

Christ Connections



CHRIST
providence



CHRIST
south



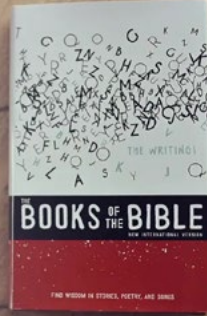
CHRIST
concord



CHRIST
online

july/august

Returning Fall 2021
with *The Writings*



Honoring Our
**COLLEGE
GRADUATES**
class of 2021



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

9 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship
4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST SOUTH

10 a.m. Outdoor Worship
315 Reid Dairy Rd, Waxhaw

CHRIST CONCORD

10 a.m. Multi-Generational
Modern Worship
240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





from the Senior Pastor

Christ South Worship Center

One Church, One Mission, Different Expressions

When we launched the mission of having multiple campuses, we made it clear that this was not for Christ Lutheran or for Charlotte or for North Carolina. We were going to be the faith incubators to imagine a new way of doing church, where vibrant congregations replicate themselves to produce other vibrant congregations. As we've expanded to Christ South, Christ Concord and more recently Christ Online, we are learning how to do this and teaching other pastors around the country to do the same. I have partnered with another pastor in Colorado doing a different form of multi-sites, and to-date, we have had 35 churches go through our extensive, 12-month training to equip them to strategize how to do this in their own setting. The next training begins in September with another 25+ churches. And it is working. The Spirit is moving vibrant congregations to create other vibrant congregations.

Our next step in this deliberate mission is now upon us—building a worship center on our Christ South Land. Can the mission be sustained with a larger expense? Will those who worship at different campuses contribute to a project that they may rarely use? Can we maintain the unity of Christ Lutheran while allowing for the unique expressions of each campus? I believe the answer is a resounding, “Yes!” because of the Spirit of unity that we have at Christ Lutheran.

We as Christ Lutheran envisioned multi-campus.

We as Christ Lutheran rebranded ourselves.

We as Christ Lutheran called campus pastors.

We as Christ Lutheran bought land.

And on May 23, we as Christ Lutheran voted unanimously to build this worship center

The building is less church-like and more of a pavilion with a retreat-setting feel, with large open timbers and glass garage doors opening to the outside. This will be a casual place where unchurched and dechurched people will feel welcomed. While worship will be a central, weekly event, this space will also host concerts, meetings, lectures, retreats, weddings and corporate gatherings. We hope to keep it very busy as we reach deeply into the community.

Now comes the hard part—raising the money. The cost is 3 million dollars, of which we already have 1 million in the bank. We are asking people to bring their commitments towards this mission on July 17th with gifts payable by May of 2022. You can put your amount in the offering plate or confidentially email it to Gregg Huether at ghuether@christelca.org. If you would like to discuss your commitment, please connect with me. I would love to share the mission with you.

The cool part is that to ensure we don't become too myopic and self serving, we have made a commitment to give away \$50,000 for every million that we raise (as we did for the Worship Center at Christ Providence). With that first million, we are giving away \$25,000 to the Christ Lutheran Garden Ministry as it now expands to both Christ Concord and Christ South with raising food for the community. The second \$25,000 will be given to Lutheran World Relief. As you remember, we completed our four-year commitment with LWR towards Bihar, India. Now we are joining them and nine other ELCA congregations to help the hurricane-ravaged coffee farmers in Central America become self-sufficient again.

It's bold, it is faithful, it is exciting and it is Spirit-filled. The unity we have at Christ Lutheran should never be taken for granted. In many ways, we are an anomaly in the ELCA. With that comes the responsibility to share what we learn so that others across the country will come to experience what we know to be true: life is better with Jesus! Come and see!

Peace,
Pastor Scott

PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Summer Worship

at CHRIST PROVIDENCE

TRADITIONAL SERVICE • 9am
CONTEMPORARY SERVICE • 10:45am

- no Sunday School classes -
 - nursery available (RSVP required) -

 christelca.org



Good Soil

CHRIST SOUTH BUILDING CAMPAIGN

'Pledge' your commitment by July 18th:
 DROP card in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, MAIL it to the church office, or confidentially EMAIL Gregg Huether: ghuether@christelca.org

CAMP CMS - PAID & VOLUNTEER OPPS

at McClintock Middle School

- Volunteers -
 Needed through July 30
 Email for info

- Teacher Asst. & ESL Teachers -
 Needed July 12-30, 8:30a-4:30p
 Associates degree req. • \$15 per/hr • \$500 bonus

Email: shannon.gibson@cms.k12.nc.us



NEW IN REALM!

Skills and Interests

Go to your profile and add your skills and interests! Help us help you find your place at Christ Lutheran.

onrealm.org/christelca

WE'RE ALL Together

IN THIS  American Red Cross

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE
Sunday, July 25
 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Christ Providence

Signup at redcrossblood.org
 code: Christ Lutheran

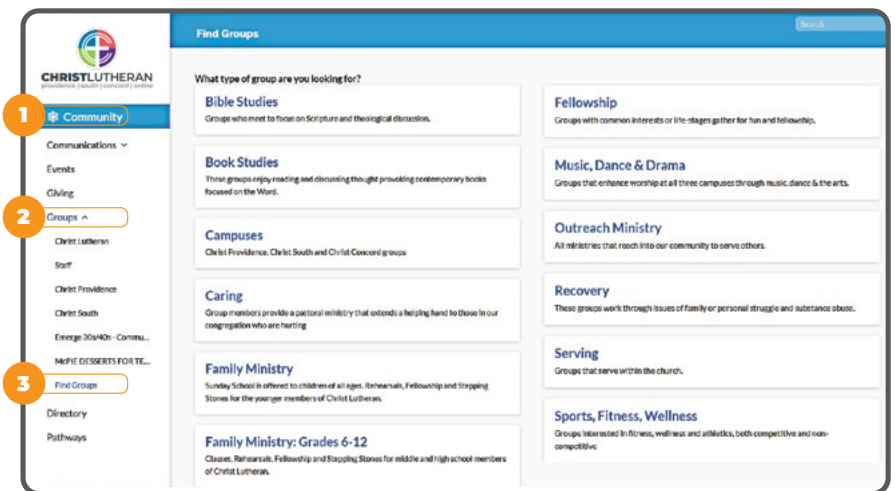


SMALL GROUP ministries

Find Community in Small Groups

by PASTOR DREW

Recently I was contacted by a few people at our church who wanted more ways to get involved. I love having these conversations. But that brought to mind another way you can search for groups where you can grow in faith, and that is by using REALM. Simply login to your Realm profile, and then under the "Community" tab, click "Find Groups."



This brings you a wide variety of groups you can explore. Groups of different types are available based on what you are looking for, including Fellowship, Bible Studies, Book Studies, Sports... and more.

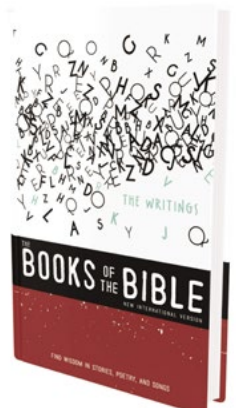
Another option is to begin a new Small Group! The church staff are happy to walk you through the process. We can help you connect with people who may be interested in the kind of Small Group you want to start. Please reach out to us! Email Pastoral Assistant Mary Parker (mparker@christelca.org) or Pastor Drew (dgoodson@christelca.org) to get started.

Community Bible Experience Returns!

Read Big. Read Together! Have you ever found yourself wanting to read the Bible deeply, but did not know how or where to start?

If so, the Community Bible Experience is for you. Written in four parts, each part of the Community Bible Experience is designed to help you read Scripture with other believers.

Coming later this fall in November, Christ Lutheran plans to read *Part Three: The Writings*. *The Writings* includes books like Psalms, Proverbs, Job and Daniel. You can learn more about CBE and order your copy of *Part Three: The Writings* on Amazon or any major bookseller today.



It's Happening at Concord!

by PASTOR TENNY

Concord worship continues to be vibrant, both online and in person! Online engagement continues to be strong, and in-person worship attendance has returned to about 75% of pre-COVID levels!

Property Improvement Projects are Progressing

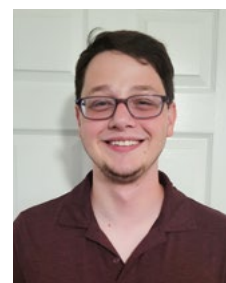
- The landscaping has never looked better.
- The sacristy/storage room renovation is at the cabinet installation stage.
- Interior painting continues.
- The Christ Concord Community Garden will be ready for its first crop by September. Food pantries at Cooperative Christian Ministry will be the beneficiary of the fresh produce.

Welcome Thrive Preschool & New Staff

We are looking forward to Thrive Preschool expanding to the Concord campus this fall as well, with Dr. Caroline Targonski as the campus director.



We are also thrilled to welcome Aaron Anderson (*pictured right*) to staff as Tech Director for Christ Concord. Aaron has experience working with audio/visual systems at a large church campus and is scheduled to complete his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering this fall from UNC-Charlotte.



What's Happening at South?

by PASTOR MATT

I've used the term "God sized" before and it continues to hold true! Christ South has been tested and stretched by the pandemic and struggled to find the right fit for worship once restrictions eased. Through hard conversations and a campus-wide survey, we realized that we needed to return to the roots of the Christ South community: in-person, family-focused worship on Sunday mornings. June 13th marked our return to 10 a.m. Outdoor Worship, and it was God-sized! With about 100 people gathered, the return of BLAST and fellowship over Italian ice (it's HOT in the sun), the Spirit worked in us by strengthening our faith through community. God is good! We'll continue to worship together on Sunday mornings as long as the weather cooperates. We will also stream online on our [Facebook](#) page and on our [YouTube](#) channel.

In late May, our congregation unanimously approved the building project on the Christ South land. With each bold, faithful step taken, we continue to be on track to break ground in the fall. The Parable of the Soils tells us to scatter the seed so that God can bring forth the fruit. You received a brochure about the Good Soil capital campaign outlining the vision, building design, finances and timeline for the project. This building will be our church home, but it will also be a community center. We have Good Soil on which to scatter the seed and trust that the harvest will be God-sized. Read the brochure, pray, talk to me about it, and consider giving a gift.

Children and youth are an important part of our ministry and we're focused on finding safe ways to get our kids connected with each other and the Gospel. BLAST is back on Sunday mornings for preschool through 5th grade. In June, kids from all three campuses participated in a week-long Hybrid VBS, including a family night with a food truck on the land. For families that prefer to stay virtual, [ChristKidsTV](#) creates a new video each week. Additionally, Family Ministry is in the process of hiring two people: a full-time Youth Director who will work with Middle and High School students at both the Providence and South campuses, and a second position to work primarily at South. We are excited to see what God has in store for our children!

There are several improvements and renovation plans taking place on the land. All three houses and the deck barn are getting a new look with fresh paint. The deck barn will be renovated so that it can be used for Sunday worship and as a meeting space for youth and small groups. Thrive Day and Home Schools are updating their spaces to prepare for the return of students in the fall. The Garden Ministry has moved the beds into their new spot and plan to start planting the Community Garden this summer.

Amazing things are happening for Christ South. God's plans are more than we can imagine but seeing His work around us during these unpredictable times is awesome! As we move into these exciting next few months, we still need you. Please [pray](#), come to worship on Sunday, invite a friend, [watch online](#), [give](#). Consider how you can do God's work in our church, community and beyond. Your support, prayers and gifts will scatter seed in His Good Soil. Be encouraged!

Ushers Needed

AT CHRIST PROVIDENCE



Would you consider serving as an usher at Christ Providence? As more people return to in-person worship, we are in need of more volunteers to help during both services on Sunday mornings.

If interested, contact Mary for details at mparker@christelca.org

PRIMEtimers

A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+

Summer Potluck Picnic Saturday, August 14

Save the date for a summer potluck on Lake Norman at the home of Kay & Dennis Leffler. It's a beautiful location for those who haven't been before & we are sure you will love it!

Join group in REALM for info & signup
or call Don/Vicky Essick (704)256-1433

Greeters Needed

As more people return to in-person worship, we are in need of volunteers to help welcome people to Christ Providence on Sunday mornings. It's a great way to meet others and to extend God's love to all.

To join a team, contact Gretchen at gsuskovic@christelca.org



PROVIDENCE ALTAR FLOWERS

HONOR A LOVED ONE BY DONATING
ALTAR FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

\$50 • SIGN UP IN REALM

(Community>Events>Providence Altar Flowers)

Centering Prayer

meets 2nd & 4th Mondays • 12 p.m.
Christ Providence - Worship Ctr. Parlor

Come deepen your relationship with Jesus with this silent form of prayer that anyone can learn. Open to all!

Join group in REALM for latest info
(Community>Groups>Find Groups>Bible Studies)

CHRIST providence



Fall Programming at Providence

While this seems to be a moving target as we ease out of Covid quarantine and into a semi-normal existence of handshakes and unmasked conversations, we have made tentative plans for Christ Providence to kick-off fall programming on Sunday, September 12th.

Here are some important things to know:

- Kick-off Sunday on September 12th will include a congregational lunch as a celebration and reunion of the family of God! Please plan now on attending.
- Initially, there will not be a Bridge Service. We will only have the early traditional service and the later contemporary service, both with communion.
- Sunday School will be modified. Instead of having the traditional Sunday School hour blocked off for children's and adult classes, children three-years old through 5th grade will be excused from worship for an extended time of group learning, music and activities. They will leave before the reading of the lessons and return back to worship in time for communion.
- Adult Sunday School will have many options and spaces to meet either before, during or after worship services. Most of these classes will provide a hybrid option for people attending in person as well as online.
- We are planning on resuming Wednesdays Together on Sept. 15th with classes, Music & Arts programming and a dinner for all.

This is the best we can plan at this point, knowing that we've come a long way from a year ago to reestablish a sense of normalcy at Christ Lutheran. As things continue to evolve, the CLC Council will provide direction and decisions on future gatherings.

Let's Sing Again!

by MARK GLAESER

Music and Arts programming resumes at Christ Providence with Wednesdays Together on September 15th. Children's choirs for all age groups, Liturgical Dance, FaithJam!, 180° for middle school and The Experience for senior high. Join us for evenings of faith and fun!

We welcome new directors A.J. Calpo, who will be leading Grace Choir, and Bill Porter, who will be helping with The Experience! C.J. Michael, Dennis Contreras, Olivia Gerik, Theresa Viera, Willie Pinson, and Kristin Cavazos are our returning leaders. We are so excited about this leadership team and feel they will equip us for the best year ever!

Interested? All you need to do is show up! If you have questions, contact Mark Glaeser at mglaeser@christelca.org.

Special Class for 20's and 30's

by PASTOR SCOTT

Beginning on Wednesday, September 15th, Pastor Scott will offer an in-depth, verse-by-verse study on the Gospel of John for those in their 20's and 30's. Many of our young adults don't feel they have the basic biblical knowledge or know where to find it. Pastor Scott will lead the class through this important Gospel, cover the basic biblical teachings and answer any pressing questions. Upon the completion of this Book, they will turn their attention to Romans, the "Hallmark of the Reformation!"

This class will be offered as a hybrid class both in person at Christ Providence as well as online. There will also be a recording that will be available to watch on-demand. Stay tuned for updates!

NEW DIRECTOR OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CENTER:

Meet Meg Semm

Meg grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, and moved to North Carolina to obtain her Master's degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education at UNC Wilmington. She met her husband, Mark, and moved to Texas for 15 years where Meg taught in the elementary school classroom for six years, helped open a preschool, and stayed on as their Director. She was a stay-at-home mom to her two wonderful kids before returning to be a Director again at a church preschool.



They moved to North Carolina three years ago, and Meg returned to the classroom again teaching kindergarten for the last three years in Matthews. This gave her an opportunity to see the new technology used in learning and a refreshed view of where children are headed after they leave CLCC.

Meg and Mark, have been married for 17 years. Their daughter, Kaitlyn, is 14 and an avid dancer. Their son, Ryan, is 12 and a diehard baseball player. They spend their free time boating on the lake when they can sneak some time in between dance and baseball tournaments!

Please join us in welcoming Meg to our wonderful Children's Center!



NEW TECH DIRECTOR FOR WORSHIP AT PROVIDENCE

Bill Porter (is Back!)

by MARK GLAESER

We are pleased to announce the addition of Bill Porter to our team for worship leadership as Technical Director. This position, formerly and beautifully executed by Boo

English, is an important one as so much of worship in our facility is dependent on and enhanced by technology. In this age of live-streamed worship services, there is an ever-increasing amount of technological pieces that must be working at their peak. Bill formerly worked for us at the Concord campus as Music Director and Office Administrator.



He resigned that position to move to Atlanta for his wife to work in her family's business. He has been working at Christ Our Shepherd ELCA in Peachtree City as their tech director, and has gained a lot of experience and expertise in the technical components of modern worship. Bill is a talented musician, a creative soul, a kind person, and a true servant of the Word. We are excited to welcome Bill to our Providence staff!

Kairos Prison Ministry

by PASTOR DREW

Men from Christ Lutheran take part in KAIROS prison weekends twice per year at the Foothills Correctional Facility (maximum security) near Morganton. Over the course of four days, KAIROS team members share meals, talks and many other experiences designed to shine the light of Christ.

While COVID-19 caused lockdown across our country, KAIROS prison ministry weekends came to a halt. It was too risky for volunteers to enter the prison for our four-day experiences designed to show God's love to the incarcerated. Thankfully, there is hope that KAIROS weekends will return in the fall of 2021!



During COVID-19, the KAIROS community held virtual Nights of Worship (N.O.W.) and Prayer Warrior events in the parking lot of Foothills prison. These were ways of continuing to lift up the men and women who are in prison in prayer for God's mercy, grace and healing.

KAIROS is a special way that the compassion of Jesus is being shown to all. If you would like to learn more, please join the KAIROS group in Realm for the latest news. Thank you for including this ministry in your prayers!

Caring Teams are Resuming

Caring teams are such an important part of our church community. During Covid, however, we were not able to utilize many of our teams. As we emerge out of this pandemic, we are resuming some of our caring teams. Here are a few of the teams that will begin immediately:

Prayer Sentries is a group of prayer warriors that pray during the Traditional and Contemporary services at Christ Providence each Sunday. If you would like to volunteer, please email Mary at mparker@christelca.org.

Prayer Partners is a group that prays with parishioners after the Traditional and Contemporary services at the kneeling altar/rail in the Sanctuary at Christ Providence. If you would like to volunteer, please email Mary at mparker@christelca.org.

Home Communion is available for those that are homebound and would like to receive the gift of this Sacrament. If you would like to receive home communion, know of someone who would like to receive it, or if you would like to volunteer to help, please email Connie at ckramer@christelca.org.

Bereavement Teams help with receptions for a funeral or memorial service. We currently have three teams. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mary at mparker@christelca.org.

We look forward to reconnecting with the congregation during those times of great need with these Caring Teams. Please let us know your need or someone else's so we can respond with the love of God to all people.

Honoring Our COLLEGE GRADUATES

class of 2021



Jonathan Arnall graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Architecture. He plans to work as a project coordinator for Gresham Smith in Charlotte.



Carter Bugg graduated *magna cum laude* from Clemson University with a B.S. in Economics. He will move back to Charlotte and begin the leadership development program with Truist Financial in mid-July.



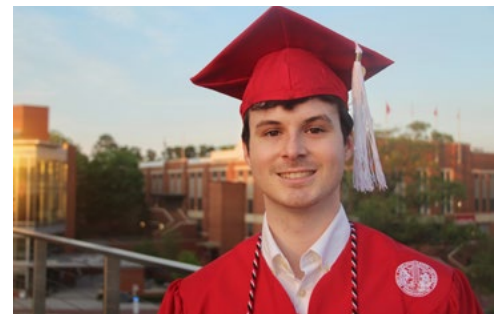
Chris Chase, M.D. graduated from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. Recently married to Kass Johnson Chase, they are headed to Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education in Jacksonville, FL.



Bridgette Brody graduated *summa cum laude* from Appalachian State with a bachelor's degree in Child Development (concentration in birth through kindergarten education). She plans to stay in Boone while pursuing a master's degree in Special Education and a certificate in Teaching Emergent Bilinguals.



Lauren Cagley graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with an M.B.A. in Strategic Management and Operations Strategy. She is a consultant with Bain & Company in Austin, TX.



Bryce Clapp graduated from NC State University with a B.A. in Communications. He is a sales associate for State Farm Insurance in Raleigh.



Jack Edelson graduated from Gettysburg College with a B.S. in Physics and a minor in Media and Film Studies. He will start a job this summer as a reporting analyst for LPL Financial.



Katie Gutt graduated from Brooklyn Law School with a Juris Doctor degree. She will be a law associate at Pryor Cashman in Manhattan, concentrating on corporate immigration law.



Myra Joines graduated from UNC-Greensboro with a M.A. in Applied Arts and Sciences. She is looking for a part-time position with an organization serving our local community.



Steven Erlenbach graduated from NC State University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Business Administration. He will be moving to Arkansas to work with Albemarle (headquartered in Southpark).



Molly Hansen graduated *magna cum laude* from UNC-Chapel Hill with dual majors in English and Comparative Lit./Creative Writing & Comm. Studies/Media Production. She's accepted an internship in entertainment production development in Los Angeles, CA.



Brooke Mikes graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Nursing. She will be working in a NeuroTrauma ICU unit in a hospital out of state.



Lauren Fisher graduated from Hunter College with an M.A. in Art History. She plans to stay in New York and work in the art industry.



Drew Hebeisen graduated *magna cum laude* from UNC-Charlotte with a B.S. in Accounting and a minor in Political Science. He is interning with KPMG this summer before heading to Notre Dame in August for a Master of Accountancy.



Geoff Nau graduated from UNC-Charlotte with a Ph.D. in Business with a focus in Organizational Psychology. He will be teaching at UNC-Charlotte starting in the fall.



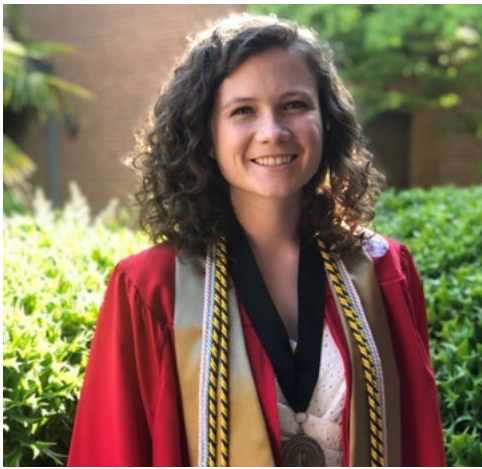
Cailin Peterson graduated *magna cum laude* from NC State University with a major in Microbiology and a minor in Psychology. She is pursuing a job in environmental advocacy.



Daniel Petronis has a B.A. in Political Science and Marketing. He is working for Brixmor Property Group, a commercial real estate firm, in their Chicago office.



Caroline Targonski received a doctoral degree in Occupational Therapy from Huntington University. She is the new director of Thrive at Christ Lutheran's Concord campus.



Sarah Peterson graduated *summa cum laude* from NC State University with a major in Biology and a minor in Computer Science. She will be working as a lab analyst for BioAgilytix in Durham.



Will Satterfield graduated from Appalachian State College of Fine and Applied Arts with a bachelor's degree in Construction Management. He is headed to St. Louis to work for Western Specialty Contractors as a project manager.



Jonathan Webster graduated *magna cum laude* from Anderson University with a B.A. in Homeland Security and Emergency Services Management. He is working as a paramedic this summer and will begin graduate school in the fall. Jonathan and his new wife, Maren East, will reside in Anderson, SC.



Caroline Petronis has a B.A. in Science Representation and is beginning a Ph.D. program in Sociology at the University of California-San Diego this fall.



Bailie Smith graduated *summa cum laude* from Appalachian State with dual degrees in Finance/Banking and Risk Management. She is starting at Bank of America this summer.





Community Garden Relocation

by WALT ROTH

Wow! The garden relocation from Christ Providence to Christ South went better than expected thanks to the many Spirit-filled volunteers. The gardeners prepared for the big move starting with the fifth and final harvest on May 3rd of 240 pounds – all of which was donated to Loaves & Fishes. The initial 2021 YTD total was 423 pounds, with our fall crops adding even more. The 3+ year cumulative total on the original garden site is **5,752 pounds**.

Following that event, several work parties and individual efforts got the 28 raised beds prepared for the move – along with irrigation and other miscellaneous garden assets. On May 22nd, some 30+ younger men and women volunteers from all three campuses loaded the assets onto two U-Haul trucks and took them down to the Christ South campus. So efficient was all the preparation and volunteer help on that day that we enjoyed a picnic lunch made by our own Chef Mike – a whole hour earlier than expected!

Gardeners and volunteers are moving forward with the garden's development on the front lawn of Christ South's Thrive Preschool at the corner of Rea and Reid Dairy Roads. On the same side of the road and

directly across the street under construction is the new Weddington Fire Department. The corner fence posts for the garden are set so the new 7,700 square-foot "garden footprint" can be visualized. We're working to get the irrigation infrastructure installed before the initial 20 raised beds can be set and filled with good soil. Once the drip irrigation hoses and the deer fence are installed, the gardeners can begin planting their fall crops. Our goal is to have all this done by the first week of August.

We will soon be calling on our "younger volunteers" again to help set the beds in place so they can be filled with soil. We will be hiring a skid steer operator to scoop and dump the soil as each of the raised bed frames are set in place. Each bed takes 4.25 cubic yards of soil to fill, thus saving us considerable time and effort in filling several hundred wheel-barrow loads.

One of our goals with additional space is to get more volunteers to help feed those in need, including families with children as well as members of the nearby local community. Read CLC's latest news for more information in the coming weeks, or for even more details contact our co-managers: Paul D'Albora (dalborap@yahoo.com), Dave Deeds (ddeeds@bellsouth.net) or Walt Roth (wroth1@bellsouth.net).



Coffee with the Pastors

Wednesdays • 9:00 a.m.
MEETS ONLINE via ZOOM

 christelca.org/online



Watch Past Services on our YouTube Channel

Featuring recent sermons, worship videos, ChristKidsTV episodes, promo videos & more!

  **Christ Lutheran Charlotte**



Weekly E-News

Get the latest from Christ Lutheran delivered right to your inbox!

To subscribe, visit our website or email awilliams@christelca.org



2022 PASSION PLAY
OBERAMMERGAU

Germany Tour in the Footsteps of Martin Luther
featuring The Passion Play of Oberammergau
with Pastor Scott and Gretchen

July 20-30, 2022

For info, email: suskovic@christelca.org



Summer Worship
at **CHRIST PROVIDENCE**

TRADITIONAL SERVICE • 9am
CONTEMPORARY SERVICE • 10:45am

- no Sunday School classes -
- nursery available (RSVP required) -

 christelca.org

Church Council Reflection



by **AMY KOCHAN**
Congregational President

It's hard to believe we are half-way through 2021. For those of you that I haven't had the privilege of meeting, I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself. This is my second year of a three-year rotation on Church Council, and I'm honored to be serving as your 2021 Council President. Our family is blessed to call Christ Lutheran home. My husband Patrick and I joined Christ Lutheran in 2008. We have two sons, Jackson (11) and Caleb (9) who both attended CLCC. I have been in management consulting for more than two decades and enjoy serving in our Charlotte community with several nonprofits. Born and raised in North Carolina, I grew up a pastor's kid.

As I look back on the last year, I can't help but reflect on the ride and applaud all the things our church has accomplished. Some of you may have seen [my blog](#) in June where I talked about faith. Over the last year, we sure have had to put our faith in God, our faith in our church and our faith in each other. It's that faith that has enabled our church to grow and prosper during a pandemic, to reach our community in new and different ways and to lean on one another as we navigated the unknown. I think back to my first council meeting in February of 2020. I don't think any of us could have predicted what was about to happen and how much we'd talk about masks, protocols and pivoting the way we worship and serve our community. I was amazed by the church leadership and staff. Each day brought new challenges and new ways of working, and they navigated it together, they leaned on one another and we thrived. Our church grew beyond its walls, beyond Charlotte. And I was so proud to be a part of our congregation that supported it all – even when we couldn't physically be together.

And now as we start to think beyond the pandemic and the future of our church, we continue to Reach Beyond and to have faith. I was truly giddy on May 23rd when our church approved the build on the Christ South land. While I know the vote was for the approval to build, to me it was so much more for our church. It was our commitment to building faith and reaching beyond our walls into the communities we live. It was a promise to the future – to our church – not a campus – but *our church*. It was a commitment to continuing to glorify God and bring more people closer to Him. Each campus may look and feel different, but we are one church, one team and one army sharing God's love. I look forward to the rest of 2021 and beyond and the plans that God has for our church – some plans we know and some that will come as surprises. I guess we can only buckle our seatbelts, keep the faith and enjoy the ride.

Thank you to this congregation for your trust in our Church Council and for your continued prayers and support. We value your feedback and counsel, and I look forward to continuing to serve *our church* at Christ Lutheran.





Freedom School

AT CHRIST PROVIDENCE

Christ Providence is providing space and custodial services to support Freedom School Partners and Scholars this summer! Up to 54 Scholars will be on campus from June 14th – July 30th to participate in the Children's Defense Funds literacy program.

Our site typically houses Scholars strictly from McClintock (and their siblings). This summer, Christ Providence will provide space for eight elementary classes with Scholars from Rama, Oakhurst and Billingsville Elementary, as well as one middle school class with Scholars from McClintock and Alexander Graham. This summer will provide valuable lessons on how Scholars can make a difference in themselves, school, family, community and country, all while focusing on literacy.

Unfortunately, there are no opportunities for volunteering inside the building or with Scholars this summer, but you can check out a few organizational volunteer opportunities at freedom-schoolpartners.org.

Camp CMS is Underway!

Close to 400 students from McClintock (MMS) and Alexander Graham Middle School are filling the campus of MMS for 6 weeks this summer. Camp CMS is a learning and enrichment program to help students move toward mastery learning. Enriching activities will enhance thinking, alongside fun and engaging programs to sharpen skills with physical fitness to motivate their minds and bodies. Transportation, breakfast, lunch and social emotional learning supports are included.

McPIE encouraged all Scholars to attend Camp CMS. We are supporting the site at McClintock with supplies and incentives. There are also limited volunteer opportunities available. If interested, please contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org).

Soup Kitchen Needs Volunteers

Christ Lutheran is once again supporting A Roof Above's Soup Kitchen the 3rd Sunday of every month with limited volunteer capacity. Contact Celeste Lupo-Hack (704)724-9731 or Liza Hack (704)806-0064 if interested.

Thrivent Members can support the Soup Kitchen with Thrivent dollars. If you are a Thrivent Member and would like to put your dollars toward the Soup Kitchen, please contact Tammy Sanders (tsanders@christelca.org).

School Supply Drive

School will be back in session before we know it. Help students start the year prepared. For good deals on composition/spiral notebooks, colored pencils and folders check out Walmart, Target and Staples. Our most needed supply is earbuds. Thank you for your support! You can also shop from our [Amazon wish list](#) and have items shipped directly to the church.

Needed School Supplies:

- Ear buds (greatest need)
- Pencils
- Composition notebooks
- Book bags
- Sticky notes (regular size)
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Highlighters
- Pencil pouch
- Folders

Look for the blue donation box on Sundays at Providence (in the Lower Commons area) or bring donations to the Outreach office during the week.

McPIE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & Getting Back To Normalcy

Pending new COVID guidelines from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) or the state of North Carolina, we hope to return to many of our pre-COVID programs including Family Nights, daytime volunteers, teacher partners and more.

Details and plans are still in the works, but expect Family Nights to return in some fashion this fall! We will need volunteers to serve meals/distribute meal boxes, leaders for clubs and classes, check-in table attendants, help with the school store and more. Family Nights will remain meeting on Tuesday afternoon/evening. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org).

Daytime opportunities at McClintock may include teacher partners, teacher appreciation events, copy service, food pantry, clothing closet and hygiene kits. Stay tuned for more information on all the exciting opportunities coming this fall!



FAMILIES

Thrive is Thriving & More...

by THRIVE HOME STAFF

3 Locations!

If you haven't heard the news yet... Thrive continues to... Thrive, thanks to God's blessing. As a result, Thrive will soon be at a Christ Lutheran location near you and can make a positive impact on more families around the Charlotte area. However, just as each Christ Lutheran campus has its own unique expression, Thrive will look a little bit different at each site.

Thrive Day School started just over three years ago as a preschool and kindergarten for children with exceptional learning needs. Thrive Day School's preschool and kindergarten students will continue to meet at Christ South five days a week, and will be expanding to the Christ Concord campus on three mornings a week. The expansion will give Thrive Day School the ability to reach families in North Charlotte that need private special education services while continuing the ministry started through Christ South.

Last year, Thrive Home was added to the program. Thrive Home is an inclusive homeschool co-op for typically developing and special needs students, learning levels kindergarten through 8th grade. Thrive Home is purposefully designed to grow the whole child. Using a hands-on approach, students learn Science, Social Studies, Math and Language Arts/Phonics. Starting this fall, Thrive Home will begin meeting at the Providence campus on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Thrive is able to offer three unique atmospheres that allow students to grow outside the walls of a traditional educational experience. Thrive teachers and therapists work in cooperation to ensure that each child gets one-on-one attention while learning in a close group setting. An individualized education with essential socialization... it's the best of both worlds.

Right now, Thrive facilities at Christ Concord and Christ South are a buzz with renovations. The facilities at Christ South are getting a fresh coat of paint and some updated flooring. A nice playground is being added this summer. By September, Thrive will be ready for the next big season. If you would like to hear more about the changes or to see the progress, email Laura Scott at Lscott@thrivedayschool.com to schedule a tour.

Because of YOU

The teachers, staff and therapists at Thrive would like to thank the members of Christ Lutheran for their unwavering support. Through donations and referrals, Thrive is able to be a sanctuary for all learners, a place to celebrate the uniqueness of God's children.

We appreciate your continued prayer for Thrive: the staff, the children and the families. Through your support and God's blessing, may the Thrive program continue to reach the goals it sets and be a light in the communities it serves.



ThriveDaySchool.com

ThriveHomeNC.com

meet the staff! from left to right:

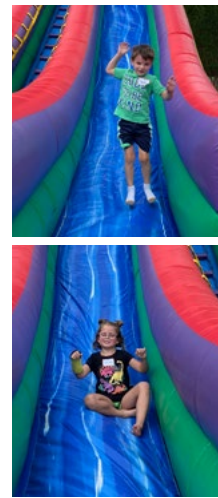
LAURA SCOTT
Thrive Senior Director

JESSICA BUNTING
Thrive Home Providence Director

CAROLINE TARGONSKI
Thrive Home Concord Director



This year's Hybrid VBS "*Treasured: Discovering You're Priceless to God*" just finished up June 14-18 and it was a great week! Along with online videos for each day's lesson, in-person campers enjoyed activities, a water slide, music, dancing and more! Make sure to check out the [YouTube playlist](#) and [music videos](#)!






Quillow Pictures
FROM OUR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF '21
courtesy of Annabelle Laine Photography

annascamera.godaddaysites.com/quillows

CHRISTkids
SUMMER SUNDAYS

*In-person worship experience for
ages 3 years - rising 2nd graders.*

Now at Christ Providence during
the 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. services.
- ages 4 & up must wear masks -

Register on REALM

FAMILY MINISTRY
Save the Dates

Rising 9th Graders Day Retreat (at Hemby Y)
Saturday, August 21 • 9:30a - 8:00p

Rising 6th Graders Retreat (at Hemby Y)
Saturday, August 28 • 10:00a - 4:00p

Rite of Confirmation
Sunday, August 29

CHECK E-NEWS FOR UPDATES



THRIVE
Roots to Grow

NOW AT CHRIST PROVIDENCE!

THRIVE HOME

Enroll Now


Inclusive Homeschool Academy. Special Needs and Typically
Developing Children. Learning Levels K-8th. Meets M|W|F.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



july/august 2021

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Drew Goodson • Pastor, Evangelism & Adult Ministries
Melody Simpkins • Pastor, Family Ministries
Matt Simpkins • Pastor, Christ South
Tennyson Shifley • Pastor, Christ Concord
Amy Daniels • Director of Outreach
Mark Glaeser • Minister of Music
Gregg Huether • Director of Property and Finance

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST!

E-mail Connie Kramer at ckramer@christelca.org and let her know you'd like a copy of Christ Connections mailed to your house. You can also view the newsletter through the link on E-news or online at christelca.org/latest-news.

To submit a story or news item,
Fill out a Communications Project Request Form,
found online at form.jotform.com/80496362784165.

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY

Pastor's Blog

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS FROM
OUR PASTORS AND OTHER CLC STAFF

 christelca.org/blog

HOW CAN
WE **PRAY**
FOR YOU?



christelca.org/prayer-request