

# Christ Connections



november/december 2023



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

### CHRIST PROVIDENCE

8:45 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:00 a.m. The Bridge

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

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

### CHRIST CONCORD

10:00 a.m. Family-Friendly  
Worship

4:00 p.m. Life of Faith  
Bible Study

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



# ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

## 2023

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Save the Dates



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

## The Big Rocks

That's what we call them at Church Council. The Big Rocks. These are the goals for 2023 as laid out in the beginning of the year to always keep in front of us. As we reviewed them again on October 16, we can see just how much we've accomplished this year:

**Good Soil Campaign** With the closing of Christ South, we gave people the option on what to do with their gifts to this capital campaign to build a worship center on that land. Some redirected their gifts to the General Fund or a special project, but most kept it in that fund for whatever we envision for the future for that land.

**Southland Task Force** This team has been working all year to present to the congregation a new vision for the land. Many ideas have been considered. We hope to have something to present to Council in December, followed by town meetings in January leading up to a vote at the Annual Meeting at the end of January.

**Thrive** We worked with the board of Thrive School to help devise a strategy that is both financially sound and beneficial to children with special needs. After years of supporting Thrive, offering them space and money, that process has led to Thrive leaving Christ Providence and Christ Concord to venture out on their own. We wish them great success.

**Affordable Housing** This has proven to be the most challenging of our goals. The hope was to be a catalyst to assist local families with affordable housing. That task became larger than our capacity. It is our vision to assist families and to work closely with local agencies who have greater resources and abilities.

**Evangelism Strategy** I hope this one never goes away because everyday evangelism, sharing our faith and welcoming the outsider, should be something that never leaves our heart. Who is that one person God has placed on your heart to invite to church? Remember, it takes seven invitations!

**CLCC Expansion into Kindergarten** We looked into expanding our excellent preschool to include Kindergarten. Unfortunately, because of requirements and codes, this just was not possible.

**Lessons Learned from Christ South** We spent some time in introspection, looking back at the closure of Christ South, what we learned and how we can improve for the future. There were a lot of lessons learned including more congregational communication, better singular focus by leaders on the mission and clearer expectations.

**Music and the Community** How can we open up our facilities to both advance the beauty of music and engage better with the community? Through many schools and community musical ensembles using our space to hosting Tasha Layton's concert on October 27, we feel we are good partners with the community and welcoming people to Christ Lutheran.

**Strategy for Capital Improvements** The carpeting and HVAC are ten years old. Walls need to be painted. We have a fountain that doesn't work. This year we have put together a strategy timeline and set aside funds to ensure that our campus is well cared for and reflects the beauty of God's house. Love that new carpet and tile work!

**Christ Concord** We are one church with three campuses. Each needs our attention and resources. This past year I am pleased to welcome Lay Pastor Willie Pinson to our staff who will provide the leadership and care that this campus needs.

During this month of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for all the hard work our congregation has put in to reflect more of the love and grace of God to our community.

**Thanks be to God for Big Rocks!**  
**Pastor Scott**

### 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

**Eric Runge** President

**Jessica Shurley** VP

**David Brown** Treasurer

**Janet Wilson** Secretary

**Reneau Van Landingham**

**LuAnn Martinson**

**Cassie Thompson**

**Melissa Lanoue**

**Eric Trosch**

**Chad Mohn**

**Billy Mussari**

**Mark Ficken**



**NEW SERMON SERIES**

**TRIGGERS**

**October 29 - November 19**

*Triggers. We all have them. Those triggers that set us off and illicit a response in us that is almost visceral. Could be that employee at work who is always late. Could be the socks that never make it to the hamper. Could be all those pop-up ads on my feeds. What are your triggers? In the church, there are triggers for people that are often unfounded, a misreading of the biblical texts. Let's reduce the triggers!*

**October 29 • You Must Be Perfect**

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You must be perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect." That's a trigger, because I am not perfect. So what hope is there for me if perfection is the bar? On this Reformation Sunday, we come longing for a word of Grace!

**November 5 • Where is Grandma Now?**

On this All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have died with love and affection. But where are they now? Some talk about Grandma up in heaven, looking over us, reunited with her family. Others talk about the general resurrection of all the dead at the second coming. So, where is Grandma?

**November 12 • America: Ride or Die**

We'll have just gone through another election in our country on November 7. Nothing triggers us like the animosity we hear surrounding politics. What does the Bible say about government and God's divine providence in our leaders? Romans 13 is definitely a trigger.

**November 19 • You Are Not the Boss of Me!**

Another trigger in our lives is sexism. We do not live in the patriarchal past where wives are to obey their husbands. However, the Bible does talk about this relationship in a way that triggers many. Are they understanding this text correctly?

**STARTING DECEMBER 3... Made In My Image**

*We are made in the image of God. With this likeness comes the freedom and temptation to assume the role of creator ourselves. Instead of looking for definition from God, we project our own image upon Him. We may think to ourselves, "If I were God..." As enticing as this may be, it leads to a limited view of who and how God really is. This sermon series will look at four different views humankind has imposed upon our understanding of God to discover that God cannot be put in a box.*

**December 3 • Santa**

This is the time of year when Santa Claus is coming to town! When we think of God, are we thinking of Santa Claus or wanting a Santa Claus type of God... like a grandfather-type who is jolly, holly and gives us presents? Perhaps we think, "If I were God... I would give everyone what they wanted!" When we only think of God as giving us what we want, we come up empty handed. God indeed gives us good things and works all things for our own good, but what does "good" really mean for us in the bigger picture?

**December 10 • Judge**

Opposite of our notions of a holly-jolly God is the image of Divine Judge. We may imagine that God is always judging us and ready to pronounce our sentence. Or we might wish for more active judgment and think: "If I were God... I would judge all the bad in the world and get rid of it." While there is a battle waged between good and evil, thinking of God as a wrathful and angry judge is also a skewed and limited image. There is so much more. Our relationship with God may include judgement, but it does not stop there.

**December 17 • Father**

**December 24 • Cheap Grace**

**WATCH PROMO VIDEOS, WEEKLY SNEAK PEEKS AND READ MORE ABOUT THE CURRENT SERIES:**  
**[christelca.org/sermon-series](http://christelca.org/sermon-series)**

## Volunteer Opportunity

by CAROLYN USINGER

Want a fun way to volunteer at Christ Providence? Volunteer at Cornerstone Gifts! We are looking for a few good volunteers to work one day per week (only three hours a day). Can't commit to every week? Work every other week!

Volunteering at Cornerstone Gifts includes quite a few perks. First, it's a great opportunity to get to know more members of the church. Second, you can get gift giving or decorating ideas for the holidays. Another great perk is that volunteers get a 10% discount on their purchases! At Cornerstone Gifts, proceeds from sales go to help artisans around the globe in their missions of charity, as well as helping raise money for Christ Lutheran's charities.

Cornerstone Gifts is located on our Providence campus, on the first floor between the Ministry Center building and coffee area in the Lower Commons of the Worship Center. If you're interested in volunteering, stop by the store or send an email with your availability to [cusinger@christelca.org](mailto:cusinger@christelca.org). Training is provided!



## Gifts for Trinity Place

by MARY PARKER

Thank you to everyone that helped provide Christmas presents to residents of Trinity Place Lutheran Home in Albemarle last Christmas. Gifts were given out to 80 residents! Thank you for your support!

We will be helping again this Christmas. If you are interested in helping to provide Christmas presents to residents of Trinity Place, please email Mary Parker ([mparker@christelca.org](mailto:mparker@christelca.org)) for more information. We will have a table set up at Christ Providence on Sunday, November 12th and November 19th in the Lower Commons from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for you to pick up a resident's name and their wish list!

## Decorating for Christmas

The worship and music team needs many hands to make light work in decorating multiple spaces around Christ Providence for the Christmas season.

WE WILL MEET FOR SETUP ON  
**Friday, December 1st (9-11 a.m.)**



For info on various tasks & to  
signup, scan QR code or email:  
[mjhanson@christelca.org](mailto:mjhanson@christelca.org)

CHRIST LUTHERAN  
**cornerstone**  
gifts

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

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

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

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

For more info, contact  
Carolyn Usinger:  
[cusinger@christelca.org](mailto:cusinger@christelca.org)

**Third THURSDAY**  
for adults of all ages

**November 16 • 11:30 a.m.**  
at Christ Providence (Pit)

Friendsgiving with Turkey and all the fixins  
(and pies!). Pay online or have exact change  
at the door. Bring a friend.

**\$10 • Register in REALM**

## Christ Concord Tech Director

part-time



Responsible for the interfacing of all technical & production aspects of both live recording and online broadcasts at Christ Concord, including weekly worship services, online classes, and internet video conferencing.

If interested, email: [wpinson@christelca.org](mailto:wpinson@christelca.org)

## Christmas Shopping for Nursing Home Residents

Last year, we were able to provide gifts for 80 residents at Trinity Place Lutheran Home in Albemarle. Thank you for your support!

We will be helping again this Christmas. On **Nov. 12th & 19th** from 9a-12:30p, stop by the table in the Lower Commons at Christ Providence to pick up a resident's name & wishlist.

More info: [mparker@christelca.org](mailto:mparker@christelca.org)

# Honoring Our Loved Ones

All Saints' Sunday is the time we set aside to remember all those who have passed on before us. Join in the remembrance of our loved ones with a lighting of a candle at this special service.

## *All Saints Sunday* **November 5**

Members of Christ Lutheran that have passed since last year's All Saints Day include:



Bob Anderson



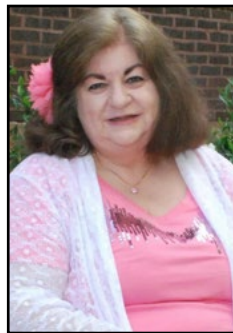
Chuck Arthur



Lynne Bogguss



Evelyn Bookout



Glenda Fortune



Dottie Green



Stuart Groll



Zelda Kelley



Chuck Larson



David McKinstry



Jay Morrison



Bob Mueller



Barbara Norman



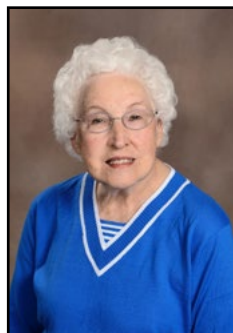
Carol Paul



Bonnie Sanchez



Karoline Saunders



Peggy Sheppard



Steve Stang



Sigrid Teich



Dot Watson



Ralph Weddington

# Embracing Peace Amidst the Holiday Hustle

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

As the holidays approach, our days will be full of activity, with shopping, parties and festivities vying for our attention. The Season of Advent in particular is a time to prepare our hearts for the birth of the Christ child, the Prince of Peace. Yet, amidst the hustle and bustle, it can feel hectic instead of peace filled. It's essential to carve out moments of serenity and quiet family time. Here are five ways to find tranquility together during the holidays.

- 1. Prioritize Family Time:** The most significant step in finding quiet moments with your family is to make it a priority. Block off specific times on your calendar for family activities and protect these moments as you would any other commitment.
- 2. Share a Meal:** Gathering around the dinner table for a quiet meal together can be a precious way to connect. Enjoy a home-cooked meal or, if time is tight, order in and savor the time spent talking and laughing.
- 3. Plan a Technology-Free Day:** Declare a "no technology" day, where screens are put aside, and the focus is on real-life interactions. Use this time to explore the great outdoors, play board games, or try out a craft project. If you cannot find time for a whole day, try it for an evening!
- 4. Reflection and Gratitude:** Encourage your family to reflect on the year, share their aspirations for the upcoming year and express gratitude for one another.
- 5. Quiet Family Reading:** Choose a family book to read together during the holidays. Whether it is a Bible story, a classic holiday story or a novel of interest, reading as a family is a relaxing and bonding experience.

The holidays can be a time of meaningful connection with loved ones. I invite you to try one or more of these ways in the upcoming season. By intentionally seeking moments of quiet family time, you can find peace amidst the holiday hustle, and hopefully experience the true joy and promise of the season together.

## Three Months In

by TYLER WELLER

I am excited for everything we have in store for this church and youth ministry. I want to share a little bit about myself and provide a glimpse into what we have planned for the future of youth ministry at Christ Lutheran.

I am a Charlotte native; I know there's not many of us left. I have been a member of Christ Lutheran Church for the past 10 years, and we were visitors for a few years prior. So being at Christ Lutheran surely is nothing new to me.

As a student, I dove headfirst into the high school ministry here at church. I was heavily involved with Xperience, Peer Ministry and really anything I could be involved in. I met some of my best friends through Xperience and have some of my best memories from high school during my time with youth group. I was very lucky to be able to go to the National Youth Gathering my senior year where 30,000 teens descended upon

Houston to worship and serve together—this truly was my favorite memory of my time in high school.

At the beginning of my sophomore year, I also got involved in the Teens Encounter Christ movement. This movement offers students the chance to have an encounter on a truly spiritual level. You get to hear testimonies and stories from other students about what they are going through in their faith life. As you continue being involved there are opportunities for leadership development. I was very blessed to be able to be a leader for a retreat weekend. Since then, I have served as the Leadership Development Chair on TEC Council and have had the opportunity to walk beside many teens as they go through the same process I did.

Moving into the present, we have had a wonderful first few months since Kickoff Sunday. We are back to having youth group every Sunday, both middle and high school. One of our main goals was to provide a well-rounded ministry for all with worship, outreach, learning and fellowship. We have had Xperience-led worship, a Ronald McDonald House service project, Peer Ministry training, and plenty of fun and fellowship.

I am also currently going through the Certificate in Youth and Theology program through Princeton Theological Seminary. I started two weeks ago and it has been wonderful thus far. I have been connected to about 20 other youth leaders from across the world such as Saudi Arabia, Haiti, China and all across the U.S. We are currently going through a few different ways to interpret and translate the Bible to apply to our modern world.

Moving into the future, we have a bunch of exciting things to look forward to. This year is a gathering year which means I will have the opportunity to bring students on the same trip that was so impactful for me when I was in their shoes. We will be going to New Orleans from July 16th to 20th, and it truly is shaping up to be a wonderful time. We also have a few retreats planned for confirmation students to attend in the spring. I am very excited about what we have in store as we can plan for bigger and better things in the future.

I thank you all for your outstanding support as we embark on this new adventure in youth ministry.

# Dates to Know

## Wednesdays Together

ends December 13 • resumes January 10, 2024

## Sunday School

ends December 17 • resumes January 7, 2024



# Stepping Stones



## MENTAL HEALTH

Sunday, November 5 • 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

at Christ Providence (Forum A&B)

Confirmation parents and students are invited to learn about mental health awareness and intervention.

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

## Christ Concord Family Minister

part-time



The Family Minister will oversee all children & Family Ministry activities at our Concord Campus with support from the Providence Campus. They will also provide connection and support to parents and other members of the congregation.

If interested, email: [wpinson@christelca.org](mailto:wpinson@christelca.org)

## Baptismal Class

Sun., December 3  
1:00 p.m. on Zoom

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

Find Zoom link at  
[christelca.org/online](http://christelca.org/online)



# FAITH ALIVE

## Confirmation Retreat

March 15 - 17, 2024  
at Lutheridge

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

Register in REALM by Nov. 15  
MORE INFO: [tweller@christelca.org](mailto:tweller@christelca.org)



## Deacon Kenny is now Pastor Kenny!

by KEN SUMLIN

Christ Lutheran was fortunate to have Deacon Kenny Champagne to serve with us as an intern for ten months, ending this past August. Kenny's internship here was his last requirement for graduating from seminary and then becoming a pastor.

Good news! Kenny received a call to Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Reston, Virginia and he has accepted that call. In a joyous service on October 7th, Kenny was ordained into the ministry and installed as pastor of Christ the Servant. His congregation had been without a pastor for over one and a half years, so an air of excitement and anticipation was in the air as they enthusiastically welcomed Pastor Kenny and his wife Kelly with a wonderful reception after the service. Blessings to Pastor Kenny and Kelly as they begin their ministry.



If you would like to send a message of congratulations to Kenny and Kelly, here is their contact information:

### Pastor Kenny and Kelly Champagne

5409 Hedgerow, Ct.  
Centreville, VA 20120-1674

E-mail: [champagne.kenny@gmail.com](mailto:champagne.kenny@gmail.com)



# THANKSGIVING EVE Dinner & Worship

**Wednesday, November 22**  
**at Christ Providence**

**Dinner • 5:00 p.m.**  
in Fellowship Hall • RSVP by Nov. 20>>



**Worship • 6:30 p.m.**  
in the Sanctuary -and- on Christ Online  
*no WT programming*

FOR LIVE-STREAM LINK: [christelca.org/online](https://christelca.org/online)



# Poinsettias

Purchase poinsettia plants in memory or honor of loved ones  
to adorn our worship spaces at Christ Providence and  
Christ Concord on Christmas Eve.

**\$15 EACH • ORDERS DUE BY DECEMBER 15 • PURCHASE IN REALM**





# 2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

*Save the Dates*

## CHRISTMAS EVE **Sunday, December 24**

### **Christ Providence**

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship (Christ Chapel)
- 10:00 a.m. Family Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve (Sanctuary)
- 8:00 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 p.m. Traditional Worship: Encountering Light (Christ Chapel)

## NEW YEAR'S EVE **Sunday, December 31**

### **Christ Providence**

- 10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)  
*-no Sunday School-*

### **Christ Concord**

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



**WORSHIP IN PERSON -or- ONLINE!**  
***christelca.org/online***



# CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

## Family Sponsorship Event

*'Tis the Season!*

The Holidays are quickly approaching and that means it's time to start thinking about Christmas! The Christmas Shopping Event will take place over several days again this year. Many families in our community need our help. With the help of benevolence money and individual monetary donations, we will sponsor over 30 families this Christmas season!! The Christmas spirit will be STRONG! This Christmas, the actual shopping will take place over several days leading up to December 2. Families and/or small groups can "Adopt a Family" and purchase their wish list items during this time and then drop them off at Christ Providence beginning December 7. From December 8-11, parents of the sponsored families will have an opportunity to come to Christ Providence and wrap their families' Christmas gifts from the wish list items purchased and organized.

### **There are several ways to get involved with this wonderful ministry! Members can:**

- Be a personal shopper for a family and deliver to Christ Providence Dec. 7 or as scheduled.
- Donate new items (or gently used items).
- Support this ministry with monetary donations.
- Sponsor a family. Contact Amy Daniels at [adaniels@christelca.org](mailto:adaniels@christelca.org)
- Administrative help

- Assist families with wrapping their gifts Dec. 8-11.
- Advanced shopping for items needed.

### **Donations accepted include:**

- New board games
- Game systems (new or refurbished)
- New books, toys, minority baby dolls
- New clothing, coats
- New or used bikes and scooters
- Wrapping paper, tissue, boxes, tags, tape, scissors
- Yard sale items

### **Household goods accepted:**

- Paper towels, toilet tissue
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Hand/dish soap
- Laundry detergent, dryer sheets
- Kitchen utensils, place settings, silverware
- Cleaning supplies
- Towels, washcloths
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss
- Pots and pans

Get into the Christmas spirit of giving at the big Christmas Shopping Event! *The joy of sharing gives a special feeling to the one giving at Christmas!* Contact Amy Daniels ([adaniels@christelca.org](mailto:adaniels@christelca.org)) or Angela Davis ([adavis@christelca.org](mailto:adavis@christelca.org)) for information and to sign up!

Charlotte Pride Band Presents

# Wintertide

**Sunday, December 10 • 4 p.m.**  
at *Christ Providence (Sanctuary)*

Free and open to the public



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

# Really, Really, Really Good News

**Sunday, December 3 • 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.**  
at *Christ Providence (Pit)*

Faith & Grace Choirs present a fun musical sharing the good news of the Christmas story. Join us at either of our two performances!

The Charlotte Concert Band presents

# Worldwide Yuletide

**Saturday, December 16 • 4 p.m.**  
at *Christ Providence (Sanctuary)*

Tickets are \$15 at the door





**Christmas Party for Faith & Grace Choirs**  
Wednesday, December 6 • 6:00 p.m.

## Save the Date!



**GUEST GUITARIST**  
*Mark Kroos*

**NOVEMBER 26**  
at *Christ Providence*  
(all services)

# ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

**Coming Soon!**

**Sunday, December 3**  
**9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Christ Providence**

The Lower Commons at Christ Providence will be transformed to teach you about issues around the world and true third-world problems in which we can make a difference with your donations in honor of someone you appreciate/love.

You can receive cards explaining the project(s) you supported and use them as Christmas gifts to family, teachers, neighbors, etc....

Our projects this year are connected to a variety of organizations with several helping refugees and immigrants including our own Afghan Refugee Family Support Team. These are gifts you can be proud to give.

Stay tuned to social media and E-News for updates. You can continue to shop online through December 13 and pick up cards by Sunday, December 17. Please help our efforts to support our brothers and sisters throughout the world.





## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Javesca Feeds

by LISA CARRIGAN

Founded in 2014, Javesca Feeds is a ministry that puts action to our call as Christians to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a world that needs it so badly. In Matthew 25, Jesus used the parable of the talents to teach us to serve Him in serving others, which is the primary goal of this ministry. Javesca Feeds strives to end hunger and malnutrition in the United States and around the world by providing crisis relief and sustainable improvements in order to break the cycle of poverty. We partner with local churches and organizations within the communities served, purchase food locally to help boost their economies and empower families through life-giving relationships and consistent presence. The challenges in these geographical areas are multifaceted and vast in that we assist with the feeding while other ministries assist with the medical care and other needs in those villages/towns. Our current ongoing efforts are directed toward some of the poorest communities in Charlotte, Guatemala, Cambodia and Burundi.

Having no paid staff, Javesca Feeds operates through a volunteer Board and team who work to raise funds and establish partnerships in communities in the U.S. and other countries where families experience ongoing food insecurity and malnutrition. As a Board member, I have readily seen that every ministry decision is made with a singular vision... that everyone is fed. Thus far, we have had the privilege of providing ~2 million meals in these impoverished places; and with your help, we can serve even more. The 2023 Impact Hunger event is being held November 2 at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. Money raised will be targeted to fund our efforts into

2024 as we set the budget for meal allocations to the mentioned areas, with consideration also to expand as financial resources allow.

### **There are many areas in which people can contribute:**

- Pray for this ministry so that more and more impoverished children and families can receive nutritional meals for greater health & ability to learn.
- Consider registering for and attending the Impact Hunger event on November 2 to learn more or participate in the Silent Auction online that night as well using the link below.
- Prayerfully consider having yourself or your business commit to being a Javesca Feeds Impact Hunger Sponsor with a larger donation that will undergird further fundraising efforts as people see a higher level of commitment to this ministry.
- Prayerfully consider making a personal one time or ongoing donation for Javesca Feeds to make an even greater impact.
- Purchase Javesca Coffee as every pound of coffee purchased provides 5 meals to the impoverished. Christ Lutheran supports Javesca Feeds through this means as CLC uses Javesca Coffee at all events which makes an amazing impact.
- Volunteer with the ministry and share information about the ministry with your friends and family.

Additional information regarding Javesca Feeds and the Impact Hunger event can be found online at [javescafeeds.org](http://javescafeeds.org). You may also contribute at any time. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about the ministry or opportunities for you to serve. My email is [lcarrigan2@gmail.com](mailto:lcarrigan2@gmail.com). Together we can truly make a significant difference... ONE MEAL AT A TIME.

## 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.

NEW ADULT CLASS!

## PARENT U

Tuesdays • 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.  
at McClintock Middle School

Adults are invited to come hear from different speakers on a variety of topics.

TOPIC FOR NOVEMBER 14:  
Yoga and Mindfulness

**McPIE**  
McClintock Partners In Education

### DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: Teacher Partners

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

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

If you would like to be a Teacher Partner, contact Betsy at: [betsybrun@bellsouth.net](mailto:betsybrun@bellsouth.net)

### DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FALL: Teacher Luncheons

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

If you are interested in joining this team, contact: [alicemcroe@gmail.com](mailto:alicemcroe@gmail.com)

McClintock Partners In Education

### DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Tutors

**McPIE**  
McClintock Partners In Education

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

Contact Celia Owen if interested in volunteering: [cwown92@gmail.com](mailto:cwown92@gmail.com)

## Family Night

McPIE Family Night is back and we started with a bang - steadily building community and energy in the school building!! It was contagious on September 19th during Registration Night. We had a line for dinner, smiles all around and club leaders excited to talk with students and families!

This Fall, we have 14 middle school clubs, five parent classes, four younger sibling offerings and a high school class! Middle School students can choose to participate in the afternoon, evening, or both. Afternoon clubs include Trailblazers, Tennis, Soccer (NEW) and Get Creative! Evening clubs are a combo of new and old. Art (NEW), Chess, Woodworking, Game Code (NEW), Sports Drills, Ten80 Racing, Top Scot Chef, Zombie Escape Robotics (NEW), Hands 2 Heart and Outdoor Adventure. Several McClintock teachers are leading clubs as well as community partners from Tucker Leighton Avram Tennis, You Can Tech, Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec, Corporate Information Technologies and more!

Let's not forget our siblings! Younger sibling classes are led by dedicated and loving volunteers from Christ Lutheran. These children aged newborn through 5th grade are loved on, learn through play, are enjoying arts and crafts, sports, and focus on projects requiring teamwork. We just added a high school class back to Family Night programming due to the overwhelming interest from former McClintock students who have moved on to high school. Our partnership with Imagination and Charlotte Mecklenburg Library brought us a volunteer who is educated in older teens and programming!

Parent offerings include Getting Ahead, Women's Journey, ESL, Bible Study and Parent U! We are excited to have Parent U programming after several years away from that style of class and have presenters from across the community leading Parent U. Teen Health Connection led classes on Active Parenting, Substance Abuse and Prevention, and Teens and Technology. Upcoming classes include yoga and mindfulness, diet and nutrition, and understand CMS MAP test scores.

Overall, this is an exciting time for McPIE Family Night watching momentum build, smiles on volunteers and participants and the hope of what programming brings to students and families. Our full mission comes to life each and every Tuesday at McClintock! We are creating future stories... building community... supporting families... inspiring volunteers... to ensure all McClintock students succeed!

To get involved in this amazing outreach, contact Angela Davis ([adavis@christelca.org](mailto:adavis@christelca.org)).

**McClintock Tutors:** Tutors are needed at McClintock Middle School; the class sizes are large this year! There are many opportunities to assist small groups of students in the classroom. Occasionally, tutors may be asked to provide additional assistance to a small group outside of the classroom. Tutors are matched to teachers based on preference of subject, grade and schedule. Tutoring at McClintock is much appreciated and is rewarding for the tutor as well as being beneficial for the student! Contact Celia Owen for more information ([cwown92@gmail.com](mailto:cwown92@gmail.com)).

**Teacher Appreciation Luncheons:** On early release days (and occasional teacher workdays), McPIE serves lunch to McClintock teachers and staff. Help prepare food and/or serve by connecting with Alice McRorie ([alicemcroe@gmail.com](mailto:alicemcroe@gmail.com)).

**Teacher Partners:** Teachers need to feel loved, supported and appreciated. Partner with a first- or second-year teacher and remind them how important they are with simple hello emails, notes dropped in their school mailbox, or small tokens of appreciation. Contact Betsy ([betsybrun@bellsouth.net](mailto:betsybrun@bellsouth.net)).



## CROP Walk Thank You

Thank You to all who walked and/or donated! This year's CROP Hunger Walk was uptown at Memorial Stadium, but participants could also walk for the cause in their own neighborhoods! Christ Lutheran raised over \$21,000 dollars and is listed as the top team fundraiser! Thank you to all who have donated and to our group who walked to end hunger! If you have not donated to support this important cause, you can continue to donate by going here: [CLC CROP WALK](http://CLC CROP WALK).

## A Roof Above

Room In The Inn season is around the corner, running Thursday nights, December 7th through March, at Christ Lutheran's Providence campus. This season we are in most need for volunteers to serve as an overnight host. We need 2 overnight hosts each Thursday. It's a great opportunity for spouses, men's groups, or any men looking to serve this program. You arrive at 7pm (or join at 6pm for dinner) and depart Friday morning by 6:30am. Private room and breakfast included! Also, we could use any drivers with a Commercial license to drive our CLC van-bus. We're looking forward to another successful RITI season. Registration is open on [SignUpGenius.com](http://SignUpGenius.com). For more info, email [lane.goode@gmail.com](mailto:lane.goode@gmail.com).



## ROOM IN THE INN

Starting December 7th, Christ Providence will be hosting our neighbors in need.

**Overnight hosts, drivers and other volunteers needed**



Info & Signup:  
[Signupgenius.com](http://Signupgenius.com)



## BLOOD DRIVE

**Sunday, December 3**  
at Christ Concord

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

## not choir

**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](mailto:mjohanson@christelca.org)

## All Saints Day

Honor loved ones who have passed on by lighting a remembrance candle in their honor at this special service.

**Sunday, November 5**



**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 \(lowitham@carolina.rr.com\)](mailto:lowitham@carolina.rr.com)

# Legacy Planning Lunch

with Stephanie Burke  
ELCA Foundation

**Sunday, November 5**

12:15 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum A&B)

Learn about legacy planning and enjoy a complimentary lunch provided by the CLC Endowment Committee.

REGISTER IN REALM by October 30th>>  
MORE INFO: [brucedvoelker@gmail.com](mailto:brucedvoelker@gmail.com)



## Coffee with the Pastors

BOOK STUDY

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

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

Wednesdays  
*together*

## DINNER

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

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

FOR MENUS & RSVP LINKS:  
[christelca.org/menu](http://christelca.org/menu)



## Let's get connected.

Download the **Realm Connect** app today!



**Need Help with Realm?**

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

## ADULT MEN'S BASKETBALL

meets every Monday • 7-9 p.m.  
at Christ Providence (Spirit Hall)

Pickup men's basketball for ages 18+

Contact Kyle Hofmann for info:  
[kylehofmann@gmail.com](mailto:kylehofmann@gmail.com)



SERVING & OUTREACH



## Refugee Resettlement Team Update

by LAURIE CARTER

The Christ Lutheran Refugee Resettlement Team has been hard at work trying to aid the Osmani family who fled Afghanistan when the Taliban resumed power. Muhammad worked at the U.S. Embassy, so his family continues to be targeted.

His wife and three young children are now resettled in Charlotte, but they are still trying to get other family members out. Muhammad's brother escaped Afghanistan and fled to Turkey but was captured and deported. He escaped again and is now back in Turkey trying to get out to the U.S.

CLC members, Chris & Jennifer Youse have generously offered to sponsor the Osmani family with continued support by Christ Lutheran. Church Council approved \$5,000 a year for the next two years in this effort.

The CLC youth group will sponsor a booth at this year's Alternative Gift Market with proceeds benefitting the family, so we hope a big turnout at the market will provide support not only for the Osmani's but for many other charitable efforts sponsored by the church.

In addition to our efforts working with 17 other area churches on Afghan refugee resettlement, Christ Lutheran is also working with the Circles of Welcome initiative for Ukrainian families sponsored by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS).

If you are interested in joining our team or working specifically with one of these initiatives, please contact Kathie Wilson (Afghanistan) at [woowils@gmail.com](mailto:woowils@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Marquardt (Ukraine) at [marquardt.elizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:marquardt.elizabeth@gmail.com)



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Christ Connections



november/december 2023

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

### JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

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

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2024 EDITIONS

- Jan/Feb - December 8
  - Mar/April - February 15
  - May/June - April 15
  - July/Aug - June 14
  - Sept/Oct - August 9
  - Nov/Dec - October 15
- \*Submit stories or other news items at [christelca.org/jotform](http://christelca.org/jotform)



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
**Faith Fellowship**  
Sundays • 10:00 a.m.  
at Christ Prov. (Forum A&B)  
-or- Christ Online (Zoom)

**NEW STUDY: Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts**

Join us Oct. 29-Nov. 19 as we discover our own spiritual gifts to serve others and glorify God!

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

