



**Community  
In Christ  
Lutheran Church**

# CIC NEWS

**January 2022**

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 January:**

WORSHIP TIMES & LOCATIONS BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 2nd

**9 a.m. SANCTUARY & Livestream**

**11 a.m. Sanctuary**

Please note the location change of the 1st service, the time change of the 2nd service, and the time of the livestream. At the December Church Council meeting, the Council had discussion around and made the decision to move both Sunday morning worship services indoors during the month of January as colder mornings have settled in. The two services will take place at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. For the month of January, the liturgy will remain the same at both services. While indoors, all participants are asked to wear masks covering their nose and going underneath their chin for the duration of the service. Doors will remain open for increased ventilation. Hand sanitizing stations are available. The livestream will take place at 9 a.m. and will be viewable anytime afterwards.

We thank you for your continued participation in helping us keep everyone of all ages as safe as possible while we are gathering. If you are at all feeling unwell on a Sunday morning, please worship with us on the livestream. If this plan needs to be altered during the month in our ever-changing world, it will be discussed and communicated. The Council meets again on January 23rd and will, as has been the practice, discuss worship location and time needs for February.

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)

[Regathering Information](#)

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

The 12 days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day and go through January 5th until we celebrate the Epiphany on January 6th. Please enjoy this Christmas message from the ELCA's Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Michael & Pastor Lisa

### CHRISTMAS 2021

This is our second pandemic Christmas. We thought this would be over so long ago. And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant; we can't be with friends and family as we used to do. And also, there's so much that's broken in this world, so much that tells us, "Why have hope? Just give up."

But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this, stronger even than death. The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby, a helpless child; nevertheless, who grew to a man and in his fragile strength was willing to die on the cross and was raised again.

I don't know what next Christmas will bring. I don't know what New Year's will bring. But I do know we have hope.

St. Paul put it this way: "May the God of **Hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may **ABOUND IN Hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit."

**Merry Christmas**, dear church.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Welcome!



On Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, at both our 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services, we welcome the Rev. Betsy Mitchell as our worship leader. Rev. Betsy Mitchell, ordained in the ELCA, serves as a hospital chaplain at Atrium Health Union. She lives in the Arboretum area of Charlotte with her two teenage children, Lee and Maryrose. Betsy loves playing her guitar, painting, swimming, and reading. She is passionate about social justice and loves writing sermons that empower people to love God, self, and others more fully and deeply. Please welcome Rev. Betsy Mitchell!



### **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)

## Prayers

**Prayers for Members:** Carla Beaver, Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, Jim Carney, Joan Garn, Renate Von Dohlen, Lee Tillman, Janet Shuping, Dane Horna, 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:** *\*\* 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!\*\**

*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.***

*Dear Pastor Michael & Pastor Lisa, Sandy Barefoot, Linda Muhlbach, and to all the parishioners, who made our mother's memorial service so special.*

*On behalf of our family, we can't thank you enough for honoring our mother. From describing her good heart, to the comforting angelic music played and sung throughout the beautiful service, and last but not least the parishioners who put on such a lovely luncheon.*

*We appreciate each and every one of you immensely for orchestrating such a beautiful memorial service. Although this is the saddest time of our lives, we also know that we are blessed beyond belief! Yes indeed, God is good!*

*With heartfelt gratitude, The family of Jan Hamilton*



## Things to take note of:



**Office Update:** The pastors will be out of the office through Wednesday, January 5th. They will return to the office on Thursday, January 6th and begin responding to contacts as able.

**THANK YOU** to the numerous volunteers who helped prepare, lead, and clean up as we celebrated the birth of Christ on Christmas Eve! From making s'more packs and setting up chairs; to dropping off fire pits, wood, and buckets; to handing out bulletins, singing, and distributing communion; to directing traffic, lighting fires, and handing out skewers; to cleaning up, straightening up, and moving heavy items ... you did it all!

**Tuesday Morning CIC Bible Study:** Join the weekly Bible Study that meets in the narthex on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the upcoming lectionary texts. Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> with Scott Wood leading the discussion.

**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).

**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!

**Volunteers Needed for Altar Guild:** Let the church office know if you are interested in becoming an Altar Guild volunteer. Contact Stephanie Wheeler at [swheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:swheeler@communityinchrist.net).

**Property Update:** The water mitigation plan approved this past Fall which is intended to protect the preschool wing and fellowship hall areas of the church building during major rains is scheduled to begin in early January. While we don't have an exact schedule, be on the lookout for this long-awaited project soon!

## Group Ministry News.....

### WELCA



If you are a female member of the Congregation, you are automatically a member of WELCA. Keep watch in the Take Two and Bulletin for the January meeting.



### Happy Time Christmas Luncheon

Join us for the annual planning meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 19th, at the House of Taipei in Huntersville. Please bring activity ideas for the group! Questions? Contact Ron Major at 704-622-0517 or [HunterRon35@hotmail.com](mailto:HunterRon35@hotmail.com).

### 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 January, we will continue to focus on making hat/scarf sets for those in need, as well as baby blankets and shawls. We have already given 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 1:30 p.m. 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

The CIC Card Ministry prayerfully creates cards that serve as a physical reminder of God's love, support and presence in our lives. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry through your prayers, working hands, and purchasing cards to pass along to others.

We will be meeting twice in January to make cards and hope you will consider joining us. We plan on meeting **Tuesday, January 11th at 2:00pm** and **Tuesday, January 25th at 6:30pm**. Meetings will be held in the **Spirit Center**. Participants are asked to enter through the doors nearest the Spirit Center and wear masks during the meeting. Need more information? Contact: Kathy Shugarman at [shugs02@gmail.com](mailto:shugs02@gmail.com) or 940-300-2290.

**The CIC Grocery Cart is Back!** During January 2022, CIC will be collecting specific personal hygiene items to be made into adult and children's Personal Hygiene Kits for the Afghanistan allies/refugees being resettled by Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC). Needed for each adult kit are: regular sized toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, deodorant, and shampoo. Needed for each child kit are: children's toothpaste, children's toothbrush, children's shampoo and body wash. Donations of single items or whole kits are welcome! Kits will be assembled by volunteers at the end of January. The kits will then be delivered to LSC for distribution. Thank you in advance for your contributions to this project!

As you know, hundreds of Afghanistan allies and other refugees have fled their native countries due to well-founded fear of persecution, and are awaiting re-settlement in the U.S. by Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) and other agencies. The following article provides a glimpse into one Afghan woman's struggle to resettle in the U.S. with her family, and the critical support provided by Lutheran Services Carolinas through its Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services program.

<https://apple.news/AaPWetbNoSbWdR3lpjhvyPA>





## **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:**

Children's Sunday School meets between services beginning January 9th.  
January 9th – PreK-1st Grade: Spirit Center; 2nd-5th Grade Fellowship Hall  
January 16th – ALL grades meet in Spirit Center for a service project  
January 23rd – PreK-1st Grade: Spirit Center; 2nd-5th Grade Fellowship Hall  
January 30th – PreK-1st Grade: Spirit Center; 2nd-5th Grade Fellowship Hall

### **Confirmation calendar:**



Sunday, January 9th – 6 p.m. beginning in the breezeway  
Sunday, January 30th – 6 p.m. beginning in the breezeway

Please remember to dress appropriately for being outdoors for the meal and bring your masks for the indoor portions of our time together. The acolyte & crucifer sign-up is available in your email. Worship notes are found at the welcome desk in the narthex.

### **Spring Book Drive February 6 – February 27**



Our Little Free Library located at The Ada Jenkins Center is in need of gently used children's books! We would welcome board books, picture books, books for early readers, and chapter books of interest for developing first – fifth grade developing readers. If you have young adult and adult books you would like to donate, we will accept them, but our need is for books for younger children.

The Sunday School Students are involved in this Outreach Ministry book drive. They will decorate donation boxes that will be in the narthex beginning February 6. As books are donated, the students will help sort the donated books and place our Community in Christ bookplate in the front of the book.

Donated books will also be shared in the little library located in the CIC parking lot. If you have any questions or would like to help with this project, please contact Suzi Hinrichs (630) 841-7124. [suzihinrichs@gmail.com](mailto:suzihinrichs@gmail.com)

## From the Finance Team

Member Contributions were lower again in November. We are 5% lower than Budget, but about flat compared to prior year at this point in the fiscal year. Expenses: We discovered a leak in the hot water heater in the fellowship hall, which required an urgent repair. The cost was \$11,955. It was covered by prior year IN money and did not affect our operating results. We also paid the next portion of the Employee Retention Credit processing and filing fees (\$1k) and expect to pay the remainder in December. At this point we have filed documentation with the IRS for all eligible time periods and expect resolution within 6-9 months. For the month of November we show a deficit of \$2,631, with Year to Date Surplus of \$13,069.

~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>Nov21 Actual</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<i>Revenue</i>			
<b>Revenue</b> <i>Operating Budget offerings</i>	\$ 532,500	\$ 197,741	37%
<b>Other Revenue</b> <i>Facility Usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest, PPP loan</i>	\$ 185,898	\$ 99,438	53%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 718,398</b>	<b>\$ 297,179</b>	<b>41%</b>
<i>Expenses</i>			
<b>Worship</b> <i>altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>	\$ 2,425	\$ 1,971	81%
<b>Witness</b> <i>offering envelopes, family life, evangelism, giving garden</i>	\$ 1,870	\$ 292	16%
<b>Serve</b> <i>Synod benevolence</i>	\$ 53,250	\$ 20,330	38%
<b>Administration</b> <i>computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fee, ERC processing fees</i>	\$ 41,337	\$ 23,217	56%
<b>Mortgage</b> <i>principal and interest on mortgage</i>	\$ 80,424	\$ 33,510	42%
<b>Property</b> <i>building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>	\$ 55,234	\$ 24,815	45%
<b>Staff</b> <i>salaries, taxes, and benefits for four full-time and two part-time employees; staff development</i>	\$ 323,008	\$ 125,804	39%
<b>Music Ministries</b> <i>guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fees</i>	\$ 4,409	\$ 2,459	56%
<b>Youth Ministries</b> <i>youth mission trips, retreats, activities, VBS, Sunday school, campfirmation</i>	\$ 9,525	\$ 1,161	12%
<b>Preschool</b> <i>activities, supplies, maintenance</i>	\$ 146,909	\$ 50,552	34%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 718,391</b>	<b>\$ 284,110</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Budget Surplus</b>		<b>\$ 13,069</b>	

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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. & 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 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)

