

# CHRIST CONNECTIONS

CHRIST  
providence

CHRIST  
CONCORD

CHRIST  
SOUTH

**MARCH  
APRIL  
2020**

IN THIS ISSUE

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE  
CHRIST PROVIDENCE**

4519 Providence Rd. • Charlotte

8:45 a.m. **Traditional**

10:00 a.m. **The Bridge**

11:00 a.m. **Contemporary**

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

**CHRIST SOUTH**

worships at

Polo Ridge Elementary School

11830 Tom Short Rd. • Charlotte

10:00 a.m. **Post-Modern Worship**

**CHRIST CONCORD**

240 Pitts School Rd. NW • Concord

10:00 a.m. **Blended Worship**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**  
6:00 p.m. at Christ Concord  
**FOR ALL CAMPUSES!**

**ARROWS OF ADAM  
MEN'S RETREAT**  
**APRIL 3-5, 2020**  
REGISTER SOON ON REALM

**Alive!** **2020**  
HOLY WEEK & EASTER

**AGAPÉ  
KURE  
BEACH  
MINISTRIES** **Family Mission Trip  
April 16-19**  
at Kure Beach Faith Center

**Pastor's Blog**  
[christelca.org/blog](http://christelca.org/blog)



**Facebook**

Christ Providence - Christ Lutheran

Christ Concord - Christ Lutheran

Christ South

Fusion at Christ Lutheran

The Experience at CLC



**YouTube**

Christ Lutheran, Charlotte, NC



**Twitter**

@ChristLuther

@revmcs



**Instagram**

christ\_providence

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**Pinterest**

christluther



DETAILS AND MORE INSIDE>>



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

## Christ Lutheran's Fourth Campus: CHRIST ONLINE

Two generations ago, we wondered if a person could actually “attend” a religious event through TV... and Billy Graham proved to us that watching one of his revivals was real, authentic and impactful. One generation ago we asked whether or not you could pray with someone who is on TV, and many televangelists answered that with a resounding yes. More recently, we are asking whether watching a church service on the internet is a legitimate form of worship. And with about 1,000 reaches each week and dozens of testimonies, we have discovered at Christ Lutheran the answer to be, “It is.”

For years we have had an online presence through our website and Facebook Live. Most of that has been passive viewing— that is, we provide the video and viewers watch. But all that is about to change.

As of March 1, we have hired Alexis Williams to be our Christ Online Minister. Alexis is a daughter of the congregation, having been baptized, confirmed and married here. She already has been doing our social media for the past year and now will take on the additional role as the minister of Christ Online.

Her duties will include engaging with those who join us online for worship at all three campuses each Sunday. Training a bank of volunteers at all campuses, Alexis will see who is watching, ask for any prayer concerns, answer any questions about the church and encourage people for further participation. In addition, she will promote an online bible study for these viewers to have a midweek study. Eventually, she will organize face-to-face gatherings at centrally located pubs and coffee shops for our online viewers to meet one another.

But Alexis cannot do this alone.

Alexis will need a team of about 12 people from all three campuses who would each like to play a small part in this big ministry. This might be covering one of the services at our three other campuses, or meeting the online viewers at a coffee shop, or even helping to lead a midweek bible study online. Consider reaching out to her to get involved. Her email address is [awilliams@christelca.org](mailto:awilliams@christelca.org).

Who worships online? Elderly who are shut in, members who are recovering from surgery or are too sick to attend, families that are at dance competitions and soccer tournaments and visitors who are checking us out online. The numbers are growing. Online worship is never going to go away. We can fight it, lament it, deny it or we can join it to make it even better and more engaging with Christ Online.

By the way, as with so many other ministries here at Christ Lutheran, our goal is to be a teaching congregation for others. Therefore, we have received a grant from the ELCA to cover the personnel costs of this position for one year so that we can learn how to do this effectively and share our findings across the country.



Alexis Williams

**We do church TOGETHER!**  
Pastor Scott

# BREAK (it) DOWN

MARCH 1 - MARCH 29

## Lenten Sermon Series: *Break (It) Down*

OVERVIEW | Fasting, daily prayer, service, evangelism, study. Many find these spiritual disciplines difficult to do. How do I fast? When do I pray? Where do I share my faith? How can I carve out the time? To help us ease into these practices, throughout Lent we will read through the entire book of Mark, lifting up one spiritual practice to try each week with practical tips. We will break it down into manageable bites, and in doing so, we look for ways in which God will break us down, remove our barriers, overcome our excuses so that during this journey through Lent we will walk the walk and talk the talk... together.

### March 1 • A Week of Fasting

Biblically speaking, fasting has nothing to do with detoxifying the body or dropping weight quickly. It is a spiritual practice that removes some desired food/ beverage in order to heighten your awareness of your spiritual walk. Today we will focus on the spiritual practice of fasting and give helpful tips on how to spend the week using this tool to draw you nearer to God. *Mark 1:9-15; Acts 13:1-3* [[Bible Reading: Mark 1-3]]

### March 8 • Sharing Our Faith

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus talks about lavishly scattering the seed of God's Word. As the sower, you don't have to be overly concerned where it lands. God will bring forth the fruit when it lands on good soil. This week, let's talk about how to scatter that seed by sharing your faith. *Mark 4:1-9; Acts 17:22-28* [[Bible Reading: Mark 4-6]]

### March 15 • Daily Prayer

Of all the things that the disciples could have asked Jesus to teach them, the only one was, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Evidently, prayer is more than closing your eyes, bowing your head, folding your hands and telling God what you want. The disciples saw prayer as the source of Jesus life and breath and ministry. And so will you. Today we will talk about how to set aside intentional time to pray and give suggestions on how you can dedicate this coming week to the discipline of prayer. *Mark 9:2-8; Psalm 145:14-21* [[Bible Reading: Mark 7-9]]

### March 22 • Serving Others

We speak a good word about service, but living it out selflessly is difficult. James and John reveal the honesty of our fallen hearts in wanting more glory and recognition, even as they follow Jesus in service. How do we serve this week? Mother Teresa put it well when she said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." This week, how can you serve in small things with great love... and do it anonymously? *Mark 10:35-45; Philippians 2:1-5* [[Bible Reading: Mark 10-12]]

### March 29 • Blessing Our Enemies

It is one thing to not retaliate against your enemies, but another thing to bless them and love them. It is an incredibly difficult thing that Jesus asks of us when he says, "Love your enemies. Bless those who persecute you." This final week we will put this last spiritual practice to the test. Who has wronged you? Who do you daydream about to get revenge? This week, practice this important discipline of blessing your enemies by singling out the one God is placing on your heart. *Mark 14:53-61a; Romans 12:14-21* [[Bible Reading: Mark 13-16]]



MARCH 4 - APRIL 8

## Wednesday Lenten Worship Series: *The Walk*

12:00 p.m. • Communion and Message  
at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)  
light lunch follows in the Forum

OVERVIEW | Each Wednesday in Lent, we will focus on one of five essential practices that are rooted in Jesus' own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament— worship, study, serving, giving, and sharing our faith. Each of these practices is part of our daily walk with Christ and an essential part of growing together in the church. Instead of seeing these as practices that demand perfection, what if we receive them as gifts from God? Join us on the WALK to the cross and empty tomb!

**March 4 • Fasting: Hungering for God's Word**

**March 11 • Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light**

**March 18 • Worship and Prayer: A Living Hallelujah**

**March 25 • Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me**

**April 1 • Bless and Give: Where Your Treasure Is**

**April 8 • The Five Practices from the Cross**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN**

# SHAMROCK JAM

**•2020•**

PROVIDENCE • CONCORD • SOUTH

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14**  
**6:00 p.m. at Christ Concord**

**ALL-CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP EVENT FEATURING:**  
 Hors' d'oeuvres • Dinner • DJ & Dancing • Irish-style Homebrews

**\$10 PER PERSON • REGISTER ON REALM**  
 PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A 21+ ONLY EVENT

**BRING SOMETHING GREEN**  
 as a donation to help support the homeless in Concord  
*(food and/or personal care items requested)*

## Shamrock Jam

by PASTOR DREW

Looking for just the right St. Patrick's celebration? Why go to New York, Boston or Chicago?? Come instead to SHAMROCK JAM 2020 at Christ Lutheran's Concord campus! Join us on March 14 for a night of rollicking fun. This is a 21+ adult event and is for ALL campuses.

**Help our Concord neighbors.** On the night of the event, we ask that each person bring a green vegetable

(canned or fresh), a bar of Irish Spring soap or other food/personal care item. We will collect and give these items to Cooperative Christian Ministry to support the homeless and the hungry in the Concord community.

Join us for a great night of COMMUNITY in the spirit of St. Patrick, missionary to Ireland, and in the words of the old Irish proverb, "May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live!"

**SPACE IS LIMITED**  
**REGISTER SOON ON REALM!**



## meet the 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL



Phil Chubb  
President



Corey Ford  
Vice President



Kelli Addison  
Treasurer



Amy Kochen  
Secretary



Dean Emmans  
Property



Melissa Topinka  
Family Ministry



Christina Masters  
McPIE



Joannie Hunt  
Benevolence



Jennifer Youse  
CLCC



Lane Goode  
Christ South



Ralf Meyers  
Christ Concord



Thomas Sallach  
Cornerstone,  
Welcome, Connect



Tucker Wigington  
Music/Worship



Hannah Webster  
Youth Rep

## April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

by PASTOR SCOTT

It is a serious problem that affects our most vulnerable and often goes unreported. The immediate affects can scar the body, but the lasting affects damage the soul.

We are dedicated to protecting our children. We do background checks on all volunteers and staff. We have rigid policies in place when it comes to ministries with children. This is so important because we know that child abuse crosses over income lines, racial differences and education levels. Child abuse affects us all, and the impact lasts a lifetime.

To lift up the awareness, prevention and care for the victims, we want to invite you to join us for a three part adult education series on Wednesday nights, April 22, 29 and May 6 (in Forum A & B from 6:15-7:30pm). We will hear stories from survivors, talk about signs to look for and provide resources for help—particularly for adult survivors of child abuse. This will not be an easy conversation, but it will be an important one. We are called to speak for those who have no voice, to protect those who are defenseless and to provide hope and healing for those who suffer. It all begins with having the courage to have the conversation.

## Faith Community Nurse

by PASTOR SCOTT

It is the elderly person who has a doctor's visit and her children live hours away. It is the young mom recovering from surgery with two little ones at home. It is the newly diagnosed person who needs help sorting out medications. It is the one with high blood pressure who needs her pressure taken regularly.

Have you had medical questions and wondered who to ask? Have you had difficulty finding a ride to a physical therapy session? Do you know when to call the doctor or go to the ER? These aren't just elderly issues. Many of us have similar questions.

We would like to put together a team of retired or part time nurses from the congregation to help us create a health care ministry of volunteers and professionals to meet the growing medical needs within the congregation. While these are for now volunteer positions, the hope is to develop this into something that is sustainable as a staff position one day. But first we need to see if we have the interest and the need.

Interested? Please reach out to Pastor Scott ([suskovic@christelca.org](mailto:suskovic@christelca.org)) and we can talk about what this might look like as together we dream about this new vision together.

## Stephen Ministry Update

by PASTOR TENNY

We started our 3rd training class for Stephen Ministers in February. What a blessing to have 10 individuals begin the process of learning how to walk with people who are hurting. When these new Stephen Ministers are commissioned, we will have 23 Stephen Ministers across all three campuses at Christ Lutheran!

If you'd like to learn more about Stephen Ministry, contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Julia Edelson, D'Linda Highum, Melissa Topinka or Pastor Tenny Shifley.

## Christ Concord Updates

by PASTOR TENNY

### Chili Cook-Off/Soup-er Bowl Sunday

With lots of pots of chili from which to choose, we voted for winners in the categories of "Most Creative," "Hottest," "Chili I'd Serve My Mother-In-Law," "Best Overall."



Congratulations to Debi Taube (left) and Becca Gibson (right) for sweeping the categories as winners!

### Christ Lutheran Children's Center – Concord

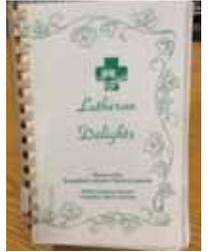
We're looking for interested folks to help develop a half-day preschool at Christ Concord for 3-4 year olds. If you have an interest in helping get this program running, contact Pastor Tenny at [tshifley@christelca.org](mailto:tshifley@christelca.org).

## Christ Lutheran Cookbook on Display

by JANE PARRISH

The last Christ Lutheran Cookbook was published in 1992 and contained some great recipes shared by our members. This cookbook is on display in the CLC Adult Library, located at Christ Providence on the first floor of the Ministry Center (across the hall from the Forum and elevator). Feel free to snap a photo of a favorite recipe! Surrounding our cookbook are a few other interesting cookbooks available for check out.

Instructions to check out a book are on the card catalog. The CLC Adult Library is open whenever the building is open. Enjoy!



## Concord Testimonials

We struggle with the metrics to use to measure the vitality of a congregation. Our default measuring stick is to track attendance giving. Another way to gauge the effectiveness of a Christian community, is by asking: "Is the faith of the Community? In what ways is the Spirit active in this Christian community?"

Read some responses from our members:



### Alexis and Russell Williams, Chloe, Olivia and Wyatt

(members at Christ Providence):  
"We love coming to Wednesdays Together (WT) at Christ Concord. Time won't allow us to get to Christ Providence in time, and we want to be part of the WT community. The kids love it and beg to come back

each week. Russell and I really like the adult small group Bible studies. Everyone is so friendly."



**Diana Lista:** "I've learned so much about my faith, about myself, and about the other people in the congregation. We've gotten to be such good friends and truly love each other. Our weekly Wednesday morning Bible studies have really helped me open up about myself and my faith journey."



**Rosalie Odigbo:** "In Christ Concord, I found a community of loving, caring members. Everyone truly loves and cares for each other in the strongest way. It's a community of Scripture. We live in the Scriptures during the week and look forward to Sunday worship.

It's a joy to be part of this tremendous community!"



**Harry Croote:** After being baptized last year, Harry is at virtually every Wednesday morning Bible study and Sunday worship service. "Fellowship is so important to me. I was shocked to learn how genuinely caring and loving everyone is, not just to me, but to everyone. The community is everything."



**John Clark:** John serves as our volunteer Technology Director. You'll see him at Christ Concord every Sunday, most Thursdays, and many other times throughout the week. He has really helped expand our online worship broadcast. "Christ Concord is a great community. Everyone is so welcoming. This place, and this community,

afford me the opportunity to give back a portion of what God has given me."



**Scott, Christina & Robert Roland:** "I've never been in a church like this one! Everyone is so warm and friendly toward everyone! The community, the Bible studies, and the sermons have really helped deepen my faith. So often, I feel like the sermons are directed right at me. Our family loves it here! AND...we have some pretty great pastors, too." (Scott)



## Four Small Groups

by MELISSA TOPINKA

South Sisters (1) is the women's ministry at Christ South and was started to simply build community. We realized that as individuals we had amazing gifts, but if we channeled all of our energy into a purpose we all supported, we would be an unstoppable force driven by the Holy Spirit. We all prayed that God would show us our gifts and where they were needed.

As we prayed, I remembered that years before I'd met Anna and Bud Moore, and that they were part of a small group that made pillows for breast cancer survivors that underwent mastectomies (Sew, Stuff & Stitch Pillows (2)). I reached out to Anna, and she was so generous with her time and resources. She put me in touch with the Breast Health Navigator at Novant Matthews. To date, in addition to the beautiful pillows that Anna's group creates, we have assembled and delivered 96 bags of items mastectomy survivors need in their healing.

Our hearts were so filled with gratitude and purpose that we wanted to do more. We will soon be assembling 90 larger bags for survivors undergoing chemotherapy in all nine oncology departments at Novant Matthews. These bags will include lovingly crafted knitted shawls and blankets from our Knitters for Christ (3) ministry, as well as handmade blankets from Joanie Hunt and her Christ South outreach team (4). In addition to the blankets and shawls, we are including dry mouth mouthwash, toothpaste, a toothbrush, lip balm, Lemonhead candy, a glass water bottle, antibacterial wipes and a word search book... everything one needs to be as comfortable as possible in the treatment rooms.

Four small groups coming together just shows how God's plans far exceed ours. We were just hoping to help a few people out. Indeed we did and are, but all involved were given the real gift; understanding what to do with the gifts God gives you. "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

## The Endowment Challenge

by TAL OWEN

Thanks to a family's generous challenge, if at least \$25,000 is donated to the CLC Endowment Fund by August 30th, they will provide a \$25,000 match to that Endowment Fund! As of December 31st, the CLC Endowment Funds' balances totaled \$975,300. This will help push the Fund totals beyond \$1,000,000!!

### Why is that important?

Gifts to the Endowment are permanent legacy gifts. As the total balance grows, so do earnings, making the collective impact greater with each gift. An Endowment of \$1M or more will mean distributions of over \$40,000 year after year into the future.

### What's the difference between the Operating Fund and the Endowment Funds?

The CLC Operating Fund covers the church's annual budget (salaries, buildings and associated expenses, programming, outreach, etc.) and we encourage everyone to continue their annual giving.

The Endowment Funds cover additional and unexpected expenses beyond the annual budget:

- Endowment Fund I provides additional support for Outreach and is directed by the Benevolence Committee.
- Endowment Fund II can be used for any need and is directed by the Church Council.

### Will you consider a gift now to help us meet this challenge?

Please note that for donations to qualify toward the challenge, the funds (or securities) must be received by August 30th. Pledged amounts, memorial gifts, and estate gifts are excluded from this challenge. Questions? Please stop by the Endowment table in Lower Commons at Christ Providence on March 8th and 15th, or contact Gregg Huether in the church office.



## ARROWS OF ADAM 2020 MEN'S RETREAT

**April 3-5, 2020**  
at Montreat (near Asheville)

by PASTOR DREW

Guys of Christ Lutheran! We invite you to disconnect from the daily grind for a weekend of community, worship and adventure – all in an awesome retreat setting in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina – at Montreat Conference Center.

This will be an amazing time filled with laughter, prayer, strong teaching, great fellowship and growing closer to the Lord. Our weekend theme will be "The Herd: The Power of Spiritual Friendship" and the practical application and spiritual practice will focus on community.

Registration is \$110 per person and is open to men 18+ at any Christ Lutheran campus. Full and partial scholarships are available if anyone needs help; just reach out to Pastor Drew. More details about what to bring, hiking and other adventure information will be sent closer to the retreat. More info about the location can be found at [montreat.org](http://montreat.org).

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 28 GUESTS

**Register on REALM today!**



# Alive!

 **CHRIST**  
providence

 **CHRIST**  
CONCORD

 **CHRIST**  
SOUTH

## Holy Week

### APRIL 5 PALM SUNDAY

regular schedule at all locations

APRIL 8

### WED. LENTEN WORSHIP

12p | Communion and Message  
at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)

### APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY

12p | Worship  
at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)

5:30p | Seder Meal  
at Christ Providence (Spirit Hall)  
\$10 • Register on REALM

6:30p | Worship  
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

6:30p | Worship  
at Christ Concord

### APRIL 10 GOOD FRIDAY

10a | Children's Good Friday Service  
at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)

12p | Seven Last Words  
at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)

6:30p - 8p | Journey to the Cross  
at the farm (305 Reid Dairy Rd.)  
Drop-in Worship for families

7:30p | Tenebrae  
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)  
Providence/South/Concord blended service

## Easter Flowers

Honor a friend or loved one with  
flowers to adorn the sanctuary  
on Easter Sunday.

**\$15**

DEADLINE: APRIL 5

Sign up on REALM  
or fill out the printed form today!

## Easter Sunday • April 12

### CHRIST PROVIDENCE

7a - 1p | Journey to the Cross • Forum  
7:30a | SonRise Service • Fountain area  
8:45a | Traditional Worship • Sanctuary  
10a | Bridge Worship • Christ Chapel  
11a | Contemporary Worship • Sanctuary

### CHRIST SOUTH

10a | Easter Worship • Polo Ridge  
with light hot breakfast at 9 a.m.  
& special \*\*BLAST\*\* children's church

### CHRIST CONCORD

10a | Easter Worship

*Seder Meal*

**Thursday, April 9 • 5:30 p.m.**  
at Christ Providence (Spirit Hall)

Join us for a traditional Jewish passover meal and reenactment of The Last Supper. The meal includes lamb, wine, veggies dipped in saltwater, matzah, bitter herbs, horseradish and romaine lettuce dipped in charoset.

**\$10 • Register on REALM**



**CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
specially designed for ages 3-8

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10 • 10 a.m.**  
Christ Providence - Christ Chapel

Info: Kristen ([krank@christelca.org](mailto:krank@christelca.org))

*Disciples Needed*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9 • 5:00 p.m.**  
Volunteer at the Seder Meal to help with the reenactment of the Last Supper.



Contact: Dennis Contreras  
[dcontreras@christelca.org](mailto:dcontreras@christelca.org)

# Journey to the Cross

An Easter Experience for Families

**Sunday, April 12 • 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.**  
at Christ Providence (Forum)

Come, join us on a journey to Jerusalem this Easter! You and your family will discover more about Jesus' incredible life and sacrifice as you journey through this multisensory, hands-on experience.

This is an unforgettable, interactive activity that will deepen and enrich your family's Easter experience. We'll have several stations set up to explore the life of Jesus as he journeyed to the cross, starting with Palm Sunday and ending at an empty tomb. This is geared towards families with elementary students.

**Join us anytime Easter Sunday morning, April 12th from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Forum at Christ Providence.**  
Allow 15-45 minutes to fully experience this journey.

## stepping stones

### UPCOMING EVENTS

# FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion preparation explores the stories significant to the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. These Stepping Stones are for 2nd graders and any 3rd-5th grade students who have not yet attended.

**Sunday, March 1 • 1p - 3p**  
**THE MEANING OF THE MEAL**  
at Christ Providence (Forum)

**Saturday, March 14 • 8:45a - 12:30p**  
**STORY DAY**  
at Christ Providence (the Pit)

**Sunday, March 29**  
**BLESSING**  
during worship at all campuses

**Sunday, April 5 • 1p - 3p**  
**LIVIN FORGIVEN**  
at Christ Providence (Sanctuary)

**Thursday, April 9 • 5:30p**  
**SEDER MEAL**  
at Christ Providence (Spirit Hall)  
Children will receive their First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship, taking place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

## Prayer Retreat: Being More Present in the Present

by PASTOR DREW & FRIENDS

How can you be more fully present in the here and now? We welcome you to this half-day prayer retreat at Christ Providence, where forming an inner life of connection with God in silence, solitude and friendship helps us to practice the words of Jesus who taught us to live without worry.

Our guest leader is Linda Serepca, Executive Director of the Charlotte Spirituality Center and author of the book *Praying Twelve Steps with Jesus: A Journey back to Wholeness*.

### Retreat Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Gather and refreshments in Cornerstone Cafe
9:00 a.m.	Welcome and program: Prayer Keeps Us Present
10:00 a.m.	Centering Prayer and discussion
10:30 a.m.	Program: Spiritual Direction, Seeing God Today
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (box-lunch from McAllister's Deli)
1:00 p.m.	Adjourn

### \$10 | REGISTER ON REALM

Lunch is included with your registration fee. This retreat is open to MEN and WOMEN, 18 and over, looking to learn more about prayer and deepening their relationship with God (younger teens welcome if accompanied by an adult). We will meet in the Center Six at Christ Providence, 4519 Providence Road, Charlotte, 28226

## Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

by DAN HANSEN

### New Study for CLC Book Club

CLASS MEETS SUNDAYS (10:00 a.m. in Lackey Parlor)

We've all wrestled with this question. But what about a variant of that question? "Do good things happen to good people?" Or better yet, "can you get good things, like blessings from God, by being good? By giving money to God's church?" And while we're at it, let's ask "is there anything wrong with being wealthy, or encouraging others to 'give until it hurts'?" Our Sunday School class likes to take on tough questions like these, often by reading provocative books and controversial authors. We haven't read a controversial author for a while, so we are past due!

The CLC Book Club Sunday School class is starting a new book by televangelist, charismatic preacher, and self-described "spiritual advisor to President Donald Trump," Paula White-Cain. Her newest book is called *Something Greater: Finding Triumph Over Trials*.

Ms. White has an enthusiastic following, but she has some detractors as well. Her detractors call her a "prosperity Gospel" preacher. She denies that she follows in that tradition. Even though this book is Paula's memoir, it is still an apologetic for her interpretation of the Gospel, and it will raise lots of questions like those asked above. Check out her website at [paulawhite.org](http://paulawhite.org) or watch the dozens and dozens of [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) video posts about her.

So, if you have an opinion about Paula White-Cain's ministry or how she might answer the questions above, let's read the book together to see if our opinions are justified. See you in class!

## CPR/AED & Stop The Bleed TRAINING

Saturday, April 4

at Christ Providence (Forums A & B)  
10a - 12p (CPR/AED)  
1p - 2:30p (Stop the Bleed)

led by Jonathan Webster, EMT with the Anderson County EMS service

Get "hands-on" instruction in the proper techniques for administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED). After lunch, training will continue with Stop The Bleed instruction.

- Attend one or both sessions -
- Open to high school students & adults -

### Register on REALM

or contact Walt Roth for more information: [wroth1@bellsouth.net](mailto:wroth1@bellsouth.net)

CLASSES WILL NOT LEAD TO ANY CERTIFICATION

## PRAYER RETREAT

OPEN TO ALL MEN AND WOMEN

Saturday, March 21

8:30am - 1:00pm (box lunch included)  
at Christ Providence - Center Six

Join special guest Linda Serepca of the Charlotte Spirituality Center as we seek to live in the present and deepen our relationship with God through prayer.

\$10 | Register on REALM

## PRIMETIMERS

A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+

2nd Annual Adiphora Pursuit  
Saturday, March 7 • 6:00 p.m.

at Christ Providence

Enjoy an evening of "Not-Quite Trivial Pursuit" after a potluck-style dinner (dessert provided).

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



**EMMAUS**  
EMPOWERMENT • HOPE • COMMUNITY



YOU'RE INVITED  
TO THE ORDINATION OF  
Dr. Shanitria Cuthbertson

Saturday, March 14 • 2:00 p.m.  
at Thomasboro Academy  
(538 Bradford Dr.)

**20-30** *some things*  
 fun events for young adults in their 20s and 30s

**Public Theology**  
**Tuesday, March 17**  
*Cider Works*

In honor of St. Patrick, we'll discuss the Celtic spiritual tradition & look for the "thin places" in our own lives. More details to come.

**Lenten Worship**

**MARCH 4 - APRIL 8**  
**COMMUNION AND MESSAGE**  
 Wednesdays • 12:00 p.m.  
 at Christ Providence (Christ Chapel)

Join us each Wednesday throughout Lent as we reflect on "The Walk."

Light lunch follows in the Forum.

**JOY** Fellowship

**MONTHLY LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS 65+**  
 meets 3rd Thursdays • 12-2 pm  
 at Christ Providence (Forum) • \$6 per meal

**GUEST SPEAKER FOR MARCH 19:**  
 Elaine Haskell, *The Ivey - Partner in Care*

**Christ Online Volunteers**

**JOIN OUR NEW ONLINE CAMPUS COMMUNITY!**

**CHRIST ONLINE LAUNCHES MARCH 1**

Volunteers needed for Sunday services, mid-week Bible study, and in-person meet-ups.

Interested? Contact Alexis Williams at [awilliams@christelca.org](mailto:awilliams@christelca.org)

**Looking for a Lenten Devotional?**

The CLC Adult Library has a table setup with books for your Lenten meditations and devotions. Check one out today!

## Upcoming Studies for Faith Fellowship Class

by BARBARA BURTON

**Faith Fellowship: The Bible and Beyond**  
 CLASS MEETS SUNDAYS (10:00 a.m. in Forum A)

From March 1 through April 5, Faith Fellowship Sunday School class will be focusing on *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. In this 6-week Lenten series by pastor and author Adam Hamilton, we will explore Jesus' life – from birth, to His teachings, and to His ultimate death and Resurrection. Each week's lesson will focus on the profound, connecting themes of light and life – brought into our world by Jesus – and their enduring impact today.

Then, from April 19 through May 17, our focus will shift to *Eternity is Now in Session*. Most of us think of eternity as something that begins after we die; however, Jesus doesn't talk about eternity that way. This 5-week DVD session by pastor and author John Ortberg leads us in a radical discovery of what the Bible really says about salvation – and the interactive fellowship and joy that exist between Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the here, now and every minute of every day.

## Put the Pedal to the Metal!

by LAURIE FEENEY

To combine a substance addiction with the "need for speed," one naturally would conclude that disaster is immanent. However, all is well: the substance addiction is fabric. The heavy metal– a sewing machine. And the results... **are wonderful**. In 2019, Quilters for Christ produced 272 quilts for charity, 1877 pillows for post-op breast cancer patients, dress kits, backpacks (filled with school supplies), and over 150 cheerful pillowcases for local children's hospitals and the Ronald McDonald House.

Through sewing, we seek to provide comfort and aid worldwide. Fancy is not our focus, but rather quantity and function. That level of production requires a lot of busy hands. We sew, obviously, but not all of us. There are all sorts of tasks that are needed in the creation of these items, including fabric cutting, ironing, tying knots (our method of quilting), stuffing pillows, organizing supplies, machine maintenance and always procuring more materials. Please forgive if this sounds like sweat shop drudgery– we really do have fun during our weekly meetings.

Now comes the recruitment pitch– (*cough*)– I mean, invitation to contribute to the cause. We are seeking "sew-ists" of all skill levels– no one need be a "sew-pro." The sewing is super simple. We **meet every Wednesday at Christ Providence, from 9:30 a.m. to noon in Center Six** to assemble the quilt "sandwich" and finish the edges. Most all of the sewing is done at our respective homes. So, if life's realities make Wednesday mornings an impossibility, you can certainly still be a valuable participating member. Or perhaps, one would like to learn/practice some sewing basics– we can get you started. In fact, we can provide pre-cut "kits" for easy sewing at home and on your own schedule.

If anyone has fabrics to share, please think of us. We function on donations and consume large amounts of supplies each year. Also, if you are a member of Thrivent Financial, please ask the church office about how to direct "free" money to your favorite charitable effort.

If you are interested in helping Quilters for Christ in any capacity, please contact our group leader, Miriam Fisher at [mimfisher@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mimfisher@carolina.rr.com).

# Christ South Expands Their Youth Ministry Team

by PASTOR MATT

It's been an exciting start to 2020 as we kickoff the next phase of our ministry. This year, our focus is growing our faith connections by continuing to build strong foundations with our young people. We are pleased to announce that we have hired two new youth ministers to serve our community. Since losing Jeff Taylor to a full-time church opportunity to Mt. Holly, we have been praying and dreaming for what comes next in Family and Youth ministry. After adding Natalie Brunson as the Christ Life Coordinator, we began working toward building our youth ministry team. God was faithful and provided!

I look forward to seeing the impact these two young men will make on our youth and their families as they help equip them to take their faith into the world. We ask for your continued prayer and support as Christ South grows and evolves into the church that our community needs.



## NEXT GENERATION MINISTER: SULLI SULLIVAN

Hugh Scott "Sulli" Sullivan will be serving as the Next Generation Minister serving 3rd-8th graders. This is a newly created position that we used existing hours and budget to create. Traditionally, youth ministry has been focused on middle and high school aged kids, but this model is rapidly shifting. Sulli will not only work with our middle schoolers but will guide our 3rd-5th graders as a feeder into the youth ministry program.

While our younger kids enjoy BLAST, we find that many of our 3rd and 4th graders are outgrowing the program, creating a gap between the elementary and middle school ages with 5th graders waiting to move to our youth group. As a result, we are beginning an interactive worship experience for these kids. During the sermon, Sulli will lead a class-like setting where he asks questions that will show up on provided tablets. They can answer, ask questions and earn rewards by participating in the conversation. We will have additional events for this group, which is the fastest growing part of Christ South.



## STUDENT MINISTER: JORDAN GREENE

Jordan Greene will be serving our older youth, primarily focusing on high school and early college ages as the Student Minister. He's well versed in youth ministry as he recently served CLC in a summer intern capacity. He's a CLC recruit of Kevin Vandiver, our former director of Family Ministry. Jordan will be creating a youth program specific to South and the changing landscape of church. We are excited to see what he will do at Christ South!

**Family Mission Trip**  
**April 16-19**  
at Kure Beach Faith Center  
theme: Give Me a Hand

Families are invited to spend spring break weekend on the beach as we join in faith conversations focused on the value of serving others.

**Register on REALM**

MUSIC, ART & DRAMA DAYS  
**SUMMER THEATRE CAMP**  
**July 27 - 31**  
8:45a - 5:00p daily • for 2nd - 5th graders  
performance: 101 Dalmations Jr.

**\$150 | Register on REALM**

CENTERSTAGE  
**SUMMER THEATRE CAMP**  
**July 20 - 25**  
8:45a - 5:00p daily • for 6th - 12th grades  
performance: Into the Woods Jr.

**\$175 | Register on REALM**

CHRIST LUTHERAN WEEK  
AT LUTHERIDGE  
**JULY 12-18**

Programs are available for 1st - 12th grades.  
Confirmation youth are expected to participate in Kairos Camp.

**INFO & REGISTRATION | [novusway.org](http://novusway.org)**

**Register Now**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 15-19** at Christ Providence (8:45a-12p)  
**June 22-26** at Christ Concord (9a-12p)  
or 4 years - grade 4 • FREE

**Register on REALM or [christelca.org](http://christelca.org)**

# stepping stones

CONFIRMATION

**Drugs & Alcohol**  
 Sunday, March 8 • 1 - 3 p.m.  
 at Christ Providence (Forum)

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

**Registration required on REALM**  
 or contact Jane at [jsatterfield@christelca.org](mailto:jsatterfield@christelca.org)

# stepping stones

CONFIRMATION

**SEXUALITY**  
 Sunday, April 26 • 1 - 3 p.m.  
 at Christ Providence (in the Forum)

This event is for all 8th graders. A parent is expected to attend with their youth.

**Register on REALM** or contact  
 Pastor Melody at [msimpkins@christelca.org](mailto:msimpkins@christelca.org)

# VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL

FAMILY BIKE RIDE // MAY 16-17

Join other members of CLC for an easy, downhill 17-mile Sunday morning bike ride along the Virginia Creeper Trail. We will stop for an outdoor worship service on our way down the mountain.

**\$30 per person for shuttle & bike rental**  
 (Families are responsible for lodging on Sat. night)

**INTERESTED?**

Email Brad Gilliam ([brad@gilliamusa.com](mailto:brad@gilliamusa.com)) by May 3 for more information!



Learn about the trail at [vacreepertrail.com](http://vacreepertrail.com)

# CALLING ALL CHILDREN!

Please consider joining Grace Choir (K-2nd) or Faith Choir (3rd-5th) on Wednesdays for a lot of fun and singing!

**Wednesdays • 6-6:45p**  
 Grace meets in M241  
 Faith meets in Music Rm.

For info: Mark Glaeser  
[mglaeser@christelca.org](mailto:mglaeser@christelca.org)

# 8th Grade Lock-in

**Friday, March 6 (6:00 p.m.) to Saturday, March 7 (10:00 a.m.)**  
 at Christ Providence (the Pit)

All 8th grade youth are invited to this Confirmation lock-in, where we will talk about spiritual and mental health and how they come together to impact our faith. We'll also look at our spiritual lives and where we have grown in our faith over the last two and a half years. Of course, we'll have fun, play games and bond as a group, too! Parents are encouraged to come at 8 a.m. on Saturday to participate the last two hours. Adult chaperones are needed.

**Register on REALM.** If you'd like to help chaperone this event or if you'd like more information, email Pastor Melody at [msimpkins@christelca.org](mailto:msimpkins@christelca.org).



# High School Mission Trip

**Sunday, July 26 - Friday, July 31, 2020**  
 in West Virginia

by CAROLINE TARGONSKI

Calling all high school youth to join us for our upcoming summer mission trip! Partnering with Serve Boldly (an ELCA organization) to plan the trip, we will spend a week in West Virginia serving the local community in various ways. We will also have opportunities to enjoy the beauty of God's creation and some of the cultural experiences that are unique to that location. Join us in serving and spreading God's love this summer.

Through CLC and fundraising, we plan to cover a total of two-thirds of the trip cost. Families will pay the last remaining third of the cost of \$190 at registration. Spaces are limited, so register on REALM soon. For any questions, contact Caroline Targonski at [ctargonski@christelca.org](mailto:ctargonski@christelca.org). We hope you will join us!

# Youth Happenings!

*Save the Dates*



- Sunday, March 15 • Fusion
- Sunday, March 22 • Middle School Game Night
- March 27-28 • High School Lock-in
- Friday, April 24 • Middle School Escape Room Outing
- Sunday, April 26 • High School Lunch Out
- Sunday, May 3 • Fusion
- Friday, May 8 • Middle School Water Olympics 2020
- Friday, May 15 • High School Mess Fest

# Peer Ministry Training

Peer ministry equips high school students with skills to effectively reach out and care for other students. They learn active listening, asking good questions, observation skills, conflict resolution, decision making, sharing faith and dealing with issues that youth face.

- Sunday, February 23 • 1 - 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 8 • 1 - 3:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 22 • 1 - 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 25 - Sunday, April 26 • Lake Wylie Retreat
- Wednesday meetings 2/26, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/13, 5/27 (5:30-6p)

Contact: Natalya Legvold [nlegvold@carolina.rr.com](mailto:nlegvold@carolina.rr.com) (704) 258-6162

## Family Night Update!

McPIE Family Night's spring semester is in full swing! Meals, transportation to and from McClintock Middle School, and age appropriate programming for the entire family are offered 24 Tuesday's during the school year. Spring programming kicked off at the end of January with excitement from volunteers, students and families alike! Following a successful fall semester, everyone is ready to continue the momentum into spring. During the fall, we served 3,676 meals averaging 334 per week. Middle School students have been able to choose between 20 club offerings. Many clubs are STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) focused, including Art Club, McClintock Innovation Lab, Quadcopters, Robotics, and Cyber Spy. McPIE is also very fortunate to have the support of so many wonderful community partners. Boy Scouts of America, Charlotte Junior Rugby Association, Corporate Information Technologies, and McDowell Nature Center sponsor Family Night clubs. All fall clubs returned this spring! After the tragic death of a MMS student in December, we even added Violence Stoppers Club. This will be a great way for students to join together for the sake of ending bullying and creating a more positive school environment. If it weren't for the support of so many volunteers showing up weekly, Family Night would not be possible. Any given week, you can find 100+ volunteers at McClintock Middle School serving meals, driving vans, greeting students and families, running the School Store and leading clubs. If you are interested in joining our Family Night team, please contact Angela Davis at [adavis@christelca.org](mailto:adavis@christelca.org).

## Room In The Inn

On February 13 we finished up our 11th night of the 2019/2020 season. To date, we have hosted 110 of our neighbors. Because we are fortunate to offer individual rooms, we get a lot of families with children, and that has been the case this season. Our guests are so very grateful for the individual rooms, the shower, the warm meal, hats and mittens knitted by our volunteers. Thank you to all our supporters at Christ Lutheran who are making this possible with lunches, setup, serving dinner, overnight stays, and van driving. And thank you to Chef Mike for producing some great meals this season.

We do have needs for these openings through the end of the season:

- Feb 27th: 5 lunches; breakfast; morning driver
- March 5th: Overnight Host
- March 12th: Setup
- March 19th: Overnight Host
- March 26th: Overnight; Morning Driver

Signup on [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) (search by email: [ckramer@christelca.org](mailto:ckramer@christelca.org)) or email Lane Goode ([lane.goode@gmail.com](mailto:lane.goode@gmail.com)) or Randy Satterfield ([randy@rpsbenefits.net](mailto:randy@rpsbenefits.net)) for more information.

## School Supplies Needed

Volunteers run the Scots School Supplies "Store" every other Tuesday night during Family Nights, enabling students to be equipped for success at school.

Supplies are free to the students and they are running low on some critical supplies items, including: loose leaf notebook paper, single subject spiral notebooks, 3-subject spiral notebooks, markers, earbuds (for Chromebooks), colored pencils, liquid glue bottles, scissors.

If you would like to donate school supplies, you may bring them to the Outreach Office or drop at the Information Desk in Lower Commons. Please mark for McPIE!

## Big Dream

McPIE was awarded an ELCA Big Dream grant this past Fall! When you dream big, you can do big things. With these funds, we have created a new Family Night club centered around job skills for high school students and adults. Foresight 20/20 is being offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at McClintock. Participants are learning technical and trades job skills from industry and manufacturing professionals, meeting industry professionals, learning new skills and concepts, participating in hands-on activities to enhance skills, and can possibly earn a JOB!!! Skills include manufacturing, electrical, plumbing, computer program aptitude, color chemistry, resume writing, mock interviews, etc. English as a Second Language is also offered during this time.

## Benevolence Spotlight... Your Dollars Helping Others

Our congregational budget allocates 12% of every dollar given to Christ Lutheran for Benevolence. Our Benevolence sends money outside of these walls to help our local community and other communities. We help many local agencies and ministries right here in Charlotte, and also send money to support Lutheran agencies, camps and seminary scholarships. Over the next several newsletters, we will highlight some of the benefactors of our grants.

The largest benefactor is our NC Synod and the ELCA. Each year we send \$100,000 or more to support the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through the North Carolina Synod. The ELCA in turn uses the money to support its ministries, mission developers, etc... Over 40% of all monies received by the ELCA are used as financial support grants for current and new mission starts, ministries and congregations. Over the past 2+ decades, Christ Lutheran has benefitted from five different mission development grants: McAlpine, McClintock Worshipping Community, Christ South, Christ Concord and now Christ Online.

You can check out more about the mission and values and activities of our North Carolina Synod and ELCA by checking out their websites at [elca.org](http://elca.org) and [nclutheran.org](http://nclutheran.org).

# MUFFINS

For Crisis Assistance



## 4th SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Every 4th Sunday, bring your donations of muffins (no nuts!) to the table setup in Cornerstone Cafe.



*Clothing Donations*  
**FOR CRISIS ASSISTANCE**

Donate gently used clothing on Sundays in the blue bins located outside the Outreach Office. (at Christ Providence)



**SOUP KITCHEN**

3rd SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH  
at the Urban Ministry Center

Serve up a warm meal for those in need!

**Info:** Celeste Lupo-Hack  
celestelupohack@aol.com

**Seeking Guest Speakers for**  
McCLINTOCK'S ANNUAL  
**CAREER DAY**  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 • 9a-12p

McClintock is looking for volunteers to speak with students about a variety of careers and the skills needed to be successful.

**Interested?** Email Jessica Jacobs at  
jessicar.jacobs@cms.k12.nc.us




**VOLUNTEER WITH GREGG HUETHER**  
DURING HIS SABBATICAL TO SUPPORT  
LOCAL HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILDS

**MARCH 9-14**

Join "Gregg's Sabbatical" group in  
REALM for available opportunities

## Renewal, Relaxation and Rejuvenation through Service

by GREGG HUETHER

CONDENSED FROM PASTOR'S BLOG: FEBRUARY 3, 2020

All of us have different ways in which we find rest and relaxation to recharge our batteries. I am humbled and excited that Christ Lutheran is granting me a six-week sabbatical to recharge myself. During this time, I will be coordinating a variety of projects to volunteer with others to serve others, and I would like to invite you to join me!

I am partnering with Habitat for Humanity to build or renovate homes as well as with local food pantries, soup kitchens etc. to provide non-perishable food or a well-balanced meal for their guests. In Charlotte, I have coordinated the following events that I hope YOU will consider serving beside me. Each of the events are Monday through Friday. We need 9 volunteers for each.

- Monday, March 9 – Assist the Habitat Restore
- Tuesday, March 10 – Framing a home
- Wednesday, March 11 – Home repair/renovation
- Thursday, March 12 – Home repair/renovation
- Friday, March 13 – Interior painting
- Saturday, March 14 – Exterior siding
- Sunday, March 15 – Serving a meal at Urban Ministries

PLEASE join me during the week of March 9 through March 14, 2020 to share fellowship together. To Register for any of these events, please join Gregg's Sabbatical Group in REALM and look at the events.

I realize that not all will be able to give of your time or talents to support this effort, but maybe you would consider giving of your treasurers to support the various ministries who will be impacted by our serving together. If so, please place your gift in the offering plate noting "Gregg's Sabbatical" in the memo line or log into Realm and give a gift under the "other" fund category with a note that states "Gregg's Sabbatical." All proceeds will be given to the agencies that are being supported during my upcoming sabbatical events.

## Have You Ever Wanted to Become a Thrivent Member? Now You Can...

by MARCIA ROW



All you need to do is become an Associate Member of Thrivent Financial. Did you know that for an annual payment of \$19.95, you can provide a \$250 grant for outreach ministry?

As an Associate Member, you are entitled to sponsor one Thrivent Action Team a year for deserving Outreach Ministries such as the McClintock Pantry, McPIE Incentives, Soup Kitchen, Room in the Inn, 8 Days of Service activities, and lots more.

As an Associate member, you apply for a grant to the outreach project of your choosing and Thrivent will send the "seed money" (\$250) that will allow you to support your project. We have lots of projects to choose from if you don't have one. Last year our Thrivent members raised over \$17,000 for CLC outreach projects. We hope you will become a member and help us with these very worthy projects.

For information on becoming a Thrivent Associate member, contact Marcia Row at [mrow@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mrow@carolina.rr.com) or (704) 277-9955.

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# Christ CONNECTIONS

Christ Providence • Christ South • Christ Concord

## March/April 2020

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

CHRIST LUTHERAN STRIVES TO BE A  
**NUT FREE CAMPUS**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

### JOIN THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST!

E-mail Connie Kramer at [ckramer@christelca.org](mailto:ckramer@christelca.org) and let her know you'd like a copy of Christ Connections mailed to your house. You can also view the newsletter through the link on E-news or online at [christelca.org](http://christelca.org). Printed copies will be available at all campuses.

### TO SUBMIT A STORY OR NEWS ITEM

Fill out a Communications Project Request Form, found online at [form.jotform.com/80496362784165](http://form.jotform.com/80496362784165).

Submissions are due by the 15th of the prior month except as noted.

### Issues for 2020:

JAN/FEB\*, MAR/APRIL, MAY/JUNE, JULY/AUG, SEPT/OCT and NOV/DEC  
\*submissions due by the 5th of the prior month to allow for early printing.

March 29, 7-9 p.m.  
**Come As You Are!**  
**YOUR MONTHLY CHILL TIME.**  
yoga pants, wedding dress,  
pajamas: we don't care.  
Register on REALM for details.



**THE SOUTH Sisters**

CHRIST LUTHERAN  
**cornerstone gifts**



**HOP ON IN**  
for great Easter finds!