



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

January 2024

Serving the Lake Norman area since 1977

A newsletter published for the members and friends of Community In Christ Lutheran Church, 7621 Norman Island Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031 704-892-0120 email: swheeler@communityinchrist.net www.communityinchrist.org

Sunday Worship in January:

9 a.m.—Contemporary (livestream)
10 a.m.—Sunday School & Coffee Cart
11 a.m.—Traditional

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)



One Blood's Big Red Bus has rescheduled! Save the date! Sunday, January 21st, 8am-11am. Sign up here: <https://www.oneblood.org/donate-now/scheduler.html?locationId=1449299>



De-Decorating Help: Please come by on January 2nd at 10:30am to assist in packaging and storing the Advent and Christmas decorations. Your help is greatly appreciated!



Have you joined CIC's new online photo directory yet?

- The directory is through a program called Church Center, which is also an app.
- Follow the QR code to get started.
- If you need assistance, there will be tech support in the narthex between services or call the office for help.



From the Pastors.....

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:9-11



In case you might've been carrying around a bit of guilt about this, and Lutherans have a tendency to do such things, we wanted to come clean about our own challenge...taking our name tags home with us and forget to bring them back to church. It happens. We have more opportunities than anyone to put the name tags on the rack in the narthex, and yet, every once in a while, they do not return to where they are intended to go. As such, we have ended up with multiple name tags.

We know we're not alone. And we want you to know it is absolutely OK! We also would like to encourage you to try to return your extra name tags so other people can use them. Enough of the name tags have disappeared over the last few months that we've needed to order more.

Similarly, remember that you can clean your current name tags when the printing starts to fade or if you just want to switch up colors. All you need to do is wipe it with a magic eraser and a little bit of water, dry it off, and use one of the chalk markers to write your name back on it. All of these supplies are usually on one of the circular tables near the welcome desk.

If you've completely lost your name tag, it's fine! Do not feel bad about that. Please make a new one.

These name tags are such a gift to our family of faith and we want to make sure we are being good stewards by utilizing them. Y'all have done a fantastic job wearing them, just keep it up! Wearing a name tag is a gift to visitors as well as long time members. It makes everyone feel more at home when they are called by name.

In baptism we are named as children of God, a precious title that reflects our eternal place in God's family. However, in order to feel welcome and included in this family of faith at CIC, knowing our given names is integral. May we stay diligent not just in wearing our name tags but in making sure we welcome one other in the same gracious manner that Christ has welcomed us.

God's peace be with you,
Pastor Michael & Pastor Lisa

Prayers

Prayers for Members: Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, Joan Garn, Janet Shuping, Betty Classey, Pat Hamby, Gregg Bottemiller, Lucy Price, Joyce Phelps, Shirley McNeilis, Blaire Hart, Warren Hamby, Laverne Waskielis, Janice Kaufmann, Sandy Barefoot, Anne Randolph, John Iverson, Liann Musano, Ron Major, Ron Raper, Chuck Decker

Prayers for friends & relatives of members: *With the beginning of the new year the prayer list has been cleared. If you would like someone to remain on the list please let the office know. Thank you!*

Pastor Carl Yost (Congregation friend)

Prayers for all active duty military personnel and their families, healthcare workers, first responders and public servants (Community In Christ thanks you and continues to pray for you)

The Lay Pastors meet monthly to pray for all people on the list. They also send out cards letting them know they have been prayed for. Please provide addresses to send the cards. Please submit all prayer requests to the office at 704-892-020 or swheeler@communityinchrist.net.

Ways to Give of Tithes and Offerings at CIC:

1. Online/Direct Withdrawal

- A. Go to www.communityinchrist.org & click on the “donate now” button in the upper right-hand corner.
- B. Select “Create Profile”
- C. Provide your email address
- D. Create your profile and provide the various pieces of information. Once your profile is created, you can select what types of giving you would like sign-up for.

**When considering this option, please note that church incurs an additional service charge for debit and credit card fees.*

2. Mail In: We have a locked mailbox at CIC that is checked frequently. CIC’s address is 7621 Norman Island Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031

3. Offering Plate: The ushers provide an opportunity for you to place your offering in the offering plate during worship.

4. Are you a Thrivent Financial member? You may be eligible to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to enrolled non-profits that you care about – including our church! Feel free to contact your Thrivent agent to check your eligibility! We appreciate your support of CIC’s ministry through Choice Dollars!

Stock Account—Have you ever thought about giving the gift of stocks, mutual funds, or IRAs? CIC has a resource available through Thrivent Financial to transfer these funds to the church into a charitable, tax-free gift account. If you would like to learn more about this possibility or have questions please contact Gary Samuelson (704-506-3234) and/or Madalyn Wilkinson at financedirector@communityinchrist.net.

Office Communication: Please be in touch with Stephanie in the church office (swheeler@communityinchrist.net) about the following:

- If you read the newsletter online and prefer that it no longer be mailed to your physical address.
- If you have switched to giving primarily through digital means and no longer have a need for physical envelopes.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION DATE IF YOU ARE SET UP FOR AUTO DEDUCTION ON OUR WEBSITE.

Office Update:

The office will be closed on January 1st.
The pastors will be returning to the office on January 4th.

Office & Staff Information

We encourage calling and emailing to schedule appointments.

Pastor Lisa – pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net

Pastor Michael – pastormichael@communityinchrist.net

Stephanie Wheeler, Church Administrator – swheeler@communityinchrist.net

Finance, Madalyn Wilkinson—financedirector@communityinchrist.net

Music, Sherry Malia—musicdirector@communityinchrist.net

A Note From Your Music Team:

I just want to send out a HUGE thank you to all the musicians who worked so hard over the last month! Your voices lifted in song was such a gift. I also want to say thank you to Ashley, Suzi, and everyone who helped with the kids’ Christmas program. It couldn’t have happened without you all! Lastly, a big thank you to the very awesome children of CIC! What a great group of kids to work with. I’m already thinking of what we can do next so be ready!! With love, Sherry

Bell Choir News:

Thank you to our Community in Christ family! We deeply appreciate your support of the bell’s ministry. After bell choir members personally paid for half of the retreat cost, the congregation’s support of this music ministry is off setting the remainder of the cost. We are excited to share what we have learned with the congregation after we return in February.

Bell Choirs Rehearsal Schedule

January 4: Regular Thursday rehearsals resume—Carillon at 6 p.m. and Agape at 7 p.m. Rehearsals are in the Spirit Center

Group Ministry News.....

Tuesday Morning CIC Bible Study: Tuesday Morning Bible Study will not meet on Tuesday, January 2nd. Bible Study resumes Tuesday, January 9th at 10:30 a.m. in the Narthex.

January Grocery Cart Collection: We are starting off the new year with once again partnering with the CIC preschool in collecting items for the Bags of Hope Program. Bags of Hope is a non-profit ministry providing weekend food provisions to school children in the Lake Norman area who experience food insecurity. To find out more about this program check out: www.bagsofhopelkn.com. During January we will be collecting *canned pasta (i.e. Spaghetios or Chef Boyardee pastas)*. When you're doing your grocery shopping this month consider picking up a few of these items and adding them to the grocery cart at CIC. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our grocery cart collections each month. Your generosity is making a difference!

Happy Times Seniors: Will meet Wednesday January 17th at 11:30 in the Spirit Center at the church. We will have a planning meeting, play BINGO and enjoy each other's company. Please bring a Bag Lunch, water will be provided. Please join us for this special event! RSVP Ron Major (704) 622-0517 HunterRon35@hotmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Happy New Year!! This month, the CIC Prayer Shawl Ministry will continue to focus on making hat and scarf sets for those in need during these cold winter months. Already this season, we have given away more than 45 sets to those served by the Montagnard Tutoring Program and the Dwelling. The coldest months are still ahead of us, and the need continues to grow. We could certainly use your help!! So, if you like to knit or crochet - or would like to learn how - please join us! No experience necessary!!!! The group and its activities are open to all CIC members, friends, and visitors regardless of age or ability. Just contact Kathy Dutton (see email address below) and she will add your name to the member email list and keep you informed. We meet in person in the CIC Spirit Center on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30pm to 2:30 pm. Plan to join us if you can for some fellowship, idea-sharing, and fun! Of course, you can also participate in this important ministry at home by crafting items, and bringing them to CIC. If you have any questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Dutton (mamabissy@gmail.com) or Diana Elsass (dianaelsass@gmail.com).

Card Ministry News: Thinking of joining a new ministry team in 2024? Consider joining the CIC card ministry team where we create cards that serve as physical reminders of God's love, support and presence in our lives. All are welcome and no experience is needed! We will meet twice in January to make cards and enjoy fellowship with one another. We'll be meeting Tuesday, January 9th at 2:00 PM and Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM in the Spirit Center. Participants are asked to enter through the doors nearest the Spirit Center. Would you like more information? Contact: Kathy Shugarman at 940-300-2290 or shugs02@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the card ministry through your prayers, working hands and purchasing cards from the rack.

Card Ministry teams up with CIC Youth: During January and February all proceeds from sales of cards on card rack in the narthex will be going to the youth for their upcoming trip to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. Please check out the card rack and see some of the cards the youth have helped to make!

Quilting Ministry: The Quilt Ministry will resume on Thursday, January 11 & 25 @ 10:00 AM. You are welcome to join us even if you don't sew. We welcome anyone who can iron, cut or help to tie quilts. Come check us out. Everyone is welcome! Please call Barbara Eaker @ (704) 451-5922 with any questions or suggestions.

Preschool: The CIC Preschool currently has openings for 3 students in the PK class and 2 students in the TK class (age 5). There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$85.00 per child is due at time of enrollment. Tuition for 2023/2024: \$325 for 4-year-old students. To schedule a tour contact Sharon Fuller at 704-892-0120 ext 104 or sfuller9564@gmail.com.

The 5:11s (women's group): Happy New Year! The 5:11s will meet Sunday, January 21st between worship services in the Fellowship Hall. All women of CIC are invited to attend. We will kick off with our Secret Prayer Sister, bible/book studies, and Angel Aunts. Going forward we will meet the 3rd Sunday of the month except for Feb where we will meet the last Sunday due to President's Day holiday. 1st Thessalonians 5:11 – Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. Here's to a great year and to us building something new in the New Year! Jlbrooks@gmail.com



Sunday School

January 7, 14, 21, and 28 – 10am – Youth begin in the sanctuary with music before transitioning to classrooms.

Parents: *The younger class (prek-1st) is requesting that at least one parent hang back each week to be an extra set of eyes and hands each week. Please check in with the class each week to see if this is covered!

**If you haven't filled out a new Registration Form for the Fall, please get one from the classroom. New students may join classes at any time!

First Communion Instruction: If your 2nd grader or older would like to receive First Communion instruction this year during the season of Lent, with First Communion taking place on Maundy Thursday (March 28th), please email Pastor Lisa (pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net) by February 6th.

Confirmation

6th-8th graders: Sundays, January 7th, 21st and 28th, 6-8pm Class at the church

Senior High

SR High students spent some time working with CIC's card ministry on December 21st. They had a ton of fun together and, with the guidance of some expert crafters, created a range of beautiful cards that will be stocked in the narthex in January (proceeds from the sale will be gifted to participants who will be attending next summer's National Youth Gathering).



Finance Team

November financial gifts brought in \$48.9k, for a YTD total of \$190.4k, which is 6% behind the budget. The Preschool continues with 49 enrolled, they will have one more student starting in January. Other Revenues brought in \$1.7k, between interest income, Thrivent Choice dollars, facility use, and credit card rewards. On the spending side, we ordered Advent Devotionals (\$325), purchased Christmas greenery for the Sanctuary (\$335), purchased supplies for the children's Christmas play (\$115). In maintenance spending, we paid the quarterly insurance installment (\$3.9k) and landscaping fees (\$900). We ended November with a surplus of \$6.1k, which reduced our combined YTD Deficit to \$23.5k. ~Madalyn Wilkinson, Director of Finance.

Community in Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Plan	July 23-June 24 Budget	November 23 Actual	% of Budget
<i>Revenues</i>			
Member Contributions	\$530,000	\$190,427	36%
Other Revenue <i>Facility usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest, credit card rewards</i>	204,900	66,716	33%
Total Revenues	734,900	257,144	35%
<i>Expenses</i>			
Worship <i>Altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>	5,300	2,238	42%
Witness <i>Offering envelopes, new member activities</i>	2,260	603	27%
Synod benevolence	53,000	17,479	33%
Administration <i>Computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i>	46,443	20,068	43%
Mortgage <i>Principal and interest on mortgage</i>	69,348	28,895	42%
Property <i>Building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>	59,227	20,578	35%
Staff <i>Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits for four full-time and one part-time employees; staff development</i>	333,817	134,667	40%
Music Ministries <i>Guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fee, handbells, AV maintenance</i>	4,615	2,008	44%
Youth Ministries <i>Youth mission trips, retreats, activities, VBS, Sunday school, camp/confirmation</i>	8,150	429	5%
Preschool <i>Staff salaries and benefits, activities, supplies, maintenance</i>	151,499	53,726	35%
Total Expenses	733,659	280,691	38%
Surplus	\$1,241	(\$23,547)	



Happy New Year!


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 7621 Norman Island Drive
 Cornelius, NC 28031
 1 - 77, Exit 25 2 miles west on HWY 73
 (704) 892-0120 e-mail:
 swheeler@communityinchrist.net

Church Council
 Dean Miller (Treasurer)
 Jeff Moen
 Natasha Nadeau (Pres.)
 Adam English (VP)
 Carl Yarger
 Sharon Heckman
 Tracy Lyon (Secretary)
 Todd Rixman

Staff
 Pastor Lisa Beery pastormicha@communityinchrist.net
 Pastor Michael Beery pastormichael@communityinchrist.net
 Office Administrator, Stephanie Wheeler (swheeler@communityinchrist.net)
 Preschool Director, Sharon Fuller (Sfuller9564@gmail.com)
 Finance - Madalyn Wilkinson (financedirector@communityinchrist.net)
 Music—Sherry Malia (musicdirector@communityinchrist.net)

Team Leaders
 Youth
 Adult Faith Formation (Mark Myers)
 Finance (Madalyn Wilkinson)
 Technology
 Outreach (Kathy Dutton)
 Inviting Ministries
 Property (Stephanie Wheeler)
 Stewardship
 Support Staff (Kathy Shugaman)
 Worship & Music





Moving forward in
 Outreach
 Stewardship
 Welcome & Inclusion
 Worship
 Youth & Family Ministries
 As a Community
 in Christ

Worship Times

9 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)
10 a.m. Sunday School (Spirit Center)
10 a.m. Coffee Time (Narthex)
11 a.m. (Sanctuary)

Livestreamed on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#)

Please note that announcements for the bulletin, newsletter and Facebook pages are for church related items only. Anything non-related to the church will be deleted. Thank you for adhering to this policy. Submissions for the bulletin must be received in writing to the church office by Thursdays at 10 a.m. Submissions for the newsletter must be received in writing to the church office by the 20th of the month.

Are you getting our E-Mails?

Each week we send out an e-mail to the congregation sharing what's going on and what's coming up. If you have not been receiving these e-mails, please let us know. Write your e-mail down in the black book and put a note by it asking us to include you in our weekly e-mails. You can also sign up for e-mails at our website.
www.communityinchrist.org