

Christ Connections



july/august 2024

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUMMER WORSHIP

9:00 a.m.

Traditional Worship

10:45 a.m.

Contemporary Worship

*no Sunday School classes
nursery available for ages 0-36 mo.*

THAT'S NONE OF
YOUR BUSINESS

...and Other Words of Grace

SERMON SERIES
JULY 14 - SEPTEMBER 1

8 DAYS OF SERVICE
AUGUST 17-24



PODCAST IS NOW LIVE!!



Honoring Our
COLLEGE
GRADS



Class of
2023-'24



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

For Everything There is a Season...

So says Ecclesiastes chapter 3. And I've come to believe that these changing seasons are a good thing.

By the end of the school year in May, I'm tired. May has become the new December with all of the wrap-up activities at church, end-of-school parties, graduations and Mother's Day. It is a marathon of commitments to the point that summer cannot come fast enough for me. Come June, I love the change of pace, the warm weather, the longer days and time to slip away. I know that when September comes around, I will be just as eager to crank up the church's calendar once again with Sunday School, Wednesdays Together, three worship services and everything else the fall will bring. But for now, I'm liking summer!

Not that the work is less. It's just different.

Summer is a time to play with the kids for a week at VBS and watch them grow in the faith. Freedom School launches, filling the hallways with middle schoolers. We send kids off to camp, we commission people for a mission trip to Mexico, we gear up for the elementary school musical, Frozen, we pray over the youth going on the Xperience Tour and are excited for them to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.

Don't get me wrong. There is still plenty going on. It's just at a different pace. And with this different pace, we have a moment to stop long enough to plan several things for the fall, like:

- A Confirmation Service on August 25.
- A new and improved Wednesdays Together with a twist and a new name.
- A Sunday School that anticipates a continual increase in attendance.
- An announcement about a sale and partnership for the Christ Concord land (more to come on that!)
- Town Meetings in August and a congregational vote in September for the proposed vision for Southland.
- A Mark Schultz concert on October 4.
- Oktoberfest on October 27.

All of that will come soon enough with the next season coming in September. And when it does, I will certainly be ready for that change. But for now, I'm still basking in the warmth of summer, jumping in the water, reconnecting with family, sneaking away for a trip, loving on a granddaughter, taking a bike ride and enjoying the different pace.

For everything there is a season.

**Enjoy the Season,
Pastor Scott**

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
Molly Zmuda
Lauren Ratcliffe



THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

...and Other Words of Grace

SERMON SERIES
JULY 14 - SEPTEMBER 1

OVERVIEW: That's none of your business! Harsh words. Demeaning words. Dismissive words. And yet, in the context of the Gospel, these are words of hope and grace. This sermon series explores how the Gospel takes trite phrases of ours, turns them upside down, and reveals God's abundant love and grace. Of course it is none of your business! Grace is all about the business of God.

July 14 • It's Not You, It's Me

It's a classic breakup line. "It's not you, it's me." It's meant to weasel out of a relationship by taking the blame and responsibility. Did we ever really believe it? When Moses tried to break up with God, he turned it inwardly saying, "It's not you, it's me. I don't speak well. I'm not the right person. They won't believe me." But God wouldn't give up on his servant, Moses, and neither will he give up on you. --Exodus 3:1-17; 4:1-17

July 21 • Thanks, I Owe You One

We like to even up the score, don't we? If someone picks up the check, we will do it next time. If someone gives us a gift, we feel compelled to do the same. If someone does us a favor, we owe them one. After all that God has done for us, how can we possibly think we could ever even the score? --Micah 6:6-8; Philippians 3:4b-14

July 28 • Youth Gathering Sunday

August 4 • There is No Free Lunch

When someone offers you a deal that seems too good to be true, it usually is too good to be true. Such great offers or deals usually come with a hook. Something is expected, something is required, the fine print must be read and don't sign until you read it through because we all know there is no free lunch. So, when we hear about God's grace, isn't there a part of our skeptical self that asks, "What's the catch?" --Matthew 19:16-26; Romans 3:21-29

August 11 • That's Not Fair!

From the child who gets a smaller piece of candy to the corporate ladder climber passed up for a promotion, we cry out, "That's not fair!" Instinctively, we want people to get what they deserve. The good prosper. The bad are punished. But when it comes to God's grace, none of us should be so foolish as to cry out, "That's not fair!" It always comes as a gift. --Matthew 20: 1-15; 1 Timothy 1:12-17

August 18 • Because I Said So!

It is demeaning. It shuts down the conversation. "Because I said so!" This comes from a vantage point of power. But in the context of the Gospel, it comes from the vantage point of grace. The woman at the well believed that she was of little value, scorned by the community and probably out-sinned the grace of God. And yet because of Jesus saying so, she is restored through the power of His word. --John 4:1-29

August 25 • Confirmation

September 1 • Karma: What Goes Around, Comes Around

In Buddhism, Karma is a tenet that assures us that everyone will eventually get what they deserve, either in this life or when you are reincarnated in the next life as a rat! For Peter, the one who denied Jesus three times, after the resurrection when Jesus meets with him the first time, what Karma should he expect to happen? --John 21:15-19



READ MORE ABOUT THE CURRENT
& UPCOMING SERMON SERIES AT:

christelca.org/sermon-series

IGNITE:

A New Adult Fellowship Group

by LAURIE CARTER

Christ Lutheran is excited to announce the launch of a new adult fellowship ministry... IGNITE! The group is open to all adults, but the focus will be on adults (married and single) over 40.

COVID left us wanting for a sense of community and belonging, and it's our hope that this group will IGNITE our adults in coming together for fun times with engaging conversation and outings (concerts, theater, wine bars, game nights, breweries, etc.). Some events will include a serving component for those interested in outreach. There will be activities & events geared toward retired folks during the day and activities for all adults on the weekends in the evening.

A group of adult leaders has stepped up to help launch this new group, but others interested in serving as a leader may contact Laurie Carter (laurie.carter57@gmail.com) for more information.

If you are ready to IGNITE and would like to be added to the group, please let Laurie know. Stay tuned for some exciting events coming up this fall! Jump in and IGNITE!

Deeper Dive

by PASTOR SCOTT • FROM PASTOR'S BLOG: JUNE 24, 2024

Have you ever heard a sermon and thought, "Yeah, but..." You had questions, you wanted to go deeper on a certain point, you needed clarification on a topic? We have put together a weekly podcast called, "Deeper Dive" in which we do just that. Each week, the preaching pastor and one other enter into a deeper, theological conversation based on the previous sermon. We can hit upon topics that we would not normally cover on a Sunday morning. It is lively, it is fun, and I believe you will find it interesting. Here are some examples of previous podcasts:

On June 23, I preached about being the one for only a short term, like Philip and the Ethiopian. We heard the testimony from Geoff Nau about "Jeremy" who came into his life when he was a homeless addict at just the right time. God creates those divine appointments with people intersecting your life at critical times. The podcast talked about staying in touch with people and the false sense of relationship that Facebook has created.

On June 16, Pastor Ryan spoke about showing up for another person in a mentoring role. We heard from Sam Ingram about her surprising spiritual mentorship with an older executive that changed both. The podcast focused on God surprising us with those people in our lives and how both of us can be changed forever.

On June 9, I preached about remembering the marriage covenant. The testimony was from Leigh Ann Harris who went through horrendous abuse as a child, but her husband stayed committed to her through her therapy, honoring those wedding vows. The podcast compared the world's understanding of love as a feeling with the biblical understanding of love as a commitment.

The podcast intentionally is only about 15 minutes long, just enough for your drive home or maybe a brisk walk in your neighborhood. And if you have a question or topic for a podcast after a sermon, please send me a quick note. Always looking for ideas!

DEEPER DIVE PODCAST
christelca.org/podcast

READ MORE BLOGS FROM OUR PASTOR'S & STAFF
christelca.org/blog

Coffee with the Pastors

BOOK STUDY

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

 christelca.org/online

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



SPOTLIGHT SUMMER CAMP presents

Disney
FROZEN
KIDS

Friday, August 9
6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Enjoy the final performance from our Spotlight campers. Fun for all ages!

Baptismal Classes

July 14 • August 11
1:00 p.m. on Zoom

For info, email Jane at
jsatterfield@christelca.org

Find Zoom link at
christelca.org/online



SAVE THE DATE • SIGNUP STARTS AUGUST 1!!

8 DAYS OF SERVICE
AUGUST 17-24

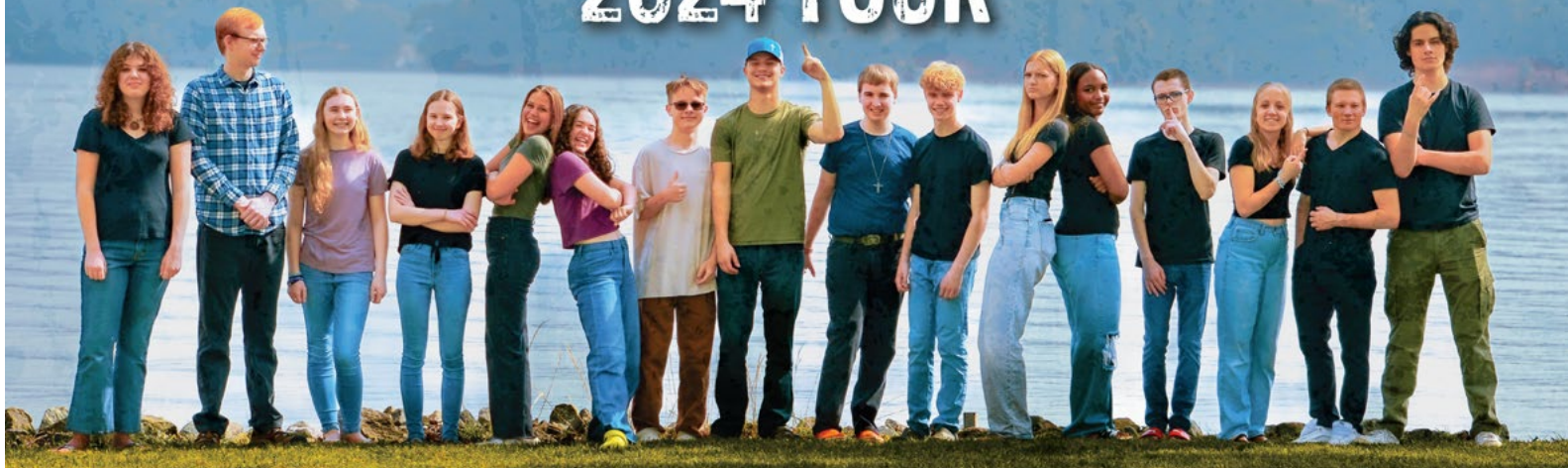
Interested in leading a project or have a non-profit in mind to benefit?

Contact Amy Daniels:
adaniels@christelca.org



REFLECTIONS

2024 TOUR



SEND OFF SHOW!!

Sunday, July 7th
during both services

9:00 a.m. Traditional & 10:45 a.m. Contemporary

TOUR SCHEDULE

June 28th - China Grove NC - 6:00pm
320 North @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church

June 29th - Hickory NC - 6:00pm
Zion Lutheran Church

July 10th - Asheville NC - 7:30pm
United Methodist Camp Tekoa

July 11th - Atlanta GA - 7:00pm
Epiphany Lutheran Church Suwannee

July 12th - Knoxville TN - 7:00pm
Faith Lutheran Church

July 14th - Jackson MS - 7:00pm
Ascension Lutheran Church

July 18th - New Orleans LA
National Youth Gathering

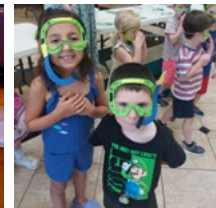
Xperience Summer Tour 2024

by BILL PORTER

Hey everyone! This summer, The Xperience is hitting the road to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans! We're all about sharing God's message through music, which we like to call "telling the story." Along the way, we'll be jamming in some great cities like Hendersonville, Atlanta, Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson, MS. The Xperience kids are very excited to perform at churches in each city leading a night of worship, spreading our faith and rocking out with local communities.

While we are very excited to play at every church and camp on the way down, our highlight of our tour is in New Orleans! We'll get to lead worship for a massive group of 1,000 people during our region day! This event brings together tons of church groups, and it's our chance to worship and connect with a big community of faith through our music.

We look forward to sharing more with you once we get back, and look forward to getting to perform our worship experience on July 7th before we head out! Lastly, we can't say thanks enough for all the support you all have given us!



What a Great Week!

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Wow, Vacation Bible School was such a wonderful week. With 170 campers, middle school leaders, and adult leaders, we were a big crew! In our theme SCUBA, we took a deep dive into our relationship with God to learn:

- God is a friend who is real.
- God is a friend who loves.
- God is a friend we can trust.
- God is a friend forever.
- God is a friend for everyone.

We sang songs. We made crafts. We played games. We heard the story of Elijah, Jonah, Jesus calming the storm, Jesus rising from the dead, and Lydia being baptized. We had a new addition to our VBS stage: Punchie, our VW purple punch bug! Our hearts were full at the end of the week!

We also included a service project as part of our week. We collected money for Pastor Drew and his crew who have been deployed for months away at sea. With these funds, he plans to organize events to help ease the challenging transition when they return to shore. With your help, we raised \$865! Thank you so much!

It is impressive to see how the Family Ministry Team operates and coordinates this important week of faith formation. I am grateful to the Team for their expertise

and experience! All of our great campers, staff and volunteers made this amazing ministry happen. We are so very grateful! Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and resources. We appreciate each and every person who helped; it made all of the difference!

Youth Ministry Recap 2023-24

by TYLER WELLER

Thank you for all your support this year. We have worked very hard to offer as much as we can for students, and we had a full year. In the Spring, we took 18 students to Lutheridge for the Faith Alive retreat where our students focused on Serving and why we should go out into the community and serve. They learned how we can most be like Jesus by serving with a loving heart.

We look forward to doing more Faith Alive retreats in the future. We met for Youth Group on a weekly basis, which included youth worship where we provided middle and high schoolers with an opportunity to worship on a more intimate level so that they may learn what it means to take an active part in worship.

This year we wanted to provide students an opportunity to lead worship on a weekly basis. The Xperience led youth worship every Sunday during Youth Group. The students chose the music, planned the lessons and activities, and led worship both from the stage and the congregation.

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 rising 9th graders through adults.**

August 31st - Sept. 2nd

at Tekoa Foothills in Casar, NC • Cost: \$100

MORE INFO: go to hihtec.org or email Tyler Weller (tweller@christelca.org)

Activities Coordinator

part-time position (8 hrs. per week)



Seeking an energetic candidate to join our Family Ministry team to help plan & coordinate regular fellowship events & social gatherings for families with preschool, elementary and middle school-aged children.

If you have an interest in learning more about joining the team, please contact Pastor Adrienne at amartin@christelca.org

Nursery

part-time position (8 hrs. per week)



Seeking adult candidates (21+) to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, plus other opportunities throughout the year. General responsibilities include age-appropriate care of our little ones and the nursery environment. Technology skills a plus.

If interested in learning more, contact Pastor Adrienne at amartin@christelca.org



HIGH SCHOOL Lunch

Sunday, July 28 • 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Come join Tyler Weller, our Youth Director, for lunch at MOD Pizza. We will meet around 12:30 p.m. or so depending on worship end time.
MORE INFO: tweller@christelca.org



XPERIENCE

Retreat

LED BY:

INSPIRE CREATIVE
company

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, Sept. 7
10-4 p.m. in the Pit

Stay tuned for details or email Bill Porter: bporter@christelca.org

FAMILIES

We wanted to provide a couple opportunities for our high school students in two ways – Pit Unplugged and our HS Lunches. Pit Unplugged was our idea for a relaxed environment for students to hang out with friends and do homework. We got into a good habit of having about 10 students and a few volunteers join us in Fellowship Hall to eat dinner, then we all head over to the Pit to hang outside by the fire pits, play yard games and just have good conversations about each other's week and how we could be praying for each other.

About once a month we would walk over to MOD Pizza and enjoy lunch as a community after church. Again this was so students could be in an environment where they can just be themselves.

Looking forward to this summer, we will be taking 21 students to the National Youth Gathering – the first one since 2018! The Xperience will have the opportunity to lead worship for all of Region 9 (NC, SC, TN, VA, FL, AL, MS and GA) at the National Youth Gathering and the students will have an opportunity to take part in worship with around 20,000 people. This will truly be a once in a lifetime experience.

We also had some fun off-campus events this year – bowling, escape rooms, lake days, mini-golf – and we look forward to many more next year! This is just a short glimpse of what all we had going on this year, but rest assured we have plenty more to come next year. Keep an eye out on your email and our Weekly E-news for more information.

Welcome All Rising 6th Graders

We want to welcome all rising 6th graders to our middle school youth group with a retreat on August 10th. All middle school students are welcome to join us. This is a great way to meet all the new students and welcome them. You'll also get to meet our Youth Ministry Team and learn more about what all we have going on for Confirmation. There are more details to come, so stay tuned and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Back-to-School Blessing

by KATE HARRISON

On Sunday, August 18th we will be having a Back-to-School Blessing at both Traditional and Contemporary worship services. Students will be invited to bring their backpack and come forward for a prayer and blessing for the start of the school year. We will also be handing out backpack tags and recognizing teachers. You won't want to miss this Christ Lutheran tradition!



Confirmation

August is a special time for our 9th graders! These confirmands are wrapping up this chapter of their faith journey after three years of learning about the Bible and Lutheran theology, growing in community and fellowship, worshiping and serving together. We will be taking the group to Awanita Valley Retreat Center in the foothills of South Carolina for a mountain-top experience with fun and faith-building adventures as they prepare to affirm their baptism. Students will conclude the weekend with planning all aspects of their own Rite of Confirmation worship service.

Please join us on August 25th at both Traditional and Contemporary worship to support these students.



Casey Helen Lepley earned a B.S. in Biology & Chemistry and a B.A. in Romance Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She will work as a medical writer at the Prevention Genetics division of Exact Sciences, headquartered in Madison, WI.



Ce'Vion Barber graduated from UNC Charlotte with a B.S. in Computer Science. He plans to work as an Associate DevOps Engineer with Spectrum.



Brynn Martinson graduated from Washington and Lee University with a B.S. in Neuroscience. She will be working for now with plans for going to medical school in 2026.



Tucker Lee Erman Lepley graduated from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) with a B.A. in Sociology. He will be playing for the LA Galaxy in Major League Soccer (MLS).



Jonathan Howard earned a degree in Environmental Science and Sustainability from Sewanee: The University of the South. He plans to work for American Conservation Experience in Asheville, NC.



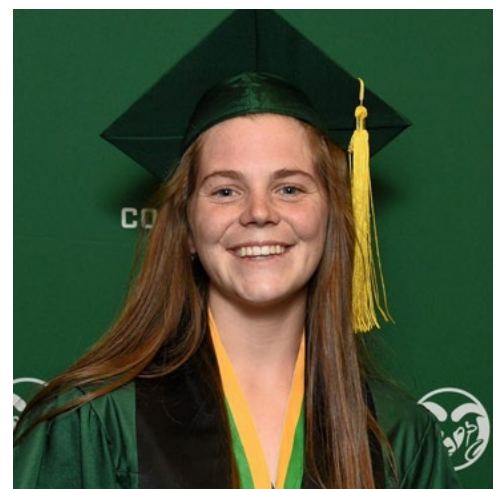
Jacob Parker graduated from the University of South Carolina with a B.M. in Vocal Performance. He is pursuing a master's in Vocal Performance from Florida State University.



Emilee Rose Pope graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's in Public Health from College of Charleston.



Harrison Grams earned a B.S. in Environmental Design from Auburn University. He will be pursuing a master's degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia.



Caroline Grace Fagan earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences from Colorado State University. She will work as a Lab Technician for her alma mater.



Jack Thomas Tenzer graduated in May from Connecticut College. He earned a B.A. in Economics.



Julie Ellen Bugg earned a B.A. in Elementary Education from High Point University. She is currently job hunting and will be moving to Chapel Hill/Durham area to teach K-5.



Lauren Cornwell Wright earned an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from Carolinas College of Health Sciences. She will work at CMC Main in Charlotte as a Labor and Delivery RN.



Amelia Young graduated *magna cum laude* from West Virginia University with a B.S. in Economics. Amelia will be working in Charlotte while pursuing a master's in Data Analytics from Clemson University.



Nate Miller graduated from Rice University in Houston, TX with a B.A. in Bioengineering. He is moving to Madison, WI for a job with Epic Systems.



Olivia Brown graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW). She will be working for EY Consulting in their PAS division.



Cassidy Simmons earned an associate degree in Paralegal Studies from Central Piedmont Community College. She plans to work as a para legal.



Tyler English earned a B.S. in Construction Management in Dec. 2023 from ECU in Greenville, NC. He is currently employed with Samet Corporation.



Lucas Schroeder earned a B.S. in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will be working with Deloitte Consulting in Minneapolis, MN.

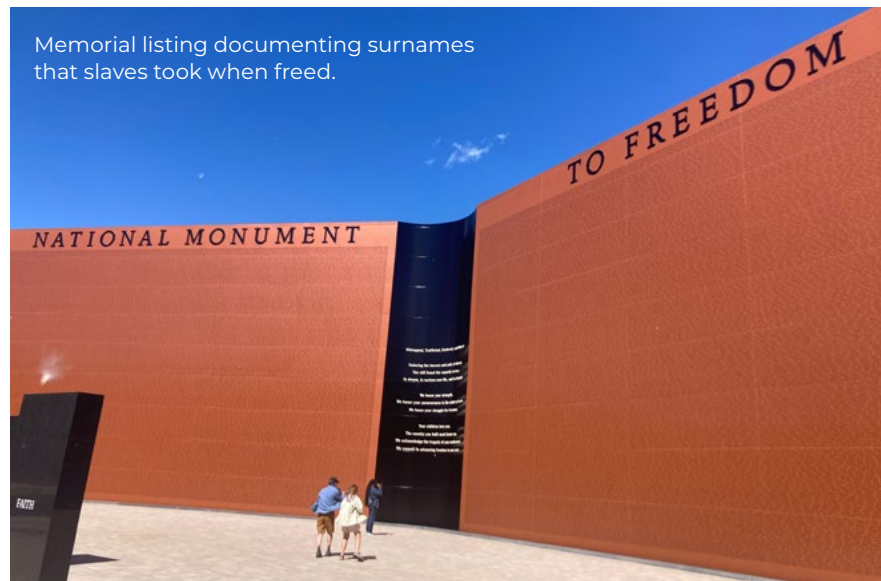
How I Spent Sabbatical: The Civil Rights Trail

by AMY DANIELS

The U.S. Civil Rights Trail spans 14 states, features more than 100 sites and highlights the country's civil rights story. In late March I traveled to Raleigh, went to a few sites, and then went to Greensboro and toured the International Civil Rights Museum. I had no idea that such a powerful story of the lunch counter sit-ins at Woolworth's was remembered in such a marvelous fashion. It was like traveling back in time to stand at that lunch counter and hear the entire story of the planning and execution of such an important moment in history. Then on April 1st my husband Kevin and I drove out of North Carolina and began our journey to follow a larger portion of the Civil Rights Trail. This trip proved to be very impactful on our lives and faith. As the trip progressed, we learned a great deal of the ways in which our history has been told to hide blatant racism and white supremacist ideals.

Our first stop was Atlanta, GA where we walked around Atlanta's Sweet Auburn Historic District and visited The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Ebenezer Baptist Church, The King Center, and the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library.

From Atlanta we drove to Birmingham, AL where we walked around Kelly Ingram Park and viewed the sculptures depicting the civil rights struggle. We also visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the 16th Street Baptist Church which was the meeting place for the organization of marches and other activities. The church was bombed in 1963 and four young Black girls were killed. It was at this point that the federal government was finally motivated to act on civil rights legislation.



Memorial listing documenting surnames that slaves took when freed.

Our next stops in Alabama were Tuskegee and Montgomery. The visit to the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site was interesting. In Montgomery we visited several different sites. Among them was The Legacy Museum which helped solidify the understanding of the Atlantic Slave trade and slavery overall. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice has documented as many lynchings as possible that occurred from the 1860s to 1960s across our nation in every county of every southern state. And then the very new Freedom Monument Sculpture Park that memorializes every surname taken by a slave as they were freed. It was truly a humbling and overwhelmingly emotional day.

REFLECTIONS
2024 TOUR • SEND OFF SHOW
Sunday, July 7
during both services • 9 & 10:45 a.m.

Ringleaders
Summer Handbells
2nd & 4th Tuesdays • 4 p.m.
in the Handbell Room (M245)
Adults are invited to join the CLC ringers for some intro classes to basic handbells. Ring with us for an hour and then join us for happy hour! No experience necessary.
MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org

DATES
starts JULY 2
ends AUG. 20

Morning Melodies
SUMMER CHOIR
every Sunday at 8:15 a.m. (in the Sanctuary)
Calling all singers! Join Mark, Phil & Christ Choir as we prepare accessible anthems for the Musical Offering during Traditional Worship.
- no robes or experience required -
PREVIEW CURRENT SONG & MUSIC SHEET
ON OUR YOUTUBE PLAYLIST
To access, scan QR Code or go to t.ly/Pw16x

SpiritSong Choir
OPEN REHEARSAL
Sunday, August 11 • 12:00 p.m.
in the Music Room
If you love praising God during Contemporary worship and would consider singing with our SpiritSong Choir, please come to this open rehearsal! Meet the singers, sing some familiar songs and learn more about serving in worship.
MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org

Rehearsals resume September 4
Christ Choir
meets on Wednesdays • 7:15 p.m. in Music Room
Christ Choir leads the Traditional worship service through song. Join us this fall to grow your voices and lift praises to God!

Wednesdays together

RESUMES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Programming Update:

Thank you to everyone who helped us improve our Wednesdays Together programming by taking our survey.

We are in the process of revamping the program with exciting new programming options, improved scheduling & much more.

A total refresh awaits you this fall.
Save The Date & Join Us!



SERMON SERIES JULY 14 - SEPTEMBER 1

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

...and Other Words of Grace

 christelca.org/sermon-series

Online Study Guide

This online resource is a collection of Bible studies and sermons that you will find useful for enriching your spiritual life, on your own or in a group.

 christelca.org/online-study-guide

Motorcycle Retreat

Oct. 4-7
at Lutheridge

Join men & women for a motorcycle fellowship weekend at Lutheridge. Enjoy group rides, worship, Bible studies, campfires & more.

FOR RATES AND MORE INFORMATION:
hslcjuno.org/motorcycleretreat

Hosted by Pastor Jim Graeser of Holy Spring Lutheran in Juno Beach, FL • This event is not sponsored by CLC

I was raised by my parents with the help of a domestic worker that seemed more like family to me. Mamie was born in a small town in South Carolina, and her first job was working in cotton fields. I was able to see how many slaves had taken both her maiden and married surnames. It was as close to her heritage as she could ever have gotten. Many of us can search our ancestry back for many generations. Most that have been enslaved can go no further than the mid 1800s at most.

To round out our Alabama visits we stopped at the Lowndes Interpretive Center which is a National Park Service visitor center located between Montgomery and Selma. In Selma we stopped at and drove across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Up next was a stop at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Medger Evers home and National park in Jackson, MS and then it was on to Tennessee, which was our final state on this trip. In Memphis we wandered around the Beale Street Historic District and visited the National Civil Rights Museum, the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ and the Stax Museum of American Soul Music. It was awe inspiring to stand at the spot where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. In Nashville we viewed the public art Witness Walls which is designed to honor the events and peoples who fought for racial equality in Nashville and continue the conversation about social justice and equity in the community.

Before leaving Tennessee, we stopped in to see my 92-year-old uncle. While recounting our travels, experiences and thoughts, he shared with us that he was present for the Poor Man's March on Washington, D.C. and for the "I Have a Dream" speech. I was very surprised to hear that he had been present for such an important part of history (and I almost never knew it!).

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, this trip proved to be very impactful on both Kevin and me. We must strive for justice and peace for all of God's people in whatever ways we can. I believe that my decades of silent ambivalence have hurt the movement for civil rights. If those with privilege do nothing, we harm the movement. Our work with McPIE is making strides for individuals in our community, but there is more we can and should do.

Finally, one of the projects that has come out of this trip is OneBody. It is a partnership with Emmaus Lutheran Church, a Black ELCA congregation started on the west side of Charlotte by The Rev. Dr. Shanitria Cuthbertson. The purpose of this project is to enrich and equip members of the Church to build interracial and intergenerational relationships through sharing stories, community learning experiences, and breaking bread.

While all the details have yet to be finalized, the participants will consist of 10 members from Emmaus Lutheran and 10 members from Christ Lutheran Church. The first meeting will be a Meet and Greet late this summer. The second meeting in Fall 2024 will be a day trip to Greensboro, NC to visit the International Civil Rights Museum. The final meeting of this project will be a trip to Atlanta, GA and Montgomery, AL to visit some of the sites on the Civil Rights Trail. This trip will occur sometime between February and April 2025. If you have questions regarding OneBody or think that you would like to participate, please reach out to me.

I appreciate and thank the Christ Lutheran congregation for the opportunity to make this trip as part of my 2024 Sabbatical and would like to leave you with the question that is asked at the end of a visit to the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, NC. "What will you do to promote civil and human rights?"



8 DAYS OF SERVICE AUGUST 17-24



It's Time Again!

by AMY DANIELS

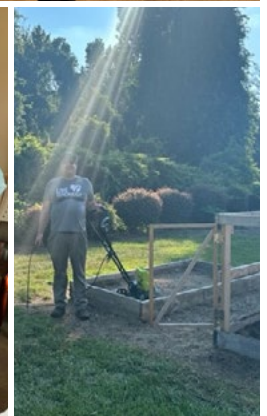
Once a year, we join our hands and our hearts as a congregation to support several worthy causes during what we call the 8 Days of Service. This year, from **August 17-24**, we'll have a wide variety of ways you can get involved. There will be opportunities to serve each day as well as in the evenings for those who work. We're preparing a full list of events and sign up information and will have that ready to go prior to August 1, so please look for that soon! For now we'll highlight a few of the larger events:

Habitat Build in partnership with Emmaus Lutheran Church on Saturday, August 17. We will have spots for 7-8 workers for 2nd story framing and will need help with donations of lunch, water and snacks.

Hunger Fight on Sunday, August 18, after Traditional Worship from 10:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., and after Contemporary Worship from 12:15 -2:00 p.m. We will assemble meals that will be distributed to individuals and families in need within the Charlotte community. This is a great intergenerational service opportunity. We will have spots for 60 or more volunteers for each of the two shifts. We will have a light lunch in between shifts.

If you are interested in leading a project or have a non-profit in mind to benefit, please contact Amy Daniels by July 15 (adaniels@christelca.org).

Registration opens August 1st. Stay tuned to E-News for updates!



volunteer opportunity

We are looking for volunteer help throughout Freedom School.

If interested in volunteering, email: dpetronis@christelca.org



Summer Hours:
SUN., TUE. & WED.
9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.



Cornerstone Gifts is looking for a few volunteers to join our team!

Perks include a flexible schedule and a 10% discount on any purchases.

For more info, contact Carolyn Usinger: cusinger@christelca.org

Thrivent Action Team Impact

Thrivent Action Teams are a great way to utilize funds for a project that you choose! Many projects benefit Christ Lutheran ministries and McClintock students, families and staff. If you don't have a specific project in mind, there are plenty in our vault to choose from! To utilize these free funds (if you are a Thrivent member), contact DeeDee to get started! (dpetronis@christelca.org)

Client & community impact

10,195
Thrivent Action Teams

12,725
Thrivent Choice® participants

645,793
Thrivent Action Team, Charitable and Thrivent Community event volunteer hours

87,432
Thrivent Action Team leaders & volunteers

Financial impact

\$33,193,248

Thrivent Choice Dollars® directed, online personal donations, Thrivent Action Team funds raised, Charitable and Thrivent Community events funds raised, Thrivent Charitable grants, Thrivent Action Team seed funds and total value of volunteer hours

Event impact

14,015

Financial, charitable & Thrivent Community event participants



Habitat Thank You!

A dozen CLC volunteers swung hammers for Charlotte's Habitat for Humanity on a beautiful spring Saturday in April. The crew spent the day framing out the second story of the home in the West Charlotte subdivision. They enjoyed a hearty lunch, supplied by the church's Thursday Morning Women's Bible study.

Tutor Coordinator Wanted

Tutors are a critical part of academic success for many students! McPIE is looking for a new Tutor Coordinator. The job is simple:

- Advertise for tutors through the church newsletters, E-news, and McPIE table displays at the beginning of the school year.
- Gather the preferences for each tutor, ie. subject, grade level, day and time.
- Work with Shannon Gibson to place the tutor.
- Check in periodically to make sure everything is going OK.
- Send out reminders about holidays, workdays and early dismissal days.

Once tutors are placed with a student/teacher, the Coordinator just checks in from time to time. The bulk of coordinating is at the beginning of the school year. If interested, contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org).

Family Night Volunteer Opps

After another successful year back during the 2023-24 school year, McPIE Family Night will be back again this fall for the 2024-25 school year! It was so nice to see the momentum increase each week! Students, families and volunteers were full of smiles and ready to greet, serve and love on students and families. The warm meal was delicious, clubs were engaging and fun, and parents felt a sense of community with each other. Last year, we added a few new clubs, welcomed new volunteers, and increased our numbers! If you have ever considered volunteering for Christ Lutheran's largest Outreach Program, NOW is the time! We will begin at the end of September. To learn more, contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org.

HELP FUND A SERVICE PROJECT WITH



Action Teams

For more information:

Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org)

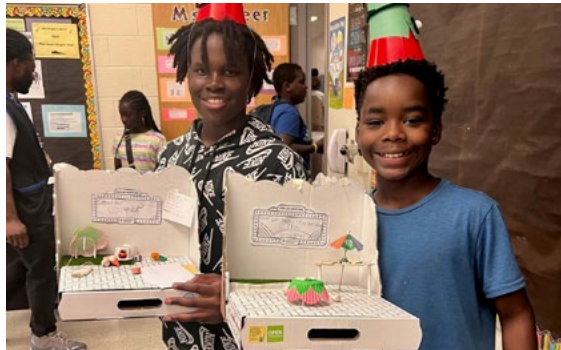
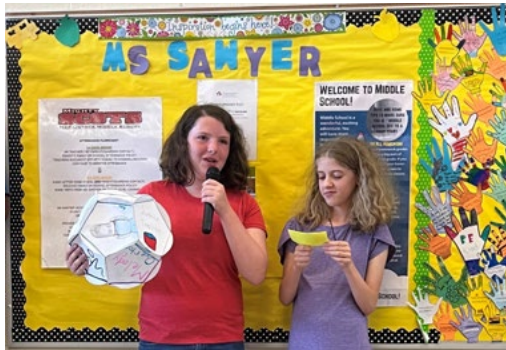
REFUGEE SUPPORT DONATIONS

Afghan and Ukrainian refugee support is increasing, and we need items to help them get on their feet in America.



SCAN -or- CLICK to view shopping list





SCIENCE CAMP *showcase*

Thursday, July 18 • 1:00 p.m.
at McClintock Middle School

McPIE
McClintock Parents In Education

SCIENCE CAMP **McPIE**
McClintock Parents In Education

6th Grade Trailblazers • July 8-19
for rising 6th graders • **FREE!**

Explore engineering, circuits and more with field trips to UNCC and Discovery Place! You must have transportation to McClintock for drop-off (8:30a) and pick-up (3:30p). Breakfast, lunch & snack provided.

Click or Scan for application

Bring completed app to day 1 of camp!
INFO: shannon.gibson@cms.k12.nc.us



SCIENCE CAMP **McPIE**
McClintock Parents In Education

Career Track Explorers • July 8-19
for rising 7th & 8th graders • **FREE!**

Explore kitchen chemistry, earth science & more with field trips to Davidson College & the Innovation Barn! You must have transportation to McClintock for drop-off (8:30a) and pick-up (3:30p). Breakfast, lunch & snack provided.

Click or Scan for application

Bring completed app to day 1 of camp!
INFO: starkeras.barnes@cms.k12.nc.us



Science Camp

Science Camp is in FULL swing this summer! Rising 6th-8th graders will explore science, technology, engineering, arts and math in engaging science modules, followed by Friday field trips to tie it all together! Camp Invention curriculum for 6th graders has our future scientists exploring biophysics, electrical engineering, prototypes, circuits and so much more! Field trips to Discovery Place Science will allow them to investigate other science concepts and a trip to UNCC will allow them to take a glimpse into college life and science majors.

This summer, our older camp, Career Track Explorers, will have fun diving into concepts surrounding solutions and chemistry, food science, Earth science and the incredible egg. Field trips to Davidson College and Activate will certainly be fun opportunities to learn more about science and technology and see another college campus! We are excited to host 100 students at McClintock for two, 2-week sessions of camp!

School Supply Drive

for McClINTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

STUDENT NEEDS:

- Pencils, pencils, pencils
- Book bags
- Composition books
- Jumbo glue sticks
- Pocket folders
- Over the ear headphones that could be cleaned with Clorox wipes. These would be kept in teachers' classrooms.

McPIE
McClintock
PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

TEACHER WISHES:

- Boxes of tissue
- Broom and dustpan
- Hall Passes

DONATION DROPOFF:

Lower Commons on Sundays -or- Outreach Office during the week.



CLICK -or- SCAN FOR AMAZON WISHLIST

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?



christelca.org/prayer-request

Clothing Donations for Crisis Assistance

Bring new or gently used clothing to donate to our neighbors in need!
Drop off clothing at the Outreach Office M-F. On Sunday, the blue bins will be outside the Outreach Office doors.
Questions? nealman@bellsouth.net

COME GROW WITH US

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

Growing TO GIVE
COMMUNITY GARDEN

Freedom School is Underway

Freedom School is back for another summer of fun, reading and activities! This summer, we will welcome 80 Scholars, ages K-8th grade! They 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 families and the world. Please continue to pray for our Scholars, their families, Freedom School team leaders and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who donated toward our fundraising efforts! Due to your generosity, Freedom School is FULLY FUNDED and 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 Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities are still available this summer. Freedom School runs June 17 – July 25. If interested in volunteering, please contact DeeDee Petronis at dpetronis@christelca.org. Opportunities include DEAR time readers (read with a Scholar), field trip chaperones, afternoon activities, family engagement dinner hosts, etc.

Freedom School Finale

Come watch the culmination of these Scholars' hard work on Thursday, July 25 at 1 p.m. at Christ Providence (Sanctuary). It's a celebration filled with energy and emotion. Each class will give a presentation through song, dance, spoken word, video and more.

Science Camp Showcase

Science Campers spend two weeks participating in hands-on learning and want YOU to check out their creations and inventions! Come to McClintock on Thursday, July 18th at 1 p.m. to see their hard work! This is a great opportunity for students to improve their public speaking skills as well as showcase all they have learned.



CHRISTLUTHERAN

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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



july/august 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

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

Summer Worship

MAY 26 - SEPTEMBER 1

TRADITIONAL • 9:00 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY • 10:45 a.m.

- no Sunday School classes -

- nursery available for ages 0-36 months -

WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE



Save the Dates

September 8 • Kick-Off Sunday

REGULAR WORSHIP TIMES RESUME

8:45 a.m. Trad. • 10 a.m. Bridge • 11 a.m. Contemp.

Sept. 11 • Wednesdays Together Resumes

September 15 • Sunday School Resumes

10:00 - 10:45 a.m.



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