

Christ Connections



january/february 2025



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26 • 12:15 p.m.

**at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)
-or- Christ Online (Youtube)**



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Turning the Page

I know technically that January 1, 2025, is just one more day, but it feels different, doesn't it? It feels that I get a do over, or at least I get to start a fresh new chapter. This day comes with expectations and excitement about what the new year will bring. What things are you anticipating as you see January 1, 2025, on your calendar? Here are some of mine.

Church Growth: I've been saying this for some time now, but I'm seeing signs all over Christ Lutheran of renewal. Now that we are fully staffed for pastors, musicians and family ministry, I'm seeing an increase in church attendance, strong giving, more participation in service opportunities and a greater number in children and youth programming. I see in 2025 these trends continuing.

Travel: I'm taking 24 people to Tanzania in February. We will certainly see our share of animals on several safaris but I'm excited to spend a couple of days with our Tanzanian Lutheran brothers and sisters! There are twice as many Lutherans in Tanzania than in the ELCA! It is alive and growing, and the Spirit is on fire.

Southland: Construction on the Deck Barn at Southland will be completed the first quarter of 2025, opening up this space for youth groups, men's groups, small group gatherings and congregational events. Reserve your groups' spring or summer event at the Deck Barn and enjoy this new space.

Concord: While our contract with We Build didn't work out, we are pleased that another church can use that location to expand the Kingdom of God. We wish them well and plan on repurposing the money from the sale towards expanding the ministries at Christ Providence.

Build a Bed? That comes with a question mark. We have a very interested group of about 12 people who are looking to repurpose one of the large garages on Southland, turn it into a workshop, and 3-4 times a year build 30-40 beds each time for children throughout Mecklenburg County who are sleeping on the floor. Doesn't that sound like fun? Wait and see!

40 Years! This summer, June 8, marks our 40th Wedding Anniversary! While plans for fun getaways are still in the making, we have much to celebrate with the gift of love and marriage, two great kids and their spouses, and now the wonder of a granddaughter.

Yeah, I know that January 1, 2025, is just another turn of the page, but it feels like so much more. Each year is a gift. And as I turn that page, it is with great excitement and anticipation of what God has in store for this church, for my family and for my life.

What do you anticipate for 2025?

**Peace,
Pastor Scott**



Please Join Us

FOR THE ORDINATION OF
JUSTIN MAUNEY
TO THE MINISTRY OF
WORD & SACRAMENT

Saturday, January 25

at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Light reception to follow

We look forward to seeing you there!



CHRISTLUTHERAN
providence | online

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26 • 12:15 p.m.

at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)
-or- Christ Online (Youtube)

FOR LINK: christelca.org/online

Christmas Decorations Removal

Helpers are needed to remove Christmas decorations following the celebration of the Epiphany.

WE WILL MEET FOR TEARDOWN ON
Friday, January 10 • 8:30 a.m.

No RSVP Needed • Just Show Up!
MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org

GRIEF SHARE

Wednesdays • 6-7:30 p.m.
in the 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. 8th • Scan/Click to Register



NEW MEMBER CLASS

**Sunday, February 2
& Sunday, February 9**

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
or khofmann@christelca.org

Epiphany Sermon Series:

ABRAHAM: THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE MISTAKES

OVERVIEW: There are 2.6 billion Christians throughout the world, 1.5 billion Muslims and 16 million Jews. That is over half the population of the entire world. And while these three major religions have fought many times, what they all hold in common is a man named Abraham. Who is he, what did he do and how did he live? That is our focus as we welcome in 2025 – Abraham: The Man, The Myth and The Mistakes.

January 19 • The Call to Leave

Many people talk about having a call from God. Abram's call was one to leave his homeland and his family without a specific destination or purpose. It was a call to leave, trusting that God will tell him eventually when to stop and what to do. All Abram had to go on was a promise. Will it be enough? –Genesis 12:1-9; Mark 1:16-20

January 26 • Full of Doubt

Abram was 75 years old when he received the call to leave and the promise that he would be the father of a great nation. After a decade and no children, his faith began to waver. With brutal honesty, Abram comes before God full of doubt. But God reassures him once again that the promises are true. Even in his doubts, Abram believed God and it was counted to him as righteous. –Genesis 15

February 2 • Helping Out Poor God

How long do you wait for a prayer to be answered? After over a decade of waiting for a child, Abram and Sara decide to help out poor God by using a surrogate wife to bear him a child. Their hearts were in the right place, but their plan got in the way of God's plan as they took matters into their own hands. –Genesis 16

February 9 • The Sign of the Covenant

When Abram was 99 years old, almost 25 years after the promise was given to him, doubt crept in again. While he had a son Ishmael through Hagar, it wasn't the child God promised. Once again God steps in to reassure Abram that the promises are true. God changes his name from Abram to Abraham (Father to Father of a Great Nation) and institutes the sacred sign of the covenant found in circumcision. –Genesis 17

February 16 • Laughter

Sarah found herself entertaining three unusual guests that told her that she would have a child the following year. At 90 years old, Sarah burst into laughter. And because God has an amazing sense of humor, that was the name of her child: Isaac, Hebrew for laughter! –Genesis 18:1-15; Hebrews 13:1-2; Luke 1:26-38

February 23 • Finally!

Finally, after 25 years of waiting, the promised son arrives, Isaac. The celebration, the praise and the joy spread throughout the family, except with Hagar and Ishmael. Tensions arise with Sarah, threats are made and in the end, a decision has to be made. –Genesis 21:1-21

March 2 • The Sacrifice of Isaac

One of the most gruesome, disturbing stories in the Bible is God's command to Abraham to take his son, his only son, the one whom he loves, Isaac, and sacrifice him on an altar. After waiting decades for this promised child, why would God ask such a thing? The simple answer is to test Abraham's faith. The deeper answer is where this event took place. –Genesis 22:1-19; John 3:16-17

READ MORE: christelca.org/sermon-series

Anniversary of Baptism & Brunch

In 2024 Christ Lutheran Church celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism with 32 children and their families. On **Sunday, January 12**, during Traditional and Contemporary worship, we will commemorate all 2024 baptisms with our Anniversary of Baptism Stepping Stone. The newly baptized and their families will be asked forward during their chosen service to receive a blessing. This annual celebration is a time for our church community to remind families of the support and care we pledge when a child is baptized. It is also a time for families to remember the promises that they made when they brought their child to the font for baptism.

Recognizing the importance of those promises and to help support you in your calling as parents, we are expanding our Anniversary of Baptism Stepping Stone to also include a brunch that will take place during the Sunday School hour. This brunch will be a time of fellowship, but also education. Pastor Adrienne and Rachel Dyer will lead a short seminar focusing on faith development for families and their young children.

Invitations to register have already been sent to families, but if you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Adrienne Martin (amartin@christelca.org) or Rachel Dyer (rdyer@christelca.org).

Wednesdays Ablaze for Middle School!

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

We have great programming in store for middle school students on Wednesday evenings starting **January 8**. Each week will bring a new opportunity for recreation, fellowship, music, dance, and devotion. It is a fun and faith-building time that you don't want to miss! Middle school and high school students are invited to have dinner in the Pit. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. and programming starts at 6 p.m.

Expectant & New Parents' Dinner

At Christ Lutheran, our Family Ministry team and church community guide children and families through a pathway that we call "Stepping Stones." This pathway is marked by moments of celebration, learning, and growth. Traditionally, this pathway has always started with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the moment in which families bring their child to the font and make promises before God, the church, and one another. This sacred moment often occurs in the weeks and months after a child is born. However, we also recognize that a child's faith journey begins long before he or she fully enters this world. It begins with the hopes and prayers and dreams of the parents preparing to welcome their new baby into their family. Therefore, we are in the process of expanding our Stepping Stones ministry to reflect that important step in the faith process. On **Wednesday, February 26**, we will hold our first New and Expectant Parents' Dinner. This meal, held during Wednesday night programming, will be an opportunity for new families to come and engage in fellowship with other individuals who are also beginning the journey of parenthood. This event will be repeated bi-annually and is open to anyone who is expecting, as well as anyone who has recently welcomed a child into their family. Registration will be available in Realm in January. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Adrienne Martin (amartin@christelca.org) or Rachel Dyer (rdyer@christelca.org).

Baptismal Class

Sunday, January 19
1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For info, email Jane at
jsatterfield@christelca.org

ZOOM LINK:
christelca.org/online

Stepping Stones

CONFIRMATION

Apostles' Creed
Sunday, January 5 • 4-6 p.m.
in the Forum

Parents & 8th graders are invited to explore the 3 Articles of the Apostle's Creed & discover their significance in our faith journey.

Click/Scan to Register >>



REALM

HIGH SCHOOL Lipsync Karaoke Night

Sunday, January 5
4-6 p.m. in the Pit

Join us for a fun & relaxed evening of lipSync karaoke, a casual dinner & time for devotions.

Click/Scan to Register >>

REALM

MIDDLE SCHOOL BIG AIR TRAMPOLINE PARK

Sunday, January 26
3-5 p.m. at Big Air Charlotte

Join us at Big Air Trampoline Park for an afternoon of jumping, laughter & tons of fun! Don't miss out on this awesome time with friends, games & high-flying moments!

\$20 • Scan/Click to Register >>

REALM

FAITH ALIVE

Confirmation Retreat

March 14 - 16, 2025
at Lutheridge

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

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

REALM



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

Sunday, March 9th
Meaning of the Meal

Saturday, March 29th
Story Day

Sunday, April 13th
Livin' Forgivin

Thursday, April 17th
First Communion

Save the Dates

Stay tuned for updates or contact Kristen Rank for details: krank@christelca.org

HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING + LASER TAG
Sunday, January 12
 3 - 5 p.m. at Sparetime Pineville
 Get ready to bowl strikes & spares, and then battle it out in an exciting game of laser tag. It's going to be a day full of laughter, competition & memories!

Click/Scan to Register>>

Hand-in-Hand TEC Retreat

Take part in a faith-building experience where others share their faith stories & how being in Christian Community has affected their life. **Open to 9th graders through adults.**

January 18-20, 2025
 at Tekoa Foothills in Casar, NC

\$100 • Click/Scan to Register>>
 MORE INFO: tweller@christelca.org

Save the Date
Vacation Bible School
June 16-20, 2025

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

Grandparents Volunteer Luncheon

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Grandparents, we are calling you! Whether your grandchildren attend Christ Lutheran or live out of state, you are invited to a luncheon on **Thursday, January 30** (11:30 a.m.) to explore the ways you can get involved in the faith formation of our youngest members. Faith formation is a partnership, and the Family Ministry Team recognizes that grandparents have an increasingly significant role in the rearing of their grandchildren. We would like to support you and invite you into ministry with us! In our role to help families live into the promises made at baptism, there are so many ways to partner with the Family Ministry Team to make a difference in the lives of our young families. We value the experience and wisdom you bring!

Stay tuned to E-News or christelca.org/latest-news for registration or contact Pastor Adrienne (amartin@christelca.org) with any questions.

Out of the Ashes: A SERVICE OF LOSS & REMEMBRANCE

Did you know that infertility, miscarriage, and child loss impact roughly 1 in 6 couples? These experiences can create deep wells of grief, hopelessness, and isolation for parents who have been anticipating and praying for the arrival of a precious child. The Out of the Ashes Foundation seeks to support families who are on this journey by "...showing honor, providing help, and restoring hope in the Gospel of Christ" (Out of the Ashes Foundation). Out of the Ashes works with couples to help them see hope amid sorrow, community amid isolation, and the future in pieces of broken dreams. On **Monday, February 10**, Christ Lutheran will partner with the Out of the Ashes Foundation to host a community worship service of Loss and Remembrance. This service is intended to honor and commemorate anyone who has struggled with pregnancy loss, infant loss, or infertility, but will also serve as space for our community to show these families that they are not alone. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this service.



AGM Sunday was Nov. 24 and it was a great success. The Total amount raised was over \$8,500. Thanks to all who participated!



Adult Sunday School Classes START JANUARY 5TH!!

CLC Book Club 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. *in Lackey Parlor -or- Christ Online (Zoom)*

The CLC Book Club is open to anyone. We read and discuss books of all kinds, but primarily books on faith, our relationship with God, human nature, scripture, or biographies of faith leaders. Our discussions can be lively and frank. We do not shy away from controversial topics. We thrive on competing opinions, but we expect civility and respect for one another. Even if you have not read the assigned chapter, we encourage everyone to attend. We'll catch you up and let you talk anyway! Sometimes there are donuts (when we meet in person). All are welcome.
—Led by Dan Hansen and Carl Edgren

Faith Fellowship: The Bible & Beyond **10:00 - 10:45 a.m. in Forum A&B** *-or- Christ Online (Zoom)*

(Jan. 5 - March 2) Parables: The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed Through the Stories Jesus Told. "Jesus' parables were ingeniously simple word pictures with profound spiritual lessons" is the opening statement by author and Pastor John MacArthur in the introduction to his study series Parables. Often challenged by the religious elite, Jesus used common, everyday events to illustrate the message of His teachings to engage them, but which also pointed to deeper, more complex truths for those really seeking Him. He planted memorable word pictures worthy of contemplating, discussing and rooting more deeply into the mind and spirit so much so, we are still doing so today. Each session of the 9-week study presents a main topic, session objectives, related Scripture, parable references, and key points, concluding with reflections on how we might integrate them into our lives in practical ways today.

(March 9 - April 13) In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land. Prolific writer, teacher and well-known pastor Max Lucado takes the audience on an inspirational in-person journey through the Holy Land visiting some of the most familiar locations as did Jesus during His ministry. In this 6-week video series, Lucado will travel through Capernaum, Galilee, Bethany, Jerusalem and more, walking where Jesus walked and pondering the promises He made. Viewers will gain insight about Jesus, who He was, where He came from and why He went where He went. During this Lenten season the hope is that we discover, with new eyes, God's heart for His people, His deep love for us and the desire to follow Him more closely.

(April 27 - May 18) History of the Liturgy by Marcel Metzger and Exploring Our Lutheran Liturgy: How and Why We Worship by Dennis R. Flakes. Stepping back in history to the apostolic times and early Christianity and exploring the parts of the Lutheran liturgy, members will hear guided reflections for each part of the service to enrich their worship each Sunday. Sessions will be

a gospel-centered focus on the purpose of liturgy as it enhances richness and meaning to one's understanding of God's presence and invitation in the worship service. Marcel Metzger is a professor of history of liturgy at Catholic Theology of the University of Strasbourg, France. Dennis Flakes is pastor of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, Kansas.
—Led by Barbara Burton, Milt Marin, Miriam Morrison, John Stensrud and Barbara Anderson

The Crew 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. *in Room W150 -or- Christ Online (Zoom)*

Join us this Fall as we delve deeper into the book *The Letter to the American Church* by Eric Metaxas. We will kick off our discussion by revisiting Chapters 1-5 and then move ahead to Chapter 6. All are invited to take part in this timely conversation. David Deeds will be facilitating the discussion. We look forward to having you join us!
—Led by David Deeds

Emerge: Digging Deeper 10:00 - 10:45 a.m. *in the Music Room*

All are welcome in Emerge Sunday School as we dive into *The Word* and discuss how it relates to our busy lives.
—Led by Rob and Kristen Stark

Faith in Action Women's Bible Study **10:00 - 10:45 a.m. in Forum C**

This women's group is dedicated to the study of God's Word in a relaxed and caring atmosphere of love for one another. This Spring we again delve into His Word to enrich our faith and seek answers for living in today's world. Using the Augsburg Fortress Bible Study program, we focus on the theme of "From Darkness to Light" based on scripture largely from the New Testament, guiding us in how to live our lives celebrating God. Come join the women of CLC as we explore deeper into God's word in an atmosphere of friendship and love.
—Led by Joyce Brigman

Studies of Scripture **10:00 - 10:45 a.m. in the Adult Library**

This class studies and discusses lectionary lessons from the Lutheran Book of Worship. Find out what the Bible has to say by journeying through the lectionary with others. The lectionary is a collection of appointed Scripture Readings for each Sunday and for other occasions. The lectionary readings for each Sunday typically include an Old Testament reading, a New Testament reading, and a passage from one of the four Gospels. Many Protestant and Catholic churches use the lectionary readings on a weekly basis.
—Led by B Crigler and John Sensenbrenner

For hybrid classes, find Zoom links on
Christ Online's Virtual Schedule:
christelca.org/online

WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

Dinner 5:00-6:15 p.m.

in Fellowship Hall (\$8 adults • \$6 child)
RSVP in REALM by each Monday prior

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

STARTS JANUARY 8

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

ADULT CLASSES

Holy Yoga EARLY TIME 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. *in Center Six*

Holy Yoga is the intentional practice of connecting our entire being, body, mind and spirit with God in Christ. Though Holy Yoga, God invites us to worship and surrender through movement and the breath.

—Led by Michele Dudley

Pastor Scott's Class: The Gospel of Luke

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Forum A&B -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

John highlights the divinity of Jesus. Matthew accents the Jewish roots of Jesus. But the good physician and companion of Paul, Luke, draws us into the humanity of Jesus who gives special attention to the marginalized in society. Bring your Bibles and a highlighter as Pastor Scott walks us through this amazing Gospel chapter by chapter.

—Led by Pastor Scott Suskovic

Life in Christ

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Forum C

Welcome to Life in Christ! Our focus here is on living the way Jesus intended for us. Together, we will explore how to build a strong relationship with Jesus and nurture our faith to share with others. Discovering God's plan for us, fostering relationships, and spreading love to our loved ones are all part of Life in Christ. Let's embark on this journey together!

—Led by Pastor Ryan Ritzmann

GriefShare

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Church Office Great Room

GriefShare is a 13-week-long, Christ-centered grief support group open to members and nonmembers. GriefShare uses three components - a DVD lesson, small group discussion, and a workbook - to help those who have lost loved ones find healing and hope. Register in realm to pay for the workbook and you can pick up the book at the class.

—Led by Chris and Kimberly Mengel

Moms in Prayer

6:05-7:20 p.m. in Christ Chapel Cry Room

Moms In Prayer International (MIP) Prayer Group meets to bring ACTS to the Lord. Thanksgiving and Supplication include praying over other's thanksgivings & supplications prior to sharing personally. This confidential group allows flexibility as one doesn't need to attend weekly or prepare anything. Quiet early departures are expected to coincide with youth programming pickups. Pray with other women and grow in your faith!

—Led by Heidi Cruciana

CHILDREN & YOUTH

WEDNESDAY MUSIC & ACTIVITIES

INFANTS - 36 MONTHS

Nursery Care Available

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in Rm. M230-231



ELEMENTARY

PreK - 1st Grade

Devotion, Music & Activities

6:00 - 6:45 p.m. in Rm. M237-238

2nd - 5th Grade

Devotion, Music & Activities

6:00 - 6:45 p.m. in Rm. M239-240

Elementary students who need to wait for parents or older siblings to finish Wednesdays Ablaze activities are welcome to enjoy supervised Open Gym from 6:45 - 7:30 in Spirit Hall.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

6th - 8th Grade

Open Gym, Worship, Music & Activities

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. starting in Spirit Hall

9th - 12th Grade

Fellowship, Worship, Music & Activities

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. starting in the Pit



DANCE ELECTIVE

Middle & High School

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Rm. C301

Elementary

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Rm. C301

Locations/times/classes are subject to change.
See christelca.org/wednesdays-ablaze for latest schedule.

ADULT MUSIC

Luther Ringers

6:00-7:15 p.m. in Rm. M245

Christ Choir

7:15-8:45 p.m. in Rm. M248

high schoolers & adults welcome





Trinity Place Thanks

by MARY PARKER

Thank you to everyone that helped buy Christmas presents for residents at Trinity Place. Through your generosity, we were able to provide Christmas presents to 102 residents. Your generosity truly brought joy and cheer during the holiday season.



Psalm 8: Eco-Friendly Group

On a chilly 40-degree morning, eight dedicated participants gathered to tackle the cleanup of Providence Road from Sharon Amity to Olde Providence Road. Equipped with safety vests, grabbers, gloves and bags provided by the organizers, the team filled 10 bags of trash and 2 bags of recyclables. This quarterly cleanup initiative not only aims to keep the community clean but also fosters a sense of environmental stewardship among volunteers. Stay tuned for the 2025 cleanup dates, which will be announced soon. Thanks to the funding support from Thrivent Action Team. For more information, please contact Gordon Miller (gmill9535@aol.com).



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

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


CharlotteMasterChorale

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

Third **THURSDAY**
for adults of all ages

January 16 • 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
in the Pit

Join us for a feast of the eyes as we bring Nicholas Worley to do a Twirly Worley light show using different media all set to music. Lunch is also included.

\$10 • Scan/Click to Register >



REALM

WNC Hurricane Mission Trip
January 20-24, 2025

Individuals 18+ interested in helping rebuild western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene are encouraged to attend a mission trip led by Mark Johanson. Home repair trades (plumbing, electrical, framing, etc.) are especially encouraged.

MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org



PODCAST IS NOW LIVE!!

deeper dive

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

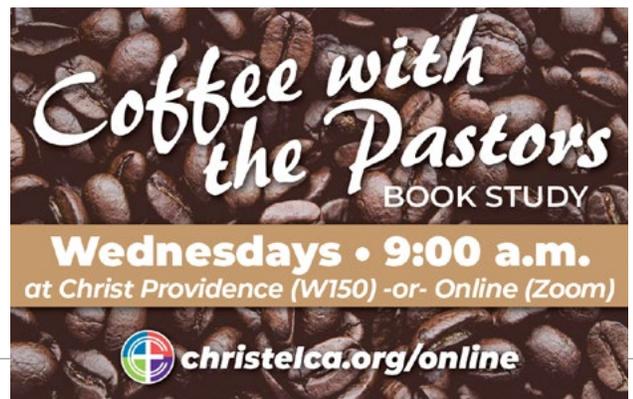
Check it out now >>>
christelca.org/podcast



Coffee with the Pastors
BOOK STUDY

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

 christelca.org/online





Christmas Shopping Thank You!

The spirit of giving was felt by all at our annual Christmas Shopping Family Sponsorship Event December 13-16! With families still in need of some Christmas magic, we sponsored 22 families!

Multiple comments of "Perfecto/perfect," "You all are always so good to us," and "This means so much to our family" were heard throughout the weekend by grateful moms, dads and grandparents. One specific family said "thank you for the gifts. I thank you very much and God will bless everyone who helped and donated!"

Volunteers shopped for wish list items. When families came to "shop" at Christ Lutheran, we had all their wish list gifts set up in a dedicated space for them with wrapping paper, bags and ribbon. Families were able to wrap gifts for their children while volunteers built important relationships with family members while helping add the perfect bow to their gifts.

"I look forward to this event every year. I truly enjoy the wrapping, running around, spending time with my church family, and chatting with the families we

serve. While the families are often overwhelmed with gratitude for the material blessings, it's clear that what moves them most is the generosity and kindness of others. To me, this reflects the spirit of Christmas and living out the call to 'love thy neighbor.'" Volunteers are just as blessed as the families receiving gifts!

Several families came over the course of the weekend. Being able to give back and help our McClintock community was wonderful! THANK YOU to all the volunteers who shopped for gifts, helped set up, and assisted families wrapping. The spirit of Christmas was alive and well this holiday season! The shopping event epitomizes the Christmas spirit and the McPIE mission. Volunteers and sponsors generously donate time, talents and money to ensure that families enjoy Christmas.

The wish lists are simple - often just household basics like sheets, towels and cookware, coats and clothing for the kids and a toy or two. In receiving these gifts, the families are lifted and reminded that they are a part of the McPIE community. What a way to share the Christmas spirit with neighbors and bring a smile to McClintock families during this season!

Thrivent Update From 2024

Trivia Question: What do the Quilting Ministry, Thanksgiving Turkeys, McClintock Middle School and the Mexico Mission Trip all have in common? *Answer:* All of these projects – and 54 more – were supported by Thrivent Impact cards in 2024!

In 2024, 38 Thrivent members from Christ Lutheran received a total of \$14,500 to fund projects within the church and out in the community. We'd love to get more Thrivent members involved in 2025.

Thrivent provides full members two \$250 Impact cards each year that can be used as seed money for projects in our community. Associate members can receive one per year. 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. You do not have to actually participate in the project, although volunteers are always welcome!

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.

Room in the Inn Thanks

Thanks to all that have signed up for Room in the Inn. We are very much in need of a few overnight hosts. Overnight hosts get a quiet evening, new comfortable beds, and a chance to connect with our RITI neighbors. You come in at 7 p.m. on Thursday, and are out by 6:30 a.m. on Friday. If we could get just a few volunteers to take one Thursday, that would be great help! Signup at [CLC RITI Signup Genius](#) or christelca.org/outreach. Direct any questions to lane.goode@gmail.com.

Fall Family Night

Fall Family Night at McClintock Middle School has come to an end, and it was a fantastic semester! Energy from students and club leaders remained high through the entire Fall. Students and families were greeted by smiling volunteers before heading to dinner. This past semester, dinner service was wonderful with delicious food and fast-serving volunteers. We were excited to have several new Meals Team members, too! Over 2500 meals were served, averaging 228 meals each night. Family Night participants left happy and full!

Clubs were fun and engaging with dedicated leaders. Students enjoyed art, robotics, sports (basketball and volleyball – NEW), woodworking, hiking, crafts, Ten80 racing, food science and Girl Scouts (NEW), and they also received mentorship opportunities. Younger siblings were well loved by volunteers where they had the best crafts, puzzles, snacks and games. Parents came in strong and had multiple classes to choose from including Getting Ahead, Women's Journey and ESL. This semester, McPIE has partnered with CMS Family Academy! This partnership has provided valuable presenters for our Parent U class with content to help strengthen engagement in schools and empower families with the necessary tools to support their students' success.

This has been a great semester of programming at McClintock. While we are taking a break over Christmas and New Year, we are excited for an equally exciting Spring semester! Come see what all the hype's about!



American Red Cross

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE:

Sunday, January 19

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

in Spirit Hall

SIGN UP TO DONATE at redcrossblood.org

CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION SUPPER

1st Monday of each month • 3-6 p.m.

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

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



ROOM IN THE INN

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

Overnight hosts, drivers and other volunteers needed!



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



store hours:
SUN., TUE. & WED.
9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.

-and-
WED. EVENINGS
6:00 - 7:30p.m.

**BEAUTIFULLY
UNIQUE
CHRISTMAS
GIFTS**
FOR SALE
NOW THROUGH
CHRISTMAS!



CDL DRIVERS NEEDED

RITI is looking for CDL drivers.
Requirements include:

- December through March.
- Thursday afternoon (4-6pm): Pick-up guests at Roof Above & bring to CLC.
- Friday morning (6-7:30am): Return guests to Roof Above.
- CLC mini-bus will be used.

If interested, contact Lane Goode:
lane.goode@gmail.com

High School WNC Mission Trip

July 27 - August 1, 2025

Join us for a week of service with NovusWay & Lutheran Disaster Relief. We will stay at camp each night with a bonfire & worship, & work nearby each day. There will be 1 fun day at the end.



MORE INFO/RSVP:
<https://t.ly/ojk2e>



Spring Family Night Needs

New Year... New Resolutions... New Volunteers? It's that time of year where resolutions are made and habits change. If you are looking to get involved with McClintock Partners in Education (McPIE), please contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org. There are MANY ways in which you can support McClintock students, teachers and families. Opportunities are as easy as serving dinner all the way to leading a fun club for students. Start the New Year with purpose and make a difference in a student and family's life!

Specific volunteer needs include a co-leader for our 3rd-5th grade class. These students typically play games and do crafts.

Have a passion through work or play? Share that with middle school students. We are always looking for new clubs to offer. Are you a medical professional? We would LOVE to have another medical related club.

Do you have programming (could be on anything from financial literacy, college readiness, resume writing, health, etc.) that would benefit high school students? We have many students who participated in Family Night as a middle school student, and now are looking to continue participating. We would love to have a leader for our high school returners! Please reach out to Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) if you have any questions, ideas, or would like to volunteer!

McPIE
 McClintock Partners In Education

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: Teacher Partners

Brighten a McClintock teacher's day by sending monthly notes of encouragement and prayers.

While some Teacher Partners opt to send small gifts or spend time with their assigned teacher, there is no obligation or expectation to do so.

If you would like to be a Teacher Partner, contact Jeanne Hunt: huntjeanne961@gmail.com

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Tutors

Volunteers needed to help tutor students needing extra help at McClintock Middle School.

Contact Susan Brackett if interested in volunteering: sbrackett@carolina.rr.com

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FALL: Teacher Luncheons

Support teachers and staff at McClintock Middle School with lunches on early release days. Volunteers needed to prepare dishes as well as help serve.

If you are interested in joining this team, contact Melinda Dale at melinda28226@hotmail.com

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Copy Crew

Volunteer an hour or two each week (or every other if enough volunteers) to help McClintock teachers with their copying needs. Training provided!

To volunteer or for more info, email Sharhonda Morgan: smorgan@christelca.org





CHRIST LUTHERAN

providence | online

4519 Providence Road · Charlotte, NC 28226

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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



january/february 2025

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

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

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

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2025 EDITIONS

Jan/Feb - December 10 Mar/April - February 15 May/June - April 15
July/Aug - June 15 Sept/Oct - August 10 Nov/Dec - October 15

*Submit stories or other news items at christelca.org/jotform

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!
-Christ Lutheran Pastors & Staff

