

# Christ Connections



may/june 2024



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

### CHRIST PROVIDENCE

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

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

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

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

*Summer Worship*

*Starts May 26*

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

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



## Food! Music! Fun!



## Pentecost Celebration

**Sunday, May 19**  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



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

[christelca.org/online](http://christelca.org/online)

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

## Important Updates

### Christ Concord

With the vote on April 14 to cease worship at Christ Concord and to put the land up for sale, we find ourselves looking towards the horizon for a new vision from God to emerge. Our greatest concern is to care for the people of Christ Concord, and to make sure that their spiritual needs are met. Towards that end, each member has a choice. We have reached out to nearby Calvary Lutheran Church in Concord and encourage those members to attend that community of believers and help them grow their contemporary worship. However, some may choose to remain a part of Christ Online or even travel to Christ Providence. We would welcome that. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide them to a place of belonging and growth.

Habitat for Humanity in Concord has provided us with a non-binding Letter of Intent to do their due diligence and return to us with an offer to purchase the land with the aim of building an entire community of affordable housing. We are thrilled with this possibility. And what's more, they would like to repurpose the sanctuary for this neighborhood as a community center or perhaps a childcare center. I hope that we can be a part of this transformation so that ministry continues on this sacred site.

When we get an offer, we will have another congregational meeting to review the offer and vote on the sale and how to distribute the funds. Stay tuned!

### Southland

The other big initiative this year is the repurposing of Southland. On April 8, a small group and I met with the Weddington Town Council to show the proposed rendering of the site with the soccer fields and pavilions.

At this point the Weddington Town Council has said the concept has merit and that we should continue to work with the Planning Committee of Weddington as well as conduct a neighborhood meeting to make sure that we are heading in the right direction for all. I suspect that our task force will have something for the congregation to review probably towards the end of the summer.

As the one who cast the vision for both of these campuses and now am at the point of having to pivot because of Covid and leadership changes, I am encouraged by two things. First, that I serve a church that is bold in its vision, trying new things and taking the risk. Thank you. I am humbled and honored by your trust. Second, that as we pivot from the original vision, ministry continues to happen in a way that I did not first imagine. With both of these campuses, I am thrilled that we will continue to reach out to people, meet their needs and watch as the Holy Spirit transforms lives!



### 2024 Church Council

- Eric Runge  
*President*
- Jessica Shurley  
*Vice President*
- David Brown  
*Treasurer*
- Melissa Lanoue  
*Secretary*
- Cassie Thompson
- Chad Melton
- David Herran
- Greg Twait
- Holly Cannon
- Janet Wilson
- Molly Zmuda
- Lauren Ratcliffe

**Come and See!**  
**Pastor Scott**

# Summer Worship

STARTS MAY 26

**TRADITIONAL • 9:00 a.m.**  
**CONTEMPORARY • 10:45 a.m.**

- no Sunday School classes -  
- nursery available for ages 0-36 months -

WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE



## Fellowship at the ballpark



**Friday, June 21**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**\$22 • Click/Scan to Register**  
DEADLINE: MAY 20



DO YOU HAVE A  
*College Graduate?*



Send us their:  
**name, high-res picture, degree/college,**  
**and any post graduation plans to be**  
**honored in our July/August newsletter.**



**Deadline: June 15**

Scan QR code to fill out a quick form -or-  
email info to: [mkelliher@christelca.org](mailto:mkelliher@christelca.org)

## 100 Days of Prayer



Sign up by May 19 and we  
will put you in a microgroup  
of 3-4 people. Groups will  
pray together to lift up  
prayers for self, our ministry  
teams & congregation.

**Click/Scan for more info  
& to join the challenge!**



## Affirmation of Faith Sunday, May 19 • all services

On Pentecost, anyone who is interested  
in publicly affirming their baptism will have  
the opportunity during worship.

**MORE INFO: [rritzmann@christelca.org](mailto:rritzmann@christelca.org)**



## 100 Days of Prayer

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

As we finish up the sermon series on Praying in the Spirit, we invite you to jump in on this revitalizing congregational event of 100 Days of Prayer! We are living into a new day; let us do it with fervor, anticipation, prayer, and the power of the Holy Spirit!

For 100 days in the Season of Pentecost, we will engage in prayer to ignite the power of the Holy Spirit in our congregational life. We will pray together in microgroups (3-4 people) to lift up personal prayers, prayers for ministry teams, and prayers for the congregation.

We hope 1,000 people will sign up – imagine the power! Sign up by May 19 to engage in this exciting opportunity. You will receive an email during the week of May 20th with your group members and contact information. Groups will be randomly assigned and you will also find out the ministry team or purpose of prayer.

As an individual, you are invited to pray daily. Your group will be invited to meet weekly, preferably in person. We will share a daily and weekly resource to help guide your prayer.

People of all ages are invited to participate! If your child or youth would like to participate, we ask that a parent sign up with them to participate in this prayer project.

Plan to attend the first day of summer worship on Sunday, May 26th for your commissioning! The Traditional service will be at 9 a.m. and Contemporary starts at 10:45 a.m.

To join the challenge, scan the QR Code or click the ad to the left by May 19th.



READ MORE ABOUT THE CURRENT  
& UPCOMING SERMON SERIES AT:

**[christelca.org/sermon-series](http://christelca.org/sermon-series)**

# Food! Music! Fun!



## Pentecost Celebration

Sunday, May 19  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### Pentecost Celebration

by PASTOR RYAN

Remember your first Pentecost? All the... Food? Is there Pentecost Food? There's no decorations (like wreaths and trees for Christmas). There aren't any hymns and carols. Not really. There are songs for the Holy Spirit but I don't think there are songs specifically for Pentecost. There aren't traditions, not really. Even Palm Sunday gets us waving branches around, but Pentecost gets nothing.

It's odd that we should have absolutely no traditions for Pentecost. It is the second most important holy day in the Christian faith. Obviously Easter is paramount, but the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit doesn't even get second fiddle – that's probably Christ in our culture!

Jesus said that it was to our advantage that He leave (John 16:7). We understand that it is to our advantage that He die. His death for our sin is the cornerstone of our faith. It would seem, then, that He should stay. His leaving would be bad, right? Who could be better or more advantageous for us than Jesus Christ Himself?! The Holy Spirit, that's who.

The Holy Spirit is how Christ is with us always (Matt 28:20, John 16:13-15). The Holy Spirit is God, our very present help. He is the Way. He is the way we are all knit together. He is what we receive at our baptism. He is the Church. He is so much that I am going to start veering into poetry in an attempt to capture all He is and does.

He is imminently important to our spiritual journey and the well being of our Soul. For this reason Paul makes every effort to get back to Jerusalem for Pentecost (Acts 20:16, and again I Cor 16:8). Paul tries to get to Jerusalem NOT for Easter, as we might expect; nor for any Jewish festival, but for Pentecost!

The coming of the Holy Spirit (as promised). The Birth of the Church. God's presence. Yet no traditions, or songs, or decorations.

We are going to change that. We are starting a tradition, a celebration, for the coming of our Lord. Not His coming as a baby – that's Christmas, but His coming as the Holy Spirit.

On May 19th we are having a celebration. The Pentecost Celebration will start at 11 a.m. and go until 1 p.m. We hope that you will worship and stick around, no matter which worship you attend. Chef Mike is preparing a BBQ (or hotdog) lunch. We will have a band and there will be activities for the younger among us. Enjoy food and fellowship. Help start a new tradition for such an important moment on the Christian calendar.

If you plan on eating, we ask that you please register and pay in REALM by Sunday, May 12th. Adult meals are \$15 a piece and kids meals for ages 10 and under are \$7 a piece. Scan or click the QR Code below to register.

**We hope to see you on Pentecost Sunday.  
Remember to wear red!**

# Food! Music! Fun!



## Pentecost Celebration

Sunday, May 19  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Click/Scan to Register for Lunch**

\$15 adults · \$7 kids (10 & under)

RSVP DEADLINE: MAY 12th



The Charlotte Concert Band  
presents

# Landscapes

**Saturday, May 11**  
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

\$15 general admission • \$12 senior • children under 5 free

BUY TICKETS AT THE DOOR OR GO TO:  
[charlotteconcertband.org/landscapes](http://charlotteconcertband.org/landscapes)

Hymn Sing & Organ  
**CONCERT**  
with Mark Johanson, organ

**Sunday, June 23**  
4 p.m. at Christ Providence

PART OF THE  
**2024**  
AGO Summer  
Recital Series

-- FREE ADMISSION --  
freewill offering will support organ lessons  
scholarships for area youth

## OCEAN ISLE

Memorial Weekend Worship

**Sunday, May 26 • 10am - 12:30pm**  
at Ocean Isle Beach

Join Pastor Tenny for worship at the beach  
over Memorial Day weekend. Brunch to follow.  
Find more information in REALM.

Click/Scan for Info & RSVP  
or email [tcshifley@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tcshifley@carolina.rr.com)



Wednesdays  
*together*

# DINNER

**5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Christ Providence**  
(Kitchen/Fellowship Hall)

Cost: \$7 adults, \$5 children (ages 2-10).  
RSVP required by each Monday prior.

FOR MENUS & RSVP LINKS:  
[christelca.org/menu](http://christelca.org/menu)



## Download Our Church App Today!

[onelink.to/connectapp](https://onelink.to/connectapp)





## Introducing "Deeper Dive," a Christ Lutheran Church Podcast

by BILL PORTER

Coming Soon! Check out our new podcast called Deeper Dive from Christ Lutheran Church! It's all about exploring spirituality in a down-to-earth way. Led by our pastors, it's a chance for our church family to connect and talk about faith beyond just Sundays. On Deeper Dive, we'll tackle big questions about religion and life. Our pastors will share their thoughts, stories and insights, mixing in bits of scripture and personal experience. It's like having a deep chat with your pastor, but in your headphones.

We're all about inclusivity here. Everyone's welcome to join the conversation and ask questions. We believe that every voice matters, and every question is worth exploring. Our goal is to create a community where people feel comfortable thinking critically about their faith. Come along with us as we explore the depths of spirituality together. Let's dive into the mysteries of faith and grow closer to God, all while learning and connecting with each other along the way.

Stay tuned to announcements on how to access this new podcast. When we launch it, we'll also share direct links in our Weekly E-News, Sunday bulletins and on our website at [christelca.org/latest-news](http://christelca.org/latest-news).

## Shepherds: A New Ministry Supporting College Students AND WE WANT EWE!

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

As we bless our graduates on Quillow Sunday (June 2), we send our blessings to cover them wherever they go. Some of our graduates will stay in town, some will go away to college, and some will travel or seek job opportunities. All are wonderful paths! We know that for our graduates who are going away to school, there are challenges associated with being in an exciting, and also overwhelming environment away from home. To help them know that they are always connected to our faith community of Christ Lutheran, we are organizing a new ministry, called Shepherds, to send letters and care packages to our college students throughout the year.

Each member of our Shepherds group will sponsor one of our students in college. You can sponsor for one year or for their whole college program – it's up to you! During the summer, there will be an opportunity to sign up for this ministry and you will be given special charge to provide encouragement and care throughout the year of your college "sheep!"

Shepherds can send cards and tokens of care throughout the year. For a college student, nothing is better than getting a letter letting you know that your home congregation is thinking of you and praying for you, and that the letter is perhaps accompanied with your favorite candy! More details will follow about this ministry, and we hope you will get involved in supporting our young adults away from home.

Look for the Shepherd's table in the Lower Commons this summer and watch for the registration link in the bulletin! If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Zoutewelle at [ezout27@gmail.com](mailto:ezout27@gmail.com).

## Quillow Sunday

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

We are coming upon a very special & meaningful event in our congregation. On June 2, Quillow Sunday, we will celebrate our high school seniors and bless them as they go forward to take their next steps!

It is a day filled with tears and joy. Tears because they have grown up and it is time for them to make their own way in world; we will miss seeing them if they go away to school or a new endeavor. At the same time, we also feel joy because we are proud of them and feel excited for their journey ahead.

On June 2, our high school seniors will come forward during worship to receive a blessing from their parents and given a visible reminder that they can take with them: a quillow (that is, a quilt that folds into a pillow). Parents have taken time and care to make the best personalized quillow to gift their graduate. In our gifting ritual, parents wrap them in their quillow and they exchange appreciation and future hopes.

It is an important day for our graduates and their families. It is also an important day for us as a congregation. Throughout the years, you have seen these exceptional young people grow from childhood to graduation, perhaps even being a part of their journey through teaching Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, or Youth Group. Our faith journeys are all connected, and as you have made an impact on them, they have on you, too! Come and support our graduates as we bless them to continue to grow in their faith in God!

## Thank You!

by THE XPERIENCE AND FAMILY MINISTRY

We would like to express a HUGE thank you to the congregation for helping us fundraise above and beyond our goal of \$15,000 for the Xperience Tour and Youth Gathering this summer! Your support and generosity has blown us away and we are so grateful! Not only can we get to New Orleans, but now we can get back home! Your support has made all the difference!

We are excited about our upcoming trips this summer, and we expect that these experiences will be powerful and faith-building. Our Xperience Band is even going to play at the National Youth Gathering for Synod Day! It is a special honor to have this opportunity and leadership role. We are looking forward to it and can't wait to tell you about our trips when we get back!

## A Fun Volunteer Opportunity!

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

We are looking for energetic volunteers who love kids, summer, and all things scuba! Our theme for Vacation Bible School this year is *Scuba: Diving Into Friendship With God*, and we need adult volunteers to help shepherd our little ones from station to station! During the mornings of Monday, June 10 to Friday, June 14 you can make a big difference. No preparation is needed and you will have a great time! To sign up, scan the QR Code or click the ad to the right, or contact Kristen Rank at [krank@christelca.org](mailto:krank@christelca.org).

**Baptismal Class**  
**Sunday, June 9**  
**1:00 p.m. on Zoom**  
 For info, email Jane at [jsatterfield@christelca.org](mailto:jsatterfield@christelca.org)  
 Find Zoom link at [christelca.org/online](http://christelca.org/online)

**Quillows**  
**HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES • CLASS OF 2024**  
**Sunday, June 2**  
 during both 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. services  
 at Christ Providence

**SURVEY YOUTH MINISTRY**  
 Middle & High School youth and parents are invited to share feedback to help shape & mold our youth ministry. We'd love to hear from you!  
 Please click/scan to participate or go to [forms.gle/qxVPfFgfPU6hfpM5A](https://forms.gle/qxVPfFgfPU6hfpM5A)

**Limited Spots Remaining - Register Now!**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 10-14**  
 for ages 4 - completed 4th grade  
 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. daily • FREE!  
 Scan/Click to Register  
 Registration will close when capacity is reached

**VBS**  
**Adult Volunteers Needed**  
 We are looking for energetic, adult volunteers to help shepherd campers from station to station during this summer's VBS (June 10-14). Training is provided. Wear your sneakers and get ready to scatter the seeds of faith!  
 Click/Scan to Signup or email: [krank@christelca.org](mailto:krank@christelca.org)  
 BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIRED

GRACE & FAITH CHOIRS PRESENT

A NOT SO  
**TERRIBLE PARABLE**  
*the mysterious whodunit* *about the good samaritan*

**Sunday, May 5**  
 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

SPOTLIGHT SUMMER CAMP  
 Disney  
**FROZEN**  
 KIDS

**Monday, August 5 - Friday, August 9**  
 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at Christ Providence (Pit)

Rising 2-5 graders can be registered now for this all-day camp featuring singing, drama & choreography.  
 Performance: August 9, 6pm

**\$250 • Click/Scan to Register**  
 Discount available for multiple children from same household




**CHRIST kids**

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

FIND THE PLAYLIST ON OUR  
 CLC YOUTUBE CHANNEL

**CONFIRMATION WEEKEND RETREAT**  
 CAMP AWANITA • MARIETTA, SC  
**AUGUST 16-18**

Join other rising 9th graders for a weekend of fun activities and fellowship at the final Confirmation Stepping Stone.

**\$250 • PLEASE REGISTER BY MAY 10**

**Click/Scan to Register**



**HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?**



[christelca.org/prayer-request](http://christelca.org/prayer-request)



FAMILIES

**CREATED TO BE**

AM I BEAUTIFUL  
 I AM BEAUTIFUL

**2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING**  
 New Orleans JULY 16-20, 2024

#elcayg2024



**Created to Be**  
 by TYLER WELLER

Looking forward to this July, we have the National Youth Gathering on the horizon. This is an exciting trip that we get the opportunity to take part in every three years. About 20,000 other students from across the country will converge on New Orleans for a week full of service, worship and fellowship time.

This year's Xperience tour will end in New Orleans where the Youth Gathering is being held. Each night there will be a mass gathering worship in the Smoothie King Center where all attendees join together in worship. Our students will have the opportunity to hear a multitude of speakers from across the world as well as hear some huge Christian artists live.

On our first full day in New Orleans, we will go out into the community and take part in a service project that will both educate our students on the local history and also give back to the community. On the second day we will take part in Synod/Region Day, and this is going to be an amazing 'Xperience' as The Xperience will be leading worship for ALL of Region 9, which includes Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. We will then take part in a scavenger hunt across New Orleans that will give us a guided tour throughout the city. On our third full day we will be taking part in Interactive Learning, which is a fancy way of saying we will have access to the convention center which will be full of games, live music, interactive booths, and much more. In our down time, we will take time to explore the city, enjoying authentic food and taking in the immense culture that is there.

Please join us July 28th (during either service) for Youth Sunday. This will be our time of celebration and reflection on what our students got out of this amazing trip.

congratulations to our  
**high school**  
*graduates*  
 class of 2024



Logan Amigo  
*Providence*



Addyson Ausrud  
*Indian Land*



Anna Barber  
*Providence*



Campbell Noel Fagan  
*Porter Ridge*



Tanner Cole Fitton  
*Providence*



Dana Giacobone  
*Charlotte Teacher Early College*



Katie Girkins  
*Myers Park*



Shane Kelly  
*Myers Park*



Mason Kinnavy  
*Providence*



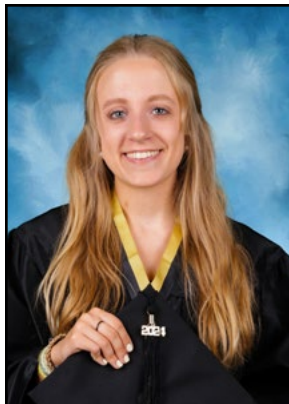
Ella Kreps  
*Myers Park*



Evan Lanoue  
*Weddington*



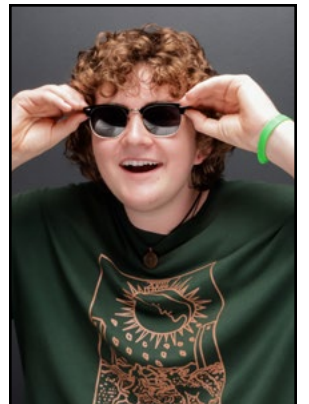
Jack Lawrence  
*Providence*



Kaitlyn Joy Mengel  
*Providence*



Iris Itzel Bruno  
 Modesto  
*Hawthorne Acad.  
 of Health Science*



Tully Brenton Pope  
*Providence*



Join us to honor graduates during both services on Quillow Sunday!

**Sunday, June 2**  
**9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.**

*reception takes place between services in the Lower Commons*



CHRIST  
providence



CHRIST  
online



Evan Santaniello  
*Charlotte Christian*



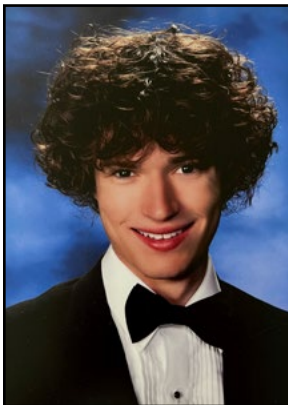
Natalie Schroeder  
*Central Acad. of Arts & Tech*



Braden Shurley  
*Carmel Christian*



Cole Sumlin  
*Myers Park*



Alec Trosch  
*East Mecklenburg*



Jenna Washburn  
*Providence*



Luke Nolan Watne  
*Ardrey Kell*



Cole Zoutewelle  
*South Mecklenburg*

May you be blessed with **courage**, that fear may never keep you from exploring new paths. May you be blessed with **hope**, that you may never give up on yourself or others. May you be blessed with **goodness**, that in you strangers may find a generous friend. May you be blessed with **laughter**, that you may never take yourself too seriously. May you be blessed with **curiosity**, that you may always desire to seek out the mystery of faith. May you be blessed with **gratitude**, that you may see all of life as a gift. May you be blessed with **remembrance** of one another and your time together here... for there is forever a thread woven through your spirit.

## Benevolence & Outreach Update

by AMY DANIELS

As part of the Big Rocks of 2023, our task group was responsible for exploring ways to help with the lack of affordable housing in Charlotte. Although we met several times during the year, at this point we have no clear recommendation for the Church Council.

We thought it necessary to summarize the things that our Benevolence and Outreach efforts already do to help alleviate the stress of the affordable housing shortage, and also to share some investigations we made along the way.

### Christ Lutheran Church:

- 1) Gives grants to A Roof Above and Crisis Assistance Ministries for a total of \$70,000 in 2023;
- 2) Serves and provides a meal for the Soup Kitchen every month;
- 3) Hosts Room In The Inn (RITI) guests over four winter months;
- 4) Collects and delivers clothing to Crisis Assistance Free Store every week;
- 5) Collects food for Loaves and Fishes twice a year;
- 6) Supports an Afghan Refugee Family with plans and promise to help with humanitarian parole for more of their extended family members;
- 7) Supplies produce and groceries for families in our community every week through our "Feed a Family" fund;
- 8) Offers "Getting Ahead" at McPIE Family Nights for parents to assess life and set goals;
- 9) Supports 40+ families with Thanksgiving meals;
- 10) Supports 50+ families with help at Christmas;
- 11) At least two families have bought homes to rent to families we know at an affordable rate;
- 12) Our community crisis budget from Benevolence helps "bridge the gap" for singular crisis events to help families avoid eviction;
- 13) Offers free, high quality summer opportunities (Freedom School, Science camps) and scholarships to other camps.

As you can see, our congregation makes a tremendous impact on the affordable housing crisis in these and other direct and indirect ways.

Our task group of 10+ people also met with several community agencies and groups throughout 2023, including DreamKey Partners, Freedom Community, Homeless Services Network and Project Outpour, Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) and Give Impact. We were impressed by the variety of services and depth of conviction.

While some of us were very focused on ways to help our immediate neighbors in the McClintock community, we explored all sorts of services and sectors. We want to encourage individuals and our congregation to continue to search and help in individual and collective ways as we move forward. Affordable housing is a huge issue that is very complex and will take many solutions from many angles to continue to make a difference. God is calling us to serve and care for our neighbors... Most importantly, God calls each and every one of us to BE a good neighbor!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING, PLEASE READ MICHELE WENZ'S ARTICLE ON PAGE 14.

## Freedom School

FUNDRAISING STARTS  
**Sunday, May 5th**

Join us at Christ Providence for Freedom School Sunday as we kick off this year's fundraising efforts. Hear CLC's NEW Freedom School Site Coordinator, Aletea Joosten, talk about the impact Freedom School has on the lives of Scholars and their families.

**Together, we CAN make a DIFFERENCE!!!**

## Science Camp Recyclables Needed

### Items Needed:

2-liter plastic bottles, plastic water/soda bottles, ½ or 1 gallon containers, egg cartons, shoe boxes, grocery store newspaper ads, boxes, 9X9 aluminum trays, old/new measuring cups and spoons (all sizes).

**Donations can be dropped off at the Outreach Office.**

**McPIE**  
McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

## WANTED

### EOG Proctors for McClintock Middle School

Volunteers needed to help monitor students during end-of-year testing sessions:

**May 24 • May 28-31 • June 3-5**



**<<Click or Scan to Signup**

\*\*Volunteers MUST be a registered CMS volunteer. If you are not an approved CMS Volunteer, go here to register for that: [cmsvolunteers.com](https://cmsvolunteers.com)

## Science Camp Donations Needed

Help McClintock students make the most of their science camp experience this summer.

**Items Needed: Freeze Pops, small, individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or peanuts), lots of cornstarch and flour.**

**Donations can be dropped off at the Outreach Office.**

**McPIE**  
McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

for High School Students

High school students looking for volunteer hours can work with either a small group of students or be a teacher's assistant for this summer's camps at McClintock!

**DETAILS COMING SOON**

MORE INFO: [adavis@christelca.org](mailto:adavis@christelca.org)



## Freedom School Fundraising

McPIE is entering our 14th summer of Freedom School and we need YOUR help to make it successful once again! This summer from June 17th – July 25th, 40 McClintock Middle School students and 40 younger siblings will participate in the Children's Defense Fund's literacy based program. CLC is one of the largest and most successful sites in Charlotte providing a safe and enriching environment for Scholars to spend their summer. McClintock Partners In Education will sponsor its 14th Freedom School for at-risk children and enable them to have a safe summer.

### Here are ways you can help:

#### MONETARY DONATIONS

- \$3600 funds three siblings for the full summer
- \$1200 funds one child for the full summer
- \$600 funds one child for half summer
- \$200 funds one child for one week

Other costs associated with Freedom School:

- \$5,000 provides necessary reading material for ALL Scholars
- \$5,000 provides lunch and snacks for all Scholars for three weeks
- \$2,500 provides field trips for ALL Scholars
- \$1,200 provides t-shirts for Scholars and interns to wear on field trips and bathing suits for water days

How much will you donate? Any amount helps greatly! Double Your Donation!!! Each dollar you donate will be matched in our first week of fundraising, starting May 5th. Your \$100 then becomes \$200 and greatly helps our fundraising efforts to support our Freedom School Scholars.

#### BOOK DRIVE

Help this summer's Scholars by donating culturally diverse books for K-8th graders. Bring your new or gently used books to the Lower Commons at Christ Providence throughout the month of May!

#### VOLUNTEER

You can be a reading buddy during lunchtime to help students work through books, share a favorite activity during afternoon hours, host intern appreciation events, gather supplies and much more! Contact Dee-Dee Petronis to get involved ([dpetronis@christelca.org](mailto:dpetronis@christelca.org)) or sign up online at [signupgenius.com/org/FSPCLC#](http://signupgenius.com/org/FSPCLC#).

#### PRAY

Pray for Scholars, their families, site staff and volunteers as they enjoy a fun and enriching summer!

#### COME TO FREEDOM SCHOOL SUNDAY

Join us May 5th and hear CLC's NEW Freedom School Site Coordinator, Aletea Joosten, talk about the impact Freedom School has on the lives of Scholars and their families. Together, we CAN make a DIFFERENCE!!! Willie Pinson will pass the baton to new leadership!



## Room in the Inn Season Recap

CLC's Room in the Inn (RITI) season finished as of March 28th. Thank you to each and every volunteer that helped make this season possible. We asked for extra help this season for overnight hosts and bus drivers, and you responded!

We served about 200 guests this season, regularly taking in 12 guests when our past average has been 10. This included many families with young children. We are so fortunate to have a facility that provides for individual rooms, and amazing CLC families to serve these families. So, thank you for giving back, involving your families and welcoming our RITI neighbors. Please come back for more next season.

### Our team would especially like to thank:

**Jones Cleaners** - Jones has been an AMAZING partner for RITI for the past 25 years, taking care of our laundry each week at no charge. Please patronize Jones Cleaners any chance you get!

**Chef Mike Wallace** - Mike, you never disappoint on Thursday nights. Our guests are always so grateful for the plentiful, warm meal at CLC.

**JW Ingram** - JW, thank you for being part of the team this year. The bed setup and meal transport have been so helpful.

**Marcia Row** - Marcia is our rock, taking care of all RITI supplies and preparing linens. If you have Thrivent cards you want to use towards RITI for supplies, contact Marcia Row ([marciarow10@gmail.com](mailto:marciarow10@gmail.com)).

**Drivers** - Shout out to our bus drivers; it's not easy to find drivers with a commercial license! We have 5 or 6 that just keep helping out. Big thanks to Greg Leblanc who runs to CLC each Friday morning at 6 a.m. and delivers our guest safely back uptown.

**Church Staff** - Thank you to Mary Parker and Tony Hyde in our church office for facility arrangement, bus maintenance, etc.

If you have donated any funds or supplies, THANK YOU! You help keep RITI at Christ Lutheran a place where our neighbors in need want to be during our cold winter months.

### A couple of asks:

Thrivent Cards are a great gift to RITI. As already mentioned, we use the cards for supplies. If you are a Thrivent member, consider donating your \$250 project card (or portion) to RITI. Thrivent associate membership is only \$19/year. Find out more at [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) or contact Marcia Row ([marciarow10@gmail.com](mailto:marciarow10@gmail.com))

Our guests always need suitcases with wheels. If you have any suitcases (with wheels) you would like to donate, please bring to the Worship Center or Church Office. We will deliver to A Roof Above.

## Feed A Family Thanks

Thank you to all the generous souls who have contributed to the Feed a Family fund! We provide groceries to families without a car and groceries and gas cards to those living in hotels. We also, with the help of amazing volunteers, provide groceries for teachers and others with cars who come to McClintock. We are currently helping 38 families with a bag of groceries each week. Groceries are so expensive right now, so we shop around to save money. We work closely with the school social worker to identify families who need help.

In an article from the Charlotte Observer from March 22, writer Ames Alexander discusses Mecklenburg County's issue with lagging food stamp approvals. He cites that applications for food stamps in Mecklenburg County rose 70% from 2021 to 2023. Nourish Up's grocery program demand (formerly Loaves and Fishes) has increased year to year by over 30%. Simply said, demand is surging because "wages have not kept pace with the rising cost of housing, food and other essentials".

To help us further the part of our mission of supporting families, you may donate anytime through REALM's Online Giving. Just click or enter this link into your browser: [onrealm.org/christelca/-/form/give/now](http://onrealm.org/christelca/-/form/give/now) and select the "Feed A Family" fund from the dropdown menu.





**American Red Cross**

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE:

**Sunday, June 30**

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

**at Christ Providence**

SIGN UP TO DONATE at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

**MEXICO MISSION TRIP**



Join Pastor Tenny June 23-29 for a week helping our neighbors in Reynosa, Mexico.

**More Info: Contact Pastor Tenny Shifley**  
[tcshifley@carolina.rr.com](mailto:tcshifley@carolina.rr.com) or 704-651-8660



**Click/Scan to Register**  
 REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 29

HELP FUND A SERVICE PROJECT WITH



*Action Teams*

**For more information:**

Dee Dee Petronis ([dpetronis@christelca.org](mailto:dpetronis@christelca.org))



**VOLUNTEER & DONOR APPRECIATION**

**Tuesday, May 7 • 5-7 p.m.**

**at Edge City Brewing (MORA)**

Join us at Edge City Brewing as we celebrate all you do to support McPIE. Light snacks provided.

**MORE INFO: [adavis@christelca.org](mailto:adavis@christelca.org)**

*Quilters FOR CHRIST*

**Wednesdays • 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Center Six)**

*If you can not make the Wednesday mornings, you can still be part of this ministry by cutting out or sewing squares at home. No experience necessary.*

**MORE INFO:**

**Lois Witham ([lowitham@carolina.rr.com](mailto:lowitham@carolina.rr.com))**

**Thank You McPIE Volunteers!**

What a great school year building back our usual programming! Without the constant dedication and support of volunteers, our programming and mission would not be possible. Our volunteer base is strong and ready to support and engage McClintock students, families and teachers!

THANK YOU so much for showing up to help continue our mission. You all play an integral part whether you volunteer during Family Night, are a teacher partner or tutor, provide teacher luncheons, make teacher copies, donate funds, pray, or... there are so many special pieces to this McPIE puzzle. Looking forward to continuing this momentum into next school year! To get onboard with this amazing team, contact Angela Davis ([adavis@christelca.org](mailto:adavis@christelca.org)).

**Spring Family Night Success!**

The second half of the 2023-2024 school year was a success with Family Night programming. We continued to rebuild this school year and are confident in reaching even more McClintock families next year! Dinner and class attendance numbers continue to grow and we are certainly happy with where we are!

Registration night during the first week of fall and spring gave students and families an opportunity to meet club leaders and choose an activity that met the interests of each participant. We had our usual spread of middle school clubs – Woodworking, Art, Top Scot Chef, Hands 2 Heart, Robotics, Sports Drills and Ten80 Racing – but also added a few new clubs this year! We were excited to gain a few new volunteers with Gardening during the afternoon. We averaged over 80 middle school students each week in our evening clubs and another 15 during the afternoon.

Siblings also had fun! Volunteers Marsha, Rick, Debbie, Amy and Dana continue to dedicate their Tuesday evenings to our littlest participants. They certainly have fun “playing” during club time and also do fun activities like making treats, slime, cute gifts for the holidays and art projects.

Adult participants had four class options during the spring. ESL is heavily appreciated by many parents as McClintock’s Hispanic demographic is nearing 45%. Getting Ahead and Women’s Journey are Pathways Out of Poverty classes where parents bonded over similar situations and helped each other create a road to stability. This also gave parents opportunities to be loved on and supported by their leaders! Parent U continued this Spring and was filled with speakers from across our community.

Our Meals Team is always ready to serve dinner with a smile! Whether it is fried chicken, lasagna, tacos, pulled chicken, salad or the beloved desserts, students and families are always happy to receive a warm meal for dinner! This Spring, we served an average of 205 meals per week!

Our team of volunteers at the School Store ensure each student is prepared for school with essential items like notebooks, ear buds, pens, sticky notes, markers and colored pencils. The store items are free for students. Eric, Barb and Janice were there almost weekly to help with this effort!

Our check-in and greeting team always welcomes students and families with a smile, setting a great tone for our evenings! Overall, our McPIE team is happy with how this school year went. Armed with an army of dedicated volunteers, Family Night continues to be a success, and we’re excited to grow more into the 2024-2025 school year!



## What is Affordable Housing?

by MICHELE WENZ

As a resident of Charlotte or the surrounding areas, you probably hear or read the term “affordable housing” at least weekly, if not daily. The city of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, local businesses, a variety of non-profits and local places of worship are all stake holders in the attempt to provide more affordable housing. You, like Christ Lutheran Church (CLC), have likely supported their efforts in a variety of ways.

But have you ever thought about becoming more personally involved in working to solve the affordable housing issue? Have you ever wondered why and how the lack of affordable housing became such a huge problem?

While gathering information for this article, I was fortunate to be introduced to several individuals with ties to CLC who have found themselves becoming landlords or have had difficulty searching for affordable housing either for themselves or others. Regardless of which experience, these individuals each had some very similar comments and experiences regarding affordable housing and its challenges in our area.

What follows is a synopsis of the information gathered during my conversations with these individuals as well as others who work at organizations whose primary focus is to address and work towards solving the local affordable housing challenge. Also, for the purposes of this article, I am looking only at the challenges of renting affordable housing.

Let’s start with what is considered affordable housing. Housing is considered affordable if no more than 30% of a household’s income is needed to live there. In Charlotte, the cost of renting or purchasing a home has skyrocketed

so quickly in the last few years that many people in our community struggle to find affordable housing.

Most individuals who are looking to rent affordable housing are either paying the total rent directly to a landlord, using a voucher that was issued through Inlivan (formerly Charlotte Housing Authority) or a combination of these two scenarios. Whether an individual is paying rent or using a voucher, there are several consistent challenges encountered at the very start of their search for an affordable housing option, including lack of units, non-refundable application fees, and large move-in deposits (usually 1-2 or more months’ rent). The negative effects of paying the non-refundable application fee for each potential housing unit and the large move-in deposits are clear. The amount of money available for rent as well as other basic items – food, clothing, monthly bills, healthcare, and transportation needs – is reduced.

A conversation with an individual who pays rent walked me through the process of finding new housing after she was forced to leave housing due to serious flooding and a lack of willingness by the landlord to repair and solve the resulting problems and issues. She had been able to pay monthly rent, the required utilities and provide for her children, but now faced a steep increase in expenses, i.e. paying weekly for two hotel rooms because her family was too large to stay in one room, paying to eat out because they could no longer cook meals, the non-refundable rental application fees at each potential home, and the large move-in deposits that the landlords required. These expenses, along with other basic needs’ expenses, provided too great a challenge to handle on her own.

*(story continues on next page...)*

## Clothing Donations for Crisis Assistance

Bring new or gently used clothing to donate to our neighbors in need!  
Drop off clothing at the Outreach Office M-F. On Sunday, the blue bins will be outside the Outreach Office doors.  
Questions? [nealman@bellsouth.net](mailto:nealman@bellsouth.net)

## Let's get connected.

Download the **Realm Connect** app today!



**Need Help with Realm?**

Contact Mary at [mparker@christelca.org](mailto:mparker@christelca.org)

## COME GROW WITH US

Join group in REALM or contact Walt Roth: [wroth1@bellsouth.net](mailto:wroth1@bellsouth.net)

Growing TO GIVE  
COMMUNITY GARDEN

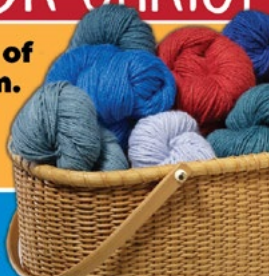
-SMALL GROUP-

## KNITTERS FOR CHRIST

meets the 3rd Sunday of each month • 10:00 a.m.

at Christ Providence (Cornerstone Cafe)

ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS WELCOME



## Have you moved or updated your email?

Please update in REALM or let the church office know!



However, she was fortunate that she had developed positive and strong relationships with a variety of individuals with ties to CLC and felt comfortable enough to ask for guidance and assistance. Through this network, she was able to find and secure an affordable home where she and her family could safely live. Of course, challenges remain but having stable and affordable housing secured has removed a huge challenge and allows her to continue making forward strides.

As previously mentioned, another payment source for rent is a voucher from Inlivan, also known as Section 8. Vouchers vary in amount, i.e., a single renter will receive a smaller amount than a renter with dependents. They are given directly to the landlord each month and only cover rent. If the rent is more than the voucher provides the renter is responsible for the difference. In addition, vouchers are only valid for a specific amount of time and the clock starts ticking as soon as the voucher is awarded. If the renter is unable to find housing within the voucher's time frame, it expires, and the individual must start the process over. Currently the wait list to be awarded a voucher is around 10 years.

Unfortunately, a stigma has been attached to individuals or families that are using housing vouchers. This stigma most likely is one of the leading causes of dissuading some potential landlords to accept vouchers as payment. This is another issue that compounds the challenges that these renters already face.

Another conversation I had was with individuals who did not set out to become landlords but ended up becoming landlords anyway. Their story starts with a relationship between their tenant, her son, and themselves. It took several years to develop a strong relationship, but when their tenant experienced a difficult time in finding a new rental that would accept her voucher, she was comfortable enough to ask for their assistance and guidance. The search was difficult and frustrating but one day things started to fall into place. When it was all over, a home had been purchased by the now landlords, and their tenant and her son had a safe and affordable place to call home.

There was no mention of any issues with accepting the voucher as payment. In fact, they pointed out that during the pandemic while many landlords were having issues getting paid, they did not. The voucher arrived each month without fail. While they are open to renting to additional individuals, their challenge is finding housing in a safe and secure area that can be purchased at an affordable price so that financially the math works. The skyrocketing price of real estate has exacerbated the lack of affordable housing units.

Solving the affordable housing challenge in our area is complicated and has many layers. I thank you for taking the time to read this article and my hope is that it's done a few things. First, I hope this article has provided more information to individuals who may not be familiar with or understand about the affordable housing challenges in Charlotte and surrounding areas. Second, that it makes the issue a little more personal by showing that there are individuals with ties to CLC that are involved in some direct way with affordable housing. Third, that the article has peaked additional interest of others within the CLC community in becoming more involved with the challenges of affordable housing.

If you have any questions and/or would like to talk with someone to gain a better understanding of the challenges and issues referenced in this article, please reach out to Amy Daniels ([adaniels@christelca.org](mailto:adaniels@christelca.org)) or myself, Michele Wenz ([mishwenz@outlook.com](mailto:mishwenz@outlook.com)) and we will be happy to connect you with someone who is willing to have those conversations.



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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may/june 2024

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Adrienne Martin · Pastor, Family Ministry  
Alexis Williams · Minister, Christ Online  
Amy Daniels · Director of Outreach  
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### 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](http://christelca.org/latest-news)


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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](http://christelca.org/jotform)*

## Coffee with the Pastors

BOOK STUDY

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

 [christelca.org/online](http://christelca.org/online)

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