Christ Connections





september/october 2024



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

fall worship starts Sept. 8

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

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



STARTS SEPTEMBER 11





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

christelca.org/online









Pastor's Perspective



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

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

Pastor's Perspective: Kick-Off Sunday September 8, 2024

As we say goodbye to the summer schedules, the vacation getaways and the hot weather, our attention turns to the fall as we reunite as a congregation for Kick-Off Sunday on September 8th. Couple of things to note:

Fall Worship Times: Beginning on September 8th, we will return to our normal fall worship schedule with Traditional Worship at 8:45 a.m., The Bridge Service at 10:00 a.m. and Contemporary Worship at 11:00 a.m. *Sunday School will start the following Sunday, September 15th at 10:00 a.m.*

Kick-Off Brunch: On this Sunday, we will offer free of charge a brunch for the entire congregation to get reconnected with one another. This meal will be served from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., catered by Mike and Alicia Wallace. You can register in <u>REALM</u>.

Ministry Fair: As part of cranking up the fall schedule, we will host a Ministry Fair in the Lower Commons all morning for you to explore new opportunities for getting involved and serving.

Sunday School for All Ages: Classes will resume officially the following Sunday, September 15th, so take that time to wander through the Ministry Fair, have brunch and check out what class you want to join.

Wednesdays Ablaze (formerly Wednesdays Together): This popular program will resume on Wednesday, September 11 with a dinner from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. and programming, classes and rehearsals for all ages to follow. See a complete list of offerings in this newsletter on page 8-9.

When June comes, I am always ready for a change of pace. It is not necessarily less busy, just different. The summer brings with it other opportunities such as VBS, Spotlight, Camps, Retreats, Service, Freedom School and Youth Gatherings. But by September, I am ready for the large number of people to return, the halls to be filled, the classes well attended and to see faces I haven't seen for months.

So I want to encourage you as September rolls around: "Welcome Home!" We are excited to reconnect with you, to gather in worship, to dive into the Word and to enjoy the unique fellowship we have here at Christ Lutheran.

See You Soon! Pastor Scott

Stephen Ministry Sunday, September 22

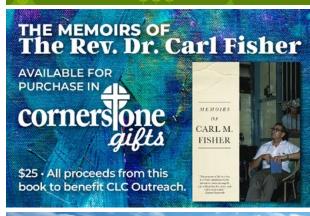
Stephen Ministry is a powerful program that has been implemented around the world. Through active listening and care giving, participants are paired with members of the church to accompany them during a season of their life. This might be after the loss of a loved one, or recovering from an illness or experiencing hardship. It isn't counseling. It is a caring and listening ear to be present for the one in need for a certain amount of time.

Christ Lutheran has had this program for several years, but it is time to relook at this ministry and the impact that it can have. If you are a part of our Stephen Ministry, or have been trained in another church, or have interest in knowing more about this ministry, we are hosting a luncheon on Sunday, September 22 right after Contemporary worship. To RSVP, please reach out to Mary Parker at <a href="majority-majority-new-action-new-ac











RSVP by September 16 to Mary Parker: mparker@christelca.org



Vote on the Sale of Christ Concord - YES

On August 4, the congregation voted to approve the contract with WeBuild of Concord to sell the Christ Concord land for \$1,000,000. That contract stipulates 70 days for WeBuild to perform their due diligence and earnest money of \$12,500. In addition, the motion included paying the North Carolina Synod back the \$50,000 they invested in the start of up Christ Concord. During the discussion portion of the vote, there were several questions and concerns that arose.

How did this process begin? It began with a sevenmember task force, four of which were from Christ Concord, to explore all possibilities. The task force was unanimous in their recommendation to explore affordable housing as an option for the land. This recommendation went to the Council for their input and decision. And now it came before the congregation at large.

Who is WeBuild? WeBuild is a non-profit organization in Concord that is actually larger than Habitat Cabarrus. They were recommended to us by Habitat as a possible partner for affordable housing. WeBuild acts as a community land trust to ensure a home stays perpetually affordable and has done extensive and creative work in Concord for affordable housing. Their plan is to build up to 50 units of affordable housing on these four acres.

Why didn't we put the land on the open market for a potentially higher price? The ELCA valued the land at about \$900,000. We felt good about receiving an offer for \$1,000,000. Furthermore, by not using a listing agent, we saved the 6% commission. In concert with the task force, the Council felt WeBuild was the perfect buyer.

What will we do with the money? We have no immediate plans. After we pay back the North Carolina Synod the \$50,000, we will put the remaining amount into an account for the Council to consider. It could be used for outreach or family ministry or debt reduction or maintenance reserve or even a project for Southland. But as of yet, no decision has been made, but we are excited to see how the Spirit guides us on the best use of these funds.

Since we are all about ministry, why didn't we sell the land to WeBuild for \$1 instead of making a profit? We are not "making a profit" on Christ Concord. For seven years, our expenses outpaced our income for that campus by about \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year. If anything, this sale makes us whole and puts us in a better position to repurpose that money for continued ministry.

We believe that this process has been lengthy and well thought out. We are grateful for the positive vote by the congregation to move forward. We are now very excited about the partnership with WeBuild to provide much needed affordable housing and the repurpose of those funds for future use by CLC ministries.

Mr. Eric Runge, Council President Pastor Scott Suskovic, Senior Pastor



BRUNCH 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Chef-prepared brunch items will be served in Fellowship Hall by reservation.

MINISTRY FAIR & ACTIVITIES 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Stop by the Lower Commons to learn about fall programming for all ages.

Check out more games and activities outside around The Plaza circle.



Register for foo

OTHER DATES TO KNOW

NEW NAME!! WEDNESDAYS ABLAZE

- Starts September 11 -

Dinner 5:00 - 6:15 p.m. (\$8 adults • \$6 child)
Classes 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. (nursery available for 0-36 months)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Begins September 15 - 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.





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!

meets on last Thursday of each month 11:45am · Christ Providence (coffee area) Not much of a singer? Join Not Choir, our monthly music appreciation small group, as we listen to & discuss traditional & contemporary worship music. Bring your lunch.

MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org



Save the Date!



AT CHRIST PROVIDENCE

Sunday, October 27 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.





Announcing Mark Schultz in Concert! Friday, October 4

When we opened the sanctuary in 2013, the very first concert we hosted was Mark Schultz to a sold out audience. This fall, we will welcome Mark back for a night of stories and songs. With just himself, a piano and a guitar, Mark will share stories of faith, perform some of his biggest hits and invite the audience to sing along with favorite hymns. Please join us!

Tickets & more information will be available on our website and through REALM.



Oktoberfest 2024

Sunday, October 27

by PASTOR RYAN

The last Sunday of October every year is Reformation Sunday. It is the day we celebrate the Reformation; that is, the Holy Spirit reshaping His Church as He sees fit. That day is a powerful reminder that our LORD is active and engaged. While Reformation Sunday is only celebrated by protestants, all members of the Body of Christ have benefited from the corrected course forged by Martin Luther and all those who followed the Holy Spirit's lead.

As a congregation which bears that name (Lutheran) we take that Sunday every year and ensure that it is celebrated: with lederhosen, beer and an Oompah band!

Our Reformation celebration, that we lovingly call Oktoberfest, will be Sunday, October 27th from 4-7 p.m. This event is really a highlight of the fall season and is a wonderful opportunity to meet others within our congregation. We will have live music, Divine Barrel will be back and provide their finely crafted Oktoberfest beer. And I, Pastor Ryan, will be wearing my lederhosen, to bring joy and delight to all!

Food will be prepared by Chef Mike and Alicia, so be sure to register in REALM to purchase a meal. Check our Weekly E-News or Latest News page for updates (*christelca.org/latest-news*).

Fun activities for families will abound. Just like last year we will have a Trunk-or-Treat in the auxiliary lot from 4-5 p.m. Bring your decorated trunk and costume to join in on the fun. There will also be a section of the property for designated fun activities of various kinds, through the event time. It will be another fabulous time. I hope to see you there.





Welcome New Staff!!

New IT Director: Karl Schul

We would like to welcome Karl Schul to the Christ Lutheran Church staff as our new IT Director, Karl is a native Charlottean. He is married with two married adult children. He is a proud grandfather of one granddaughter. Karl initially served in the USAF as an officer. He then spent 36 years in the technology industry with IBM. Oracle and Xerox. In the last 15



Karl Schul

years, Karl has led very large global organizations with people all over the world in different technology services. He is excited about serving his church and this wonderful community.



New Associate Minister of Music: Phil Biedenbender by MARK JOHANSON

I am delighted to announce and welcome Phil Biedenbender as the new Associate Minister of Music. Phil brings a wealth of musical talent as a pianist. choral conductor, vocalist and music educator, and

P. Biedenbender along with those talents he has a life-long Lutheran background of worship and music. Phil also serves as the Managing Director, Associate Conductor, and Pianist for the Charlotte Master Chorale, and is sought after as an accompanist in the Charlotte area. He has worked in public school and church settings, where he has conducted and accompanied choirs of many different styles.

Phil's responsibilities as the Associate Minister of Music include musical leadership in the Traditional and Contemporary worship services, and leading the Bridge service starting this fall. He will also be working to develop and grow the impact of our children and youth music ministries. He will work alongside the Family Ministry team and the Christ Lutheran Children's Center to foster growth of music ministry in these critical parts of our church's mission.



New Office Admins: Caroline Diffley & Jennifer Fagan

My name is Caroline Diffley. I am Irish, now living in the U.S. for over 10 years. I am married to my wonderful husband Pete and we have two beautiful children, Sarah aged 20 and Mark aged 16. I have worked in office administration and tourism development for

Caroline Diffley over 25 years. Fun fact: I worked for over 7 years as the

office administrator at the Foynes Flying Boat Museum, a world-class, award-winning aviation museum located in the southwest of Ireland commemorating the first transatlantic flights between Ireland and the USA. Our patron was the actress Maureen O'Hara whom I was very lucky to have met on a few occasions. I'm delighted to be joining the wonderful team at Christ Lutheran and I look forward to meeting the members of our church community over the coming months.

My name is Jennifer Fagan and our family has been members of Christ Lutheran for 9 years. I graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication. I have worked previously for General Electric and in later years at the Matthews Help Center in their social work department. I spent many years volunteering with the Matthews Help Center as well as Kids Rein, a

therapeutic riding program. Currently, I volunteer with Mitey Riders and serve as a greeter and home communion visitor for our church. I look forward to being on staff at and feel blessed to do so.







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



Scan/Click to Register

MORE INFO: mparker@christelca.org or khofmann@christelca.org



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





CHRISTLUTHERAN

Please take a second & let the world know about Christ Lutheran. Click or Scan QR Code to get started:



https://g.page/r/CQ3ErPyw QgeREB0/review









We need help chatting with our online worshippers! Duties include welcoming viewers and sharing important links to Facebook and YouTube livestreams.

Email Alexis for more info! awilliams@christelca.org





New Director of Preschool Ministry: Rachel Dyer by PASTOR ADRIENNE

This summer, our Director of Preschool Ministry, Kate Harrison, accepted a position as a Teaching Assistant and will transition out of her role on the Family Ministry Team. She has served us well these past seven years and we will miss her! We give thanks for Kate and her good work.

I am excited to introduce our new Director of Preschool Ministry, Rachel Dyer. She will be working full-time with the Family Ministry Team while also helping preschool ministry music and coordinating events. This will help us expand our ministry to preschool children and families. She brings a great deal of passion and experience to this new role and we are excited and grateful for her! Please welcome her when you see her!



Rachel Dyer

I am so excited to be joining the Family Ministry team as the Director of Preschool Ministry! For the last 13 years, I have been an early childhood educator, and I am honored to have the opportunity to shift my focus to serving the families of CLC. I've been a member since 2018, singing with SpiritSong on Sunday mornings and helping with preschool music during Wednesdays Together. I am so grateful to God for this opportunity to impact the faith of our youngest members of the church family and look forward to meeting many of you in the upcoming weeks and months!

Men Need Other Men by PASTOR RYAN

Men need other men. This is not my opinion. This is fact (check this blog from greatergood.berkeley.edu: https://t.ly/dbBl). A person is not to be left alone. This is fact. The worst punishment our penal system can impose upon a person is solitary confinement.

Men should and can have deep and meaningful relationships with other men. In fact, I'll argue that only with other men can men have some of the most profound relationships. Sometimes it takes a man to understand another man. When the man next to you understands who you are and what you're going through without having to try and explain all the ins-and-outs, that's called intimacy. If my Alma mater, the Ohio State Buckeyes, wins the national championship, I'm not going to cry. But if my Cleveland Browns win the Super Bowl I'm going bawl like a baby. I can explain that to you, I think. But I know there's a guy out there who knows exactly what I just said. That guy gets me.

This is how Jesus intended for us to live. In community. With others who know us and get us. It would be foolish to live life apart. I know we think of our families as community, and they are, but there is also more. There is your squad. In the armed forces, no general would ever send a man out by himself without other men. That would be a waste of a man. Jesus didn't send His disciples out alone either. He sent them out two by two (John 10). And when Jesus left He sent the Holy Spirit to bind His followers into bands, or squads, or small groups.

Men's Brunch on September 14th

We are getting the men of CLC together for brunch and a chance to spend some time together. Chef Mike is fixing the meal, and the event is free.

It would be best if you registered but that's not necessary. The hope is to start a tradition of the men of Christ Lutheran coming together. To live together as Jesus intended. We are how God is working in our congregation and community. Men that are so inclined can sign up for a small group. We hope to get feedback about future events we might try. If you're a man and you love Jesus, you should be there. If you are a woman who loves a man, encourage him to come. Sometimes the women in our lives know what's better for us then we do.

Adult Sunday School Classes START SEPTEMBER 15th!

CLC Book Club 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

in Lackey Parlor -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

The CLC Book Club is open to all adults. 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. 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)

(Sept. 15 - Oct. 20) The Call – The Life and Message of The Apostle Paul. Beginning with Paul's background, dramatic conversion and early ministry, pastor and author Adam Hamilton leads participants through the extraordinary, life-changing call God makes on Paul's life and his enduring obedience to it. In this 6-week DVD series we will follow Paul's journey from Jerusalem to Rome and witness his indelible imprint on the establishment of the early church and Christian faith.

(Oct. 27 - Nov. 17) Bonhoeffer – The Life and Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. As author and narrator of this 4-week DVD study series, Eric Metaxas pulls together themes from the major books written by german pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer to help us understand the spiritual truths that meant so much to him. Bonhoeffer wrote profoundly about Christian faith, community, grace and ethics centered on the question "who is Christ to us today" and how, as His children, we respond to Him.

(Nov. 24 - Dec. 15) Lives of the Twelve Apostles by Francis William Pitt Greenwood, circa 1828 (Kessinger's Rare Reprints) and The Search for the Twelve Apostles by William Steuart McBirnie, PH.D, revised 2024. Drawing from two excellent resources both delving into the lives and times of the apostles (and written nearly 150 years apart), this Advent study gives an inside view of each of the 12 apostles, beginning with their first encounter with Jesus and their response to His simple invitation, "Follow Me." Originally called disciples, their ordinary lives were forever changed by being in Jesus' inner circle. Their mission, both when walking with Him and as He left them with the command to "go and make disciples of all nations" transformed the world as no man-made revolution could ever do. They spread the Gospel of Christ having been eyewitnesses to His dayto-day life— His teachings, His prayer life, His exact representation of God, His death, Resurrection and Ascension— and with great peril. Led by the Holy Spirit,

they taught Jesus' ways and words and recorded them in Scripture, revealing our intimate inclusive connection to God's Kingdom, fulfillment of Biblical prophecy and Jesus' powerful earthly mission of salvation.

—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 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. 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. Come and join us!

—Led by Rob 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 fall we will 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'll focus on the theme "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 Jewel Barber and Joyce Brigman





DINNER

5:00 - 6:15 p.m.

Served in Fellowship Hall (\$8 adults • \$6 child)

Dinner requires an RSVP in REALM by each Monday prior.

ACTIVITIES & CLASSES

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

We'll have revamped programming for adults, children & youth.

There's something for everyone!

STARTS SEPTEMBER 11

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

ADULT CLASSES

Holy Yoga EARLY TIME 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Center Six
Join Michele Dudley, a yoga instructor, for Holy Yoga. Holy
Yoga is the intentional practice of connecting our entire
being, body, mind and spirit with God in Christ. Through
Holy Yoga, God invites us to worship and surrender through
movement and breath. Please bring your own yoga mat.

Women Making Connections 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Worship Center Parlor

This small group is a women's centered Bible study with laughter and Jesus. Join this spirited group of ladies to discuss the seasonal Bible study selection.

—Led by Lara Barnett, Brooke Schell and Jessica Shurley

Pastor Scott's Class: Our Neighbors' Faith

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. *in Forum A&B -or- Christ Online (Zoom)* Join Pastor Scott in a study of other faiths from Buddhism to Unitarians to Mormons to Presbyterians. This class will include lectures with Q&A sessions, along with guest speakers from other faith traditions to speak personally about their faith, worship and tenets.

Life in Christ with Kids 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in W150 A&B

Parents are invited to join us for fellowship with other parents. What does being a parent look like when you're following Christ? How can you have faith and children at the same time with busy schedules, and sports, and school, and everything else? Come join the conversation.

—Led by Pastor Ryan & Ashley Ritzmann

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 <u>christelca.org/wednesdays-ablaze</u> for latest schedule.

ADULT MUSIC

Luther Ringers

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



Of All the Days, Wednesday is My Favorite

by ASHLEY RITZMANN

Summer break is ending and, although it was a blast, I am excited to reunite with the friends and activities that come with fall. Soon enough I'll be back to cheering at soccer games, driving to dance practice, juggling the various school clubs and projects, getting the kids to youth group, and being a full-time parent uber. Although the relaxing days of summer have been nice, I am ready to get back to our school routine (as crazy as it can be). Above all, I can't wait to return to our Wednesday nights at church. You see, of all the days, Wednesdays are my favorite.

When we first started coming to Wednesdays Together (now called Wednesdays Ablaze), I wasn't sure how I would pull it off. We were already pulled in so many directions during the weekdays and balancing another thing didn't seem feasible. In addition, my kids were young and getting home late would inevitably lead to cranky children and probably a crankier mom. But I came to Wednesdays Together anyway. Do you want to know why? Chef Mike and Chef Alicia were making dinner and it meant I didn't have to cook.

Not having to cook dinner was a huge plus for me. Cooking is not my favorite. The dinners at church, however, provided me with more than just a delicious meal. Around those tables, I met some of my best friends. I connected with people that I may never have crossed paths with on a busy Sunday and I watched the people of this church love my children. The small group time after dinner became a pivotal part of my week. That small group became my family. We laughed hard, prayed even harder, and lifted each other up throughout the week. It became a place where we could see Christ and share Christ. My children made lifelong friends, ran off all their energy in the gym, and grew in their faith.

Wednesdays Together went from something I thought I would have to balance to a pillar in the middle of my crazy week. Wednesdays became a time to reconnect with Jesus and brought a sense of peace and purpose to my hectic schedule. It turns out that Wednesdays Together was exactly what I needed to get through my week and it is what I am most looking forward to this fall.

I encourage you to join us this fall for Wednesdays Ablaze! If you think you are too busy for another activity, I feel you. I felt the same way. Come anyway. It is worth it. Come for the small groups. There is something for every age of life. Come for the community. You will be loved. Come for Jesus. You will be forever changed. And if nothing else, come for the food! You will be well fed in more ways than one.





BAGS WILL BE
DISTRIBUTED
SEPTEMBER 29th
and
ASKED TO BE
RETURNED BY

OCTOBER 13th to benches outside Forum

Bring non-perishable items (no glass containers) to Christ Providence to help our brothers & sisters in need here in Charlotte.

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.



Let's get connected

Download the Realm Connect app today!



Need Help with Realm?Contact Mary at mparker@christelca.org



Wednesdays • 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Center Six)

If you can not make the Wednesday mornings, you can still be part of this ministry by cutting out or sewing squares at home. No experience necessary.

MORE INFO: Lois Witham (lowitham@carolina.rr.com)

-SMALL GROUP-KNITTERS FOR CHRIST meets the 3rd Sunday of each month • 10:00 a.m. at Christ Providence (Cornerstone Cafe)

ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS WELCOME











Wednesdays Ablaze for Preschool through High School! by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Wednesdays Together is getting a makeover! This midweek oasis is an important time of fellowship, faith formation and skill development, and now, has been set **ablaze** with more opportunities for kids! In addition to delicious dinners, Bible studies, small groups, music, arts and dance, we are offering programming similar to a vacation bible school-like rotation for our preschoolers through high schoolers. Each age group will explore important themes of faith through devotion, crafts, music and recreation. It will be a lot of fun!

Come for dinner at 5 p.m. and meet all of the great families coming to Wednesdays Ablaze! It is a great time to develop relationships and dig into important matters of life and faith. Adults can enjoy studies and small groups while kids and youth can have a well-paced and enriching experience learning about God's love.

In terms of our programming schedule for our preschool and elementary groups, classes will meet at 6 p.m. for devotions and music– PreK-1st will meet in M237-238; 2nd-5th grades in M239-240. Service projects and crafts will be sprinkled in. Parents are invited to walk their child to the classroom where they will be greeted by our shepherds and staff! Pick-up will be in Spirit Hall starting at 6:45 p.m. with flexible pick up through 7:30 p.m.

For our middle school and high school youth groups, our middle schoolers will start in Spirit Hall for games and recreation, and then head over to the Pit to share a worship service and devotions with the pastor and small group time. They will have an opportunity for music and other enriching activities. Our high schoolers will start in the Pit for fun and fellowship until our devotion and small group time.

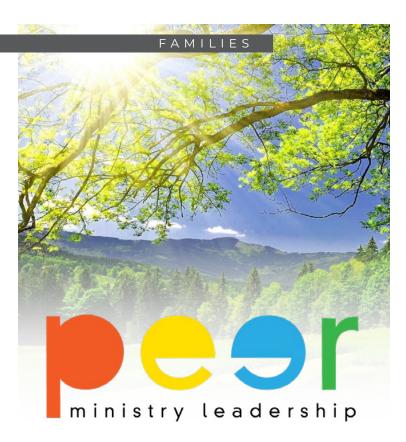
Volunteers Needed!

Remember how fun and awesome it was to volunteer during Vacation Bible School? It was fun, right?! There was great energy, great kids, and even though you were an adult, maybe you got a valuable takeaway from our Bible lesson, too. And if you missed the opportunity to serve as a volunteer for one of our VBS groups this summer, now is your chance!

This year, Wednesdays Together is setting our faith ablaze! Family Ministry is ramping up options for preschool through high school to provide a more structured and intentional faith formation time that will mimic a VBS-like rotation. In the hour/hour and a half duration from 6-7:30 p.m., there will be rotations of devotions, music and recreation. We are going to have so much fun and dig deep into our faith!

For this awesome time to happen, we need you! Volunteers will accompany our age groups to support our leaders and fulfill our child protection policy. You do not need any teaching experience, we just need you! Please consider giving one or two Wednesdays of your time once a semester for our kids! It will be well worth it! Your heart may be set ablaze too! Please let me know if you can help! Your support is deeply appreciated!

To get involved in this wonderful ministry, please email me (<u>amartin@christelca.org</u>) or Kristen Rank (<u>krank@christelca.org</u>) as soon as possible.





Peer Ministry

by NATALYA LEGVOLD

PEER MINISTRY LEADERSHIP is... STUDENTS equipped with SKILLS for caring, welcoming, affirming, leading and serving – LIVED every day, everywhere and in every relationship – and LOVING because Christ first loved us.

Students are not the future of the church... they are today's church; working on the front lines of ministry every day. Students go to their friends first when dealing with tough issues, choices and life stresses. Now more than ever our students need the tools and support to navigate these issues. Peer Ministry equips high school students with skills to effectively reach out and care for their peers as well as learn about themselves and how to be a leader. This training is highly experiential with creative ways to learn skills and then practice in real heart-to-heart conversations.

Students learn real life people skills that will benefit them beyond high school and into future relationships and whatever career path they are called to. Skills

include active listening, observation skills, conflict resolution, decision making, sharing faith, dealing with real issues and leadership skills. This training gives students the confidence to be the real friend everyone needs and be the leader our church and world needs.

This year Peer Ministry will kick off with a retreat at the Lake from Friday, September 13 at 6 p.m. to Saturday, September 14 at 9 p.m. We will enjoy lake activities and learn Peer Ministry skills. Please <u>register in REALM</u> for the retreat or contact Natalya Legvold (nlegvold@christelca.org) or Tyler Weller (tweller@christelca.org) for more information.

Confirmation 2.0: Faith **Building Beyond Confirmation** by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Confirmation is one of the most significant steps we can take in our faith journey. Yet, this affirmation of one's own baptism is just the first step in our faith walk with God. Ever think, "I'm confirmed, now what?" To support our newly confirmed members, we are rolling out a reinvigorated class for High School Sunday School! This course will build upon the basics of faith through a series of discussions and talks. It will help equip you as a disciple of Jesus! Plan to come on Sunday, September 15 and stay tuned for more information!

Stepping Stone: Gifting of the Word by PASTOR ADRIENNE

The Word of God is the Word of Life! Reading scripture is one of the most important things that we do as the people of God. In the Lutheran tradition, it is our source of authority for heavenly revelation and spiritual instruction. It is said that Martin Luther read through the entire Bible twice every year. We are meant to study scripture and grow in the Word of God. Placing the scriptures in the hands of our children is one of the baptismal promises we make at the font. Each year, we gift Bibles to our three-year-olds, our second graders and our sixth graders. This is an important Stepping Stone!

This year, we are gifting Bibles during worship on three different Sundays! Please come to either the Traditional (8:45 a.m.) or Contemporary (11 a.m.) service to receive your Bible on the following Sundays:

September 8 • Sixth Graders will receive their Bibles on Kick-Off Sunday, September 8. We will gift Bibles to our sixth graders who are starting their confirmation journey.

September 15 • Second Graders will receive their Bibles on Sunday, September 15. We will gift them Bibles in this important year when they will undergo instruction for First Communion in the Spring.

September 22 • Three-Year-Olds will receive their Bibles on Sunday, September 22. On this day, our threeyear-olds will receive their first Bible!

Make sure to attend the day your child receives their new Bible! It is an important occasion, and we would like to lift them up in worship and cover them in prayer and blessing as they grow in their faith journey!



Sunday, October 6

at American Legion Memorial Stadium



<<Click or scan to donate and join the Christ Lutheran Team! https://t.ly/5-F5y



Family Nights at McClintock

every Tuesday from 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.

To get involved, contact Angela: adavis@christelca.org

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FALL: Teacher Luncheons

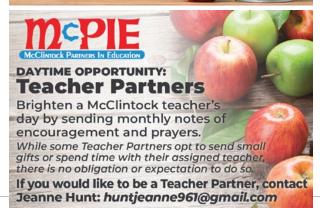
Support teachers and staff at McClintock Middle School with lunches on early release days. Volunteers needed to prepare

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



DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Tutors





We Asked, You Gave!

Thank you to each person who donated a new or gently used roller bag! 15 bags/suitcases were donated to Roof Above. This will greatly help our neighbors in need!

Church Member Engages Workplace

A big difference was made for our Freedom School Scholars! One very dedicated church member partnered with her workplace to provide bookbags and grade-level school supplies for each of our Freedom School Scholars! Not only did our Scholars have a fun, educational summer that mitigated summer learning loss, they are now prepared for the upcoming school year! Thanks for continuing to make a difference in our students' lives! McPIE is always willing to partner with any member who wants to get their company involved and we can come up with many ways to work together and make a difference! Thanks to Holly G. and Wickham Cash Partners for this incredible donation of time and resources!







Summer of Fun & Learning!

Summer 2024 is in the books! Over 200 students enjoyed a fun, safe, educational summer, by participating in Freedom School, Science Camp, Lutheridge/Lutherock camps and athletic camps.

Over seventy Scholars spent six weeks at Christ Providence developing a true love of reading and discovering "Something Inside So Strong." While focusing on literacy, Freedom School Scholars read books that empowered them to make a difference in themselves, their families, their communities and their world. Daily reading was just a part of Freedom School. Scholars participated in many different activities around the city to gain new experiences and insight into the world all around them. Pool days at Ray's Splash Planet and Cordelia Pool, Freedom School Olympics, Sports Connection, bowling, and lake days at the Daniels' Lake Wylie home provided Scholars with an all-around, enriching summer. Afternoon activities, such as calligraphy and flower arranging, enhanced learning! Our site even won the "most spirited" designation at Jubilee!!

Over at McClintock, 120+ future inventors and scientists learned science in a FUN way with hands-on STEAM activities. Whether it was discovering fossils, bouncing eggs, or creating crystals in Career Track Explorers or inventing a new game with circuits, exploring biophysics and LED's, and becoming a hydro-hero in Sixth Grade Trailblazers, students left camp with an interest in science and science-related careers! Donated recyclables were transformed into cool designs and prototypes. Friday field trips to tie in all they learned included Discovery Place, UNCC, Innovation Barn, Davidson College and Activate Games.

Family Night: Building Community 8 Supporting McClintock Students 8 Families!

Coming off a wonderful 2023-2024 year filled with exciting programming, McPIE Family Night will return this September for 11 weeks of family engagement and we would LOVE to have YOU! Volunteers are the backbone of our mission.

Calling all engineers, programmers/coders, medical professionals and anyone with a passion that they would like to share. We are looking for a few new clubs, specifically in the medical field and STEAM areas!! We also need more help in the younger sibling's classes. These participants play games, get creative with crafts, read, build with Legos and more!

Is leading or helping with a club not what you're looking for? Then join our meals, school store, or greeting team!! Each Tuesday, we provide a warm meal at no cost to the McClintock families that participate. Families overcome major barriers preventing participation when dinner and childcare are provided. Students are prepared for success when they are equipped with the proper supplies. We will definitely need a few new volunteers to greet our participants and get them checked-in at the door!

Can't commit each week but still want to get involved? Sign up to be a floater. There are weekly opportunities to get involved. We always need volunteers to "fill the gap" if someone is out. Contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org to begin making a difference in a child's life! We kick-off on September 24th! Come join our incredible team!!!

Teacher Partners

Do you have time for one email or note per month? Are you interested in supporting a new teacher as they transition to the classroom? Being a Teacher Partner is a small, but consistent, connection that strengthens our commitment to the McClintock community. Teachers know someone is thinking about/praying for them. Requirements include:

- · Send a note or email each month offering encouragement and prayers.
- The Teacher Partner Coordinator will email you to remind you to reach out and let you know when things of note are happening at the school. While some partners opt to send small gifts or spend time with their partner, there is no obligation or expectation to do so.

If you're interested in contributing through this simple service of encouragement, email Jeanne Hunt at huntjeanne961@gmail.com.

CMS Volunteer Registration

Anyone who plans to volunteer inside McClintock Middle School will need to complete CMS Volunteer Registration and background check each year. Go to <u>cmsvolunteers.com</u> to start the form. Once that is complete, email Lisa Heirigs (<u>lheirigs@christelca.org</u>) with your name, the email address you registered with and your date of birth.



Chris Barkoukis

cabarkoukis@gmail.com







It's time to link your Harris Teeter VIC Card to support McClintock Middle School. (Remember, you need to relink each year). Here's how:

1. Click ad or go to:

tie.harristeeter.com/together-in-education

2. Enter code for McClintock: 2042



Drop off clothing at the Outreach Office M-F. On Sunday, the blue bins will be outside the Outreach Office doors. Questions? nealmann@bellsouth.net



Sunday, October 20

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Christ Providence

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







ROOM IN THE INN

Christ Providence will be hosting our neighbors in need this winter through A Roof Above.

Signups coming soon!!

MORE INFO:

Randy Satterfield or Lane Goode (rpsatterfield@carolina.rr.com) (lane.goode@gmail.com)

Tutors

Consider tutoring a student at McClintock this year! You can choose the subject and grade, as well as the day of the week and time! The teachers and students are appreciative of the help. If interested, contact Susan Brackett (sbrackett@carolina.rr.com) to get placed with the proper teacher and student.

Teacher Luncheons

Support teachers and staff at McClintock Middle School with lunches on early release days. Volunteers are needed to shop for ingredients, prepare dishes, and help serve! If you are interested in joining this team, contact Melinda Dale at melinda28226@hotmail.com.

Child Protection Training

All McPIE volunteers must complete Child Protection Training each year. Please watch the video, then complete the form. If a background check is needed (required every 3 years), you will receive a separate link for that from Mary Parker.



■無■ WATCH THE VIDEO:

<>Scan QR Code or go to: https://youtu.be/leVVU6bC7dE



COMPLETE THE FORM:

🎇 <<Scan QR Code or go to:

<<Scan QR Code or go to:</p>
http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-2999202/child-protection-policy

Ukrainian Resettlement Update

by ELIZABETH MARQUARDT

Oleksandr, Yana and Polina (and chihuahua Mila) arrived safely in Charlotte on July 3 and they are doing very well. Within about two weeks, Oleksandr started working as a carpenter and the family had secured an apartment. In God's good timing, we were able to use the truck that the Xperience rented for their tour to collect and deliver donated furniture on their move-in day. Polina has been practicing her English at a summer camp for dance and acrobatics before she starts at South Charlotte Middle School. They have found several European grocery stores in the area, so they are able to make some familiar foods at home, and have met some neighbors who are also from Ukraine.

A group of about six families has been volunteering to provide transportation, complete paperwork (such as applying for jobs and insurance), and help navigate life in a new country. Many, many people have given generously to furnish their apartment, stock their pantry, pay tuition for the summer camp, and more. Every time I see her, Yana tells me how grateful they are to everyone who has helped to ease this major transition.

Christ Lutheran is financially ready to support another family from Ukraine (or maybe somewhere else). If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this process, please contact me at <u>marguardt.elizabeth@gmail.com</u>. Currently, we do not need furniture or household goods, but if you have items you'd like to donate, please consider Carolina Refugee Resettlementthey have been very helpful to us and they work with families who are new to Charlotte all the time.

I am in awe of how God's providential hand has worked through you all in this process. Everything we have asked for has been given, from silverware to job connections to cars, and it is truly life-changing for our new neighbors. In Yana's words, "Thank you, thank you, thank you."



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER Christ Cohnections





september/october 2024

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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



return service requested

