



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

January 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 www.communityinchrist.org



Worship In January.....

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 January 20th & 27th at 12 pm. Limited to 10 people. Registration required.

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)



CIC Warms the hearts of foster children around Charlotte

CIC will be warming the hearts of 55 children through Lutheran Services Carolinas' foster care program in Charlotte this winter. Our goal was to provide coats to 46 children out of the 55 currently being cared for by foster families throughout Charlotte. CIC went above and beyond the goal through coat donations and monetary donations and extended their reach to providing coats to all 55 children! The ages of the children range from two to 17 years old. These children will not be cold this year! In addition, CIC will be providing a small monetary donation to the LSC foster care program to help the program continue to care for these children and those who may have come into care since the holidays.

Heidi Rixman, CIC member and director of development at LSC, said, "LSC is grateful for the generosity and partnership that LSC has with CIC. Congregations are an extension of our (LSC) ministry and their own personal ministry as disciples of Jesus." In 2019, Lutheran Services Carolinas provided safe, loving stable homes to 322 children in foster care in the Charlotte region. Many of these children come to LSC with all their belongings contained within a single plastic shopping bag. With the help of many individuals, congregations, and civic groups, LSC can provide the added support these children need in their foster homes. Thank you again to CIC for caring for those in our community!

From the Pastors.....

*I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Service of Holy Baptism, pg. 229.*

This is not who we are. That was one of the reoccurring sentiments that pundits and commentaries shared in the wake of the events at the Capitol on January 6th. They, like many of us who were watching everything unfold in real-time, were unable to fully express their thoughts and emotions about what was happening. It was all so disturbing and unlike anything most of us have ever experienced that more articulate statements proved to be quite difficult. What could most easily be communicated was that those events went against our identity as citizens of our democracy.

This is not who we are. Sometimes, figuring out *what/who we are NOT* can lead us to greater clarity in describing the principles and beliefs that *do* define us. It is a technique that we, as Christians, practice routinely. One of the specific areas which this occurs is in our baptismal liturgy. Before the baptism occurs and preceding our profession of faith, we specifically name how we **reject** sin. Symbolically, we do this action three separate times as we **renounce** sin, evil, the devil, and all forces that are averse both to God and to our relationship with God and each other. These are the things that do *not* define us or, more accurately, they *should* not define us.

This IS who we are: That is where the liturgy takes us next. Through the words of the Apostles' Creed, we describe the Triune God who created, loves, redeems, and restores us. A God that, through baptism, names us as children, and adopts us into an eternal family. And as children of God, we are then entrusted to take the light of God out into the world. That is who we are, as Christians, which should influence who we are as citizens.

This is not who we are. Circling back to where we began this article, if we reject what we saw last Wednesday as representing who we are as a people and a nation, what specifically are we renouncing? Do we renounce leaders who value their power and authority over the truth and the well-being of the people they serve? Do we renounce the actions of those who went beyond peaceful protesting and rioted--those who disregarded the laws of the United States, the safety of those in and around the Capitol building, as well as the safety of law enforcement officers? Do we renounce racism and the ways it impacted the events? Or, do we simply renounce how the disrespectful, chaotic, and violent scenes made us feel uncomfortable?

There is much work to be done to heal our nation and the divisions we experience. How we are to be defined going forward as individual families, communities, and as a country will depend a lot upon which characteristics we choose to reject and which we choose to embody.

Who are we? We are God's children. While our nation continues the difficult task of living out that question, may we find reassurance and courage in our identity as children of God. The reassurance lies in knowing that no matter what may happen within the systems we reside, the life-giving love of God can never be taken from us; and the courage lies in how we can use that entrusted, transformative light of God to influence, shape, and define the world around us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael

Prayers

Prayers for Members: Carla Beaver, Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, Claudia Boggiano, DiBenedictis family, Jim Carney, Martin Cuthbertson, Joan Garn, Renate Von Dohlen, Lee Tillman, Janet Shuping, Larry Blackwell, The Street family, Chuck Decker, Joanne Bond, Dane Horna, Kylee Gomilla, Joyce Phelps

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! ***

Our heartfelt Christian sympathy goes out to Todd and Tammy Lineberger. Todd's father passed away and also Todd's step-father passed away on New Year's Eve. Please keep them both in your prayers during this most difficult time.

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 swheeler@communityinchrist.net or 704-892-0120.



Sunday Worship & Weekday Worship Opportunities:

Outdoor, In-person worship resumes on January 17th at 10am. Livestreaming of Sunday worship continues via Facebook and YouTube @ 10am.

- **Service of Holy Communion**—Join us on Wednesdays, January 20th and 27th 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 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 17th



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 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).

Dear Members of Community in Christ,

Carol Swing has been an integral part of Community in Christ since she and Steve began worshipping at CIC over 3 years ago. Upon taking on the position of Director of Inviting Ministries, Carol's gifts of hospitality and welcome have helped to weave numerous visitors and new members into the fabric of our family of faith. We are immensely grateful for all that Carol has done for CIC, which makes sharing news of Carol's resignation a little easier to do. As Carol personally describes in her letter to the congregation which can be found below, she will no longer be serving in her official capacity as a staff member but will transition to traditional worship life within the congregation.

We, personally, will miss Carol's presence in the office as well as the knowledge of the congregation that we could readily rely on. She has also been a source of support and encouragement for us, which we have immensely valued. We know that Carol's ministry at CIC means a lot to you as well so, on Sunday, February 7th, during our worship service, we will be recognizing and celebrating Carol. If possible, please plan on attending so you can extend your gratitude in person. If not, please be sure to send a note to the office in the weeks ahead that can be given to her that day or you can also include your thoughts during the livestream chat.

To assist in Carol's transition out of the office it is integral for all of us to remember her new role within the congregation. Please do not assume Carol is now available to volunteer for all sorts of new ministries or that she maintains all of her knowledge of what is going on at the church. She is eager to worship in ways she has not been able to do so for some time, and she will pursue service opportunities when she feels led to do so.

Lastly, what shape and direction the position of Director of Inviting Ministries takes in the future will be an ongoing discussion within Church Council. As a path solidifies, the congregation will be informed.

Again, we hope you can join us on Sunday, February 7th, as we celebrate Carol's ministry and as we help her move into this "new" role in our family of faith.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Michael & Pastor Lisa



Farewell but Not Goodbye **A Message From Carol Swing—Director of Inviting Ministries**

Welcome to 2021! I hope this year begins in a new and refreshing way and it is my hope and prayer that each of you experiences new hopes and dreams, good health and happiness and a wonderful opportunity to start the "NEW YEAR" in a positive way.

I will be starting a new phase in my life this year too! I have resigned my position with Community in Christ as your Director of Inviting Ministries. This was a prayerful decision and one made with great mentoring from many incredibly special people. God gifted me with a serving heart and that journey began about 30 years ago when a special Choir Director encouraged me to join the choir even though I did not read music. This simple gesture gave me the courage to begin a life of service to others. My desire to serve others was an amazing blessing to me when Steve joined me in mission work.

The Swing family relocated often with Steve's job and we were blessed to be a part of many congregations where we both continued to grow in our own faith through serving others. We have had the opportunity to teach, mentor, facilitate and companion others as they walked their faith journey. Steve and I both enjoyed working with the homeless communities through outreach and had the opportunity to study for 3 years to become Spiritual Directors. When I was hired as your Director of Inviting Ministries I felt amazingly blessed to be chosen as your servant.

Thank you to everyone who welcomed me with great warmth, mentored me along the way, and allowed me to grow in this amazing faith community. Through it all, I have had the greatest support from the CIC faith family and from my precious husband, Steve. It is because of you that I have found peace in being able to step back and now WORSHIP along with you. Thank you for the privilege to be your servant and to provide the resources that you need. I am truly humbled by your care and friendship. I trust that God will give me this NEW YEAR filled with lots of "New"
God Bless you all!

Sunday School Calendar

Continues on January 17th, 24th & 31st following outdoor worship.

Confirmation Calendar

Continues via Zoom on January 17th, 24th & 31st at 7 p.m.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School Class meets in a Zoom only format from 8:30 to 9:15 am on Sunday morning. The topic is an excellent study of Philippians using a Udeemy video course by professor N.T. Wright. It's not too late to start. Contact Mark Myers for a link to the course and a link to the zoom meeting. Mark.myers82@gmail.com.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning Bible Study meets at 10:30 am every week on Zoom as we reflect and discuss the upcoming Sunday texts. If you would like a link to the Zoom meeting, please e-mail Stephanie in the church office (swheeler@communityinchrist.net). Also, if you are unable to participate in the lesson, but would like a copy of the study e-mailed to you, please let Stephanie know as well.

Consider Donating Your Artificial Christmas Tree!

If you are planning on discarding an artificial Christmas tree, please consider holding on to it until the summer. They will be a great addition to our VBS programming this summer!

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.

We will be meeting twice in January to make cards and enjoy distanced fellowship with one another. We plan on meeting Tuesday, January 12th at 2:00 pm and Tuesday, January 26th at 6:30 pm. 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 questions or need more info, please contact Kathy Shugarman at 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. These hand-crafted items are then given away to those experiencing difficult times (e.g., homelessness, illness, death), as well as times of celebration (e.g., baptism, graduation), and serve as physical reminders of God's unconditional love, support, and presence in our lives.

Our current focus is on making hat/scarf sets for those in need during these cold winter months. Since November, 2020, we have distributed 66 hand-crafted hat/scarf sets - 30 sets to the Montagnard Tutoring Program, and 36 sets to the East Lincoln Christian Ministries. This week, another 12 sets to be provided to Angels and Sparrows for distribution to their clients. Great job, Ladies! Still, with 2-3 cold months remaining this winter, the need is still great, so please keep up the good work!

Out of an abundance of caution, we will continue to work from home in January and February, 2021, and focus on crafting hats and scarf sets for people-in-need in our local community. 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 2:30 pm. Plan to join us if you can for some fellowship, idea-sharing, and fun. In the meantime, you can participate in this important ministry at home by crafting and contributing items.

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. Just contact Kathy Dutton and she will add your name to the member/email list. Kathy Dutton (mamabissy@gmail.com) or Diana Elsass (dianaelsass@gmail.com).

Dear Pastors Lisa and Michael Beery,



I want to begin by stating the obvious, 2020 was not what any of us expected. It was a year when we experienced a crisis the magnitude of which we never thought would occur. While many non-profit organizations shut down, Angels & Sparrows not only stayed open, we rallied and continually met the growing need among our neighbors. This was only possible because of YOU! On behalf of our guests, staff, Board of Directors and myself, I would like to express our most sincere gratitude for your support!

You are a collective of *Angels* in the community who gave to nourish your neighbors in need and each one of you was essential in enabling Angels & Sparrows to fulfill its mission. Your gifts were an embrace at a time when we've been asked to stay apart. More importantly, our guests felt your love and care at a time when they needed it the most. On numerous occasions this past year I heard them express variations of the phrase, "you are angels in my life."

If there is a silver lining in this crisis, it is that it brought CLARITY. It quickly became clear that not only are we an "essential business" to those we serve, but our guests looked to us specifically *because* they know we care. We had shown them through the years during our meals and daily interactions with each other and again at the beginning of the crisis when we rapidly implemented changes that enabled us to scale up the number of meals we could provide each day. We were able to increase the sharing of fresh essential groceries, including dairy products and vegetables, boxes of non-perishable food items to ensure their pantries were not empty while children were learning remotely from home, and ensured they had a Holiday Meal Box so they could enjoy some semblance of celebration for Thanksgiving and Christmas. You enabled us to do this.

In addition to providing 213,627 meals, we began the following:

- Home delivery of meals and groceries to seniors
- Home delivery of meals and groceries to guests who lost access to transportation
- Gas cards for families who could no longer afford to come to the kitchen otherwise
- A Grocery Box Program that provided a week's worth of non-perishable food items
- Emergency rent and utility payments for families who were on the brink of homelessness and had been turned down or never received responses from other agencies and organizations

The additional clarity this crisis brought to our staff, Board of Directors, and me is that our long-term strategic plan is now more important than ever. The families we serve have been hit hardest by the pandemic and recovery for those already in poverty is a lot slower than for families in middle to upper income levels. In fact, situational poverty can quickly turn into generational poverty when there are limited options. The crisis clarified exactly how exposed a large portion of our community can actually be while others are affected in entirely different ways. And, it clarified how *Angels*, like you, can come together to protect and nourish the *Sparrows* in our community.

So, what's on the horizon for 2021? We will bravely move forward with pilot programs based on our long-term strategic vision for Angels & Sparrows. These programs will aim to nourish not only the bodies of our guests, but their potential as well. Author Dan Heath said, "You can't help a thousand people, or a million, until you understand how to help one." For years, we have been perfecting just that method as we love each family through the services we provide. This year taught us the nuanced ways our guests are affected both negatively through crisis and positively when a community demonstrates that it cares about its neighbors in need. We will continue learning and the knowledge gained will be invested in our future programming and long-term strategic plan for Angels & Sparrows. We have a clearer vision of our niche in the community, of the trust our guests place in us, and of the personalization of care our guests need.

In 2020, we were able to accomplish what was unimagined before because of YOU! We are grateful for the compassion and empathy YOU have shown throughout the pandemic with your generous gifts to assist us in fulfilling our mission to nourish those in need in our community. We humbly ask for your continued support in the year ahead. We know that with your support, Angels & Sparrows will continue to nourish not only the body, but the potential of our local families in need.

With gratitude for each of you,

Jessika Tucker

Executive Director of Angels & Sparrows

From the Finance Team

Community in Christ Ministry Plan	Jul20-Jun21 Budget	Jul-Nov20 Actual	% of Budget
Revenue			
Revenue	\$532,500	\$199,035	37%
<i>Operating Budget offerings</i>			
Other Revenue	\$181,466	\$ 68,699	38%
<i>Facility Usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest</i>			
Total Revenues	\$713,966	\$267,734	37%
Expenses			
Worship	\$ 2,425	\$ 221	9%
<i>altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors</i>			
Witness	\$ 1,870	\$ 468	25%
<i>offering envelopes, family life, evangelism, giving garden</i>			
Serve	\$ 53,250	\$ 19,383	36%
<i>synod benevolence</i>			
Administration	\$ 40,007	\$ 19,677	49%
<i>computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees</i>			
Mortgage	\$ 92,196	\$ 38,415	42%
<i>principal and interest on mortgage</i>			
Property	\$ 53,818	\$ 24,843	46%
<i>building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning</i>			
Staff	\$447,943	\$ 171,433	38%
<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>			
Music Ministries	\$ 3,060	\$ 1,411	46%
<i>guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fees</i>			
Youth Ministries	\$ 6,525	\$ 1,065	16%
<i>youth mission trips, retreats, activities; 2017-2018 and 2018-2019: also includes Sunday school, campfirmation</i>			
Preschool	\$ 13,865	\$ 4,856	35%
<i>activities, supplies, maintenance</i>			
Total Expenses	\$714,959	\$ 281,772	39%
Budget Deficit		\$ (14,037)	

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.

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

Pastor Michael – pastormichael@communityinchrist.net

Stephanie Wheeler, Church Administrator – swheeler@communityinchrist.net


Sandy Barefoot, Director of Music Ministries – sandy@communityinchrist.net

Colleen Karpovitz, Director Church Finance – 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:
 swheeler@communityinchrist.net



Church Council Team

Leaders
 Jeff Moen (Treasurer)
 Deborah Lowe
 Justin Shingleton
 Shari Gommila
 Debbie Davidson (Secretary)
 Susan Kullstam (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 - Collen Karpovitz

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

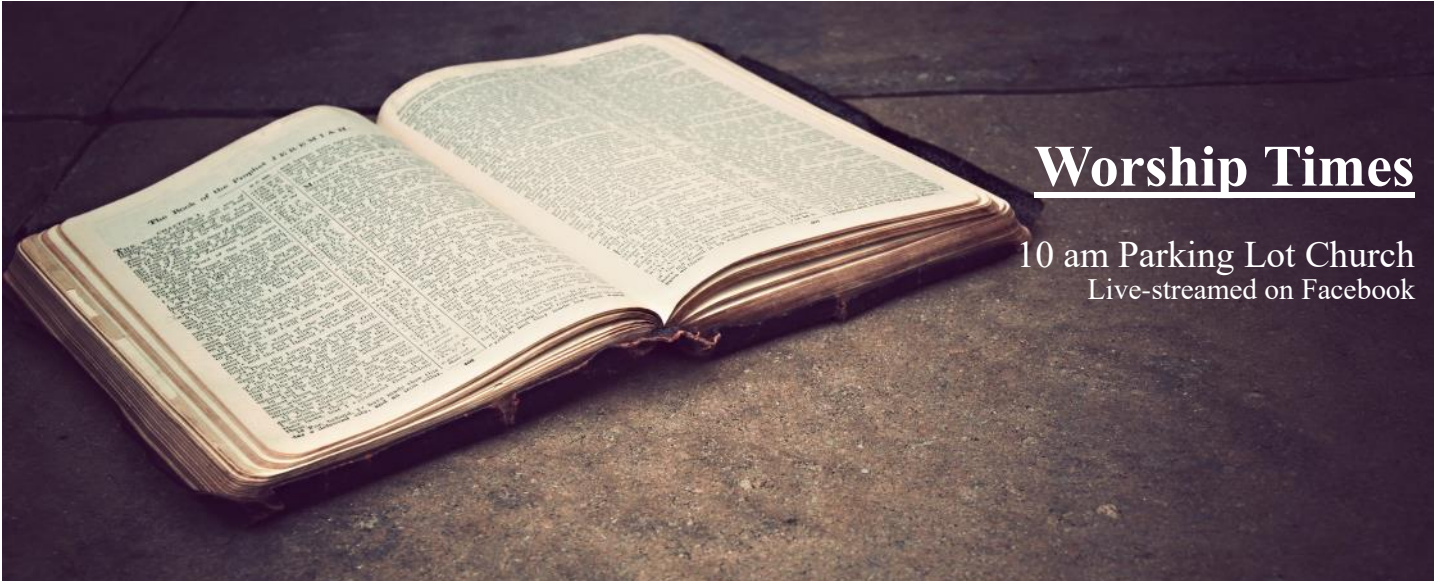
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Worship Times

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