

# Christ Connections



march/april 2024



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

### CHRIST PROVIDENCE

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

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

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

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

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

### CHRIST CONCORD

10:00 a.m. **Family-Friendly**

**Worship**

4:00 p.m. **Life of Faith**

**Bible Study**

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



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

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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



*Lent • Holy Week • Easter*



WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE  
[christelca.org](http://christelca.org)



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

## Church Council, Elected Leaders and Big Rocks for 2024

As a congregation, you are once again served by an excellent Church Council. We met shortly after the Annual Meeting to get to know one another, dream big, elect our officers and lay out our Big Rocks for 2024.

### Officers

I am pleased to report that there will be a lot of continuity from 2023 with our leaders on Church Council. For a full list, see page 4.

Eric Runge, President  
Jessica Shurley, Vice President  
David Brown, Treasurer  
Melissa Lanoue, Secretary

### Big Rocks for 2024

Each month, we will review our goals to keep our focus and to remain true to our calling to be bold and faithful leaders for Christ's Church.

**1. Concord Task Force:** To propose a new vision for Christ Concord in time for the April Council Meeting.

**2. Southland Task Force:** To explore options for the land at Christ South, host Town Meetings and propose a single vision for congregational approval and implementation by summer.

We currently have three Town Meetings scheduled at Christ Providence. These meetings will be an opportunity for you to ask questions, become informed and to voice your preference for potential uses of the land. These town meetings will be:

- March 3 at 12:15 p.m. in the Forum
- March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Christ Chapel
- March 10 at 12:15 p.m. in the Forum

**3. Partner with Habitat for Humanity** for either a Lutheran build or in partnership with another church.

The Christ Lutheran Church Volunteer Team is officially scheduled for a Habitat construction project. Twelve volunteers will be needed to complete various framing punch list items on this new Habitat home (must be 16 or older). See ad on page 4 for details on how to register.

**4. Develop Intentional and Diverse Marketing, Evangelism and Growth Plans for Targeted Audiences** including Youth Ministry, Young Adults, Men's Ministry and our partnership with the Children's Center to better reflect our community demographics.

**5. Quarterly Social/Fellowship/Congregational Events** to foster relationships, encourage retention and further evangelism.

**6. As Good Stewards, Leverage our Facilities and Assets for the Kingdom** by creating a plan and timeline for campus/capital improvements and encouraging community use.

**7. Plug into Larger Faith Community** through partnership with other churches (Habitat, Service, Young Adults, etc) and para-church organizations such as F3, F4, Young Life, FCA, church league sports, TEC, etc.

**8. Continue to Enhance Online Worship** based on the results of the Online Survey which will be presented to Council on March 18.

**In Great Anticipation for the Coming Year,  
Pastor Scott**

# LENTEN SUNDAY SERIES

February 18 - March 17

# HEROES, VILLAINS, & NOBODIES



*OVERVIEW: God uses all kinds of people to reach His ends. God calls on those who are able and willing to build His kingdom. We may judge those people and regard them as Villains, Heroes or Nobodies, but we would do better to see them for who they are: His hands and feet in the world.*

## February 18 • Esther

Esther was a nobody. She was not born of a noble family. She possessed no great talents of leadership, wasn't a military strategist, and had mastered none of the arts. But when called upon to do what must be done, she mustered the bravery to stand in the gap. She advocated for her people & shows us that we all have a part to play, however humble our beginnings.

--*Esther 7:1-10; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

## February 25 • Nicodemus

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, which makes him a villain. Aren't all Pharisees evil? Weren't they all constantly seeking to trap Jesus and undermine His authority? While Nicodemus was, indeed, a Pharisee, he didn't exhibit the characteristics we so often associate with that ilk. Nicodemus was curious, a truth seeker. He came humbling to our Lord. He knew that God was active, and rather than writing Jesus off as an interloper, he sought out truth that would shake his worldview. --*John 3:1-21; Micah 6:6-8*

## March 3 • Cyrus of Persia

The Messiah is the one person God has anointed to lead His people. He is THE agent of the LORD. How can it be that the Prophet Isaiah calls Cyrus the King of Persia the Messiah!? The Messiah, or Christ (Messiah in Greek) is a very special person. Cyrus was just that. We think we understand what God is going to do. We think we know who God wants. We think there is a divine order that is completely understood. Cyrus the Polytheistic ruler of the blood thirsty

# Wednesdays During Lent

February 21 - March 27

at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)

**12:00 p.m.**

**James: Our Faith Journey**

midday is followed by lunch in the Forum • \$5

**6:00 p.m.**

**The Emotional Facets of Jesus**

evening is in-person only



conquering nation of Persia is a villain. But of course, no one is just one thing, even "villains." We think we know God, but we should always be ready to see Him, in all people, in any place, and at any time.

--*Isaiah 44:24-45:1; Matthew 9:9-13*

## March 10 • Joshua

Joshua was a hero of great faith. He and Caleb were undeterred about the Giants they saw in the land. It was an exceedingly good land and the LORD saw fit to give it to them. His faithfulness was in the minority, and because of it the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. It can be hard to stand for what you know to be true; Joshua did it for generations. 40 years later, he finally walks into the land that was given to his people and is informed that the Israelites had a reputation that preceded them. A reputation that sapped the courage of the inhabitants. Our strength comes from the LORD and Joshua knew it. --*Joshua 2:9b-11; John 20:26-29*

## March 17 • Centurion

Roman oppressors are not welcome among the Jewish people. To the Roman Imperial command, the Jewish people are nothing more than a trouble and tribute. Sometimes the mold is broken, as when a Centurion sought Jesus out to heal his servant. Jesus would have been right to point out all the evil Romans had done to God's Chosen people, but instead engages and shows us that the humility of even a Roman Villain can be edifying. --*Matthew 8:5-13; Philippians 2:6-11 and 25-29*

See page 6 for more on Wednesday evening's series on "The Emotional Facets of Jesus."



READ MORE & WATCH THE SNEAK PEAK  
OF EACH SUNDAY'S SERMON:

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

# CLC Endowment Update

by BRUCE VOELKER

Do you ever wonder how the Christ Lutheran Endowment funds are used? We often talk about how much is in the funds, or how they are invested, but too often forget to talk about the impact they have. The first of Christ Lutheran's Endowment funds is directly focused on having impact "Beyond these Walls," and our Benevolence Committee chooses how to spend the distribution from this fund (Fund I). In 2023, Fund I distributed \$31,190, and that money was directed toward the many ministries that our Benevolence supports including Crisis Assistance, A Roof Above, McClintock Partners in Education, and the ELCA Synod.

Our second fund (Fund II), is a general purpose fund that is allocated by Church Council to address unplanned expenses, which may include additional benevolence. In 2023, Fund II distributed \$14,469 to Council to use where most needed, which last year was earmarked for unplanned maintenance to our facilities.

In 2023, our endowment funds grew, with a 14% return on investment in each fund as well as contributions from church members and memorials given to the church. Given those results, in January 2024 the Endowment distributed \$31,424 from Fund I for use by Benevolence during this year, as well as \$16,656 from Fund II for use at Church Council to direct where it is most needed. We plan to acknowledge those who contribute to our Endowment through a recognition event on April 28, 2024.

As we move into 2024, the Endowment Committee will focus efforts on both managing the endowment funds and providing education and access to tools to church members regarding their estate planning. Whether estate plans benefit Christ Lutheran, other causes, or heirs, it is important to understand basic steps and techniques that can be used to have an estate work the way the grantor(s) envisioned. From the basics of wills to more advanced planning techniques, the Endowment Committee will work to make educational resources available to members of the congregation to assist them in their planning.



## meet the members of our 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL



**Eric Runge**  
President



**Jessica Shurley**  
Vice President



**David Brown**  
Treasurer



**Melissa Lanoue**  
Secretary



**Cassie Thompson**



**Chad Melton**



**David Herran**



**Greg Twait**



**Holly Cannon**



**Janet Wilson**



**Lauren Ratcliffe**



**Molly Zmuda**



### TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Come hear about potential uses for the Christ South land. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions, become informed and to voice your preference. Meetings are in-person at Christ Providence:

**Sunday, March 3 • 12:15 p.m. (Forum)**  
**Wed., March 6 • 7:00 p.m. (Christ Chapel)**  
**Sunday, March 10 • 12:15 p.m. (Forum)**

### Habitat Charlotte Build

**Saturday, April 13**

The CLC Volunteer Team is officially scheduled to help build a local Habitat Home and we need 12 volunteers to make it happen! Must be age 16 or older.

**Scan/Click to Register**

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



### NEW MEMBER CLASS

**Sunday, April 28**  
**& Sunday, May 5**

**12:15 - 2:30 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum)**

Lunch will be provided. Childcare available for ages 0-36 months.



**Scan/Click to Register**

MORE INFO: [mparker@christelca.org](mailto:mparker@christelca.org)  
or [khofmann@christelca.org](mailto:khofmann@christelca.org)

# TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

for Parents

**Sunday, March 10**

5-6:30pm at Christ Providence (Forum A&B)

Speakers from the FBI & a cyber-security firm will share some practical solutions & tech controls that will help in keeping your child safe from the dangers of social media.

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

## PRIMEtimers

A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+

### LUCK O' THE IRISH: POTATO BAR & BINGO

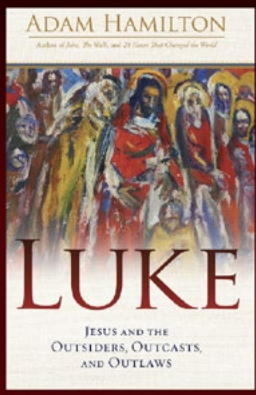
**Saturday, March 16**

5 p.m. at Christ Providence (Pit)

Try your luck at our St. Patrick's Day Potato Bar & Bingo Party! Salad options & drinks, including punch, beer & wine provided.

Scan/Click to Register>>

RSVP DEADLINE: by March 7



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
**Faith Fellowship**  
**Sundays • 10:00 a.m.**  
 at Christ Prov. (Forum A&B)  
 -or- Christ Online (Zoom)  
 Join us for this 6-wk Lenten video series authored by pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton as he explores the life of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke.  
 ZOOM: [christelca.org/online](http://christelca.org/online)

The Charlotte Concert Band presents

## Joy in All Things

IN CONCERT

featuring Mark Johanson, organ

**Saturday, March 2 • 7:00 p.m.**  
 at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

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

BUY TICKETS AT THE DOOR OR GO TO:

[charlotteconcertband.org/joy-in-all-things](http://charlotteconcertband.org/joy-in-all-things)

Let's get connected.

Download the **Realm Connect** app today!



**Need Help with Realm?**

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

## Welcome Our New Members!



Morgan, Nik, Will,  
Camden & Emma  
Peterson



Vilmar Silveira & Christina  
Spence Wilhelmina,  
Nate & Caroline



Diane & Mark Jones



Greg & Paula Hoogerland



Grant & Hilary Dover



Kevin & Debbi Russell



Andrew & Tina Norton



Adrienne Martin



Carolyn Dean



Ellen & Daniel Harms



Stuart, Lara & Graham  
Robertson



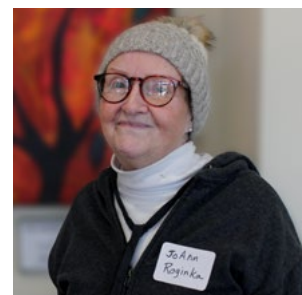
Bill Sessler  
& Hannah Davis



Ally, Misha & Lucas  
Sinkevich



Jeannie White



JoAnn Roginka



Libby & Alden Sieber  
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JOIN US FOR  
**Wednesdays  
During Lent**

**FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 27**

at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)

**12:00 p.m. • James: Our Faith Journey**

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

**6:00 p.m. • The Emotional Facets of Jesus**

led by Pastors Scott & Adrienne • evening is in person only

**February 21 • The Joy of Pleasing the Father**

The first step in maturing as a Christian is to remove the comma. Most of us simply say, "Please, God..." and then add a litany of requests to our prayers. By removing the comma, we reflect the Joy of Jesus with a life that wants to simply, "Please God." *John 15:9-13; Hebrews 12:1-3*

**February 28 • The Exhaustion of the Daily Grind**

We have so much to be thankful for. Compared to the suffering around the world, we have little to complain about. And yet, sometimes the people and the tasks and the pressure become overwhelming to the point of exhaustion when we try to be all things to all people. When you are pouring out more than you are drinking in, you experience the exhaustion that Jesus did during His many times of withdrawing to be refueled once again by God. *Luke 5:12-16; Psalm 46*

**March 6 • The Compassion for Those Who Suffer**

Oddly enough, while the world wants to know how many houses were built, how many meals were served and how many wells were dug, God is less interested in the numbers and more about the heart. With this emotion of compassion, we pray, "Let my heart break with what breaks Jesus' heart." This compassion begins by seeing each person in need not as a number or as a consequence of their sin, but as a child of God for whom Jesus died. *Matthew 20:29-34; Hosea 11:1-4*

**March 13 • The Frustration at the Dullness of Others**

Keep Up! Our frustration is revealed in others when they do not get it, no matter how often it is explained or how much patience we give. Jesus also expressed this frustration with harsh words for his disciples who are slow witted and dull in their understanding. We can only hope it was a wake up call to Keep Up! *Matthew 17:14-21 (John 3)*

**March 20 • The Agony of Suffering**

Jesus expressed the agony in the face of his impending suffering, even asking God to take the cup away. This kind of dread we experience ourselves with an upcoming chemotherapy or a difficult conversation or in the breakup of a relationship. Jesus is a high priest who understands all of our emotions—even this feeling of dread. *Luke 22:40-44; Hebrew 4:14-16*

**March 27 • The Anger at Hypocrisy and Injustice**

There is such a thing as righteous anger. It is an anger that moves us within to act on behalf of others, to speak in the voice of injustice, and to confront the façade of hypocrisy. Jesus called out the whitewashed Pharisees, calling them snakes who will not escape hell (*Matthew 23:33*). He called false prophets ferocious wolves (*Matthew 7:15*). He turned over the money changers for taking advantage of the pilgrims (*John 2:13-17*). And He made no apologies.

COME PRAY WITH US AT  
CHRIST LUTHERAN'S EASTER

**PRAYER  
VIGIL**

STARTS **Thurs., March 28 • 8 p.m.**  
ENDS **Fri., March 29 • 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, March 28 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](http://christelca.org/prayer-request).

SCAN/CLICK TO SUBMIT A PRAYER  
[christelca.org/prayer-request](http://christelca.org/prayer-request)










# Holy Week & Easter Sunday



2024 WORSHIP SCHEDULE






## Palm Sunday March 24

- 8:45 a.m. Providence Traditional Service (Sanctuary) 
- 10 a.m. Providence Bridge Service (Christ Chapel)  
- 10 a.m. Providence Sunday School Classes
- 10 a.m. Concord Family-Friendly Worship  
- 11 a.m. Prov. Contemporary Service (Sanctuary)  







## Lenten Wednesday March 27

- 12 p.m. Providence Midday Service (Christ Chapel) followed by a light lunch in the Forum • \$5
- 5 p.m. Wednesdays Together Dinner (Fellowship Hall) followed by WT classes from 6-7:30pm 
- 6 p.m. Providence Evening Worship (Christ Chapel) 










## Maundy Thursday March 28

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

## Good Friday March 29

- 10 a.m. Prov. Children's Service (Sanctuary) 
- 12 p.m. Prov. Seven Last Words (Christ Chapel)
- 7 p.m. Prayer Vigil Ends (Lackey Chapel) 
- 7:30 p.m. Prov. Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary)  
- 7:30 p.m. Concord Tenebrae Service  

## Easter Sunday March 31

- 7:30 a.m. Prov. SonRise Service (Fountain Plaza) 
- 8:45 a.m. Prov. Traditional Service (Sanctuary)  
- 10 a.m. Prov. Bridge Service (Christ Chapel)  
- 10 a.m. Concord Family-Friendly Worship  
- 11 a.m. Prov. Contemporary Service (Sanctuary)  

 IN PERSON ONLY

 nursery available (0-35 months)

 children's message



WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE  
[christelca.org](http://christelca.org)

# SERMON SERIES STARTING APRIL 7

## God Works Through the Mess: Lessons from Joseph

OVERVIEW: Joseph's life is full of lessons from which we can learn how God works in and through the messiness of human life and sin. In a rollercoaster-life full of twists and turns, Joseph was far from perfect; yet God accomplished great things through him. In all of the ups and downs, God was there working for his good, and the good of all God's people. It helps us to remember that no matter what life throws at you, God can make it for your good, too.

### April 7 • Dream Turned Nightmare

Joseph was the favorite son of his father Jacob. This favoritism fueled jealousy among his brothers, and when Joseph shares his dream that they would one day bow down to him, it is too much. Planning to kill him, they sell him into slavery and he is taken to Egypt where he is a servant to an official in the Egyptian government. A dream of rule went extremely awry. How can any good come of this? --Genesis 37; Matthew 3:13, 16-17 or 27:1-4

### April 14 • Not My Fault!

God was with Joseph as he serves his master in Egypt. With great success, he is given greater responsibility and honor. However, trouble shortly follows when his master's wife accuses Joseph of impropriety. He was thrown into prison. Still, God was with him and continued to show him favor. In those times when we unjustly suffer the consequences, God is still working. --Genesis 39; Luke 23:47-49

### April 21 • Bluff an Interview?

While in prison, Joseph interprets the dreams of two of Pharaoh's servers. When Pharaoh has a dream no one can interpret, they bring Joseph to Pharaoh. He interprets the dream and convinces him that God is with him. Pharaoh puts him in charge of his palace, and from there, Joseph rises to the top, taking charge over the whole country. Was Joseph bluffing? Does that get us anywhere? --Genesis 40:41-46; Matthew 23:12-22

### April 28 • For Such a Time as This

When Pharaoh gives Joseph charge of the land, he stores up grain during the seven years of plenty. When famine comes, there is more than enough to share. Joseph's provision of grain during the famine drew people from all over, including his own family! Because of his leadership, all of Egypt and the region are saved. When we are at the right time and the right place, it makes us wonder if it is pure coincidence. --Genesis 41:39-42:5; John 10:10

### May 5 • Saint and Sinner

Seeking food during the famine, Joseph's brothers travel from home to get grain from him, not knowing it is their brother—not to mention the one they sold into slavery. At first wanting revenge and giving them some difficulty, Joseph reveals himself to them and ultimately forgives them. In the mess of human hurt, God brings redemption in our relationships. --Genesis 42-45; Matthew 18:21-22

### May 12 • God in the Mess

Upon their father's death, Joseph's brothers are afraid of Joseph's revenge. They even throw themselves at his mercy, but Joseph tells them that while they planned evil against him, God used those same plans for his good. All along, in the mess, in the mistakes, in the twists and turns, God was working. In the end, it was all for the good. --Genesis 50:15-26; Luke 24:50-52

## GRIEF SHARE

**Wednesdays • 6-7:30 p.m.**  
at Christ Providence (Church Office Great Room)

This Christ-centered, grief support group helps those who have lost loved ones find healing and hope. Open to members & nonmembers.

Griefshare follows a 13-wk. curriculum which includes a DVD-lesson, small group discussion & workbook. Cost: \$20



**Starts Jan. 10th • Register in REALM**



**Lutherock CONFIRMATION CAMP**  
for 6th - 8th graders  
**June 16 - 22**  
at Lutherock  
TOTAL COST: \$650

**More Info & Register in REALM >>**  
DEADLINE TO RSVP: MARCH 1


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

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

FOR MENUS & RSVP LINKS:  
**christelca.org/menu**

*Coffee with the Pastors*  
BOOK STUDY

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

 **christelca.org/online**

**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 yourself or a group, text or call Melinda Dale: 704-277-0868  
(each participant will need to fill out a form)



# Stepping Stones

FIRST COMMUNION

## PREPARATION CLASSES

Feb 25 • Meaning of the Meal (1-3 p.m.)

March 2 • Story Day (8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

March 24 • Livin' Forgivin (1-3 p.m.)

First Communion will take place during Maundy Thursday's service at Christ Providence on March 28th (after the completion of the Seder Meal). Prep classes are for 2nd graders & their parents to attend together.

For RSVP & details: [krank@christelca.org](mailto:krank@christelca.org)

## UPCOMING

# Baptismal Classes

**Sunday, March 17  
& Sunday, April 21**

1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For info, email Jane at [jsatterfield@christelca.org](mailto:jsatterfield@christelca.org)

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



## A Big Thank You!

by FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM, XPERIENCE, AND THE YOUTH GROUP

Family Ministry and Xperience would like to express our gratitude for such a wonderful show of support for our Fat Tuesday



Fundraiser! On Tuesday, February 13, we dressed in our Mardi Gras best and feasted on fresh pancakes and dessert toppings! Our awesome emcees Bobby Mauney and Mike Wilder dressed as jesters and kept us laughing with interviews and banter through the evening. Xperience played and students shared their excitement about the upcoming trips this summer.

As a result of your support, we raised over \$5,000! Thank you so much for coming out and for giving. It was a blast! We are grateful for your generous hearts and love of our youth! We are making our way to our \$15,000 goal and invite continued donations as we make our way across the country!



## Technology Workshop for Parents

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Social media can be a great way to connect! It can also be risky in sharing information and images. Learn how to protect your children from the dangers of social media. We will have speakers from the FBI and a cyber security firm to share some practical solutions and technological controls that will help in keeping your child safe. Join us on Sunday, March 10 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum A&B).

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

# LOCK-IN

**Friday, March 22 (7 p.m.) -  
Saturday, March 23 (8 a.m.)**  
at Christ Providence (Pit)

Register in REALM

more info: [tweller@christelca.org](mailto:tweller@christelca.org)




**VBS**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**June 10-14**  
Registration Opens March 25th  
Scan/Click to Register  
MORE INFO: [krank@christelca.org](mailto:krank@christelca.org)



## SPOTLIGHT SUMMER CAMP

# DISNEY FROZEN KIDS

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

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

**\$250 • Click/Scan to Register**

Discount available for multiple children from same household





## Room in the Inn

Room In The Inn has been serving our housing challenged neighbors since the beginning of December. We still have a few open slots to fill for Overnight Hosts on Feb. 29th & March 21st.

If you can help, please sign up at [signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4BABA292-44955056-room#/](https://signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4BABA292-44955056-room#/) or email [lane.goode@gmail.com](mailto:lane.goode@gmail.com). And shout out to Jones Cleaners on Fairview Road for taking care of our laundry needs to ensure all our guests have a clean, cozy place to sleep!

## Family Night Spring

Spring Family Night is underway! McPIE will host 11 weeks of Family Night, ending April 30th. We began with Registration Night on January 30th, which was a very important night as potential grant funders visited our program for a site visit. Students, volunteers, Board members, and McPIE and McClintock staff spoke on the importance of our partnership and the programming we provide.

This semester, we are offering a NEW middle school afternoon club – Gardening! This club is led by McClintock teachers and will be a great way to learn new skills and feel the warm sunshine. We had most Fall clubs return with dedicated volunteers leading. Those include Art, Cyber Spy, Hands 2 Heart, Sports Drills, Top Scot Chef, Woodworking and more.

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.

Adult classes also added a new club – a book study on race. This 6-week session focuses on the book “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo. This class is accompanied by other adult classes including Bible Study, Getting Ahead, ESL, Women’s Journey and Parent U.

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!

## Where Does the Money Go?

by MICHELE WENZ

Have you ever wondered to whom Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) sends its Benevolence and Outreach funds? Have you ever wondered what are the mission and focus of these organizations and groups? Over the next year, the goal is to answer these questions so that we, the members of CLC, gain a better understanding of where the money is going and the impact it has in the Charlotte community and beyond.

For over a decade Christ Lutheran has directed 10% or more of the annual budget to Benevolence and Outreach. In addition to the budgeted funds, additional groups such as the Endowment Fund, Cornerstone Gifts and Thrivent Choice Dollars provide funds so that the amount available for disbursement increases.

Here is a brief recap of the 2023 Benevolent and Outreach funds distributions. The total amount distributed was \$346,500. The top four recipients were the NC Synod ELCA, McClintock Partners in Education (McPIE), Roof Above, and Crisis Assistance Ministries. Along with the top four recipients were additional groups that received funds as well– Charlotte Community Outreach, Charlotte Rescue Mission, Kairos Prison Ministries and Lutheran Services Carolinas. In addition to funds, multiple Outreach Ministries and small groups at CLC provided non-monetary support to organizations and groups that received funds, as well to others that did not. For a full listing please take a moment to read the 2023 Annual Report, pages 20-24.

We are all aware of various community challenges that exist in Charlotte, the surrounding communities and the nation. The following list of challenges are the ones that come immediately to mind for many people. They are not listed in order of importance because they are intertwined:

- Homelessness;
- Affordable housing;
- Eradicating hunger;
- Alleviation of poverty;
- Support for family & children.

The organizations and groups that Christ Lutheran supports tackle these as well as other challenges with the monetary and non-monetary support they receive from CLC. Our support has a definite positive impact on various challenges facing our community.

Please watch for more information about how the organizations and groups that Christ Lutheran supports tackle the five challenges listed above. May God continue to work in and through us in 2024.



oneblood Share your power.

# BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, April 21**  
**8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
 at Christ Providence (Fountain Plaza)

**TO REGISTER, GO TO:**  
[oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now)



MCCLINCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Career Day

March 13th, 2024

Want to strengthen a student's passion towards education & work? McClintock Middle School would love presenters to share about what you do for a living.

**Scan/Click to signup as a presenter!**



bit.ly/mccmcc2024

### EXTREME TEEN LEADERS

NONPROFIT OFFERING LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR TEENS

**Next Event: Generation Lead**  
**April 12-14 at Christ Providence**

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

BOOK STUDY

## So You Want to Talk About Race?

**JOIN US!**

**Tuesdays • 6 - 7:15 p.m.**  
**at McClintock Middle School**

Join Amy Daniels for a 6-week book study on Race. First 20 to register get a free book!

To RSVP or for more info, email: [adaniels@christelca.org](mailto:adaniels@christelca.org)




## 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](http://signupgenius.com)  
 lane.goode@gmail.com



## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Charlotte Bilingual Preschool

by KATIE TROY

### Our Mission

Charlotte Bilingual Preschool's mission is to prepare Spanish-speaking children for success in school and life by providing superior dual language, multi-cultural early childhood education.

### Community Need

Over 30% of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) students identify as Latino. The latest 2022-23 report from CMS shows that only 14.7% of Hispanic students report as being "college and career ready," with only 70.8% graduating within four years last year, compared with CMS' overall graduation rate of 82.6%. In addition, The State of North Carolina is considered a childcare desert when it comes to infant and toddler care.

### Core Services

**Preschool ages 3-5:** Through this 5-star licensed early education program, offered at little to no cost, children are immersed in a dual language, literacy-rich environment that prepares them for kindergarten and builds their English proficiency while leveraging the advantages of bilingualism and cultural diversity.

**Family Programs:** We offer programs to support families with children ages infant to 5. The goals of these programs are to support early literacy, cognitive and social-emotional growth and build a culturally relevant healthy home environment.

**Workforce Development:** To create a pipeline of bilingual educators, we partner with CPCC to offer Early Childhood Education classes in Spanish, on the weekends, to our families and Latino adults in our community. Through this partnership, we guide students through pathways to become credentialed educators.

### Upcoming Event - Grandes Sueños

Charlotte Bilingual Preschool is celebrating nearly 25 years of innovative programs for Latino children and families. Join us in our efforts by sponsoring Grandes Sueños 2024, our annual fundraising event featuring Latino food, drink and music. Sponsorship is a great way to affirm your commitment and support for Latino children and families in the Greater Charlotte region.

To see ways to volunteer and support Charlotte Bilingual Preschool, visit [bilingualpreschool.org](http://bilingualpreschool.org). For questions, contact Katie at [katie.troy@bilingualpreschool.org](mailto:katie.troy@bilingualpreschool.org).



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Christ Connections



march/april 2024

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](http://christelca.org/latest-news)

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2024 EDITIONS

Jan/Feb - December 11 Mar/April - February 15 May/June - April 15

July/Aug - June 14 Sept/Oct - August 9 Nov/Dec - October 15

\*Submit stories or other news items at [christelca.org/jotform](http://christelca.org/jotform)



COME PRAY WITH US AT  
CHRIST LUTHERAN'S EASTER  
**PRAYER VIGIL**  
STARTS **Thurs., March 28 • 8pm**  
ENDS **Friday, March 29 • 7pm**  
*Christ Providence (Lackey Chapel)*

**Signup for a 1-hr time slot on Sundays**  
at the table set up in the Lower Commons

-or-  
**Scan/Click to Submit a Prayer**  
[christelca.org/prayer-request](http://christelca.org/prayer-request)




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on Google



Please take a second  
& let the world know  
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