



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

October 2023

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 October:

10/1-10/22: 9 am Worship (Contemporary) – livestreamed*,

10 am Sunday School begins with music in the sanctuary, 10 am Coffee Cart, 11 am Worship (Traditional)

***Sunday, 10/8, 9am worship** will be outdoors in the parking lot and the 11am service will be livestreamed from the Sanctuary

October 8th – 9 a.m. Worship Outdoors with Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 8th, at the 9 a.m. OUTDOOR service, we'll have a Blessing of the Animals during worship. Cat and dog, pig and bird, lizard and spider, hamster and fish (in water, please!) ... All are welcome with proper leashing/caging/restraints! We hope to see you and your furry, feathered, fuzzy, and finny companions October 8th during the 9 a.m. outdoor worship service! Bring a chair or sit in your car in the parking lot. *Please note that the 11 a.m. service will be streamed this day and is in the sanctuary as usual.*



October 29th - Reformation Celebration

- 10 a.m. - Our ONE worship service this day includes the Affirmation of Baptism of 4 of our youth.
- 11 a.m. – Stay for a Reformation Picnic. Stay tuned to Take Twos and Sunday Announcements as the date approaches for more detailed information.
- 11:45 a.m. (approximately) – Participate in Trunk or Treat as a vehicle or as a kid enjoying the stories on display!

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)



Church Center App



- Have you joined CIC's new online photo directory yet?
- The directory is through a program called Church Center, it is also an app.
- Follow the QR code to get started.
- If you need assistance, there is tech support in the narthex between services.
- Also, you can always call the office for help.



From the Pastors.....

Romans 15:2-7:

2Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. 3For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." 4For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Growing up, did you ever have times where you thought your parents would never stop saying things like: Remember to look both ways before you cross the street. Wear your seatbelt. Make sure your homework is done before supper. Wash your hands. Don't forget your mittens. Call me when you're on the way. Call me when you get there. They were these little reminders of things we take for granted during our daily schedules. We often do them, or don't do them, with very little thought. The reminders help bring to the surface again their importance and perhaps even trigger our brains to think about why we do these things instead of just going along on autopilot.

We hear similar reminders ringing in our ears from God's word in scripture --- those things that we read and hear and might think yeah, yeah I know, you've told me a million times but it doesn't hurt to hear it again. So, in Romans 15, we hear words like for the good purpose of building up the neighbor, grant you to live in harmony, together you may with one voice glorify God, and welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you. We've heard them before, and hopefully we keep hearing them again and again.

Just like other things in our lives, it doesn't hurt to be reminded every once in awhile, to have our brains triggered to think about why we do the things that we do. Welcome others?! Well, yeah, I've heard that before. And, it's okay to hear it again. Why? Because it is a daily part of our life of discipleship that is manifested in so many ways. Take the beginning of Fall, for example:

Early in September, we had the great joy of welcoming new members into the life and ministry of this congregation and we gave voice to our rejoicing in our life in Christ together. Let us continue to welcome them to this community of faith in Jesus throughout the days to come. Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God.

Throughout our Sundays mornings, we've had the opportunity to wear name tags, and share fellowship with one another over muffins and coffee, and sing and pray together. Sharing our names and food and worship together is a gracious act of hospitality that radiates light and relationship. In this gathering of God's family, welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God.

In the middle of this month, we will be welcoming a mother and daughter into God's family through the waters of baptism. It's a reminder of how, in all baptisms, the Christian community at worship gathers together as a visual sign that in baptism we are made one with Christ and with the whole people of God. On behalf of the whole church, we promise to support our new siblings, confess the faith with them, and welcome them into the body of Christ. Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God.

We will end the month of October by welcoming our 9th grade Confirmants into the continued lifetime journey of faith formation. We open ourselves to celebrate their affirmation of faith in our community and continue to extend our hearts and hands to them for the journey that is yet to come. In this celebration, welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God.

As you remember and experience these times this Fall, we encourage you to think about moments of welcome in all the months that will follow. The handshakes, the hellos, the introductions, the check-ins. Reach out in big and small ways to one another just as Christ has reached out to you. Welcome one another not for yourself but for the glory of God. Be Christ's hearts and hands in this world welcoming one another for all of the big and little moments in the months ahead!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael

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.



Do you use Thrivent Financial Services? If so, you are invited to visit with Gary Samuelson, who is a member of CIC and a Thrivent Advisor, in the Fellowship Hall between services on Sunday, October 1st or Sunday, October 22nd, to talk about Thrivent Action Teams, Thrivent Choice Dollars, and how you can be allocating them yearly to support ministry at Community in Christ!



Golf Outing: Thank you, again, to all of the organizers, volunteers, and participants in the 2023 Golf Outing! The \$9,683 raised will help to support CIC's youth ministry!

Office Update:

The pastors will be at Lutheridge October 16-18 for the NC Synod’s Rostered Leaders’ Fall Convocation.

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

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, Debbie Davidson, Anne Randolph, John Iverson, Bonnie Koring, Liann Musano, Ron Major

Prayers for friends & relatives of members: Jackie Deville, Demetrius Watkins (friends of Phil & Deborah Lowe); Carl Morris (Carla Henley's father); Terry Park (friend of Gary & Sharon Kautz); Shirley Barton (friend of Bob & Kathy Shugarman); Bishop Tim Smith (NC Synod Bishop); family of Audrey Wagner (coworker of Cory Wilkinson); Allison Holt (friend of Chris Spano); Michael Holland (Diana and Don Elsass' son-in-law), Lee Mitchell (Pastor Betsy Mitchell's son), Joyce Kelly (Stella Ryan's sister), Anonymous friend of Beth Jaszewski, Jim S. (family friend of Beth Jaszewski)

We hold Ron Olszewski's loved ones, especially his wife Nina, in prayer, as they grieve his death. Ron joined the Church Triumphant on September 13th.

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.

Things to take note of:

Tuesday Morning CIC Bible Study: Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets each Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Narthex.

October Grocery Cart Collection: During the month of October, we will be collecting items for the kitchen at Angels and Sparrows Community Table. Did you know that Angels and Sparrows serves over 1,000,000 meals a year? Angels and Sparrows is a non-profit who's mission is to "empower families to reach their potential by providing access to food security and educational opportunities that lead to a fresh start." To find out more about Angel and Sparrows check out: angelsandsparrows.org This month we will be collecting :**canned green beans, canned sliced carrots, chicken broth, and cream of mushroom soup.** 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!

Hand Bells Rehearsal: In October the groups will meet on the 5th (Sanctuary), the 12th (Spirit Center) & the 26th (Spirit Center with guest director Laura Blauch of the Queen City Ringers.) Carillon group meets at 6 p.m. Agape groups meets at 7 p.m.

God's Work Our Hands Day of Service – September 10th

A big THANK YOU! to all the CIC members who participated in this year's "God's Work. Our Hands." Service project! CIC Members of all ages joined together to collect, sort, and pack 25 complete Welcome Kits, additional extra supplies, as well as color cards all for Lutheran Services Carolinas New Americans program.

It all started in August, when the CIC grocery cart "items of the month" included were tags listing needed items that would complete 4 different types of Welcome Kits: Dining Kit, Cooking Kit, Bathroom Kit, and Cleaning & Household Supplies Kit. A Thrivent Action Team card and a Seed Grant from the NC Synod helped support the purchases of 25 reusable tubs for storing the items, items for 5 generously supplied Hygiene Kits, and any additional items from the original tags that were not selected or weren't returned. After hearing a presentation from Wyatt Dunlap, LSC's Executive Director for the New Americans Program, on Sunday, on September 10th, ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday, an estimated 60+ CIC members worked to sort, pack, and load the Welcome Kits into vehicles to head to LSC's Salisbury office. Volunteers checked the contents of each box and children made festive welcome cards for each kit. Clean-up was a breeze, too, thanks to some CIC members who put away all the tables and chairs! What a great day of doing God's work with our hands!

It is important to mention that several members of the CIC Outreach Team and other CIC volunteers worked with each and folks from LSC to organize the event, some spending Friday afternoon setting up Fellowship Hall for the event! Thank you to everyone for donating supplies, helping pack, and aiding in the loading!



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A Note from your Music Team

Calling all musicians! If you play an instrument or ever thought you would like to be a part of the choir but have considered it too much of a commitment, you don't have to feel that way any longer! The choir will be working on several anthems that will be done prior to Advent and then several more wonderful pieces for the weeks in Advent. Your CIC musicians are also joining Huntersville United Methodist and First Baptist Church of Huntersville for a beautiful Christmas cantata offering, Agnus Dei, written by Michael W. Smith. As you can see, there is a lot to choose from. Please consider joining us. Maybe you will choose to do just the Christmas music or just the cantata and not be a part of the regular choir and that is perfectly fine! If you are curious and would like to give singing a try, church choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM with Agnus Dei cantata rehearsals held on Sundays at 3:00 beginning October 8. And remember, we are to make a joyful noise to the Lord; we do not have to have a music degree to do so! Blessings, Sherry

Group Ministry News.....

5:11 (The Women's Group): The next 5:11 meeting will be on Sunday, October 15th between services in the Fellowship Hall.. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the group. Jill Brooks at jlkbrooks@gmail.com.

Happy Times Seniors: Happy Times Seniors will meet on Wednesday, October 18th at 11:30 a.m. at (place TBD). Questions? Contact Ron Major at 704-622-0517 or hunterron35@hotmail.com.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: If you like to knit or crochet - or would like to learn how - please join us! No experience necessary!!!! The CIC Prayer Shawl Ministry prayerfully weaves God's love and peace into hand crafted shawls, scarves, hats, blankets and prayer cloths for those in need. The group and its activities are open to all CIC members, friends, and visitors regardless of age or ability. Join us and share in this ministry! Just contact Kathy Dutton (see email address below) and she will add your name to the member/email list. In October we will focus on making hat and scarf sets for those in need during the upcoming fall and winter months. 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. We could certainly use your help! 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: Calling all people who like to paper craft to join the CIC card ministry group 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 October to make cards and fellowship with each other. We will meet on Tuesday, October 10th at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, October 24th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center. Participants are asked to enter through the doors nearest the Spirit Center. Need more information? Contact: Kathy Shugarman at 940-300-2290 or shugs02@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who supports the card ministry through your prayers, working hands and purchasing cards.

Quilting Ministry: In October we will meet Thursday, the 12th & 26th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Classroom #1. All sewers and visitors are welcome! Questions? Contact Barbara Eaker at 704-483-2060.

Preschool: There are openings for our 2 year old and 3 year old classes. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$85.00 per child is due at time of enrollment. Tuition for 2023/2024: \$285.00 for 2-year-old and 3-year-old students. To schedule a tour contact Sharon Fuller at 704-892-0120 ext 104 or sfuller9564@outlook.com.

Men's Retreat

CIC's Men's retreat was held at Lutherock on September 22nd – 24th. 18 men attended and were led in study and reflection by Pastor Marcus Miller who guided us in a conversation focused on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Mixed in throughout the weekend were hikes, walks, football games (watching them, not playing them), delicious food, and lots of fantastic fellowship. We concluded our time together with a worship service on the mount. Next Men's Meeting is October 18th at 7 p.m. Location TBD.



Sunday School

On Sundays, October 1, 8, 15, and 22, all Sunday School ages will begin together at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary with music with Ms. Sherry or Ms. Ashley! Classes will dismiss from there to head to their classrooms; PreK-1st grade in Spirit Center and 2nd grade-5th grade in Classroom 1.

There is no Sunday School on Sunday, October 29th, but all children are invited to participate in Trunk-or-Treat at our Reformation Celebration following worship! Wear a costume to worship or bring it to change into!

Parents: If you haven't filled out a new Registration Form for the Fall, please get one from the classroom or email Pastor Lisa.

Sunday School teachers—HELP WANTED!

If you're interested in being part of Sunday School teacher rotation for the 2023-2024, please contact Pastor Lisa!

Confirmation

6th-8th graders:

Sunday, October 1st, 6-8pm Class at the church

Sunday, October 8th, 10am-7:30pm – trip to White Water Center

Sunday, October 22nd, 6-8pm Class at church

Parents, please remember to sign up for meal preparation and serving!

9th graders: Continue to work on your Faith Statement papers. Remember Confirmation Sunday is October 29th!

Senior High

Sunday, October 8th, we are heading to the White Water Center immediately following the first service!

RSVP to Pastor Michael (pastormichael@communityinchrist.net) by Sunday, October 1st.

Youth should pack a lunch to eat along the way and bring money to purchase dinner. We are grateful for the proceeds of the Golf Outing covering the cost of admission for participants.

National Youth Gathering

Our group is in the process of formulating a fundraising strategy as we make plans to attend the ELCA's Youth Gathering next summer in New Orleans. You will be hearing much more from us soon!



Trunk-or-Treat

Join us for a Trunk-or-Treat event at around 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, October 29th!

WHO: Really, everyone!!! All are welcome to decorate their trunks in a People of the Bible or Bible Story Theme. (And KIDS ... either wear your costume to worship that day if your parents say it is okay or change into it after worship and lunch to enjoy this fun activity and see the Bible Stories come alive!)

WHAT: Participate in a People of the Bible (Jesus, John the Baptist, The Good Samaritan, Moses, Mary, etc) or Bible Story Themed trunk decorating (Creation, David & Goliath, Jonah and the Whale, The Nativity, Jesus is the Good Shepherd, The Last Supper, The Day of Pentecost, etc).

WHERE: The CIC Parking Lot, weather permitting

WHEN: Sunday, October 29th, beginning around 11:45 a.m.

HOW: 1. It's okay if multiple cars have the same theme! 2. Cars can also work together to tell a bigger story ... just be sure we know you need to park near one another. In consideration of allergies, please think about handing out non-food kinds of treats (think: playdoh, stickers, glow sticks, Halloween rings, etc). If you'd like to include a small treat, some candies that are more allergy friendly include: Lollipops, Push Pops, Skittles, Sour Patch Kids, Starbursts, Swedish Fish, Laffy Taffy, Dum Dums, and Nerds.

RESPOND: Register using the Church Center App! We're going to have Trunk or Treat be our first try at using the Church Center App for registrations. Follow the link!: <https://community-in-christ-lutheran-church-430595.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1957437>

Please be in touch with Pastor Lisa if you have any questions (pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net).


Finance Team

August financial gifts brought \$35.2k, again, lower than normal. We suspect this is still due to Members' late summer travel. Other Revenues brought in \$6.4k (bank interest, credit card rewards, Thrivent Choice dollars). Total Revenue YTD is \$46.5 which is 4% behind Budget. No unexpected expenses this month. We renewed the annual subscription to liturgical book resources, Purchased materials for the new year of Sunday School, paid fees for pastor substitutes. Electricity bill was high due to extreme heat in August, this recurs each year. Preschool conducted their annual CPR training for teachers. Total expenses for the month were \$56k. We ended August with a Deficit of \$9.5k and a combined YTD Deficit of \$22.9k.

~Madalyn Wilkinson, Director of Finance.

Community in Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Plan	July 23-June 24 Budget	Aug 23	Actual	% of Budget
<i>Revenues</i>				
Member Contributions	\$530,000		\$69,568	13%
Other Revenue <i>Facility usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest, credit card rewards</i>	204,900		16,491	8%
Total Revenues	734,900		86,059	12%
<i>Expenses</i>				
Worship <i>Altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>	5,300		683	13%
Witness <i>Offering envelopes, new member activities</i>	2,260		181	8%
Synod benevolence	53,000		6,760	13%
Administration <i>Computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i>	46,443		9,361	20%
Mortgage <i>Principal and interest on mortgage</i>	69,348		11,558	17%
Property <i>Building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>	59,227		8,932	15%
Staff <i>Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits for four full-time and one part-time employees; staff development</i>	333,817		53,882	16%
Music Ministries <i>Guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fee, handbells, AV maintenance</i>	4,615		1,226	27%
Youth Ministries <i>Youth mission trips, retreats, activities, VBS, Sunday school, campfirmation</i>	8,150		429	5%
Preschool <i>Staff salaries and benefits, activities, supplies, maintenance</i>	151,499		15,982	11%
Total Expenses	733,659		108,993	15%
Surplus	\$1,241		(\$22,934)	

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

Worship Times

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

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 am. 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

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 Cornelius, NC 28031
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 (704) 892-0120 e-mail:
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Church Council
 Dean Miller (Treasurer)
 Jeff Moen
 Natasha Nadeau (Pres.)
 Adam English (VP)
 Carl Yarger
 Susan Bauer
 Sharon Heckman
 Tracy Lyon (Secretary)
 Todd Rixman

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

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@outlook.com)
 Finance - Madalyn Wilkinson (financedirector@communityinchrist.net)
 Music—Sherry Malia

