter VIC Card. If you have linked it in the past, please re-link it each year. You can select up to five schools; make McClintock one of them. McClintock is #2042. It's an easy way to help support!

McPIE Family Night

McPIE is back inside the school building for a spring semester of Family Night! Programming will kick-off on Tuesday, March 1st with dinner service beginning at 5 p.m. We have a wonderful group of volunteers who will be greeting families, serving meals, providing childcare, leading clubs, running the school supply store, and offering adult classes.

We have a great line-up of options for younger siblings, including a nursery, K-2nd grade class with activities, and LEGO Robotics for 3rd-5th graders. Adults have
(story continued on next page)



McClintock PARTNERS IN Education

**Family Nights at McClintock
will now resume March 1st**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

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

SUPPORT EDUCATION!

Link your Harris Teeter VIC Card to McClintock. Remember, you need to relink each year!

- Go to harristeeter.com
 - Click "Together in Education"
 - Select McClintock Middle School
- Code 2042**



SERVING & OUTREACH

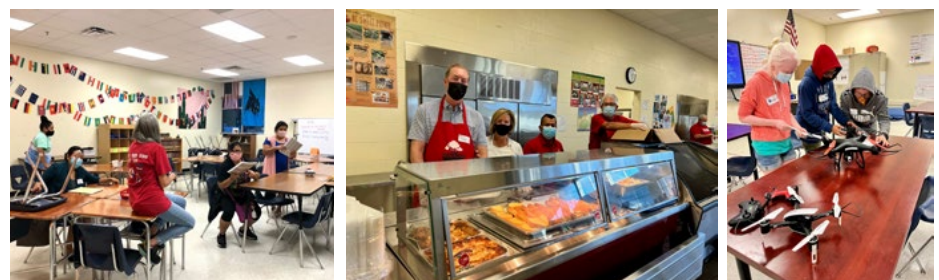
five class choices: Getting Ahead, Women's Journey, ESL, Let's Race and Foresight 20/20. Middle school students have several exciting clubs to choose from as well – Medical Explorers, Coding, Woodworking, Top Scot Chef, Sketch Squad, and Sports Drills will have students thinking about their future stories and having fun all at once!

If you have two free hours (5-7 p.m.) on Tuesday evenings in March and April and are looking for a meaningful way to give back and volunteer, please contact Angela (adavis@christelca.org).

Robotics Team

McClintock's **four** brand new Robotics teams all have their first competition under their belts! Not only was the competition a ton of fun, but each team learned so much! One of the teams, McClintock SCOTS Bot, came in second place and has now earned their invitation to the NC Middle School VEX IQ State Championships on March 15th. Congrats, SCOTS Bot!!

McPIE is a proud supporter of McClintock Robotics, providing equipment and volunteer leaders!





WHAT'S NEW WITH PASTOR DREW

Serving Christ & Country

ARTICLE REPRINTED FROM nclutheran.org

In a sense, Pastor Drew Goodson has always wanted to be a military chaplain. He first named it as a seminarian over 15 years ago when a Navy recruiter visited his campus in Philadelphia. "That stoked an interest that I think I actually had a lot sooner," Drew says. "But then I tucked it away for as long as I could."

After 12 years of parish ministry in the NC Synod, most recently as associate pastor of Christ Lutheran, Charlotte, Drew is not keeping his call to military chaplaincy tucked away any longer.

In December, Drew was commissioned as a US Navy chaplain and he is currently in Newport, Rhode Island for five weeks of Officer Development School followed by seven weeks of Chaplaincy School. Once completed, Drew will move with his wife, Megan, and sons, Zach and Caleb, to their first duty station in Norfolk, VA where he will serve as chaplain on the USS Philippine Sea cruiser.



Growing up, Drew had close relationships with his grandfathers who were veterans. "They were both men of faith and character that I really looked up to," says Drew. "So much so I developed an interest in military life and history from a young age. I even thought about going to one of the service academies after high school." Drew instead attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for college, and through participating in Lutheran Campus Ministry he discerned a call to public ministry. But the pull towards military service never went away.

"When the Navy recruiter came to seminary, it was like this alignment of my interest in building Christian community and serving Christ, as well as serving our country," he says.

The call does not come without sacrifice. Drew remembers all those years ago when he first told Megan about his visit with the Navy recruiter, and she burst into tears thinking about what it could mean for their future. Now in leaving Charlotte, their family is not only saying goodbye to their congregation but to extended family who live close by. Drew says, "I think a lot about the Gospel passage when

Peter says to Jesus, 'We've left home and fields and sisters and brothers to follow you.' That's really literal for us right now."

As Drew and his family step out in faith, he recognizes the ways his experiences in parish ministry prepared him for this new adventure. As one of the pastors of Christ, Charlotte, Drew learned team ministry, an experience he sees as important for military service and chaplaincy in an interfaith setting. In his first call to serve Our Redeemer, Greenville, he also led campus ministry with East Carolina University and loved it. With 75% of sailors between ages 17-24, Drew sees similar opportunities for ministry in the Navy. "They're young people and they're trying to figure out basic things in life, and hopefully I can share God's love in the midst of that," he says.

Drew is excited by the idea of being embedded among the people he serves on a day-to-day basis. When his cruiser is deployed for tours of 4-8 months in foreign waters, he'll go, too. In this model of ministry, he sees an opportunity to share Christ through a Lutheran lens. "The ELCA's whole model of missionary work is accompaniment—saying to people, 'We're here to walk alongside you, to build a

relationship with you, and to help you see how God is already at work in your life,'" Drew says.

Drew sees this approach to chaplaincy as particularly vital among the military, where the burdens service members carry can be heavy. "When violence is unavoidable, it's tragic and it's something we need to repent of, from a spiritual perspective, to receive that gift of forgiveness," says Drew. "I think for a lot of soldiers and sailors who have had to be involved in violence, to hear that word of confession and absolution is life-changing. There are a lot of people in the military who struggle with feeling hopeless and alone, or with thoughts of suicide. Ultimately, I think God has put me here to help save lives and to shine the light of Christ."

Drew will remain a pastor rostered in the NC Synod while serving as a chaplain in the US Navy. He will join two other NC Synod pastors who serve as chaplains in the US Military—Chaplain Brian Stamm and Chaplain John Connolly. Additionally, three NC Synod pastors serve as chaplains in the reserves—Chris Webb, Jasmine Tesdahl, and Linn Fisher.

Story Attribution:
Pastor Matt Canniff-Kesecker for the NC Synod





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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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march/april 2022

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E-mail Connie Kramer at ckramer@christelca.org and let her know you'd like a hard copy of Christ Connections mailed to your home. You can also view the online, interactive version at christelca.org/latest-news

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2022 EDITIONS

Jan/Feb - December 10 Mar/April - February 15 May/June - April 15

July/Aug - June 15 Sept/Oct - August 10 Nov/Dec - October 15

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

HOW CAN WE **PRAY** FOR YOU?



christelca.org/prayer-request

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY

Pastor's Blog

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS FROM
OUR PASTORS AND OTHER CLC STAFF



christelca.org/blog