



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

August 2024

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 August:

Join us for worship in August at 10 a.m. on Sundays both in the sanctuary and on livestream!

We use the Bread of Life liturgy for the summer as we worship together at one service time.

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)



We welcome Reverend Sara Cutter as our worship leader on Sunday, August 18th as well as Sunday, September 1st, while the pastors are away! The Reverend Sara Cutter lives in Hickory, North Carolina and serves as the Senior Director for Operational Effectiveness 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 entertaining pups.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday:



Save the Date! God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 8th! Following the one service at 10am, plan on staying after worship as we join together to assemble disaster kits for Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas. All are welcome, invited, and encouraged to participate! Stay tuned for more information!

Have you joined CIC's new online photo directory yet?



- The directory is through a program called Church Center, which is also an app.
 - Follow the QR code to get started.
- If you need assistance, there will be tech support in the narthex before or after services. Also, you can always call the office for help.



From the Pastors.....

6Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." 18And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Matthew 14:16-21

Feeding people is almost always a challenge. Menu planning, in and of itself, can be a major feat. When you factor in actually preparing the food, serving the food, and the cleanup afterwards...it's a lot. And whenever more people are involved, the difficulty is literally multiplied.

The story of the feeding of the 5,000 is found in all 4 Gospels, which is a rarity, and likely speaks to the impact and importance of the event. John's version of the feeding was the Gospel lesson for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost. One of the details that John didn't emphasize as much as Matthew was the disciples' role in the feeding. In Matthew, the disciples are specifically mentioned as the distributors of the food. They didn't come with the ingredients, according to John, a boy did that. They didn't do any of the miraculous preparation, Jesus did that. Their job was to simply take the generosity of the boy, along with the blessings of Jesus, to the people. That's it. It's not that their role was insignificant - it was actually crucial for the many people to be able to eat. Moreso, their job was not overly complicated as they just needed to pass on what was given to them to the people.

We've been thinking a lot about this role of the disciples as we are now sandwiched between the ELCA's National Youth Gathering and CIC's Camp Firelight VBS. While the scale of these two impactful youth ministries is certainly different, they each involve the desire to feed a lot of people - not just with stadium food or gummy worms in dirt pudding, but with the goodness of God. And because of the work of great leadership with both events and God's blessings showering over them, there is abundant spiritual food available. But, in order for people to be fed by it, those distributors become essential!

In many instances, these "distributors" are called volunteers. And whether it's a spiritual meal for 16,000 people or 30, distributors are crucial. They may not have put in the hours organizing anything, they certainly are not transforming it into something beyond what God has already made it to be, but they are the means through which others can receive that nourishing gift of God.

With immensely grateful hearts, we give thanks for the thousands of volunteers at the Gathering and the dozens of servants here for CIC's VBS...because of their efforts, so many are getting to taste and see the love and grace of Jesus in powerful ways this summer. We are also thankful for the faithful distributors who readily take Jesus out into the world each and every week, ready to extend the nourishing gift of compassion, justice, and love to the people they encounter. We don't have to pick this food out. We don't have to make it. We do get to share it. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael

Office & Staff Information

Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael will be out of the office from August 12th - August 20th while on vacation and will be leading Family Camp @ Camp Agape August 31st - September 3.

-Sherry will be out of the office August 19th-21st.

-The Church Office is closed September 2nd in observance of Labor Day.

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)

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

Music, Sherry Malia - [**musicdirector@communityinchrist.net**](mailto:musicdirector@communityinchrist.net)

Preschool Director, Sharon Fuller - [**sfuller9564@gmail.com**](mailto:sfuller9564@gmail.com)

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.



Prayers

Prayers for Members: Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, Janet Shuping, Betty Classey, Gregg Bottemiller, Lucy Price, Joyce Phelps, Shirley McNeilis, Blaire Hart, Warren Hamby, Laverne Waskielis, Janice Kaufmann, Anne Randolph, John Iverson, Ron Major, Ron Raper, Deb Myers, Karen Frank, Bill Rockwood, Brenda Tripathi, Woody Barefoot, Carl Yost, Scott Wood, Rosalind Greenberg, Judi LaBuda, Beth Jaszewski, Susan Kullstam

Prayers for friends & relatives of members: Carl Morris (Carla Haley’s father), Charlotte Lucas (friends of Ed & Susan Bauer), Jodi (Judi Labuda’s goddaughter), Melissa (friend of Karen Zicco), Sheka Holland (friend of Nancy Black), Margie Liljefors (Bob Liljefors mother), Patsy (Amanda Platt’s mother), Mary & Edison Speck (Liann Musano’s parents), Vic Black (Nancy Black’s husband), Dan & Joan Brisk (extended family of Stephanie Wheeler), Tom Elsass (Don Elsass’s brother), Pastor Sarah Mayer Flatt (friend & classmate of Pastor Lisa & Pastor Michael), George Burton (Kathy Shugarman’s father), Ed Lewis (August Short’s Father-in-law), Justin Becker (Grace Becker’s son), Kate (Michelle Bartleson’s daughter), Bob Rockwood (Bill Rockwood’s brother), Michael Wooters (Susan Kullstam’s father)

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: 704-892-020 or swheeler@communityinchrist.net.

Group Ministry News.....

New Members: The New Members Lunch and Class will take place on Sunday, August 25th, following worship. If you are interested in joining CIC and haven't yet signed up for the lunch and class, please contact Pastor Michael soon!

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

Coffee Cart Request: The Coffee Cart is in significant need of more hosts in order to form teams and alleviate the load so that everyone can continue to enjoy fellowship and treats. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Carol Moser at cbmoser@aol.com.

August Grocery Cart: During August we will be collecting supplies for Lutheran Disaster Response Carolinas Clean Up Buckets, which CIC will assemble during the "God's Work Our Hands" day on September 8th. Please pick a tag(s) from the buckets near the grocery cart for items needed to fill these buckets. Many tags will have more than one item per tag- please purchase all the items on the tag. Items can be purchased at Amazon, Dollar Store, Wal-Mart, Target, etc.. Return items to the grocery cart throughout the month of August. Thank you for your support for this special project. Your generosity continues to make a difference in the lives of many.

Happy Times Seniors: Wednesday, August 21, at 11:30 a.m. the Happy Times Seniors will meet at Midtown Sundries 7296 NC HWY 73 in Denver. New Timers are always welcome! RSVP to Ron Major (704) 622-0517 HunterRon35@hotmail.com.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The CIC Prayer Shawl Ministry crafts prayer shawls, hats/scarf sets, blankets, and prayer clothes for those in need. If you like to knit or crochet - or would like to learn how - please join us! We could certainly use your help. No experience necessary!!!! The group and its activities are open to all CIC members, friends, and visitors regardless of age or ability. Just contact Kathy Dutton (see email address below) and she will add your name to the group email list and keep you informed. In August we will shift our focus to crafting hats/scarf sets to replenish our supplies for the upcoming winter season. We meet in person at CIC on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the CIC Parlor, the room with the comfy furniture near the Spirit Center. 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. Questions? 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. We will meet twice in August to make cards and enjoy fellowship with one another; Tuesday, August 13th at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, August 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit Center. All are welcome and no experience is needed! Please 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 continues to support the card ministry through your prayers, working hands and purchasing cards from the rack.

Quilting Ministry: The Quilt Ministry will meet Thursday, August 1, 15 & 29, at 10:00 a.m. in Classroom #1. You are welcome to join us even if you don't sew. We welcome anyone who can iron, cut or help to tie quilts. Come check us out. Everyone is welcome! Please call Barbara Eaker @ (704) 451-5922 with any questions or suggestions.

The 5:11s (women's group): All women of CIC are welcome to The 5:11s. Based upon 1st Thessalonians 5:11, we are a women's group that "encourages one another and builds one another up, just as you are doing." We are on a summer hiatus for the months of July and August. Contact Jill Brooks at Jlbrooks@gmail.com with any questions.

- The CIC Women's Group 5:11s will have another dinner in August, hosted by the wonderful Linda Muhlback. We hope you can join in the fun and enjoy a night out with friends. Details are to come.
- Hope everyone has had a relaxing summer. We will start back in September with our monthly meetings. Come ready to share your ideas on our next community service projects, book recommendations, and social events. Dates will be posted once Sunday School and our Community Service day are set.
- Looking forward to another wonderful year of community with the women of CIC!

Church Council Updates

At the July Council meeting, the following Council Members were elected as officers:



Carl Yerger, President



Susan Kullstam, VP



Dean Miller, Treasurer

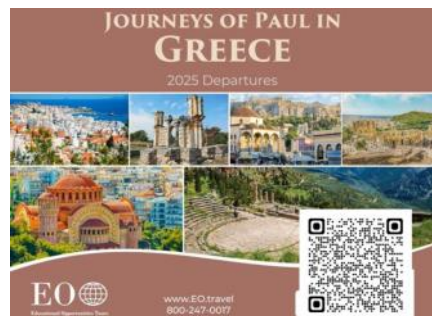


Tracy Lyon, Secretary

We thank these leaders and the entire Council for their willingness to serve!

Property Update:

- The parking lot will be resurfaced August 9th (date subject to change depending on weather) The lot will be closed off 2 days. Please call the office if you should need to stop by for any reason.
- Playground help is needed for the month of August:
 - The Fire Truck needs to be pressure washed and painted.
 - The three wooden tables need removed and placed behind the building just outside the gate.
 - Two resin picnic tables are on order and will need to be assembled and placed where the wooden table were
 - Mulch will need to be spread (date TBD)
- Please contact Stephanie Wheeler in the office if you are able to help with any of these projects. swheeler@communityinchrist.net or 704-892-0120. Thank you!



Journeys of Paul in Greece

CIC will be co-hosting a trip following some of Paul's footsteps, Journeys of Paul in Greece, through "Educational Opportunities Tours" (EO Tours) in partnership with Huntersville United Methodist Church (HUMC). We will have our own registration process through CIC, but our partnership with HUMC will allow us to benefit from the knowledge HUMC has gleaned from past EO Tours and enable us to travel as a larger group of neighbors both through the air and on the busses.

The trip departs on April 26, 2025, for 8 days, traveling through Neapolis, Amphipolis, Philippi, Veria, Thessaloniki, Meteora, Delphi, Corinth, Acropolis, and Athens. An optional Greek Isle Cruise Extension making the trip a total of 11 days also travels to Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, what it costs, what the costs include, and future preparation plans, please sign up on Church Center [here](#). This is NOT registration for the trip. It is showing your interest in learning more about the trip as more information solidifies. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Lisa.



Preschool Director: Sharon Fuller
704-892-0120 ext 104
sfuller9564@gmail.com

CIC Weekday Preschool Registration

- ****Non-refundable registration fee of \$85.00 per child is due at time of enrollment. ****
- Tuition for 2024/2025: \$295.00 for 2-year-old and 3-year-old students and \$340.00 for 4-year-old, PK and TK students. Tuition is due on the 1st of the month. **We currently have openings in the 4 yr. old PK class and TK class.**
- CIC Preschool is not equipped to teach children with special needs.
- All children must be toilet trained by the first day of class.
- Scholarships are available for eligible families. Please see director for details.
- We offer a 10% discount on tuition for families with multiple preschool children.
- For more information visit our website, <https://www.communityinchrist.org/preschool-cornelius-lake-norman-nc> or click on the QR code.



Thank you to everyone for your donations to our Craft Tent, Recreation Tent, Snack Tent and Decorations! Our Campers in the Mission Tent also thank you for your generous donations to Operation Christmas Drop!

Look for a complete wrap-up of Camp Firelight, "A Camping Adventure with God" in the September newsletter



Back to School Blessing - Sunday, August 25th

All students, teachers, staff, and faculty of schools helping the minds and character of others of all ages are invited to come forward during worship on Sunday, August 25th! While some school years will have already started and others will be beginning soon, we take time to pause and pray for a safe academic year filled with growth, learning, relationships, and fun.

Sunday School teachers

If you may be interested in teaching Sunday School during the 2024-2025 school year, please contact Pastor Lisa!
The Rally Day celebration is September 8th and classes begin September 15th.



Confirmation 6th-8th graders:

The 2024-2025 confirmation class year for current 6th through 8th graders will kick off after Rally Day. If you have a 6th through 8th grader who you are desiring to have participate and is not currently enrolled in the confirmation program, please be in touch with Pastor Michael this month. (pastormichael@communityinchrist.net) 9th graders: Remember, Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, October 27th. You will receive more information about meeting dates and Faith Statement papers as we enter the Fall.

Youth Gathering

Our group of 10 safely returned from the ELCA's Youth Gathering on July 20th. It was a phenomenal experience, and we are grateful for the many ways the congregation supported us throughout our journey. Please try to attend worship on August 4th so you can hear directly from the group the ways in which they encountered God during the Gathering and in NOLA.



**Register Now
ON-LINE**

Annual Golf Outing
Benefitting CIC Youth Ministries
September 9, 2024
Verdict Ridge CC
Denver, NC
Event Sponsors and Players Needed

Day of Event Schedule
8:30AM Registration
10:00AM Shotgun Start
Luncheon to follow golf



Retreat: Save the date!

The next Women's Retreat will be March 14th-16th, 2025. More information will be available this Fall!



Men's Group

Mark your calendars for October 11th – 13th when we will have our next retreat at Lutherock! More information to follow...

Finance Team

June brought us to the end of the fiscal year 2023-24. After a rough start and a couple of Council appeals, I am thrilled to report that we have closed the contribution gap and ended the year "in the black". A huge 'thank you' to all those who were able to adjust their giving to our new inflation-impacted reality. And, as always, we appreciate all Members who faithfully continue to support this congregation. June financial gifts brought in \$51.9k, We ended the full fiscal year with \$527.7k in Member Contributions, which is only 0.5% behind the Budget. Other Revenues brought in \$3.7k this month, between bank interest, Thrivent Choice money, credit card rewards, and facility use fees. Total for the year was \$26.8k. This is an area of strength for us, and we urge you to continue to designate those Choice Dollars to CIC as able. The Preschool continues full steam with summer camps. Camp Tuition brought in \$10.2k in June, for a full year total of \$18.9k. Along with regular Monthly Tuition and other fees, total Preschool Revenues were \$157.6k this year. This is lower than we budgeted for last year, however, with implementing various cost cutting measures and with relying on fundraising to cover a good portion of classroom expenses, the Preschool was still able to bring \$19.5k of profits to the Congregation. We are still actively registering students for the next school year. Please, spread the word! We have openings in the 4s, PK and TK classes. Total Revenues for the month were \$66k, full year total \$7112.1k. On the Expense side, we saw typical, routine items this month. Pastor Substitute (\$200), Lay Pastors Ministry (\$270), Office Supplies (\$270), Mileage Reimbursement (\$750), VBS volunteer background checks (\$300), YE Sunday School activities (\$200), YE Middle School Activities (\$400). We accrued for the upcoming carpet shampooing service (\$3.2k), as well as painting, repairs to the fob security system and WiFi (\$3k). Additionally, we were able to set aside unused funds previously budgeted for the National Youth Gathering, as we had sufficient money from fundraising. The leftover funds (\$2k) will be used to help cover the cost of the next Campfirmation class. June Operating Expenses were \$65.2k, full year total of \$710.1k. We ended the year with a Surplus of \$2k. Again, a massive 'thank you' to all Members for their continued, faithful support. We are now moving into the NEW fiscal year and starting with a clean slate. Summer months always tend to be lean, as many will take various summer trips, and sending a gift is maybe not front and center on everyone's mind. We encourage Members to explore the different remote ways of giving that make it easy and convenient to keep supporting CIC even when away from home.~ Madalyn Wilkinson,

Community in Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Plan	July 23-June 24 Budget	June 2024 Actual	% of Budget
<i>Revenues</i>			
Member Contributions	\$530,000	\$527,736	100%
Other Revenue <i>Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest, Facility usage, credit card rewards</i>	204,900	184,399	90%
Total Revenues	734,900	712,135	97%
<i>Expenses</i>			
Worship <i>Altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>	5,300	4,522	85%
Witness <i>Offering envelopes, new member activities</i>	2,260	2,141	95%
Synod benevolence	53,000	50,903	96%
Administration <i>Computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i>	46,443	42,660	92%
Mortgage <i>Principal and interest on mortgage</i>	69,348	69,348	100%
Property <i>Building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>	59,227	59,122	100%
Staff <i>Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits for four full-time and one part-time employees; staff development</i>	333,817	330,894	99%
Music Ministries <i>Guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fee, handbells, AV maintenance</i>	4,615	4,566	99%
Youth Ministries <i>Youth mission trips, retreats, activities, VBS, Sunday school, campfirmation</i>	8,150	7,901	97%
Preschool <i>Staff salaries and benefits, activities, supplies, maintenance</i>	151,499	138,086	91%
Total Expenses	733,659	710,143	97%
Surplus	\$1,241	\$1,991	


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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
 Carl Yeager (Pres.)
 Susan Kullstam (VP)
 David Crowe
 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)
 Outreach (Kathy Dutton)
 Worship & Music
 Inviting Ministries
 Property (Stephanie Wheeler)
 Women's 5:11's (Jill Brooks)
 Stewardship
 Support Staff (Stella Ryan)




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

Sunday Worship Times

10 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestreamed)

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 a.m. 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