

Christ Connections



CHRIST
providence



CHRIST
south



CHRIST
concord



CHRIST
online

july/august 2022

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

9:00 a.m. **Traditional Worship**

10:45 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST SOUTH

10 a.m. **Worship (Polo Ridge)**

11830 Tom Short Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST CONCORD

**NEW WORSHIP TIMES
STARTING JULY 17th!**

9:30 a.m. **Multi-Generational
Modern Worship**

11:00 a.m. **The Gathering**
(for families with special needs children)

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



Honoring Our
COLLEGE GRADUATES
class of 2022



SMALL GROUP ministries



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR
SCOTT SUSKOVIC

It is Time: Another Retirement at CLC

After over twenty years of serving on the staff of Christ Lutheran as the welcoming face of our church, my wife, Gretchen, is stepping down to retire. That's a long time for what I pitched to her in 2001 as a temporary position!

After we lost an associate pastor, Jeff Gardner, in 2001, I asked Gretchen to step in on a temporary basis until I could find a replacement. Her job was to be the face and voice of Christ Lutheran to visitors by greeting them at the door, going out for lunches, talking about the church, organizing new member orientations and helping them get plugged into the life of the church. Almost everyone who has joined the church in the past 20 years had Gretchen as their first impression. I can think of no one better to be in that role.

What started out as "temporary" expanded into so much more. She walked with those struggling to find a place for their family to belong and grow in the faith. She told them about what it was like to have our own children involved in the youth ministry. She talked about how the music brings us to a higher level of praise. And she maybe even said a kind word about the preaching!



Over time, Gretchen joined Mary Parker in organizing concerts in the new sanctuary with names such as Mark Schultz and Big Daddy Weave. She helped promote congregational events such as picnics, Kick-Off Sundays and banquets. As her role expanded even more, she became an extension of the pastoral office, offering a comforting, caring, listening ear to those going through life's struggles.

Gretchen began stepping away from her responsibilities at church in 2021 when her mom needed more and more of her attention. Being able to care for her mother on the final leg of her earthly journey was one of the most exhausting and fulfilling experiences of her life. In fact, through this experience, Gretchen has worked with several other people, particularly daughters, who find themselves in that same position of being the caregiver of aging parents. It is a much needed support group.

It has been a great joy of mine for Gretchen and me to share in this ministry together. We are both deeply connected and committed to the importance of the abundant life that comes through knowing and living in Christ.

She has passed on the welcoming part of her ministry into the capable hands of Kathy Hoffman, who shares that same gift of hospitality. Kathy offers that same smile and inviting presence to our guests.

Well done, Gretchen. Well done. You were the face and smile of Christ Lutheran to each visitor who came over the past 20 years. In you, they found a place to believe and belong. And I am grateful.

The temporary position has now come to an end... and you finished strong!

**I Love You,
Scott**

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

TURTLES FENCEPOSTS *And Community* BEGINS AUGUST 7TH



Pastor,
I have a question...

JULY 10 TO JULY 31

During June, we asked people to submit questions they have regarding faith or the Bible or theology that they've struggled with or about which they have wrestled.

The pastors will sift through these questions and put together a four-part sermon series for July 10-31. Worship in person or online throughout July to hear more!

Turtles, Fenceposts & Community

Alex Haley, author of *Roots*, once said, "If you ever see a turtle on a fence post, you know it had some help along the way." The same is true about us. None of us are what we are today by going it alone. Family, friends, teachers, coaches, pastors, neighbors and coworkers have all accompanied us along this journey called Life. The Christian faith was never meant to be something that we 'go it alone'. That's not a rule, that's the gift of our God giving us one another to do life together.

August 7 • One Another

As we introduce this series, we are reminded that God has created us to be in community. So important is it to be in community, that 100 times in the New Testament, the authors write "one another." Two words in English, one word in Greek ("allemelon"). In fact, besides praising

God, the main purpose of the church is to be one another to one another. *Galatians 5:13-15; John 13:31-35*

August 14 • Doing Life Together

One can be alone, but not lonely. One can also be surrounded by many people, and still feel deeply alone. It's not about the number of people, it's about the number of moments you share. And it doesn't just happen. Doing life together is an intentional act to make the moments count. At Christ Lutheran, our Small Group Ministry is one way in which we do life together. *Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 18:19-20*

August 21 • Get By With a Little Help From My Friends

Today, we will hear from those who went on the mission trip to Mexico in July. But the mission field is also all around us. Today we kick off "8 Days of Service" in which we spread throughout the city to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our neighbors. We all get by with a little help from our friends. *Ecclesiastes 4:9-11; Luke 10:1-9*

August 28 • I Had Some Help Along the Way

As we conclude this series, we celebrate those young people in our church who are confirming their faith on this day. In doing so, we remember Alex Haley's comment, "If you ever see a turtle on a fencepost, you know it had some help along the way." For these confirmands, this journey has not been alone. Through Sunday School teachers, pastors, youth volunteers and parents, we have all walked with them through this journey where we can celebrate their faith. *Romans 10:8-13*

WATCH THE PROMO VIDEO & READ MORE!
christelca.org/sermon-series





SMALL GROUP *ministries*

It's Time to Rebuild Small Groups

by PASTOR RYAN

The secret to the remarkable spread of the Gospel was two fold. First, they met weekly for worship. Second, they gathered in small groups, mostly in one another's home.

As Christians on our own spiritual journey, we will encounter all manner of joy and trial. God knows what life can throw at us and has given us the Church to make it through life. Just like the early Church, we at Christ Lutheran break down into small groups.

SMALL GROUPS TAKE MANY FORMS

The classic Small Group has 4-10 people who gather regularly and study the Bible. That can be with a Bible study found in bookstores, online, or by simply reading the Bible and talking about how what was read might apply to the world. These groups tend to have time to socialize while they meet – having coffee, snacks, or even whole meals. The group does what works best for them.

Other Small Groups gather around different themes. Some share a meal or watch a movie. Some are into hiking or reading books. The point is that whatever that focal point is, we do life *together*. And in doing life together, we grow in faith and in community.

SMALL GROUPS RESTART

Since Covid, we have all had our lives disrupted. It's time to rebuild. To that end, we will soon be reaching out to the leaders of our existing Small Groups to offer any needed support, as well as recruiting & training members who'd like to create new small groups. Here's how to get involved:

Consider being a small group leader. On August 10th and 17th we will hold two leader training sessions to talk about the ins-and-outs of forming a new small group and how to help it thrive. Both sessions will be held at Christ Providence from 6-8 p.m. in the Forum. If you'd like to attend, please sign up in [REALM \(or click here\)](#).

In September we will open those groups up to the entire congregation to sign up for the group of their choice and interest. In October, these small groups will begin to meet.

If you'd like further information about these leader training sessions or want to explore some of our current small group opportunities, please contact Mary Parker (mparker@christelca.org) or Pastor Ryan (rritzmann@christelca.org). Let's do life together!

SUNDAY MORNING
Coffee Break



with
Pastor Scott

UPCOMING DATES:
July 17th
August 21st
 10:10-10:30 a.m.

In between worship services at Providence, hop on Zoom to meet Pastor Scott for a "virtual" coffee break!

CHRIST
online

Christ Choir

rehearsals are Wednesdays • 7:15 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Music Room)

Seeking singers to help lead traditional worship on Sundays. Rehearsals are held weekly on Wednesdays and start Sept. 7th.

Must enjoy being around others and having a good time making music.

more info: mjohanson@christelca.org

THE CHARLOTTE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS presents

KEYBOARD SPECTACULAR
ORGAN & PIANO RECITAL



Sunday, July 31 • 7:00 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

FREE ADMISSION • ALL ARE WELCOME
 donations support the Stigall Scholarship Fund for young organists

more info: mjohanson@christelca.org

PRIMEtimers

A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+

Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 20 • 2:30 p.m.
at the Leffler's home on Lake Norman

Join us for a potluck-style picnic at the lake! Bring a dish to share and \$5 to help cover the cost of beer, wine & beverages.

RSVP in REALM by July 20
More info: dessick@me.com



Coffee with the Pastors

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

 christelca.org/online

Honoring Our **COLLEGE GRADUATES** *class of 2022*



COME GROW WITH US

Growing TO GIVE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Join group in REALM or contact Walt Roth: wroth1@bellsouth.net

SAVE THE DATE

 **Fellowship**
at the fountain

Saturday, August 20
5:30-8:30 p.m. at Christ Providence

Stay tuned for details and rsvp!
ALL CAMPUSES • ALL AGES

SMALL GROUP

Good Morning, Lord

meets 2nd Tuesdays • 9 a.m.
at various local restaurants

Nourish your mind, body and spirit with prayer, a devotion and hearty breakfast.

For reservations, contact Laura Tang: LTang@earthlink.net or (980)279-9983

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

meets weekly from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
at Christ Providence (W150 A & B)

Please join us we read *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom. The book can be purchased online or in any bookstore.

More Info: julia.edelson@gmail.com



Nathan & Tia Suskovic both earned Doctorates of Medicine from UNC School of Medicine and will start their residencies in Boston this summer. Nathan begins a 5-year residency in Urology at Mass General and Tia will start a 3-year residency with Internal Medicine at Beth Israel.



Charlie Bass graduated from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is working for an environmental engineering firm in Richmond, Virginia where he will be working on water resource engineering projects.



Andrew Park Myers graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and minors in music and computer science. Post graduation plans are to work in medical research while pursuing medical school admission.



Bradley Fabian graduated from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management. He plans to pursue a marketing/sales career with a professional sports organization.



Come Grow With Us!

With two locations at our Concord and South campuses, our garden ministry needs help throughout the year. Here are some reasons to join our Garden Ministry:

"Growing to Give" mission. The purpose of the garden ministry is to provide fresh organic vegetables for the hungry that helps keep them healthy and provides them with a sense of well being.

Cultivate a growing personal relationship with our Lord and Savior. Join in with other gardeners of faith who are committed to serving those in need.

Hunger is real right now. While donating money and processed foods are great ways to help feed the hungry, growing fresh vegetables is a much-appreciated alternative.

Health benefits. Fresh air, sunshine and mild exercise all help to keep you healthy and relieve the effects of stress by giving your mind a break from worrisome experiences.

Family-friendly. Parents and children can enjoy being together as an alternative to other organizations that are often expensive and demanding of time away from faith-related activities.

Flexible scheduling. The garden is open every day from sunrise to sunset, except Sundays when it opens at noon. Children under 18 are welcome with a parent.

Youth service opportunities. There are short-term activities for an occasional hour or two, or longer-term projects like Boy Scouts working for their Eagle Badge over several months.

Discovering God's creative power. We can build raised seed beds, fill them with good soil, plant a variety of vegetables, fertilize and water them – but only God can make them grow!

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To learn more or to get involved, contact one of the group leaders for more information:

CHRIST CONCORD:

Bob Wilson (704) 614-7712 or wilsonrj82@gmail.com

Bill Jones (704) 616-3343 or wdjones101@gmail.com

CHRIST SOUTH:

Walt Roth (704) 907-7080 or wroth1@bellsouth.net

Paul D'Albora (704) 595-3444 dalborap@yahoo.com

Dave Deeds (704) 806-5083 ddeeds@bellsouth.net

CENTERSTAGE presents

INTO THE WOODS JR

August 5 & 6 • 6:00 p.m.
at Christ Providence (The Pit)

FREE ADMISSION
more info: mjohanson@christelca.org

Youth Director

(full-time position)

Christ Lutheran is seeking a High School/Middle School Youth Director to create a welcoming environment while guiding & providing faith direction & encouraging discussion for all youth to enable them to grow in faith.

For full job posting, click ad in E-News or email msimpkins@christelca.org

SPOTLIGHT presents

Disney

101 Dalmatians

KIDS

Fri., August 12 • 6:00 p.m.
at Christ Providence (The Pit)

FREE ADMISSION
more info: mjohanson@christelca.org

TEC Weekend

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a retreat at Tekoa Foothills in Cesar, NC that brings high schoolers face-to-face with Christ to help strengthen their personal relationship with Him, fellow Christians and the community.

September 3-5, 2022
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 22

hihtec.org/tecite-application
For more info, contact: Michelle Simmons
msimmons@dreamvacations.com



Concord Worship News!

by PASTOR TENNY

NEW TIMES & SERVICE STARTS JULY 17!!

Our Multi-Generational Modern worship service will shift from 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings, to 9:30 a.m. beginning July 17th. We will continue to offer a worship experience that is engaging, different every week and accessible for all generations – for families with both traditional or contemporary worship backgrounds.

We are adding a NEW worship experience beginning July 17th called "The Gathering." This will be a shush-free, sensory-friendly, adaptive family worship time for families and individuals with developmental disabilities, sensory processing disorder, anxiety, Autism, attention deficits or similar disabilities.

CHRIST CONCORD VBS

We had a great VBS week at Christ Concord, involving children from the community, other Christ Lutheran

campuses, and the children in our Thrive Day School at Christ Concord.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

A fantastic playset is open and ready for business at the Christ Concord playground! Thanks to a generous donor, many, many hours of work by many, many volunteers from the congregation, and several days of work assembling by a dedicated group of guys, it is finally ready for activity. The Thrive Day School kids and our VBS kids have all enjoyed time on the playset!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Join us on Friday, July 22 at Christ Concord from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for a fun evening of music, grilled hot dogs w/ fixin's, beverages, conversation and fun activities for all ages. There will be a bounce house for the kids! Come, relax and enjoy a summer evening with friends – old and new! BYOB & BYOC (bring your own beer/wine and chair). Hope to see you there!



8 DAYS OF SERVICE

It's Back!

Save the date for Sunday, August 21 – Sunday, August 28 and mark your calendars now for our campus-wide outreach effort of 8 Days of Service!!

We will have volunteer and service projects every day and most evenings that week at a variety of non-profits and partner agencies in town. You can pick one or as many as you like – there will be something for every age group and many family-friendly options!

There will be an anchor event each Sunday that can handle large number of volunteers: Hunger Fight meal packing at Christ Providence on August 21 and a TBD event at Christ Concord on August 28.

Interested in leading a project, or have a non-profit in mind you would like to benefit? Contact Amy Daniels at adaniels@christelca.org. Stay tuned for more information.

Science Camp

After having to postpone the last two years of Science Camp, we are so excited to be back inside McClintock Middle School for four weeks of science fun! This summer, rising 6th graders will be exploring robotics, building innovative devices, experimenting with material science, and zigzagging through physics, engineering, gaming and coding!

Brand RPM and UNCC will be field trip destinations where students will see careers and college opportunities in action!

Camp spaces are still available for Session 2, taking place July 11 – July 22. Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) if interested!!!

Family Support Team

If there is one thing learned from the pandemic, it is that families are still in need of support – specifically, food security. McPIE will continue to provide 25 grocery bags each week to McClintock families this summer. A big THANK YOU to the Garden Ministry for donating fresh produce each week. This is a highlight for many families! Pick-up has moved to the Outreach office. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated to fund this important ministry. Donations can be made to the "Feed A Family" Fund via [REALM Giving](#).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIORS: A Discussion About Protecting Your Medicare

**Sunday, August 28 • 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum)**

Dr. Doug Robinson from Healthcare Justice – NC will talk about a little-known government program that threatens to eliminate traditional Medicare and permanently undermine the quality of healthcare for seniors.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services "Innovation Center" has recently announced that by 2030, they plan to move all Traditional Medicare enrollees into a "care relationship" with a 3rd party middleman. Those investor-owned companies can then restrict patient care, and in doing so keep as much as 40% of Medicare payments as profit. All this will be done without seniors' knowledge or consent, and with no Congressional oversight. That's really bad medicine! Attendees will learn about this stealthy program and what they can do to help stop it. More information can be found at protectmedicare.net.

oneblood  Share your power.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, July 17

8am - 12pm at Christ Concord

TO REGISTER, GO TO:
oneblood.org/donate-now
 use sponsor code: Christ Lutheran Church Concord

Clothing Donations
FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE

Donate gently used clothing on Sundays in the blue bins located outside the Outreach Office. (at Christ Providence)

WE'RE ALL *Together*
 IN THIS 

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE:
Sunday, July 24
 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Christ Providence

Signup at redcrossblood.org
 SEARCH: "Christ Lutheran Church"

FUNDRAISING FOR 8 DAYS OF SERVICE EVENT #1:

HUNGER FIGHT

July 10th & 17th
 (The actual service project will take place on August 21st; 'day-of' details to come.)

8 DAYS OF SERVICE **learn about the fight**
 AUGUST 21-28 **at hungerfight.org**

School Supply Drive

ITEMS NEEDED:
 earbuds, composition books, highlighters, bookbags, sticky notes, markers, pencil pouches, folders, glue

Check the CLC E-News each Wednesday for Hot Deals of the week!

McPIE
 McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

COLLECTION BEGINS IN AUGUST

Family Night Will Be Back This Fall

After a successful Family Night Sampler last fall and a mini-spring session this year, Family Night will be back again this fall for the 2022-2023 school year! While the pandemic certainly stalled our momentum, we will continue rebuilding our presence at McClintock by providing a warm meal and age-appropriate classes for students and parents on Tuesday evenings during the school year. If you have ever considered volunteering for Christ Lutheran's largest Outreach Program, NOW is the time! To learn more, contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org.

DAYTIME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Don't have time to volunteer during Family Night? Daytime opportunities are available! Be on the lookout for details in the next newsletter. Teacher partners, tutors, school supplies and teacher luncheons are all areas requiring volunteer help.

Freedom School is Fully Funded & Underway!

Freedom School is back on CLC's Providence Campus! This summer, 60 Scholars ages K-8th grade will be enjoying a fun, safe summer. This class of Scholars will build *Something Inside*



So Strong in hopes of breaking the cycle of poverty. Through the tools they receive in Freedom School, Scholars foster a love of reading and learn that they can make a difference in themselves, their family and the world. Please continue to pray for our Scholars, their families, Freedom School team leaders and volunteers.

We hope that the Holy Spirit touches them daily and blesses and empowers them to make a difference this summer!

Thank you to everyone who donated toward our fundraising efforts! Due to your generosity, Freedom School will make a real impact on these Scholars. If you are still interested in making a donation, the McPIE general fund accepts donations year-round to support Family Night and other initiatives.

FREEDOM SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are still available this summer. Freedom School runs June 20 – July 28. If interested in volunteering, please contact DeeDee Petronis at dhpnetronis@gmail.com. Opportunities include Harambee readers (an energetic way to begin any morning), DEAR time readers (read with a Scholar), field trip chaperones, afternoon activities, etc.

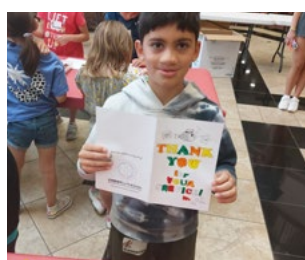
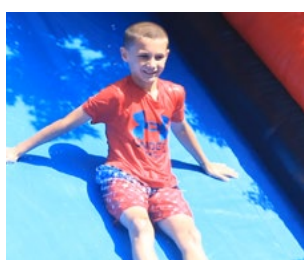
Freedom School Finale

Thursday, July 28 • 1:00 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

Come watch the culmination of these Scholars' hardwork! It's a celebration filled with energy and emotion. Each class will give a presentation through song, dance, spoken word, video and more!



This year's VBS "Shipwrecked" just finished up June 13-17 and it was a great week! Campers enjoyed activities, a water slide, music, dancing and more! They also made thank you cards and raised money for some goodies for Chaplain Drew's crew!





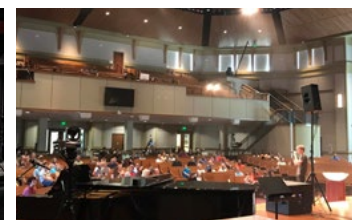
27 high school graduates participated in our annual Quillows Sunday on June 5th at Christ Providence. It's always a wonderful event with few dry eyes in the house! CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022!!



The Xperience Comeback Tour just wrapped up with their homecoming show at Christ Providence on June 26. Other stops included Christ South, several churches in Tennessee & Lutheridge Camp in Arden, NC.

It was also announced that next summer, The Xperience Tour is headed to California!! If you're interested or you have a child who is interested in joining us next year, please contact Mark Johanson at mjohanson@christelca.org.

6th, 7th and 8th graders enjoying Middle School Night at the Christ South land on Friday, June 10th.





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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



july/august 2022

Scott Suskovic • Senior Pastor
Melody Simpkins • Pastor, Family Ministries
Tennyson Shifley • Pastor, Christ Concord
Ryan Ritzmann • Pastor, Christ South
Alexis Williams • Minister, Christ Online
Amy Daniels • Director of Outreach
Mark Johanson • Minister of Music
Gregg Huether • Director of Property and Finance

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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 2022 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 ministries

LEADER TRAINING WORKSHOPS
Wednesday, August 10th & 17th
6-8 p.m. (Christ Providence - Forum)

CLICK -or- SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

Save the Dates

September 11
KICK-OFF SUNDAY & MINISTRY FAIR
fall schedule resumes

September 14
WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER BEGINS

September 18
SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

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