

Christ Connections



may/june 2023



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

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

SUMMER SCHEDULE
STARTS MAY 28

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

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST CONCORD

10:00 a.m. **Multi-Generational
Modern Worship**

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



Summer Worship
at CHRIST PROVIDENCE • STARTS MAY 28

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
christprovidence.org



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



SERMON SERIES
MEETING JESUS AGAIN
APRIL 16 - MAY 21

christelca.org/sermon-series



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

The Big Rocks

When Council met at the beginning of this year, they laid out their Big Rocks; that is, those major goals that they want to achieve by year end. Let me give you a brief update on seven of the eleven Big Rocks so we don't lose sight of our goals:

1. Good Soil Campaign: With the closing of Christ South, this capital campaign for the building of a worship center had to be revisited. We gave the 164 people who had made a commitment several options. About 25 members responded. Of the nearly \$800,000 received year to date:

- a. Most chose to keep it in the fund, to be revisited when a new vision was presented.
- b. About \$40,000 was redirected towards their giving to the General Fund.
- c. About \$56,000 was redirected towards another ministry such as Thrive, Music Ministry or the Endowment.

2. South Land: What are we going to do with that 12 acres of land? In April, the Council put together a task force to explore all the possibilities. The hope is that they will do their due diligence and provide a recommendation at the Annual Meeting in January of 2024.

3. Land Trust: We are deeply concerned about the lack of affordable housing in Charlotte, particularly with the community we serve at McClintock. We have a task force interviewing various organizations in Charlotte who are tackling this problem and seeing how we might partner with one of them.

4. Evangelism Strategy: Who is your one (maybe two!)? Who is that one person in your life that God has placed on your heart to invite to church, share your faith and plant the seed of Jesus? At the heart of the Gospel is to share the good news with others. So far, the stories of these one-on-one encounters is nothing less than miraculous.

5. A Kindergarten at Our Children's Center: This is not going to happen. The regulations and the physical changes to our facilities make this very difficult. We explored it and found it implausible.

6. Thrive Day School: This ministry to family and children with special needs is such a deep need in our community. Parents struggle with finding those schools and resources to help their children thrive. Thrive Day School currently is at three campuses, and Council is working with their board for long term viability.

7. Strategies for Capital Improvements: The carpeting and HVAC are ten years old. Walls need painting. We have a fountain that doesn't work. How will we prioritize these needed improvements for the future use of our well-used facilities? We have a team laying out a strategy and the finances to care for our buildings.

Each month the Council keeps these Big Rocks in front of us so we don't lose sight of our major goals for the year. I believe we have a strong Council who loves this church and works together well. I feel blessed to work so closely with these leaders.

**Peace,
Pastor Scott**



OVERVIEW: As we live out our lives of faith, we meet Jesus along the way. Sometimes this is a strong sense of His presence, while other times we are left unsure. During this post-Easter sermon series, we will hear stories of faith where people meet Jesus in ways that challenge their faith, redirect their paths and surprise their hearts. Jesus does the same for you in the most unlikely ways; living in the season of Easter, let's Meet Jesus Again.

April 16 • St. Stephen

St. Stephen was a waiter... literally. He served people, primarily the poor. But through his service, he met Jesus again, and his faith came alive. This was not a lukewarm faith with a half hearted commitment. Once you meet Jesus again, your life is never going to be the same. For St. Stephen, meeting Jesus again resulted in him having the dubious honor of being the first Christian martyr.

April 23 • The Ethiopian Eunuch

The Ethiopian Eunuch is an outsider. He is not of the same people group as the Jews in Canaan. He works as an official in a foreign power. He is wealthy enough to have his own scroll, but doesn't have a community to help him interpret what the Word is saying. Even this outsider has a place. The LORD sends Philip along a road who encounters this most out of place man. It doesn't take long for the Eunuch to be baptized and brought into the family of God.

April 30 • Paul's Conversion

Paul was a zealot of the law. Blameless. Born of the right family. Raised in the right manner. Living a life of prestige and honor. And all of it is worthless compared to Jesus. When Paul encountered the risen Lord, everything, *everything*, changed. Friends became enemies. Valuables became worthless. Even living might invite death, and for Paul there's no other way.

May 7 • Peter's Vision

"Those people" are not welcomed here. "Those people" are not like us. Peter wrestles with the notion of who is in and who is out. The classic description of the Jewish people doesn't hold true for Peter and the new Christian movement. The goal is no longer to live so that we can say that we have made ourselves righteous in the sight of the LORD; but rather, live so that others may say we serve a righteous God.

May 14 • All, The Gentiles

Do you have the right thoughts (orthodoxy)? No? Well, then we can't possibly have anything in common. Did you really vote for that political party? I do apologize, we simply can't be seen together. We have always found ways of creating lines to exclude. But God did the very best to show us that He loves us all. One of the biggest struggles in our faith journey is that there are other people on the Way with us.

May 21 • Covering All the Bases

Science is not an affront to God. Being intellectual is not a sin, as being ignorant is not a virtue. The LORD God is not contained within the limits of human understanding. When we think we have covered all the bases and God is finally under our control, He does a new thing. We cannot begin to fathom all that is infinite and, yet, He sends His son to us that He is well known.



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

The Wise Men Followed One Star, We Follow Five Star (Reviews)

by PASTOR RYAN

How do you know if something is good?

Well, if God said so then it is. But what if it's sushi? Where is the best sushi in town? Or a mechanic? Or how do you know if the driver of your Uber is safe and the car is clean? The answer these days is that we look at the reviews. We all do it. We go looking for a place to get new tires, for example, and Google to find places. Then we read reviews and pick the winner. If there is a Google entry that doesn't have any reviews, or maybe, like two or three, we probably skip that place looking for something more established.

Churches are no different. When we move into a new area, we Google churches and see which ones are good. And, like every other search, we look at the reviews to try and discern which are going to be the churches we will visit, and ultimately like. Which are the ones that have people telling us that there is good music, a welcoming atmosphere, biblical preaching or a place for our children to be fed with the Word?

At Christ Lutheran we don't have a lot of reviews on our Google entry. Considering how large of a congregation we are, we should have many, many reviews but we don't even have a couple dozen. Here is my call to action for you: WRITE A REVIEW!

Take a couple minutes, right now, and let the world know how amazing our church is, how inspiring the sermons are, and how there is a place where everyone can feel welcomed. Tell the world how our children are given special attention; from the littlest going to Christ Kids all the way to the high schoolers going to far off cities with the Xperience.

There is so much going on at Christ Lutheran Church, and we have such a great community, that it would be a shame to keep this all to ourselves.



If you already have a Google account, click the following link to leave your review or scan the QR code provided. You can also enter the URL into your browser: <https://g.page/r/CQ3ErPywQgeREB0/review>

Third Thursday for May

Join us May 18 at 11:30 a.m. to kick off the summer with a Beach Blast. Chef Mike will be firing up the grill outside The Pit (by the firepits). Enjoy outdoor games like cornhole and giant jenga. Dance to Carolina Shag Music. Bring a chair, beach blanket and a friend. Wear your beach attire, no speedos please. This will be our last event until the fall. Scan the QR code to the left or [click here to register in Realm](#). You can also contact Alicia at awallace@christelca.org or Connie at ckramer@christelca.org. Everyone over 18 is welcome.



Third
THURSDAY

<<April's event with special guest painter Stephanie Burke.

Summer Worship
at CHRIST PROVIDENCE • STARTS MAY 28

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
 christprovidence.org

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

Disney
Aladdin
KIDS

Friday, June 23
6 p.m. at Christ Providence (Pit)

Come & see this year's performance of Disney's Aladdin Kids, presented by SpotLight Drama Camp at Christ Lutheran. Open to all!!

XPERIENCE Tour

HOMECOMING SHOWS

Sunday, June 25
9 & 10:45 a.m. at Christ Providence

Welcome the Xperience home from their Chicago tour as we present our show, "The Awakening" during both services.

SUNSET BEACH
Memorial Weekend Worship

Sunday, May 28 • 10:00 a.m.
at Sunset Beach (6th Street)

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

Register in REALM or contact Tenny for info: tcshifley@carolina.rr.com

XPERIENCE Tour

FUNDRAISER

Please help us reach our goal of \$6,000 for our upcoming Chicago Tour happening this June!

Click or Scan for Realm's Online Giving
Select 'Xperience Summer Tour' Fund
onrealm.org/christelca/-/form/give/how




High school students are invited to learn skills to minister to peers and lead in ministry at CLC.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:
May 7 • May 21 • May 28
at Christ Providence (Pit) • 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Stay tuned to E-News for updates!



CONFIRMATION CAMP

for 6th - 8th graders

June 18 - 24
at Lutherock

TOTAL COST: \$500

More info & register in REALM




SUMMER MUSIC WEEK

FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH IN RISING GRADES 3-12

August 7-11 • 9a-5p daily

CHRIST providence open to all denominations & faith backgrounds
Info & RSVP in REALM



CONFIRMATION WEEKEND RETREAT

CAMP AWANITA • MARIETTA, SC
AUGUST 18-20

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

\$225 • Register in REALM by June 1




What is a Deacon?

by DEACON KENNY

Back in 2016, the ELCA voted as a denomination to create a new “roster” or office of leadership within the church and call them “Deacons.” Prior to this decision, the ELCA had three lay-roster positions; Associate in Ministry (AIMs), Deacons, and Deaconesses. All three of these lay-rostered positions had different trainings and different educational processes and served within the church in different ways. People who had held these titles often served as church musicians, youth ministers, church administrators, service and outreach specialists, and even in faith-based social service organizations.

There were many reasons that the ELCA chose to combine these three lay-rosters into one. One of the reasons was to streamline and simplify the educational process, creating one standard for education. Another reason was none of our communion partners of other denominations (Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, etc.) had the three lay-rosters, but they do have Deacons! This allows for easier movement between denominations like our pastors have if they choose to do so. The reasons aren't as important, however, than what this shift in leadership does for our church and denomination moving forward.

With the vote in 2016 to combine the three lay-rosters into one and call them Deacons, the ELCA created a new way for people feeling called to ministry to express that calling. There are two “rosters” in the ELCA, now; Pastors who are called to Word and Sacrament and Deacons who are called to Word and Service. A Pastor's education is a Masters in Divinity with 3 years of course work and a yearlong internship, while a Deacon's education is a Masters of Arts in Diaconal Ministry with 2 years of course work and a yearlong internship. Much of the course work is the same between the two. Deacon candidates go through the same process of discernment as Pastors, called candidacy, with the same review process. In 2019, the ELCA voted to use “ordination” as the entrance rite for Deacons, the same as Pastors with just slightly different wording since Deacons are called to service and not sacraments.

Ultimately, the biggest difference between Pastors and Deacons is their calling. Pastors are called to shepherd congregations, preach the word and administer the sacraments. Deacons are called to have one foot in the church and one foot in the world, bridging the gap between the two. Deacons are called to preach the word and serve those in need.

There is still much work to be done around this new roster but the potential for the church is incredible! If it weren't for this second roster, I don't believe I would have ever gotten to the point of recognizing my call as a Pastor. I am grateful for my first call as a Deacon and excited for the new calling on my life as a Pastor! If you are interested in learning more about Deacons, you know where to find me!

Condensed from Pastor's Blog, published weekly at christelca.org/blog.

congratulations to our
high school
graduates
 class of 2023



Paul Maurice Bolton
 Myers Park



Emma Brincefield
 Providence



Allie Byron
 United Faith Christian



Grayson Chesson
 Myers Park



Emelia Holly Contreras
 Providence



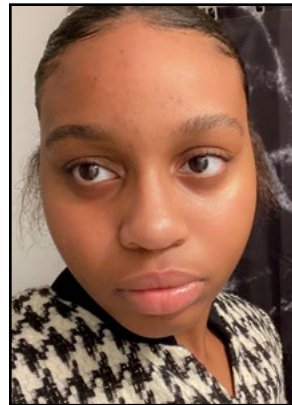
Taylor Dalrymple
 South Meck



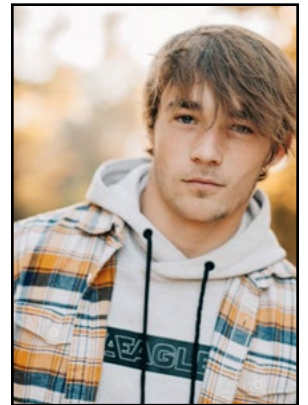
Kate Davenport
 Providence



Caroline Deir
 Providence



John'na Mo'Nae Hall
 Myers Park



Samuel Hartig
 Piedmont



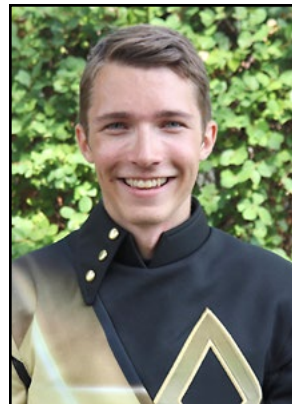
Angelina Herran
 Myers Park



Carson Ivy
 South Meck



Teagan Kleckley
 Providence



Seth Mayse
 Providence



Justin Miles
 Charlotte Christian

Join us to honor graduates at our Quillow service:

SUNDAY, JUNE 4
Blessing 9:00 a.m.
Blessing & Celebration 10:45 a.m.



Laura Overby
Central Acad. of Tech & Arts



Olivia Overby
Central Acad. of Tech & Arts



Owen Runge
Northwest School of Arts



L. Saunders
Myers Park



Alex Seuster
Myers Park



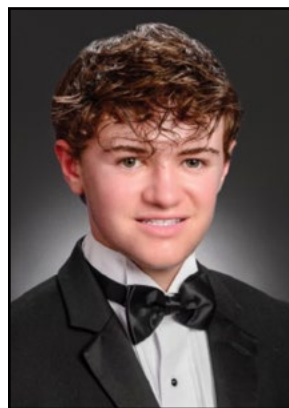
Nate Taylor
Providence



Ethan Walder
Covenant Day



Michael Williams
Providence



Peyton Youse
Charlotte Latin



Kaitlyn Zuendel
Central Acad. of Tech & Arts

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.



Freedom School

McClintock Partners in Education (McPIE) is entering our 13th summer of Freedom School and we need YOUR help to make it successful once again! This summer from June 20th – July 28th, 50 McClintock Middle School students and 40 younger siblings will participate in the Children's Defense Fund's literacy based program. Christ Lutheran's Providence campus is one of the largest and most successful sites in Charlotte providing a safe and enriching environment for 90 Scholars to spend their summer. This will be our largest summer since COVID!! McPIE will sponsor its 13th 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 material for ALL Scholars
- \$3,200 provides lunch & snacks for all Scholars for 3 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

Double your donation!!! Each dollar you donate will be matched in our first week of fundraising, starting May 7. 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!

Harambee Readers

Read your favorite story any morning during Freedom School's daily Harambee celebrations.

D.e.a.r. 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! Contact Dee-Dee Petronis to get involved: dpetronis@christelca.org

Pray

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



VOLUNTEER & DONOR APPRECIATION
Tuesday, May 2 • 5-8 p.m.
at Edge City Brewing (MORA)
 Calling all volunteers & donors! Join us for an evening of food & music as we celebrate all you do to support McPIE's mission.
MORE INFO: adavis@christelca.org

Freedom School

FUNDRAISING STARTS
Sunday, May 7

Join us at Christ Providence for Freedom School Sunday as we kick-off this year's fundraising efforts. Hear from CLC's site coordinator Willie Pinson as he talks about the impact Freedom School has on the lives of Scholars and their families.
Together, we CAN make a DIFFERENCE!!!

WANTED EOG Proctors

for McClintock Middle School

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

May 25-26 • May 30-June 2 • June 5-7



<<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

SCIENCE CAMP INTERNS



Science Camp is ramping up and we are looking for high school and college interns. Sessions are June 19-30 and/or July 5-14.

Interested? Click or Scan for application & return to: shannon.gibson@cms.k12.nc.us



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Freedom School Partners is currently looking for summer interns to support Freedom School!

They are looking for "Servant Leader Interns" and "Site Administrator Interns."

READ MORE & APPLY:
freedomschoolpartners.org/careers



Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you, RITI volunteers, for another successful season of hosting our housing-challenged neighbors. This season was the first coming out of the pandemic and the numbers picked up significantly from the 2021-22 season.

Across the RITI program, the number of individuals served this season was 663, up from just 282 last season (1367 pre-COVID 2019-2020). Christ Lutheran was one of 56 host churches in Charlotte, and we were able to provide 180 bed nights this season. CLC provided 10 beds each Thursday. The bed need across RITI averages 50-90 each evening, so our church home is a big part of the program. Because we can offer individual rooms, we are able to host many families, including children. Many of our guests are repeat guests, and they are so gracious... so thankful. This would not be possible without your support.

Thank you to those who set up and served dinner, those who made the lunches and breakfast, and our drivers. And a big shout out to our overnight hosts, chef Mike Wallace (your meals are famous), Marcia Row for managing our laundry and supplies, Gregg Huether, JW Ingram and Barbara West for your support! And thanks to Jones Dry Cleaning, for keeping our laundry cleaned for over 20 years at no cost to CLC!

CLC RITI Coordinator Team: Marsha Kinniburgh, Tracey Heintze, Kim Ciepielinski, Randy Satterfield, Lane Goode

Feed A Family

by LISA HEIRIGS

First of all, we are overwhelmed and so thankful for the generosity of those who contribute to the Feed a Family fund. Thank you! We have been buying groceries with that money for over two years! It is currently feeding 31 families – one bag of groceries at a time. And groceries are so expensive right now! It is only because of you that we have continued since COVID with groceries for our families in need. Some need a little help and others need a lot; our families are varied. I get texts from families asking for certain food items, such as cooking oil and laundry detergent. We have taken some of these beautiful people home and are horrified by their living conditions.

Ms. Sawyer (MMS Social Worker) mentioned an increased need due to the decrease in SNAP benefits. You may have heard, the SNAP emergency allotments ended at the end of February. On average that means \$90 less per month for families. But it may be as high as \$250 less a month, according to an analysis by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

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/how and select "Feed A Family" fund from the dropdown menu.

Family Night 2022-2023 is a Wrap!

In our first full school year back into programming, our flagship program, McPIE Family Night, was back in full force. We continued to rebuild this school year and are confident in reaching even more McClintock families next year! While we are not back to pre-COVID attendance and club numbers yet, 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, Sketch Squad, Top Scot Chef, Men About Progress, Sports Drills and Ten80 Racing, but also added a few new clubs this year! We were excited to gain a few new volunteers with Hands 2 Heart, Zombie Robotics, Get Creative, Football and the return of Computer Building! We averaged over 65 middle school students each week in our evening clubs and another 10 during the afternoon, almost at pre-COVID numbers.

Younger siblings also had fun! Marsha, Rick and Debbie 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. Our 3rd-5th grade students were treated to Coding during the fall and Art this spring! This was a nice change-up to what we typically had to offer this age group!

Adult participants had four club options during the fall and three during the spring. Both included ESL, which 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!

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 year, we served an average of 150 meals per week!

Our team of School Store volunteers ensures 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!

Overall, our McPIE team is happy with how this school year went. Rebuilding takes time and a good amount of patience. However, armed with an army of dedicated volunteers, this big feat was made small. We will continue brainstorming ideas of ways to improve for this coming school year and know we can only continue to grow from here!

Thank You McClintock Volunteers


WOW – what a great first FULL school-year back into our “usual” programming. Without the constant dedication and support of volunteers, this would not be possible. COVID could have been an easy “out” to not return after lockdown/school closures, but our volunteer base returned 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!

oneblood 
Share your power.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, June 4
at Christ Concord • 8am - 12pm
donors get \$20 e-gift card & water bottle

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

McPIE  **McClintock PARTNERS In Education**

Science Camp Recyclables

Help McClintock students make the most of their science camp modules
Items needed: Egg cartons, plastic containers, 2-liter bottles, water bottles, shoe boxes, toilet paper/paper towel rolls, boxes (not flattened)

Donations can be dropped off at the Outreach Office.

 **PanCAN PURPLESTRIDE**
TAKING STEPS TOGETHER TO END PANCREATIC CANCER

-or- Donate anytime to “TEAM MCJAMES”

Join me at **PanCAN PurpleStride** and help me reach my fundraising goal.

Saturday, April 29, 2023



Scan QR Code to donate or contact Kristy Eddleman for info:
kristy@edata-charlotte.com

Download Our Church App Today!




onelink.to/connectapp

 **CHRIST LUTHERAN**
providence | concord | online

For the latest on upcoming events and other announcements:

christelca.org/latest-news



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:
Rescuing Orphans & Vulnerable Children In Kenya

by DON CLAYTON

Gethsemane Garden Christian Centre (GGCC) is rescuing orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya by providing a Christian boarding school filled with the hope and love of Christ. Children who come from extreme poverty, neglect, sickness, despair and violence need God's transformative love to rise above their circumstances. Through sponsors like us, students are engaged in a Godly relationship that encourages them on their spiritual journey along with the daily essentials of food, shelter, clothing and health care.

In 2019, I became actively involved with the ministry and today, I am a member of the US Advisory Board, a dynamic group of leaders that set strategy for growing God's Kingdom while caring for His precious children. GGCC is unique in that we are not an orphanage searching for US families to adopt children, but a school of exemplary academics for children in desperate need. Here children grow in the Word of God and excel with a Christian education that will deliver self-sufficiency to impact their culture.



Our mission is to rescue orphans and vulnerable children, provide them with hope, and equip each child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An island that began as a dark place for the unwanted Suba tribe is now home to a rescue center that shines with the love of Christ.

We are grateful for the Lord's ongoing provision and have been privileged to witness the impact of God's transforming love on our students as they come to us from huts of straw and become doers of the Word. We love sharing the story of all that the Lord is doing in the lives of the people of Kenya and invite you to learn more. Please join us for Lunch and Learn from 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. at The Palm Restaurant on



May 18th or June 22nd. Reservations are required. Please contact Heather@GGCCKenya.org. RSVP deadlines are May 12th and June 16th respectively. Please indicate that you are with Christ Lutheran Church.

God's plan continues to unfold as orphans and vulnerable children are given a life of hope and unconditional love. And the hearts of Christians from the US and Kenya are joined in faith and fellowship while they work together to support each child on our GGCC campus. Each student's sponsor plays a key role in their child's life as they pour Christian love into their hearts through the exchange of letters. Will you consider growing your family today by sponsoring a child?

Praise God that travel restrictions to Kenya are more lenient in 2023. Please pray about ways the Lord would have you serve with a mission team this summer. If you would like to serve on the island and meet our students face to face, please contact Greg@GGCCKenya.org ASAP for the July 10-22, 2023 trip. You will experience the joy of the Lord in the hearts of these children.

It is with humility and a grateful heart that I ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation to Gethsemane Garden Christian Centre. Your partnership, along with the Lord's guidance, will enable GGCC to provide the necessary resources for the children of GGCC along with various critical needs for those living on this poverty-stricken island. Please read Our Story or visit our website at GGCCKenya.org.

As a member of Christ Lutheran Providence and the GGCC Board of Directors, I am happy to answer any of your questions. Simply contact me, Don Clayton at dclayton@basgllc.com, or contact Pamela Baxter, GGCC Development Manager at Pamela@GGCCKenya.org.



CHRIST LUTHERAN

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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



may/june 2023

Scott Suskovic • Senior Pastor
Ryan Ritzmann • Associate Pastor
Alexis Williams • Minister of Christ Online
Kenny Champagne • Deacon of Family Ministry
Amy Daniels • Director of Outreach
Mark Johanson • Minister of Music
Gregg Huether • Director of Property and Finance

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

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

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2023 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

SMALL GROUP
FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Calling all golfers! Come out and join with other CLC members at our next co-ed golf outing. These outings are scheduled once per month at various area courses. All are invited!

Scan or click to Join REALM Group for updates (login required) or contact Joel Barber for info: joel.barber@gmail.com

JOIN THE
FLOWER MINISTRY

AND HELP WITH
WEEKLY ALTAR FLOWERS
no experience necessary!

meets Saturday mornings
at Christ Providence

Join group in REALM or for more info:
Barbara Handschin (hand9241@carolina.rr.com)
Alice McRorie (alicermcrorie@gmail.com)