



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

December 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 www.communityinchrist.org

Sundays in December

12/4: 9 a.m. Worship (Contemporary) - livestreamed, 10 a.m. Sunday School & Coffee Cart, 11 a.m. Worship (Traditional)

12/11, 12/18, 12/25, and 1/1 – ONE worship service at 10 a.m.



You are invited on Sunday, 12/11, to join us in one worship service at 10 a.m. as we celebrate Sandy Barefoot's 11 years of music ministry at CIC and surround her with prayer as she transitions to retirement. Sandy has been a blessing to this place as a servant of Christ's gospel through her tremendous talent and giftedness. We are grateful for the opportunity to give thanks to God for her during worship. Plan to stay after worship for a catered lunch. Sandy's last Sunday at CIC will be Sunday, December 25th.

- ⇒ Join us on Sunday, 12/18, in one worship service at 10 a.m. which includes the Christmas Program "The ABCs of Christmas Worship" featuring spoken and vocal parts proclaiming God's love for the world in Jesus' birth in a manger.
- ⇒ 12/25 We worship together on Christmas morning in one worship service of Lessons & Carols at 10 a.m. This service is casual, and children are welcome to bring a new quiet toy, book, or teddy as we gather to praise God for Jesus' birth. Attendees are also invited to wear their Christmas pajamas if they so choose.
- ⇒ On Sunday, January 1st, we welcome the Rev. Betsy Mitchell as our worship leader for our one worship service at 10 a.m. 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!

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)

[Regathering Information](#)

Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14, and 21

6 p.m. – Free-will Offering Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for dinner on Wednesday nights during Advent! The light meal of soups and sandwiches will be catered in! While we won't be looking for home-preparation of food, we will need volunteers each week to be the leaders of set and clean up. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie in the church office (swheeler@communityinchrist.net).

7 p.m. – Holden Evening Prayer Worship The Lights of Christmas. 11/30 - Advent Wreath, 12/7 – Christmas Tree, 12/14 – Chrismons, 12/21 – Star. Weather permitting, the evening of the 21st will be all outdoors around fire pits. Dinner will be hot dogs cooked over the flames and sides ... with s'mores for dessert. Worship will take place at the fire pits.

More Advent Worship and Fellowship Opportunities

Blue Christmas: On Monday, December 12th, we gather at 7 p.m. creating a sacred space for those for whom the holiday may be marked with pain.

Caroling – 12/18: Come spread joy in the world with a caravan of carolers as we spread Christmas cheer at the homes of several congregation members. The group will depart from the church parking lot at 2 p.m.! Caroling books and addresses will be provided!

Christmas Eve: Celebrate the Newborn King at 4 p.m. or 7 p.m.! The livestream time will be announced closer to the date.

⇒ A limited number of Advent devotionals are still available! Please pick yours up in the narthex!

From the Pastors.....

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:3-5

5:15 p.m. That is when the sun will set today, November 18th. The sun's setting will continue to be slightly earlier and earlier every day until December 21st, which is the winter solstice. This amount of darkness can be particularly weary on people who work somewhat traditional 9-5 shifts because the drive home can be completely void of sunlight. While many are not fans of those darkened drives, as Christmas decorations begin to be put up and lit up, they can certainly add joy to the drive.

Advent is a season that takes place during the longest nights of the year. Advent also, quite fittingly, is a season when we delve into the mystery of how God has entered into the human world to offer us the light of life in Christ.

There are many wonderful decorations that have the power to "brighten" our moods during this stretch of time. During our mid-week services this year, we will be highlighting several of the most common types of Christmas decorations within the church. These "Lights of Christmas" are not only beautiful, but they directly point to the promise of how the light of Christ is strong enough to not be overcome by the darkness we encounter, even the darkness of death.

Also, on December 12th, we will gather for a Blue Christmas service. This is an intentional time of worship set-aside each year to name the darkneses we experience and feel. Oftentimes, there is such an emphasis on being "bright and merry" around Christmas that it can be overwhelming for those of us who are carrying the weight of other experiences. The hope of Christ's light will most certainly shine within this worship time, too.

Lastly, on December 24th, our family of faith will have the opportunity to worship the light of the world at 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. Because the sun still sets early on the 24th, each of these services will include candlelight.

In these long nights, may we not only adorn our homes with light, may our lives reflect the light of Christ as we carry God's love wherever we go.

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

⇒ **Office Update:** The church office will be closed Monday, December 26th, through Monday, January 2nd.

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

Sandy Barefoot, Director of Music Ministries – sandy@communityinchrist.net

Finance - Madalyn Wilkinson—financedirector@communityinchrist.net

Ways to Give of Tithes and Offerings at CIC:

1. Online/Direct Withdrawal

A. Go to www.communityinchrist.org & click on the “donate now” button in the upper right-hand corner.

B. Select “Create Profile”

C. Provide your email address

D. Create your profile and provide the various pieces of information. Once your profile is created, you can select what types of giving you would like sign-up for.

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

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

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

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.

Director of Music

Our Director of Music opening has been posted. Continue to pray with thanksgiving for Sandy’s years of ministry at CIC and her transition to retirement while also praying for the stirring of the Spirit in a candidate’s heart who is unknown to us at the moment but is known to God. You are welcome, and encouraged, to share the job description within musical networks or with musical people you know.

The search committee comprised of the pastors, Deborah Kimbrough-Lowe, Ashley Knoy, and Linda Muhlbach will provide updates when available though the candidates and interviews will remain confidential for the integrity of the process and in respect for any current positions that the applicants may have. You are welcome to continue to have conversations with any member of the committee about your experiences and ideas.

The job description is found on CIC’s website under the “News” tab: <https://www.communityinchrist.org/jobposting>.

CIC Women’s Retreat! March 10 - 12, 2023

CIC Women's Retreat - March 10-12, 2023: Join us for a weekend of refreshment, reflection, and friendship as we discover together how women can build one another up, be each other's allies and supporters and encouragers in the world. Register on-line using this link (Event registration) or pick-up a green paper registration form at the counter in the narthex. Payment instructions are included in the form. Questions? Contact Shari Gomilla (srgomilla@bellsouth.net) or Susan Kullstam (skulls01.me.com).



Men's Group

The Men’s Group will be gathering on December 13th at 7 p.m. Ron Gomilla has graciously volunteered to host at his home – We will enjoy fellowship time together and begin planning for future events. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Interested? Please contact Paul Miller for information and directions (614-679-2640, or p.k.miller1@gmail.com).

Prayers

Prayers for Members: Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, Joan Garn, Lee Tillman, Janet Shuping, Betty Classey, Don Snyder, Pat Hamby, Gregg Bottemiller, Lucy Price, Joyce Phelps, Shirley McNielis, Blaire Hart, Warren Hamby, Deb & Mark Myers, Jeff Dutton, Chuck Decker, Laverne Waskielis

Prayers for friends & relatives of members: Volosin Family (Extended family of Diana Elsass); Alex Dolazzoko (Lee Tillman's grandson); Dolores Bechtel (Deborah Blackwell's mom); Maj Askew (Rosalind Greenberg's daughter); Carl Yerger (Carl Yerger's father); Carl Morris (Carla Haley's father); Shirley Barton (friend of Bob & Kathy Shugarman); Dave Miller (Paul Miller's brother); Edric (Member of CIC's cleaning crew), Toddy Sumsky (Suzi Hinrichs' sister), Dennis Reese (Shari Gomilla's father), and Terry Park (Gary and Sharon Kautz's friend)

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

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

Things to take note of:

Tuesday Morning CIC Bible Study: Join the weekly Bible Study that meets in the narthex on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Please note there will be NO Bible Study on Tuesday, December 27th and Tuesday, January 3rd.

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

Sunday Mornings Can Use Your Help! We are looking to expand all of our teams!:

- **A/V Booth**—Slides, Streaming, Sound
- **Ushers**—The ushers will pass the offering plate around during each service, Communion direction
- **Worship Assistants**—Readings, Prayers, Communion Distribution
- **Communion Assistants**—Communion Distribution
- **Altar Guild**—Communion preparation, set up, and clean up, Changing of paraments
- If you are interested in learning more about any of these ways to serve on a Sunday morning or are ready to be added to the rotation, please contact Pastor Michael or Pastor Lisa.

Hand Bell Choir Schedule: 6 p.m. Carillon Handbell Choir (Sanctuary); **7 p.m.** Agape Handbell Choir (Spirit Center);

December Grocery Cart Collection

During the month of December, we will be collecting items for use in the Angels & Sparrows Dining Room. Angels & Sparrows is a Community Table and Resource Center in Huntersville for families and individuals who need assistance with food, health, education, housing, finances, and more.

The items they currently are most in need of and we will be collecting are:

Non-Refrigerated Individual liquid coffee creamers/Half & Half, drinking straws (individually wrapped preferred), 12x12 napkins, and paper towels.

When you're shopping this month please consider picking up some of these items and place them in the CIC grocery cart in the narthex during December. Thank you to everyone that continues to be so generous with filling our cart each month!

ELCA Good Gift Tree

Are some of the people on your Christmas list extra hard to shop for? Do you want to give your loved ones a gift that is particularly meaningful? Starting on December 4th, check out the Christmas tree in the Narthex that is adorned with ELCA Good Gift Ornaments. These ornaments represent a range of items that, when purchased, will go towards a variety of needs around the world: school supplies, clean drinking water, livestock, small business loans. When you take an ornament you'll "purchase" your selected item here (elca.org/Goodgifts) and then give the ornament to your loved one. More information will be available in the narthex or on the ELCA's website.

Group Ministry News.....

WELCA



If you are a Female member of the Congregation, you are automatically a member of WELCA. Interest and attendance have been dwindling hence we will temporarily suspend our Monthly meetings effective November 1st. A survey will be forthcoming for ideas and suggestion for the Women's ministry.

Happy Times Seniors—Christmas Party!



Wednesday, December 14th @ 11:30 a.m. at JOEY'S FINE FOOD—79132 Natalie Commons Drive, Denver, 28078. PLEASE RSVP so we know how many to prepare for Ron Major (704) 622-0517 or HunterRon35@hotmail.com.

CIC 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 December, we will continue to focus on re-building our supply of hat/scarf sets for those in need. This month, we plan to donate about 45 hats/scarf sets to Angels & Sparrows and Lydia's Loft, in preparation for the winter weather. By January-February, we hope to complete and donate another 45 sets to local agencies for distribution to those in need.

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! Of course, you can also participate in this important ministry at home by crafting items, and bringing them to CIC. If you have any questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Dutton (mamabissy@gmail.com) or Diana Elsass (dianaelsass@gmail.com).

Card Ministry News



The CIC card ministry group creates cards that serve as physical reminders of God's love, support and presence in our lives. Consider joining us! No experience needed!

We will be meeting Tuesday, December 13th, at 2:00 p.m. for a holiday celebration. All are welcome to attend. Bring a treat to share. We'll enjoy fellowship with one another as well as make Christmas cards for our personal use. Participants are asked to enter through the doors nearest the Spirit Center.

Need more information? Contact Kathy Shugarman at shugs02@gmail.com or 940-300-2290.

Check out our Christmas cards on the rack in the Narthex. Thank you to everyone who supports the card ministry through your prayers, working hands and purchasing cards.

Quilting Ministry



This is a new ministry! If you enjoy sewing or want to learn please join us! In December we will meet one time on Thursday, the 8th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Classroom #1 near the Spirit Center. Questions? Contact Barbara Eaker at 704-483-2060.

Property Team Meeting

The Property Team is starting back up again! Watch for our next meeting date in January. We meet at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. These meetings are working meetings as well as discussion of upcoming maintenance and events the property team helps with. Contact Stephanie Wheeler, 704-892-0120 or swheeler@communityinchrist.net with any questions.

Preschool, Sunday School & Youth News:

Preschool Tuition for the 2022/2023 School Year



- ⇒ Tuition for 2022/2023: \$270.00 for 2-year-old and 3-year-old students and \$305.00 for 4-year-old, PK and TK students.
- ⇒ There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$75 due at the time of enrollment.
- ⇒ Child must be classroom age by August 31st, 2022 or by December 31st, 2022 for the TK class

- ⇒ To schedule a tour contact Sharon Fuller at 704-892-0120 ext 104 or sfuller9564@gmail.com.
- ⇒ Visit our website for the link to the registration form—Communityinchrist.org click Youth tab - click Weekday Preschool. Link to registration form [here](#).

Sunday School

- 12/4 – 10 a.m. – Class begins in the sanctuary with music
- 12/11 – 9 a.m. – Class begins in the sanctuary with music
- 12/18 – 11 a.m. – Christmas Party following the Christmas program!
- 12/25 and 1/1 – No Sunday School

The Christmas Program, “The ABCs of Christmas Worship,” will take place during 10am worship on Sunday, December 18th. No rehearsal will be needed other than arriving at 9 a.m. on the day of. There’s opportunity for readers and non-readers. Please utilize the Sign-Up Genius by December 4th if you’d like your child to have a speaking part: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a094ba8af2fa46-theabcs> . Questions about the program? Contact Pastor Lisa

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

Current K-5 families, don’t forget to save the date! Agapé Day Camp is returning to CIC June 19-23!

Confirmation & Senior High

6th-8th graders: Sunday, December 4th, 6-8 p.m. Class at the church. **Sunday, December 18th, 2 p.m.** Christmas Caroling.

Senior High: On December 8th, the SR High will be assisting at the Operation Christmas Child shipping center from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. Please let Pastor Michael know if you are able to attend.



Order your Christmas Poinsettia!

Order forms are available in the narthex and will be in the bulletin also. The price per plant this year will be \$10 and will be available to take home after service on Christmas Eve.



You are still able to make a gift and pledge to Lutheran Services Carolinas *Be the Light* Capital Campaign. There are two ways people can make an online gift.

One time only donations: <https://lscarolinas.net/onetime/> (members need to remember to include CIC in the comment section)

Three year pledge: *Be the Light Statement of Intent* (members will be required to add CIC for form) Forms were mailed to members at the beginning of the campaign and more will be available at the Welcome Desk.

If you haven’t had a chance to watch the campaign overview, please take a look at the campaign video link: [LSC's Be the Light campaign - YouTube](#)

Finance Team

We had another good month in October. YTD our financial gifts from members have brought in \$182.6k. Including preschool tuition and other revenues, we are at \$244.5k for the year. On the expense side, we replaced the sink in the Kitchen, paid our quarterly insurance premiums, renewed the Microsoft Office subscription, renewed one of our video licenses, and purchased a new wi-fi extender. Our YTD surplus is \$13.6k.

~Madalyn Wilkinson, Director of Finance.


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.

Community in Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Plan	Jul22-Jun23 Budget	Oct22 Actual	% of Budget
<i>Revenue</i>			
Revenue <i>Operating Budget offerings</i>	\$ 534,000	\$ 182,598	34%
Other Revenue <i>Facility Usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest</i>	\$ 191,005	\$ 61,859	32%
Total Revenues	\$ 725,005	\$ 244,457	34%
<i>Expenses</i>			
Worship <i>altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>	\$ 4,100	\$ 997	24%
Witness <i>offering envelopes, family life, evangelism, giving garden</i>	\$ 2,130	\$ 671	31%
Serve <i>Synod benevolence</i>	\$ 53,400	\$ 18,020	34%
Administration <i>computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fee, ERC processing fees</i>	\$ 42,020	\$ 13,815	33%
Mortgage <i>principal and interest on mortgage</i>	\$ 80,348	\$ 26,780	33%
Property <i>building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>	\$ 56,093	\$ 20,261	36%
Staff <i>salaries, taxes, and benefits for four full-time and one part-time employees; staff development</i>	\$ 315,843	\$ 104,034	33%
Music Ministries <i>guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fees</i>	\$ 3,375	\$ 1,812	54%
Youth Ministries <i>youth mission trips, retreats, activities, VBS, Sunday school, campfirmation</i>	\$ 7,150	\$ 2,396	34%
Preschool <i>activities, supplies, maintenance</i>	\$ 159,210	\$ 42,022	26%
Total Expenses	\$ 723,668	\$ 230,809	32%
Budget Surplus	\$ 1,337	\$ 13,649	

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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.—Sanctuary & Live Streamed
 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

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 7621 Norman Island Drive
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Church Council
 Dean Miller (Treasurer)
 Deborah Lowe
 Natasha Nadeau (Secretary)
 Adam English (VP)
 Carl Yarger
 Susan Bauer
 Paul Miller (Pres)
 Tracy Lyon

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

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

