



**Community  
In Christ  
Lutheran Church**

# CIC NEWS

March 2021

Serving the Lake Norman area since 1977

A newsletter published for the members and friends of Community In Christ Lutheran Church, 7621 Norman Island Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031 704-892-0120 email: [swheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:swheeler@communityinchrist.net) [www.communityinchrist.org](http://www.communityinchrist.org)



## Worship In March

Join us on Sundays this month at 10 a.m. in the church parking lot for drive-in worship.

These Sunday worship services will be livestreamed on the church Facebook and YouTube pages.

*We are increasing our midweek Service of Holy Communion attendance to 25 people in response to the new guidelines given to us by the state health department. At the March 14th Council Meeting, we will review what these guidelines and synod recommendations can mean for future in-person services at CIC. We recognize that Holy Week and Easter are in early April this year and we will communicate, if there are any changes to our current worship options, after the discussion on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Stay Tuned!*

Facebook Link

YouTube Link



### Souper Bowl of Caring Totals!

Tampa Bay Buccaneers - \$285  
Kansas City Chiefs - \$465  
Commercials - \$15  
Undesignated - \$585  
**Total - \$1350**

Thank You! All of the proceeds from this fun competition benefit Angels & Sparrows Soup Kitchen in Huntersville.



### Daylight Savings!

**Sunday March 14th!**

**Turn clocks ahead 1 hour!!!!**

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

*Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make [the tomb] as secure as you can."  
-Matthew 27:65*

This passage from Matthew is the one assigned each year for "Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter. It is a unique day and time as it symbolically straddles what was (death) with what is to come (new life).

Being in-between is always a difficult task. It is a struggle, really. In such scenarios, we intrinsically want to fully move into the hope-filled future, but it is just not possible—not when we are still in-between. For Pilate, and during that in-between time so long ago, he wanted to make sure that hope-filled future never manifested. He desired for the death that was caused upon Calvary to be the *finale*. To solidify his position, he had soldiers assigned to guard Jesus tomb in yet another attempt to keep hope at-bay.

We are nearly a month away from Holy Saturday as the season of Lent is not even half-way over. And yet, this time of life we are currently in is beginning to feel more and more like an in-between point. With the proliferation of the vaccine, the improved Covid metrics, and the loosening of some restrictions, the promise of new life feels so close, so hopeful (indeed, it is immensely hopeful!). Let us not forget, however, that as we *seemingly* move further away from the most severe and deadly points of the pandemic, that the struggle to fully get out of this in-between is not over. We all need to continue to do our part to make sure our actions and decisions help us fully transition beyond the period of death and divisiveness this pandemic has caused.

Pilate's move with the soldiers proved to be futile. Nothing was going to keep Jesus from obliterating the power of death and blazing into the future with the gift of new life. Because of what Jesus did on the cross and through the empty tomb, nothing will ultimately stop us from moving out of this current in-between time either. That's not to say there is not more work to be done, more waiting and anticipating to endure, but we are not stuck where we are at.

Whatever our Easter celebrations look like at CIC, however much of the in-between time remains, know that the resurrection dawn awaits us. The death that was in the past will not keep us from the life that is here and the life that is to come.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Michael & Pastor Lisa

## Prayers



**Prayers for Members:** Carla Beaver, Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, DiBenedictis family, Jim Carney, Martin Cuthbertson, Joan Garn, Renate Von Dohlen, Lee Tillman, Janet Shuping, Dane Horna, Jan Hamilton, John & Virginia Tauer, Bill Rockwood, The family of Larry Blackwell

**Prayers for friends & relatives of members:** Margaret Orendorff (Diana Elsass's mother); Evelyn Hagedorn (Laurie Street's mother)

*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 [sweeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:sweeler@communityinchrist.net) or 704-892-0120.***



### **Sunday Worship & Weekday Worship Opportunities:**

Outdoor, In-person worship Sundays at 10 a.m. Livestreaming of Sunday worship continues via Facebook and YouTube @ 10 a.m.

- **Service of Holy Communion**—Join us on Wednesdays, for a brief service of Holy Communion in the sanctuary at 12 p.m. The service will contain the reading of scripture, prayers, instrumental music, and the communion liturgy. The service will be approximately 15 minutes. Communion will be distributed in prepackaged containers. Please enter the sanctuary through the doors under the Portico and exit through the doors leading to the breezeway. You will be seated a minimum of 6 feet from anyone not in your family unit and you must wear a mask while inside the building. Please refer to the signage on the church door before entering the building. Space is limited to 25 people. Look to weekly Take Twos for additional and up-to-date gathering information as the dates approach.



### **Ways to Give of Tithes and Offerings at CIC:**

#### **1. Online/Direct Withdrawal**

- A. Go to [www.communityinchrist.org](http://www.communityinchrist.org) & click on the “donate now” button in the upper righthand corner.
- B. Select “Create Profile”
- C. Provide your email address
- D. Create your profile and provide the various pieces of information. Once your profile is created, you can select what types of giving you would like sign-up for.

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

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

**3. Offering Plate:** The ushers provide a contact-free opportunity for you to place your offering in the offering plate during drive-in worship.

**Stock Account**—Have you ever thought about giving the gift of stocks, mutual funds, or IRAs? CIC has a resource available through Thrivent Financial to transfer these funds to the church into a charitable, tax-free gift account. If you would like to learn more about this possibility or have questions please contact Gary Samuelson (704-506-3234) and/or Colleen Karpovitz ([ckarpovitz@cox.net](mailto:ckarpovitz@cox.net)).

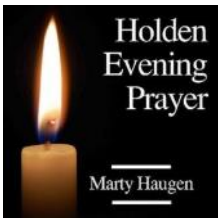
# LENT

WALKING WITH CHRIST



## Good News: A Virtual Easter Pageant!

Hey Children & Parents! We're doing a Virtual Easter Pageant! It's the same format as the Christmas Pageant. No rehearsals. Record at home. If you'd like your child/ren to participate in the Easter Pageant, please email Sandy Barefoot ([sandy@communityinchrist.net](mailto:sandy@communityinchrist.net)) by Sunday, March 7th, with the name and age of your child/ren so that she can divide out parts.



## Holden Evening Prayer

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> a Holden Evening Prayer service will be streamed at 5:00pm on our Facebook and Youtube Pages. You may access these services any time after 5pm. Each week will focus on the theme: Created for Community.

## March Madness Bracket Challenge



It's almost March Madness Time! If you're the least bit interested in college basketball, you're strongly encouraged to participate in CIC's NCAA Men's Basketball Bracket Challenge. What is a "bracket challenge?"— On March 14<sup>th</sup> a tournament bracket will be created by a selection committee. Within that bracket, you will then pick who you think will win every potential match-up (and don't worry, your guess is as good as anyone's...in fact, most of our brackets will be more accurate than the analysts on ESPN). It really is as simple as that. Your strategy for picking a winner can be based on seedings, team preferences, mascots, the flipping of a coin... As the tournament goes along, we'll rank who has made the most accurate picks. The challenge is just for fun as well as for bragging rights. The intent is to have a simple and enjoyable activity that EVERYONE can participate in. Stay posted for the bracket details as we get closer to the 14<sup>th</sup>.



## March 5th is National Cereal Day

Each week, Angels & Sparrows provides boxes of non-perishable groceries to families in need of additional assistance. They are now distributing close to fifty boxes of cereal each week! Boxed cereal is one of the most costly items on the Immediate Needs List. As such, it is not an item they can afford to replace when supply runs out. During the month of March, bring a cereal box or two to worship any Sunday to help Angels & Sparrows fill their grocery boxes each week!

# Group Ministry & Adult Education News.....

## Card Ministry News

*The CIC card ministry is creating cards to serve as a physical reminders of God's love, support and presence in our lives.*

We are planning to meet twice in March to make cards and enjoy fellowship socially distanced from one another. We'll be meeting **Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** and Tuesday, **March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Spirit Center**.

Participants are asked to enter through the doors nearest the Spirit Center and wear masks during the meeting. ***The number of participants is limited, to reserve your space please email or text Kathy Shugarman at (shugs02@gmail.com) or 940-300-2290.***

**Easter cards are available** to the congregation in the card rack on Sunday mornings or during the week through the church office. Thank you to everyone who supports the card ministry through your prayers, working hands and purchasing cards.

## CIC Prayer Shawl Ministry

The CIC Prayer Shawl Ministry prayerfully weaves God's love and peace into hand crafted shawls, scarves, hats, blankets and prayer cloths for those in need. If you like to knit or crochet, or would like to learn how, please join us! The group and its activities are open to all CIC members, friends, and visitors regardless of age or ability. Join us and share in this ministry! Just contact Kathy Dutton (see email address below) and she will add your name to the member/email list.

In 2020, nearly **130** hand crafted items (blankets, hat/scarf sets, and prayer shawls) were made and distributed by the prayer shawl ministry. The cost of the supplies were covered completely by donations from the seven active ministry members, yarn donations, and a \$250 Thrivent grant. In all, about 1500 volunteer hours were contributed by the members in support of this ministry, for an estimated dollar value of almost \$10,700 in donated time (based on NC minimum wage). Let us celebrate the work God is doing through this wonderful ministry of CIC!

In March 2021, our focus will remain on making hat/scarf sets for those in need. While the major cold for this winter is probably behind us, we need to generate a supply for the beginning of the next winter season!

Beginning March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we will be moving back to in-person meetings. They will be held in the Spirit Center on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Plan to join us if you can for some fellowship, idea-sharing, and fun! If you are interested in coming to the in-person meetings, please contact Kathy Dutton and she will send you the necessary information. Of course, you can also participate in this important ministry at home by crafting items, and bringing them to CIC. If you have any questions, or would like more information, contact Kathy Dutton ([mamabissy@gmail.com](mailto:mamabissy@gmail.com)) or Diana Elsass ([dianaelsass@gmail.com](mailto:dianaelsass@gmail.com)).

## North Carolina Lutheran Men In Mission

The 98<sup>th</sup> "Virtual" Gathering, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The 98<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of NCLMM will be hosted virtually by First Lutheran Church, Lexington, NC. If you have questions about Lutheran Men in Mission contact Lars Kullstam at ([lkulls@me.com](mailto:lkulls@me.com)). To register go to: <https://www.facebook.com/events/254090019621952> or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/98th-gathering-north-carolina-lutheran-men-in-mission-zoom-event-tickets-138031486893>

## Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School has started a new series at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom with an N.T. Wright video class on Ephesians. If you are interested, please contact Mark Myers. ([mark.myers82@gmail.com](mailto:mark.myers82@gmail.com)).

## Tuesday Morning CIC Bible Study

During the season of Lent, the Bible Study will focus on Dr. Mark Allen Powell's series, How Lutherans Interpret the Bible. The class is on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. If you have not participated in the study previously, please contact the church office for the Zoom information. Also, the Bible Study is always recorded so, if you are unable to participate at the 10:30 a.m. time, the recording can be e-mailed to you.



### **Preschool News:**

**Registration for the 2021/2022** school year is now open. Tuition for 2021/2022: \$255.00 for 2-year-old and 3-year-old students and \$290.00 for 4-year-old, PK and TK students.

Tuition is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, with September's tuition due on **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.**

To schedule a tour contact Sharon Fuller at 704-892-0120 ext 104 or ([sfuller9564@gmail.com](mailto:sfuller9564@gmail.com).)

**Summer Camp registration** is now open. Summer Camp Sessions are \$130 per session. A completed registration form and registration fee payable by check ~OR~ debit/credit card online at [www.communityinchrist.org](http://www.communityinchrist.org) is required for each child. CIC Preschool reserves the right to cancel any camp and return registration fee due to low enrollment ~OR~ if Covid-19 guidelines for safety and/or group numbers change.

**Session #1-June 7-10 (9:05-1:00)- "Paint, draw, sculpt"**-Our little artists will express themselves and their creative side through a variety of art projects. **\$65 registration fee 65 balance due May 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Session #2-July 12-15 (9:05-1:00)- "Animal Adventures"**-Our campers will go on a safari to learn all about the beautiful and sometimes strange animals in the world. **\$65 registration fee \$65 Balance due June 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Session #3-August 2-5 (9:05-1:00)- "Wee Rock"**-Our campers will have the opportunity to sing, play instruments and investigate with various types of music! **\$65 registration fee \$65 Balance due July 19<sup>th</sup>**

### **Sunday School**

**First Communion Instruction** will take place in 3 parts: 1- Sunday, March 21st following worship in-person outdoors at the church following worship; 2- Take Home Activities completed by family prior to Wednesday, March 31st; and 3- Bread baking together over Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 31st. First Communion will be celebrated at Maundy Thursday worship on Thursday, April 1st. If you have not already contacted Pastor Lisa for a First Communion Registration Form ([pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net](mailto:pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net)), please do so today!

**Youth Sunday School** will meet outdoors following worship March 7, 14, 21, and 28. Parent volunteers willing to lead a week should contact Pastor Lisa ([pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net](mailto:pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net))

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**VBS**  
**July 18-22**

**ROCKY RAILWAY**  
JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH

Watch for  
More Details  
and Registration  
Coming Soon

### From the Finance Team

<b>Community in Christ Ministry Plan</b>	<b>Jul20-Jun21 Budget</b>	<b>Jul20-Jan21 Actual</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>	\$532,500	\$295,172	55%
<i>Operating Budget offerings</i>			
<b>Other Revenue</b>	\$181,466	\$103,293	57%
<i>Facility Usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest</i>			
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$713,966</b>	<b>\$398,465</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Worship</b>	\$ 2,425	\$ 984	41%
<i>altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>			
<b>Witness</b>	\$ 1,870	\$ 694	37%
<i>offering envelopes, family life, evangelism, giving garden</i>			
<b>Serve</b>	\$ 53,250	\$ 30,118	57%
<i>synod benevolence</i>			
<b>Administration</b>	\$ 40,007	\$ 28,190	70%
<i>computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i>			
<b>Mortgage</b>	\$ 92,196	\$ 54,281	59%
<i>principal and interest on mortgage</i>			
<b>Property</b>	\$ 53,818	\$ 33,338	62%
<i>building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>			
<b>Staff</b>	\$447,943	\$247,712	55%
<i>salaries, taxes, and benefits for four full-time and two part-time employees; staff development (partially offset by designated giving in 2016-2017)</i>			
<b>Music Ministries</b>	\$ 3,060	\$ 1,583	52%
<i>guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fees</i>			
<b>Youth Ministries</b>	\$ 6,525	\$ 1,247	19%
<i>youth mission trips, retreats, activities; 2017-2018 and 2018-2019: also includes Sunday school, campfirmation</i>			
<b>Preschool</b>	\$ 13,865	\$ 6,411	46%
<i>activities, supplies, maintenance</i>			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$714,959</b>	<b>\$404,558</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Budget Deficit</b>		<b>\$ (6,093)</b>	

**Office Communication** Please be in touch with Stephanie in the church office ([swheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:swheeler@communityinchrist.net)) about the following:

- If you read the newsletter online and prefer that it no longer be mailed to your physical address.
- If you have switched to giving primarily through digital means and no longer have a need for physical envelopes.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION DATE IF YOU ARE SET UP FOR AUTO DEDUCTION ON OUR WEBSITE.**

### Office & Staff Information

We encourage calling and emailing to schedule appointments. If coming by the office, please observe social distancing spacing and all current guidelines.

Pastor Lisa – [pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net](mailto:pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net)

Pastor Michael – [pastormichael@communityinchrist.net](mailto:pastormichael@communityinchrist.net)

Stephanie Wheeler, Church Administrator – [swheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:swheeler@communityinchrist.net)


Sandy Barefoot, Director of Music Ministries – [sandy@communityinchrist.net](mailto:sandy@communityinchrist.net)

Colleen Karpovitz, Director Church Finance – [ckarpovitz@cox.net](mailto:ckarpovitz@cox.net)

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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:  
 swheelcer@communityinchrist.net



**Church Council Team**

**Leaders**  
 Jeff Moen (Treasurer)  
 Deborah Lowe  
 Justin Shingleton  
 Shari Gomilla  
 Susan Kullstam (Secretary)  
 Debbie Davidson (President)  
 Paul Miller (VP)  
 Paul Handrock

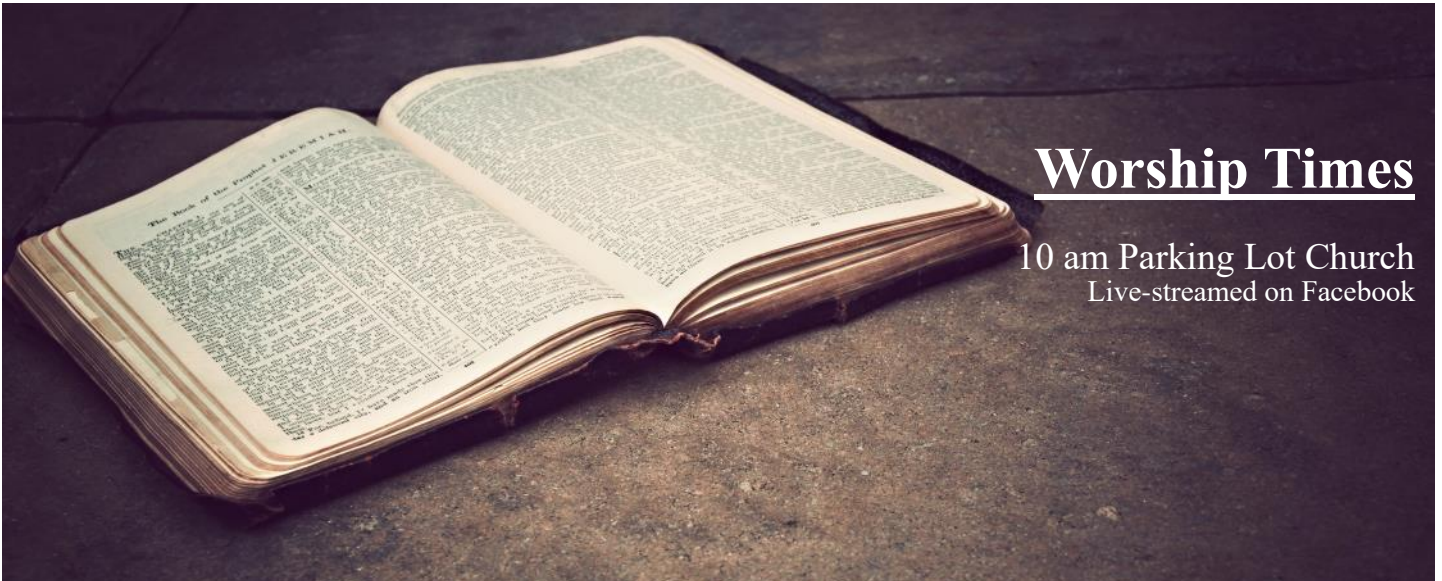
**Staff**  
 Pastor Lisa Beery  
 Pastor Michael Beery  
 Office Administrator,  
 Stephanie Wheeler  
 Music Director, Sandy Barefoot  
 Preschool Director, Sharon Fuller  
 Finance - Colleen Karpovitz

**Church Council Team**  
 Youth  
 Adult Faith Formation (Mark Myers)  
 Finance (Colleen Karpovitz)  
 Technology (Scott Brooks)  
 Outreach (Kathy Dutton)  
 Inviting Ministries  
 Property (Stephanie Wheeler)  
 WELCA (Laverne Waskieles)  
 Stewardship  
 Support Staff (Kathy Shugarman)  
 Worship & Music  
 Legal Counsel (Tim Nohr)

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## Worship Times

10 am Parking Lot Church  
 Live-streamed on Facebook

Please note that announcements for the bulletin, newsletter and facebook pages are for church related items only. Anything non-related to the church will be deleted. Thank you for adhering to this policy. Submissions for the bulletin must be received in writing to the church office by Thursdays at 10 am. Submissions for the newsletter must be received in writing to the church office by the 20th of the month.

**Are you getting our E-Mails?**

Each week we send out an e-mail to the congregation sharing what's going on and what's coming up. If you have not been receiving these e-mails, please let us know. Write your e-mail down in the black book and put a note by it asking us to include you in our weekly e-mails. You can also sign up for e-mails at our website.  
[www.communityinchrist.org](http://www.communityinchrist.org)