CHRIST LUTHERAN'S BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Christ Connections

CHRIST providence

CHRIST online

november/december 2026





SUNDAY SCHEDULE

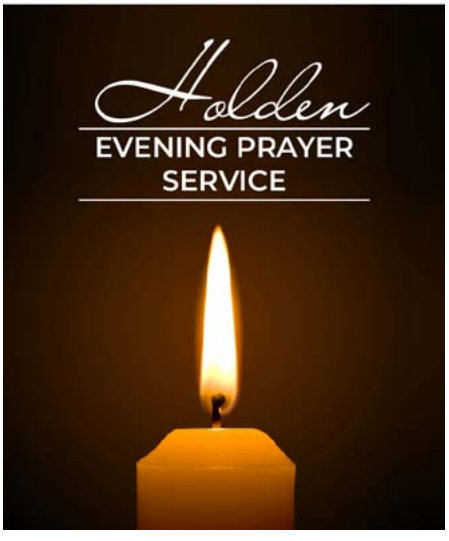
8:45 a.m. **Traditional Worship**
10:00 a.m. **The Bridge Service**
11:00 a.m. **Contemporary Worship**
10-10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**



CHRISTLUTHERAN cornerstone gifts







CHRIST online

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

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA





PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

It's Always Been About the Heart



Jesus said it clearly. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Meaning, "What do you treasure? What do you hold of greatest value? What is most dear to you?" Identify that, Jesus said, and you will discover your heart.

And so we each begin the hunt, searching for the treasure that we hold most dear. For many, we would put family at the top of that list. That might be a given. What comes after that? Good health? Absolutely. Never to be taken for granted. Anything else? Financial security? Always high on that list of treasures.

But Jesus' point in challenging us to discover our treasure is to seek more diligently for those things that last. Family will rise and fall as the generations come and go. Good health will eventually fail us. And that financial security? Well, no one has ever seen a hearse hauling a U-Haul. Except for the Pharoahs of Egypt who were buried with their wealth for the afterlife, none of us really thinks we can take it with us.

So what are we left with? Will our hunt for this treasure lead us to something that will truly last forever? I suppose Jesus wants us to discover this treasure on our own, to search far and wide for that which is eternal, with the hope that this treasure hunt will bring us full circle to our hearts where we discover the riches of God's blessings of grace, forgiveness, mercy and eternal life.

And once we discover that eternal treasure, there we will find our heart.

Please consider this as you determine your intentional giving to Christ Lutheran for 2027. Everyone knows that interest rates, inflation and gasoline continue to rise, pushing the cost of doing ministry even higher. But together, this congregation has always shown its generous heart to support the treasure of this church's mission.

We are wrapping up our Stewardship drive, Rekindling the Heart. If you have already provided the church with your Intention Card for 2027, a deep thank you. Simply put, the more of these we receive, the more accurate and faithful we can be of the gifts you give in putting together our 2027 Ministry Plan. But if you haven't, I deeply encourage you to confidentially email your amount to Gwen (*gzuendel@christelca.org*), mail it to the church, drop it in the offering plate or complete your pledge online at *onrealm.org/christelca/-/form/pledge/2027pledge*.

Together, this congregation has always amazed me at its generosity, which I never take for granted. Literally, we could not do church, provide these programs, and have this deep of an impact into our community without your help. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you!

For Jesus, the life of faith has always been about the heart. It is found where your eternal treasure is discovered. And that can only be in the eternal promise of God's love.

It has always been about the heart!

Peace,
Pastor Scott

2026 Church Council

Andy Brincefield
President

Molly Zmuda
Vice President

Holly Cannon
Secretary

Dave Hutchinson
Treasurer

Ashley Head

Chad Melton

Jeffrey Kung

Lauren Ratcliffe

Marc Schroeder

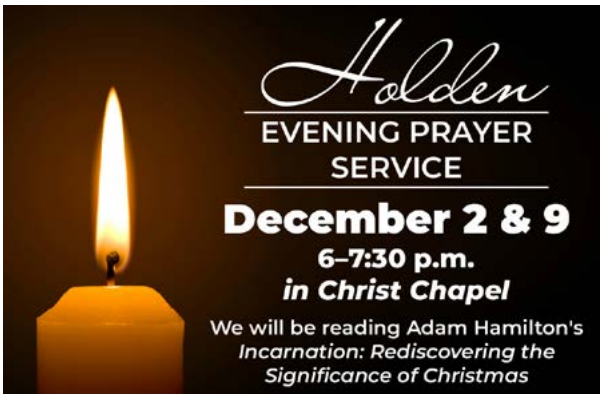
Julie DePalma

David Herran

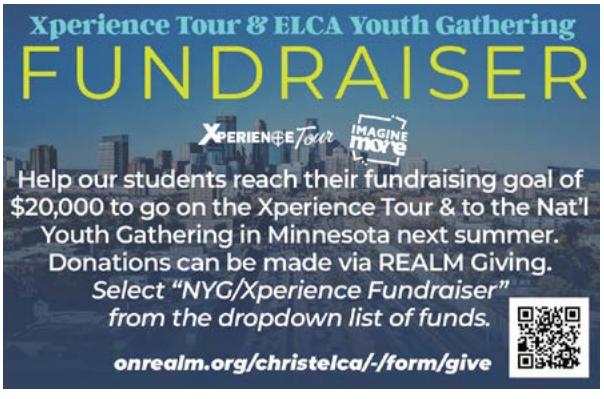
Brad Keller













Outside the system — excluded, unwanted, and marginalized. People have always found reasons to exclude others and outcast them. The Bible is full of people who our LORD calls and uses to further His Kingdom, whom we might call outcasts. In this three-part sermon series, we will explore how God has not only welcomed the marginalized but also used them in pivotal roles. The lost, lapsed and lonely are loved by God and worthy of center stage.

November 8 • Cast Out for Faith
We take it for granted that we can practice our faith openly. That has not always been the case. 2,500 years ago, a trio of Jewish brothers stood their ground and would not compromise their faith. In a world where everyone does as the king says, to deny his edict is to invite certain disaster. Unwilling to compromise, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego became outcasts. Their faith was used against them as the powers of their world did their worst. Their unwillingness to fall down and compromise leads us from literal death in the heat of the furnace to metaphorical death from the ire of the culture. Will we allow ourselves to compromise for ease of social order or accept the role of outcast? *Daniel 3:16–28; Matthew 10:28–33*

November 15 • Cast Out for the Holy Spirit
Biblically speaking, the quickest way to find who the outcast is, is to look for the "-ite" at the end of the name. The Syrophonician woman was a Canaanite, a gentile, and even rejected by Jesus himself! In their exchange, Jesus implied that she was a dog, unfit to be a part of what He was doing. But… did she win an argument? Did Jesus change his mind? The woman who once wasn't valid enough to even eat the proverbial table scrapes is soon lauded by Jesus. An outcast and blessed, her faith persisted and the Holy Spirit still works to graft on those whom we wouldn't expect. *Mark 7:25–30; Romans 11:17–21*

November 22 • Cast Out for the Saints
God uses even the most unlikely people to expose the depth and breadth of His love. Those whom we would consider "too far gone" or "repugnant" are the very ones Jesus uses to show us the epitome of Christ's life. With the Demonic of Gerasenes and the Hemorrhaging Woman, we find the archetypal examples of Christian life. Jesus engages with these two outcasts in a way that only He could. With love and compassion, He sees to their very souls and unleashes the being God has made them be. Jesus renews them, not into different beings; but rather, restores them, as an example that God never makes a mistake. *Mark 5:1–34*

READ MORE ABOUT THE CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
christelca.org/sermon-series

2nd Annual Men's Oyster Roast

by PASTOR RYAN

Our 2nd annual Men's Oyster roast is November 7th at 5 p.m. on the South Land (305 Reid Dairy Road in Waxhaw). BYOB and a soccer chair to sit on. Please register so we can plan for you. There is no cost. This is a gift from the men who have come before us; they thought it was important to them to get men together and so we shall.

You don't have to be in a group to join in the event. You don't have to be a member to join either. We are getting together and enjoying some of Chef Mike's fine cooking, sharing some time together and maybe a beer. That's it. That's enough. As men we can overlook ourselves. Taking care of those things that have to get done. We can go from one thing to the next. And don't get me wrong, life is full of great and noble things. But not everything needs to be complex. In fact, I have found simple is just as often profound.

This event is to get guys together. Many of the guys who will be there will be from our men's groups, so naturally they will be there. Our men's group is a small group model, it is unique from how other churches and men's groups have been run in the past. Because of our unique model, we attracted men from other congregations. I'm proud of that fact. That the Jesus that unites us is stronger than the things that separate us — which makes this event the perfect mixer.

There will be guys you know from church, those you know by name, and those you only know by face. Here's a chance to learn a name. There will be guys you don't know at all. Which means if you want to invite a friend or two it won't be awkward. There's no in-crowd. We are just a bunch of guys who love Jesus and want to hang out. Hope to see you there.

Volunteer at Cornerstone Gifts

by PASTOR RYAN

A ministry opportunity is available in our congregation. Your help is needed to volunteer at Cornerstone Gifts. We're looking for somebody who will help out on occasion and fill in when others aren't able to. It's not a lot of work, but you would be providing a vital ministry. We can teach you how to work the register in the store; we have several volunteers who can show you the ropes, and frankly they're not that difficult.

This is an important ministry. Net proceeds go to Christ Lutheran's Outreach programs, so you are spending your money where it can help someone in need. This help is not just about selling greeting cards, but you would also be helping build a better community around Christ Lutheran. If you're interested, please reach out to Carolyn Usinger (*cusinger@christelca.org*).



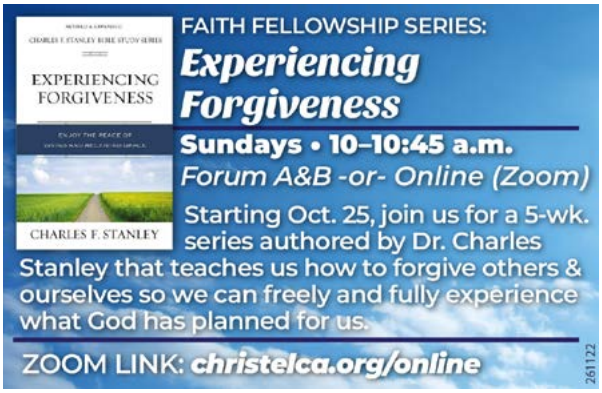
Special thanks to Walt Roth for installing these new signs you see around campus as you exit our parking lot. Thanks Walt!!











Honoring Our Loved Ones

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

All Saints Sunday
November 1, 2026

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



Asta Snyder



Marjorie Liljefors



Barbara Metzler



Harvey Lightstone



Janet Clift



Jim Caughman



Bob Mikes



Larry Hyde



Miller Jackson



David Misenheimer



Marge Stauss



Jim Smyrl



Karen Roode



The word "advent" literally mean the coming, particularly of an event or a person of note. During this season of Advent, we will look at several Old Testament prophecies announcing the arrival of the Messiah and how they came to pass in the New Testament to a world that found itself unprepared. Nevertheless, ready or not, here Jesus comes!

November 29 • Stir Up Your Power, O Lord, and Come
For the one who is ready and prepared, the return of Jesus is not as much of a concern than those who find themselves unprepared. For the unprepared, images of the return of Jesus can be frightening and confusing. Which are you? Either way, doesn't matter. Ready or not...
Daniel 7:9–15; Mark 13:1–31

December 6 • A Voice Crying in the Wilderness
Isaiah prophesized of one who would cry in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. Six hundred years later, John the Baptist would take that mantle and warn people of the one who is to come. But even John was surprised. This Jesus was not what he expected. Didn't matter, though. Ready or not...
Isaiah 40:1–5; Matthew 3:1–12

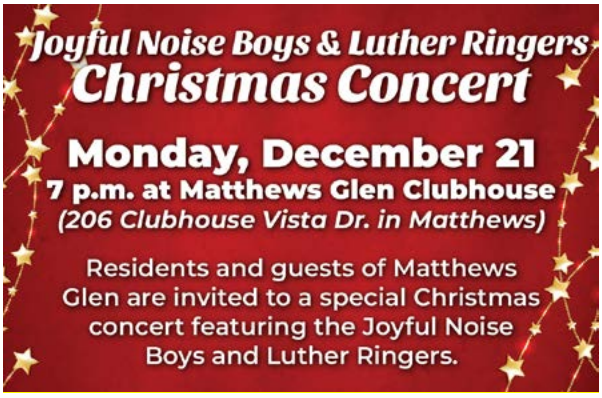
December 13 • A Virgin Shall Conceive
Isaiah spoke of a virgin conceiving a child, but was it a messianic prophecy? What he meant, what the people heard and how God used it were three separate things. Nobody could imagine how this would come to pass, least of all Joseph. Didn't matter, though. Ready or not...
Isaiah 7:10-17; Matthew 1:18-25

December 20 • Stump of Jesse
One thing that everyone agreed upon was that the Messiah would come from the lineage of King David. However, after 1000 years and many branches to that family tree, no one suspected one from such humble origins of questionable birth. Didn't matter, though. Ready or not...
Isaiah 11:1-5; Matthew 1

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON THE CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
christelca.org/sermon-series













ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Sunday, November 22
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 22nd 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The Lower Commons will be transformed into a festive marketplace by our middle and high school youth and outreach groups. Come learn about causes from all around the world and "shop". Choose causes you would like to support and make donations in honor of someone you appreciate/love. You will receive cards explaining the project(s) you supported and you can use them as Christmas gifts to family, teachers, and friends, especially for those that are hard to buy for! These are gifts that bring so much joy!

Please help our efforts to love our neighbors throughout the world.

Poinsettias

Help us adorn the Sanctuary and Christ Chapel with poinsettias for the celebration of Christmas. Purchased plants can be donated in memory or in honor of a loved one and may be taken home following the Sunday, December 27 worship service.

$25 EACH

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN INCLUSION IS DEC. 11

REALM

Scan/Click to Order

or go to shorturl.ly/N2hS8

Gather, Make and Decorate

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is just around the corner! One of the best parts of the Christmas season is enjoying the beautiful decorations everywhere you go. While admiring the decorations is wonderful, there's something even better: helping bring them to life!

Join us on **November 24**, beginning at 3 p.m., for our Gather, Make, and Decorate event, hosted by Family Ministry and the Music, Worship & Tech teams! Families of all ages are invited to kick off the Christmas season with an afternoon of decorating, creativity, fellowship, and holiday cheer.

Stop by any time after 3 p.m. to help deck the halls of CLC, create ornaments to take home and decorate cookies together as a family. Dinner will be provided, so bring the whole family and enjoy an evening of festive fun as we prepare our church for the Christmas season!

Mark your calendars, invite your family, and come celebrate the joy of Christmas with us. We can't wait to gather, make, and decorate with you! Please register in *REALM*.

Rise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL WRITTEN BY OUR CONGREGATION

by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Advent is a season of waiting. The days are short and the nights are long. Yet, we are waiting for the light, and not just any light, but Christ, the True Light of the world.

Starting the first Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29), Christ Lutheran will offer something a little different this year for your daily devotional time: a devotional guide written entirely by the people of this congregation. Not a published resource from a bookstore. Not a devotion from someone you have never met. Words from your neighbors, your fellow worshippers, your church family — the people you see in the parking lot, the families you have watched grow up. The devotional is called *Rise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come*, drawn from Isaiah 60:1, and it runs from November 29 through Christmas Day.

The Theme

Advent is about more than waiting for December 25. It is about waking up to the truth that the Light has been coming into the world since the very beginning — and that we are not just recipients of that light. We are made to carry it. To reflect it. To shine it into the dark places around us. Each devotion in this collection will answer a simple question: where have you seen the light of Christ — and where are you called to shine it?

Writing a devotion is simpler than it sounds. It is not a sermon or an essay. It is a short, personal reflection — 150 to 300 words — about something you have seen, felt or learned about the Light of Christ. Children are welcome to contribute too — a few sentences, a drawing, a simple reflection on what the light of Jesus means to them. All forms of response are welcome.

Select your date in the SignUpGenius by clicking/scanning the QR Code to the right or by going to *t.ly/TZjqT*. **Submissions are due by Monday, November 10.** When you submit your devotion, please include the date and day number you are writing for, your name (first name is fine), and a brief identifier (ie. member since 2015; The Martinez Family; Seventh Grade Student, etc.).

Printed copies will be available for pickup on Sunday, November 29. Look for them in the Upper Commons before and after worship. They will also be available online. If you have any question or are ready to submit you devotion, please email Pastor Adrienne *aladd@christelca.org*.





















Christmas is Coming to Cornerstone!

Fall merchandise is on sale as Cornerstone is preparing for Christmas with Advent wreaths, calendars and candles and is decking the halls with Christmas merchandise! From ornaments to Nativity scenes to stocking stuffers, you will find a variety of religious items such as Bibles, devotion books, crosses, and even a replica of our Sanctuary cross for your Christmas tree. You may also find a Christmas gift from our stock of home décor, baby gifts, children's toys, jewelry and more!

Cornerstone will be welcoming Whimsies by Elizabeth on **Thursday, November 19th** from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a Holiday Trunk Show. Elizabeth Arnall is a local jewelry artisan and Cornerstone regularly carries a variety of her jewelry offerings.

All of Cornerstone's net proceeds go to Christ Lutheran's Outreach programs, so you are spending your money where it can help someone in need. Giving is an important part of our Christmas celebration. While we wait in anticipation for the Christ Child to be born and fill our hearts with love, may we also remember the spirit of giving to both family and friends and to those in need that we don't even know!

Cornerstone Gifts, located between the Ministry Center and the Lower Commons, is open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If those hours don't work for you, contact the church office and we can arrange an appointment for you. We hope you stop by and check out what we have to offer!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!
FB: Cornerstone Gifts at Christ Lutheran
IG: cornerstonegifts

CHRISTLUTHERAN cornerstone gifts













CHRISTMAS EVE FOR FAMILIES:
Celebrating Jesus' Birthday!

Thursday, December 24 • 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary
by PASTOR ADRIENNE

On Christmas Eve at 9:15 a.m., Christ Lutheran invites all families with children in elementary school and younger to gather for a special Family Christmas Eve Service. This service is a celebration of the birth of Jesus designed with the youngest members of our congregation in mind. Together, we will celebrate Jesus' birthday, birthday cake and all!

This is not a service where you will be nervous about your child making noise. It is a service built for exactly the kind of wonder, wiggles and wide eyes that children bring to Christmas. We will sing songs, hear the story of Jesus's birth, and get our hands busy with crafts that help us celebrate and remember.



And this year, we have something new... a petting zoo! After our worship service, crafts and birthday cake, what better way to remember that the Son of God entered the world in a stable, surrounded by creatures just like the ones your child will get to meet that morning.

Whether this is your first Christmas at Christ Lutheran or your thirtieth, whether your children are toddlers or finishing up elementary school, this service is for you. Come as you are. Bring the whole family. And come ready to celebrate the best news the world has ever received — that unto us a child is born, and his name is Wonderful.



Prayer Journal Event

by RACHEL DYER

September always seems to surprise us, both with its arrival and its departure. Personally, I'm always amazed when Kick-Off Sunday rolls around, feeling as though VBS wrapped up just a few weeks ago. So much happens during September that it can be hard to keep track of all the wonderful things flourishing in the life of our church.

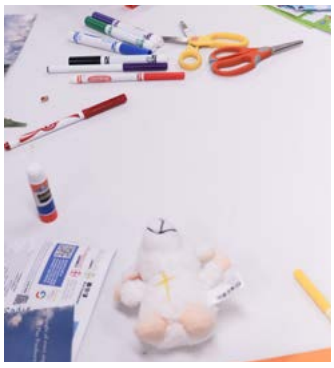
One of my favorite September traditions is our Three-Year-Old Stepping Stone. During worship, we celebrate one special part of this milestone: the Gifting of the Word, when our three-year-olds receive their Spark Bibles and lambies. It's a beautiful opportunity to pause and celebrate another generation receiving the Word of God and beginning to grow in faith. But there's another part of this Stepping Stone that happens between services that you might not know about: our prayer journaling event!

At this event, our three-year-olds begin taking a more active role in their faith development by creating prayer journals filled with the things they want to thank God for. With their parents' help, they cut, glue, draw, and create pages that reflect the people, places and things that bring joy and meaning to their lives. Families, pets and friends are always represented, but in the pages of these journals, we also see the faith lives of our children taking shape.

These young disciples recognize that God is the giver of so many things they love, whether it's a strawberry they enjoyed at breakfast or their favorite construction truck. They celebrate the little things without hesitation — the very things we adults might overlook or forget to give thanks for. In doing so, they teach us a master class in gratitude.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to spend an hour entering into the faith lives of these little ones, and I always come away in awe of their endless capacity for gratitude and their ability to find joy in all that God has made. These prayer journals serve as a reminder to me that faith doesn't have to be complicated and that gratitude shouldn't be reserved only for the biggest things.






Investing in Faith: One Envelope at a Time

by TYLER WELLER

This summer marks the next National Youth Gathering, and we're excited to bring a group of our students to the Gathering and on Xperience Tour! The Gathering takes place every three years and brings thousands of young Christians together for a week of worship, service and fellowship. It's an incredible opportunity for students to experience the body of Christ in action and grow in their faith. As part of the Xperience Tour, our students will make their way toward Minneapolis, where they'll meet up with the students attending the Gathering at the Mall of America. From there, everyone will join together for the rest of the week! To help make these experiences possible, we're asking for your support.

Starting October 25, we'll be hosting a fundraiser featuring a board in the Lower Commons filled with envelopes labeled with different donation amounts, along with a few "Give What Ya Can" options. Participating is simple: choose an envelope, place your cash or check donation inside, and drop it in the youth mailbox.

The fundraiser runs through November 15. You can also give online by scanning the QR Code above. Select "NYG/ Xperience Fundraiser" from the dropdown list of funds.

Our fundraising goal is $20,000, and every donation brings us one step closer. Thank you for supporting our students and helping make these incredible faith experiences possible!



Ten Commandments Stepping Stone

Sunday, November 15 • 4–6 p.m. in the Sanctuary
by PASTOR ADRIENNE

On Sunday, November 15, our seventh graders and their families are invited to gather for one of the most meaningful Stepping Stones in the confirmation journey — an in-depth exploration of the Ten Commandments. Students and families will work through all ten commandments together, exploring not just what each one says but what it actually means in a seventh grader's real life. Discussions will range from screen time and Sabbath to gossip and social media, from honoring parents to questions about honesty, loyalty and what it means to truly respect the people around us. Luther's Small Catechism will serve as our guide throughout the evening, and families will have real, unhurried time to talk with each other about how each commandment shows up in the rhythms of their daily life together.

The Ten Commandments are not a checklist for earning God's favor. They are a mirror that shows us who we are, and a guide that points us toward the One who has done what we cannot. We do not keep the commandments in order to receive grace. We have already received it. That grace is what frees us to try.

We hope every seventh grade family will join us on November 15. Please register in *REALM* so we can plan for dinner! Scan the QR Code or go to *shorturl.ly/0sAhL*

NEW 2ND & 3RD GRADE STEPPING STONE: Worship & Prayer!

Parents and students, you're invited! Join us on **Sunday, December 6** during the Sunday School hour for our new 2nd/3rd Grade Stepping Stone: "Worship & Prayer!"

We'll begin in the Sanctuary with Pastor Adrienne, Mark Johanson and Phil Biedenbender, who will help us explore the meaning behind what you see at the front of the church on Sunday mornings. We'll also learn about the beautiful decorations that fill our Sanctuary during Advent as we prepare our hearts for Christmas!

Next, we'll head to a classroom to discover the importance of family prayer. Each student and parent will have the opportunity to create a family prayer journal, complete with helpful prompts and Bible verses to inspire and guide your family's prayer time at home.

We look forward to learning, and growing together in prayer! Questions? Please contact Kristen Rank at *krank@christelca.org*.

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Thanks to your generosity 2,193 pounds of food were donated to NourishUp. That is over a TON of food to feed our neighbors in need!

nourish up









In January, we'll be offering a new Stepping Stone for middle and high school on growing your faith with AI. It will be led by Kevin Schwartz, IT Operations and Cyber Security Executive.

Save the Date! Registration Coming Soon!!





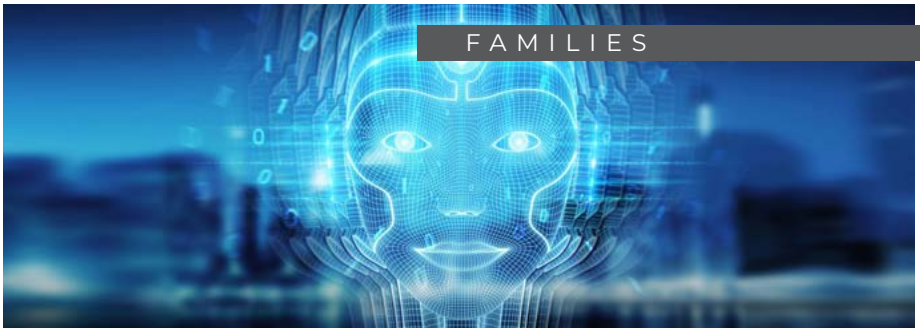












NEW STEPPING STONE COMING IN 2027:
How To Grow Your Faith With AI

Sunday, January 10 • 4–5 p.m. in the Sanctuary
by PASTOR ADRIENNE

Artificial intelligence is already part of our daily lives. It helps us write, research, plan and answer questions in seconds. For many families, the question is no longer whether AI is here, but how to use it well.

This January, Christ Lutheran is offering a new Stepping Stone for middle school and high school called How to Grow Your Faith with AI, led by Kevin Schwartz, IT Operations and Cyber Security Executive. AI is a great tool, and like any tool, it works best when we are in charge of it. In this session, Kevin will help families think through three questions:

How do we keep AI a tool? We will talk about how to use it without letting it use us, and how to stay in charge of our time, our thinking, and our relationships.

How do we use it right? We will look at honesty, good judgment and what it means to do our own work and our own thinking.

How can it help us grow closer to God? We will explore practical ways to use AI to study Scripture, prepare for prayer, ask hard questions about faith and deepen our relationship with God, while remembering that no technology can replace worship, community and the Holy Spirit.

Whether you are curious, cautious or already using AI every day, you are welcome to attend. Come ready to learn, ask questions and talk together as a family. Save the date and stay tuned for updates on registering for this class in REALM.

Anniversary of Baptism Stepping Stone

On January 10, 2027, during Traditional and Contemporary worship, we will commemorate all 2026 baptisms with our Anniversary of Baptism Stepping Stone. The newly baptized and their families will be asked forward during their chosen service to receive a blessing. This annual celebration is a time for our church community to remind families of the support and care we pledge when a child is baptized. It is also a time for families to remember the promises that they made when they brought their child to the font for baptism.

Recognizing the importance of those promises and to help support you in your calling as parents, our Anniversary of Baptism Stepping Stone also includes a brunch that will take place during the Sunday School hour. This brunch will be a time of fellowship, but also education. Pastor Adrienne and Rachel Dyer will lead a short seminar focusing on faith development for families and their young children. Nursery care will be available so parents can fully participate in the seminar and enjoy time for fellowship. Registration is in *REALM*, but if you have any questions, you can reach out to either Pastor Adrienne or Rachel.










Oktober Fest '26

Thanks for coming to this year's Oktoberfest & Trunk or Treat events!











Trunk or Treat



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
Family Sponsorship Event

December 8–14

'Tis the Season!

The Holidays are quickly approaching and that means it's time to start thinking about shopping! The Christmas Shopping Event will take place over several days again this year. Many families in our community need our help. With the help of benevolence money and individual monetary donations, we will sponsor over 35 families this Christmas season!! The Christmas spirit will be STRONG!

This Christmas, the actual shopping will take place over several days leading up to December 11. Families and/or small groups can "Adopt a Family" and purchase their wish list items during this time and then drop them off at Christ Providence beginning December 8. From December 12-14, parents of the sponsored families will have an opportunity to come to Christ Providence and wrap their families' Christmas gifts from the wish list items purchased and organized.

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

- Be a personal shopper for a family and deliver to Christ Lutheran December 8 or as scheduled.
- Donate new items (or gently used items).
- Support this ministry with monetary donations.
- Sponsor a family. Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org)
- Administrative help.
- Assist with set up and helping families with wrapping their gifts December 12–14.
- Advanced shopping for items needed.

Donations accepted include:

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

Household goods accepted:

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

Get into the Christmas spirit of giving! *"The joy of sharing gives a special feeling to the one giving at Christmas!"* Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) or DeeDee Petronis (dpetronis@christelca.org) for info and to sign up!

Charlotte CROP Walk

It's not too late to make a difference! The Charlotte CROP Walk takes place on **November 15th** but you can make a donation online anytime before or after the Walk. In fact, the *charlottecropwalk.org* website will stay active until December 31st. If you have been procrastinating or have been too busy to contribute, please take a moment and do it today. It can be a Thanksgiving thank-you gift to Charlotte and the world. Thanks to our wonderful congregation for lifting up this important ministry.

Join our team - it's really easy!

1. Click or go to *https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/teams?event=charlottenc*
2. 'Join a Team.' Fill in Christ Lutheran Church – Charlotte in the 'Find an Existing Team to Join' window (it should autopopulate when you begin typing).
3. Click 'Join the Team.'
4. Follow the prompts for filling in your information and creating your own CROP Walk page.

When: Sunday, November 15th (registration 1 p.m., walk 2 p.m.)
Where: Providence Baptist Church (4921 Randolph Road)



PICTURED: CROP Walk 2023 at Memorial Stadium

Room in the Inn Starts December 3!

Room in the Inn (RITI) will kick off a new season on **Thursday, December 3rd**. Christ Lutheran Church hosts many women and children, and we expect to again this season.

Our greatest need is help with OVERNIGHT HOSTS. We need two overnight hosts each Thursday night, at least one male. It's a great opportunity for a date night or to host with a friend. It would be a HUGE help if we could get 6 to 8 men to just take ONE Thursday this season. We have a few guys doing 6 or 8 nights and they could use some help! Use the QR code located to the right to access our signup or email Lane Goode at *lane.goode@gmail.com*.

Thanksgiving Donations

The season of GIVING! With the holidays upon us, McPIE will sponsor 40 families and McClintock teachers for Thanksgiving. If you or your small group, women's circle, or neighbors are looking for a way to GIVE, consider donating a frozen turkey. For more information or ways to support for Thanksgiving, contact Angela Davis (*adavis@christelca.org*).



2026 Annual CROP Walk will be
Sunday, November 15
1:00 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church (Randolph Rd.)

<<Click or scan to donate and join the Christ Lutheran Team!
https://t.ly/H4nnN

ROOM IN THE INN

ROOM IN THE INN
Christ Providence will start hosting our neighbors in need each Thursday evening beginning December 3. Volunteers & overnight hosts are needed!
<< Info & Signup:
signupgenius.com
lane.goode@gmail.com

Mental Health Class
Tuesdays • 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.
at McClintock Middle School
Join McPIE & NAMI for a 9-wk. course helping families recognize mental health symptoms & ways to open meaningful conversations at home. This class is for CLC & McClintock parents with children 22 & younger who may be experiencing mental health symptoms. **To participate or more info:** ***adavis@christelca.org***
McPIE 20 YEARS 2007-2027
NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness
26|215



McPIE 20 YEARS 2007-2027

Family Nights at McClintock
every Tuesday from 5:30 - 7:15 p.m.
To get involved, contact Sara:
srentmeester@christelca.org
26|215



Family Night Update

McPIE Family Night is back and celebrating our 20th year! We started with a bang — steadily building community and energy in the school building!! It was contagious on September 29th during Registration Night. We served 265 meals that night; smiles were all around; and club leaders were excited to talk with students and families!

Each Tuesday Family Night includes something for everyone: middle school students, younger siblings, high school students and parents. A FREE dinner is served for those participating and volunteers.

This fall, we have four middle school afternoon clubs, eleven middle school evening clubs, four parent classes and three younger sibling offerings! Middle school students can choose to participate in the afternoon, evening or both. Afternoon clubs include Trailblazers, Gardening, Game On! and Yoga (new this year)! Evening clubs are a combo of new and old — Art, Humans vs. Bots–AI (new this year), Girl Scouts, Hands 2 Heart, Sports Drills, Ten80 Racing, Top Scot Chef, Volleyball, Robotics, Center Stage Drama and Guitar (new this year!).

Younger sibling classes are led by dedicated and loving volunteers from Christ Lutheran. These children aged newborn through 5th grade are loved on, learn through play, are enjoying arts and crafts, sports, and focus on projects requiring teamwork.

High school students have a class focusing on leadership, financial planning, resume and application completion. Students will earn volunteer hours by helping leaders in Top Scot Chef, Sports Drills and other clubs as needed.

Parent offerings include Getting Ahead, Women's Journey, ESL and the addition of two new offerings: Biz Builders and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). ESL continues to be highly attended, and parents are on pathways out of poverty in Getting Ahead and Women's Journey! Biz Builders is for those interested in starting their own business. NAMI is a 6-week class for parents who have children (under 22) struggling with their mental health. This class is open to CLC and McClintock families.

This is an exciting time for McPIE Family Night — watching momentum build, seeing smiles on the faces of volunteers (excited to have several new faces!) and participants, and the hope of what programming brings to students and families. Our full mission comes to life each and every Tuesday at McClintock Middle School! We are creating future stories... building community... supporting families... inspiring volunteers.... to ensure all McClintock students succeed! To get involved in this amazing outreach, contact Sara Rentmeester (*srentmeester@christelca.org*)













McPIE 20-Year Spotlight

As we celebrate 20 years of partnership between our church and McClintock Middle through McPIE, our monthly themes are highlighting the many ways our congregation supports students, teachers and families throughout the school year.

September Spotlight: Family Night

September focused on Family Night, McPIE's main program at McClintock. We were honored to welcome Principal Jerrell, who joined us at all three worship services to share about the impact of McPIE and Family Night on the McClintock community. His message gave us a glimpse into how our partnership helps strengthen connections between the school, families and our church.

October Spotlight: Daytime Opportunities

Volunteers can make a difference during the school day. These opportunities include serving as tutors, partnering with teachers, participating on the Teacher Treat Team, and helping with the Copy Crew by making copies and preparing materials for teachers. Each role provides practical support to the McClintock staff and lets volunteers build meaningful connections within the school community.

November Spotlight: Thanks-GIVING

We turn our attention to Thanks-GIVING — the many ways we can give of our time, supplies and financial resources to support McClintock students, families, teachers and staff.

McPIE 20 YEARS 2007-2027

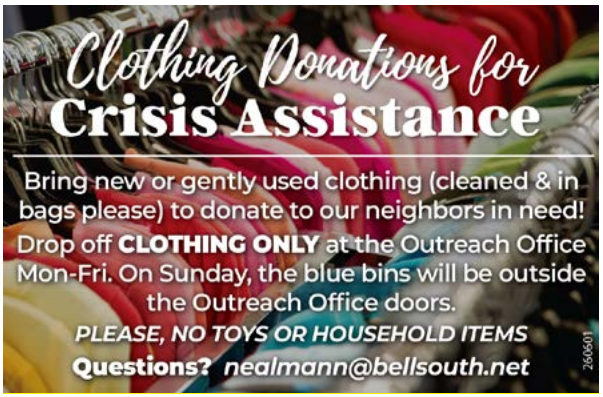
This Thanksgiving, McPIE will sponsor more than 40 McClintock families and teachers by providing turkeys and all the sides needed for a delicious Thanksgiving meal. We are inviting our congregation to help make these meals possible by donating turkeys and Thanksgiving side dishes.

Our giving continues into the Christmas season. This year, McPIE will sponsor 35 McClintock families for Christmas. We are collecting household cleaning supplies, including laundry detergent, dish soap and other everyday household essentials. You can also choose to sponsor a family and make an even more personal difference during the holidays.

Support the teachers and staff who care for McClintock students every day. Needed items include pencils, headphones, sanitizing wipes, tissues, dry-erase markers, Band-Aids, feminine hygiene products and larger bottles of hand sanitizer (preferably with a pump).

The front office at MMS has additional needs, including Band-Aids, feminine hygiene products, composition books and cardstock in a variety of colors. You can also search Donors Choose and support Ms. Gripper (*shorturl.ly/8EvX7*) and Ms. Carr's (*shorturl.ly/hi2Ok*) projects!

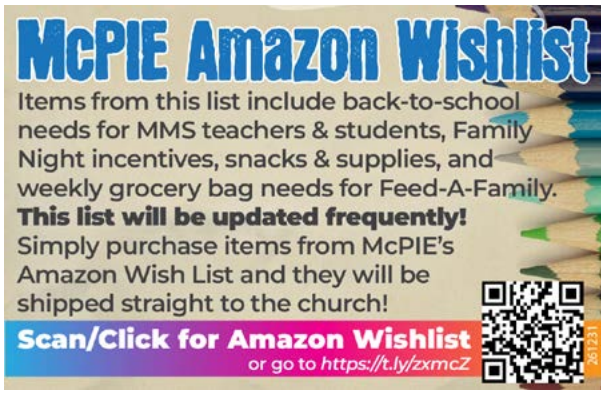
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December Spotlight:
December gives us an opportunity to focus on what matters most—the people whose lives have been touched by this partnership.

Our December spotlight, "Feel-Good Stories," will share stories from students, teachers, parents and others who have experienced the impact of McPIE programming over the years. These personal stories will highlight the difference our volunteers, programs and ongoing commitment have made in the lives of students, families and staff.

At the heart of each story is McPIE's mission: creating future stories, building community, supporting families, and inspiring volunteers to ensure all McClintock students succeed. We hope to be reminded that the impact of 20 years of partnership goes beyond any single program or event.

December will also be an opportunity to learn more about end-of-year giving and the many ways to support McPIE. Whether you give your time, money or supplies, every contribution helps strengthen our partnership and support the McClintock community.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY:
Meals on Wheels

NourishUp's Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers to help deliver daily nutritious meals to homebound neighbors in Mecklenburg County. To get signed up, please reach out to *mealsonwheels@nourishup.org* with your availability and they will get you onto the schedule. After you have reached out, they will send you information about how to get set up ahead of your shift.

Volunteer drivers can deliver as frequently or infrequently as you like. They love advance planning but are often able to make use of drivers on short notice (that is, morning-of). That helps them cover routes that may have opened due to car trouble, last minute emergencies, volunteer illness, etc. Drivers are welcome to deliver "solo," or they can work with a friend or family member.



NourishUp has four pickup locations around the county, all with pickup windows mid to late morning (website lists hubs and their pickup times). In short, delivery volunteers have a route they'll follow on an app, making about 5–8 stops to drop off a meal to a senior neighbor. Routes can take 60–90 minutes — easy and quick!

While Meals on Wheels has multiple locations, they require the first pickup to be from their Hunger Hub location (901 Carrier Drive) so that volunteers can get a brief orientation before setting out for their first delivery. After the initial pick up and delivery, you are sure to find a route and pickup location that is near YOU!

Save Your Sheets for the Quilters!

The Quilters make many visits to Goodwill to purchase flat sheets for the backing of the quilts that we make and we'd love your help. Please bring your flat sheets to church and leave them at the Welcome Desk marked with "Quilters." We welcome anybody who can tie their shoe to join us to tie knots in our quilts. We'd love to have you join us on Wednesday mornings from 9:30–11:30 in Center Six. Contact Lois Witham (704-517-5882) for more information.

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