



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

September 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 September:

Join us for worship on September 3rd and 10th at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary and on livestream! Starting on September 17th, we will return to two services at 9am (Contemporary) and 11am (Traditional). When the worship pattern returns to two services, the Coffee Cart will be serving in between the 9am & 11am worship times.



We welcome Reverend Sara Cutter as our worship leader on Sunday, September 3rd, while Pastor Lisa & Pastor Michael serve as the chaplains for Camp Agapé's Labor Day Family Camp weekend!

The Reverend Sara Cutter lives in Hickory, North Carolina and serves as the Senior Director, Operations in the Christian Community and Leadership Home Area of the ELCA's churchwide organization. In this role, she manages the operations of a variety of ministries engaged with supporting and nurturing ELCA communities and their leaders. Prior to serving in this role, she led three different parishes of varying sizes and locations. In Pastor Sara's earlier professional days she worked as an engineer and during that time earned an MBA. She is married to another pastor, the Reverend Todd Cutter who serves as the University Pastor and Director of Spiritual Life at Lenoir-Rhyne University. Together they have a delightful daughter (Amelia) and two pups (Belle. & Josie). She is an avid Ohio State Buckeyes fan like some other pastors we know.

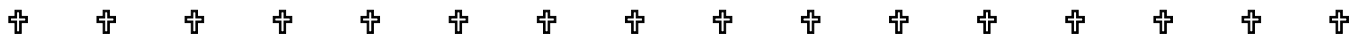
Rally Sunday is September 10th

Join us on September 10th for all or some of the Rally Day festivities!

- 9 a.m. – PreK-5th Grade Sunday School meets at the ark, weather permitting
- 10 a.m. - Worship with the Welcoming of New Members!
- 11 a.m. – Food, Fellowship, & God's Work Our Hands Service Project

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)



Church Center App



- Have you joined CIC's new online photo directory yet?
- The directory is through a program called Church Center, it is also an app.
- Follow the QR code to get started.
- If you need assistance, there is tech support in the narthex before and after worship starting on September 17th. Also, you can always call the office for help.



SPARK'DWELL



On August 4th, several of CIC's SR High students returned from their week at SparkDwell with full hearts and tired bodies. SparkDwell seeks to provide participants with an immersive and educational experience centered around relationship-building, education, storytelling, and service alongside those who are currently or formerly homeless. We are immensely blessed to have been a part of this ministry and through all the ways we got to experience God at work in the marginalized communities of Winston-Salem. Below, you will find personal reflections from the participants about their time on the trip.



Ivor Daly, Senior: SparkDwell was an amazing opportunity! Too often these days, I see the word of God being used to back acts of bigotry and unreasonable phobia for certain groups of people, the homeless included. In contrast to what I see and hear from the Internet, I got to participate in activities and meet real people who were working to develop their self-mastery through Christ. Interacting with them, I noticed that each of their lives is its own testament to how much influence God can extract from even the most disadvantaged groups of people. To be blunt, I never expected there could be such faith or depth of character in homeless people. Coming into that week, that was all I labeled them as, but living with them made me realize that their lives are much more nuanced than that. Take my altercation with the lady who pretended to be a property owner, for example. You don't realize people can be that wretched until you live it. In spite of their circumstances, seeing how they



Marshall Blackwell, Senior: Spending my week at SparkDwell among the homeless and those less fortunate showed me the value that people place in God and the sense of community he brings. Everyone greeted each other, was more or less friendly, and wished each other well. One man, who went by Booker, shared how going through life remembering God during the dark times we face allowed us to truly appreciate the good things we experience. The time I spent at SparkDwell has been taken to heart, and I often dwell on how hard it is to just be seen as human when homeless.



Cade Poovey, Junior: When I look back at this experience with the SparkDwell organization, I think of many specific occasions in which I saw God and the overall compassion of everyone involved with the trip. The first experience which I felt was really eye opening was on the first full day when we walked around Winston-Salem with our counselor, performing various tasks that homeless people would have to perform on a daily basis. Walking around in the community, taking the bus, and performing the tasks gave me a greater understanding of what the homeless go through every day. At one instance, a stranger got very aggressive and hostile, but our counselor calmed him down and smoothed out the situation. I felt that this moment showed compassion and God, as he fixed a bad situation and made it better with kindness. I also saw God in several other instances as we helped people in the homeless community. Whether it was passing out food, buying clothes, or anything else, I could see God as everyone selflessly put forward their efforts in order to help others. Overall, this trip was extremely eye opening and I'm the actions of helping out the community, I saw God present in many ways.



JJ McNeilis, Junior: When I envisioned what a mission trip to help the homeless looked like, I pictured dirty angry people. It turns out they were really nice and helpful. I saw God at work through the connection they all had with each other within their homeless community. My favorite part was when we prepared many meals in the food pantry for the homeless people. I really thought the experience was



Hayden Gulzow, Junior: I have a lot of feelings and thoughts coming out of this trip some good and some not as good, and sure I could complain about every minute detail from the moments during the days that we did nothing to their barely being anything for me to eat, but I realized something while trying to write this, none of that mattered, I didn't go there to have fun I went there to help and learn about the homeless community there and that's where this trip really exceeded my expectation. Everyone we met from the community of people were all so informative and serious with their experiences of homelessness current and in the past but were also so kind and welcoming throughout the whole experience. We also did

Thank you, members of CIC, for helping the youth to have this faith-enriching experience!

Ways to Give of Tithes and Offerings at CIC:

1. Online/Direct Withdrawal

- Go to www.communityinchrist.org & click on the “donate now” button in the upper right-hand corner.
- Select “Create Profile”
- Provide your email address
- 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.



God's Work Our Hands:

Save the Date! God’s Work Our Hands Sunday is Sunday, September 10th!
Following one service at 10 a.m., plan on staying after worship as we join together to assemble welcome kits for Lutheran Services Carolina’s New Americans Program (Refugee Services). All are welcome, invited, and encouraged to participate!
Stay tuned for more information!

A Note From Your Music Team



Fall arrives this month. I don’t enjoy saying goodbye to summer but I do enjoy looking forward to all that CIC has coming up. As of the 17th, we will be back to our two services, Sunday School will be in full swing, and all of our programs that had been on summer break will be meeting again. That includes your choir, and we are always looking for new members and would love to have YOU!

This month you will hear a couple more “new” worship songs from our All Creation Sings hymnal. We are going to repeat these new songs week to week to learn them, so when you hear a song and think “Hey, didn’t we sing that last week?” just know it was deliberate.

Have a blessed month and do consider joining us for Wednesday night rehearsals.

“My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.” Psalm 71:23

Sherry

Prayers

Prayers for Members: Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, Joan Garn, Janet Shuping, Betty Classey, Pat Hamby, Gregg Bottemiller, Lucy Price, Joyce Phelps, Shirley McNeilis, Blaire Hart, Warren Hamby, Laverne Waskielis, Janice Kaufmann, Sandy Barefoot, Debbie Davidson, Anne Randolph, John Iverson, Bonnie Koring

Prayers for friends & relatives of members: Jackie Deville, Demetrius Watkins (friends of Phil & Deborah Lowe); Toddy Sumsky (Suzi Hinrich's sister); Carl Morris (Carla Henley's father); Terry Park (friend of Gary & Sharon Kautz); Shirley Barton (friend of Bob & Kathy Shugarman); Beth Ward (friend of Judi Labuda); Bishop Tim Smith (NC Synod Bishop); Sheila Dotson (friend of Pat & Scott Wood); family of Audrey Wagner (coworker of Cory Wilkinson); Sondra Sigmon (friend of Pat & Scott Wood); Allison Holt (friend of Chris Spano)

We hold Norma and Rod Short in prayer as they grieve the death of Norma's mom, Marie Gustke, who joined the church triumphant on August 26th.

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:

New Member Sunday: We will officially be welcoming 20 new members to our family of faith on September 10th. Please be sure to introduce yourself if you have not done so already.

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

World Hunger Day Yard Sale! Since 1982, the First Baptist Church of Huntersville has raised thousands of dollars to feed those in need, both locally and across the globe through its annual World Hunger Day Yard Sale. This year, the World Hunger Day Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2023. Here's how you can help:

- **Donate Yard Sale items:** Saturday, Sept. 23 12 noon – 4pm or Sunday, Sept. 24 2pm – 5pm. Donations can be dropped off at designated areas in the North parking lot of the church (14813 N. Old Statesville Rd. Huntersville). Note: They are not accepting used TVs and computers, used mattresses, used lawn mowers, medical equipment (e.g., crutches, walkers, blood pressure machines) and/or any cracked or broken items.
- **Shop the Yard Sale!!** Saturday, September 30. from 7:30am – 12:30pm.
- **Volunteer to help!** For more information about volunteering to help with this event Contact Robin: 704-608-0231 OR Mary: 704-948-6531
- **FYI:** Angels & Sparrows, Caterpillar Ministries, and Loaves and Fishes are among the local agencies that benefit from this annual event, while internationally, the people of Bayonnais, Haiti benefit through the Haitian non-profit, Friends Empowering Haiti..

2023 Men's Retreat @ LutherRock: Calling all men!! It is time to start signing up for the Men's Retreat to be held the weekend of September 22-24 at LutherRock. Sign up as soon as possible so that we can start to get a headcount for food, rooms, etc. This is a great time to take a break from the whirlwind lives we all lead and to spend some time together with other men reflecting and praying on who we are, what we are doing and where we are going - and what can I do about it. The sessions will be led by Pastor Marcus Miller, who was the interim Pastor for CIC after the calling of Pastor Travis out to Colorado. Many of you know Pastor Miller and for those who don't I am sure you will find him to be a very caring and wonderful man who will help us all on our own faith journey. Look for the announcement about the Men's Group next meeting where we will discuss more of the details for the Retreat. The cost is \$150 for the weekend and can be paid on-line through the Donate Now button on the website. Men - we all need weekends like this!! Please contact Paul Miller (p.k.miller1@gmail.com) with any questions.



September Grocery Cart Collection: During the month of September, we will 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. This month we will be collecting breakfast items: **boxed oatmeal (with individual pouches), breakfast bars/healthy granola bars, individual serve healthy cereal bowls or small boxes.** 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!

Office Update:

The office will be closed on September 4th in observance of Labor Day
Sherry will be out of the office September 11th – 15th
Stephanie will be out of the office September 11th – 24th.

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

Group Ministry News.....

The Women's Group: I'm excited about what is in store for us. There is a lot of positivity for this group! Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the group. Jill Brooks at jlkbrosks@gmail.com.

Happy Times Seniors: Happy Times Seniors will meet on Wednesday, September 20th at 11:30 a.m. at Jack's Corner Tap in Cornelius. Please RSVP to Ron Major at 704-622-0517 or hunterron35@hotmail.com.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: If you like to knit or crochet - or would like to learn how - please join us! No experience necessary!!!! The CIC Prayer Shawl Ministry prayerfully weaves God's love and peace into hand crafted shawls, scarves, hats, blankets and prayer cloths for those in need. The group and its activities are open to all CIC members, friends, and visitors regardless of age or ability. Join us and share in this ministry! Just contact Kathy Dutton (see email address below) and she will add your name to the member/email list. In September we will focus on making hat and scarf sets for those in need during the upcoming fall and winter months. We meet in person in the CIC Spirit Center on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30pm to 2:30 pm. Plan to join us if you can for some fellowship, idea-sharing, and fun! Of course, you can also participate in this important ministry at home by crafting items, and bringing them to CIC. We could certainly use your help! If you have any questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Dutton (mamabissy@gmail.com) or Diana Elsass (dianaelsass@gmail.com).

Card Ministry News: Calling all people who like to paper craft to join the CIC card ministry group. This group creates cards that serve as physical reminders of God's love, support and presence in our lives. Do you enjoy crafting, playing with paper and ink, laughing and good fellowship? If so, consider being a part of the card ministry team, we'd love to have you join us! All are welcome and no experience is needed! We will meet twice in September to make cards and fellowship with each other. We will meet on Tuesday, September 12th at 2 p.m. and Tuesday, September 26th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center. Participants are asked to enter through the doors nearest the Spirit Center. Need more information? Contact: Kathy Shugarman at 940-300-2290 or shugs02@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who supports the card ministry through your prayers, working hands and purchasing cards.

Quilting Ministry: In September we will meet Thursday, the 14th & 28th 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.



Name Tags

Have you made your new CIC name tag yet?

As we transition to the fall, make sure you stop in the narthex to create your own personalized tag. The chalk markers are easy to use and if you make a mistake simply wipe it clean with a sponge, dry it off with a paper towel, and try again.

Name tags are a fantastic way to connect with visitors AND members.

Sunday School teachers—HELP WANTED!

If you're interested in being part of Sunday School teacher rotation for the 2023-2024, please contact Pastor Lisa!
The Rally Day celebration is September 10th and classes begin September 17th.

Confirmation

6th-8th graders: The 2023-2024 confirmation class year for current 6th through 8th graders will kick off on September 17th at 6:30 p.m. . If you are new to the confirmation program, please e-mail Pastor Michael in advance of the 17th.

Parents and students are encouraged to attend on the 17th. (pastormichael@communityinchrist.net)

9th graders: Remember, Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, October 29th. You will receive more information about meeting dates and Faith Statement papers as we enter the Fall.

National Youth Gathering



Attention all 8th-12th grade students! CIC will be venturing to New Orleans next July to participate in the ELCA's National Youth Gathering. An interest meeting is currently being scheduled. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

CIC's Annual Golf Tournament

CIC's annual golf tournament was another great day out on the course (and a fantastic evening in the nice air-conditioned club house!). We congratulate Tom Burick and Family on winning the tournament and we thank Bob Shugarman, Paul Miller, Chris Nadeau, and Ron Gomilla for their work in organizing the event. We are also grateful for all of the sponsors and participants who made it such a fun and successful day in raising funds for CIC's youth ministries.



Church Council Officers

Here are CIC's new Council Officers.
We thank them and the entire Council for their service and leadership to our family of faith.



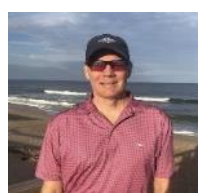
Natasha Nadeau, President



Adam English, Vice-President



Tracy Lyon, Secretary



Dean Miller, Treasurer

Finance Team

We had a very lean month in July. Financial gifts brought in \$34.4k. This appears to be due to many families in the Congregation being away on summer trips. Preschool camp brought in \$4.4k and our Other Revenues added \$700 (bank interest and facility use). Total Revenues this month were \$39.5k

No unusual expenses this month. We paid a quarterly installment of our Insurance fees (\$4.4k), and renewed the annual license for Music and Video subscriptions (\$700). Total Expenses came to \$53k.

We are ending the first month of the fiscal year with a Deficit of \$13.5k.

As was briefly mentioned during a recent Sunday service, we have finally collected the last portion of the Covid relief related ERC claim from the IRS. The total of all our filed and collected claims to date came to \$115.9k, plus we received \$5.4k of additional interest income due to the long time elapsed since the filing. As a reminder, we paid \$13.2k for preparation and filing fees, which leaves us with net proceeds of \$102.8k. These funds will be used to replenish our Capital/Emergency account (\$60k), \$4.3k will be sent to the NC Synod as a Congregational tithe, and \$4.3k will be used for local outreach programs. The remaining \$34.2k will be set aside to support daily Church/Congregation needs that are not of emergency nature. ~Madalyn Wilkinson, Director of Finance.

| Community in Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Plan | July 23-June 24 Budget | July 23 | Actual | % of Budget |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Revenues</i> | | | | |
| Member Contributions | \$530,000 | | \$34,361 | 6% |
| Other Revenue <i>Facility usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest, credit card rewards</i> | 204,900 | | 5,162 | 3% |
| Total Revenues | 734,900 | | 39,523 | 5% |
| <i>Expenses</i> | | | | |
| Worship <i>Altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i> | 5,300 | | 168 | 3% |
| Witness <i>Offering envelopes, new member activities</i> | 2,260 | | 70 | 3% |
| Synod benevolence | 53,000 | | 3,324 | 6% |
| Administration <i>Computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i> | 46,443 | | 6,336 | 14% |
| Mortgage <i>Principal and interest on mortgage</i> | 69,348 | | 5,779 | 8% |
| Property <i>Building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i> | 59,227 | | 3,846 | 6% |
| Staff <i>Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits for four full-time and one part-time employees; staff development</i> | 333,817 | | 26,963 | 8% |
| Music Ministries <i>Guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fee, handbells, AV maintenance</i> | 4,615 | | 988 | 21% |
| Youth Ministries <i>Youth mission trips, retreats, activities, VBS, Sunday school, camp/confirmation</i> | 8,150 | | 180 | 2% |
| Preschool <i>Staff salaries and benefits, activities, supplies, maintenance</i> | 151,499 | | 5,345 | 4% |
| Total Expenses | 733,659 | | 52,999 | 7% |
| Surplus | \$1,241 | | (\$13,476) | |


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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

Church Council
 Dean Miller (Treasurer)
 Jeff Moen
 Natasha Nadeau (Pres.)
 English (VP)
 Carl Yarger
 Susan Bauer
 Sharon Heckman
 Tracy Lyon (Secretary)
 Todd Rixman

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)

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





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

Worship Times

9:30 a.m.—Coffee Cart
 10 a.m.—Worship (Sanctuary & Live streamed)
 11 a.m.—Coffee Cart

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