

Christ Connections



CHRIST
providence



CHRIST
south



CHRIST
concord



CHRIST
online

january/february 2023

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

CHRIST PROVIDENCE

8:45 a.m. **Traditional Worship**
10:00 a.m. **The Bridge Service**
10:00 - 10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**
11:00 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**

4519 Providence Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST SOUTH

10 a.m. **Family Worship**
at Polo Ridge Elementary

11830 Tom Short Rd., Charlotte

CHRIST CONCORD

10:00 a.m. **Multi-Generational**
Modern Worship

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

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



Wednesdays
together
STARTS
JANUARY 4th!!



CHRIST
providence



MEXICO
MISSION TRIPS



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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

Start With The Big Rocks

Without a word, the professor stood in front of his class with rocks of different sizes and two identical see-through containers. In the first container, he first poured in the pebbles, then added medium-sized rocks but then only had room for a couple of the big rocks.

He then stepped over to the second container and reversed the order. He put in more big rocks, scattered around the medium-sized rocks and then finally poured in the small pebbles that scattered throughout the container, finding their way into all the small crevices, and filled up the container to the brim. Same rocks, same containers, but the second one obviously held more rocks.

Turning to the class, the professor asked, "What can we learn from this experiment?"

"You can only put in so many rocks."

"There is always room for smaller rocks."

"If you break the big rocks into small rocks, they could all fit."

"No," said the professor, "The lesson from this experiment is to always start with the big rocks. Once those are in place, the smaller rocks will fall into place."

January is a time for many of us to do our resolutions. As we make our lists, we all do well to start with the big rocks, knowing that if we don't, our 2023 might only be filled with a lot of small tasks and not have room for big accomplishments.

As I look at the start of this new year and consider my big rocks, I have four:

Church Worship Attendance. Covid has made us lazy. It has given us excuses. If a person worships once a month, we shrug our shoulders, "What can you do?" If attendance is a third of what it was before Covid, we rationalize and say, "That's everywhere." I'm not satisfied with laziness or apathy or excuses. The first mark of being a Christian is to be a person who weekly worships Christ as Lord. I need to be intentional of teaching and preaching that. I need to keep the bar high of what it means to be a believer. I need to hold this church and its members accountable to the biblical mandate to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Stabilizing the Staff. This past year we saw many changes on our staff. This coming year will be a time not just to fill those open positions, but to revitalize the staff, draw them closer together, align them with the same values and cast before them a God-sized vision that has always propelled us. The change in 2023 will be to strengthen our unity as a staff with the resolve to make Christ known.

Christ South Build. By the time this newsletter is published, we should have the permit in hand for the worship center for Christ South. Now the countdown begins. We have one year to build up that campus, establish a sustainable worship attendance of over 100, raise the necessary funds and break ground in 2023. Game on!

Christ Concord Vitality. Our campus to the north has also experienced its share of changes. However, with the introduction of the second worship experience called *The Gathering* for families with children having special needs, that campus is actually the first of our campuses to get back to their pre-Covid worship numbers. While we have an interim in place (see page 4), 2023 will be a time of important and strategic decisions for Christ Concord's ongoing vitality.

If I can focus on and begin with these four big rocks, I have no doubt all the medium stones and small pebbles will find a place in all of the remaining crevices.

This is what God has placed on my heart for the church in 2023. And I'm excited to see how God's Spirit will make it happen.

START WITH THE BIG ROCKS!

Pastor Scott



CHRIST LUTHERAN
providence | south | concord | online

**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**
Sunday, January 29 • 12:15 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)
-or- Christ Online (via Zoom)
FOR LINK: christelca.org/online



Baptismal Class
Sunday, Jan. 15
1:00 p.m. on Zoom
For info, email Jane at
jsatterfield@christelca.org
Find Zoom link at
christelca.org/online



NEW MEMBER CLASS
**Sunday, January 22
& Sunday, February 5**
12:15 - 3:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum)
Lunch will be provided. Childcare available
for ages 0-36 months.
 **Register in REALM by Jan. 15**
More info: mparker@christelca.org
or khofmann@christelca.org

**MEXICO MISSION TRIP
INTEREST MEETINGS**

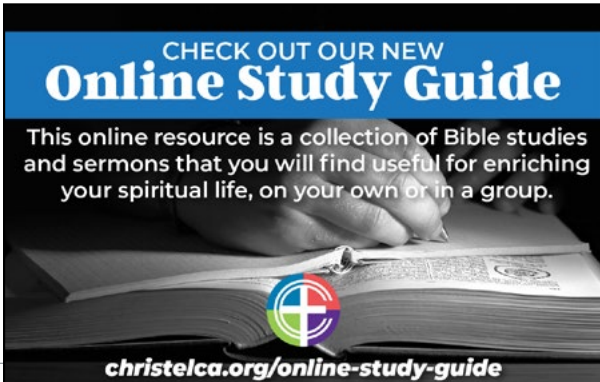
In preparation for two upcoming mission trips
to Mexico in March and July, join ministers
Tenny Shifley and Marco Segovia at one of these
interest meetings to learn more:

-ALL MEETINGS HELD AT CHRIST PROVIDENCE-
Jan. 8 • 12:15 p.m. (Center Six; includes light lunch)
January 15 • 10 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)
January 29 • 11 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Register in REALM 

CHECK OUT OUR NEW
Online Study Guide

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



christelca.org/online-study-guide

EPIPHANY SERMON SERIES

Hineni: Here I Am!

Hineni. It is a Hebrew word often spoken by prophets and leaders of God's people of old in response to God's call. Literally, it means, "Here I am." Symbolically, it means, "I am ready to step up, fill the gap and raise the bar of what it means to be a believer."

As we look at this new year, with Covid behind us, we are no longer satisfied with excuses and lackluster performances. As believers, it is time for us to say to this God who has made us, claimed us, forgiven us and called us, "Hineni. Here I am."

January 8 (Epiphany) • Here I Am... to Worship

Let's be clear. It was inconvenient for the magi to worship Jesus. We don't know how far they traveled or how long it took them, but we do know that it was an intentional journey to come before Jesus and worship. The first mark of hineni, "here I am," is to come before God and worship His holy name. Hineni. --Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 8:1-9; Acts 2:41-42

January 15 (Baptism of Our Lord) • Here I Am... to Forgive (Part I)

Part One: Hollywood has a repeated story line for action-packed thrillers. Revenge. This one is personal. However, we know that this is contrary to God's principle of forgiveness. For the next two weeks, we will look at the complexity of forgiveness, justice and reconciliation using Tim Keller's most recent book, *Forgive*, as our inspiration. Hineni. --Matthew 18:21-35; Colossians 3:12-15

January 22 • Here I Am... to Forgive (Part II)

January 29 • Here I Am... to Serve

As we gather as a congregation for our Annual Meeting today, we are reminded that the Church is God's hands, feet, voice and heart into the world. We are called not to belong to a church but to be the Church in radical service to the world. This example comes from Jesus who reminded His followers that He came not to be served, but to serve. Hineni. --John 15:9-14; Philippians 2:1-8

February 5 • Here I Am... to Give

How many never gave to the church, but enjoy the programs and benefits? How many never gave to the Worship Center, but enjoy the weekly services? How many never gave to the Ministry Center, but enjoy the Children's Programming? How many never gave to Christ Chapel, but enjoy the worship? How many never gave to the original building, but call Christ Lutheran home? Our giving is not an investment in ourselves, it is a joyful response that lays a foundation for future generations to enjoy the Kingdom of God. Hineni. --Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

February 12 • Here I Am... to Share

When you see a good movie, no one has to encourage you to tell your friends. When you've eaten at a great restaurant, the owner is not giving you advice on how to invite your friends. When you find that special person to share Valentine's Day with, you don't need cue cards to speak about your love. So why is it that there are so many programs and books on how to share your faith? Perhaps they all have it wrong. Sharing your faith doesn't start with completing a course. Any idea where it begins? Hineni. --Luke 24:13-35; Colossians 3:15-17

February 19 • Here I Am... to Grow

A living organism continually grows whether that is in height or size, or merely shedding off old cells to replace with the growth of new cells. If something is not growing, it is dying. The same could be said about our faith. Sadly, the last class on the Bible that most adults have ever taken was when they attended Sunday School as a child. It is time to start growing again in the Word. Hineni. --Psalm 119:102-106; Acts 2:41-42; John 1:1-5, 14

Sharing the Abundant Harvest

Our community garden has produced thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables since its inception in 2018. With locations at both of our South and Concord campuses, each gardener commits to give at least 50% of their yield to help nourish our neighbors in need. This abundant harvest has been donated to Charlotte area food pantries and to families of McClintock Middle School, with which our church partners in the McPIE ministry.

In 2022, the Garden Ministry has donated over 4,000 pounds of fresh organic produce to help feed the hungry in our area. The gardeners donated 1,532 pounds while Root's Farm (a sustainably run market garden and local partner) donated 2,500 pounds.

Christ Lutheran's Garden Ministry continues to be a blessing in helping our local community. If you'd like to learn more or get involved, visit christelca.org/garden-ministry.



instrumental in the ministry of Christ South, will now serve as our interim pastor of Christ Concord. Marco comes with a dynamic, outgoing heart that loves people, loves the Gospel and loves Christ Lutheran. He will serve part time through June 1 as we continue to evaluate the life, health and direction of Christ Concord. **Welcome Pastor Marco!**

Interim Pastor

We are pleased to announce that beginning in January, Marco Segovia, who has been



I take time, selecting only the best can-open. I slow twist the handle to release the artisanal industrially canned bean smell. My chili is slowly simmered, to perfection, in the microwave. I am a master chili-cooker-guy. If you think you can out cook whatever can of off-brand chili I can find in the back of my pantry come and prove it.

Saturday, January 28th from 1-3pm on the South Land we are having a Souper-Bowl Chili cook off. Bring a chili to serve to all. Those who just come and those who cook will sample and judge the event. We will sell tickets for \$1 each at the event, and whenever you, the taste tester, finds a chili worthy of a ticket or ten put it in the jar in front. You can buy as many tickets as you like. You can spread them around or stuff them all into your favorite chili.

The winner will be the local food pantry as all proceeds raised will go to support the hungry in our community. And bragging rights will go to whichever chili I bring- I mean, the one that has the most tickets. If you'd like to be a part of the Souper-Bowl Chili Cook Off, you'll need to register in REALM in early January. For updates, stay tuned to weekly E-News and christelca.org/latest-news.

Souper-Bowl Chili Cook Off

by PASTOR RYAN

My chili is better than yours.

NEW SMALL GROUP CLC BOWLING CLUB

We're starting up a small group for people who love bowling but don't have time to join a league. You don't have to be an expert - families & novices are welcome! Once we get enough interest, we will pick some dates (probably quarterly) & reserve lanes.

For more info or to join the list:
email Mark at mjohanson@christelca.org

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?



christelca.org/prayer-request



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Digging Deeper

Wednesdays • 10 a.m.
at Christ Concord & Christ Online (Zoom)



Coffee with the Pastors

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



christelca.org/online

ALL CAMPUSES & AGES WELCOME!

Fellowship at the firepit

Saturday, February 11
4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Christ Providence

LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • S'MORES • HOT CHOCOLATE

Gather inside in the Pit for live music & food. S'mores available for outside firepit. Beer/wine (for 21+) available for purchase.

divine barrel
brewing

Register in REALM



STARTS JANUARY 4

GRIEF SHARE

Wednesdays • 6-7:30 p.m.

at Christ Providence (Church Office Great Room)

This Christ-centered support group uses a DVD lesson, small group discussion & workbook to help those who have lost loved ones find healing & hope. Open to all.

\$20 • Register in REALM



Quilters for Christ

by LOIS WITHAM

In 2022, Quilters for Christ completed a total of 259 quilts and ten fabric kits. A total of 206 were sent to LWR to be distributed to countries where there is a need. Thirteen were given as gifts: three to Mexico for the family that Christ Lutheran helped build a house for in July, and four to the Afghanistan family that our Outreach ministry is sponsoring.

On most Wednesdays mornings at Christ Providence, we have about twelve ladies show up in the Center Six room to help assemble, tie knots and sew the quilts together. There are several ladies ironing, cutting and sewing every week at home. We are a group of dedicated ladies being the hands and feet of Christ. Each week, we pray over the quilts that we sew. We enjoy our time together and encourage you to join this worthwhile work.

If you would like to get involved in this ministry, please call Lois Witham (704-541-7252) and leave a message if you would like to come work with us or do some tasks at home. We have a delightful time and would love to have you!!

schedule reminders

WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER starts

January 4, 2023

Dinner 5pm (\$) • Classes 6-7:30pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL starts

January 8, 2023

See adult class
descriptions on pages 6-7

CHRISTprovidence

Celebration of Baptism

Sunday, January 15
during worship at all campuses

In celebration of Jesus' baptism, we will honor all who were baptized in 2022.

Providence • 8:45a, 10a, 11a
South (Polo Ridge) & Concord • 10a



CHRISTLUTHERAN
providence | south | concord | online

For the latest on upcoming events
and other announcements:

christelca.org/latest-news



CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY

Pastor's Blog

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS FROM
OUR PASTORS AND OTHER CLC STAFF



christelca.org/blog



SAVE THE DATE for Jan. 19th! Special Third Thursday

For January's Third Thursday fellowship event, we are planning something a little different. On Jan. 19th, starting at 11:30 a.m. at Christ Providence, special guest Kris Bechtel will be joining us for some painting instruction! We will provide heavy snack and drinks to enjoy before and during painting. Please read on to learn more:

My name is Kris Bechtel and I am extremely excited to spend the day with

you on January 19th instructing you on how to paint the picture you see above. The cost will be \$30, which will include all the items needed for you to recreate this picture. I will provide an apron so that your clothes are protected, a 12 x 16 canvas (which of course you will keep with your art), all the different paint colors needed, paint brushes, table easels AND you will receive in-person, step-by-step instruction on how to paint your own masterpiece!

I look forward to all of us getting to know each other! A little about me, I am married and have two sons, 19 and 21 years old, I have worked in law enforcement for 29 years and have been teaching painting for five years. To find out more, you will just have to come and meet me in person. I hope you all have a very merry and blessed Christmas. Be safe and see you next year!

Painting instruction will start promptly at 12:15 p.m. and will last approximately two hours. Please register in REALM by January 13th in order for us to order needed supplies.



Adult Sunday School Classes

START JANUARY 8th

Faith Fellowship:

The Bible & Beyond 10:00-10:45 a.m.

at Christ Providence (Forum) -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

(Jan. 8 - Feb. 19) *REVELATION – Worthy is the Lamb:* God's revelation to the apostle John reveals to us the future end time of our current world when evil and Satan will be overthrown forever. God (through our victor, Jesus) will re-establish His perfect world and imminent presence with His children. John relates the description of what is to come through written word and is shared with us in the final book of the Bible. Jesus, also known as the (sacrificial) Lamb of God, the Lamb who was slain at the cross to defeat our death in sin, is worthy of our honor and praise as victor and Savior of our lives and the central figure of the revelation. His "second coming" is prophesied throughout the Bible. He fights the final fight for us. This study will cover the book of Revelation as well as other relevant, supporting biblical Scripture.

(Feb. 6 - March 26) *HE CHOSE THE NAILS – What God Did to Win Your Heart:* Every gift from God reveals His love, but no gift reveals His love more than the gifts of the cross. These gifts came not wrapped in paper, but in passion. Pastor and author Max Lucado explores the many gifts that Christ provided to us at the Crucifixion: He chose to be one of us; He chose to forgive us; He chose to invite us into His presence; He chose to love us forever; He chose us to give us victory. God invites us to come, once again to the foot of the cross, to put down our burdens, look up and receive the life-giving gifts.

(April 16 - May 21) *HOPE IN TIMES OF FEAR – The Resurrection and the Meaning of Easter:* Published in 2021, author Timothy Keller examines the life-changing meaning of the Resurrection. Easter reminds the world that Jesus was physically resurrected from the dead and that we can be spiritually resurrected and reborn. This is because the Resurrection of Christ brings the future power of God, that will someday heal and renew the entire world, into our lives now. Keller considers this crucial message of the Christian faith with inspiring insight and offers a new way to look at a story you think you know. It is through the Gospels; we find the hope to face the desperation of today's daily life. --led by Miriam Morrison, Barbara Burton, Milt Martin, John Stensrud

Faith in Action 10:00-10:45 a.m.

at Christ Providence (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 spring, we 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 will focus on the theme of "Celebrating God" based on scripture from both the Old and New Testaments, 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

Emerge 10:00-10:45 a.m.

at Christ Providence (Music Room)

All are welcome in Emerge Sunday School as we dive into the Word and discuss how it relates to our busy lives. This spring we will be continuing with The Chosen series, season 3. --led by Rob and Kristen Stark

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

at Christ Providence (Lackey Parlor) -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

The CLC Book Club is open to anyone. 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

The Crew 10:00-10:45 a.m.

at Christ Providence (W150) -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

The Crew will continue to study the New Testament. Come join the discussion. All are welcome! --led by David Deeds

Studies of Scripture 10:00-10:45 a.m.

at Christ Providence (Adult Library)

This class studies and discusses lectionary lessons from the Lutheran Book of Worship. Find out what the Bible has to say by journeying through the lectionary with others. The lectionary is a collection of appointed Scripture readings for each Sunday and for other occasions. The lectionary readings for each Sunday typically include an Old Testament reading, a New Testament reading, and a passage from one of the four Gospels. Many Protestant and Catholic churches use the lectionary readings on a weekly basis. --led by Hans Teich



FIND ZOOM LINKS, LIVE-STREAM
SERVICES, BULLETINS & MORE:
christelca.org/online

Wednesdays together

5:00 p.m. Dinner

\$6 each or \$25 max per family
RSVP in Realm by each Friday prior

**6:00 p.m. Adult Classes
& Music/Tech/Drama Activities**

STARTS JANUARY 4th!!



Wednesday Adult Classes

Women Making Connections 6:00-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Worship Parlor)

Women Making Connections is a women's-centered Bible study full of laughter and Jesus. Join this spirited group of ladies to discuss the seasonal Bible study selection.
--led by Lara Barnett and Brooke Schell

Pastor's Class: Revelation 6:00-7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Forum) -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

Revelation: Dragons, Wars and Armageddon. How do we read this mysterious book that even Martin Luther thought was puzzling? Different groups have reduced it to a prophecy about the end times, convinced we live in them now. We will walk through this last book of the Bible, understand the historical context, sing a few songs and see what Revelation has to say to us today.
--led by Pastor Scott

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

While kids are attending their Wednesdays Together classes & activities, 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



music.tech.drama

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
by age group

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NURSERY (AGES 0-35 MONTHS)
Available all evening (M230-231)

PRE-K (AGES 3-5)

Preschool Music 6:00-6:20 p.m. (M237-238)

Arts & Crafts 6:20-6:40 p.m. (M241-242)

Open Play 6:40-7:30 p.m. (Spirit Hall/Playground)

KINDERGARTEN – 2ND GRADERS

Grace Choir 6:00-6:45 p.m. (M239-240)

Grace Dance 6:45-7:30 p.m. (Center Six W151)

Arts & Crafts 6:45-7:30 p.m. (M241-242)

3RD – 5TH GRADERS

Faith Choir 6:00-6:45 p.m. (Music Room M248)

Faith Dance 6:45-7:30 p.m. (C301)

Arts & Crafts 6:45-7:30 p.m. (M241-242)

6TH – 8TH GRADERS

Middle School Dance 5:30-6:10 p.m. (C301)

Open Gym 5:30-6:00 p.m. (Spirit Hall)

Bible Study 6:00-6:15 p.m. (Lackey Parlor)

Worship Tech & A/V 6:15-6:45 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Games & Fellowship 6:15-6:45 p.m. (Lackey Parlor)

Middle School Music 6:45-7:30 p.m. (M239-240)

9TH – 12TH GRADERS

Xperience Core or Peer Ministry
(alternates weekly) 5:30-6:00 p.m. (Pit)

Xperience 6:00-8:15 p.m. (Pit)

ADULTS

Hallelujah Ringers (adults & youth)
5:30-6:00 p.m. (Bell Room)

Luther Ringers
6:00-7:15 p.m. (Bell Room)

Adult Dance
7:30-8:00 p.m. (C300)

Christ Choir Rehearsal
7:15-8:45 p.m. (Music Room M248)

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First Communion Preparation

This February during Lent, 2nd graders will start preparing for First Communion with three Stepping Stone events. These events will explore the stories significant to the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. On Maundy Thursday, students will partake in a traditional Seder Meal in Spirit Hall before being received in the evening worship service for their First Communion. Save the dates and stay tuned for signup information for the following events:

Sunday, February 26

MEANING OF THE MEAL

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum)

Saturday, March 18

STORY DAY

8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Pit)

Palm Sunday, April 2

LIVIN' FORGIVIN'

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

Confirmation Stepping Stones

Middle schoolers and parents should save the dates for these Confirmation Stepping Stone events which focus on how the Small Catechism applies to various world issues (all of these events will take place on Sundays at Christ Providence from 1:00-3:00 p.m.):

January 8 • PRAYER EVENT (for 6th graders)

January 22 • DRUGS AND ALCOHOL (for 7th graders)

February 5 • SEXUALITY (for 8th graders)

February 26 • MENTAL HEALTH (for 7th graders)

March 19 • MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY (for 7th graders)



**ALTERNATIVE
GIFT MARKET**

AGM Sunday was November 5th and the online store remained open until December 15th. Total amount raised was \$8,494.01!!!
Thanks to all who participated!

Save the Dates for Upcoming

FUSION

MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERINGS

Sunday, January 15
Sunday, February 12
Sunday, March 5

6:00-7:30 p.m. at Christ Providence (Pit)

Stepping Stones

CONFIRMATION

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Sunday, January 22 • 1:00 - 3:00pm
at Christ Providence (Forum)

This event is for 7th graders and any 8th graders who have not yet attended. A parent is expected to attend with their youth.

Register in REALM



HIGH SCHOOL

**DINNER
-&-
DEVOTIONS**

Save the following dates:

January 29 • February 26 • March 26
6-7:30 p.m. • locations TBA

Stay tuned for details!

**WINTER
REBELLION
PARTY**

Sat., February 4
7-10 p.m.

at William R.
Davie Park

4635 Pineville-
Matthews Rd.
in Charlotte

All middle schoolers are invited to rebel against winter & join us for plenty of food, music & fun! Dress for beach or poolside and bring a karaoke song ready to impress (and your line dancing skills!)

Register in REALM



Hosted by
FRESH



A 7TH/8TH GRADE
BOYS SMALL GROUP

Stepping Stones

FIRST COMMUNION

PREPARATION CLASSES

Feb 26 • Meaning of the Meal (1-3 p.m.)
March 18 • Story Day (8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
April 2 • Livin' Forgivin' (1-3 p.m.)

First Communion will take place during Maundy Thursday's service at Christ Providence on April 6th (after the completion of the Seder Meal). Prep classes are for 2nd graders & their parents to attend together.

For RSVP & details: krank@christelca.org



Christmas Shopping Event THANK YOU!

The spirit of giving at Christmas was felt by all! With families struggling again this year, we sponsored 28 families! Multiple comments of “perfecto/perfect,” “you all are always so good to us,” and “this means so much to our family” were heard throughout the weekend by grateful moms, dads and grandparents.

Volunteers shopped for wish list items. When families came to “shop” at Christ Providence, we had all their wish list gifts set up in a dedicated space for them with wrapping paper, bags and ribbon. Families were able to wrap gifts for their children while volunteers got to know them while helping wrap.

“I look forward to volunteering at this event every year. It is such a nice way to kick off the season. The families are so grateful and I feel honored to have played a small part in their joy. This year I was especially moved by a mom who did a ‘happy dance’ when she saw a soccer ball for her son. She couldn’t wait to surprise him. I’m not sure if she will be able to wait until Christmas to give it to him.” --Katherine, Volunteer

Several families came at a time over the course of the weekend. Being able to give back and help our McClintock community was wonderful! THANK YOU to all the volunteers who shopped for gifts, helped set up and assisted families wrapping. The spirit of Christmas was alive and well this holiday season!

The shopping event epitomizes the Christmas spirit and the McPIE mission. Volunteers and sponsors generously donate time, talents and money to ensure that families enjoy Christmas. The wish lists are simple– often just household basics like sheets, towels and cookware, coats and clothing for the kids and a toy or two. In receiving these gifts, the families are lifted up and reminded that they are a part of the McPIE community. What a way share the Christmas spirit with neighbors!

Crisis Free Store

The Crisis Assistance Free Store offers clothing, shoes and household items free of charge to people in Mecklenburg County. Christ Lutheran has been involved with the Free Store for several decades. Once a month, volunteers inspect and process donated items for the store. From September to May, our volunteers usually

meet at Christ Providence and carpool to the location in Charlotte to work from about 9 to 11 a.m.

Christ Lutheran helps run the Crisis Assistance Free Store on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. We are in need of a new coordinator/leader. If you are interested in this once per month volunteer opportunity, please email Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org).

Room in the Inn

HELP NEEDED, OVERNIGHT HOSTS

On Thursday, December 1st, Christ Lutheran began our 25th year of hosting Room in the Inn. Room in the Inn is a program sponsored and administered by Roof Above. Each week from December 1st through March 31st, local churches host our homeless neighbors during the winter months.

CLC does this every Thursday evening to Friday morning. Each Thursday we pick up 8-10 folks at Roof Above and bring them to our church. Guests are each given their own room around Center Six. We provide dinner, showers, some basic clothing (underwear and socks), fellowship, a hot breakfast, a to-go lunch and a ride back to uptown. It is a ministry we are very proud of.

We really could use help with overnight hosts. Consider staying over as an overnight host. It is a great way to share in the lives of our RITI neighbors and give back. You can arrive at 6 p.m. and share in the dinner, or just arrive by 7 p.m. You will have your own private room, as do all the guests. Most guests are asleep shortly after dinner. You wake the guests at 5 a.m., set out breakfast, get them on the van at 6 a.m., and depart afterwards. Pretty simple, and it helps our program tremendously. Other volunteer roles include: set, serve and clean up after dinner; make lunches; provide breakfast; and be a driver to pick up guests on Thursdays nights and return them on Friday morning (this does require a CDL as our bus holds over 20 people).

To sign up for these and other available slots, please use signupgenius.com for Room in the Inn 2022-23.

Community Partner Spotlight

This year Outreach would like to include community partners that YOU want to lift up. If you volunteer for a community organization that you would like others to know about, let us know! There are so many great organizations in and around Charlotte that do amazing work– let’s share them with others! Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) with your ideas!



Family Night

Family Night finally completed a full semester of programming since COVID struck in 2020! While this has been a rebuilding semester, the excitement inside the building could be felt. Students and families both have been eager to receive a delicious meal and participate in classes and clubs.

McPIE volunteers have served over 1700 meals at an average of 174 meals per week! Classes and clubs have also been well received. Middle School students have three afternoon clubs and ten evening clubs to choose from. These clubs include Woodworking, Sketch Squad, Men About Progress, Outdoor Adventure, Top Scot Chef, Hands 2 Heart, Ten 80 Racing and Sports Drills. Younger siblings have enjoyed arts and crafts and robotics.

Parents are also included in Family Night programming! Adult classes include English as a Second Language, Getting Ahead, Women's Journey and Foresight 20/20. Adults who participate in classes receive a weekly incentive to thank them for their participation and bringing their children.

Over the next few weeks, we will be taking a break through Christmas. After the new year, McPIE will be excited to gear up for a spring semester that should really bloom for McClintock students and families!

If you are interested in joining a great team of volunteers who truly love the McClintock community, reach out to Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org). Volunteers serve meals, greet families, lead clubs, distribute school supplies, and more!

Thrivent Dollars at Christmas

Thank you to the generous Thrivent members who chose to use their Action Dollars to support the Christmas Shopping Event. Four Thrivent members with \$1,000 Action Dollars provided families with home essentials, linens, toys and wrapping supplies for Christmas. Thank you to all our members that have taken part in a Thrivent Action Team this year! If any Thrivent members have questions about putting their Action Dollars to use at CLC, please contact Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org).

Thrivent Action Teams' Great Work in 2022

Over \$16,000 was donated, and a broad range of more than 65 projects were supported by Thrivent Actions Teams in 2022. Thrivent members supported projects all across Christ Lutheran, including purchasing supplies for the Quilting ministry and Room In The Inn. Community outreach projects included staff support luncheons at McClintock Middle School, monthly meals at the soup kitchen, assembling incentive packs for McClintock students, packing support bags for Samaritan's Feet, providing Christmas support for families in need and funding McPIE Family Night dinners.

Full Thrivent members are eligible to apply for two Thrivent Action Team gift cards per calendar year, associate members can apply for one. If you are interested in learning more about how to take advantage of this great opportunity to help others in the community, contact Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org) or Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org).

WE'RE ALL *Together*
IN THIS



NEXT BLOOD DRIVE:

Sunday, January 29

8:00a - 12:30p at Christ Providence

Signup at redcrossblood.org

McPIE
McClintock Partners in Education

Daytime Opportunities

Teacher Partners Support new teachers by sending an encouraging note/email once per month.
diane.gavarkavich@gmail.com

Tutors Help with tutoring small groups of students in the classroom.
cwown92@gmail.com

Teacher Appreciation Luncheons Help with teacher luncheons on early release and teacher work days.
alicermcrore@gmail.com

Contact email provided to help!

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.

HELP FUND A
SERVICE PROJECT WITH

thrivent

Action Teams

For more information:

Dee Dee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org)



ROOM IN THE INN

Christ Providence is currently hosting our neighbors in need each Thursday-Friday.

Overnight hosts, drivers and other volunteers needed



Info & Signup:
Signupgenius.com



NEW WORSHIP TIME!!

10:00 a.m. Multi-Generational Modern
11:00 a.m. The Gathering
 (for families of children with special needs)

 **CHRIST south**



 **CHRIST south**

Subscribe

Add Christ South Events to your Google calendar by subscribing to christsouthstaff@gmail.com



oneblood 
 Share your power.

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, February 26
 at Christ South (Polo Ridge)

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

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY:
McClintock Copy Crew

Volunteer an hour or two each week (or every other if enough volunteers) to help McClintock teachers with their copying needs. Training provided!

To volunteer or for info, email **Jill Tan: jillgtan@gmail.com**



Ways to Give

Place offering in the plate as you leave worship on Sundays

Text "Praise" to 73256

Choose "Give" on our website (christelca.org)

Mail to the church office





Afghanistan & Our Afghan Family

UPDATE by Laurie Carter

In the last issue of Christ Connections, we shared with you information about the Afghan family we have "adopted." Since then, the Osmani family welcomed daughter Yusra Osmani, born just before Thanksgiving weighing 7 lbs 9 oz. Mom (Khatera) and baby are doing well and are home getting to know each other and assimilating into their family of five.

Thank you so much to those who have helped with baby and the other urgent needs of this family. Those needs continue, and now that Khatera has been diagnosed with MS, we anticipate other medical needs in the future. We continue to look for housing near the Islamic school where their oldest child attends. It is in the Plaza-Shamrock area. If you know of a reasonably-priced rental that may be available, please contact Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org).

While the Osmani family is struggling, they are fortunate to have been able to flee their homeland and evade the Taliban. They have parents and siblings still trying but unable to leave. Because of their relation to Mohammad, who worked with American forces, they are unable to gain employment and must move frequently to evade the Taliban. As a result, Mohammad also sends support to them from his meager wages as a delivery man. The situation in Afghanistan is desperate. Here are some facts:

- Political instability, extreme drought, and the pandemic have created a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan with over 18 million in need of necessities. This year alone 550,000 have been displaced.
- Afghanistan is on pace for record civilian deaths and injuries, with the majority being women and children. Schools are closed, food shortages abound, and people are turning to desperate measures such as child labor and early marriage for girls.
- Children are facing extreme hunger, exploitation and a loss of their education, particularly girls, who are almost twice as likely as boys to go to bed hungry. Almost 1 in 2 of girls are not attending school, compared to 1 in 5 boys. Almost half of the Afghan population is going hungry. In fact, starvation could kill more Afghans than the last 20 years of war.

If you would like to support this ministry with a monetary donation, connect to REALM's Online Giving and select the fund for "Afghan Family Asst." If you would like join this Serving ministry, please join the "Afghan Refugee Assistance" group in REALM (login required).



CHRIST LUTHERAN

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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



january/february 2023

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Kenny Champagne • Deacon of Family Ministry
Amy Daniels • Director of Outreach
Mark Johanson • 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 hard copy of Christ Connections mailed to your home. You can also view the online, interactive version at christelca.org/latest-news

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 2023 EDITIONS

Jan/Feb - December 10 Mar/April - February 15 May/June - April 15
July/Aug - June 15 Sept/Oct - August 10 Nov/Dec - October 15

*Submit stories or other news items at christelca.org/jotform

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!**

-Christ Lutheran Pastors & Staff

