

Christ

CHRIST
providence

CHRIST
CONCORD

CHRIST
SOUTH

CONNECTIONS

**JANUARY
FEBRUARY**
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**

Pastor's Blog
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
christconcord
fusionatclc
revmcs



Pinterest
christluther



CHRIST providence
**WINTER//SPRING 2020
ADULT CLASSES**
SUNDAY CLASSES START JANUARY 5
WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER STARTS JANUARY 8

**BIKE, E-WASTE & FURNITURE
DONATION DRIVE**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
9a-12p
Christ Providence
TRIPS 4 CHRIST, goodwill, CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

CHRIST providence CHRIST CONCORD CHRIST SOUTH
ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 • 12:15 P.M.
Christ Providence

**stephen
MINISTRY.**
TRAINING CLASSES COMING SOON!

DETAILS AND MORE INSIDE>>



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Behold!

I Make All Things New.

With the break of each new year, I feel like I get a do over. Whatever resolutions I made last year have been forgotten, whatever difficulties I had in 2019 are over, whatever regrets I may have had are wiped clean. The Lord says on January 1, 2020, **"Behold! I make all things new."**

Now what?

We are not a church that simply turns over the page of a new year and repeats the aging patterns of the past. As I completed my year-end evaluations, a couple of things stood out as BHAGs (Big Hairy Audacious Goals):

First—While everyone begins with their to do list, I'm going to encourage a "not to do" list. That is, we know that our families are busier and busier. We can't simply continue to add to the calendar to jam up people's lives and burn out volunteers. I'm going to challenge every time we put something on the calendar, "Does this have impact or is it just something that we've always done?" I want to begin with a "not to do" list.

Second—Clarifying the vision for Christ South. The congregation has graciously supported this campus and the purchase of the 13 acres of land. My goal is that by Easter we will have a strong vision and plan on how to use that land for a new way of doing church. *Hint: don't expect to see a steeple and stain glass!*

Third—Clarifying the vision for Christ Concord. I have no doubt that Pastor Tenny has had the most difficult job of anyone on staff during his two years at Christ Concord. To re-imagine, re-design, re-vision and re-develop an older, small, struggling congregation is a difficult task. While the synod is thrilled that we have tripled the worshipping average during this time, we are not done. What will be the focal point of this campus? Who are we trying to reach? What are the strategies?

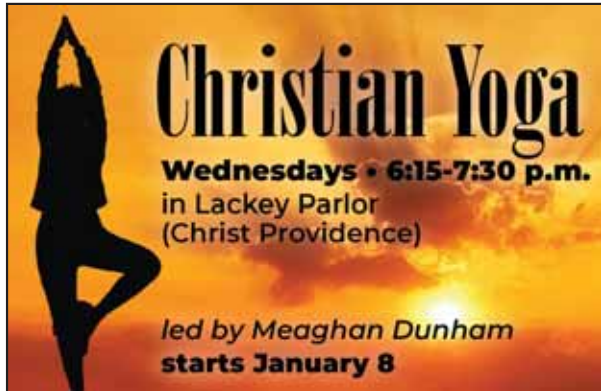
Fourth—Christ Online? The reality is more and more people are using our online worship as a legitimate way of engaging with the church and worshipping God. This will only increase. We can deplore it or ignore it... or we can reward it by finding ways to make this an even better means of connecting with people, spreading the Gospel, creating community and expanding the impact of the Kingdom of God.

Fifth—Make worship even better. We know from our congregational survey that the preaching and music in worship are the most impactful thing that we do at CLC for the most amount of people. That's great because we firmly believe that worship is the most important thing that we do as a church. We want to bring God our very best and tell the story of his grace and forgiveness in a compelling way. We will never stop making this a priority of Christ Lutheran at all three campuses.

It's a new year. The page is blank. How will we fill that up? With the same old, same old? No. You know us better than that. Better yet, you know our God better than that. He places these goals before us that take our breath away, empowers us with his Holy Spirit and declares once again, **"Behold! I make all things new."**

I for one am excited to see how God will pull this off!

Peace,
Pastor Scott



MESSAGES

JANUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 23, 2020

One of the most difficult decisions any of us can make is discerning if something is of God's will or only of our own ambition and passion. How does God speak? Does God speak only in one way? How do we distinguish between all the voices calling us in different directions? As we begin a new year with a clean slate, join us as we walk through the book of Acts in plotting a course based on the Messages we receive when God speaks.

January 19 • God Speaks... in the Silence

After Jesus ascended back into heaven and before the rushing in of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, God told his disciples to wait in silence. Before we rush into action, the first step is to listen to that still small voice that captivates our hearts and plots our course. Acts 1:1-8; 1 Kings 19:9-12

January 26 • God Speaks... in our Passion

God has given us a heart of passion. As we discern how God speaks to us, we must search our hearts to name our passion to see how God directs us to act. What captivates your imagination? Where does your drive lead you? How is God speaking to you through your passion? Acts 5:27-32; Jeremiah 20:7-9

February 2 • God Speaks... in the Scriptures

God will never ask you to do something that is contrary to Scripture. Period. Scripture is always a strong test to discern how God speaks. People of the Word know that the Bible is a living Word, sharper than any two-edged sword, afflicting the comfortable and comforting the afflicted. Acts 8:26-38; Psalm 119:105-112

February 9 • God Speaks... in the Community

Do you have a trusted Christian friend who will speak the truth to you and not just what you want to hear? That could also be God speaking. Throughout Scripture, God speaks through community. The Bible says "iron sharpens iron." In other words, faithful hearts that seek to hear God speak will help discern other faithful hearts. Who is your go-to iron person to sharpen your hearing? Acts 15:22-29; Matthew 18:15-20

February 16 • God Speaks... in Open Doors

When God closes one door, he opens another. Are you banging your head on a brick wall or are you looking for the open door where God is speaking to you to enter? Circumstances are sometimes God just trying to remain anonymous. What doors are opening and closing for you? Acts 16:6-10; Luke 5:1-11

February 23 • God Speaks... in the Chaos

God speaks both in the good times as well as the bad, when things are going smoothly as well as when we are in the midst of chaos. How is God trying to get your attention when you are in chaos, drowning in the belly of the fish? Acts 27:14-20; Jonah 2:1-10

SPECIAL THANKS

from **SUSAN UDELSON**

Executive Director, Paula Takacs Foundation:

Thank you for your continued support of the Sarcoma Stomp and the Paula Takacs Foundation in our mission to fund research and



expand hope for sarcoma cures. Because of your generosity, we were able to donate \$260,000 to Levine Cancer Institute at this year's gift presentation. This impactful gift brings our foundation's total grant to Levine to \$1.1M, and our lifetime sarcoma grants to \$1.4M!

Dr. Edward Kim, Chair of

Investigational Therapeutics and Solid Tumor Oncology, Levine Cancer Institute, updated the audience on the upcoming research, including a new, non-chemotherapy, drug combo clinical trial as well as a genomic study in osteosarcoma. These projects are vital to offering pediatric and adult sufferers new treatment options and advancing the science of the drivers of some sarcoma types. Please sign up for our mailing list at paulatakacsfoundation.org to keep abreast of all research developments as we receive them from Levine Cancer Institute.

I cannot thank you enough for your dedicated and generous support of our mission. We are truly becoming one of the lead pan-sarcoma organizations funding research in the United States. Because of you, hope is real and progress in this very challenging disease is possible.

Happy Holidays! (And, mark your calendars for the next Sarcoma Stomp on April 25, 2020!!!!)

from **BUD & ANNA MOORE**

Members of Christ Lutheran Church:

Thank you Christ Lutheran Church! Because of your generosity we were able to deliver Christmas gifts for 86 residents at Trinity Place Lutheran Home in Albemarle. We can't wait until next year when there will be over 100 residents who will benefit from your kindness and love. You are truly a blessing to many!!



PRIMEtimers
A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+
My Fair Lady Matinee & Dinner
Saturday, January 25
Ovens Auditorium (2p) • Red Rocks Cafe (5:30p)
Enjoy a 2 p.m. matinee at Ovens Auditorium followed by dinner at Red Rocks. Carpooling available from Christ Providence at 12:45 p.m.
Join group in REALM for info & signup
or call Vicky/Don Essick (704)256-1433

BIKE, E-WASTE & FURNITURE DONATION DRIVE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
in the Christ Providence Parking Lot

20-30 somethings
fun events for young adults in their 20s and 30s
Lunch
Sunday, February 16 • 12:15 p.m.
Christ Providence (the Pit)
All 20-somethings are invited for a casual lunch and conversation. Bring a friend! Food provided by Qdoba. **Register on REALM.**

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR
2020 SOUTHEASTERN U.S. TOUR
Saturday, February 22
7:00 p.m. at Christ Providence
FREE ADMISSION
Please consider a donation of new or gently used clothing for the Crisis Assistance Ministry.
NLCA.com

Looking Back:

COMMUNITY BIBLE EXPERIENCE, FALL 2019

by PASTOR DREW

As I talked with a member of Christ Lutheran recently about the Community Bible Experience, her time spent reading and wrestling with God's word resonated with my own. She told me, "You read the Bible and hear one thing. Then you listen to what others are noticing, questioning, and it opens you to brand new meaning."

I want to thank everyone who took part in Community Bible Experience: Covenant History this fall at all three campuses. This was not always easy reading as we made our way through books like Leviticus and Joshua,

but in these pages that pointed to God's covenant promises, Jesus met us and called us in new ways to be part of his holy and loved people. I would

like to give special thanks to those who led discussion groups. The sermons from week to week grounded us in the story of how God chose Israel, who eventually gave us the Savior of the world.

Some are asking: when will we read book two of CBE? The Leadership Team felt like it would be good to take a break in the early part of 2020, turn to other topics and lessons, and then consider reading further into the Old Testament in the fall of 2020. May the seeds planted by CBE take deep root in each of us and bear fruit in the Holy Spirit!



CHRISTIAN YOGA IS BACK! MEET THE INSTRUCTOR



MEAGHAN DUNHAM

Meaghan Dunham is a 200-hour and certified trauma-informed yoga teacher. She specializes in deep stretch and vinyasa flow classes, with an emphasis on slowing down and using the practice of yoga for self-reflection. Meaghan is so excited about teaching yoga at Christ Lutheran, as her Charlotte yoga journey began with Diana Cevallos and Yoga Church at Selwyn UMC. The unique way Diana wove the practice of yoga and the teachings of Christ together inspired Meaghan on a journey of self-discovery and ultimately led her to her own teacher training this past summer.

One of Meaghan's favorite things about teaching yoga is helping her students understand that the light of Christ shines within each of them and that, through a daily practice of self-reflection and study, they can share that light with the world. Each time she speaks the word Namaste ("the light in me sees the light in you") at the end of her class, she is reminded of one of her favorite verses, John 1:7 *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin."*

Meaghan is looking forward to leading members of her CLC family through practice, so that they may begin to recognize daily the light of Christ that shines within each of them, and take that light out into the world for all to see.

stephen MINISTRY®

BECOME A STEPHEN MINISTER

by PASTOR TENNY

From time to time, we go through struggles—illness, grief, financial crisis, divorce, disaster, loneliness...

And sometimes, we need someone to walk with us on our journeys, someone to talk to. That's what Stephen Ministers do—walk with people who are hurting, and listen. Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one caring ministry, provided by trained lay people in the congregation. Our Stephen Ministers have undergone 50 hours of initial training, participate in regular supervision groups and in continuing education.

Many people in our congregation (and outside the congregation) have experienced the benefit of having

a Stephen Minister walk with them on their journey—listening, caring, praying with them and assuring them that they are not alone. I regularly hear from our care receivers how much they appreciate their Stephen Ministers.

Thank you, to our current Stephen Ministers, for all the compassionate Christian caring that you have offered and continue to provide!

AND, we need more. We have more requests for Stephen Ministers now than we have Stephen Ministers available—especially for men. Stephen Ministers and care receivers are matched male-to-male, female-to-female. While we could use more female Stephen Ministers, we could really use several more men to apply to become Stephen Ministers. In other words, we could use a few good men!

Our next training class starts on Monday nights, beginning February 3. If you'd like to apply to be considered, please contact:

Julia Edelson, Stephen Leader	(704) 577-0954
Melissa Topinka, Stephen Leader	(704) 502-1112
Pastor Tenny, Stephen Leader	(704) 366-1595

LEARN MORE stephenministries.org



Sunday Adult Classes

START JANUARY 5 • 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

FAITH FELLOWSHIP

THE BIBLE AND BEYOND

IN FORUM A

Unshakable Hope: Building our Lives

on the Promises of God (January 5 – February 23)

Nothing lifts us out of fear and weariness like hope. An anchor through life's storms, hope buoys our spirits and seeks to make a way when we face tough times. After 40 years of ministry and encouraging others, author Max Lucado has learned that the promises of God will give us the strength we need. Join us for this 8-session series that will help equip our everyday lives with courage.

John: Gospel of Light and Life (March 1 – April 5)

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four Gospels. 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. Just as Jesus brought the profound light of His truth into our lives, we will courageously go forth and share His light with others.

THE THREE R'S OF WORLD RELIGIONS: RESPECTING, REAFFIRMING, REVERING

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

class meets January 5 – March 8

Through videos, testimonies, visits to temples and group discussion, this class will explore different world religions including Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Shintoism, and more. We will learn about their origin, history, development, beliefs, policies, daily life and the reaction to the mission field of the ELCA.

led by Miriam Morrison

THE CREW

CHRISTIAN BOOK STUDY

IN W150 A&B

Join us for weekly discussions based on a current Christian bestseller (will be chosen from authors Bob Goff, Dr. David Jeremiah, Max Lucado or Eric Metaxas). Come and join the lively conversation.

led by David Deeds

FAITH IN ACTION

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

IN FORUM C

Using the Augsburg Bible Studies as our guide, this class will be looking at various Scripture from the Old and New Testaments with a focus on honoring God. In the spring, we will study justice and the prophets before concluding the semester with Scripture illustrating the many faces of wisdom throughout the Old and New Testaments. Come join this group of women looking to grow their faith in a welcoming, caring environment.
led by Jewel Barber, Joyce Brigman and Anna Moore

STUDIES OF SCRIPTURE

IN THE ADULT LIBRARY

This class studies and discusses lectionary lessons from the Lutheran Book of Worship. The lectionary is a collection of appointed Scripture readings for each Sunday and for other occasions, and typically include an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a New Testament reading and a passage from one of the four Gospels. Come find out what the Bible has to say by journeying through the lectionary with others.

led by Hans Teich

EMERGE 30s/40s

SIMON PETER: FLAWED BUT FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

IN FORUM B

Although Peter left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world, he was also poor, uneducated, quick-tempered and full of doubts and fears. Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. In this DVD-based study by Adam Hamilton, discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents and abilities God can use to make a difference.

led by Pastor Drew and Rob Stark

THE CLC BOOK CLUB

IN LACKEY PARLOR

The CLC Book Club reads and studies provocative, often challenging books covering a wide range of topics and a variety of viewpoints. We welcome and facilitate free, open discussion in a community of friendship and fellowship in Christ. Open to all.

led by Dan Hansen and Carl Edgren

Wednesdays together

at **CHRISTPROVIDENCE**

STARTS JANUARY 8

5:00 - 6:15 p.m. **DINNER** in Spirit Hall
\$6 adult • \$3 child (1st time visitors FREE)

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. **CHILDREN/YOUTH CLASSES**

6:15 - 7:30 p.m. **ADULT CLASSES**
descriptions below

LIFE LESSONS FROM ACTS

IN FORUM A&B

Community. Unselfish sharing. Unity. These are the qualities we long for in our families, church and society. While these traits are not always easy to come by, Christ continues to guide us as His followers into a life shaped by Him. The book of Acts, or "The Acts of the Apostles," is the ongoing story of Jesus' disciples after Jesus rose and ascended to heaven. Come and be inspired as we study Acts to be the church the world needs today.

led by Pastors Scott and Drew

CHRISTIAN YOGA

IN LACKEY PARLOR

Yoga, when performed slowly and intentionally, can be beneficial for the mind, body and soul. Learn from this ancient discipline to engage your body in Christian spirituality. Learn to quiet your mind and prepare your body for prayer. Open to all – beginners encouraged!

led by Meaghan Dunham

MOMS IN PRAYER

IN THE CHRIST CHAPEL PARLOR

Gather together with other moms for a time of praying for our children. Moms of all ages are welcome! We will follow the Moms in Prayer International Four Steps of Prayer: praise, silent confession, thanksgiving and intercession. We will use specific Scripture verses to pray over our children each week. Please gather in the "cry room" in the back of Christ Chapel from 6:00-6:45 p.m.

led by Megan Goodson

WOMEN MAKING CONNECTIONS BIBLE STUDY

IN THE WORSHIP CENTER PARLOR

Ladies, please join us on Wednesday nights as we delve into a study based on Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from 1 Corinthians*. While the Corinthian church struggled to following the upside-down ways of Christ, Paul's message is one of grace and unconditional love.

led by D'Linda Highum

SMALL GROUP ministries

LOOKING FOR A SMALL GROUP TO JOIN?

Check out these and all available small groups in REALM ([Community>Groups>Find Groups](#))



4th Tuesdays
JOY CHICK FLICK
& LUNCH BUNCH



once a month
FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN



Wednesdays • 6p
WOMEN MAKING
CONNECTIONS



2nd Tuesdays • 9 a.m.
GOOD MORNING, LORD



Mondays • 12p
CENTERING PRAYER



one Saturday each quarter
HABITAT HOMIES



1st & 3rd Sundays • 9:45a
KNITTERS FOR CHRIST



after a birth/adoption
THE FOOD STORK

FAMILY MISSION TRIP

April 16-19 at Kure Beach

There is no better way to help our children and youth grow in their faith than working together as a family to serve others! Family Mission Trip! Here you'll get focused family time, cultivate a value of serving others, focused faith conversations and you'll make lasting memories! Plus, it's Spring Break on the beach! We are staying at Kure Beach Faith Center in Kure Beach, NC. Our theme is Give Me a Hand! Registration begins February 1. Space is limited, so mark your calendar! Come serve together!

Faith Alive CONFIRMATION RETREAT

February 7-9 for 6th & 7th Graders

Faith Alive is a Lutheridge-led program that we are participating in this year from February 7-9, 2020. Sixth grade will participate in Baptism (Pastor Melody and Pastor Matt lead the teaching) and 7th grade will participate in Communion. We'll spend the weekend driving deep into these sacraments of grace while making friends and experiencing camp activities!

The cost is \$170 per child, and scholarships are available. Register on REALM by January 7. Four adult chaperones are also needed. Please contact Pastor Melody if you can help (msimpkins@christelca.org).



CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS STEPPING STONE

NEW TESTAMENT

Sunday, January 5 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall (Christ Providence)

This event is for 3rd graders and any 4th and 5th graders who have not yet attended. A parent must attend with their child. Register on REALM or contact Kristen Rank for info (krank@christelca.org).

CONFIRMATION STEPPING STONE

LORD'S PRAYER

Sunday January 12 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall (Christ Providence)

This event is for 6th graders and any 7th and 8th graders who have not yet attended. A parent is expected to attend with their youth. Register on REALM or contact Pastor Melody for info (msimpkins@christelca.org).

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS STEPPING STONE

APOSTLES CREED

Sunday, February 9 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall (Christ Providence)

This event is for 4th graders and any 5th graders who have not yet attended. A parent is expected to attend with their child. Register on REALM or contact Kristen Rank for info (krank@christelca.org).

CELEBRATION OF
Baptism
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
PROVIDENCE 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
SOUTH 10:00 a.m.
CONCORD 10:00 a.m.
CHRIST PROVIDENCE CHRIST CONCORD CHRIST SOUTH

TEC WEEKEND
FOR GRADES 9-12
The next Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat is:
MLK WEEKEND
JANUARY 18-20, 2020
For information on this upcoming weekend, contact Pastor Melody at msimpkins@christelca.org

TOGETHER WE ARE ONE
LYO ASSEMBLY
for 6th - 12th graders
FEBRUARY 21-23, 2020
Join youth from across the state for a weekend filled with games, music and worship at the Lutheran Youth Organization Assembly in Greensboro. Cost: \$180
Register Early on REALM!
Info: ctargonski@christelca.org

QUILLOW
HELP NEEDED
Seamstresses are needed to help sew Quillows for the high school graduates.
If interested, contact Jane Satterfield: jsatterfield@christelca.org
Quillow Sunday is June 7

Christ Providence
VBS
Save the Date
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 15 - 19 at Christ Providence
for 4 years - grade 4 • FREE
REGISTRATION OPENS IN FEBRUARY
Register on REALM or go to christelca.org

**DINNER • GAMES • DEVOTIONS • FUN
FOR GRADES 6 - 12**

FUSION

MEETS ONCE A MONTH
next gathering:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
 6-8 p.m. in the Pit (Christ Providence)

YOUTH & FAMILY

Tailgate

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY (Feb. 2)
 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (Providence - in the Pit)
 Get hyped up for the big game with food, games and fellowship! Light lunch provided; bring a side dish to share.
for Fusion youth and their families

FIRST COMMUNION STEPPING STONES

Save the Date

First Communion preparation is for 2nd grade and any 3rd-5th grade students who have not yet attended. Additional information will be sent out in the beginning of February.

THE MEANING OF THE MEAL

Sunday, March 1 • 1 - 3 p.m.

in the Forum (Christ Providence)

STORY DAY

Saturday, March 14 • 8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

in the Pit (Christ Providence)

BLESSING

Sunday, March 29 • during worship

all campuses

LIVIN FORGIVEN

Sunday, April 5 • 1 - 3 p.m.

in the Sanctuary (Christ Providence)

SEDER MEAL

Thursday, April 9 • 5:30 p.m.

in Spirit Hall (Christ Providence)

Children will receive their First Communion during Maundy Thursday worship, taking place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



CHRIST CONCORD NEWS

How's It Going?

by PASTOR TENNY

That's the most common question I get about Christ Concord. "How's it going? Are the numbers going up?" Let me tell you about Christ Concord.

Our church, Christ Lutheran, is an amazing congregation. We are blessed with people who love the Lord and are willing to give of themselves in service to others. We have an extremely dedicated and talented staff, and we have a senior pastor who is willing to take risks—trying new things to build the community of Christ. We have three campuses, each different in worship styles, in leadership, and in the demographics of the communities. But what makes us all the same? Our passion for growing deeper in our connection with God, and in reaching out to those who are not connected with a Christian community, or who have not heard the Word.

That's who Christ Concord is—a community in Christ, hungry to grow deeper in faith, willing to take risks, try new things and reach out to the community.

Are we growing? Yes. We are growing deeper in faith. Our Wednesday morning Bible study group is growing deeper in our knowledge of God's Word and in friendship. Our Wednesday



night small groups are growing closer in community and in our faith. Our confirmation kids are growing in faith: studying, learning and having fun as we get to know each other in deeper ways. Our shut-in members are growing in their connection to the church as they receive regular communication and visits. Our online presence is growing as we continue to improve our Facebook broadcasts and social media presence. Our love for one another is growing (just come to worship some Sunday and experience the joy as we pass God's peace with one another!). Our members volunteer their time and talents in so many ways, and their desire to serve continues to grow.

We are blessed to have a tremendous staff at Christ Concord. Rich Hartman and Karen Costea are a dream team! AND, we are supported by the entire staff at Christ Lutheran, as we all work together to help one another and to support each campus.

Are we growing? Yes! Our community, our faith, our love for God and for our neighbors grows every week.

How's it going? It's going GREAT! God is doing amazing things in our church. Come to Christ Concord sometime and see for yourself!

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 10:00 a.m.

**WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. dinner
6:00 - 7:00 p.m. small groups**

BIKE, E-WASTE & FURNITURE DRIVE

Saturday, January 25 • 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
at Christ Providence (in the parking lot)

Dust off your old bikes and electronics for our Bike and E-Waste Drive on January 25th! The bike drive is part of Trips for Kids, the annual bicycle recycling program for Charlotte Recyclery. The donated bikes are used for their Earn-a-Bike program and also sold to help fund their other programs. This recycling event also includes e-recycling as Goodwill Industries will collect, recycle, refurbish and appropriately destroy electronic components. In addition to those two stations, Crisis Assistance will be available to collect furniture to help families in need. We will also have a clothing drop off station.

If you'd like to help or need further information, contact Thom at (704)332-1081 or thomfit@aol.com.

JOIN OUR TEAM OF FAMILY NIGHT VOLUNTEERS!

The Holidays are a time of giving, and what easier thing to give than your time! McPIE is always looking for volunteers to help with our Family Night program. On (most) Tuesdays during the school year, we provide transportation, a warm meal, and age-appropriate programming and enrichment classes to families at McClintock Middle School. Classes and services provided range from a nursery to parenting classes. We are always looking for people to serve meals, drive a van, be a navigator, check families in when they arrive, or just lend a helping hand where needed each week. Do you have a passion that has been dormant for a while? Start your own club!

Middle school students can currently choose from a variety of clubs to join on Tuesday nights. Clubs range from Innovation Station, Basketball and Woodworking to Cyber Spy, Quadcopters and Boy Food Scientists. Share your passions and interests with students, and get them excited too! We would love to offer a chess club again and Medical Explorers. We have the students and interest, but are seeking adults to take on the leadership roles.

Worried about leading a club of middle school students alone? Do NOT worry. We will provide you with a helper! Afraid you can't commit each week? That's OK too. We love having "floaters" come in when they can and plug in where needed. Consider giving your time in 2020!

If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more, contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org.

THRIVENT ACTION DOLLARS

We were very fortunate to have so many Thrivent members sponsor various events and causes throughout this past year. The impact to Christ Lutheran has included 71 projects for our church and community, totaling \$18,000+ dollars for Thrivent Action Teams!

Thank you to all of our members that have taken part in a Thrivent Action Team. If any Thrivent members have questions about putting their action dollars to use at Christ Lutheran, please contact Amy Daniels at adaniels@christelca.org.



ROOM IN THE INN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Overnight Hosts
- Van Drivers
- Evening Help

TO SIGNUP:

Go to signupgenius.com
and search by email:
ckramer@christelca.org

NEXT BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Christ Providence
Signup at redcrossblood.org
(Code: Christ Lutheran)

McPIE
McClintock PARTNERS IN Education

DAYTIME OPPORTUNITIES
For info or to sign-up, please contact the email provided:

Teacher Partners
diane.gavarkavich@gmail.com

Tutors - all grades/subjects
cwown92@gmail.com

Tuesday Copy Service
theresamatheny@refugeesupportservices.org

Teacher Luncheons
mcrorieonline@gmail.com

Other Ways To Get Involved

Crisis Assistance Ministry
Donate gently used clothing to Outreach
(bins located off Shelton St. on Sundays)

Soup Kitchen
Volunteer on 3rd Sunday of the month
at Urban Ministry Center

Muffin Ministry
Donate muffins on 4th Sunday of each
month to benefit Urban Ministry Center

McPIE
McClintock PARTNERS IN Education

GET INVOLVED WITH FAMILY NIGHTS
every Tuesday • 5:30 p.m.
at McClintock Middle School
Contact Angela Davis: adavis@christelca.org
starts January 28



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT SPECIAL THANKS

What an opportunity to be filled with the Christmas Spirit!! We had over 100 adult and youth volunteers help with our Christmas Shopping event between Thursday and Saturday (Dec. 12-14), over \$3,000 in twelve Thrivent Action Teams to support the various parts of the project, the Worship Center and Spirit Hall buzzing with shoppers and helpers, and thousands of dollars in donations and purchases – all to help the families that CLC sponsored. Our prayer is always that our community neighbors will feel the love and care of this congregation and the dignity of knowing what is best for their family and being more in control of how Christmas is provided for their children. We are honored and blessed to be partners with families in our area, and we also pray for continued relationships.

CHRIST SOUTH NEWS

What's Happening at Christ South?

by ASHLEY COOKE and PASTOR MATT

Happy New Year from Christ South! As we welcome 2020, we celebrate our “birthday” here at Christ South. This January marks the third anniversary of Christ South’s first official service at Polo Ridge Elementary School. Which is it – anniversary or birthday? Ok, we celebrate our third “Birthaversary.” And as we reflect on everything that has happened in those 1,096 days, we have to thank everyone who has made this campus possible.

First and foremost, thank you to our volunteers who have shown up early to set up staging, chairs, tables and run sound cables every week. We thank those who share their time to work with the kids, man the nursery and stand out front to welcome our community on Sundays. Thank you to those who make the coffee in our welcome area and stick around to put the school back together. We thank our fabulous musicians who pour their heart and soul into worship each week to spread the gospel through song.

We also can’t celebrate our “Birthaversary” without thanking those who have supported us financially over the past three years. Your generosity has helped make the impossible possible and create a community that has impacted so many lives in the name of the Gospel. Most importantly, none of what we are doing at Christ South would be possible without the ceaseless prayer of our larger church community. There is power in prayer, and the constant lifting up of our community, volunteers and staff in His name is felt every week. It gives us energy and keeps us focused on the message of Jesus that we are trying so hard to spread. We love you, we thank you and we ask that you would continue to ask for God’s blessing and direction on Christ South’s mission.

We continue to move forward with our plans for the Old Dairy Farm and how to best use that space for our larger mission of connecting with the community of Weddington and surrounding areas. As you can imagine, there is much to be done in establishing our organization and putting key players in place so everything we do is intentional and well-planned. As we finish our long-term plan, we are focused on insuring that our plan is not only driven by our vision, but our short-term actions support and continue us on this path. It is our intention to present these plans to the community in the near future. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we lay the ground work for Christ South’s future at the Old Dairy Farm.

In November, we hired and staffed our Guest Experience Team and tasked them with the responsibility of setting up and tearing down on Sundays while assisting with our welcome team activities. The hiring of this team allows us to move into a new phase for Christ South and gives us the ability to move some of our volunteers into ministry areas and better utilize our resources to grow our outreach and connect with members in growing faith. In December, we hosted our Christmas Eve service at Polo Ridge Elementary with a special focus on families. Before the service, we had a great time with our first cocoa, cider and cookie social before our community celebrated together.

This year holds big things for Christ South – as we move into our next phase, we will need your continued support. I’m amazed at what God is doing and how many lives have been changed. Every week, there are new people who walk through our doors looking for something. Each one is different and each one is in a unique place on their faith journeys, but God has blessed us with the opportunity to be a part of that journey. As you actively pray for Christ South, ask for His continued guidance as we seek His will for our community.



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Christ CONNECTIONS

Christ Providence • Christ South • Christ Concord

January/February 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 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. 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.

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.

Happy New Year



from
the Staff of Christ Lutheran Church