



**Community  
In Christ  
Lutheran Church**

# CIC NEWS

**February 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 February

Join us on Sundays this month at 10 a.m. in the church parking lot for drive-in worship. Please stay tuned to weekly announcements for if/when guidance changes may occur. These Sunday worship services will be livestreamed on the church Facebook and YouTube pages.

**Service of Holy Communion** will be held on February 3, 10 & 24 at 12 p.m. Limited to 10 people. Registration required.

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)



### Souper Bowl of Caring:



According to the USDA's latest *Household Food Insecurity in the United States* report, more than 35 million people in the United States struggled with hunger in 2019. Due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, more than 50 million people may experience food insecurity, including a potential of 17 million children. Participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring can help "change the game" with hunger when donations to food support networks are depleted after the busy holiday season. In 2020, over \$10.6 million was collected and donated locally to charities chosen by the groups. On Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, a special offering will be collected as we'll be participating in Souper Bowl of Caring for Angels & Sparrows in Huntersville. Whether you will be cheering for the

Kansas City Chiefs, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, or the commercials, this is a cause we can all support! (We encourage check donations this year in an effort to reduce the surfaces our counters will need to touch and the time they will need to spend near one another counting. Thank you!)

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

*The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.*

Genesis 7:12

*Elijah went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.*

1 Kings 19:8

*Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.*

Matthew 4:2

24 hours, 9 innings, 7 days, 3 periods, 60 seconds, 4 quarters, 60 minutes, 365 days...our world has a variety of different ways to understand and calculate time. From the perspective of a game, we might think in terms of quarters or periods. From the perspective of a day, we might think in terms of minutes or hours.

For Christians, 40 days and 40 nights has traditionally been understood as an important measure of time. One can find that rich biblical image throughout scripture helping differentiate from what we might consider to be "ordinary" time. Lent takes us somewhere between the beginning and the end of the Gospel story--it is a time in our faith for preparation, for contemplation, for anticipation, for action, and for growth.

Time has been anything but ordinary for the last year. We have learned to measure the days and weeks by positivity rates, case counts, hospital capacities, unemployment numbers, vaccine distributions, indoor capacity limits, and a slew of other gauges that tell us if we are trending in positive or negative ways. One of the most difficult elements of time during the last year is that, even now with the hope of the vaccine having become realized, we don't know when this will all end. We can't set our clocks to anything or circle a date on a calendar.

As we wait with eager anticipation for this time of pandemic to conclude, we have the season of Lent on the horizon. Lent is a set aside time of the year that includes a clear beginning with Ash Wednesday and a definitive conclusion with the celebration of Easter. What we do with this season, how we mark this time, will be up to us. Following this reflection, you will find some of the worship opportunities we will be providing during these 40 days and 40 nights. In addition to those, be sure to take note of some other Lenten happenings that are shared in the newsletter.

Whatever we do to fill these 40 days and nights, the purpose of Lent will always be to deepen our relationship with God and to ready ourselves for the joy of Easter morning. New life is coming! Sometimes, we can create a countdown towards it. Other times, it catches us by surprise. The new life we have in Christ is not bound by any unit of time we might construct, just like it was not bound by the cross or tomb. What we know is that new life *will come* and, indeed, it is already here.

Stay well and God's peace be with you,  
Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael



## **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, Larry Blackwell, Dane Horna

**Prayers for friends & relatives of members:** \*\* With the beginning of the new year the prayer list has been cleared. If you would like someone to remain on the list please let the office know. Thank you!\*\*

*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 [wheeler@communityinchrist.net](mailto:wheeler@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, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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 10 people. Look to weekly Take Twos for additional and up-to-date gathering information as the dates approach.
- **Looking Ahead:** Ash Wednesday is on February 17<sup>th</sup>



### **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

**Shrove Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**: You will have the opportunity to pick up some fun and tasty supplies for your Shrove Tuesday At Home meal on February 7<sup>th</sup> and February 14<sup>th</sup> after our outdoor service. You may also schedule a time to pick up at the church office during the week. If you would like the supplies brought to your home, please notify the office.

**Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**: We will have outdoor worship services on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. These services will include the imposition of ashes as well as the celebration of Holy Communion. The 7p.m. service will be livestreamed. Participants will receive their own, pre-packaged ashes. If unable to attend in-person, ashes may be picked up in advance at services on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (or by setting up a time with the office during the week), so that they can be imposed as you worship via the livestream.

**Midweek Lenten Services**: On Wednesdays beginning February 24<sup>th</sup> through March 24<sup>th</sup>, a midweek service including music from Holden Evening Prayer will be posted on Facebook and YouTube at 5:00 p.m. The reflection each week will focus on the theme of community.

**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 series will begin on February 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Bible Study with Bishop Tim Smith**: Bishop Tim will lead a synodwide Bible Study on the book of Isaiah on Thursdays from February 11 to March 25 at 7 p.m. The class will be virtual via Zoom. Register to receive an email with the Zoom link. If you miss a session, recordings will be available for watching at your convenience.

<http://bit.ly/Bishop-Lent-Study>

Stay  
in  
the  
KNOW

## **Celebration of Carol Swing's Ministry**

Join us in worship on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, as we give thanks for Carol Swing at the conclusion of her service as CIC's Director of Inviting Ministries. If you are unable to extend your gratitude to Carol in person on the 7<sup>th</sup>, please send a note to the office in advance. (7621 Norman Island Dr., Cornelius, NC 28031)

## **Dedication of CIC's Outdoor Speakers**

Thanks to a grant from the North Carolina Synod and memorial gifts of Ronald Sides, we have been blessed to have new outdoor speakers which have aided us the past several months with our worship experiences. Please join us on February 21st as we dedicate these speakers to the glory of God and as we continue to safely worship together outdoors as well as via livestream.

## **Adult Sunday School**

The Adult Sunday School class has completed their study of Philippians and is looking toward the next study. If you have ideas of what to study together next or want information about the next round of classes as it becomes available, please contact Mark Myers at [mark.myers82@gmail.com](mailto:mark.myers82@gmail.com).

# Group Ministry News.....

## Card Ministry News

The CIC Card Ministry prayerfully creates cards that serve as a physical reminder of God's love, support and presence in our lives. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry through your prayers, working hands, and purchasing cards to pass along to others.

**Valentine Cards are available** in the card rack on Sunday mornings or during the week through the church office.

We are hoping to meet twice in February to make cards and enjoy distanced fellowship with one another. We plan on meeting **Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm** and **Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm**. Meetings will be held in the **Spirit Center**. Participants are asked to enter through the doors nearest the Spirit Center and wear masks during the meeting. *At the time of this writing, the number of participants is limited to 10. Please email or text Kathy Shugarman if you plan on attending.* If you have any questions or need more info, contact Kathy Shugarman at [shugs02@gmail.com](mailto:shugs02@gmail.com) or 940-300-2290.

## 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 February, 2021, our focus will remain on making hat/scarf sets for those in need during these cold winter months. To date, we have distributed 78 hand-crafted hat/scarf sets this winter season - 30 sets to the Montagnard Tutoring Program, 36 sets to the East Lincoln Christian Ministries, and 12 sets to Angels and Sparrows for distribution to their clients. That's a lot of knitting/crocheting! And still a month or two of cold weather to go....!!!! Keep up the good work!

Out of an abundance of caution, we will continue to work from home in February, 2021. In March, 2021 we will reassess and hopefully begin to transition back to meeting in person on a weekly basis at CIC – tentatively Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 pm to 2:30pm. Plan to join us if you can for some fellowship, idea-sharing, and fun. In the meantime, you can still 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)).

## Happy Times News

*"While we are mourning the loss of our friends; others are rejoicing to see them behind the veil"*  
*John Taylor*

In many ways we face a very different "New Year" in 2021. First of all, we have survived a very difficult year in 2020....We look forward to a return to a somewhat "normal" life with the vaccines, etc. We have all missed each other's company tremendously. During this time, Happy Times has become a substantial basis in Connectedness of CIC. Thank you..

We are saddened at the passing of: Per Kullstam, Kitty Puls, Bill Roth, Bob Koring and Bertie Steely.

Some of our group as expressed a desire to begin meeting Face-to-Face in April, depending upon the health guidelines at that time. Maybe we begin with just a few people attending and I will continue the news letter. I value your input.

Please continue to keep in touch with Happy Timers and continue to pray for the families of those we have lost. Know that you are surrounded by love. Ron Major



### Preschool Registration for 2021/2022 School Year:

Registration is open to the public on February 2nd.

2's & 3's attend school on Tu-We-Th. Tuition is \$255  
4's, pk, tk attend school on Mo-Tu-We-Th. Tuition is \$290  
Registration fee is \$85

If you or someone you is interested in a tour or have questions regarding the preschool, please contact, Sharon Fuller, Preschool Director at 704-892-0120 ext 104 or [sfuller9564@gmail.com](mailto:sfuller9564@gmail.com)

### Sunday School

February 7<sup>th</sup> – virtual

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> – outdoor following worship (weather permitting)

Sunday School families, be on the lookout for a packet of at-home Lenten activities coming soon! And don't forget to save the date: If church day camps run this summer, Agape Day Camp will be at CIC June 21-25 for rising 1<sup>st</sup> through completed 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Sunday School—**First Communion Instruction** – If your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader or older would like to receive first communion instruction this March, with First Communion taking place on Maundy Thursday, please email Pastor Lisa ([pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net](mailto:pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net)) by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

### SR. High:

The SR. High students will be gathering outdoors on February 4th at 3:30pm. Please wear a mask, bring a lawn chair, and dress for the weather as we spend time in conversation, playing games (while socially distanced), prayer, and doing some special projects for Lent.

## **ALL ABOARD !**



## **ROCKY RAILWAY VBS**

will be pulling into the

**CIC Station**

July 18-22, 2021

Come on the adventure and explore  
Jesus' power and how we can trust Jesus to pull us  
through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop.

**More Details Coming Soon**

**JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH**

Exit Ticket

**Save the Date**

**Save the Date**

## From the Finance Team

| <b>Community in Christ Ministry Plan</b>  | <b>Jul20-Jun21 Budget</b> | <b>Jul-Dec20 Actual</b> | <b>% of Budget</b> |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>  |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Revenue</b>  | \$532,500                 | \$259,964               | 49%                |
| <i>Operating Budget offerings</i>   |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Other Revenue</b>  | \$181,466                 | \$ 88,115               | 49%                |
| <i>Facility Usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest</i>  |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>   | <b>\$713,966</b>          | <b>\$348,079</b>        | <b>49%</b>         |
| <b>Expenses</b>   |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Worship</b>  | \$ 2,425                  | \$ 861                  | 36%                |
| <i>altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>  |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Witness</b>  | \$ 1,870                  | \$ 622                  | 33%                |
| <i>offering envelopes, family life, evangelism, giving garden</i>   |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Serve</b>  | \$ 53,250                 | \$ 23,213               | 44%                |
| <i>synod benevolence</i>  |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Administration</b>   | \$ 40,007                 | \$ 25,572               | 64%                |
| <i>computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i>                         |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Mortgage</b>   | \$ 92,196                 | \$ 46,317               | 50%                |
| <i>principal and interest on mortgage</i>   |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Property</b>   | \$ 53,818                 | \$ 28,331               | 53%                |
| <i>building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>                          |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Staff</b>  | \$447,943                 | \$ 209,063              | 47%                |
| <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                  | \$ 1,411                | 46%                |
| <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                 | \$ 5,714                | 41%                |
| <i>activities, supplies, maintenance</i>  |                           |                         |                    |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$714,959</b>          | <b>\$ 342,351</b>       | <b>48%</b>         |
| <b>Budget Deficit</b>   |                           | <b>\$ 5,728</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

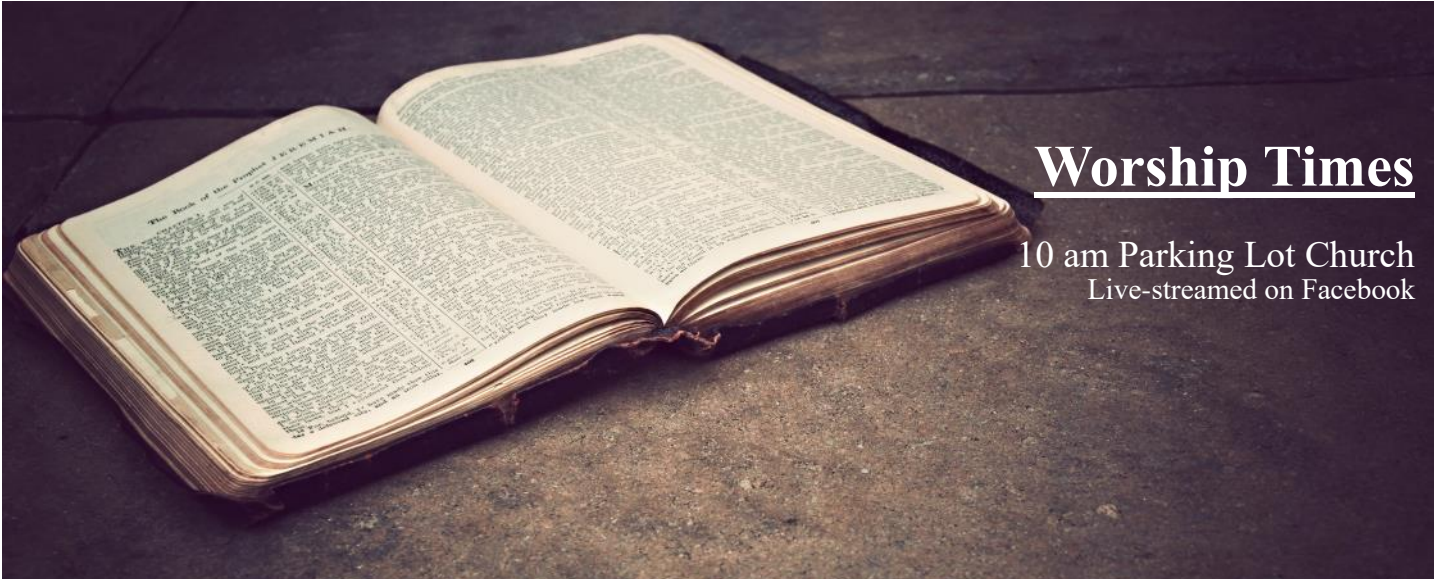
**Staff**  
 Pastor Lisa Beery  
 Pastor Michael Beery  
 Office Administrator,  
 Stephanie Wheeler  
 Music Director, Sandy Barefoot  
 Preschool Director, Sharon Fuller  
 Finance - Colleen Karpovitz

**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)