

Christ Connections



september/october 2023



KICK-OFF SUNDAY

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

fall worship starts Sept. 10

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. Multi-Generational

Modern Worship

4:00 p.m. Sunday Afternoon

Bible Study

240 Pitts School Rd. NW, Concord



Wednesdays together

STARTS SEPTEMBER 13th!!



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

christelca.org/online

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



TASHA LAYTON

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE

TOUR

Featuring Special Guest
Jeremy Rosado

transparent production
World Vision



Change & Opportunity



PASTOR
SCOTT SUSKOVIC

July has been a month of significant change for the staff. With any change comes a sense of heightened anxiety. But in my experience, change also provides new opportunities.

We have several people leaving the staff after a long tenure, the first being **Lyndon Ratliff**. Lyndon was the first person I ever hired at Christ Lutheran back in 1998. He first came in as our custodial and maintenance person, helping with everything from set-up to minor repairs to cleaning. After his initial retirement, he stayed on with the staff to help with evening security and lock up. For 25 years, Lyndon has been a fixture at Christ Lutheran — dependable, trustworthy, and forever welcoming to all. Happy Retirement, Lyndon!

The second longest tenured staff person to leave is **Connie Kramer**. For 15 years, Connie has been that first voice and face of Christ Lutheran, answering the phone and front door with a welcoming smile and a helpful attitude. But far more than a receptionist, she was our office manager—operating the copier, preparing bulk mailings, and running the front end of the ministry. She really did it all. Connie and her husband, Tom, are moving to Summerville just outside of Charleston to be closer to one of their daughters. Blessings and Thank You, Connie!

Tom Kramer was also on staff as the manager of our gift/bookstore, Cornerstone Gifts. With an extensive background in sales and marketing, particularly online, Tom did a remarkable job transforming that store into a vibrant place that changed inventory frequently, resulting in raising enough money to giveback to our Outreach Ministries. Well done, Tom!

And after 10 years on staff, **Gregg Huether** has resigned as our Finance and Property Manager. This will be a big loss for me personally. I brought Gregg on as one of my closest friends to run the day-to-day operations of the church from maintenance to vendors to personnel to property set-up to scheduling to everything financial. And he was exceptional. The Council, Finance Team and I had so much confidence in his ability, passion and hard work. The only reason that I could teach, preach, lead a staff and cast a vision was because everything ran so smoothly under Gregg's watchful eye. We wish him the very best in what God has in store for him next.

We also must say goodbye to **Deacon Kenny Champagne**. I had so hoped to keep him following his ten-month internship with us, but evidently the Holy Spirit had different plans. We have enjoyed Kenny's ministry among us, a quiet and competent presence who made a deep impact during his short time with us. We send him off after confirmation on August 27 back up to the DC area to be reunited with his wife and two dogs!

However, with change comes new opportunities. Beginning August 7, I am thrilled to have **Pastor Adrienne Martin** join our staff as Pastor and Director of Family Ministries. She comes with a sharp mind, finishing up her third master's degree, a pastoral heart that is clearly evident when you first meet her, and a strong sense of collaboration with others on a team. Welcome Pastor Adrienne!

Joining her on August 7, we have two youth directors. **Tyler Weller**, a longtime member who participated in our youth ministry, The Xperience, and SpiritSong, will join us as the full-time Youth Director working with both middle and high school youth. Along with Tyler, we are excited to welcome (again) **Natalya Legvold**, who will work closely with Tyler on all things youth as a part-time Youth Ministry Advisor. They know each other well, have worked closely together, and will bring our youth ministry to a higher level.

And beginning in September, I am pleased to announce that **Willie Pinson** will join the staff as a Lay Pastor. After 23 years of teaching middle school choral in CMS, Willie has retired and now will join our staff to lead the team primarily at Christ Concord with additional responsibilities at Christ Providence. You've known him as a marvelous singer for SpiritSong. You've seen him as the Director of Freedom School at CLC. Now you will know him as Pastor Willie as he joins our pastoral team.

With change comes anxiety, particularly with the leaving of four significant staff members who have left a deep impact on the ministries of Christ Lutheran. But with change comes great opportunity for what God has in store for us. And for that, I am excited.

By the way, if you have any interest in either Gregg's position as the Director of Property and Finance or Connie's position as the front office manager, please reach out to me. We are interviewing now to fill those staff positions quickly.

Looking Backwards with Gratitude, Looking Forward with Excitement.
Pastor Scott

SERMON SERIES
September 10 - October 8

ELIJAH

HIGHWAY to HEAVEN

OVERVIEW: The heroes of the faith seem larger than life, so far removed from our ordinary lives that we might wonder if we share any similarities with them at all. But in studying this prophet from the Old Testament, we gain a deeper understanding of how God calls, empowers, encourages, and uses each one of us to do amazing things for the Kingdom.

September 10 • When No One is Watching

There are times in our lives in which we wonder how God is using us for His greater purpose. These moments often start when we're alone, with no one watching, as God aligns our hearts and the circumstances of our lives to His will. To an outsider, it may seem that nothing is happening. But for those with eyes of faith, God is preparing the way. --1 Kings 17:1-7; Mark 1:9-13

September 17 • Confirmation of the Call

It's one thing to feel prepared for a purpose; it's another to see the hand of God confirming the vision that is within you. Elijah performed two miracles to confirm his calling as a prophet. While you may not perform miracles, where do you see the hand of God confirming the vision that is in your heart? --1 Kings 17:8-24

September 24 • Going Into Battle

Your vision and God's purpose will always engage in battle with a world that is opposed to the things of God. Elijah took on 450 prophets from Ba'al in a battle royale that would rival any cage match you've ever seen. What empowers us to overcome the battles that we inevitably will face? --1 Kings 18:17-40

October 1 • Sick and Tired

Even Elijah had moments when it was too much, and all he wanted to do was run away, crawl into bed and pull the covers over his head. I bet you have felt the same way. In those moments, God comes not by yanking the covers off and dragging you by the ankle back into the field, but with a still small voice that assures you that you are not alone. --1 Kings 19:1-3, 9-18; John 16:12-15

October 8 • Finishing Strong

The mark of a life well-lived is a strong finish. A marathon is not for sprinters, but for those who

persevere. Elijah finished strong as he passed the mantle to his successor, Elisha. Paul finished strong when he ran the race to the end and kept the faith. How can you finish strong? --2 Kings 2:1-14; John 14:12-17; 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Stewardship Series starts October 15...

Gratitude: The Heart of Giving

OVERVIEW: Generosity is less about the amount and more about the heart. And we know that God is all about the heart. For two weeks, we are going to combine our stewardship with the songs of Tasha Layton. Tasha is a contemporary Christian artist who appeared on American Idol and has won several awards. She will perform a concert at Christ Lutheran on October 27th. Her words of gratitude for all God has done fit nicely into our theme of a generous heart.

October 15 • Into the Sea

In this song, Tasha Layton speaks about the wreckage in her life and the years of blaming others. When she encountered God who overcame the hurt and tossed it all into the sea, the voice whispered deep within her, "It's gonna be OK." It is with gratitude that we place our past into God's arms of mercy and our future into his embrace of hope. --Philippians 4:10-13; John 6:1-13

October 22 • How Far

How far will God's love and mercy go? If I run away, He pursues me. If I sin, He is eager to forgive. If I forget Him, He can never forget me. How far will God's love and mercy go? There are no boundaries, there are no miles, there are no sins that have ever discovered the limits of God's love. It is with a heart of gratitude that we will never know how far God's love will go.

--1 Timothy 1:14-17; Luke 5:1-11



WATCH THE SNEAK PEEK OF EACH SUNDAY'S SERMON, CHECK OUT THE PROMO VIDEO & READ MORE: christelca.org/sermon-series



KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Join us Sunday, September 10th to kick off the fall season! Come to worship and check out our Ministry Fairs to learn about small groups, serving opportunities and Sunday & Wednesday programming for all ages.

Christ Providence

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 a.m. Traditional (Sanctuary)

10 a.m. The Bridge (Christ Chapel) • 11 a.m. Contemporary (Sanctuary)

Bibles will be presented to 3 year olds, 2nd & 6th graders

BRUNCH

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

If you plan to eat, register in REALM by Sept. 3>>



MINISTRY FAIR & ACTIVITIES

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Lower Commons/The Plaza

WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER

Starts September 13th

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starts September 17th

Christ Concord

WORSHIP WITH US

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

Bibles will be presented to 3 year olds, 2nd & 6th graders

BRUNCH

11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

If you plan to eat, register in REALM by Sept. 3>>



JOIN US FOR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Afternoon Bible Study • 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday's Digging Deeper Bible Study • 10:00 a.m.



SPLASH DAY!

Saturday, August 26
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Families are invited to our Concord campus for Splash Day! We will have a slip-n-slide, music & food for all ages to enjoy.



Brothers in Faith

by PASTOR RYAN

It is possible to have deep and profound faith. Faith that will sustain you your whole life. Faith that, unfortunately, most never know. When we think about faith we tend to think about our personal relationship with God. That faith is as strong as we are, and let's be honest, we are not always as strong as we think we are.

The faith that God wants you to have is a deep and profound faith that bolsters us when times are tough. In Acts 4 when the disciples were being attacked by the religious authority, they didn't pray to be spared but prayed to be even bolder. They were not afraid. They did not question their faith. They knew their God and their prayer was to rise to His level of glory together.

Have we stopped asking God to send us and started asking God to intercede and protect us? What is more, maybe you also hear on the news and social media about how we are, as a nation, lonelier and isolated. We have lost our connection with each other. Our faith is no longer our sword and shield.

Seeking discipleship with one another provides an environment for individuals to deepen their beliefs, understanding, and connection to faith. You can deepen your faith. You can fill your life with meaningful, faithful relationships that you keep for a lifetime.

These are fantastic claims. I get that. I stand behind all of them. This is my life's work and, literally, the stuff that gets me out of bed. My prayer is constant: "How can I help people know you, LORD?" Brothers in Faith is that answer.

To join Brothers of Faith you will be assigned a group. It's best not to be with men you are close friends with. You will commit to meeting regularly for a time, 12-18 months at first. Your group will be a sacred space. It will be sacred because you will come to care about the group and the men, and the other men will do the same. You will develop relationships that will be life changing. You will grow to know our LORD more deeply and be able to see, understand and trust Him on a profound level.

Brothers in Faith may not be for you. When we come to God we have to submit; it is not optional. We have to sacrifice good things for our LORD who is better. It is in these moments, where we realign our priority to be and be with God, that we are transformed. And I promise you, if you lose your life in this manner, if you reorder your priorities for Christ's sake you WILL find the best life and priorities.

I cannot over "sell" this. It is life changing. It is as God intended for us. When we follow in His ways we receive all the blessings He intends for us. If you are a man, I implore you: sacrifice a year and try Brothers in Faith. See if your life is forever changed.

To join this group or for more information, contact Pastor Ryan (rritzmann@christelca.org) or David Dietert (ddietert@kpmg.com).

PRIMEtimers

A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+

Bingo Night!

Saturday, September 30
3-6 p.m. at Christ Providence (Pit)

Fall into Octoberfest with Bingo Night!
Cost: \$5 (free for first timers)

RSVP in Realm by September 23rd or email:
Vicki Legvold (vjrlgvold@gmail.com)

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.

Starts September 28!

MORE INFO: mjohanson@christelca.org

SpiritSong Band OPEN HOUSE



Saturday, September 30
3 p.m. at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

Calling all guitarists, bassists, drummers & keyboardists of all skill levels: bring your instrument, amp, sticks, etc. and rock out with us during a 90-minute jam session. If you've been wanting to join the band or just practice your instrument with others, this is for you!

No RSVP required, just show up!



Interested in leading music for Contemporary worship? Consider joining SpiritSong!

We rehearse Thursday evenings and sing every Sunday morning.

If interested or for more info email:
mjohanson@christelca.org



Adult Sunday School Classes START SEPTEMBER 17th!

Faith Fellowship: The Bible & Beyond

10:00-10:45 a.m. in Forum A&B -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 22. *Relying On The Holy Spirit – Discover Who He Is And How He Works.* Who exactly is the Holy Spirit? How does He work in our lives? The third person of the Trinity remains somewhat of a mystery to many of us. Author and Pastor Dr. Charles Stanley explains that we will miss out greatly if we choose to ignore Him. In *Relying on the Holy Spirit*, he cuts through the confusion and introduces us to a living Person as real and active as God the Father and Christ the Son. We can know what God's Word says about who the Holy Spirit is and how to develop a relationship with Him.

OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 19. *Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts – Use Your Strength To Serve Others.* God has given every Christian a spiritual gift – an ability to be used as part of the body of Christ for the purpose of helping others. Unfortunately, many of us are confused about the nature of these gifts, which ones we possess, and how we should be using them in our community. Class members will take an assessment to discover their spiritual gifts. Using *Ministering Through Spiritual Gifts* and other sources, the facilitators will lead discussions on the gifts in Isaiah, Romans, Corinthians, and Ephesians. Class members will be challenged to consciously develop these gifts to minister to others. Challenging, thought-provoking, and deeply rooted in Scripture, this Bible study calls members to deeper service to the Lord as they embrace the ministry gifts He has given you.

NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 17. *Because Of Bethlehem – Love Is Born; Hope Is Here.* Christmas, for some, is a time of excitement, celebration, and family, while for others it is a time of loneliness, grief, and loss. In the video series *Because of Bethlehem*, Max Lucado tells listeners how to rekindle our connection to the Christ of Christmas who offers lasting hope; to lay down our endless Christmas to-do lists and receive what Jesus has already done; to heal our heartache by embracing the God who is always near us, always for us, and always in us. *Led by Miriam Morrison, Barbara Burton, Milt Martin, John Stensrud, Christine Berling*

The Crew

10:00-10:45 a.m. in 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.*

CLC Book Club

10-10:45 a.m. in Lackey Parlor -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

The Adult 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 (when we meet in person). All are welcome. *Led by Dan Hansen and Carl Edgren.*

Emerge

10:00-10:45 a.m. in the Music Room

All are welcome in Emerge Sunday School as we dive into The Word and discuss how it relates to our busy lives. *Led by Rob and Kristen Stark.*

Faith in Action

10:00-10:45 a.m. in Forum C

This women's group is dedicated to the study of God's Word in a relaxed and caring atmosphere of love for one another. This fall we 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 focus on the theme of "God's Law is Love" based on scripture largely from the New Testament, guiding us in how to live our lives celebrating God. Come join the women of CLC as we explore deeper into God's word in an atmosphere of friendship and love. *Led by Jewel Barber and Joyce Brigman.*

Studies of Scripture

10:00-10:45 a.m. in the 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.*



For hybrid classes, find Zoom links on Christ Online's Virtual Schedule:
christelca.org/online

Wednesdays together

STARTS SEPTEMBER 13th!!

Drop-in Dinner

Plated Serving & To-Go Options

5:00 - 6:30 p.m. (Kitchen/Fellowship Hall)

Dinner requires an RSVP in Realm by the Monday prior. For menu and RSVP links, go to:
christelca.org/menu

Classes & Activities

5:30 - 8:45 p.m.

Read on to learn more about the different classes & Music/Tech/Drama activities that will be available as part of Wednesday night programming. There's something for everyone!
Nursery available for ages 6 wks - 35 mos.

Wednesday Adult Classes

Women Making Connections

6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Worship Parlor

Join this spirited group of ladies to discuss the seasonal Bible study selection. *Led by Lara Barnett and Brooke Schell.*

Pastor Scott's Class: The Holy Land Then & Now

6:00-7:30 p.m. in Forum A&B -or- Christ Online (Zoom)

While geared towards those traveling with Pastors Scott and Tenny to the Holy Land in November, this class is open to anyone who wants to explore the geography, history, politics and biblical significance of various places in Israel. In addition to understanding the world in which Jesus lived, we will also invite outside speakers to increase our awareness of current events between Israel, Palestine and the rest of the world today.

Life in Christ with Kids

6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Adult Library

While kids are attending their music/tech/drama 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, sports, school and everything else? Come join the conversation.
Led by Pastor Ryan & Ashley Ritzmann.

Pastor Adrienne's Bible Study: Elijah

6:00-7:30 p.m. in W150 A&B

Join us for a study to go along with our sermon series on the prophet Elijah! It will touch on many sermon themes and help us to deepen our understanding of this prophet and his walk with God. We will explore his backstory, his call, and his boldness of faith. Pastor Adrienne will lead the study using Priscilla Shirer's book *Elijah: Faith and Fire*. You can purchase the book on Amazon.

music.tech.drama

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

by age group

PRE-K (AGES 3-5)

Music

5:30-6:00 p.m. in rm. M237-238

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KINDERGARTEN – 5TH GRADERS

Open Gym

5:30-6:00 p.m. in Spirit Hall

Grace & Faith Choirs

6:00-6:45 p.m. in rm. M245
(Grace is K-2nd • Faith is 3rd-5th)

Grace & Faith Dance or Open Gym

6:45-7:30 p.m. in C301 or Spirit Hall

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6TH – 8TH GRADERS

Open Gym

5:30-6:15 p.m. in Spirit Hall

Middle School Dance

6:00-6:45 p.m. in C301

Middle School Music

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

Seek2Serve

7:00-7:30 p.m. in M241-242

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9TH – 12TH GRADERS

Pit Unplugged **NEW!**

5:30-7:15 p.m. in the Pit (see pg. 10 for details)

Luther Ringers

6:00-7:15 p.m. in M245 (high school & adults)

Christ Choir

7:15-8:45 p.m. in M248 (high school & adults)

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ADULTS

Luther Ringers

6:00-7:15 p.m. in M245 (high school & adults)

Christ Choir

7:15-8:45 p.m. in M248 (high school & adults)

Your Legacy's Lasting Impact

Have you thought about how your estate can provide for your family and the organizations you are passionate about? Many people think estate planning is only for the wealthy or involves significant expense to establish. But the reality is that many people will leave behind an estate from the gifts they have received from God over their lifetime. And there are many ways to ensure that the estate will have the impact you want – from caring for your family to supporting the ministries you care so deeply about.

If you would like to learn more about techniques to ensure your Legacy has a lasting impact in the way you want it to, please join us for an Endowment Committee-sponsored luncheon and presentation on Gift Planning. On November 5, 2023, in the Forum, we will start after Contemporary Worship, first with a fellowship meal for all, followed by a brief presentation from Stephanie Burke, the ELCA Foundation's Regional Gift Planner for the Carolinas. Stephanie's presentation will help you think about your estate and ways in which you can maximize the impact it has – for your family and for others in the world. This presentation is not a solicitation, but an educational opportunity to help you learn about making decisions for your legacy while also considering your current needs.

If you are interested in learning about how to maximize your legacy, please join us on November 5 for lunch and the presentation. Look for information and RSVP details coming in October.

Third Thursday is Back!

Welcome back to our 2nd annual season of Third Thursday, a monthly social event for all adults 18+. On each third Thursday of the month, we will have a different theme and lunch by Chef Mike is always included. Cost will change depending on what the event entails.

To jumpstart our new season, our first event will be September 21st for LUNCH AND LAUGHS. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. at Christ Providence (in the Pit) followed by lunch and then a video with clips of several Christian comedians.

Please *register in REALM* by September 17th or contact Alicia Wallace (awallace@christelca.org) for more information.

2023 Church Council

Do you know who is on our current Church Council? If you ever have a concern about Christ Lutheran, please feel free to reach out to one of our council members. Here are the names for our 2023 Church Council:

Eric Runge, President
Jessica Shurley, Vice President
David Brown, Treasurer
Janet Wilson, Secretary
Melissa Lanoue
Eric Trosch
Chad Mohn
Billy Mussari
Mark Ficken
LuAnn Martinson
Cassie Thompson
Reneau Van Landingham

Wednesdays
Together
DINNER
STARTS SEPT. 13th!
5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Christ Providence
(Kitchen/Fellowship Hall)
Plated Serving & To-Go Options Available
Cost: \$7 adults, \$5 children (ages 2-10).
RSVP required by each Monday prior.
FOR MENUS & RSVP LINKS:
christelca.org/menu

Christ Choir
Fall Kickoff Retreat
Sun., September 17
2:00 - 7:00 p.m.
at The Tenzer's home
Learn new music, meet Christ Choir members and enjoy happy hour with beer & hymns, all concluding with catered dinner.
MORE INFO/REGISTER IN REALM >> 

Sing with Christ Choir
Wednesdays • 7:15 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Music Room)
Consider offering of your time to God & your church, providing choral leadership during Traditional worship. We sing choral music, lead psalms, hymns & spirituals, and have fun together. No audition necessary! Simply drop in any Wednesday starting September 6.
more info: mjohanson@christelca.org

Third **THURSDAY**
for adults of all ages
September 21 • 11:30a - 1:30p
at Christ Providence (The Pit)
Join us for Lunch 'n' Laughs. All adults welcome.
\$10 • Register in REALM by Sept. 17
more info: awallace@christelca.org 

Legacy Planning Lunch
with Stephanie Burke
ELCA Foundation
Sunday, November 5
12:15 p.m. at Christ Providence
Save the Date!
CHECK E-NEWS FOR UPDATES christelca.org/latest-news

COMING TO CHARLOTTE!!
Friday, October 27
7:00 p.m.

at **CHRIST LUTHERAN'S**
Providence Campus
4519 Providence Road



Scan QR code
to save on processing fees
for general admission
(limited number available)



REALM

For All Ticket Levels:
VIP | EARLY ENTRY | GENERAL ADMISSION
[ticketweb.com](https://www.ticketweb.com)

TASHA LAYTON

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE

TOUR



Featuring Special Guest
Jeremy Rosado



Save the Date!
STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS
AND REGISTRATION

Oktober Fest '23



THIS YEAR FEATURING
Live music! Divine Barrel's
Finley crafted Oktoberfest beer!
Pastor Ryan wearing lederhosen!
Food by Chef Mike & Alicia!

at **Christ Providence**
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

-and-

Trunk or Treat
from 4-5 p.m.





Hello from the New Pastor for Family Ministries!

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

I am excited to introduce myself through this newsletter article. I imagine that there will be many other opportunities, but this is a good start! My name is Adrienne Martin, and I have been called as the Pastor for Family Ministries here at Christ Lutheran.

I am deeply honored to be called here as a pastor. I know this congregation is strong and faithful in sharing God's love in Christ our Lord, and it is a privilege to start this journey to serve with you in the priesthood of all believers. I am looking forward to getting involved in the life of the congregation, working with the Family Ministry Team, and engaging with families in ministry. I am looking forward to the fellowship, relationships and joy that is to come.

About me, I am a North Carolina native. I was born in Salisbury, and after a short stint in Pennsylvania, grew up in Durham and Asheville. I love the mountains and visit there any time I can. My family has always been central in my life, and I am grateful that we are close. My mom lives in Salisbury, and my sister and her husband live in South Florida. They have two pugs. I am a proud puppy auntie!

Before accepting this call, I was serving as the solo pastor at Sardis Lutheran Church in Hickory. I was ordained in August of 2016, and remained at Sardis for almost seven years. This summer I took a personal sabbatical to work on my thesis for the Master of Sacred Theology Degree from United Seminary in Gettysburg, PA. I have made progress on the project, but still have work to do. I will continue to work on my thesis as time allows, but Christ Lutheran will be my priority!

In my free time, I like to exercise (light exercise!). My favorites are walking, yoga and cardio dance. I love organic foods, and I enjoy researching naturalistic health trends. I have been a long-time student—my parents said it was my avocation! I have pursued studies in many areas, probably subconsciously trying to “find myself,” and when I studied theology, I knew I had found my home in ministry. I look forward to meeting you as this new season starts!

Xperience Moves To Sunday!

by DEACON KENNY & BILL PORTER

Big changes are in the works for the Xperience and our Youth Ministry this fall! Along with the additions of Tyler Weller as our new Youth Director and Natalya Legvold as the Youth Ministry Advisor, we are creating a new

timeslot for the Xperience and joining forces with a new and consistent time for both our middle and high school students to be in mission and ministry together! Rehearsals for the Xperience (high school youth touring band) will move to Sunday afternoons starting this fall, September 10. In addition to this, there will be youth group scheduled every Sunday evening immediately following the Xperience rehearsal for both middle and high school students. This change will allow for more synergy between the two ministries, more consistent meeting times, and helps both ministries to capitalize on energy from each other!

HERE IS THE PLAN: Now on Sundays, The Xperience will begin their rehearsals at 3:45 p.m. and go until 5:45 p.m. in the Pit at Christ Providence. They will have a short 15-minute break as middle and high school students begin to stream in for a 6:00 p.m. youth group start time. At 6:00 p.m., the Xperience students will lead all youth in a short worship with a few songs, prayer and brief devotional. Immediately following this 15-minute worship, all students will enjoy a meal together for about 30 minutes. After the meal, middle and high school students will split to enjoy a little over an hour of games, lessons and service projects which will change weekly. All of this will wrap up at 8:00 p.m.

We are excited about the possibilities with this new schedule and can't wait for you to come and be a part of this exciting new thing! Keep an eye out for a full calendar of weekly events and meeting times. But mark your calendars NOW for September 10 when we kick-off into a new school year with new people and new ways of being church together!

SUNDAY TIMELINE:

3:45-5:45 p.m. Xperience Rehearsal (high school)
6:00-6:15 p.m. Opening Worship (middle/high school)
6:15-6:45 p.m. Dinner (middle/high school)
6:45-8:00 p.m. Games, activities, lessons (middle/high school)

NEW ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS! Pit Unplugged

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

In addition to handbell & choir options for highschoolers on Wednesday nights, Pit Unplugged is an opportunity for high school students to gather and connect in an informal setting during our Wednesdays Together programming.

It will be an open time for students in grades 9-12 to gather for homework, coffee and conversation. Once a month, an acoustic open mic night or karaoke night will be held for those wanting to share their musical and/or poetic talents. The vibe is low key!

Pit Unplugged will be open to high school students from 5:30-7:15 p.m. in the Pit. During this same time, middle school students will be invited to release that great energy with unstructured activity in the gym!

-See page 7 for full Wednesday's Together schedule.-

Thank You, Saints

by DEACON (almost Pastor) KENNY

Time flies when you're having fun and yet it feels like I have been a part of this community for years in all the best ways! It is hard to believe that it has only been nine months since I began this journey with you all and that the time has come to bid farewell. Words cannot experience my gratitude to you all for these past months.

As I began my internship nine months ago, Advent had just started and talk about being thrown right in! But what better way to get to know a congregation than with all the holiday celebrations, gatherings, and the many worship services we enjoyed together. I didn't know what to expect, really. In such a large congregation, I wasn't sure how deeply I would come to know you all. I quickly realized that the size of the congregation doesn't matter, it is the gospel-minded people and that is what you all are! So naturally, I was welcomed with open arms, genuine curiosity and plenty of opportunities to fill my belly!

None of us knew exactly what would come of our time together. I know many of us hoped, including myself, that the time would be longer, but God has called all of us in different directions. And that is what I am thankful for the most; the faithfulness that you all have demonstrated throughout my time of discernment and formation has been a gift and blessing. Hearing your words of affirmation not only in my own development and leadership but of acknowledging God's call in my life to things beyond Christ Lutheran shows your deep commitment and love for the kingdom of God. It is because of this that I can confidently and faithfully take this next step as a lead pastor elsewhere. You all have been wonderful teachers and examples of this to me.

I was recently asked by one of our small groups if I had any final thoughts or wisdom for Christ Lutheran. My response was this: Continue being centered and focused on the gospel! Continue to take leaps of faith and experiment. Continue to look and move forward with hope while honoring the past. Continue doing everything that you do so well and trust in the Spirit! You already know how to be church, so continue doing so. God has this!

While my future call remains slightly unknown, know that I will keep you posted as to where that ends up! Thank you, Christ Lutheran, for allowing me to come and learn from you. Thank you for teaching me with grace. Thank you for your kindness and generosity towards me. Thank you for your words of affirmation and blessings. I can't wait to take all that I have learned from you and bless it all forward to my next congregation and beyond! God bless you and let's stay in touch!



Welcome New Staff
TO OUR FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM!




Tyler Weller
Youth Director

Natalya Legvold
Youth Ministry Advisor

TEC Weekend



Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a retreat at Tekoa Foothills in Cesar, NC that brings high schoolers face-to-face with Christ to help strengthen their personal relationship with Him, fellow Christians and the community.

September 2-4, 2023
at Camp Loy White

hihtec.org/tecite-application
For more info, contact: Michelle Simmons
msimmons@dreamvacations.com

XPERIENCE

NOW ON SUNDAYS!
3:45 p.m. Rehearsals (in the Pit)
6:00 p.m. Youth Worship Night

Xperience rehearsals for high schoolers is now on Sunday, followed by a worship service, dinner and games for all youth grades 6-12. See you at Christ Providence!
More info: bporter@christelca.org
STARTS SEPTEMBER 10TH

Pit UNPLUGGED

FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Wednesdays
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Pit)

Starts September 13th!!



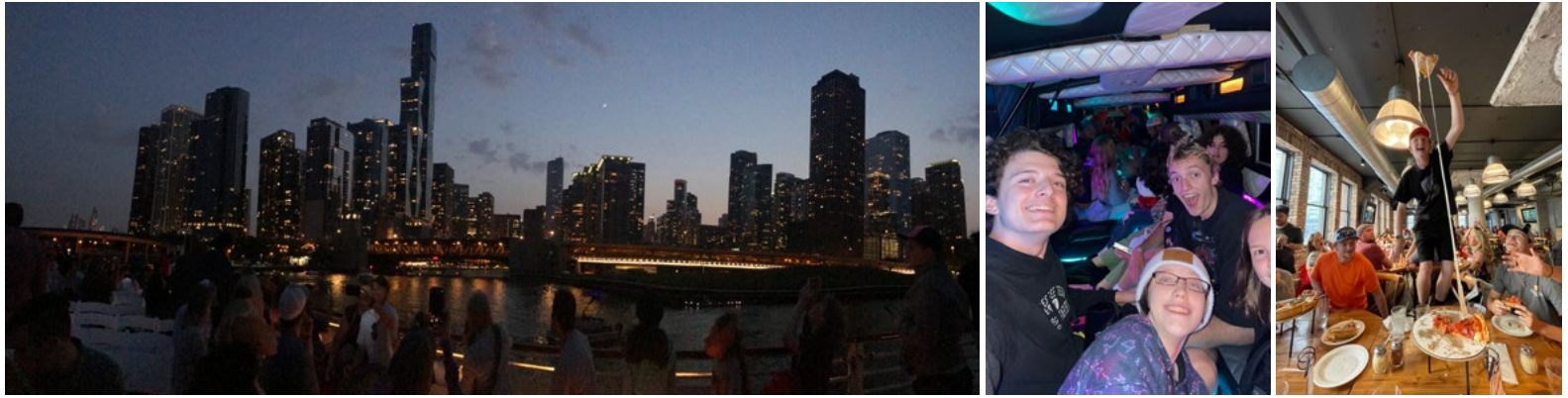
Loaves & Fishes



Helping to Feed Our Neighbors in Need!

BAGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED OCTOBER 8
and
ASKED TO BE RETURNED BY OCTOBER 29
to benches outside Forum

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



The Xperience Chicago Tour!

by BILL PORTER

This summer, the Xperience embarked on an exciting journey to Chicago for our highly anticipated summer tour. Over the course of the tour, we shared our musical talents and message with a total of nine mesmerizing shows, leaving an indelible impact on everyone we encountered. Throughout our travels, our talented youth had the incredible opportunity to engage with diverse audiences, reaching approximately 1200 individuals with our captivating performances and gospel message. The tour spanned across various cities, including Fort Wayne, IN; Chicago, IL; Cowen, WV; Naperville, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Knoxville, TN and Rockford, IL. Each destination brought with it unique experiences, and the tour provided a platform for the Xperience to connect with people from all walks of life.

As we made our way through the tour, we were able to embrace the vibrant city of Chicago, soaking in its iconic sights and landmarks. The snapshots from our journey showcased visits to renowned locations such as the towering Sears Tower, historic landmarks that whispered tales of the past, serene riverboat tours that showcased the city's beauty from a new perspective, and even an exhilarating ride in a luxurious limousine! These moments allowed the Xperience members to not only shine on stage but also to bond as a group, creating memories that will undoubtedly last a lifetime.

Beyond the music and the awe-inspiring sights, this summer tour held a deeper significance for our youth and leaders. It was a transformative journey of personal growth and empowerment. These young artists honed their skills in musicianship, stage performance, singing, instrument playing, and technical aspects like managing soundboards, lighting setups, cameras, and live stream configurations. Yet, beyond these valuable lessons, these youth learned the true essence of inclusivity and acceptance. Guided by the belief that everyone deserves love and understanding, we internalized the importance of embracing differences and extending compassion to all, whether they walked through our doors or not. As the tour concluded, these budding rockstars were equipped not just to share their musical prowess but also to be ambassadors of kindness, spreading God's love wherever life takes them.

The Xperience expresses profound gratitude to our home base, Christ Lutheran, for the unwavering support that transformed us into a united and purpose-driven family, eager to continue our ministry of bringing glory to God through music and community. With excitement, we ask you all to stay tuned for upcoming updates on our future shows, as we continue to "Tell The Story" of love and faith.



LINK YOUR VIC CARD

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

1. Click ad or go to:

tie.harristeeter.com/together-in-education

2. Enter code for McClintock: 2042

School Supply Drive

FOR STUDENTS AT McCLINTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT NEEDS: Pencils(!), book bags, composition books, pocket folders

TEACHER WISHES: headphones, boxes of tissue, broom & dustpan, hall passes

Donation Dropoff: Sundays at Christ Providence (Lower Commons) -or- during the week at Outreach office.



CLICK -or- SCAN FOR AMAZON WISHLIST



Quilts for Sleep in Heavenly Peace

by CLC QUILTING MINISTRY

Our Quilting Ministry has continued to be hard at work this summer. In August, the leader from Sleep in Heavenly Peace came and picked up 42 kid's quilts for their program that makes beds for kids in our area who don't have a bed on which to sleep. This is an additional program besides LWR and Women in Transition in which we are participating. We have also undertaken making breast cancer pillows since this has personally affected so many of us.



If you'd like to learn more about our Quilting Ministry, stop by Center Six at Christ Providence on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. or contact Lois Witham at lowitham@carolina.rr.com.

Teacher Partners

Do you have time for one email or note per month? Are you interested in supporting a new teacher at McClintock Middle School as they transition to the classroom?

Being a Teacher Partner is a small, but consistent, connection that strengthens our commitment to the McClintock community. Teachers know someone is thinking about/praying for them.

How It Works

Teacher Partners send at least one note or email per month offering encouragement and prayers. Betsy, the Teacher Partner Coordinator, will even send out email reminders and let you know when things of note are happening at the school. 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're interested in contributing through this simple service of encouragement, email Betsy at betsybrun@bellsouth.net.

Clothing Donations for Crisis Assistance

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



2023 Annual CROP Walk will be **Sunday, October 22** at American Legion Memorial Stadium



Click or scan to donate and join the Christ Lutheran Team!



BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, October 22

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
at Christ Providence (Fellowship Hall)

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

Freedom School and Science Camp

Over 200 students enjoyed a fun, safe, educational summer by participating in Freedom School, Science Camp, Lutheridge/Lutherock camps and athletic camps. Over 50 Scholars spent six weeks at Christ Providence developing a true love of reading and discovering "Something Inside So Strong." While focusing on literacy, Freedom School Scholars read books that empowered them to make a difference in themselves, their families, their communities and the world.

Daily reading was just a part of Freedom School. Scholars participated in many different activities around the city to gain new experiences and insight into the world all around them. Pool days at Ray's Splash Planet and Cordelia Pool, trips to Discovery Place, bowling, library visits and Sky Zone, and lake days at the Daniels' Lake Wylie home provided Scholars with an all-around, enriching summer! Over at McClintock Middle School, 130+ future inventors and scientists learned science in a FUN way with hands-on STEAM activities. Whether it was translating DNA in Mimic Bot, creating objects to scale like an architect in Pop Up Venture, calculating momentum in Catching Air, or connecting circuits in Invention Celebration, students left camp with an interest in science and science-related careers! Donated recyclables were transformed into animals, skate parks, party hats, musical instruments and business models. Friday field trips to tie in all they learned included Discovery Place, UNCC and STEM day at Charlotte Motor Speedway!

McPIE Family Night Starts Sept. 19th

Coming off a wonderful rebuilding year filled with exciting programming, McPIE Family Night will return this September for 13 weeks of family engagement and we would LOVE to have YOU! Volunteers are the backbone of our mission so we're calling all engineers, programmers/coders, medical professionals and anyone with a passion that they would like to share.

Leading or helping with a club not what you're looking for? Join our meals, school store or greeting team!! Each Tuesday, we provide a warm meal at no cost to the McClintock families that participate. Families overcome major barriers preventing participation when dinner and childcare are provided. Students are prepared for success when they are equipped with the proper supplies.

Can't commit each week but want to get involved? Sign up to be a floater. There are weekly opportunities to get involved. We always need volunteers to "fill the gap" if someone is out. Contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org to begin making a difference in a child's life!

CMS Volunteer Registration

Every year, anyone who plans to volunteer inside McClintock Middle School will need to complete a CMS Volunteer Registration and Background Check. Find the form at cmsvolunteers.com.

Once that is complete, email Lisa Heirigs (lheirigs@christelca.org) your name, the email address you registered with & your date of birth.



ROOM IN THE INN

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

Stay tuned for signups and more information!

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

McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITY: McClintock Tutors



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

Contact Celia Owen if interested in volunteering: cwown92@gmail.com



JOIN OUR

Usher Team



We are looking for volunteers to serve as ushers during Traditional worship at Christ Providence.

If interested, contact Mary Parker: mparker@christelca.org

McPIE

McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Family Nights at McClintock
every Tuesday from 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.

::STARTS SEPTEMBER 19::

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



Mexico Mission Trip

by Tennyson Shifley

In July, Christ Lutheran was represented by a group who traveled directly across the border from McAllen, Texas to Reynosa, Mexico. In the 20-minute drive it took to go from McAllen to Reynosa, we saw the world change. We met and worked with wonderful, kind, hard-working people who struggle to meet their everyday needs simply because of where they live.

Our primary objective was to work with volunteers, staff members of Faith Ministry (our non-profit partner in this mission), and members of the Cortez-Garibay family to help build a house for their family during the week. Thanks to the generosity of Christ Lutheran's benevolence funds, we paid the cost of the house for the family (\$7,000). Without the help of Faith Ministry and Christ Lutheran, this family would have never been able to realize the dream of having their own home. Miguel, the father, works at a local tire store, and earns about \$55 per week. They are a delightful family, and are very grateful for the "leg up" in their journey. We also gifted them with quilts made by the CLC quilters group and various knitted items made by our CLC knitters.

You might be interested to know that since their founding in 1994, Faith Ministry (based in McAllen, Texas), with the help of individuals and congregations across the United States, has built over 2,000 homes for families in need! Faith Ministry focuses on four primary areas: Housing, Community Wellness, Education & Empowerment, and Spiritual Growth.

During the week we also visited Faith Ministry's medical clinic where a daily nutrition program is held to help provide children with at least one nutritious meal each day. Bible stories were shared, songs about faith were sung, and lots of fun play happened! The children look forward to it each day. A nurse at the clinic provides basic care for members of the community, especially for mothers and newborn children.

The largest need in the Reynosa community during COVID was food. Many could find some sort of shelter (albeit often in a ramshackle hut made of whatever material they could find and carry home), but access to food was very difficult. Accompanied by Faith Ministry's Pastor Carlos, we visited several needy families who relied on the monthly visit and bag of essential food supplies that we delivered.

We made lifelong friends in Reynosa. We just happen to be separated by miles, a river and a border. If you want to see what life is like in another part of the world, and help make a difference, one at a time, please consider joining us next summer. For more information, contact Pastor Tenny Shifley at tcshifley@carolina.rr.com or (704) 651-8660.



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CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections



september/october 2023

Scott Suskovic · Senior Pastor
Ryan Ritzmann · Associate Pastor, Adults
Adrienne Martin · Associate Pastor, Families
Alexis Williams · Minister of Christ Online
Willie Pinson · Lay Pastor, Christ Concord
Amy Daniels · Director of Outreach
Mark Johanson · Minister of Music

JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

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

CONTENT DEADLINES FOR 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



NEW MEMBER CLASS

**Sunday, September 24
& Sunday, October 1**

12:15 - 2:30 p.m. at Christ Providence (Forum)

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



Register in REALM by Sept. 17
More info: mparker@christelca.org
or khofmann@christelca.org



Get Connected.

Download our Small Group Ministries booklet & explore all of Christ Lutheran's weekly opportunities for adults, including Sunday Classes, Wednesdays Together, Caring & Serving volunteer opps & more!

INFO: mparker@christelca.org



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