

SUNDAY SCHEDULE **CHRIST PROVIDENCE**

4519 Providence Rd. · Charlotte

SUMMER WORSHIP 9:00 a.m. Traditional 10:45 a.m. Contemporary

FALL WORSHIP

(starts September 8) 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

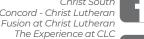
240 Pitts School Rd. NW · Concord 10:00 a.m. Blended Worship





Facebook

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Christ Lutheran, Charlotte, NC



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COMING THIS FALL









christelca.org -



PASTOR SCOTT SUSKOVIC

One Nation Under God

As our country once again celebrates its birthday this month, a return to patriotism, love of country and American pride will resurface with fireworks, barbecues and days off work. As part of that celebration, there will be those who will recite that Pledge of Allegiance we learned so early in elementary school that remains ingrained within our memory.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. As we stood in school, with hand over our hearts, we faced the flag and began each day with this ritual.

And to the republic for which it stands. I'm not sure if we really understood all the words, but we understood the reverence—we stood erect. We understood the respect—no kneeling, we faced the flag. And we understood the importance—each day started with this national rite.

One nation, under God, indivisible. In 1948, the words, "under God," were inserted. Some believe that the defiance to the rise of godless communism provided the impetus for this addition. But there was a sense, even at that early age, that God was with us, somehow God was on our side.

With liberty and justice for all. For all. For all. As a 4th grader in Austin, Minnesota, I had no reason to ask if that were true. Is this liberty and justice really for all? I assumed it. The Pledge says it. I recited it. It must be true.

Certainly, in theory, this is true. This is a country where you are innocent until proven guilty. We are a land governed by laws, not anarchy. Each person is allotted their time in court to plead their case. This is the land of great opportunity where dreams can become reality, where we can worship without persecution, where we still trust in the ideals of the Constitution.

Oh, it's not perfect. We all do not have equal access to the best legal representation. We all don't start at the same starting point. Immigration is much more complex than when my grandfather came here in 1913. God is slowly being squeezed out of our schools, our government and our Sunday morning routines. And with our growing political polarities, it seems we are barely holding onto that idealized word, "indivisible."

But are we still "under God?" Certainly not in an exclusive sense as if no other nation is under God. Certainly not in a religion sense as if we all believe the same thing. And certainly not in a righteous sense as if all of our actions reflect the goodness and truth of God.

But under God? Yes, in the sense that ultimate authority does not rest in Washington but in the Creator of heaven and earth. We are called to a higher standard, as Paul said in Acts, "We must obey God rather than humans." And that higher standard is the source of our hope, our joy, our future and our well being. Such attributes can neither be enacted by Congress or expected by our citizens for government to provide.

We, indeed, are one nation under God in the sense that we and every living being upon this earth are subject to the One, and the One alone, who endows us with these inalienable rights—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

And with that, we celebrate our 243rd birthday as a nation... under God.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

SERMON SERIES · JUNE 30 - JULY 28



Don't we all need a little divine intervention once in a while? Of course we do! A prayer for healing. A plea for safety. Relief from the pain. Healing for a broken heart. In our greatest need, we reach out to God to act in a way that only God can. But are they real... these miracles? Do miracles still happen today?

June 30 • Miracles of Healing

When we think of miracles, we most often think about physical healing. The Bible is filled with miraculous healing stories of the blind, deaf and lame. Where are those stories today? Where is my miracle? Does God still perform miracles of healing today?

Mark 8:22-26; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9



July 7 • Miracles of Power

When mother-nature strikes with force, the results can be devastating: hurricanes demolish the eastern coastline; tornadoes ransack the Midwest; earthquakes rock the West. Is there any power than can withstand such a powerful force? Yes... but only one. *Mark 4:35-41; 1 Kings 19:9-13*

July 14 • Miracles Over Death

Death is the final enemy. Death is what steals anniversaries and birthdays, robs us of time together and rips away loved ones from our arms. Death is the final enemy. But there is one who declares that victory over death with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" *John 11:17-44; 1 Kings 17:17-24*

July 21 • Miracles of Abundance

It's not much - a couple of loaves of bread and some dried fish It's not much - a modest income and limited opportunities. It's not much - a young life with few marketable skills. It's not much - I need a miracle. Where we see scarcity, God sees abundance. Where we see roadblocks, God sees a way. Where we see the impossible, God sees what is possible. John 6:1-14; Exodus 16:1-5

Sunday, July 28 • Miracles Over Darkness

Was it a demon that made him shake, or was it epilepsy? Was it a demon that made him froth at the mouth, or was it mental illness? Was it a demon that entered the swine, or was it pre-scientific imagination? How do we understand the presence of demons today in our enlightened world? Now more than ever, I need a miracle. *Mark* 9:17-29; Ephesians 6:10-12



COMING FALL 2019: **The Community**

Bible Experience

by PASTOR DREW

Have you ever wanted to read the Bible, the whole Bible, but did not know how or where to begin? If so, I understand. The Bible is made up of 66 books, written by many different authors a long time ago. Yet, we at Christ Lutheran believe that its contents remain as relevant and as life changing TODAY as ever before.

It's for this reason, we are excited to share with you the return of Community Bible Experience! We are going to dive deep into God's Word, the Bible, this fall at all campuses of Christ Lutheran.

So How Will This Work?

Over a span of 16 weeks, we invite you to read the Bible with your church family. But don't worry, we won't be reading the entire Bible all at once! We are reading the first quarter of the Bible, from Genesis through 2 Kings. This portion explores the origins of God's people and the promise of the Messiah, Jesus.

We will take this journey from Sunday, September 8, (Kick Off Sunday), until December 22. It breaks down to reading around eight pages each weekday. Easily doable!

You can purchase a copy of the *Books of the Bible: Covenant History* in Cornerstone Gifts, starting in late July. We will have copies available at reduced cost of \$5 each. Make sure to also pick up a copy of the bookmark from Cornerstone Gifts which includes the Reading Plan.

Each Sunday this fall, sermons in worship will explore some of the dynamic stories you will be reading. We will also connect the Old Testament readings with the New Testament, showing how they point to the coming of Christ. We also invite you to take part in one of the many discussion groups that will be meeting so that you can pray, connect, and talk about the Scripture reading with others. Thank you for joining us on this exciting adventure through God's Word!



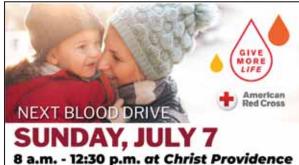
WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER

STARTS SEPTEMBER 4

Dinner 5:00 p.m. - Classes 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & FALL WORSHIP
STARTS SEPTEMBER 8

Worship Services 8:45 a.m. • 10:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.



Signup at redcrossblood.org



HABITAT EL SALVADOR

TRIP DATES: Novemer 2 - 10, 2019

IF INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE: Contact Gregg Huether at ghuether@christelca.org or (704) 366-1595



Choral Evensong & Dinner Sunday, July 28 • 4:00 p.m. at Myers Park Presbyterian Church

Join us for this ancient style of song & chant worship featuring choristers from all over

the country. Afterwards, we will meet for dinner at Dilworth Neighborhood Grill.

Register on REALM Starting June 17th



A SOCIAL GROUP FOR 50+

Paisano Picnic

Saturday, August 10 • 3:00 p.m. - Dusk at the Leffler's House (Lake Norman)

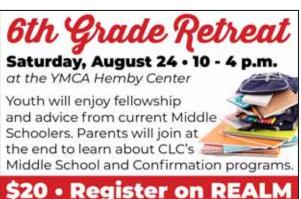
Join us on the lake for grilled pizza & Italian sausage (provided) and bring wine, beer, or an Italian appetizer/salad/dessert to share.

Register on REALM starting July 17 More Info: Linda Nelson (219)263-8530











Share Your Skills & Talents! by LAURIE CARTER

REALM continues to change the way we do ministry at Christ Lutheran and the newest enhancement is going to change the way we recruit and communicate with our volunteers. More enhancements are coming throughout the year but the first and perhaps the most important involves YOU!

When you have 10 minutes to sit and think about what God is calling you to do in service to your church and community, go into your Profile on REALM and click "Edit Profile." Next, click Personal Information and look for the drop down boxes under Skills and Interests.

Under Skills, click the box next to the skills you feel proficient at. The next drop down is Interests. Do the same, clicking the boxes next to areas where you have an interest in serving.

This should be done prayerfully and thoughtfully. The needs of our church are great. The gifts and talents of our members are greater, and we want you to feel connected and to delve deeper into your faith through service to others.

Don't have a REALM login?

Email *lcarter@christelca.org* to request one. Oh, and while you are in REALM, make sure you have an up-to-date headshot. Help us continue to build community by recognizing each other.

We are just shy of 1,000 logins to REALM. Get connected, find a group, and now.... identify your skills and interests to see where you might serve the church and our neighbors!

Qualified Charitable Distributions

by THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Are you age 70 $\frac{1}{2}$ or will you soon turn 70 $\frac{1}{2}$? If so, you probably know that you will face a required minimum distribution (RMD) each year from your Retirement Account (IRA/401K). You may be interested in a way to lower your income on your federal tax return, reduce the federal taxes that you owe and help further the mission of Christ Lutheran at the same time. You can do this by means of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

Benefits of a OCD

- · Reduce your taxable income even if you do not itemize deductions
- \cdot Help further the work of your church
- · Satisfy your RMD requirements
- · Avoid federal taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your Retirement Account to CLC General Fund or CLC Endowment Funds

How a Retirement Account Charitable Rollover Gift Works

Contact your Retirement Account Plan Administrator to make a gift from your Retirement Account. Your gift can be directly transferred electronically to Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Funds (the church office can provide assistance). Gifts must be transferred directly to the Endowment Funds. You may not take possession of the distribution. Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify as charitable deductions.

Please contact your personal financial and tax advisors before making a final decision. Please note that state income tax treatment may vary from federal income tax treatment. To further discuss naming CLC and the Endowment Funds in your planned and legacy giving, contact Pastor Scott Suskovic (suskovic@christelca.org).

HONORING OUR **COLLEGE GRADUATES**

class of 2019



LAUREN BESTE



THOMAS COLE



KYLA COOK



BENJAMIN GIBSON

Lauren Beste graduated magna cum laude from Queens University with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and digital media.

Thomas Cole graduated from UNC Greensboro with a Bachelor of Science in information systems and supply chain management.

Kyla Cook graduated from Miami University and is currently working at Freedom School for the summer. She plans to study a year in Spain before entering law school.

Benjamin Gibson graduated cum laude from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in physics and a minor in mathematics. He will be attending the University of Utah in the fall to pursue a doctorate in physics.

Justine Graham graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina with a master's degree in cardiovascular perfusion. She plans to work at Boston Children's Hospital as a cardiovascular perfusionist.

Libby Gutt graduated from Western Carolina University's School of Nursing. She will be pursuing her career at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital this summer in Winston-Salem.

Lucy Hanson graduated from Emory University as a Woodruff Scholar with a Bachelor of Arts in economics and math/political science. She has accepted a position with J.P. Morgan Chase in Dallas, Texas.

Matthew Howard graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with double majors in chemistry and biology.



JUSTINE GRAHAM



LIBBY GUTT



LUCY HANSON



MATTHEW HOWARD





JENNIFER HUNDT



JAKE KELLER



SARAH KULESA



CARRIE MITTL

Jennifer Hundt earned a Masters of Social Work with a sub-concentration in military social work and veterans services from the University of Southern California. She plans to pursue a career in social work and obtain her LCSWA clinical license.

Jake Keller graduated from NC State with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering. He will be returning to NC State in the fall to pursue a doctorate in robotics.

Sarah Kulesa graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. She plans to work as a cardiothoracic intensive care nurse at Duke University Hospital.

Carrie Mittl earned a B.S. in computer science from Duke University. She plans to work as a technology analyst for Goldman Sachs in New York City.

Abby Smith graduated magna cum laude from Appalachian State University with a degree in elementary education. She will be staying at ASU next year for her master's degree in reading education.

Saralyn Stensrud graduated from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science in recreational therapy with a minor in psychology. She is currently working with veterans in an internship program at the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center in Port Orange, Florida.

Andrew Weisenberger graduated from the University of Advancing Technology with a Bachelor of Science in robotics. He will be staying in Arizona and working.

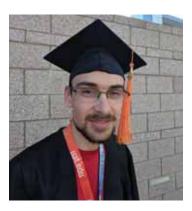
Matthew Wingard graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Architecture. He has accepted a position with Niles Bolton Associates, an architecture firm in Atlanta.



ABBY SMITH



SARALYN STENSRUD



ANDREW WEISENBERGER



MATTHEW WINGARD

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

by PASTOR DREW

We have about a dozen men at Christ Lutheran who have been on a Kairos Prison ministry weekend, sharing the love of Jesus with young men who are incarcerated in a North Carolina facility.

The Christ Lutheran Kairos group welcomes adult men of all ages who are interested in learning more about this ministry, or taking part in a weekend, to connect with us.

The fall weekend, scheduled for November 7-10, is now open for applications. Each volunteer receives excellent training and preparation on how to take part in a Kairos weekend, and doing so has been life changing for so many who have served. Look for the Kairos group on REALM or contact Pastor Drew (dgoodson@christelca.org) to learn more.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR C3 WELCOME MINISTRY

C3 stands for "Creating Connections in Christ."

Every Sunday at Christ Providence, we rely on a multitude of passionate, gifted volunteers to serve as Greeters, Ushers and more. We are so thankful for those who give of their time to welcome guests, new and familiar, into God's house. Would you please consider serving in one of these areas? All we ask is that you consider serving one Sunday per month at the worship service of your choice. You can join a Greeter or Usher Team on REALM by looking at (Groups>Find Groups>Serving).

SPECIAL THANKS

Dear Christ Lutheran Family - We want to express our sincere appreciation for all the cards, phone calls and flower arrangements we have received acknowledging the loss of our son, Phil. We thank our Christ family so much. -- Kathie & Chuck Rice



IT'S MORE THAN A GIFT STORE

You may or may not have seen a gift store like Cornerstone in a church before. It is important that you know what makes this store unique. When you walk inside the store, you will see many amazing items, quite a few of them handcrafted. But this isn't what truly makes the store unique.

On the shelves you will find that a lot of these items were made right in the local Charlotte area, not imported from someplace far away. We are proud of this, but it isn't the most unique feature. You can also find personal gifts for those special milestones in a person's faith journey, such as Confirmation and Baptism. That isn't it either, however.

What makes Cornerstone Gifts more than a typical store, is that all of the net profit from this store goes to support the Benevolence Ministries of Christ Lutheran. Sales in 2018 enabled \$4,000 to be given to God's work in the community.

That translates into real ministry that cares for the hungry, shows compassion to the imprisoned, empowers youth, and more. Cornerstone is more than a gift store. Cornerstone Cares. The next time you need a special gift for someone, why not let Cornerstone be your first stop?



ARROWS OF ADAM MEN'S RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE: MONTREAT

by PASTOR DREW

Attention Guys: This is thinking far ahead, but we would like you to put on your calendar the spring 2020 Arrows of Adam Men's Retreat! Save the dates **April 3-5** so that you can join us as we head up to Montreat Conference Center near Asheville for a weekend of spiritual depth, crazy outdoor fun, great food and a chance to connect with other men of faith. More details and registration will be coming later this year. Mark your calendars!













CHRIST CONCORD NEWS

Come Join Us for Splash Day!

Saturday, July 13 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Put on your swimsuits, grab a towel... and get ready to get WET!

"Kids" of all ages are going to have fun cooling off at Christ Concord with water balloons, super soakers and a giant slip-n-slide! Mark your calendars and bring the whole family!

Kickoff 8 Days of Service Sunday, August 18

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 821 million people in the world don't get the food they need to live a healthy life. Help kick off Christ Lutheran's "8 Days of Service" as we partner with Rise Against Hunger at Christ Concord to package 10,000+ meals for those in need.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- · Worship, Christ Concord, 10:00 a.m.
- · Lunch (provided), 11:30 a.m.
- · Package meals, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Helping to feed the hungry is not only helpful for the people of the world... it's a LOT of fun (don't forget to wear comfortable clothing and shoes). Be sure to sign up for the event on REALM and keep your eye out for more projects at *christelca.org*.

Bible Study

Looking for a place to dig deeper into the upcoming texts for Sunday's sermon? Join us Wednesdays at Christ Concord, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Then join us for lunch! We go someplace different every week!

Worship

If you haven't seen what our church is doing at different campuses, I invite you to worship at each of our different campuses this summer! At Christ Concord, we worship in a blended style—some traditional, some contemporary...blended with a WHOLE LOT of friendly interaction and dialogue (even during the sermons). Join us! 10:00 am—every Sunday!



PASTOR TENNYSON SHIFLEY



SARA BREEGGEMANN
FAMILY MINISTRY
COORDINATOR



RICH HARTMAN PROPERTY MANAGER

OUTREACH NEWS

FREEDOM SCHOOL is Fully Funded!

Thanks to the enormous generosity of Christ Lutheran, 100 scholars are spending their summer learning while having fun in a safe space. This class of scholars will build Something Inside So Strong in hopes of breaking the cycle of poverty. Through the tools they receive in Freedom School, scholars foster a love of reading and learn that they can make a difference in themselves, their family and the world.

Please continue to pray for our scholars, their families, Freedom School team leaders and volunteers. We hope that the Holy Spirit touches them daily and blesses and empowers them to make a difference this summer!

If you are still interested in making a donation, the McPIE general fund accepts donations year-round to support Family Night and other initiatives. We are also continuing to collect books to fill Freedom School bookshelves!

Join Our Family Night Team!

CALLING ALL ENGINEERS, CRAFTY FOLKS, PROGRAMMERS/ CODERS, MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, CHEFS AND ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS A PASSION THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHARE: Family Night will start up again this September and we need YOU! Leading or helping with a club not what you're looking for? Join our Meals or Transportation Team. If you can't commit to coming every Tuesday, you can sign up to be a floater while someone else it out.

Each Tuesday evening during the school year, McPIE hosts Family Night for the students and families of McClintock Middle School. We provide transportation, dinner and clubs for all age groups at no cost to the families that participate.

If you'd like to join our Family Night Team or get more information, please contact Angela at adavis@christelca.org.

McPIE Daytime Leaders Needed

Looking to get involved in McPIE but only have time during the day? We are looking for several people to coordinate a few of our daytime activities. Three positions are open for leadership: Summer School Supply Drive Coordinator, Tutor and Teacher Partner Coordinator, and Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Coordinator.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Amy at adaniels@christelca.org.

GET WOWED AT McPIE'S Science Camp Showcase Thursday, June 27 or Thursday, July 18th • 1:30 p.m.

Come see what McPIE's Summer Science Experience Camp is all about. Join campers at McClintock Middle School as they showcase all they have learned, engineered and invented over their 2-week summer session. You are sure to be WOWed with orbots, farm tech. spher-o-bots, cooking with numbers and more... don't miss it!

Volunteers Needed

June 17 - July 26, 2019

Volunteer opportunities are still available during Freedom School!

For opportunities and sign-up, go to vhub.at/christlutheran

Questions: Contact Dee Dee Petronis at dpetronis@carolina.rr.com

Thursday, July 25 • 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Come watch the culmination of these Scholars' hardwork! It's a celebration filled with energy and emotion! Each class will give a presentation through song, dance, spoken word, video and more.

don't miss it.

mcple It's time for our annual SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

All supplies accepted, especially:

composition books · pencils · pens · 2" binders colored pencils · markers · alue · earbuds

COLLECTION BEGINS IN AUGUST

Check enews each Tuesday for Hot Deals of the week!



GET INVOLVED WITH FAMILY NIGHTS

every Tuesday • 5:30 p.m. at McClintock Middle School

Volunteer Orientation: September 17th **Kick-off Registration: September 24th**

Contact Angela: adavis@christelca.org



DAYTIME LEADERS

Three positions open:

- Summer School Supply **Drive Coordinator**
- Tutor and Teacher Partner Coordinator
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Coordinator

Interested? Contact Amy adaniels@christelca.org



DAYS OF SERVICE August 18-25, 2019



Mark your calendars now for our campus-wide outreach effort of 8 Days of Service!!

We will have service projects every day and most evenings that week at a variety of non-profits and partner agencies in town. You can pick one or as many as you like- there is something for every age group and many family-friendly options!

Last year we ended up with hundreds of volunteers and hours of service with a great deal of work accomplished for many groups, including McClintock Partners In Education (McPIE), Crisis Assistance Ministries, Urban Ministry Center, Lutheran Services Carolinas, Charlotte Rescue Mission, Stop Hunger Now, Habitat for Humanity, Blessings, Animal Shelter, and more.

We will kick off the week like last year with lunch up at Christ Concord and following lunch, we will package 10,000+ meals for disaster torn countries.

INTERESTED IN LEADING A PROJECT?

-or-

HAVE A NON-PROFIT IN MIND THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP?

Contact Amy Daniels today! adaniels@christelca.org

















SIGNUP STARTS AUGUST 1

Signup on REALM

or go to christelca.org to see all available opportunities!







christelca.org

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Christ Providence • Christ South • Christ Concord

JULY/AUGUST 2019

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



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 2019:

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.

