



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

November 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 November:

November 5, 12, 19 & 26

*Please note there is No Sunday School on the 26th

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

** **Daylight Savings Time Ends!** Remember that time will FALL BACK one hour when you wake up on Sunday, November 5th! Change devices manually or don't be surprised by the devices that change on their own!

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)



11/6 All Saints Sunday: On All Saints Sunday we, as the church, remember those from our congregation who have passed away since the last All Saints Day. It's also a time we remember many of our loved ones. Join us in worship and prayer as we give thanks for the great cloud of witnesses who have been examples for us of God's love at work in the world. Entering the Church Triumphant from our family of faith since last All Saints Day are: Bill McNeilis, Don Snyder, Lee Tillman, Louise Walker, and Ron Olszewski.

Mark your December Calendars!: The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 3rd! Midweek Advent Worship begins Wednesday, December 6th, with a soup and sandwich supper at 6pm and worship beginning at 7pm. The Blue Christmas service is Monday, December 11th at 7 p.m. On Sundays, December 17th, the Christmas program, and Sunday, December 31st, New Year's Eve, we will gather in worship at one service at 10am. On Sunday, December 24th, we will have a casual worship experience at 10am in the Spirit Center celebrating Advent 4, and at 4pm and 7pm for traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight worship in the Sanctuary.



Advent devotionals from Augsburg Fortress for adults and activity packs for families will be available later in the month!

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.....

*In Your presence, O God, we make our Sacrament of Thanksgiving.
We begin with the simple things of our days:
Fresh air to breathe, cool water to drink,
The taste of food, the protection of houses and clothes, the comforts of home.
For all these we make an act of Thanksgiving this day!
~ A Thanksgiving Litany, stanza 1, by Howard Thurman*

There's a certain day in the month of November that always tends to lend itself well to thinking about that for which we are thankful. Thanksgiving Day (whether you celebrate that day or sometime around then when family and friends can gather) is a day in the life our country's calendar that helps people pause for a moment and say, "Yes, there are many things for which I am grateful."

We have busy lives and the days, then weeks, then years seem to pass by in the blink of the eye. We know we are a thankful people, but life carries on so quickly that we don't often take as much thought and time as we should to think about all we could be giving thanks for in the course of day like fresh air to breathe, cool water to drink, and the taste of food.

During this month of November, let's all try to move beyond Thanksgiving Day to living into a Thanksgiving litany daily making the practice of giving thanks a spiritual discipline for each day. Howard Thurman's Thanksgiving Litany is five stanzas. We commend it to you as an opportunity to help guide a discipline of gratitude while living lives as human beings who have ups and downs.

We will have the opportunity to give thanks this month in many ways as a congregation:

We will give thanks in our prayers and in our singing on All Saints Sunday for the saints who have gone before us, for the saints still among us, and for the saints of God still to come.

We will give thanks for fellowship and relationship through food and community at meals like the women's Friends-giving gathering.

We will give thanks for the gift of time, creativity, and sewing as we pray over quilts that are ready to make their journey to Lutheran World Relief to be a blessing in the lives of people we will likely never meet.

We will give thanks for the opportunity and resources our people and our building provide while making and serving a Thanksgiving meal for children of God who are Pathways clients of Angels and Sparrows Community Table.

As Howard Thurman's prayer brings to light, we are a people with so much thanksgiving inside of us even if we can't give thanks for all things in all moments. We each have brokenness and sorrow in our lives and, yet, let us not let that be all we see as the days fly by us. May we use this time to look both at ourselves and outside of ourselves. May we take a moment to recognize what God is giving to us and open our hearts and eyes to see the abundance of God that is enough for joy! In the midst of it all, may we pause to reflect with thanksgiving on the blessings that God pours upon us.

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.

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.

November Grocery Cart Collection: During the month of November, we will again partner 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.

Any variety of Hormel Compleats is the donation item of the month for November. These are the favorite shelf-stable, hearty meal to send home in the weekend food bags!

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 November the groups will meet on the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th. Carillon group meets at 6 p.m. Agape groups meets at 7 p.m.

Stephen Ministries: Have you had previous experience with Stephen Ministries? Please e-mail Pastor Michael

Office Update:

Please note that the Fellowship Hall will be used as a polling place on Tuesday, November 7th, and the parking lot will experience heavier traffic that day.

The church office will be closed Wednesday - Friday, November 22nd - 24th, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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, Anne Randolph, John Iverson, Liann Musano, Ron Major, Ron Raper

Prayers for friends & relatives of members: Carl Morris (Carla Henley's father); Shirley Barton (friend of Bob & Kathy Shugarman); Beth Ward (friend of Judi LaBuda); 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); Don Blackwell (friend of the church landscaper); Pat Johnson (Gary Eckley's sister); Renee Eckley (Gary Eckley's daughter); Delores Bechtel (Debbie Blackwell's mother); Lynette Brown (friend of Deborah Lowe); Michelle Smith (Deborah Lowe's niece)

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.

Prayer Requests



“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:4-6

Did you know...

- ⇒ Community in Christ has a group of people who pray for and with you each week?
- ⇒ This faithful group of ‘pray-ers’ receive an email, the ‘Prayer Vine’, every Friday morning?
- ⇒ That all the names spoken during our Prayers during the Sunday service are listed on the ‘Prayer Vine’ for continued prayers throughout the week?
- ⇒ If you have a need for prayer, you can request prayer through the ‘Prayer Vine’?
- ⇒ If you have a family member or a friend in need of prayer, they could be included on the ‘Prayer Vine’?
- ⇒ How do you do this?

If you have a need for prayer for yourself, a family member or friend, please contact Pastor Lisa or Pastor Michael, or email the ‘Prayer Vine’ email address directly: prayervine@communityinchrist.net with your request. The information will be shared with our faithful group of ‘pray-ers’ the next Friday via the ‘Prayer Vine’ email. Prayers are only shared in this public format if permission has been granted from the person who is the subject of the prayers. Prayer concerns remain confidential within those who receive the email.

Connected to Jesus, the vine, the Community in Christ prayer vine participants abide in Jesus generously, fervently, and actively praying for the needs known and unknown in the lives of members of the congregation and people in members’ lives. If you would like to join the faithful group of ‘pray-ers’ in receiving the ‘Prayer Vine’ email each week to give of your gift of prayer each week, please talk to Pastor Lisa or Pastor Michael.

A final thought on the Power of Prayer:

“The world was made partly that there may be prayer; partly that our prayers might be answered.” C.S. Lewis (CCLI#2891390)

10/22 Temple Talk Recap: Required Minimum Distribution

We thank Chris Spano for sharing a Temple Talk with the congregation on Sunday, October 22nd, regarding Required Minimum Distribution of retirement accounts.

RMD's can become qualified charitable donations and create tax advantages for the gifter while benefiting non-profit recipients, like Community in Christ. You can watch Chris' Temple Talk via the livestream recording found here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcJMONOXiHI>. You can also access all of Chris' notes here <https://youtu.be/OcJMONOXiHI>

A Note from your Music Team

We are going to blink and Christmas will be here! I love this time of year and the joyful music is part of the reason why. Please mark your calendars with two important dates before they start filling up:

- December 17 will be the church-wide Christmas celebration here at CIC.
- December 10, 5:00 PM, will be the Agnus Dei cantata performance. The cantata will be held at First Baptist Church of Huntersville and will be accompanied by an orchestra. You won't want to miss it.
- Additionally, a new community youth choir has been established in Lake Norman. This Christian youth choir is for youth aged 6th through 12th grades. They meet on Sunday afternoons. If you would like more information about the choir, please see me at church or give me a call.

Sherry ~ May God Be Gracious to You - Ruth 2:4

Group Ministry News.....

Happy Times Seniors: Happy Times Seniors will meet on Wednesday, November 15th at 11:30 a.m. at Killington's Restaurant and Bar. Located at 10010 Rose Commons Drive in Huntersville. Consistently good food, priced well and we will be seated in our own section. Questions? Contact Ron Major at 704-622-0517 or hunterron35@hotmail.com.


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. The group and its activities are open to all CIC members, friends, and visitors regardless of age or ability. In November we will continue to 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. 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: The CIC card ministry creates 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 November to make cards and fellowship with each other. We will meet on Tuesday, November 14th at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, November 28th, 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!

Quilting Ministry: In November we will meet Thursday, the 9th & 30th 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@gmail.com.

The 5:11s (women's group) has a lot of events scheduled for November. Hope you can join in the fun with these wonderful CIC Women as we give back to our community, celebrate each other, and share God's Word! Jlbrooks@gmail.com

- **Friendsgiving** on Nov. 3rd at 6:30 pm. Susan Kullstam's (skulls01@me.com) house, located at 9207 Brentfield Rd, Huntersville. Bring a side dish or dessert and come for the fellowship. We will be socializing and possibly crafting center piece decorations for the CIC's 1st Annual Community Thanksgiving & WELCA Gathering. Sign up [here](#) or click on the QR code. 
- **WELCA Gathering** on Nov. 11th from 9 am – 1 pm at the church. We will host the Mecklenburg/Union County WELCA Gathering. We need helpers to set-up/clean-up, prepare meals, and be greeters. The theme of the program is WOW – Women of the Word. The focus will be on how Jesus and the Holy Spirit guided these three women of the bible: Huldah, Esther, and Ruth and still guides us today. Registration is \$10 if you plan to come to the program.
- **Angel Tree** The recipients of the CIC Angel Tree will again be East Lincoln Christian Ministries and Lutheran Services Carolina's Mountain Ridge Group Home. Watch for the angels to be available to take from the tree at the beginning of November. There will be both GIFT and HOME MEAL ANGELS available. The gifts should be returned to church no later than Sunday, November 26th. Additional information will be available with the Angel Tree. Contact Kathy Shugarman (shugs02@gmail.com)
- **Meal Train** – If you or someone you know needs support please reach out to Linda Muhlbach (lindamuhlbach@gmail.com) to be set-up with a meal train, prayers, and lots of encouragement.
- **Secret Prayer Sister** – Want to support, uplift, and encourage your fellow 5:11s? Secret Prayer Sisters is a ministry between you and another "sister" in our church family. Kaiti Mrak (kreedyl@gmail.com) has forms available if you would like to join this important ministry.

Thanksgiving Meal



Thanksgiving is right around the corner and CIC is hosting a Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 19th for the Pathway group from Angels and Sparrows. We will prepare and serve the members of this underprivileged group in Fellowship Hall. There will be two seatings: One begins at 12:30 and the other is at 3:00. We are preparing to feed approximately 150 people. Consequently we will need a lot of involvement from the members of CIC. We will need people to supply and prepare food, as well as, help to set-up on Saturday the 18th, and 40-50 volunteer slots to serve food on Sunday the 19th. There are turkeys in the Narthex with feathers listing the food items that will be needed. Please take a feather

and select the food item that you are willing to prepare. We also have a sign-up sheet in the new church directory that allows you to volunteer to help with the serving of the meals. We are going to need the efforts of all of us at CIC to make this a special day for these families. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Donald Tampubolon, Ed Bauer, Kathy Miller or Paul Miller. We are all excited about the opportunity to serve the less fortunate members of our surrounding community. We hope we can count on your time and support. <https://community-in-christ-lutheran-church-430595.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1994151>



Sunday School

On Sundays, November 5, 12, & 19, 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 the 26th.

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

Confirmation

6th-8th graders:

Sunday, November 12 & 19 6-8pm Class at the church

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

National Youth Gathering



Our 8 youth and 3 adult leaders have now officially registered for next summer's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Be on the lookout for upcoming ways for you to help the group have this amazing faith enriching experience:

Congratulations Confirmands of 2023



Keira Helene Clement

Bible verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."



Paige Elizabeth Moen

Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:8— "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—"



Luka Graham Schoen


Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13—I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Finance Team

September brought us to the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year. YTD Financial Gifts brought in \$105.6k, 5% behind the Budget. Other Revenues (Facility usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest, credit card rewards, Thrivent Choice dollars) brought in \$34.8k. Our Total Revenues stand at \$140.4k, 6% lower than Budget. Our Expenses YTD are \$165k, which means we show an operating Deficit of \$24.6k. We are using the Emergency Spending Fund to cover payments related to removal of some broken or split trees around the property, as well as to remediate old termite damage that was discovered in one of the walls of the Fellowship Hall. ~Madalyn Wilkinson, Director of Finance.

Community in Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Plan	July 23-June 24 Budget	Sep 23 Actual
<i>Revenues</i>		
Member Contributions	\$530,000	\$105,634
Other Revenue <i>Facility usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest, credit card rewards</i>	204,900	34,756
Total Revenues	734,900	140,390
<i>Expenses</i>		
Worship <i>Altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>	5,300	994
Witness <i>Offering envelopes, new member activities</i>	2,260	534
Synod benevolence	53,000	10,281
Administration <i>Computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i>	46,443	11,465
Mortgage <i>Principal and interest on mortgage</i>	69,348	17,337
Property <i>Building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>	59,227	13,065
Staff <i>Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits for four full-time and one part-time employees; staff development</i>	333,817	80,831
Music Ministries <i>Guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fee, handbells, AV maintenance</i>	4,615	1,287
Youth Ministries <i>Youth mission trips, retreats, activities, VBS, Sunday school, camp/confirmation</i>	8,150	429
Preschool <i>Staff salaries and benefits, activities, supplies, maintenance</i>	151,499	28,815
Total Expenses	733,659	165,038
Surplus	\$1,241	(\$24,648)

US Postage Paid
 Non-Profit Organization
 Cornelius, NC 28031
 Permit #5



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

