

Christ CONNECTIONS

CHRIST
providence

CHRIST
CONCORD

CHRIST
SOUTH

**NOVEMBER
DECEMBER**
2019

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

worshipping 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



THANKSGIVING EVE
Dinner & Worship

Wednesday, November 27
at Christ Providence



**ALTERNATIVE
GIFT MARKET**

Sunday, November 24



GUEST GUITARIST
Mark Kroos

COMING TO
CHRIST CONCORD
DECEMBER 15!



Holiday Happenings
AT A GLANCE

THE EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS SHOW
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL
FESTIVAL WORSHIP IN SONG
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP **new times!!**

DETAILS AND MORE INSIDE>>



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Spiritual Check-Up

There are many ways to check the spiritual health of a congregation, including attendance at worship, participation in congregational events, the abundance of volunteers for serving and people who are eager to invite their friends and family to church.

But what about giving?

I once heard an older and wiser pastor tell me, “Scott, churches never have financial issues, only spiritual ones. You address the spiritual issues, and the financial ones will take care of themselves.” I have come to believe this to be true at Christ Lutheran.

At the end of September, we have received 99.04% of our budgeted income. At the same time, we have spent 95.22% of our budgeted expenditures. That is remarkable to have a 3.1 million dollar income and be that close in our financial management. I would like to point to an amazing Finance Committee that monitors every dime and pays monthly attention to all the details, but that’s not it. I would like to thank the staff for watching their individual budget closely to not overspend, but that’s not it. As crass as it may seem, this is one more barometer of the spiritual health at Christ Lutheran.

And I would say that we are very healthy!

When you fill out your Intention Card each year, we pay close attention to it. We don’t add a fudge factor or second guess your commitments. We trust you. We assume that you will make good on the amount you put down. And you do. After 20 years of doing this, we know that if a person puts down a number, they complete that amount between 99%-101%. These cards are very important to us as we try to be good and faithful stewards of these trusted resources. The more I can encourage you to return your card, the more faithful we can be with our financial plan.

I don’t want to suggest that giving is the only means to check the spiritual health of a congregation, but it is a significant one. Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be, also. You have entrusted to us the treasures of your money. But you are doing far more than that. You are also sharing with us the gift of your hearts. We don’t take either gift lightly.

Thank you for the trust. Thank you for the generosity. Thank you for sharing your hearts. And as your doctor, I’ve checked it out and I am happy to report that your hearts are in the right place. You are spiritually healthy.

Excellent Check-Up!
Dr. Scott



Community Bible Experience

What's Your Story?

You've heard the stories. The stories of Abraham, the stories of Moses, the stories of Joshua, of Samson, Ruth, Samuel, David— these are stories of people that have done some amazing things! They've brought the people out of slavery and into the Promised Land, commanded armies, led the nation of Israel, walked with a friend in need and took down a mighty giant. Yet, it wasn't by their own power that they accomplished these great feats— it was through the courage, loyalty and strength of God. We, too, face challenges every day. How has God's story been woven into yours? What's your story?

November 10 • Story of Courage

God gave Joshua everything. He was given the Promised Land; all he had to do was take it. He took Jericho by just marching around the city walls and blowing trumpets. Mighty armies were scared of what he could do. Yet, he has to constantly be reminded to have courage. What have you done that you didn't think you were courageous enough for? How has God given you courage? What's your story of courage?
---Joshua 1:1-9; Matthew 14:22-33

November 17 • Story of Loyalty

Naomi decides to move back to her home country after her husband and two sons die. She tried to persuade her daughter-in-laws to return to their family home. Yet, Ruth stayed with Naomi throughout their lives. Ruth was loyal when Naomi had nothing. Do you have a friend that has been with you through your good times and bad? Do you have a friend that encourages your faith? What's your story of loyalty?
---Ruth 1:6-18; Leviticus 26: 9-13; John 15:9-17

November 24 • Story of Bravery

We all remember the story of David and Goliath. David, a young boy with only a few stones and a slingshot took down the giant Goliath. Yet, how was he really able to overcome this giant warrior? How did someone so young and inexperienced do such a great thing? How was David so brave? What have you faced that seemed impossible? How has God given you the strength and the bravery? What is your story of bravery?
---1 Samuel 17: 32-50; Mark 5: 24b-34; Phil. 4:10-13

ReSet and Reign

Where is this world heading? Who's in charge here? Is God far-off and too busy for us, or is He intimately involved in our lives? While Advent is often seen as a time of decorations, shopping and parties, it is really a time to just ReSet. By coming to us as our long-awaited King, Jesus comes to ReSet the world— to ReSet us back in tune with God's vision where love, hope, joy and peace reign forevermore.

December 1 • ReSet Our Love

Are we acting out of fear or love? When Saul sets out to harm David, few people would blame David for repaying him with violence. When John the Baptist cries out that the Messiah is coming, he expects the Messiah will come with a winnowing fork in hand to judge sinners. But both David and Jesus turn the world's expectations upside down. How? With love. While fear and darkness try to pull this world apart, Jesus comes to ReSet the world with love. Where do you see love breaking in today? ---1 Samuel 24:3-12, 16-17; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Luke 3:1-6, 15-16

December 8 • ReSet Our Hope

Why be hopeful? Hope isn't based on what our eyes can see, but on what the word of God has promised. It's the promise to David that one day his descendant will reign forever. It is the promise to a young woman named Mary, that she'll become the mother of God's son. It's the promise to you, that your life has a purpose. Each one of us is a piece in God's great plan. Jesus comes to ReSet us with hope. Where do you see hope breaking in today? ---2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; James 5:7-10; Luke 1:26-38

December 15 • ReSet Our Joy

Can the basic human desire to be happy come from the perfect present? Yes, but not the kind found under a tree. It comes from the presence of the living God who draws close to us. Solomon sees God's presence fill the temple as the Ark is brought inside. Elizabeth realizes God is present when Mary visits her. Jesus comes to ReSet our joy. Rejoice! Where do you see joy breaking in today? ---1 Kings 8:1, 6, 22-30; Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:39-45

December 22 • ReSet Our Peace

Where can we find peace? Can it only be found by fleeing to a mountain retreat or a house by the sea, someplace far away from the hustle and bustle of life? God comes to Elijah in a still small voice when Elijah needed it the most. God comes to Joseph when he faces his greatest calling— to let his life be used for the glory of God. Jesus comes to ReSet our peace, as we look to Him instead of the worries that surround us. Where do you see peace breaking in today?
---1 Kings 19:9-8; Psalms 146:5-10; Matthew 1:18-25

All Saints Sunday

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



Bill Waggoner



Jo Anne Eckelman



Carol Bryant



Nancy Lee Parker



Mabel Parrish



Tom Wilson



Jeri Obermiller



Rachel Wilhelm



Ben Jones



Celeste Cranford-White



Andy Neel



Sue Rohen



Mary Kate Cline



Jane Love

All Saints Day
Honor loved ones who have passed on by lighting a remembrance candle in their honor at this special service.
November 3, 2019

Blessing OF THE Quilts
Sunday, November 10
Christ Providence

DAVE RAMSEY'S
FINANCIAL Peace UNIVERSITY
Join us for a 9-session DVD-based course that has helped millions get their finances in order. Cost: \$120
Interested?
Contact Randy Satterfield at rpsatterfield@carolina.rr.com

SMALL GROUP
Habitat Homies
meets on Saturdays (4x a year)
NEXT BUILD DATE: NOVEMBER 2ND
PROJECT: TRUSSES
Join the group in REALM or contact Colin Reed for info (colin.frank.reed@gmail.com)

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY
NEXT WEEKEND: APRIL 30-MAY 3, 2020
Kairos is a ministry of male volunteers who share the love of Christ with men at Foothills Correctional Institution.
Save the Date!
Join the Kairos Group in REALM or contact Pastor Drew for info (dgoodson@christelca.org)

schedule reminders
for Christ Providence

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL IS
DECEMBER 15
resumes January 5, 2020

LAST WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER IS
DECEMBER 18
resumes January 8, 2020

**UPCOMING
JOY FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**
fellowship for seniors 65+

Thursday, November 21
12:00 - 2:00 p.m. • \$6 per meal
(Christ Providence - Forum)

History of Camp Greene (1917-1921)
speaker: Sheila Bumgarner

RSVP ON REALM
or call (704)366-1595

**Christmas
DINNER PARTY**
hosted by JOY FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, December 5
5 p.m. in Spirit Hall (Christ Providence)

entertainment by *Charlotte Harp Society*

\$15 • Get your tickets from:
Chuck Rice, David Deeds or Ralph Weddinton,
or register on **REALM** today!

Holiday Open House
Wednesday, October 30
4 - 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy christmas cookies and
"jingle juice" while shopping in
our winter wonderland!

**cornerstone
gifts**

Are You Taking a Required Minimum Distribution?

by PASTOR SCOTT

If you have an IRA and you are 70 ½ or older and you give to the church, I want you to reconsider how you make your contributions.

Did you know that at 70 ½ you are required to take a disbursement from your IRA? (It's called a Required Minimum Distribution, or RMD). Typically, this would come to you as taxable income. After you paid income tax on it, then most people write a check to the church from the remaining amount.

However, you can direct your IRA to pay that disbursement directly to Christ Lutheran, not pay any taxes on it, and contribute more. It's called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

Here is a scenario:

Say for example you are required to take \$5,000 from your IRA. You pay the taxes on it (let's say 25%) and you have \$3,750 left over to contribute. -OR- You can direct that same \$5,000 from your IRA and have it sent directly to Christ Lutheran. You skip paying income tax on it and can contribute the entire \$5,000.

Of course, I'm not giving tax advice to anyone, but I would ask you to check this out with a trusted financial person you know and see how you can fulfill your giving to the church AND save in taxes through your IRA disbursement. It just makes good sense!

Cornerstone Gifts for Christmas

by CONNIE KRAMER

Christmas is arriving in Cornerstone Gifts on Wednesday, October 30th with an Open House from 4 - 7:30 p.m. Enjoy cookies and jingle juice while shopping in a magical winter wonderland!

Cornerstone is full of gifts and home décor for the holidays. Find some great gifts for everyone on your shopping list, including:

- Unique ornaments for your small group ornament exchange;
- Gifts for teachers and that "Hostess with the Mostess;"
- Pillows and tea towels, candles and soaps;
- Old fashioned toys for the young and young at heart;
- Nativity sets and angels, trees and stocking stuffers;
- Advent calendars to count down the days til Santa's arrival;
- Woolly slipper socks to keep your toes warm and cashmere scarves to wrap around your neck;
- Beautiful platters to fill with homemade cookies and treats.



We are excited about The Giving Manger. The kit comes with a manger, straw, baby Jesus and a colorful book to read aloud together with your children. When someone in the family does a good deed, he or she places a piece of straw in the manger. By Christmas Eve, the manger is full so baby Jesus has a soft place to lay his head! After Christmas is over, pack everything back into the kit for next year.

The store is open Monday - Thursday, 10a.m. - 2p.m., Wednesday evenings from 5 - 7:30p.m. and Sunday mornings. If you have some spare time, we are always in need of more volunteers— contact Tom Kramer at tkramer@christelca.org. We even have Frosty the Snowman's first baby picture!



COLOSSIANS 3:17

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to
God the Father through him.*

Stewardship Update

As of October 25, we have received 330 intention cards for 2020 giving, totaling \$1,641,091. Thank you to all who have turned in their pledges— they are a tremendous help in planning for next year's budget. If you haven't turned in your intention card yet, you can still help us reach our goal of 500 cards. There are 4 ways to turn them in:

1. Put your intention card in an envelope and drop it into the offering plate on Sunday morning.
2. Save some time and pledge online! Simply login to Realm, select "Giving," and click "Pledge Now."
3. Confidentially email your intention to Gregg Huether, our Finance Director at ghuether@christelca.org.
4. Mail it to Christ Lutheran:
4519 Providence Rd. • Charlotte, NC 28226



Congrats Pastor Kevin!

Pastor Kevin Vandiver (our former Director of Family Ministry) has accepted a call to be the Assistant to the Bishop

for Multicultural Ministry in the Metropolitan New York Synod. Reverend Paul Egensteiner is the newly elected Bishop of that Synod. Kevin and Marci will stay in New York City. We are so happy for Kevin and extend blessings and congratulations.

Realm Enhancements

by LAURIE CARTER

Realm continues to grow in features and functionality. Some of the newest highlights which will be of interest to our members include:

Events: You can now search for an event by name and you can filter your search by date, your specific groups, event tags and registration events (these are for the congregation as a whole).

Pledges: You can now pledge to the 2020 Stewardship Campaign, "All In" by going to your REALM profile, click Giving>Pledge, then fill in your 2020 pledge and indicate the frequency of your gift and save!

Text Giving: Text the word PRAISE to 73256 and follow the prompts. If you have a credit/debit card saved, REALM will recognize it. Takes less than a minute! You can now set up recurring gifts here too.

Volunteer Management: We hope you have gone into your profile and completed The Skills & Interests in REALM. This information will help us target our volunteer base by being able to recognize special gifts and interests folks have in matching them up with great opportunities. We encourage everyone to take a few minutes and share your skills and interests with the church staff.

Coming Soon! We expect to have the ability to schedule and assign volunteers to opportunities and to allow volunteers to manage their availability, manage scheduling conflicts and reassign. In the coming months, we expect to be able to communicate volunteer needs to the congregation, allow leaders to manage, supervise and schedule volunteers as well as communicate with their volunteer teams.

If you don't have a REALM login, please email lcarter@christelca.org to get connected! There is no better time to get connected with the ministries of Christ Lutheran.



Habitat Homies

by PASTOR DREW

Women and men of all adult ages are encouraged to join Habitat Homies (*no experience necessary*). Our first build day is happening on Saturday, November 2nd. We are signed up for a trusses day, which should be a lot of fun and we'll see a lot of progress. The day starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.

Around four times a year, we'll work on a local Habitat house. Commitment is to attend as often as you are able. Join the group on REALM to learn about upcoming build days or contact Colin Reed (colin.frank.reed@gmail.com) or Pastor Drew (dgoodson@christelca.org). We'd love for you to be a part of this group as we work to provide affordable shelter for our Charlotte neighbors.

THANKSGIVING EVE Dinner & Worship

Wednesday, November 27

at Christ Providence

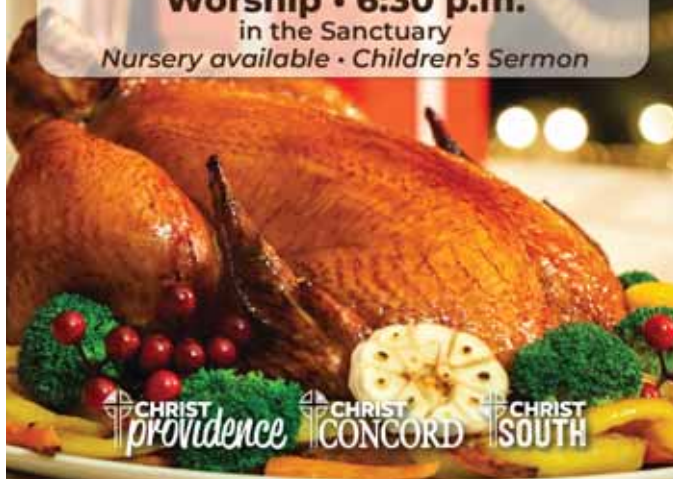
Dinner • 5:00 p.m.

in Spirit Hall (\$6 adults • \$3 children)

Worship • 6:30 p.m.

in the Sanctuary

Nursery available • Children's Sermon



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Christ Providence • 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Christ South • before & after worship

Christ Concord • before & after worship

Be sure to check out the Alternative Gift Market this year, now with service projects being represented at all 3 of our campuses! At Christ Providence, take a stroll through the Lower Commons where we will have 10 different service projects being represented that will impact Bihar, India. Shop for artisan crafts from Haiti and enjoy treats from our bake sale, all while learning how you can make a global difference. Donate to a cause in honor of your friends, teachers, and family as a unique and touching gift for the holidays. Pick out Christmas cards designed by a local artist and receive an insert describing the projects you have supported and the impact you are helping to create. Give your loved ones an alternative gift that inspires hope and change this Christmas.

Holiday Happenings AT A GLANCE



JOY FELLOWSHIP'S
CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

5 p.m. at Christ Providence (Spirit Hall)

THE EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS SHOW:
GOD COMING DOWN

FRI., DEC. 6 & SAT., DEC. 7

6 p.m. at Christ Providence (Pit)

free • all welcome (love offering to benefit Christmas Shopping Event for sponsored families)

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL:
BACK TO THE MANGER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

5 p.m. at Christ Providence (Fellowship Hall)

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT

DECEMBER 13-14

at Christ Providence

GUEST GUITARIST MARK KROOS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

10 a.m. at Christ Concord

FESTIVAL WORSHIP IN SONG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

all services at Christ Providence

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP **new times!!**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

3&8 p.m. Contemporary at Christ Providence

6&10 p.m. Traditional at Christ Providence

4 p.m. at Christ Concord

Christ South schedule TBD

by PASTOR TENNY

Outdoor Work Day

Saturday, November 9

We'll be working outside (weather permitting) on landscaping, pruning and trimming, clearing overgrown trees and fence lines, planting new plants, and spreading mulch. This is a "BYOT" event: Bring Your Outdoor Tools to help with these outdoor projects. Trucks and wheelbarrows are especially needed.



SARA B.

Staff Changes

Sara Breeggemann has served Christ Concord as our Family Ministry Coordinator for two years. Due to her full-time work commitment, she is unable to continue in this role. While we are sad that Sara will no longer be part of our staff, we are thrilled that Sara and her family are still part of the community at Christ Concord. Sara, we wish you continued success in your journey in the business world and look forward to your ongoing participation at Christ Concord!



KAREN C.

Karen Costea has been a blessing as part of the music staff of Christ Providence. We are very pleased to announce that Karen has transitioned to the staff at Christ Concord. Karen will not only play the piano for worship and serve in music leadership but will also serve as a primary support for Pastor Tenny, handling many of the projects that are central to the growth of our campus. Please make time to get to know Karen—you'll be glad you did! Welcome, Karen.

Plans for a Children's Center at Concord

We are forming a taskforce to develop a business plan for a preschool at Christ Concord. The current plan is to offer a half-day program (9:00am-1:00pm) for 3 and 4-year-olds at the Concord campus. If you have skills that might benefit this taskforce and would be interested in helping get this program launched, please contact Pastor Tenny (tshifley@christelca.org)

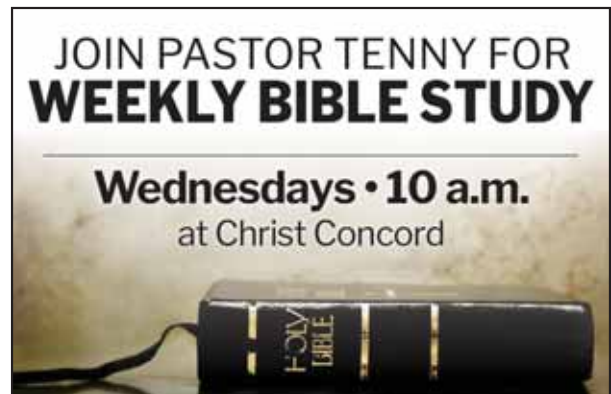
Thanks to our Tech Team!

We have a dedicated team of people who work every week to provide an excellent worship experience (technologically) for both those who are worshipping in the house and for those who are watching via Facebook Live. From sound engineering, to audio/visual support, to camera operation, to online interaction with those who are watching, a variety of skills are needed to make worship happen. Your talents are greatly appreciated!

If you haven't been to each Christ Lutheran campus, we encourage you to check out what our church is doing in each of our campuses.

Worship at another campus one Sunday. Attend a Bible study, class, or visit a small group. Lend a hand on a campus work day.

And we ask that you would pray for each of our campuses, and for the many volunteers and staff.



-SMALL GROUP-
KNITTERS FOR CHRIST
meets 1st & 3rd Sundays
9:45 - 11 a.m.
 in Cornerstone Cafe
 (Christ Providence)
 led by Sandy Harris
CROCHETERS WELCOME



SMALL GROUP

Helping to ease the transition into parenthood by bringing warm meals to new moms and their families.
Interested in joining this team?
 Request to join group in REALM or contact Jessie Stringer at jvstringer@gmail.com




SMALL GROUP
Good Morning, Lord
meets 2nd Tuesdays • 9 a.m.
at various local restaurants
 Nourish your mind, body and spirit with prayer, a devotion and hearty breakfast.
 led by Terri Shidal
Join the group in REALM



SMALL GROUP

Dealing with the Hand You're Dealt
meets 2nd Fridays • 7 p.m.
 Join us once a month at various members' homes for dessert and a game of cards.
 led by Donna Hanna • Open to all
Join the group in REALM

SMALL GROUP
A.L.P.H.A.
 ANSWERS with LOGIC, PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY, and APOLOGETICS
meets 2nd & 4th Fridays
 Come for fellowship, prayer and fun while learning about the truths of Christianity.
 led by Aron Boyette
JOIN GROUP IN REALM



THRIVENT ACTION TEAM UPDATE

by MARCIA ROW

Thrivent encourages their members to give of their time, talent and treasures. You can live generously by asking yourself, "how can I help?" and then reflect on what you can do to reach out and lift up others. If you are a part of a small ministry and want to undertake a project and you need help from Thrivent, please let us know so we can help you with your project.

By donating a few minutes of time, you and each member of your family can raise \$500 a year for CLC ministries.

If you don't have a ministry or project you are involved with, we have several projects that may interest you, including:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Nov. 18 | McClintock Food Pantry |
| Dec. Jan. | McClintock Teacher Encouragement Project |
| Dec. 12 | Room in the Inn Supply Pantry |
| Dec. 15 | Fusion Project |
| Dec. 19 | Room in the Inn Holiday Meal |

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT:

- | | |
|---------|------------------|
| Dec. 14 | Personal Hygiene |
| Dec. 14 | Toys |
| Dec. 14 | Linens |
| Dec. 14 | Home Furnishings |
| Dec. 14 | Sporting Goods |

The Thrivent Member Network – Southeast Region held a 100 Days of Summer Thrivent Action Team Challenge, and randomly selected one member from each state who completed an action team between June 5th and September 13th.

Donna Emmons is the lucky winner in North Carolina! She was selected and has the opportunity to direct \$500 to the non-profit organization that benefitted from their action team.

This past June, Ms. Emmons organized a Thrivent Action Team to support young campers from Christ Lutheran to attend Camp Lutherock. Thrivent will be sending Christ Lutheran a check for \$500 to be used for their outreach efforts. Thank you Donna and congratulations!

For more information about starting a Thrivent Action Team to support Christ Lutheran ministries, please contact Marcia Row at (704)277-9955 or mrow@carolina.rr.com.



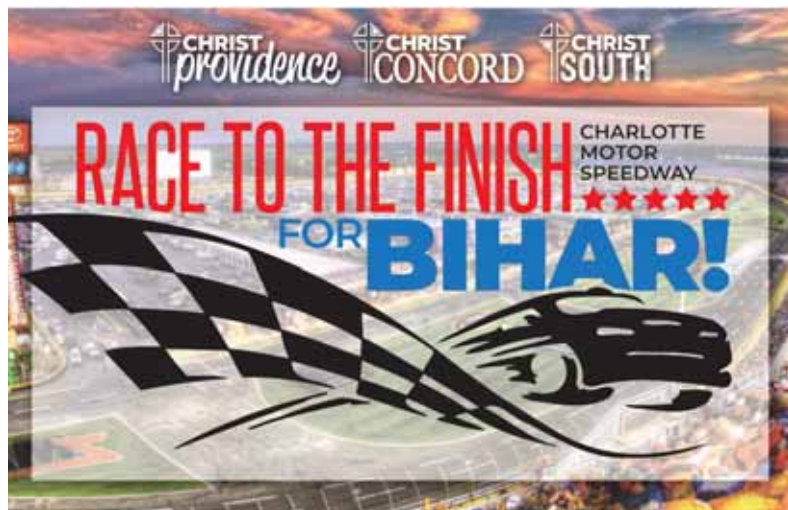
**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

APRIL 2020 MEN'S RETREAT ARROWS OF ADAM

by PASTOR DREW

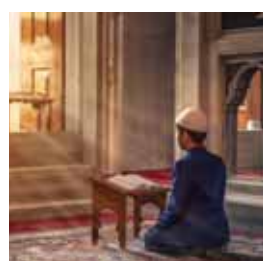
Guys, we want to encourage you to save the dates April 3-5 for our Spring 2020 Men's Retreat. We'll be traveling to beautiful Montreat conference center near Asheville. Registration will open with an early-bird rate in December! This is going to be a time of awesome recreation, reflection, and fun while connecting with other men at Christ Lutheran. All life stages are welcome and more details will be coming out soon!



The Results Are In!

by PASTOR DREW

On October 20th, we had a congregational event called "Race to the Finish for Bihar" at the Charlotte Motor Speedway. Today we are excited to share with you that thanks to the our generous congregation, we have reached the finish line strong! Year to date, we have collected \$29,300 in donations for Partnership Bihar. We have another \$8,300 in pledges from people saying they will give at a later date. This brings our total given/pledged to \$37,600 for 2019 and the 4 year campaign total to \$112,000. This gift will directly help farmers in one of the world's poorest regions known as Bihar to improve their quality of life for generations to come. Thank you to everyone who has helped us to show the love of Jesus to the least of these over the past four years!



2020 CLASS SNEAK PEAK ON World Religions

by MIRIAM MORRISON

The Three R's of World Religions: Respecting, Reaffirming, and Revering will step into the shoes of a Hindu chanting his mantras, the Muslim kneeling on his prayer rug, the Buddhist spinning the prayer wheel, the Shintoist making a pilgrimage to a holy shrine, Confucians reverently holding the tablets of the temple, the Taoist burning incense on his golden altars, and the Parsi bowing to the sacred fire. Through videos, testimonies, visits to temples, and discussion, members will explore each religion, studying origin, history, development, beliefs, policies, daily life, and the reaction to the mission field of the ELCA.

Join us, starting January 5th in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour as we explore aspects of different religions, including Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Shintoism, Taoism, Confucianism, Zoroastrianism, Sikism, Bahai and Jainism.

For more information, please contact Miriam Morrison at memorrison769@gmail.com or (937) 435-5981.

Exciting News From Christ South

by ASHLEY COOKE & PASTOR MATT

Since our last update, a lot has happened at South. If you've been by the Old Dairy Farm lately, you'll see that there have been a lot of changes. In addition to Thrive Day School relocating on the property, you'll see a nice big deck has been constructed overlooking our natural amphitheater. This will be utilized for community events going forward and helps us to utilize our space better. House #2 has been renamed The Lodge and converted into usable space for the Christ South band rehearsal and for Sunday morning youth meetings.

The Old Dairy Farm board of directors continues to work on strengthening the mission and vision of how to use the land for His glory. In September, we dedicated the land by walking the property as families with prayer stones and praying over the different areas where future buildings will be constructed. This was followed by a land blessing and worship service with bonfires and s'mores into the evening.

If you have some time, check out our new website olddairyfarm.org and like us on Facebook.

Worship on Sundays continues to reach new families and impact lives. To increase our ability to reach those around us, we have put a new focus on connecting with the community. In September, Christ South hired Natalie Brunson as our Christ Life Coordinator. Natalie is in charge of deepening the connections of our congregation, reaching out to our youth in her weekly "Caffeine and Conversation" meetings and finding new ways and opportunities for people to dig deeper in their faith. Additionally, we have begun recruiting our Guest Experience Team who will take over set-up and tear down from our volunteers to free them up to lead in other areas of outreach.

September also marked the first ever meeting of the South Sisters! The South Sisters is our women's group who meets monthly for social events, faith-filled

discussions and support. The first meeting was marked by a mud run, followed by a Sunday evening "Come As You Are" event where our Sisters got to know each other better.

Not to be outdone, the Southman group had their fall retreat in October as a follow-up to the spring meeting where they focused on deepening connections with other men and finding places where life and faith meet daily. There was paintball, there were naps, there was a huge bonfire and tons of earplugs for the snoring.

Our community is growing and as we continue to search for ways to meet people where they are, we need your prayers and support. As the Old Dairy Farm grows and the vision becomes a reality we continue to ask for His hand in all we do.

Thrive Day School

by LAURA SCOTT

Thrive is more than a school, we are a growing community! The community that Thrive Day School serves is comprised of special needs students and their families. The impact the school makes is not only on the students, but also brings hope to the parents and caregivers of these amazing children. This year, Thrive has been able to double the enrollment to serve more students and families.

Over the summer, Thrive Day School moved to its new location on the Old Dairy Farm. A wonderful team of volunteers helped tear down walls, build shelves, clean, paint and make small repairs to the building. The new facility allows the school to increase enrollment, enabling us to serve more exceptional students in our community. Our Thrive parents and teachers are very thankful to all the volunteers that helped to transform the building into a special place for the students to learn and grow in.

Thrive participated in our first family trip to Hunter Farms. Field trips like this one encourage togetherness and allows families to lift one another up. It was very exciting for our Thrive families to spend the day together and to build a strong community. It was a truly "exceptional" day at the farm.



Southman Fall Retreat



Hunter Farms & Pumpkin Patch



Room In The Inn STARTS DECEMBER 5TH!!

by THE ROOM IN THE INN MINISTRY TEAM

Room In the Inn is a program organized by Urban Ministry Center along with community churches to house homeless men, women and children from December through March each year, and we need you to help make it all happen!

Christ Providence hosts 10 guests each Thursday evening to Friday morning in the area around Center Six, located in the classrooms behind Cornerstone Cafe. A lot of these guests are folks you may have seen on the streets of Charlotte. Our guests include men, women, and moms and dads with kids, both old and young. They may sleep in tents, under bridges, in their car or any place they can find. We host them to provide some normalcy in their lives. We do that by sharing a meal, having fellowship, watching a movie or just a simple conversation. Many of our guests encounter people every day who avoid eye contact with them. Room In The Inn is an opportunity for us to connect with our guests. We do not try to change them; we treat them like guests in our home.

Our volunteers provide transportation from and back to uptown, dinner, breakfast and a bagged lunch. Our church is very special to the guests because they each receive their own room.

This season for Room In The Inn will be the 23rd year Christ Lutheran has participated in the program. During that time we have hosted Room In The Inn in six different locations on our Providence campus. Throughout all of our growth, we've always found a way to keep the program going. In 22 years we have hosted over 3600 guests, with 12 volunteers involved each week in the hospitality required to make this program a success. That translates into over 4300 volunteers over the years!

Our volunteers are what have made this program work for all these years. If you have participated, you know what a great experience it is for adults and children alike. If you have not had the opportunity, please consider helping out this season. We are always in need of drivers to pick up the guests and also overnight hosts, but glad to have any and all that want to serve.

How to Sign Up

1. Go to SignUpGenius.com and search for the "CLC Room In The Inn 2019-2020" signup by email: ckramer@christelca.org
2. Join the RITI group in REALM (Community>Groups>Find Groups>Outreach Ministry>Room In The Inn). Once you have joined the group, you will be able to communicate with other members and sign up for available slots by clicking the SignUpGenius link.
3. Signup board at Christ Providence (outside Spirit Hall)

Please reach out with any questions on the program or how to signup by contacting Lane Goode (lane.goode@gmail.com or (704)516-1645) or Randy Satterfield (randy@rpsbenefits.net).

CROP Walk

Thanks to all who supported the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk. Whether it was through walking, donating, or prayer, the goal of ending hunger is one step closer!



2019 OFFICIAL 11/2019/2019
**CHARLOTTE
TURKEY TROT**

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

November 25-28, 2019

at the Turkey Trot Tent
*located at Southpark Mall near
Dillard's parking deck*

Volunteers make the Charlotte Turkey Trot a success every year. We begin on Monday assembling registration packets at Myers Park High School. From Tuesday through Thursday, we need course monitors to cheer runners on, people at the Finish Line handing out medals or helping timers, and folks to help with refreshments, packet and t-shirt distribution, and clean up.

There are many volunteer opportunities and time slots available on SignUp Genius. Signup for one or as many time slots as you would like.

**Our efforts will earn \$10,000 for
McClintock Partners In Education (McPIE).**

SIGN UP ONLINE AT

signupgenius.com

search by email: adaniels@christelca.org

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING Family Sponsorship Event

DECEMBER 12-14

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for:

personal shoppers, family sponsorships, setup (Thurs./Fri.), event help & transportation (Sat.), donations and more!

Contact Angela Davis (adavis@christelca.org) or Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org)

MUFFINS For Crisis Assistance

November 24 & December 22

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



Christmas Shopping Event *'tis the Season!*

The Holidays are quickly approaching and that means it's time to start thinking about Christmas! The Christmas Shopping Event will take place Friday and Saturday, December 13th and 14th. Many families in our community need our help with having some gifts under the tree for Christmas morning. With the help of benevolence money and monetary donations in support of the Experience Christmas shows, we will sponsor up to 40 families this Christmas Season!!

Friday night is the big shopping event. Middle and high school students will purchase wish-list items. Adult helpers and drivers will also be needed to assist middle school and high school shoppers.

FROM OUR SHOPPERS: "I am so glad that I came tonight! I had a blast and it's a great feeling knowing that I helped a family in need." "What a gift to be able to spend a few hours with a mother shopping for her family. I know I was the one blessed this Christmas!"

Saturday morning, the parents of the sponsored families have an opportunity to come to Christ Providence and "shop" for their families' Christmas gifts from the wish-list items purchased Friday night. This enables parents to personally shop for their families and instills a sense of pride.

FROM A SPONSORED FAMILY: "I feel so blessed because my family almost didn't have a Christmas this year, but thanks to God and Christ Lutheran Church, it was made possible. My family is very blessed."

There are many ways to get involved with this wonderful ministry! Volunteers can:

- Be a personal shopper for a family.
- We need 40 volunteers for this!

- Support the youth at The Experience Christmas Show (Dec. 6 & 7 at 6p.m. at Christ Providence-Pit). Love offerings will benefit the Christmas Shopping Event.
- Sponsor a family. Contact Amy Daniels to find out how at adaniels@christelca.org.
- Provide administrative help.
- Help with set-up on Thursday and Friday, December 12th and 13th.
- Volunteer Saturday to help with the "store" from 9:30 a.m. until around lunchtime.
- Transport families home with their Christmas gifts.

- Donate new (or gently used) gift items, including new board games, gaming systems, new books, toys, minority baby dolls, new clothing, coats, bikes and scooters.
- Donate gift wrapping supplies, including wrapping paper, tissue paper, boxes, gift tags, tape, scissors
- Donate household goods, including paper towels, toilet tissue, shampoo, conditioner, hand/dish soap, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, pots and pans, kitchen utensils, place settings, silverware, cleaning supplies, towels, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss.

***donated items may be dropped off in Lower Commons by December 12.*

The joy of sharing gives a special feeling to the one giving at Christmas! Get into the Christmas spirit of giving at the big Christmas Shopping Event!

Contact Amy Daniels (adaniels@christelca.org) or Angela Davis at (adavis@christelca.org) for information and to sign up!

Muffin Ministry

On the 4th Sunday of each month, we accept donations of muffins to benefit Crisis Assistance. Muffins are delivered Monday and are given to all clients and staff throughout the morning. Many people arrive at Crisis Assistance very early to stand in line and spend hours waiting to be seen. Crisis must triage all clients and see those with the most desperate needs first. Muffins will provide clients with a light breakfast snack while they wait. There will be a table setup just outside Cornerstone Gifts on the 4th Sunday of each month to drop off your muffins (*no nuts, please*). Any amount will greatly help!

Crisis Assistance

Many thanks to Mary Ellen Weddington for her many years of service at Crisis Assistance Ministry (almost 30!). Our team sorts clothing and other household items for the free store associated with Crisis Assistance. We meet the second Tuesday of the month from September through May. We leave the church at 9:30 a.m. and are back at the church by 12:30 p.m. If joining our team is something you may be interested in, you can contact Kate Shepard at (704)641-8804.

If you have clothing that you are looking to send to a new home, please drop in the blue bins beside the Outreach Office each Sunday. Clothing will be taken to Crisis Assistance for those in need!

McPIE Grant Funding

McPIE has been working diligently on securing resources and funding for our school year and summer programming. We are excited to announce that we have recently received three big grants!

For a 4th round of funding, McPIE's Summer Science Camp has been awarded \$179,967 to fund 3 more summers of camp. This is exciting news! The Burroughs Wellcome Fund monies will enable 200 rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders to investigate science using experiential learning and hands-on activities, while also preventing summer learning loss.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation (CMCF) awarded McPIE \$11,450 toward our Family Nights programming. These funds will help provide much needed Tuesday night meals and transportation, breaking a major barrier for family participation. Funding from CMCF is geared toward family stability and will also be used toward Family Nights Pathways Out of Poverty classes for parents.

Dreams do come true! The ELCA Big Dream grant was awarded to McPIE to begin a new program at McClintock Middle School a few nights a week. With the addition of a state-of-the-art McClintock Innovation

Lab and Library (MILL), students and parents will have the opportunity to come into the MILL a few nights a week, to use new technology and equipment and learn job skills training toward future employment!

McPIE is blessed to have been awarded funding toward these much-needed programs. With the help of local and national funders, McPIE's dream and mission of "Creating Future Stories...Building Community...Supporting Families...and Inspiring Volunteers...So that ALL McClintock students succeed," is moving forward!

McPIE Family Nights

Family Nights kicked-off at McClintock Middle School on September 24th with Registration Night! We served over 450 meals, fueling students and families to meet and mingle with club leaders! McClintock Middle School students have 20 club options ranging from Robotics, Innovation Lab and Cyber Spy to Woodworking, Sketch Squad and Top Scot Chef.

Family Nights meets on most Tuesdays during the school year. Dinner is served from 6-6:30 p.m., followed by clubs and classes for all ages from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

To get involved with Christ Lutheran Church's largest Outreach Program, contact Angela Davis at adavis@christelca.org. Join a team who is making a difference in the lives of students and families in our community!



FUSION SERVICE NIGHT Donations Needed

On Nov. 3, our youth will be working with Bright Blessings to provide birthday presents for homeless teenage children in Charlotte.

Donations requested: *sports balls, watches, cologne, \$10 gift cards, jewelry, card games, small purses, body lotion sets, flash drives, etc.*

Donation box at Youth Welcome Desk.



stepping stones UPCOMING EVENT CONFIRMATION

World Religions

Sun., November 17 • 1-3 p.m. (Forum)

We will study Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam and compare these religions to Christianity. A parent is expected to attend with their youth. This event is recommended for 8th graders.

Register on REALM

GOD COMING DOWN

PRESENTED BY THE EXPERIENCE

TWO SHOWS!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

DECEMBER 6 & 7

6:00 p.m. in the PIT • Christ Providence

FREE • ALL ARE WELCOME

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

BACK TO
THE MANGER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

5:00 p.m. at Christ Providence
in Fellowship Hall



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

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

by PASTOR MELODY

FAMILY. There's nothing more important for me. I'm sure I'm not alone in the sentiment. As a parent, watching my kids grow is an amazing experience. My main job is to help nurture this growth. I do everything I can to support them and help them grow into strong, faithful young people. That's why I take very seriously the time I have with them. I want them to learn from my example and make their faith a central part of who they are.

There are two family events coming up to help support parents in helping nurture their children's faith. First, we have a **Family Retreat** at Lutheridge, located just outside Asheville, from January 24-26. Our theme this year is Super Heroes. As a family, we'll explore the heroes of the Bible and talk about how God uses us to be heroes too! Registration for this event starts November 1 on REALM.

Next, we have a **Family Mission Trip** at Kure Beach from April 16-19. Children and youth grow deeper in faith if they see their parents putting their faith into action. What's a better way to do that than through a mission trip and helping the needy! 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 will begin February 1 on REALM. Space is limited, so mark your calendar! Come serve together!

LYO ASSEMBLY EVENT

by CAROLINE TARGONSKI

All youth, grades 6th-12th, are invited to join us for the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Assembly! For this event, we will head to the Embassy Suites hotel in Greensboro, North Carolina and join youth from all over the NC Synod. Together we will play games, have small group discussions, sing with the band and grow in our faith. Come hang out, connect and worship with youth from all across the state. It will be an incredible experience that you won't want to miss!

This event takes place on February 21-23. We will leave together from Christ Providence in vans on that Friday at 5 p.m. and arrive back on Sunday by 12:30 p.m. Please be sure to *register on REALM* by Wednesday, January 15th as spaces are limited!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT & HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN!

by CAROLINE TARGONSKI

Christmas is just around the corner and it's time to start getting into the holiday spirit. All youth (grades 6-12) can do so by joining us for our Youth Christmas Shopping Night on Friday, December 13th from 6 - 8 p.m.! We will meet at Christ Providence and head to Walmart together where we will shop for sponsored families in the community. Christmas sweaters are not required but strongly encouraged for some holiday fun!

After our shopping trip, high school youth are invited to stay for a lock-in. We will have games, movies and midnight bowling! Please register for the lock-in on REALM.

We will need adult volunteers for both the shopping trip and the lock-in. Parents, if you are available and interested in joining us, please contact Caroline at ctargonski@christelca.org.



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November/December 2019

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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



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.

First Impressions Matter

If you're interested in helping people feel welcome and invited, we would love for you to be an Usher, Greeter or Connector.

VOLUNTEER ON REALM:
Community>Groups>
Find Groups>Serving

or contact Pastor Drew:
dgoodson@christelca.org

GRIEF SHARE
support group

GriefShare is a Christ-centered recovery ministry open to those who are grieving the death of a loved one.

THURSDAYS • 6:00 P.M.
at Christ Providence (Church Office)

meets September 5 - December 12
excluding Halloween and Thanksgiving