

Christ Connections



may/june 2025

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 25*

9:00 a.m. **Traditional Worship**
10:45 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**



congratulations to our
high school
graduates
class of 2025



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Summer Worship

MAY 25 - AUGUST 31

TRADITIONAL • 9:00 a.m. • CONTEMPORARY • 10:45 a.m.
no Sunday School classes • nursery available for ages 0-36 months

Last Day of Sunday School: May 18
Last Wednesdays Ablaze: May 14
Fall Kick-Off: September 7



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Growing Large by Going Small

Sounds like an oxymoron phrase, right? How do you grow large by going small? The answer is, SMALL GROUPS!

SMALL GROUPS is the secret to growing stronger in your faith.
SMALL GROUPS is the key to developing deep, faith-filled relationships.
SMALL GROUPS make a large church feel more intimate.
SMALL GROUPS share tears and laughter as they do life together.

I am a part of three small groups, each one with a different emphasis. One has been together for about 25 years! We have walked together through births and deaths, weddings and divorces, illnesses and retirements.

This is what I want for you. Life is better together!

This summer, we will launch a series of small groups opportunities for you to check out. In preparation for that, we will do a training this summer for leaders to understand the dynamics of small groups, how they operate successfully and strategies on how to nurture their growth. And we want you to consider going through the training!

July 30 • An Introduction to Small Groups

August 6 • Small Group Dynamics

August 13 • Small Group Resources

August 20 • Identifying and Marketing Your Small Group

Each session will begin with a light meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by an hour of training from 6:30-7:30 p.m. These sessions will build confidence in your understanding of how small groups work and the benefits they offer.

Are you interested in hearing more? You can certainly reach out to me and we can talk on the phone or grab a cup of coffee. Are you ready to sign up? Please Register in REALM or reach out to Mary Parker and reserve your spot (mparker@christelca.org).

Going Small to Do Life Together BIG!

Pastor Scott

2025 Church Council

Melissa Lanoue
President

Andy Brincefield
Vice President

Cassie Thompson
Secretary

Dave Hutchinson
Treasurer

Holly Cannon

Chad Melton

Molly Zmuda

Lauren Ratcliffe

Janet Wilson

Julie DePalma

David Herran

Brad Keller

The Sale of Christ Concord Update

We are pleased to announce that we closed on the sale of Christ Concord on Good Friday, April 18. A local church that was meeting in a school bought the property and building for \$975,000, paying all of the closing costs and broker fees. We are thrilled that this Holy Ground will continue to be used to worship God and care for his people.

As for the proceeds, Council would like to offer a tithe (10%). The first \$50,000 would go back to the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA as they provided the seed money to launch this campus. We are pleased to see this money repurposed for new ministries within our synod.

The remaining tithe (\$47,500) would be split between the Lutheridge Campaign, Habitat for Humanity for a Lutheran Build this fall, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Services Carolina. Both LWR and LSC have experienced dramatic losses in their budget due to governmental cutbacks.

As for the remaining amount, Council will put that into a restricted account to pay down the debt and build up a reserve for major repairs for our Christ Providence campus. A recent study of our cash reserves for major repairs such as HVAC, roof and boiler shows that we are in great need of additional resources when these repairs come due.



NEVER *the* SAME

APRIL 27 - JUNE 1
christelca.org/sermon-series



*OVERVIEW: When we meet Jesus face to face, life is never the same. This is the consistent message story after story of individuals who were forever changed because of meeting Jesus. Drawing from Dr. Tim Keller's book, *Encounters with Jesus*, during this Easter season we will explore some of these individual's stories and see how their encounters with Jesus were uniquely different—but that they all held one thing in common: they were Never the Same.*

April 27 • Meeting Jesus in Tragedy

With the gruesome death of Jesus, Mary Magdalene finds herself at a loss for words coping with this tragedy. With nowhere to turn, she unknowingly encounters Jesus who turns her suffering into joy, despair into hope and darkness into his marvelous light. *John 20:1-18*

May 4 • Meeting Jesus in Our Doubt

The disciples were the lucky ones. They saw Jesus face to face there in the locked upper room after the resurrection. But not Thomas. Even though the others tried to convince him that Jesus was alive, he still doubted. It took a face to face with the risen Jesus to change him forever, and make him the first to proclaim, "My Lord and my God!" *John 20:19-29*

May 11 • Meeting Jesus in Grief

When we face death squarely in the face, we encounter Jesus as the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. As Mary and Martha grieved the loss of their brother, Lazarus, Jesus meets them in their grief with the powerful promise, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live." Do you believe this? *John 11:1-27*

May 18 • Meeting Jesus in Our Guilt

Is there anyone with a greater burden of guilt than Peter? After denying him three times before the rooster crows, he must encounter Jesus shortly after the resurrection. Will there be retribution by Jesus? Will Peter be forever cut off from his forgiveness? Will this burden of guilt ever be forgiven? What happens when we meet Jesus in our guilt? *John 21:15-19*

May 25 • Meeting Jesus in Crossroads

Nicodemus found himself at a crossroad. The one path kept him on his elite status as a respected leader of the Jewish community. The other path would forever change his life. As Nicodemus meets Jesus at this crossroad, the decision as to which path to follow was a struggle, but one he knew he must choose. *John 3:1-17*

June 1 • Meeting Jesus in Our Skepticism

Nathanael doubted that anything good could come out of Nazareth. He wasn't alone. No prophecies mentioned it. No kings came from it. Nothing good came out of Nazareth, until his skepticism encountered Jesus and his life would forever be changed. *John 2:43-51*

Upcoming Series: Paraclete

June 8 - June 29

OVERVIEW: You've heard of parachute and paramedic and parakeet, but what is a Paraclete? It is the Greek word for the work and gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been with us since before creation, but with the coming of Pentecost on June 8, we see a surge of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that continues today.

June 8 • Pentecost: The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

June 15 • Creation: The Spirit's Work in Creation

June 22 • The Church: The Spirit's Work in Community

June 29 • Sanctification: Becoming More Christ-like



Chase Aldous



Karen Harker



Brandon & Kara Snyder
(not pictured, Gracen & Beckett)



Sarah & Christian Holland
(not pictured, Oliver)



Jaime, Rance & Maddie Thompson



Chris, Liz, Zoe, Wesley & Quinn Foreman



Patti & Scott Gosnell



Bailey & Ty Teague
(not pictured, Riley)

NEW EPISODE EACH WEEK!

deeper dive

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

Check it out now>>>
christelca.org/podcast

ZION CARAVAN TOUR

HOSTED BY **THE GRAY HAVENS**
JOHN MARK PANTANA • ANTOINE BRADFORD • LOVON

CHARLOTTE NC - 5/6
7:30 PM (DOORS 7 PM)
129.50 ADVANCE / 140 DOOR
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
4519 PROVIDENCE RD. CHARLOTTE, NC 28226

THEGRAYHAVENSJAZZ.COM

Food! Music! Fun!

Pentecost Celebration

Sunday, June 8
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Click/Scan to Register for Lunch
\$15 adults • \$7 kids (10 & under)
PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 2

SMALL GROUP ministries

LEADER TRAINING WORKSHOPS
July 30 • Aug. 6 • Aug. 13 • Aug. 20
6-7:30 p.m. in Forum A & B

Scan/Click for More Info & RSVP>
or email mparker@christelca.org

RESCHEDULED FROM MAY 9

Fellowship at the ballpark

Saturday, July 19
6:00 p.m.
(Faith & Family Night)

\$22 • Click/Scan to Register



We Need YOU!

We are so excited to continue to grow VBS and expand our reach into the community! Volunteer, invite your neighbors, bring your grandkids, and pray over every little heart that walks through our doors during the week of June 16-20!

To make this high impact week happen, we need adults and high school students who can shepherd kids through a week filled with faith and fun! Everything is already planned out, set up and ready to go. We connect you to a group of kids and provide you with a very detailed schedule for the morning as we run from 8:45 a.m. to Noon. No teaching, no additional material to learn—it's already done! All you need is a servant heart, a smile and sneakers. Let's point our kids True North—towards Jesus!

We will have our child protection training for all our VBS volunteers on Sunday, June 8th at noon in the Forum where you will get to look at your schedule and the group of kids you will be growing with in faith! Interested in volunteering for VBS this year? Contact Kristen Rank at krank@christelca.org.

About This Year's VBS

It's time to set your compass and embark on the ultimate summer adventure! Get ready, because True North VBS is coming, and it's going to be a week to remember!

- **June 16-20, 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. daily**
- **for ages 4 (by May 1st) through rising 5th grade**
- **Register in Realm** (Scan the QR Code located in the ad on page 4 or go to <https://t.ly/K1Wmr>)

This year's theme, *True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*, is all about helping kids discover that no matter how crazy life gets, Jesus is our true guide—the One who never changes and never leads us wrong. Think epic games, engaging Bible stories, awesome music, crafts that bring Scripture to life, and of course, snacks!

Whether you're a camper or a volunteer, this is the kind of week where joy runs high, God's Word runs deep, and lifelong memories are made. There will be songs about God's love echoing through the halls. There will be kids lighting up as they learn about the amazing love of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will be blowing wildly through the church, scattering the seeds of faith in our kids! Questions? Contact Kristen Rank at krank@christelca.org.

Parent's Time Out

by RACHEL DYER

This year, Family Ministry posed a new question to parents: "Do you need a time out?" Parenting is no easy task. It's a 24/7 responsibility with no breaks, and we, as the church, recognize that one of our callings is to support parents in their journey.

Understanding that, we introduced "Parents Time Out," a quarterly ministry offering designed to give parents with children aged 3 through 8th grade the opportunity to enjoy a few hours away. During these events, kids had a blast watching movies, participating in craft projects, playing games, and even received a special visit from the Polar Express! However, the most meaningful part has been the fellowship the children shared with one another. It's been a joy to witness older kids stepping into mentorship roles, helping younger children with everything from ensuring they had enough food to leading games and assisting with craft projects.

As we look ahead, we're excited for our final event of the school year, which will take place on May 4th, immediately following Contemporary worship in the Pit. The kids will have a blast building and sailing boats, enjoying a pizza lunch, and celebrating the unofficial start of the summer season! Registration is open now in [REALM](#).

Wednesdays Ablaze

by RACHEL DYER

This year, Wednesday nights took on a fresh and exciting look for our children and youth with our new Wednesdays Ablaze programming. Our youngest group, 3- and 4-year-olds, enjoyed a variety of activities, including learning songs, playing instruments, and participating in games. The PreK-5th graders spent their time learning songs they later presented in worship, but also hearing stories of God and Jesus, playing games and making crafts. Divided by age groups, the children were able to dive deeper into the Bible while also learning how to praise the Lord through music.

Programming for middle school and high school youth also experienced some significant changes. Last fall, both groups participated in Refuge, a worship service that provided a much-needed break from the busy schedules of teenagers. In the spring, there was a renewed middle school focus on music, fellowship

and dance, fostering a deeper sense of community. There was also a stronger emphasis on sharing meals together, with high school students gathering for dinner in the Pit each week. One of the most notable changes for high school students was moving Xperience rehearsals from Sunday afternoons to Wednesday evenings.

We've loved seeing all the new faces at our Wednesdays Ablaze programming and are excited for even more children and youth to join us when we restart in the fall!

Peer Ministry

**HIGHSCHOOL PEER MINISTRY LEADERSHIP is...
STUDENTS equipped with
SKILLS for caring, welcoming, affirming, leading and serving;
LIVED every day, everywhere and in every relationship;
LOVING because Christ first loved us.**

Students are not the future of the church... they are today's church; working on the front lines of ministry everyday. Students go to their friends first when dealing with tough issues, choices and life stresses. Now more than ever our students need the tools and support to navigate these issues. Peer Ministry equips high school students with skills to effectively reach out and care for their peers as well as learn about themselves and how to be a leader. This training is highly experiential with creative ways to learn skills and then practice in real heart to heart conversations.

Students learn real life people skills that will benefit them beyond high school and into future relationships and whatever career path they are called to. Skills include active listening, observation skills, conflict resolution, decision making, sharing faith, dealing with real issues and leadership skills. This training gives students the confidence to be the real friend everyone needs and be the leader our church and world needs. The next training retreat takes place at Lake Wylie on May 2-3. For more information contact Natalya Legvold 704-258-6162 or nlegvold@christelca.org.



Summer Worship
STARTS MAY 25
TRADITIONAL • 9:00 a.m.
CONTEMPORARY • 10:45 a.m.

—
Last Day of Sunday School: May 18
Last Wednesdays Ablaze: May 14
Fall Kick-Off: September 7

peer
ministry leadership
Retreat
May 2-3 at the Legvold's Lake House
High School students new to Peer Ministry as well as trained mentors are invited for a weekend at the lake. Practice leadership skills while having fun on the water!

\$25 • Scan/Click to Register>>

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 10
Scan QR code to fill out a quick form –or– email info to: mkelliher@christelca.org

Morning Melodies
SUMMER CHOIR **Starts May 25!**
every Sunday at 8:15 a.m. (in the Sanctuary)

Calling all singers! Join Mark, Phil and Christ Choir as we prepare an accessible anthem for the Musical Offering during Traditional Worship service. No robes or experience required – just bring your enthusiasm and love for singing!

MORE INFO: pbiedenbender@christelca.org

Parent's Time Out
Sunday, May 4
12:15 - 2:15 p.m. in the Pit

Parents, do you need a break? Then mark your calendars for our final Parent's Time Out for this school year. Drop off children aged 3 through middle school in the Pit. Lunch provided.

Scan/Click to Register>>
PLEASE REGISTER BY MAY 1

WHAT A YEAR!

High School Recap

by TYLER WELLER

What a Year! This past year has been a blast! Our high school students had a ton of fun and experienced some truly meaningful moments together.

We kicked things off with **Messy Games Night**—and it lived up to the name! We built ice cream sundaes on each other's faces, followed by a chaotic flour war. After all the mess, we gathered for small group devotions and actual ice cream sundaes to end the night on a sweet note.

When fall rolled in, we visited the **Country Days Corn Maze**. We warmed up with worship and s'mores around a bonfire before racing through the maze to see which group could find the exit first. A perfect blend of fun and fellowship!

In November, we hosted our first **Lock-In** of the year. We started with worship and some hangout time in the Pit. Then we dove into a night full of church-wide games like Sardines, Mafia and Capture the Flag. After wearing ourselves out, we wound down with a movie in the Pit.

December brought us to Truist Field for the **Light the Knights Festival**. Students had a blast tubing down the hill, ice skating and strolling through the stadium's festive light displays.



FAMILIES

In February, our group gave back by assembling toiletry bags for our local **Ronald McDonald House**. After dropping them off, we got a tour of the facility and even met a couple of the families staying there. It was powerful to see how our students' efforts made a real impact.

March brought another cozy **Movie Night in the Pit**—complete with a nacho bar and plenty of snacks! We watched Cars together, and afterward, one of our students led us in a thoughtful devotion.

Most recently, we held our **Prayer Path** event. Students moved through an interactive prayer experience designed to help them quiet their minds, lay down their worries, and connect deeply with God. It was a powerful reminder of how meaningful even a quiet moment with God can be.

And we're not done yet! This summer, we're gearing up for our **Coastal Carolina Xperience Tour** and a Mission Trip to Western North Carolina. There are still more events to come—so keep an eye on CLC's weekly E-news and email announcements for what's next!



congratulations to our high school graduates class of 2025



McKinley Kay Ausrud
Indian Land



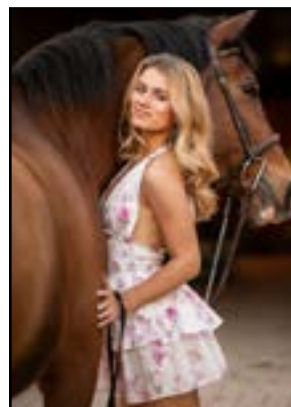
William R. Booe
Providence



Amelia Brooke Byron
International Acad.



Claire E. Davenport
Providence



Ava Ficken
Covenant Day



Josiah Hawkins
Piedmont



Kaelyn Ann Herran
Myers Park



Reese Kern
South Mecklenburg



Brooklyn Lamb
Indian Land



Evan Andrew Levitas
Central Acad. of Tech. & Arts



Logan D. McDonald
Homeschool & CPCC



Will Melton
Weddington



Mary Miller
Providence



Nicole C. Reed
Charlotte Latin



Alexandria R. Revier
Providence



Aiden James Sanchez
Northwest School of the Arts



Wilson Secor
Myers Park



Gabriella Grace Stemp
Charlotte Country Day



Alexander John Teel
Catawba Ridge



Hailey Dawn Teel
Catawba Ridge



Sydney Uhlir



Caroline A. Ward
Providence



Elizabeth G. Williams
Providence

Quillows: Wrapped in Love for the Next Step!

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

On Sunday, June 1, we are going to celebrate our graduates! As our high school seniors walk across the stage at school, we are also going to mark this important occasion at church. We honor our graduates with our long-standing tradition of Quillow Sunday.

What's a quillow? It's part quilt, part pillow—soft, cozy, and cleverly crafted to fold up into a neat little cushion. But in our church, a quillow is more than a gift of fabric and thread. It's a symbol of love, faith and the comfort of community.

Each year, as our high school seniors prepare to step into a new season of life—whether that's college, work, the military, or another path—we wrap them, quite literally, in the prayers and blessings of their church family. Unique and personalized, these quillows are stitched with intention and care. Some include Bible verses, embroidered names, or fabric chosen to reflect the student's interests, future plans, or favorite sports team.

On June 1, we will invite our graduates forward and they will share in a special liturgy with their parents. It's a moment filled with smiles, a few tears, and a deep sense of connection. The quillow becomes a tangible reminder: You are not alone. Your church family goes with you.

While this tradition has become the final Stepping Stone in our Family Ministry faith journey, it's more than a farewell—it is also a commissioning. Just as God told Joshua to be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:9), we send our graduates out with encouragement, warmth and faith that the God who has been with them here will continue to guide their steps.

And when they unfold that quillow on a dorm bed or in a first apartment, may they remember not only who they are, but Whose they are. Please come out on June 1 to support our graduates!

Quillows

HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES • CLASS OF 2025

Sunday, June 1
during both 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. services
at Christ Providence



Freedom School Fundraising

McPIE is entering our 15th summer of Freedom School and we need YOUR help to make it successful once again! This summer from June 23rd – July 31st, 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 15th Freedom School for at-risk children and enable them to have a safe summer.

Here are ways you can help:

MONETARY DONATIONS

- \$3600 funds 3 siblings for the full summer.
- \$1200 funds 1 child for the full summer.
- \$600 funds 1 child for half summer.
- \$200 funds 1 child for 1 week.

Other costs associated with Freedom School:

- \$5,000 provides necessary reading materials 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 4th. 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 grade Scholars. Bring your new or gently used books to the Lower Commons at Christ Providence throughout the month of May!

DEAR READERS Drop Everything And Read buddies during lunchtime help students work through books.

VOLUNTEER You can share a favorite activity during afternoon hours, host intern appreciation events, gather supplies, and much more! To get involved, contact Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org) or go directly to <https://www.signupgenius.com/org/FSPCLC#/>

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

FREEDOM SCHOOL SUNDAY Join us May 4th and hear CLC's energetic 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!!!

Third THURSDAY
for adults of all ages

May 15 • 11:45am - 1:30pm
at the Firepit outside The Pit

Last Third Thursday until the Fall! Join us for a Hawaiian-themed cook out with music, mock-tails & trivia by Terry Legvold. Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt or grass skirt.

\$12 • Scan/Click to Register



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
Faith Fellowship
Sundays • 10-10:45 a.m.
Forum A&B -or- Online (Zoom)

From April 27 - May 18, come enrich your understanding of the gospel-centered what, when, why and how we use liturgy to worship God in our church services!

ZOOM LINK: christelca.org/online

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
meets weekly from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum A&B)

On April 24th, we will start a new, 5-wk. study on *Don't Look Back: Getting Unstuck and Moving Forward with Passion and Purpose* by Christine Caine. Join us!

MORE INFO: julia.edelson@gmail.com



WANTED
EOG Proctors
for McClintock Middle School

Volunteers* needed to help monitor students during end-of-year testing sessions:
May 22-23 • May 27-30 • June 4-5

Click or Scan to Signup
or go to: t.ly/4jU4u

QR Code

**Volunteers MUST be a registered CMS volunteer. If you are not an approved CMS Volunteer, go here to register for that: cmsvolunteers.com

OCEAN ISLE
Memorial Weekend Worship
Sunday, May 25 • 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
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@gmail.com



EOG Proctors

Save the dates! EOG Proctors will be needed at McClintock Middle School for their end-of-year testing. Sessions run from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. from May 22-23, May 27-30 and June 4-5. Volunteers must be a registered CMS Volunteer (if you are not an approved CMS Volunteer, go here to register for that: cmsvolunteers.com). Sign up to be an EOG Proctor on SignUp Genius. Click/scan the QR code on the ad on this page or go to <http://t.ly/4jU4u>.

Thank You McClintock Volunteers!

What a great school year! 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 continuing to show up. 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! We are looking forward to continuing this momentum into next school year. To get onboard with this amazing team, contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org). I promise you will not regret the joy you will receive in return!



Science Camp Recyclables

Science Camp is gearing up! This summer, the ONLY recyclable we will be collecting is water bottles. Please bring all bottles to CLC's Outreach Office or leave them at the Information Desk in the Lower Commons on Sunday mornings. We can't wait to see how our budding scientists utilize these bottles in their designs and experiments!

Science Camp Donations

Newly purchased items needed: white coffee filters, bags of sugar, baking soda, vinegar, sandwich bags, snack bags and gallon-size bags. Items may be dropped off at CLC's Outreach Office or the Lower Commons' Information Desk on Sunday mornings.



Room in the Inn Recap and Thanks!

We finished another Room In the Inn (RITI) season on Thursday, March 27th. The program's guest numbers really picked up this year—close to pre-covid numbers. In response to this increase, CLC increased our default weekly beds from 10 to 12. In total, we provided 200 bed nights this season, with a high percentage being families including young children.

Our neighbors LOVE coming to CLC. The facility, the volunteers and the fellowship make that possible. Special thanks to so many: All of our church members who donated supplies, Thrivent cards and home made blankets (so soft); Jones Dry Cleaning for handling our laundry...again...20 years running; Chef Mike Wallace for his famous meals; Rich Samson for bed maintenance; Sharhonda Morgan and all our bus-van drivers; Paul D'Albora for 8 overnight stays this season (earned a free night); Marcia Row who keeps our supply operation humming; each of our coordinators; and EVERY volunteer that set up a bed, served a meal, made a lunch, stayed overnight or just spent time getting to know our neighbors.

Unsheltered neighbors will continue to be a growing need in Charlotte, and Christ Lutheran will continue to serve these neighbors. Thank you all.

XPERIENCE
COMMISSIONING SUNDAY
Sunday, June 22

The Xperience will present their worship show at both Traditional and Contemporary worship services on June 22 as they leave for their summer tour to the Carolina coast.



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



<https://g.page/r/CQ3ErPywQgeREBD/review>



Register Now!
Vacation Bible School
June 16-20

Scan/Click QR Code to Register>>
 TO VOLUNTEER: krank@christelca.org

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
 THE MUSICAL JR.

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>>



Habitat Builds HAMMERING, SAWING & PAINTING- OH MY!

Christ Lutheran has been involved in two Habitat builds already this year, one in March and another in April. Let's keep the momentum going!

May 10 • Interior Painting

May 24 • Interior Trim Installation

You can visit <https://habitatcharlotteregion.my.site.com/VolunteerGroupSearch> and search for group '6011.' Both dates should be listed, and you can sign up to work one or both days. You set up your profile which takes care of filling out liability waivers, etc. Habitat leaders train us for the task each day and work alongside us all day.

There are other ways to help:

You can help by organizing and delivering lunch on one of the build days. Contact Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org) for details or with problems registering.

You can pay for all of our volunteers.

And for moms, one of our build dates falls on Mother's Day weekend. Consider challenging your kids (age 16 and older) to join you to volunteer!

Save the Date

On Sunday, July 20, CLC will hold a congregational event which will include lunch, music, building, painting and decorating a playhouse for a Habitat homeowner and other activities for the entire family. Along with all the fun, we will be raising funds for future Habitat builds. Hopefully we will be doing an entire build in the fall. If you are interested in helping to plan this great event, please contact Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org). With several dates and task options, there is something for everyone! Let's get building!

Habitat Charlotte Build UPCOMING DATES

May 10 • Interior Painting

May 24 • Interior Trim Installation



Scan/Click to register
via Habitat's website.
(Use group number: 6011)
<https://t.ly/WYnmC>

MORE INFO: adaniels@christelca.org



Spring Family Night Success

Our spring semester of Family Night is almost a wrap. This spring has been full of afternoon clubs, evening clubs, smiles, delicious dinners, child play and crafts, and more!

Our afternoon clubs have bridged the gap for many students between school day instruction and evening fun! Get Creative students have created many, many crafts using many different types of artsy media. Gardening has put in the work, prepping their beds, weeding and beginning starter plants for a spring crop! The beds outside McClintock Middle School (MMS) look fantastic and will bear the fruits (and veggies) of their labor! Trailblazers participants have walked thousands of steps through nearby greenways. While on their journeys, they have helped beautify the area by collecting several bags of trash!

As students and families arrive at McClintock for evening Family Night programming, they are greeted and welcomed by our delightful group of check-in ladies. This group of volunteers ensures each person is greeted with a smile and made to feel welcome. From there, students and families are served a yummy, warm meal from our dedicated Meals Team. Each plate is individually plated to each person's liking! From there, students and families build community with each

other, McClintock teachers who also lead clubs, and MMS Administrators on duty. Dinner is a wonderful time where school crosses over to fun! Our student store is also open during dinner so that students can grab essential school supplies to ensure readiness for success the next day!

This spring, evening programming continues to cover the entire family. Younger siblings have childcare in the nursery, and there are crafts and games for elementary students. Parents continued with our very popular ESL class, as well as Pathways Out of Poverty, Getting Ahead and Women's Journey.

Middle school students had nine clubs to choose from: Art, Cyber Spy, Girl Scouts, Hands 2 Heart, Sports Drills, Ten80 Racing, Top Scot Chef, Volleyball and Woodworking! Each club brings a unique craft and talent to our offerings, inspiring students!

As McPIE continues moving forward, we are constantly impressed and so thankful for the support we are given. With so many hands on all these moving parts, programming is possible on the scale we provide. As a model for other churches and schools within CMS and Charlotte Mecklenburg, let's continue to show the way and support our fellow neighbors!

Freedom School

FUNDRAISING STARTS
Sunday, May 4th

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

Together, we CAN make a DIFFERENCE!!!

HELP FUND A
SERVICE PROJECT WITH

thrivent

Action Teams

For more information:

Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org)



UPDATE YOUR REALM PICTURE
May 4 • May 18 • June 1

Bring your phone and let's update your profile picture in REALM! Join us in the Lower Commons between 9-11am on one of the Sundays listed and we will help you update your picture(s).

-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**



McPIE
McClintock Promise to Educate

**VOLUNTEER & DONOR
APPRECIATION**
Tuesday, May 6 • 5-7 p.m.
at Edge City Brewing (MORA)
Join us at Edge City Brewing as we
celebrate all you do to support McPIE.
Food & music provided.
MORE INFO: adavis@christelca.org

McPIE Volunteer & Donor Appreciation

Calling all past, present, and future volunteers and donors! Let us thank you for all you do to support McPIE programs and mission. Come join us at Edge City Brewing (6209 Old Post Road in Charlotte) on Tuesday, May 6th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Food and music by Bill Porter will be provided!

Tutor Coordinator

McPIE has an amazing team of tutors who help McClintock students succeed! We are looking for a new Tutor Coordinator for the 2025-26 school year. This person will work with McClintock Admin to pair tutors with teachers. Once tutors are paired, the Coordinator will check-in periodically to see how everything is going! Tutors are integral in the success of McClintock students and aid teachers with supplemental instruction for those students in academic need! Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) if interested in this important position!

Feed A Family

Thank you to all that have helped with donations to the Feed a Family fund! You have kept us afloat since the pandemic. We give an average of 32 bags each week with lovely volunteers making the bags and meeting families at McClintock Middle School. The Feed a Family fund is low; we are doing everything to minimize the impact of rising grocery prices. Please consider making a donation so we can continue serving the working poor as every family is trying to make rent and put food on the table.

Thrivent: Spring for New Growth!

Thrivent members, are you aware that you qualify for two Thrivent Impact cards each year? Each card, worth \$250, can help fund one of CLC's Outreach projects or one that you are passionate about. Thrivent members have supported Habitat for Humanity, McPIE, the Quilting Ministry, the Mexico mission trip, the Soup Kitchen and many more efforts to help in our community. We'd love to get more Thrivent members involved!

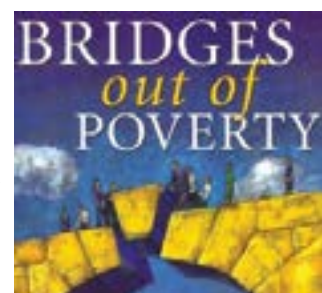
The process to apply is very easy. We provide a template for you to fill in the blanks on the online application and the Impact card arrives in the mail. If you have a project in mind we can help with the application process. Or contact the Outreach Office—we always have projects that need funding! Contact Dee Dee Petronis, (dpetronis@christelca.org) for more information.

Bridges Out of Poverty Seminar

Tue., June 17 & Wed., June 18 • 12:30 - 4:00 p.m. (lunch included)

Ever felt like you were banging your head against the wall and others just weren't understanding you? In two afternoons, you can learn how people from different economic backgrounds approach life differently and why that is essential knowledge to build relationships with people from another economic class.

This may answer many questions you have raised in your family, business, friendships, volunteering, etc. We also explore the many resources (beyond financial resources) that we might access and provide for others. Please register in [REALM](#).





CHRIST LUTHERAN

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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



may/june 2025

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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

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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

