



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

September 2025

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, September 7th

- 9am Sunday School Rally Day
- 10am ONE worship service with welcoming of new members
- 11am Service Project and Meal

Join us for a full morning as we kick off the Sunday School year, welcome new members in worship, and participate in our congregation-wide God's Work Our Hands day of service project for Bags of Hope Lake Norman! Wear your yellow "God's Work. Our Hands." shirt if you have one!

Sunday, September 14th!

return to two worship service schedule

- 9am Worship
- 10am Sunday School & Fellowship
- 11am Worship

Sunday, September 14th and following

- 9am Contemporary worship and livestream
- 10am Sunday School and Fellowship
- 11am Traditional Worship

We return to our 2 worship schedule on the 14th!

This also means we will need more ushers, greeters, communion assistants, musicians, and A/V assistance!

Please reach out if you'd like to learn about any of these ministries



Mark Your Calendars!

Worship on Sunday, October 26th, will be ONE service at 10am!

On Sunday, October 26th, we will celebrate Affirmation of Baptism for some of our youth on what is Reformation Sunday!

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)

From the Pastors.....

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries is a truly special and beloved expression of the church. In addition to our 20 Agape Day campers who got to experience a taste of outdoor ministries right here at CIC in June and the 6 confirmation students who attended Campfirmation at Lutheridge the following week, several of our CIC youth headed off to camp throughout the summer! We are fortunate to have two excellent outdoor ministries in the NC Synod – Agape Kure Beach Ministries and NovusWay Ministries. Here's a glimpse of their experiences ... but be sure to ask them about their weeks, too! We guarantee that they will tell you all about it!



Name: Hazel
Age: 6
Camp: Lutheridge
Week: Grandparents' Camp
Reflection: The pool was the best. I went down the slide a bunch!



Name: Anna K
Age: 8
Camp: Lutheridge
Week: First Camp and Grandparents' Camp
Reflection: Camp is amazing! You learn about God and have a lot of fun!



Name: Clara
Age: 8 by two days
Camp: Agape
Week: Prime Camp
Reflection: I was so happy to FINALLY be able to go to camp WITHOUT parents! I had fun rooming with Anna, jumping in the pool, and singing fun songs.



Name: Graysen
Age: 9
Camp: Lutheridge
Week: Pioneer Camp
Reflection: I attended Camp Agape in June and Lutheridge in July. I liked Lutheridge better and want to go back again next year. I loved learning how to do the worm and my cabin counselor, Luke, he is the best.



Name: Anna C.
Age: 10
Camp: Agape
Week: Prime Camp
Reflection: My favorite part was paint pit and I loved getting messy! Being crazy with new friends was fun!



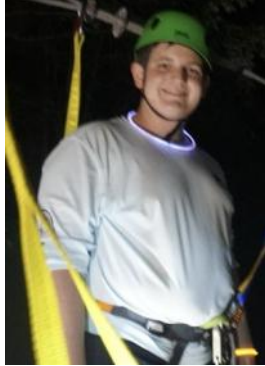
Name: Reid
Age: 11
Camp: Agape
Week: Prime Camp
Reflection: I enjoyed craft-making and friends.



Name: Bryce
 Age: 11
 Camp: Agape
 Week: Prime Camp
 Reflection: When I got onto the gravel road, I said, "I am back at my happy place." My counselor, Marcos, was the best and I loved almost everything about my week except coming home with chiggers.



Name: Virginia
 Age: 12
 Camp: Agape
 Week: Classic Camp
 Reflection: I had an amazing time. My favorite activity was definitely ziplining! I enjoyed being with my friends for a week!



Name: Bradley
 Age: 15
 Camp: Agape
 Week: Night Owls
 Reflection: I had a fun week of activities in the dark and glorifying God under the stars.

We regularly sing of the joy of creation through the gift of the words of Isaiah, "For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12 Away at camp, youth and adults get to live it. They experience a week of all of creation singing God's praises and bring that experience home with them for the rest of their lives. What a blessing!

Our NC Synod camps usually post their upcoming summer schedules late in the Fall. We'll be sure to communicate those when we see them. If you have any questions about camp, you are always welcome to talk to us ... but we highly recommend reaching out to these youth if you have a youth who is thinking about trying camp out next summer!

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael



News from the VBS Corner: VBS 2025 was a wonderful adventure!

I would like to begin by thanking all for the support you have shown. To everyone who has donated and or lent items for this great event, thank you. A thank you to our 40+ volunteers, we appreciate your involvement in this year's Vacation Bible School. Eleven of these volunteers were middle and high school students! Thank you for the prayers that have been said throughout the last 12 weeks focusing on the preparations for a successful Road Trip. We had a total of 20 families participating with 33 Travelers. On Tuesday there was much laughter and joy while the Travelers (and many adults) played with the puppies from the foster families connected with Piedmont Animal Rescue. Each evening, we learned more about our Signpost; "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 and our Daily Mile Markers. At the end of our fifth day, we were able to know that God is with us on the journey, God is with us when we go off course, God is with us when we're joyful, God is with us when we're lonely, and God is with us near and far.

Our Mission, Humane Society of Charlotte and Piedmont Animal Rescue were very thankful for the many donations. The snuffle mats will be enjoyed by many of the dogs. Thank you for your generous support!!!!

The Food Trucks were a hit! Thank you for coming out to support this fun add-on again this year. A special thanks to those who helped fill the vacancy of the hot dog truck! This was a super wonderful meal!

Till next year.... the 2025 Road Trip, On the Go with God team is signing off.



WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

On Saturday, September 20th, there will be a dumpster here ready to be filled! We will be working on cleaning out the sheds and the greenhouse located on the back 40. Many hands make light work! We will meet at 8 a.m. Bring gloves and a smile:)

Remember many hands make light work!

Coffee and treats will be provided!

Questions? Call or email Stephanie in the church office

704-892-0120

swheeler@communityinchrist.net

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 (Notary services available) – swheeler@communityinchrist.net

Finance, Madalyn Wilkinson – financedirector@communityinchrist.net

Music, Sherry Malia – musicdirector@communityinchrist.net

Preschool Director, Morgan Naum – preschooldirector@communityinchrist.net



Coffee Cart

Over the course of the summer, 8 youth families partnered with the Coffee Cart hosts to help feed the congregation's fellowship time! A big thank you to all of the youth and parents who planned, baked, served, and cleaned up throughout the summer! If you're interested in learning more about being a Coffee Cart host, talk to Carol Moser! (cbmoser@aol.com) You can also talk to her if you'd be interested in partnering for a weekend here or there like the youth did over the summer!

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, reach out to the church office for help.



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.



Prayers

Prayers for Members: Janet Shuping, Betty Classey, Lucy Price, Joyce Phelps, Shirley McNeilis, Blaire Hart, Anne Randolph, John Iversen, Ron Major, Ron Raper, Deb Myers, Karen Frank, Bill Rockwood, Brenda Tripathi, Woody Barefoot, Carl Yost, Rosalind Greenberg, Judi LaBuda, Bob Shugarman, Mary Anne Merkel, Dane Horna, Gary Kautz, Chuck Haley, Michele Bartleson, Darren White, The Salzmann Family, The Elsass Family, Dan Mrak, John Tauer, Alice Ritter, Mary Lou Blevins

Prayers for friends & relatives of members: Jon Hearn (friend of Jim and Robin Konieczny), Scott Babcock (friend of Bob Shugarman), Nancy Short (Rod Short’s mother), Matt Woodell (Carol Moser’s cousin’s son-in-law), Bev & Jeff (friend’s of Mary Lou Blevins), Edison & Mary Speck (Liann Musano’s parents), Dave Frank (Andy Frank’s brother), Maja Ferrari and the family of Melissa Middlethon (friends of Karen Zicco), Sandie Campbell (friend of Bonnie Koring and Tracy Lyon), Justin Becker (son of Grace Becker), Pat (Mary Lou Blevins friend), Ray Sumsy (Suzi Hinrich’s brother-in-law), Jackie DeVille (Deborah Lowe’s friend), Louisa Miller, (Deborah Lowe’s cousin)

In sure and certain hope of the Resurrection, we commend to almighty God, Anna Roth, who died on August 19th. Anna’s life will be celebrated on Saturday, September 6th, at 11 a.m. at Community In Christ Lutheran Church. Please keep Anna’s family in your prayers.

In sure and certain hope of the Resurrection, we commend to almighty God, Warren Hamby, who died on August 15th. A date for a local service is still pending. Please keep Warren’s family in your prayers.

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.....

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

September Grocery Cart: During the month of September we will be collecting items for Angels & Sparrows. Angels & Sparrows is a Community Table and Resource Center that empowers families to reach their potential by providing access to food security and educational opportunities that lead to a fresh start. To learn more about Angels & Sparrows go to: <http://angelsandsparrows.org>. The kitchen help at Angels and Sparrows is in need of ***cream of mushroom soup, chicken and beef broth (cartons preferred), paper towels***. When you're out shopping this month please consider purchasing some of these items and adding them to the grocery cart at CIC. Your generosity to the grocery cart collections is greatly appreciated and makes a difference in the lives of our neighbors!

Happy Times Seniors: Meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at various restaurants about town for food and fellowship. Contact Ron Major with any questions at 704-622-0517 or 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. In September, we will continue to focus on hats and scarves for the upcoming fall/winter seasons. These items will go to the homeless and others in need. 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 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 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. 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. Do you enjoy crafting, playing with paper and ink, laughing and good fellowship? If so, consider joining us at a card ministry meeting. Everyone is welcome! No experience needed! We are planning to meet twice in September to make cards and enjoy fellowship with one another. We'll be meeting Tuesday, September 9th at 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, September 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in Classroom #1. 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 supports the card ministry through your prayers, working hands and purchase cards from the rack.

Quilting Ministry: The quilt ministry will meet on Thursdays, September 11th & 25th, at 10:00 a.m. in Classroom #1. Anyone interested in quilting, no matter how experienced, is invited to join us. 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." Contact Jill Brooks or Tracy Lyon with any questions at Jlbrooks@gmail.com or vikingtk@hotmail.com.

⇒ Let's keep the summer fun going - The 5:11's will have another dinner September 15th. Keep an eye out for details from Linda Muhlbach. We will meet in October between services, date to be determined

Living Lutheran Magazine is back in print! The ELCA has found a way to bring Living Lutheran back to print. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community. The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription. If you are interested, go here to sign up for a subscription: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/>



Office Update

- The Church Office is closed September 1st in observance of Labor Day.
- Office Administrator will be out of the office September 29th—October 13th.



Golf Outing

Join us for a day of fun, fellowship, and fundraising at the Community In Christ Golf Outing on **September 8, 2025** at Verdict Ridge Golf Club in Denver, NC. This event will not only test your golf skills on a beautiful course, but also support our youth ministry programs.

The event will kick off with donuts & coffee with registration starting at 8:30am followed by a shotgun start. After golf, join us for our golf awards and raffle luncheon. There will also be opportunities to win amazing prizes. You won't want to miss out on this exciting day!

- ⇒ Golf per person \$130 – Includes Golf for One with Shared Golf Cart and Lunch
- ⇒ Mulligans \$20 – Limit One per Golfer
- ⇒ Raffle Tickets \$5 Each / 5 for \$20
- ⇒ Follow the QR code to register, sponsor, or volunteer!

RAFFLE TIMELINE:

- 8/20 - Donation of items are due.
- 8/24 - 1st Sale Day of Raffle Tickets begin
- 8/31 - 2nd Sale Day of Raffle Tickets
- 9/07 - 3rd Sale Day of Raffle Tickets
- 9/08 - Golf Outing Date featuring the drawing of winners tickets.
- 9/09 - Winners not attending golf outing will be notified of item(s) won.

RAFFLE TICKET PRICES:

- 1 Ticket = \$1
- 6 Tickets = \$5
- 12 Tickets = \$10
- 24 Tickets = \$20
- 36 Tickets = \$30
- 60 Tickets = \$50
- 120 Tickets = \$100 - We will place your name and phone number on the ticket for you!

PLACE YOUR TICKET IN THE ASSOCIATED ITEM BOX FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN BEFORE 9/8!





Save the Date! God's Work Our Hands Sunday is September 7th! Following the one service at 10 a.m., plan on staying after worship as we join together to create weekend food bags for Bags of Hope Lake Norman to distribute to schools throughout our area. All are welcome, invited, and encouraged to participate! Listen for announcements in worship and on social media for more information as the date approaches.



God's Work. Our Hands. T-shirts.

Some new "God's Work. Our Hands." t-shirts are still available for pick up \to be worn on God's Work Our Hands Sunday. There are also plenty of blue Thrivent shirts. Have a yellow "God's Work Our Hands" shirt in your house that no longer fits?

Place it in the basket in the narthex for hand-me-downs of these yellow shirts!

Those hand-me-downs are free for the taking as well to give them another year or so of life!

CIC Weekday Preschool

*Preschool Director: Morgan Naum
704-892-0120 ext 104*

preschooldirector@communityinchrist.net

Preschool Registration for 2025/2026: *Child must be classroom age by August 31st, 2025, or December 31st, 2025, for TK*
For the Fall there are openings in the 4 year-old class, Pre-K class and T-K class.

- **Tuitions for 2025/2026:** \$320.00 for 2-year-old classes, \$300 for 3-year-old classes, \$350.00 for 4-year-old & PK class and \$360 for TK class. Tuition is due on the 1st of the month. There is a supply fee of \$55
- CIC Preschool is not equipped to teach children with special needs.
- All 3-, 4- & 5-year-old children must be toilet trained by the first day of class.
- Scholarships are available for eligible families. Please see the director for details.
- We offer a 10% discount on tuition for families with multiple preschool children.

Please share with your friends and have them reach out to the preschool today to learn more!

Currently enrolled families who refer a new family will receive a \$25 discount
on their next month's tuition!

Referrals from non-preschool families receive a \$25 Amazon gift card!



Please call or email for more details, refer to our website (communityinchrist.org) for an online registration form or follow the QR code.



In worship on Sunday, August 24th, we prayed over the beginning of CIC Preschool's year and the beginning of Ms. Morgan Naum's ministry as Preschool Director. Ms. Morgan has been a teacher at CIC since 2021 and was hired as the Preschool Director in July.

Sunday School—Middle and High School News



Sunday School Teachers Needed

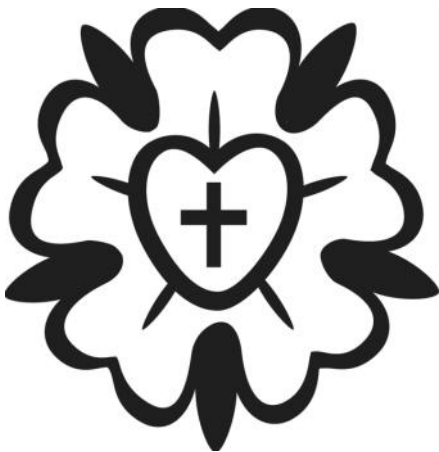
If you may be interested in teaching Sunday School during the 2025-2026 school year, please contact Pastor Lisa! The Rally Day celebration is September 7th and classes begin September 14th.



9/7 - 9am Rally Day gathering!
9/14 - 10am Classes begin!

Rally Day is Sunday, September 7th!

Join in the fun beginning at 9am! Classes begin on Sunday, September 14th at 10a.m. for children Pre-k through 5th grade! Classes are 9/14, 9/21, 9/28 at 10am! Each week will begin in the sanctuary with music! Register your child for Sunday School here [2025-2026 Sunday School Registration - Community In Christ Lutheran Church](#)



Confirmation

6th-8th graders: The 2025-2026 edition of the 3-class-year confirmation program for current 6th graders and older will kick off on September 21st @ 6:00pm. If you are new to the confirmation program, please e-mail Pastor Michael in advance of the 21st. Parents and students are encouraged to attend on the 21st.

- After orientation, the first class is Sunday, October 5th, 6:30-8 p.m.
- On Sunday, September 28th, the class will head to the Whitewater Center following the first service. More information will be available at orientation!

9th graders: Remember, Confirmation Sunday is Sunday, October 26th. You will receive more information about meeting dates and Faith Statement papers as we enter September.



Senior High

CIC's SR High will be heading to the White Water Center for their annual trip on September 28th. The group will leave after the 9am service and return after dinner.

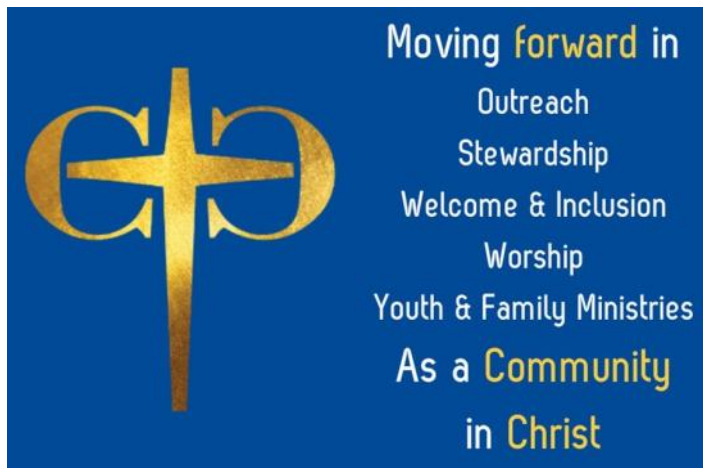


Finance Page

July marks the first month of the new fiscal year 2025-26. Financial gifts this month brought in \$42.2k. Preschool revenues came in at \$4.6k, including summer camp tuition and enrollment fees. We currently have 47 students enrolled for the upcoming year, which is what we were budgeting for back in the spring. Other revenues (interest, credit card fees, facility use) brought in \$1.2k. Total Revenues for the month were \$48k. On the expense side, we made the quarterly Insurance installment payment of \$4.6k, Lawncare costs came to \$0.9k, Utilities-Electric \$2k, normal summer time high due to hot weather. Total expenses for the month were \$56.8k. July25 deficit was -\$8.7k, we expect it to balance out as the year continues. In other news, we have received the settlement in the DOT Eminent Domain land sale. Proceeds were \$128.4k and this amount was allocated between the Capital/Emergency fund and IN Money, as per the Council's instructions. ~Madalyn Wilkinson, Director of Finance

Community in Christ Lutheran Church Ministry Plan	July 25-June 26 Budget	July 2025 Actual	% of Budget
<i>Revenues</i>			
Member Contributions	\$560,000	\$42,214	8%
Preschool Revenue <i>Preschool tuition and fees</i>	159,890	1,213	1%
Other Revenue <i>Bank interest, Facility usage, credit card rewards</i>	22,430	4,590	20%
Total Revenues	742,320	48,017	6%
<i>Expenses</i>			
Worship <i>Altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>	5,950	87	1%
Witness <i>Offering envelopes, new member activities</i>	2,090	0	0%
Synod benevolence	56,000	4,606	8%
Administration <i>Computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i>	49,678	7,240	15%
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>	63,155	4,460	7%
Staff <i>Salaries, payroll taxes, and benefits for four full-time and one part-time employees; staff development</i>	350,531	28,434	8%
Music Ministries <i>Guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fee, handbells, AV maintenance</i>	5,905	520	9%
Youth Ministries <i>Youth mission trips, retreats, activities, VBS, Sunday school, camp/confirmation</i>	3,150	199	6%
Preschool <i>Staff salaries and benefits, activities, supplies, maintenance</i>	136,130	5,433	4%
Total Expenses	741,937	56,759	8%
Surplus	\$383	(\$8,741)	

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



Sunday Sept. 7:

One Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Beginning Sept 14:

Worship will be at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. with
Sunday School at 10 a.m.

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

Community in Christ
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 (Sec.)
Becca Elliott
Susan Kullstam (Pres.)
David Crowe (VP)
Carla Haley
Sharon Heckman
Mark Swanson
Todd Rixman

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)

Staff
Pastor Lisa Beery pastoria@communityinchrist.net
Pastor Michael Beery pastormichael@communityinchrist.net
Office Administrator, Stephanie Wheeler (swheeler@communityinchrist.net)
Preschool Director, Morgan Naum
(preschooldirector@communityinchrist.net)
Finance - Madalyn Wilkinson
(financedirector@communityinchrist.net)
Music—Sherry Malia
(musicdirector@communityinchrist.net)