



**Community  
In Christ  
Lutheran Church**

# CIC NEWS

December 2021

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](mailto:swheeler@communityinchrist.net) [www.communityinchrist.org](http://www.communityinchrist.org)



## **Sundays in December:**

Sundays, 12/5, 12/12 and 12/19 – Worship at 9 a.m. in the Parking Lot and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on livestream

Sunday, 12/26 ONE service of Lessons & Carols at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on livestream

## **Advent Worship:**

Wednesdays, 12/1, 12/8, and 12/15 – Worship at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary and on livestream

Monday, 12/13 – Blue Christmas worship at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

## **Christmas Eve Worship:**

4 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Holy Communion Worship in the Sanctuary and livestreamed

7 p.m. Candlelight and Bonfire Holy Communion Worship in the Parking Lot

*See inside for more worship and gathering opportunities.....*

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)

[Regathering Information](#)

## *From the Pastors.....*

*Joseph went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. -Luke 2:5-7*

Hold onto your hats everybody...brace yourselves because it's DECEMBER (or, it's at least really close to it as you're reading this)!!! Whether this news comes to you as a shock or not, the final month of the year is typically one of the busiest times for many people.

In recognizing that reality, we encourage you to make sure you are taking time during this Advent season to pause and reflect on the room you have for Jesus. The theme of this year's midweek Holden Evening Prayer services is, "No Room In the Inn." Within the well-known Christmas story there's that little detail at its conclusion stating that there wasn't a place for Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus to stay in busy Bethlehem. There was "no room" for them, at least in the traditional, comfortable means of a hotel or a bed and breakfast. Someone gave them a space though. It wasn't glamorous by any stretch of the imagination, but it was something. The barn/stable was warm, dry, and safe. It was a place where light and life could enter into the world.

There are many people we encounter every day, people who live among us, who need help to have their necessities met. And so, during these midweek services, we're going to hear from different people and organizations CIC has a relationship with who work to help make sure folks have a room--that peoples' life essentials are provided for. The organizations we're going to be hearing from are: Angels & Sparrows, East Lincoln Christian Ministry, and Lutheran Services Carolinas.

Jesus by no means received "red-carpet" kind of treatment when he entered our world. Somebody gave him a little hospitality though. It didn't seem like a lot of hospitality, that's for sure, but it was something, and it served the immediate needs his family had.

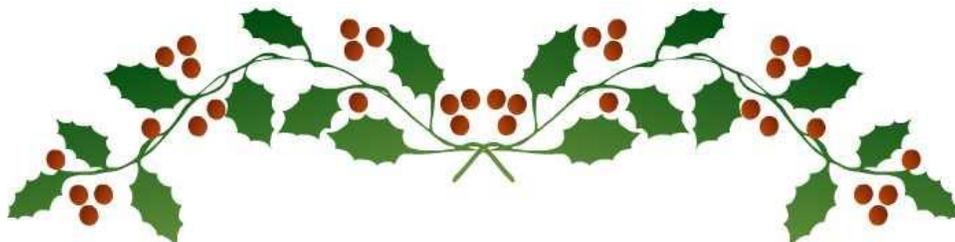
We must be cognizant of the people who are lacking life's necessities—a room, food, clothing...the kind of things we all need to feel safe and valued as human beings. We live in a world where there is room for everybody. We just have to do some rearranging to make the accommodations work for all of us. The midweek speakers will highlight some ways we can go about doing this.

It's unlikely Mary and Joseph were looking for a 4 Star Hotel all those years ago in Bethlehem. They simply wanted a place to seek shelter and where they could welcome their child into the world. Thanks to someone's small act of kindness (and it was small), they were given what they needed.

We must do what we can to make sure the people in our community have their basic needs met. While the Christmas story isn't the standard bearer in hospitality, it does speak to the needs that many have. And, look at what good can come from someone's small act of generosity. The loaning of a manger was one of the first steps towards the restoration of the entire world.

Whatever act of generosity you might be moved towards with these midweek services, whatever spaces you help to provide for another, it's likely not going to have the same impact as Jesus' manger—your actions are not helping to save the world. But your actions just might help save someone's world, and what better way is there to celebrate Christmas than that?

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Michael & Pastor Lisa



# tithes & offering

*Worship the Lord in Giving*

## Ways to Give of Tithes and Offerings at CIC:

### 1. Online/Direct Withdrawal

- A. Go to [www.communityinchrist.org](http://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 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 a contact-free opportunity for you to place your offering in the offering plate during drive-in worship.

**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](mailto:financedirector@communityinchrist.net).

## Office & Staff Information

We encourage calling and emailing to schedule appointments.

Pastor Lisa – [pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net](mailto:pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net)

Pastor Michael – [pastormichael@communityinchrist.net](mailto:pastormichael@communityinchrist.net)

Stephanie Wheeler, Church Administrator – [swheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:swheeler@communityinchrist.net)

Sandy Barefoot, Director of Music Ministries – [sandy@communityinchrist.net](mailto:sandy@communityinchrist.net)

Finance - Madalyn Wilkinson—[financedirector@communityinchrist.net](mailto:financedirector@communityinchrist.net)

## Office Updates:

**Director of Inviting Ministries:** CIC is seeking a new Director of Inviting Ministries. The DIM is entrusted to embody and foster a sense of Christian hospitality and inclusion within CIC’s family of faith. This part-time position involves a range of interpersonal and technological skills that will aid in people feeling welcome and a part of the congregation. If you are interested in learning more about the position or applying, please contact the church office at [swheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:swheeler@communityinchrist.net) or 704-892-0120.

## Prayers

**Prayers for Members:** Carla Beaver, Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, Jim Carney, Joan Garn, Renate Von Dohlen, Lee Tillman, Janet Shuping, Dane Horna, Jan Hamilton, Susan Hill, Betty Classey, Don Snyder, Louanne Schweitzer, Pat Hamby, Luther Beaver, Chuck Decker, Gregg Bottemiller, Lucy Price, Joyce Phelps

**Prayers for friends & relatives of members:** Margaret Orendorff (Diana Elsass's mother); Evelyn Hagedorn (Laurie Street's mother); Stacey Waddell (Carol Moser's cousin); Carrie Montgomery (Lee Tillman's caregiver); Karen Roode (Bob Liljefors's sister); Ann Donahue (Bill Langan's sister); Peg Wheeler (family of Stephanie Wheeler), Gretchen Hagedorn (Laurie Street's sister); Carmen Harte (Valerie Deabreu's mother); Fred Hasben, Gary Finlay & Reagan Fair (Deborah Lowe's cousins); Dennis Kuk (Kathy Dutton's brother); Dana Heidelberger (friend of Pat & Scott Wood); Family of preschool teacher Melissa Martucci; Jordan Becker (Grace Becker's son); Elizabeth Short (sister-in-law of Rod & Norma Short); Eric Johnston (Pastor Lisa's extended family); Marie Gustke (Norma Short's mother); Nancy Short (Rod Short's mother); Summer Voegel (Tracy Lyon's niece/ Bonnie Koring's granddaughter)

*We pray for Ryan David Hinrichs, son of Josh and Ashley Hinrichs, and Hadley Lynn Kehoe, daughter of Ryan and Kelsey Kehoe, whom we welcomed into the body of Christ and the mission we share through the gift of baptism.*

*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 [swheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:swheeler@communityinchrist.net) or 704-892-0120.**



## Things to take note of:



**Tuesday Morning CIC Bible Study:** Join the weekly Bible Study that meets in the narthex and on Zoom by request on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the upcoming lectionary texts. Please contact the church office for the zoom information.

**Adult Sunday School:** is meeting in the Spirit Center and on Zoom at 8 a.m. on Sunday mornings for a video study of Ephesians by N.T. Wright. Contact Mark Myers with questions: [mark.myers82@gmail.com](mailto:mark.myers82@gmail.com).

**Help Wanted!:** The Coffee Cart is looking for hosts! Contact Carol Moser to learn more or sign-up at [cbmoser@aol.com](mailto:cbmoser@aol.com).

**Volunteers needed for Room in the Inn!** Program organizers at Huntersville United Methodist Church have reached out to us looking for volunteers to serve as overnight hosts for the Room in the Inn program at the HUMC site. The program offers a warm, safe place to sleep, serves three meals (dinner, breakfast and bag lunch) and then returns guests to a central location. If you are interested in learning more about this outreach opportunity, please contact Krista Sipe at [kristasipe54@gmail.com](mailto:kristasipe54@gmail.com). The program at the HUMC site will begin in January 2022.



**Usher and A/V Teams:** Are you interested in learning more about being a worship usher or about what role you could play on the A/V team? Both groups are looking for more volunteers to add to the rotation. Contact Pastor Michael, [pastormichael@communityinchrist.net](mailto:pastormichael@communityinchrist.net), if you'd like to learn more!

**Camera Dedication, December 5th:** Thanks to remaining funds from our PPP loan and a generous memorial gift from the family of Bertie Steely, we have been blessed to install new cameras and equipment in the sanctuary which will enhance our worship life and enable us to livestream our services to those unable to physically gather with us. On December 5th, at the 10:30am service, we will dedicate these gifts to the glory of God.

## Group Ministry News.....

### WELCA



If you are a Female member of the Congregation, you are automatically a member of WELCA.

The monthly meeting for December will be on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Our study material is "*Bible Women, All Their Words And Why They Matter*" by Lindsay Hardin Freeman. The study leader and hostess for the evening is open. The yearly Christmas party has been changed to a New Year's Party on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Happy Time Christmas Luncheon



Wednesday, December 8th, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Joey's Restaurant located at 7913 Natalie Commons Dr. Denver, N C 28037 - (704) 489-4100. Leave your inhibitions at home! We have a private room—all to our selves! Delicious buffet featuring Joey's signature ham, vegetables, bread, desert, and drinks (alcoholic beverages will be a separate charge). Martha Smith will collect cash or checks at the door. This year the buffet will cost \$ 23.00 with membership funds paying the tax and gratuity. THIS IS THE FINAL "SIGN UP" PLEASE RSVP ASAP - Thanks Ron Major [HunterRon35@hotmail.com](mailto:HunterRon35@hotmail.com) (704) 622-0517

### CIC Prayer Shawl Ministry



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. If you like to knit or crochet, or would like to learn how, please join us! 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 December, we will continue to focus on making hat/scarf sets for those in need, as well as baby blankets and shawls. In November, we gave away at total of 100 hat/scarf sets to Angels and Sparrows, Levine-Davis Hospice, East Lincoln Christian Mission (Angel Tree), and Room in the Inn! And the cold, winter months are just starting...!!!

In January, 2022, we will be adding fleece blanket-making to our repertoire! If you are interested in making fleece blankets for kids in distress (Project Linus), or foster children, or even shelter pets, please consider joining us! All you have to know how to do is to cut with scissors! No previous experience required!!!!

We will continue to 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! If you are interested in coming to the in-person meetings, please contact Kathy Dutton and she will send you the necessary information. Of course, you can also participate in this important ministry at home by crafting items, and bringing them to CIC.

### Card Ministry News



Help the CIC card ministry create cards that serve as physical reminders of God's love, support and presence in our lives. No experience needed!

We will only meet once in December, Tuesday, December 14th, at 2:00 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 [shugs02@gmail.com](mailto:shugs02@gmail.com) or 940-300-2290.

A variety of cards are available to the congregation in the card rack on Sunday mornings or during the week through the church office. Christmas Cards are available too! Thank you to everyone who supports the card ministry! Contact: Kathy Shugarman at [shugs02@gmail.com](mailto:shugs02@gmail.com) or 940-300-2290.



## **Preschool, Sunday School & Youth News:**

### **Preschool Registration for the 2021/2022 School Year**

Tuition for 2021/2022: \$255.00 for 2-year-old and 3-year-old students and \$290.00 for 4-year-old, PK and TK students. There are currently spots open for the 3 year old and TK class.

To schedule a tour contact Sharon Fuller at 704-892-0120 ext 104 or ([sfuller9564@gmail.com](mailto:sfuller9564@gmail.com).)

### **Children's Sunday School**



#### **Sunday School Schedule:**

- ⇒ On Sunday, December 5th, meet near the stairs of the portico after the first service. We'll record a song or two outdoors to be included with the Christmas Pageant. All children welcome!
- ⇒ Sundays, December 12th and 19th, meet with your teachers for class time between services, approximately 9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. PreK-1st grade in the Spirit Center and 2nd-5th grade in the Fellowship Hall.
- ⇒ Sunday, December 12th – 5:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant viewing party
- ⇒ Sunday, December 26th – No Sunday School



#### **Confirmation calendar:**

- ⇒ Sunday, December 6th – 6 p.m. beginning in the breezeway
- ⇒ Sunday, December 19th – 2 p.m. Caroling

#### **Senior High:**

- ⇒ SR High students will gather on December 12th at 6:30pm for some fun and a special Christmas themed service project.

## From the Finance Team

We had another fairly quiet month this October. Year to Date we stand at 3% lower in contributions compared to Budget. However, we are still in a good overall position, comparable to where we were at this point in 2019, the last 'normal' year before the pandemic. On the Expense side, we paid processing fees for ERC tax credit filings, annual fire safety inspection, mold inspection, and repair fees for the damaged church van. We also made our quarterly insurance premium payments. Year to Date we still have a \$15.7k operating surplus.

~Madalyn Wilkinson, Director of Finance.

**Office Communication** Please be in touch with Stephanie in the church office ([swheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto: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.**

<b>Community in Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Plan</b>	<b>Jul21-Jun22 Budget</b>	<b>Oct21 Actual</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<i>Revenue</i>			
<b>Revenue</b>	\$ 532,500	\$ 160,920	30%
<i>Operating Budget offerings</i>			
<b>Other Revenue</b>	\$ 185,898	\$ 82,023	44%
<i>Facility Usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest, PPP loan</i>			
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 718,398</b>	<b>\$ 242,943</b>	<b>34%</b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
<b>Worship</b>	\$ 2,425	\$ 1,585	65%
<i>altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>			
<b>Witness</b>	\$ 1,870	\$ 230	12%
<i>offering envelopes, family life, evangelism, giving garden</i>			
<b>Serve</b>	\$ 53,250	\$ 16,529	31%
<i>synod benevolence</i>			
<b>Administration</b>	\$ 41,337	\$ 18,935	46%
<i>computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fee, ERC processing fees</i>			
<b>Mortgage</b>	\$ 80,424	\$ 26,808	33%
<i>principal and interest on mortgage</i>			
<b>Property</b>	\$ 55,234	\$ 21,691	39%
<i>building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>			
<b>Staff</b>	\$ 323,008	\$ 100,617	31%
<i>salaries, taxes, and benefits for four full-time and two part-time employees; staff development</i>			
<b>Music Ministries</b>	\$ 4,409	\$ 2,184	50%
<i>guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fees</i>			
<b>Youth Ministries</b>	\$ 9,525	\$ 1,069	11%
<i>youth mission trips, retreats, activities; also includes Sunday school, campfirmation</i>			
<b>Preschool</b>	\$ 146,909	\$ 37,597	26%
<i>activities, supplies, maintenance</i>			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 718,391</b>	<b>\$ 227,243</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Budget Surplus</b>		<b>\$ 15,700</b>	

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

## Worship Times

9 am Parking Lot Church

10:30 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 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](http://www.communityinchrist.org)

**Community in Christ Lutheran Church**  
 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

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**Church Council**  
 Dean Miller (Treasurer)  
 Deborah Lowe  
 Natasha Nadeau (Secretary)  
 Adam English  
 Debbie Davidson  
 Susan Kullstam (President)  
 Paul Miller (VP)  
 Paul Handrock

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**Team Leaders**  
 Youth  
 Adult Faith Formation (Mark Myers)  
 Finance (Madalyn Wilkinson)  
 Technology (Scott Brooks)  
 Outreach (Kathy Dutton)  
 Inviting Ministries  
 Property (Stephanie Wheeler)  
 WELCA (Laverne Waskiels)  
 Stewardship  
 Support Staff (Kathy Shugaman)  
 Worship & Music  
 Legal Counsel (Tim Nohr)

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**Staff**  
 Pastor Lisa Beery pastorldisa@communityinchrist.net  
 Pastor Michael Beery pastormichael@communityinchrist.net  
 Office Administrator, Stephanie Wheeler  
 Music Director, Sandy Barefoot (sandy@communityinchrist.net)  
 Preschool Director, Sharon Fuller (Sfuller9564@gmail.com)  
 Finance - Madalyn Wilkinson (financedirector@communityinchrist.net)

