



## JUNE 2017

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP CHRIST LUTHERAN

9:00 a.m. **Traditional**  
10:45 a.m. **Contemporary**  
*in the Sanctuary*

*no Sunday School during the summer*

#### CHRIST SOUTH

10:00 a.m. **Worship**  
9:00 a.m. **Sunday School**  
*Located at Polo Ridge Elementary School  
11830 Tom Short Road • Charlotte*

**Pastor's Blog**   
[christelca.org/about-us/the-pastors-blog](http://christelca.org/about-us/the-pastors-blog)

**Christ Lutheran Facebook**   
[Christ Lutheran Church-Charlotte](#)

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congratulations to our  
**high school**  
*graduates*  
class of 2017

See all of our high school graduates on pages 6-7



# QUILLOW SERVICE

**HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

**Sunday • June 4, 2017**  
Blessing 9:00 a.m. Celebration & Blessing 10:45 a.m.  
*Reception at 9:30 a.m. in the Lower Commons*

# PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



Pastor Scott Suskovic

## **Our Savior's Lutheran Church Austin, Minnesota June 21, 1987**

*For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.*  
2 Corinthians 4:5

This month marks a milestone of sorts for me. Thirty years ago, on June 21, I was ordained as a pastor in the Lutheran Church. I remember it well. I remember the worship service, the gathering of my family and friends, Gretchen placing the stole over my shoulders and the celebration of the day. But what I remember the most about that day was the weight of the stole. Though it was a simple, red stole, commissioned and paid for by my mother-in-law as an ordination gift to me, as it hung down the front of my chest, I was immediately aware of the responsibilities that went with it. I had taken a binding vow to teach the Bible, uphold the tenets of the Lutheran Confessional writings and live a life that was an example for others to see. Quite a momentous task for a 26 year old!

Nineteen of those 30 years of ordination I have served with great delight and pleasure the good people here at Christ Lutheran Church. Together we have followed in faith where God has so boldly led the way. You have graciously given me freedom to envision God-sized goals for this congregation. You have responded generously to the challenges I have placed before you. And you have blessed me with a community that has welcomed me both as pastor and friend.

### ***Thank you.***

To be sure, I still feel the weight of that stole on my shoulders. I feel it every time I step into the pulpit, still trembling with fear and trepidation after 30 years. I feel it when you confide in me the struggles, fears and secrets of your lives that I must take with me to the grave. And I feel it when I have that awe-filled opportunity of pronouncing the words that our hearts long to hear—"your sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake."



The picture I chose for my ordination came from a Japanese Christian artist, Sadao Watanabe. It depicts Jesus handing the keys of heaven to St. Peter, which has always been used as a symbol of ordination when Jesus said, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven."

The text I chose for my ordination came from 2 Corinthians 4:5 as Paul reminded his people to remain focused on whom we worship and upon what we stand. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. Thirty years later, I pray that this solid rock remains at the heart of my preaching and teaching, because anything less than this is like a house built on sand.

**Soli Dei Gloria!  
Pastor Scott**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pastor Scott', written in a cursive style.

# refreshing faith.

**SUMMER SERMON SERIES**  
starts June 11



Summertime is a season of refreshment. *Cool mountains. Sunny beaches. Summer reading. Change of pace. School break. Late evenings.* **Can it also be a time for the soul?** As refreshing as a splash of cool water is on a hot, summer day, the book of Romans awakens the soul with a reminder of God's grace, his unmistakable presence, the gift of baptism and the life worth living. Bring your Bibles and a pen to worship this summer as we return to the refreshing water found deep within the Book of Romans.

## **June 11 • What About the Innocent One Who Has Never Heard of Jesus?**

We begin our summer study on the book of Romans with a basic question: "What about the innocent person who has never heard of Jesus? What happens to them?" The answer that comes from Paul may surprise you—such a person does not exist! *Romans 1:16-23; Psalm 19:1-6*

## **June 18 • We Are All in This Together**

It is true that we all have unique gifts and individual tastes. When God made each one of us, he literally broke the mold. There has never been, nor will there ever be, anyone just like you. And yet with all of our complexity and individuality, there is one thing that we all hold in common... a deep need for forgiveness and mercy. *Romans 3:19-31*

## **July 2 • Rejoice in Our Suffering?**

Most of us try to avoid pain and suffering as much as possible. But when tragedy strikes and the initial pain and grief ensues, can you get to the point of doing the extraordinary thing that Paul teaches—to rejoice in your suffering? How can that be? *Romans 5:1-11*

## **July 9 • The Power of Baptism**

What actually happens in baptism? Is it a human ritual that may be filled with meaning but remains largely symbolic? In the teaching of this sacrament, Paul speaks of it as being a personal death and resurrection. We die to our sins in order to rise to walk in the newness of faith. *Romans 6:1-11*

## **July 16 • But I Keep On Messing Up!**

We would like to think that once we become a Christian every day we would sin less and less. We may not reach perfection, at least not on this side of Paradise, but as an older and mature Christian we would hope to get better and better. So why do I keep on messing up? *Romans 7:15-25*

## **July 23 • Nothing Can Separate You**

It's one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible - *nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus*. With this reassurance, Paul reminds us that even in our darkest days filled with doubt and feeling abandoned, that God's presence, God's promises and God's power remain true and constant. *Romans 8:31-39*

## **July 30 • The Plan**

In chapters 9-11, Paul carefully lays out the complex and divine plan of salvation that includes his election, the preservation of the remnant and his ultimate desire to draw all people unto himself. It is a plan that is for the world but with special emphasis on you. *Romans 10:9-17*

## **August 6 • Nonconformists Unite!**

There is a constant tug-of-war at work in our lives. The world urges us to conform to its way of thinking, acting, dressing, achieving, speaking, etc. But it is God's command not to conform to the ways of this world but instead, be transformed by the renewing of our minds. For as we think, so shall we act and live. *Romans 12:1-5*

## **August 13 • Living in Harmony**

It's not as easy as Paul makes it sound: *get along with one another!* We may not be able to change the thinking or actions of others, but we can surely have some control over our own lives. Therefore, Paul advises as far as it depends on you, live in harmony with one another. *Romans 12:9-21*

## **August 20 • The Role of Government**

What is the responsibility of the Christian to the rules of government? Are we to obey the government blindly or do we have some responsibility to oppose it on issues of conscience? Paul's bold words on the role of government are particularly troublesome in light of the oppressive nature of Rome's iron-fisted control of the Jews. *Romans 13:1-7*

## **August 27 • Don't Judge**

When we are commanded not to judge, does that mean we must remain silent on issues of human rights, morality and improper actions? When does righteous indignation or faithful opposition cross the line and become judgmental? *Romans 14:1-12*

## **September 3 • An Example to Others**

*They are watching, aren't they?* Your neighbors, your family, your coworkers, even that waitress taking care of you at brunch after church are watching you. Do our actions mirror our words? Do our words mirror our beliefs? Do our beliefs mirror our God? *Be careful. They are watching. Romans 15:1-9*

## WE HAVE MET OUR GOAL!

All 100 Scholars have been sponsored for Freedom School!

**Thank you** for all donations that support the McPIE Freedom School at Christ Lutheran Church. In addition to all the generous families that have donated or been a part of the match, we are thankful for South Charlotte Rotary and corporation matches that have also been received! A deep sense of appreciation is present knowing that this generation will have a better chance to break the cycle of poverty. We pray that future stories, a love of reading and learning, and a healthy sense of self and the difference that each of these Scholars can make are what the Holy Spirit blesses upon our Scholars this summer. Our first ever Freedom School Book Drive was also widely received! Our bookcases are filled with books our Scholars will be able to enjoy this summer.

**Join us at Harambee** this summer and get your day started with an upbeat celebration! This is the perfect way to start any day and is the way our Scholars start their day every day during Freedom School. Two special mornings have been picked out for you to attend. A light breakfast will be offered at 8:00 a.m., followed by Harambee at 8:30 a.m. If you have young children, they will love it and may want to come back EVERY day!!! Bring the family and join in the celebration either Thursday, June 29th or Wednesday, July 12th at the Cornerstone coffee area at 8:00 am.

Thank you again for being a part of one of the largest outreach ministries at Christ Lutheran by donating to, volunteering and/or praying for Freedom School at CLC.

## 2017 SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Be on the lookout in July and August for the school supply collection box in the Lower Commons each Sunday morning. Check for the shopping list (coming soon!) in the weekly E-News or on Facebook-Christ Lutheran Church-Charlotte.

## A BIG THANKS TO ALL OF OUR FAMILY NIGHT VOLUNTEERS!!!

Your commitment to McClintock students and their families is making a difference in their lives. By donating your time, you are helping provide a warm meal, transportation, school supplies and academic enrichment to those we serve. Each of you is an integral piece to the Family Night puzzle. Thank you so much for helping make McPIE's 10th year such a great success!!! See you next fall!

## SCIENCE CAMP MATERIALS NEEDED

100 incoming 6th graders will spend two weeks this summer exploring hands-on science, thanks to McPIE and a generous grant from Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Items we are looking for include:

- egg cartons
- plastic containers (chinese food, condiment containers, etc.)
- shoe boxes (we need lots)
- empty toilet paper rolls/paper towel rolls
- sturdy boxes (size does not matter)
- clear plastic 2 liter bottles/ other plastic bottles (soda, water, juice, etc.)

*Please no glass, aluminum or sharp objects.*

*Please drop off items at the Outreach Ministry Office.*

## BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY OFFERED IN JUNE

**June 21 & 22, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. • in the Outreach Conference Rm**

Bridges Out of Poverty is a seminar that opens up the survival-based world of people in poverty, revealing how it impacts learning, work habits and decision-making. Recent research has provided a deeper understanding of how people in poverty face challenges virtually unknown to those in middle class or wealth – challenges from both obvious and hidden sources. You will learn the “hidden rules” of poverty, middle class and wealth – and the assumptions which people in middle class bring to encounters with people in poverty. You will also begin to explore practical yet compassionate strategies for engagement that can have a positive impact on people's lives.

Consider participating in this 2-day, 6-hour seminar. It is recommended for anyone who works with people from varied economic backgrounds. High school students, adults, professionals and volunteers alike will enjoy and grow from this experience. Hundreds of our church members have taken this training, as have thousands in the Charlotte area.

Lunch will be provided both days at 12:15 p.m. for those that can come early. Please RSVP to Amy Daniels at [adaniels@christelca.org](mailto:adaniels@christelca.org) and mention whether or not you will eat lunch.

## LOOKING FOR A SUMMER GIG? OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE!

Ever wanted to intern with a non-profit? Love helping others? Love science and reading? McPIE is looking for a high school or college students with their own transportation to help facilitate all that McPIE has to offer over the summer. Here are some available opportunities:

### Intern for McPIE Summer Day Camp

Do you know a high school or college student with two or four weeks available to help with a McPIE Summer Day Camp? We need interns to help with the Sixth Grade Science Sleuths Camp and the McClintock Summer Science Experience Camp (for 7th & 8th grade). There will be lots of hands-on fun activities and some awesome field trips like visiting a NASCAR facility, Laser Quest, UNCC, Carolinas Aviation Museum or kayaking with the Catawba Riverkeeper.

Choose Session One (July 10 – 21) or Session Two (July 24 – August 4) or both! Camps take place at McClintock Middle School and run Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All positions are unpaid but we will be glad to provide references for future applications and jobs.

### Be a Claymation Leader for Freedom School

Are you creative? Are you interested in filmmaking? Become our Freedom School Claymation leader. We are looking for a high school or college student to lead Claymation one day a week for the 6 weeks of Freedom School. Training will be provided. For a glimpse at what Claymation is about, visit [jlf.com/clay-animation-studios](http://jlf.com/clay-animation-studios). Claymation will take place on the church campus. Freedom School runs June 19 – July 28.

In addition to these opportunities, McPIE also sponsors other sports and overnight camps. If you are interested in learning more about any of these positions or want to apply, contact [mcpie@christelca.org](mailto:mcpie@christelca.org) today!



## Volunteers Needed for **FREEDOM SCHOOL**

**June 19 - July 28, 2017**

Volunteer opportunities are still available during Freedom School for Harambee readers, help with afternoon activities, chaperone field trips, and more!

If interested, contact DeeDee Petronis:  
[dpetronis@carolina.rr.com](mailto:dpetronis@carolina.rr.com)



## CHRIST LUTHERAN'S DAY OF **SERVICE**

**Sunday • July 9, 2017**

If you are interested in volunteering or leading a Thrivent Action Team to help fund a project, contact Amy Daniels at [adaniels@christelca.org](mailto:adaniels@christelca.org)

**Save the Date!**

## **9TH GRADE RETREAT**

**CAMP AWANITA • AUGUST 18-20, 2017**

Upcoming freshmen will head to Marietta, SC for a weekend of Hummer rides, ziplines, giant lake slides, a MUD PIT and more!

**Cost: \$225**

Register by July 1 on *ChristLink* at [christelca.org](http://christelca.org)



*save the date*

## **RITE OF CONFIRMATION**

**Sunday, August 27**

at Traditional and  
Contemporary services

## **Got Dirt?**

In order to start preparing our Community Garden, we need 35-40 truckloads of Construction Grade fill dirt to level the empty lot.

If you have any leads, contact Gregg Huether at (704) 840-0802 or [ghuether@christelca.org](mailto:ghuether@christelca.org)

## **VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

High school and adult volunteers are needed to help during VBS (June 12-16)

*Childcare is available  
for younger children of volunteers*

Sign up by clicking on the link in Family Ministry enews or contact Kristen Rank at [krank@christelca.org](mailto:krank@christelca.org)

## **SMALL GROUP ministries**

**SUMMER TRAINING  
SAVE THE DATE!**

Learn how to launch a new Small Group at CLC. Training dates:

**June 21, 28, July 5 and July 12**

6:30 p.m. in the Church Office Great Room

Pastor Drew: [dgoodson@christelca.org](mailto:dgoodson@christelca.org)

## CHRISTLUTHERAN *Family Night at The Ballpark*



**Saturday, June 17th  
7:05 p.m.**

**Charlotte Knights  
vs. Indianapolis Indians**

\$18 per ticket (3rd baseline)

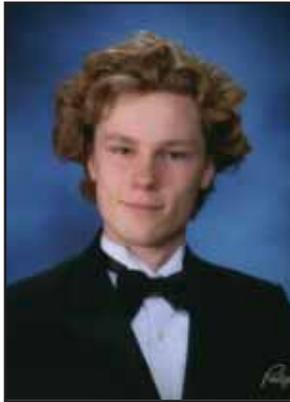
Buy tix starting May 1 on

*ChristLink* at [christelca.org](http://christelca.org)

congratulations to our  
**high school**  
*graduates*  
 class of 2017



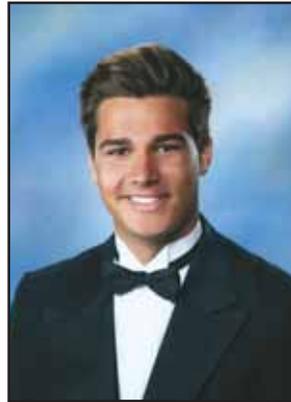
Wes Abel  
 Providence



Connor Addison  
 Myers Park



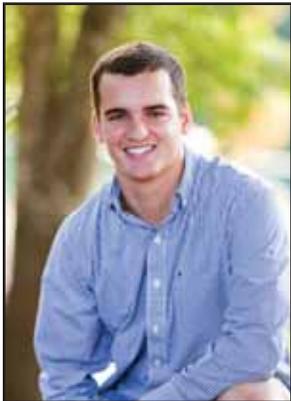
Daniel Antonelli  
 Hickory Ridge



Jake Barnes  
 Ardrey Kell



Cristofer Bruno  
 Independence



Carter Bugg  
 Charlotte Christian



Sydney Chapman  
 South Meck



Mads Christensen  
 Myers Park



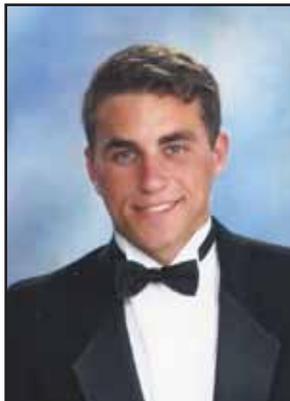
Bryce Clapp  
 Butler



Matthew Cronin  
 Weddington



Jack Edelson  
 Providence



Joe Eudy  
 Ardrey Kell



Anna Farr  
 Myers Park



Erin Furney  
 South Meck



Olivia Gerik  
 Myers Park



Jordan Greene  
Providence



Molly Hansen  
Weddington



Natasha Hodas  
Ardrey Kell



Christa Kooser  
Ardrey Kell



Brooke Mikes  
Weddington



Ryan Nardelli  
Porter Ridge



Cailin Peterson  
Myers Park



Sarah Peterson  
Myers Park



Caroline Petronis  
Ardrey Kell



Daniel Petronis  
Ardrey Kell



Haley Ritchie  
Providence Day



Will Satterfield  
Myers Park



Josh Simmons  
Sun Valley



Bailie Smith  
Ardrey Kell



Alexandra Starks  
South Meck



Jonathan Webster  
home schooled



Denene Woody  
Ardrey Kell

May you be blessed with **courage** for your journey, that fear may never keep you from exploring new paths. May you be blessed with **hope**, that you may never give up on yourself or others. May you be blessed with **goodness**, that in you strangers may find a generous friend. May you be blessed with **laughter**, that you may never take yourself too seriously. May you be blessed with **curiosity**, that you may always desire to seek out the mystery of faith. May you be blessed with **gratitude**, that you may see all of life as a gift. May you be blessed with **remembrance** of one another and your time together here...

*for there is forever a thread woven through your spirit.*



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# Christ CONNECTIONS

JUNE 2017

Scott Suskovic • Senior Pastor  
 Tennyson Shifley • Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care  
 Drew Goodson • Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Adult Ministries  
 Melody Simpkins • Associate Pastor of Family Ministries  
 Matt Simpkins • Associate Pastor of Christ South  
 Amy Daniels • Director of Outreach  
 Mark Glaeser • Minister of Music  
 Gregg Huether • Director of Property and Finance

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CHRIST LUTHERAN STRIVES TO BE A  
**NUT FREE CAMPUS**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

Christ Lutheran Church  
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