

Christ Connections



march/april 2025

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. **Traditional Worship**
10:00 a.m. **The Bridge Service**
11:00 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**
10-10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**



Ash Wednesday
MARCH 5

**Wednesdays
During Lent**
MARCH 12 - APRIL 16



Holy Week
APRIL 13 - APRIL 19



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FOLLOW THE JOURNEY IN PERSON - or - ONLINE
f i y christelca.org





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Church Council & Big Rocks

Every year we go through a very specific, spiritual and intentional process to raise up leaders of Christ Lutheran to serve on Council. These twelve elected leaders do not run the church or become unpaid volunteers to run programs or supervise the day to day operations of the church. Their role is very specific:

- To implement and oversee policies of Christ Lutheran;
- To be keepers of the vision, maintain a clear direction for the church;
- To provide feedback, decisions and counsel to the senior pastor.

On Friday and Saturday, February 7 and 8, the Council, their spouses, pastors and other leaders of the church gathered for a retreat to get to know each other and begin dreaming of where the Spirit is leading Christ Lutheran.

This year, they put together several Big Rocks as goals for 2025:

- Develop the property, programs and vision for Southland;
- Increase in-person worship by 10-15% in 2025;
- Develop a long-range financial plan for property and debt;
- Expansion of the Columbarium;
- Develop a clear path to discipleship including adult confirmation and small groups;
- Growth in all ages for Family Ministry Team with an emphasis on whole family engagement;
- Stronger outreach to young adults, post-college to age 40;
- More congregational fellowship events;
- Expand service opportunities to include Habitat build, further outreach to McClintock Middle School, Western North Carolina and Lutheridge;
- Partnership with another church or two for a civil rights trail tour.

In addition, we also elected the executive team and assigned each council person as a liaison to the various ministries. These are your elected council members and their assignments:



Melissa Lanoue
President



Andy Brincefield
Vice President



Cassie Thompson
Secretary



Dave Hutchinson
Treasurer



Holly Cannon
Children's Center



Chad Melton
Welcome



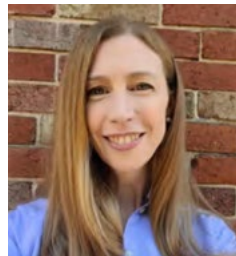
Molly Zmuda
Family Ministry



Lauren Ratcliffe
Worship/Music



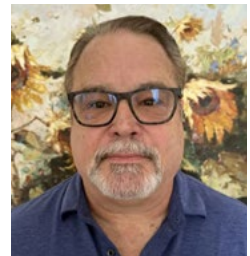
Janet Wilson
Benevolence



Julie DePalma
McPIE



David Herran
Administration



Brad Keller
Cornerstone Gifts

We are blessed with such a deep bench of talent at Christ Lutheran. I am especially grateful for these 13 people who have stepped up to be leaders of our church and ask for your prayers as they carry out their responsibilities faithfully.

**Peace,
Pastor Scott**



Lenten Sunday Series: MODERN DAY IDOLS

OVERVIEW: Idols are more than wooden or stone objects placed on an altar to worship. They are usually much more subtle than that. They often begin as good things in our lives that over time, become an obsession or a distraction or a fixation that replaces God as our ultimate desire.

March 9 • Money

Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:6-12

Money is a necessity. Objectively, money itself is not the problem. Paul warns that it is the love of money. But for many people, money has become that idol that they will sacrifice anything to obtain and please. What is a healthy look at money that doesn't turn it into an idol?

March 16 • Sexuality

Genesis 2:18-25; 1 Cor. 6:12-20

God made us sexual beings as a gift. But when that turns into an objectification of another person for one's own pleasure, this gift becomes an idol that movies, songs and advertisements have exploited. What precautions can we establish to prevent this good gift from becoming a degrading idol?

March 23 • My Country Tis of Thee...

Romans 13:1-7; Acts 5:27-33; John 18:33-38a

Love of country is a good thing. Throughout the Old Testament, God protected the nation of Israel from its enemies. But nationalism, taken to the extreme, can blind us to the ills of our country. As Paul wrote, "We must obey God rather than people."

March 30 • Work

Genesis 2:4-9 (3:17-19); Colossians 3:16-17

Work is one of the good gifts that God gave to Adam. While many look forward to that day in which they can be done working, the concept of retirement cannot be found in the Bible. But this gift of work can quickly become an idol by the work-a-holic that finds meaning, purpose and identity only in their career.

April 6 • ME!

Luke 9:23-26; Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14

What? How can I become my own idol? I am created in the image of God. My life is a gift from God. I must create healthy boundaries in order to protect my own integrity and sanity. At what point, does this become self-worship?

Lenten Wednesday Noon Series: FIRST CORINTHIANS: MESSY CHURCH, FAITHFUL GOD

OVERVIEW: Church can be a messy business. It is not a modern or postmodern problem. Divisions, quarreling and immorality almost seem endemic within a community of people. In the first century, it was no different. In this letter to the Corinthians, Paul is addressing an increasingly wayward people to remind them of their unity, belovedness and identity in Christ. In our own life together, we sometimes need this reminder of our shared foundation. Paul reminds us how we, the church, of saints and sinners, live as God's holy people in this world.

March 5 (Ash Wednesday) • Forgetting Who and Whose We Are

1 Corinthians 1:1-17; John 10:27-28

Paul begins his letter reminding the Corinthians that they are called to be saints, set apart for the service of God. Blameless? Certainly not! Sometimes we forget who we are just as Paul reminds them what it means to be God's people. As we begin our Lenten journey, we can reflect on our calling as God's people and examine the places where we may need renewal.

CONTINUE READING ABOUT WEDNESDAYS
DURING LENT ON PAGE 8.

READ MORE: christelca.org/sermon-series





A STRONG YEAR FOR CLC ENDOWMENT: **Growth & Impact**

by THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

2024 was a very positive year for the CLC Endowment, allowing us to provide additional financial support to both the Benevolence Committee and Christ Lutheran's expense reserves, which ultimately led to impactful distributions and significant fund growth.

Financial Contributions & Distributions

Fund Allocation & Impact

As a brief reminder, Endowment Fund I focuses on making a difference "Beyond These Walls." This past year the Benevolence Committee directed distributions to several ministries, including:

- Crisis Assistance
- A Roof Above
- McClintock Partners in Education
- ELCA Synod

Endowment Fund II serves as a general-purpose reserve fund designed to strengthen financial preparedness for unplanned expenses managed by the Church Council. In 2024, funds were allocated to reserve for major repairs, such as aging infrastructure maintenance (e.g., roof, HVAC systems).

In 2024, the CLC Endowment distributed \$31,216 from Endowment Fund I (Benevolence Fund), and \$20,797 from Endowment Fund II (Expense Reserves).

Fund Growth & Contributions

Our Endowment Funds saw an 11.4% return on investment in 2024, which coupled with additional contributions, further strengthened both funds.

- Contributions and returns to Endowment Fund I resulted in an ending balance of \$840,677.
- Contributions and returns to Endowment Fund II resulted in an ending balance of \$707,485.

Looking Ahead to 2025

The Endowment Committee will focus on the ongoing management of the Endowment Funds to ensure financial stability and continued growth, but also the very important mission of providing education and resources on estate planning to help our church community secure their family's financial future.

Recent studies suggest that over 50% of Americans do not have a Will. Without a legally documented estate plan, families may face State-determined asset distribution that may not align with their wishes, or a lengthy and costly probate process that delays access to funds for heirs. To learn more about estate planning and how to prepare, visit the Endowment page on the CLC website for valuable resources at christelca.org/endowment.

We would like to thank our congregation for the ongoing support and generosity you have shown. This generosity enables the CLC Endowment to thrive and serve both our community and our church's financial well-being.



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



Lenten Micro Prayer Groups
Prayer groups are now available
to join for this coming Lent!
 Scan/Click to Learn
More & Register!
<https://t.ly/Z8vTF>



Third THURSDAY
for adults of all ages
UPCOMING DATES:
March 20 • Theme TBA
April 17 • Cancelled due to Holy Week
May 15 • Hawaiian-Themed Outdoor Cookout
& final Third Thursday until the Fall
Check E-News for Latest Updates!



**Fellowship
at the ballpark**
SAVE THE DATE!
 **Friday, May 9**
7:00 p.m.
CHECK E-NEWS FOR UPDATES



**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)



Hear the Charlotte Master Chorale and talented area high school singers join forces in a vibrant choral collaboration featuring André Thomas' Mass: A Celebration of Love & Joy.

Saturday, March 8, 2025
4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary


CharlotteMasterChorale

TICKETS & INFO:
charlottemasterchorale.ticketspice.com/celebration-of-joy

GATHERED IN PRAYER

Do you have the desire to lift others & our community up in prayer? Do you often wish you had taken the time to pray for those on the back of the bulletin?

Come join us every Wednesday morning 9 a.m. in the Worship Parlor

MORE INFO:
D'Linda Highum (206) 310-6037



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



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

WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

Dinner 5:00-6:00 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall (\$8 adults • \$6 child)
RSVP in REALM by each Monday prior

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

January 8 - May 14, 2025

LEARN MORE & RSVP FOR DINNERS:
christelca.org/wednesdays-ablaze

*Have you moved
or updated your email?*

**Please update
in REALM or let the
church office know!**

Accusations of Money Laundering by the Lutherans

by PASTOR SCOTT

As the shaking up of the government continues with President Trump and Elon Musk, the most recent target of their attacks has been Lutherans. The accusation by General Flynn, repeated by Elon Musk, was that Lutheran organizations have been laundering and pocketing money that was earmarked by the State Department to assist with refugee resettlement programs. On that long list of Lutheran organizations was our own Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) to the amount of \$575,000.

On Monday, February 10, I spoke with the CEO of LSC, Ted Goins, asking him about these charges. Ted was very clear. These monies come from our State Department for the purpose of resettling refugees from around the world. Using this money, LSC resettled 1,821 refugees in both North and South Carolina. A remarkable ministry.

I asked him about these refugees. Who are they, where do they come from and how are they vetted? Again, Ted was very clear. These are refugees who have been vetted and approved by the State Department itself, and then given to LSC to resettle. These are not illegals who have snuck over the border but are in fact "legal" refugees named and identified by the State Department that LSC has been asked to settle by the State Department.

I have to think that most thinking Americans believe that there is waste in the huge 7.3 trillion dollar government budget for 2025. The goal to trim the waste and stop unnecessary spending is admirable. But as Ted and I talked about, we both agreed that a more strategic approach with a scalpel without defacing the good name of organizations like LSC would be to everyone's benefit. As it stands, all funding from the State Department for resettlement has been eliminated for LSC for at least three months, and probably upwards to a year. That is unfortunate as many refugees abiding by the rules will now suffer.

I know Ted Goins as a man of integrity and LSC as a far reaching organization that does amazing work from adoptions to refugees to nursing homes to traumatic brain injuries. They undergo two or three independent audits each year. I would not want their reputations to be soiled with this baseless charge of money laundering.

Small Group Training

by PASTOR SCOTT

The secret to growing in your faith, developing Christian relationships and strengthening a church is small groups. This is where you break down a large church into manageable pieces that invite intimacy, vulnerability, faith-filled conversations and prayer. In September, we will launch a series of small group opportunities. In preparation for that, there will be some training this summer for potential small group leaders to understand the dynamics of a small group, explore resources and develop your own unique small group.

- July 30: An Introduction to Small Groups
- August 6: Small Group Dynamics
- August 13: Small Group Resources
- August 20: Identifying Your Small Group

Each session will begin with a light meal at 6 p.m. followed by an hour of training to give you confidence to lead your own small group. Small groups are essential for spiritual growth.

Please register in REALM for this opportunity or reach out to Mary Parker for any questions (mparker@christelca.org)



Welcome Our New Members!



CHRIST
providence



CHRIST
online



Tony & Linda Pace



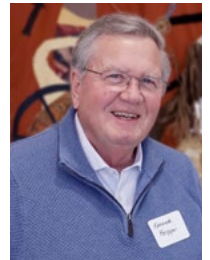
Joyce & Buzz Pitner



Mel & Deborah Davis



Chloe Vercruysse



Kenneth Keipper



Cody Bollinger & Sara Ayala



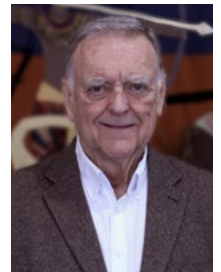
Anna, Chris, Web & Wynn Miller



Kristina Fleisch



Alecia Scally



Bob Dellinger



Lynne & David Bones



Kristin & Loretta Kilpatrick



Jon & Aja Teich



Aaron, Kate, Anna, Clara
& Mary Milheim



Caroline & William Richter



Erika Aldag & Jay Harper
not pictured: Audrey



Baxter & Elizabeth Fricks

not pictured:
Davis & Laura Bradley



ZION CARAVAN TOUR

HOSTED BY

THE GRAY HAVENS

WITH

JOHN MARK PANTANA * **ANTOINE BRADFORD** * **LOVKN**

CHARLOTTE NC - 5/6
 7:30 PM (7 PM DOORS) - \$29.50 ADVANCE / \$40 DOOR
 CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 4519 PROVIDENCE RD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28226

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE!

[THEGRAYHAVENSMUSIC.COM](https://www.thegrayhavensmusic.com)

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Lenten Micro Prayer Group

by PASTOR RYAN

I want to invite you to join in this year's Lenten Devotion, 40 days of prayer with Micro Groups.

Lent is the time of year we refocus on Christ and invite spiritual practices that will aid us to that cause. Each person's spiritual journey is in their own hands; as a pastor I can only lead you to the water, I can't make you drink. Prayer and devotion are two of the most impactful steps we can take to deepen our relationship with our Lord.

Many of those who had joined in the 100 Days of Prayer previously reported a very positive experience. The Holy Spirit connected people and created situations that helped bond members in our church together. As a large church we can't meet everyone, and micro groups are a great way to share our life in Christ together and deepen that relationship.

This Lenten season we will be putting people into groups of the same gender. We learned from the 100 Days of Prayer some good lessons. This shift will facilitate intimate and candid conversation. Honest and earnest conversation helps develop the relationships that mold our life in Christ.

We will use the Word-Share-Prayer method, specifically tailored to the Lenten season. This is a fabulous method because after the 40 days, you will have a tool that can be used in your private devotions or together with any size small group. The Word-Share-Prayer method is a powerful way to not only learn from the Bible but learn about each other. With its focus on connection and prayer for ourselves and others it is a powerful way to deepen our faith. Or, if you are a seasoned veteran, you can always bring a Bible study or devotion that you particularly like to your group.

The goal is that every day in Lent you would use the reading plan and pray. And, at least once a week you would meet with members of your micro group and share the Word and pray together.

Please [register in REALM](#) for this opportunity by clicking the link or scanning the QR code below. We will inform you of your group before Ash Wednesday.



Scan/Click to Learn More & Register!

<https://t.ly/Z8vTF>



not choir

meets on last Thursday of each month
 11:45am • Christ Providence (coffee area)

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

MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org



-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

JOIN US FOR Wednesdays During Lent

MARCH 12 - APRIL 16

at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)

12 p.m. • First Corinthians: Messy Church, Faithful God

midday is followed by lunch in the Forum • worship in person -or- online

March 12 • That's Nonsense!

Where is the real power of our faith? The message of the Gospel is radical, and foolishness to the world, but life to those who believe. In our power-seeking over one another, we discover that God chooses what is humble in this world and only the Holy Spirit can help us understand the mind of Christ. *1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 2:6-16; Matthew 5:1-12*

March 19 • It Doesn't Matter What I Do

In a world where relationship structures have eroded and the body is objectified in so many ways, integrity and right conduct of the physical self is an important discipline for the spiritual self. As the Body of Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit, how does our treatment of our bodies matter in our faith journey? *1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Matthew 4:23*

March 26 • Just Because You Can Doesn't Mean You Should

Concerns about temptation and competition have been a part of community since the time of the Corinthians. When the Corinthians are causing some of their brothers and sisters to stumble over the question of eating meat sacrificed to idols, Paul reminds them that while all things may be lawful, they need to also keep the well-being of others in mind. *1 Corinthians 10:23; Matthew 18:1-14*

April 2 • Table Manners

The body of Christ contains people of all economic and social strata, and yet we share in the same holy supper. When Paul hears of the Corinthians divisions at the table, he admonishes them to eat together in a worthy manner. In the banquet of life, is the church tending towards healing or feeding those divisions? *1 Corinthians 11:17-33; John 6:35*

April 9 • My Gift is Better Than Yours!

Community works when we all contribute our gifts to the common good and the glory of God. Unfortunately, we can't help but evaluate one over the other. When the Corinthians get lost in their judgement over gifts, Paul reminds them, and us, that the greatest gift is love. *1 Corinthians 12-13; Luke 9:46-47*

April 16 • Missing the Point

In wrestling with questions of faith, the truth can get distorted. We can miss the point. The resurrection is something for which we, like the Corinthians, are still awaiting. It is beyond our imagination and still today leaves us with more questions than answers. Yet, it is the ultimate victory over death that we can anticipate. Our bodies, and the Body of Christ, will be transformed into the heavenly body it was meant to be. *1 Corinthians 15:12-20; John 11:25-26*

6 p.m. • Holden Evening Prayer

led by Pastor Adrienne • evening is in-person only



christelca.org/sermon-series

COME PRAY WITH US AT CHRIST LUTHERAN'S EASTER PRAYER VIGIL

STARTS **Thurs., April 17 • 8 p.m.**
ENDS **Fri., April 18 • 7 p.m.**
at Christ Providence
(Lackey Chapel)

ABOUT THE PRAYER VIGIL

As we remember the heart-wrenching display of courage shown by our Lord, Jesus, on the evening of Maundy Thursday, we are reminded that Jesus spent His last hours as a free man praying to His Father in Heaven. Matthew 14:35 says that in the Garden of Gethsemane "...He fell on the ground & prayed..." and Luke 22:44 says, "And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground."

Every year, we are provided the opportunity to pray together as we remember the sufferings Christ endured for the sins of the world. We pray in 1-hr. shifts using prayer requests submitted by fellow members of the congregation. The Vigil begins in Lackey Chapel on Thursday, April 17 at 8 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m. on Good Friday before the start of our Tenebrae service.

GET INVOLVED

With shifts throughout the night, many volunteers are needed. Sign up for a 1-hr. time slot by filling in your name on the signup board in the Lower Commons. Opening prayers & devotionals with pertinent scripture will be made available to assist the prayer volunteers as needed.

You can also submit your own prayer. Prayer slips are available in the Lower Commons and in Christ Chapel. Fill out a prayer slip and drop it in the Prayer Vigil box, or submit a prayer request online at christelca.org/prayer-request.

SCAN/CLICK TO SUBMIT A PRAYER
christelca.org/prayer-request





Lent, Holy Week & Easter Sunday

2025 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday March 5

12:00 p.m. Communion & Imposition of Ashes (Christ Chapel)
followed by light lunch in the Forum, \$5
6:30 p.m. Communion & Imposition of Ashes 🕊️
(Sanctuary)

Wednesdays During Lent

March 12 - April 16

12:00 p.m. Midday Lenten Service (Christ Chapel)
followed by light lunch in the Forum, \$5
6:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer (Christ Chapel) ^ 🕊️

Palm Sunday April 13

8:45 a.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary) 🕊️ 📺
10:00 a.m. Bridge Service (Christ Chapel) ^ 🕊️
10:00 a.m. Sunday School 🕊️
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service (Sanctuary) 🕊️ 📺

Maundy Thursday April 17

12:00 p.m. Midday Worship (Christ Chapel)
5:30 p.m. Seder Meal (Spirit Hall • \$10) ^ 🕊️
6:30 p.m. Evening Worship (Sanctuary) 🕊️
8:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil Starts (Lackey Chapel) ^

Good Friday April 18

10:00 a.m. Family Service (Sanctuary) ^
for families with young children
12:00 p.m. Seven Last Words (Christ Chapel)
6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil Ends (Lackey Chapel) ^
7:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary)

Easter Sunday April 20

7:30 a.m. SunRise Service (Fountain Plaza) ^
8:45 a.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary) 🕊️ 📺
10:00 a.m. Bridge Service (Christ Chapel) ^ 🕊️
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service (Sanctuary) 🕊️ 📺



CHRISTLUTHERAN
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christelca.org



^ IN PERSON ONLY

🛒 nursery available (0-36 months)
📺 children's message

Easter Flowers

Starting March 5th, flowers can be purchased in memory or honor of loved ones to adorn our worship spaces on Easter Sunday.

PURCHASE IN REALM by April 14th

Lenten Kits

Are you looking for a family-friendly devotion for the Lenten season? Family Ministry will be passing out "Lent in a Box" devotional kits for families to utilize during the Lenten season. This free kit, provided through the NC Synod, will be available for pick-up on Sundays while supplies last. There will be a table set up in the Upper Commons and in the narthex of Christ Chapel. For more information, please reach out to Kristen at krank@christelca.org.



First Communion 2025!

by KRISTEN RANK

During the season of Lent, we begin preparing our 2nd-5th graders to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time!

We begin on March 9th where the kids learn how many sacraments are in the Lutheran Church as well as what makes Baptism and Communion sacraments. *Hint- there are 3 things!* Supplies to create First Communion banners are handed out at this event. Kids create a banner unique to them that is treasured for many years.

We move from sacramental theology to Story Day, where kids and parents follow Moses through the Exodus story in a very interactive and energetic way to learn the Passover story and how it connects to the Passion story.

The final class called "Livin' Forgiveness" is where we review what they have learned. The kids are able to taste the elements, receive a gift from the congregation, a blessing from their parents and leave their banners that will be hung up in Spirit Hall during the Seder Meal.

Fun fact- the banners are all brought to the church office where the entire staff prays over them and for the kids that will be receiving later in the week during the Maundy Thursday Service. We are looking forward to celebrating the gift of Holy Communion with our class of 2025!

Family Service on Good Friday

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

On Friday during Holy Week, we are offering a family service to remember the holy day in which our Lord was crucified. Families with young children, preschool and elementary students are welcome to attend this interactive service where they will learn more about why this day is so holy and why it is important for our faith. The service will be held in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. on April 18.

Goodbye from Jane Satterfield

Dear Friends,

A note of thanks for the wonderful goodbye from CLC. It has been a pleasure and joy working with so many families over the years. The gifts, flowers, kind words, cards, and a 20-years of service bonus, I have felt extremely appreciated! You are in good hands with a talented and caring Family Team, Pastor Adrienne, Kristen, Natalya, Tyler, and Rachel to serve our families. Thanks again and I'll see you some Sunday. -Warmest regards, Jane Satterfield

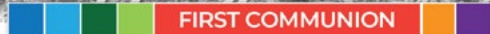
FAITH ALIVE Confirmation Retreat March 14 - 16, 2025 at Lutheridge

Middle schoolers will enjoy an unforgettable camp-like experience through a theme of "Living & Hearing."

More Info/Register in REALM>>
or email tweller@christelca.org



Stepping Stones



PREPARATION CLASSES • SAVE THE DATES

March 9 • Meaning of the Meal

March 29 • Story Day

April 13 • Livin' Forgiveness

First Communion will take place during Maundy Thursday's service on April 17th (after the completion of the Seder Meal). Prep classes are for 2nd graders & their parents to attend together.

MORE INFO: krank@christelca.org

FAMILY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

for pre-k & elementary children and their families

Friday, April 18 • 10:00 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

christelca.org

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School

June 16-20, 2025

Registration Opens March 1st!!
TO VOLUNTEER: krank@christelca.org

Family Ministry Administrative Assistant part-time position



Join our Family Ministry team & help support the growth of families within our church community. You will be the organizational backbone of our team, assisting with scheduling, communication, & event coordination while fostering a welcoming & efficient environment.

**For more information, please contact
Pastor Adrienne at amartin@christelca.org**

Sunday, March 2

5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Pit "Drugs & Alcohol"

Parents & youth are invited for a presentation from Sgt. Robert Stark about dealing with Drugs & Alcohol. There will also be an opportunity for parents to ask questions while students have fellowship time. Dinner is provided.



Click/Scan to Register>>

REALM

Baptismal Class

Sunday, April 6

1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For info, email Pastor Adrienne
amartin@christelca.org

ZOOM LINK:
christelca.org/online

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Disney
The Jungle Book KIDS

SPOTLIGHT SUMMER CAMP
July 28 - August 1

Rising 2nd-5th graders are welcome to register for this all-day summer camp featuring singing, drama & choreography. Cost: \$300

Click/Scan QR Code for More Info & RSVP

CenterStage, CLC's
summer theater camp
for middle school youth
returns this summer!

Matilda JR.
THE MUSICAL

July 28 - August 1

Rising 6th-8th graders are welcome to register for this all-day summer camp featuring singing, drama & choreography. Cost: \$300

Click/Scan QR Code for More Info & RSVP>>

Parent Connections & Stepping Stones for Middle School Families

As part of our Confirmation and overall Family Ministry, we offer something called Parent Connections. Parent Connections are events for middle and high school families that focus on common issues our students deal with. They give parents and students resources, the opportunity to have good open conversations and support from our faith community. This month, we are blessed to have Sgt. Robert Stark come talk to our families about Drugs and Alcohol on March 2nd.

We also offer Stepping Stone events which provide opportunities for the church to partner with families on fulfilling baptismal promises and nurturing faith at different milestones. Coming up, our 6th graders and parents will explore the Lord's Prayer and its importance in our faith through a memorable experiential prayer path. This will be April 6th from 4-6 p.m. Stay tuned to E-News for registration!

Our Middle Schoolers have been busy the last few months! Our 8th graders had an Apostles' Creed Event where they created a stained glass representing the Holy Trinity. They had a blast at the Big Air trampoline park & at the Super Bowl party, and packed lunches for Room in the Inn with a special Valentine's Day surprise.

High School Youth Group

Our "Steering Wheel" student leadership team continues to plan activities to blend fellowship, faith-building, learning and service for our high school youth.



The past couple months have been a whirlwind of activity. A Karaoke party kicked off the new year providing a chance for members to showcase their talents and enjoy a night of laughter and camaraderie. Friendly competition took center stage with an exciting Laser Tag outing and a classic Bowling night, fostering teamwork and good-spirited fun.



Beyond the entertainment, the youth group is committed to nurturing spiritual growth. Peer Ministry Leadership training provides a safe and supportive space to learn important life skills like active listening, conflict resolution, handling tough issues and how to be a leader. These trainings explore faith, provide

students the opportunity to support one another on their individual journeys and have fun team building.

Another way the youth group is learning about empathy is demonstrated by participating in service projects. One recent service project was for the Ronald McDonald House. Students collected, organized and put together toiletry bags for the families staying at the Charlotte location. Thank you to the congregation for donations.

And of course, students gathered for a Super Bowl party complete with food, fun, games and some football. Our youth group is growing and thriving, watch the next newsletter for more from our student leaders.

**HOW CAN
WE PRAY
FOR YOU?**



christelca.org/prayer-request



Bring Your Faith Alive!!

by TYLER WELLER

Last year we tried a new offering from our friends at Lutheridge—it was a ministry called Faith Alive! This ministry is designed for Confirmation students to spend a weekend learning about one of the baptismal promises. They offer four retreats a year, each with their own theme. Last year we attended the weekend on Serving which was based around the Baptismal promise to SERVE all people following the example of Jesus. The weekend was packed with worship, service, learning and fellowship. We took part in a few service projects throughout the weekend.

Our 6th Grade students went to the local senior living home and delivered notes with inspiring messages to the residents. After that they sang some camp songs in the Bingo Hall to offer some joy in the residents' lives. We spent some time sitting and talking with residents learning about the wonderful lives they've lived.

Our 8th Grade students went out into the community and helped a woman who had recently had an accident that caused her mobility issues. They helped with garden work, simple house tasks such as vacuuming, dusting, cleaning out a pantry, and much more!

At the end of the weekend students were challenged to think of real-world service projects that they can be a part of in their own community.

Looking forward to this year, we will be going on a Confirmation Retreat March 14-16. Our theme this year is LIVING and HEARING. It will be themed around two baptismal promises, to LIVE among God's people and to HEAR the word of God and take part in the Lord's supper. We look forward to seeing what this weekend has in store for us!



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, March 16

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Pit

Join us for a cozy movie night in the Pit! Bring your favorite movie snacks as we enjoy a night of cinema followed by reflection and a devotion.

Click/Scan to Register>>



HIGH SCHOOL Lunch

Every Sunday • 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Join us for lunch at Mod Pizza after Contemporary Worship. This will be a time of weekly fellowship and study for all high school students.

MORE INFO: tweller@christelca.org

MOD PIZZA
STRAWBERRY HILL



Let's get connected.

Download the **Realm Connect app today!**



Need Help with Realm?

Contact Mary at mparker@christelca.org

PODCAST IS NOW LIVE!!



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

Check it out now>>
christelca.org/podcast



Online Study Guide

This online resource is a collection of Bible studies and sermons that you will find useful for enriching your spiritual life, on your own or in a group.



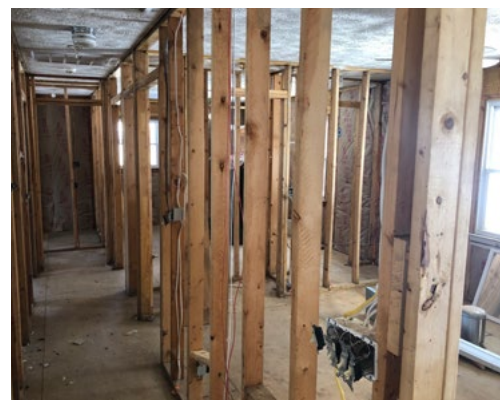
christelca.org/online-study-guide

Serving in Western North Carolina

by MARK JOHANSON

In mid-January, a team of six members from Christ Lutheran traveled to Watauga County and served residents who were impacted by the flooding following Hurricane Helene. The group partnered with the NC Baptists on Mission organization, which serves locals with ERR (Emergency Rapid Repairs) to their homes, in order to help get them out of temporary housing and back into their own homes as quickly as possible. With such a strong network of Baptist churches in the area, it made sense to partner with an organization that had a strong presence of “boots on the ground.”

After traveling to Boone on Sunday afternoon, we checked into our housing and met other groups who were also serving alongside us, including most notably a church youth group from Montana. An overnight snowfall of five inches delayed our dispatch on Monday morning, but we were finally sent out midday to a home in Sugar Grove, just west of Boone, located in a valley with an otherwise unimposing creek that traveled through it. Upon reaching the house, which was a 3-bedroom structure built into a hill with a walkout basement, we immediately saw that this home had been flooded with 42 inches of water on the main level; the basement had been completely submerged. Miraculously, the home’s foundation stayed intact and the structure was sound enough to rebuild and reoccupy. Our assignment was to install new drywall throughout the entire home’s interior, as the mucking teams had removed all of the original 1970s wood paneling and insulation that was damaged in the flood. We completed as much as we could in four days, which included drywall installation, taping and mudding, and sanding in all but the two bathrooms of the house.



Something that was special to us was that we had the opportunity to meet the homeowner, who came by her home after work on a few of the days to say hello and thank us for our help. Her two brothers, also locals, would stop by occasionally to say hello and “inspect” our work, making sure their sister’s home was being repaired properly.

I share this report with you for three reasons: first, to publicly thank the individuals who gave their time to help with these rebuilding efforts. Some of these people used PTO to take this trip, for which I am very grateful. Second, to thank the Benevolence team at Christ Lutheran for their financial support of our trip. Third, to highlight the importance of the ongoing need that the western portion of our great state has for repair work.

Whether or not you are skilled in building repairs, you can still volunteer to help and make a difference in the area. Please prayerfully consider getting involved with a service organization that makes a difference, and allow them to dispatch you to serve our fellow North Carolinians.

I also am grateful to Christ Lutheran for allowing me to step away from my work responsibilities to lead this trip.



HABITAT PARTNERSHIP Spring Build Opportunities

After the success of two builds in 2024, we are back for more hammering, painting, dry-walling and construction in 2025! Last year, Christ Lutheran members volunteered in April and again in August – in conjunction with the Emmaus congregation – to support Habitat's mission of building strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable shelter.

Save the Dates!

March 29 • Framing from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact Cheryl Spainhour for details, to register, or general questions about the build (caspainh@gmail.com).

April 26 • Drywall Hanging

May 10 • Interior Painting

May 23 • Interior Trim Installation

Contact Amy Daniels for details and to register (adaniels@christelca.org).

With several dates and task options, there is something for everyone! Let's get building!

NAMI Mental Wellness Seminar

In today's world, stress is an ever-present challenge. Whether it's balancing work and family, coping with life's uncertainties, or supporting loved ones through difficult times, many of us feel overwhelmed. That's why Christ Lutheran is excited to welcome NAMI Charlotte (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for a special seminar on mental wellness—because taking care of our minds is just as important as taking care of our bodies.

Join us as we explore:

- Practical ways to care for your mental health;
- How to recognize when stress becomes too much;
- What to do if you or someone you love needs help;
- Local resources available through NAMI Charlotte.

This seminar is designed for everyone—whether you are facing personal struggles, supporting a friend or family member, or simply want to learn more about mental wellness in today's fast-paced world. Together, we will learn how to build resilience, foster self-care and support one another in faith and community. Don't miss this opportunity to gain knowledge, find encouragement, and connect with valuable mental health resources.

- **Date & Time: March 30th, 5 - 6:30 p.m.**
- **Location: Forum**
- **Free and open to all! A light dinner will be served.**

We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, please contact Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org).

MMS Career Day

Career Day will be April 2nd from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Those interested in participating will need to complete the interest form by scanning the QR code on the flyer or going to <https://bit.ly/MMSCareerDayInterest25>. Once the form is completed, Ms. DuBard will connect via email with additional information about the logistics.



NEW PLANTING SEASON IS STARTING NOW

Beds available for new & seasoned gardeners!

MORE INFO:
Chris Barkoukis
cabarkoukis@gmail.com

Growing TO GIVE COMMUNITY GARDEN



ROOM IN THE INN

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

Overnight hosts, drivers and other volunteers needed!

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



Clothing Donations for Crisis Assistance

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

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

Questions? nealman@bellsouth.net



MCCLINTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER DAY

Share your expertise and inspire the next generation by speaking at our Career Day! Help students explore exciting career paths and empower them with insights to shape their future.

 **Wednesday**
April 2nd, 2025

 **Time**
9:00 am- 12:00 PM

Scan Here to Sign Up!



1925 Rama Rd
Charlotte, NC 28212



McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Family Nights at McClintock

every Tuesday from 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.

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

CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION SUPPER

1st Monday of each month • 3-6 p.m.

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

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



Mental Wellness Seminar

Sunday, March 30
5 - 6:30 p.m. in the Forum

Free & open to all! A light dinner will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information,
contact Amy Daniels:
adaniels@christelca.org



BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, April 6

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

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

Room In The Inn Scarf Drive

Winter scarves would be appreciated for our homeless guests. Please donate scarves that are warm and wide enough to protect our friends from the elements.

Box located at info desk.

MORE INFO: Marcia Row (704)277-9955
or marciarow10@gmail.com



Spring Family Night Update!

Spring Family Night is underway! McPIE will host 12 weeks of Family Night, ending April 29th! We began with Registration Night on January 28th. McPIE and McClintock staff were on site to welcome students back to our Spring semester, and families and students met our dedicated team of club and class leaders following a delicious meal served by our Meals Team.

This semester, we had most Fall clubs return with dedicated volunteers leading. Those include Art, Cyber Spy, Hands 2 Heart, Sports Drills, Top Scot Chef, Woodworking, Ten80 Racing, Girl Scouts and more. Afternoon offerings include Gardening, Trailblazers, and Get Creative.

Younger siblings and high school siblings are always loved on by our amazing volunteers. It is always such a delight watching them interact with their leaders, having fun, and learning new things.

Our littlest participants enjoy crafts, games, puzzles and more while adult classes include Getting Ahead, ESL and Women's Journey. Here, parents build community around topics they discuss in class. Our ESL class is heavily attended, giving participants a chance to learn English and navigate everyday life in an easier manner.

McClintock students and families have a great semester to look forward to with engaging classes, delicious meals and a community that truly cares! Our club leaders, meals team, school store team, transportation and greeters are top notch. We are thankful to have such a dedicated, loving group of volunteers to help facilitate this every Tuesday!

Garden Ministry

CLC's Garden Ministry is GROWING! Spring is upon us and we will be assigning garden beds soon. We have opportunities for new and seasoned gardeners. The Southland garden produced over 4,000 pounds of vegetables last year that were donated to families in need in our area and in Western North Carolina. Join us to make 2025 an even bigger success! Contact Chris Barkoukis for more information (cabarkoukis@gmail.com).



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



march/april 2025

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

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

In your REALM profile, you can set newsletter mailing preferences to USPS mail or online delivery. Hard copies are available for pickup at each campus. You can also view the online, interactive version at christelca.org/latest-news/newsletter

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2025 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

Ash Wednesday MARCH 5



12:00 p.m. Worship

in Christ Chapel • followed by a light lunch in Forum (\$5)

5:00 p.m. Dinner

in Fellowship Hall (RSVP required) • No WT Classes

6:30 p.m. Worship

in the Sanctuary

WORSHIP IN PERSON OR ONLINE
christelca.org/online