

# Christ CONNECTIONS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## AUGUST 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](#)



#### Christ South Facebook

[Christ South](#)



#### Twitter

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search "Christ Lutheran Charlotte"  
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# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



CHRIST  
*providence*



CHRIST  
**SOUTH**



CHRIST  
**CONCORD**

## 2nd TOWN HALL MEETING Sunday, August 6

10:10 a.m. in Christ Chapel | 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

# Final Vote

## Sunday, August 13

*one* WORSHIP • *one* CONGREGATION • *one* VOTE

Combined worship starts @ 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary  
The vote will be held at the conclusion of the service.



### FALL KICKOFF 2017

Wednesdays *together*

starts  
August 30

Sunday School  
& Fall Worship

starts  
September 10

DETAILS  
INSIDE!

# PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## ONE WORSHIP • ONE VOTE • ONE CONGREGATION



Pastor Scott Suskovic

On Sunday, July 16, we had three very well attended Town Meetings at CLC and in Concord to talk about the merger with Family of Faith. I appreciate the high level of interest and the honest and tough questions that were asked. I would say that they were responsible questions that sought clarification but did not derail the process.

To improve and expand our communication with the membership, I am calling for two more Town Meetings on August 6 at 10:15 a.m. in Christ Chapel and at 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This will help prepare and educate the congregation for the vote the following Sunday, August 13.

For the sake of unity, the Council has asked that on August 13 we have ONE worship, ONE vote, ONE congregation. The schedule for that day will be as follows:

10:00 a.m. Blended worship in the Sanctuary and at Christ South  
11:15 a.m. Congregational meeting in the Sanctuary, Skyped by Christ South  
Vote to merge with Family of Faith  
Vote to extend a call to Pastor Paul Myers.

Christ Lutheran has never shied away from being bold and we are on the brink of one more faith filled decision of merging with Family of Faith Lutheran Church in Concord. Please read the FAQ compiled from the first round of Town Meetings and come to the next Town Meeting and Congregational Meeting well prepared. This is an important decision and I ask that in your deliberation you will include us all in your prayers.

### 2ND TOWN HALL MEETING Sunday, August 6

10:10 a.m.  
in Christ Chapel  
-or-  
12:00 p.m.  
in the Sanctuary

### CONGREGATIONAL VOTE Sunday, August 13

10:00 a.m.  
Blended Worship Service  
in the Sanctuary  
11:15 a.m.  
Congregational  
Meeting and Vote

## TOWN HALL MEETING FAQ

### ***This feels rushed.***

I understand that even though the Council has worked a year on this merger and the transition team has been together for four months, most of the congregation feels that they have not had the time to think through the proposal. That's why I wanted to provide the congregation with more information through this letter and with additional Town Meetings on August 6.

### ***Why have the vote during the low times of the summer?***

True, worship attendance is down about 30% during the summer, but between the two, the Town Meetings drew in almost 200 people (which is more than most congregational meetings). Plus, the Town Meeting in Concord had 30 people-which is more than they worship on Sunday mornings. People are still around. As far as timing, strategically, we want to launch Christ Concord in September when people are looking for a church home for worship and Sunday School. If not September, the next strategic launch date would be the first of the year with New Years' resolutions or Easter when people are naturally looking for a place to worship. We thought that was too long to wait.

### ***Why are we doing this?***

There are at least two answers to that. First, because we were asked by the Synod and by Family of Faith to help, and we are in a position like no other church to do just that. Second, because this is central to the command of Jesus to make disciples and it is written into our mission to welcome, connect, equip and send. This is a pilot program where we seek not only to have Family of Faith become a campus of CLC but to replicate this process as we train other medium and large congregations across the Synod and country to do the same within their communities.

## ***Are the people of Christ Concord in favor of this merger?***

For the most part, yes. There were no dissenting votes from their council. At their Town Meeting, they were understandably concerned about losing their identity and assets, but Pastor Paul helped to assuage many fears by framing this merger in resurrection language. That is, for the new to rise again, we must first put to death the old. He has been a part of this proposal even before he officially began his ministry at Family of Faith on Easter, 2017. They are people who love their congregation and are willing to step forth boldly in faith to reverse their struggles and become thriving once again.



PICTURED:  
Exterior and interior  
shots of Family of Faith's  
sanctuary in Concord.

## ***What is the exit strategy in case this does not work and how do we define success?***

Just as Christ South is subsidized for three years by the ELCA and the Synod, so would Christ Concord. After three to five years, worst case scenario, if there has been no growth in membership, attendance and giving at Christ Concord, the congregation of CLC would have to decide whether or not to continue the campus or sell the property or find additional partners. In terms of success, the rule of thumb to be an independent, self sustained congregation, we need an attendance of about 100 on Sunday. I believe that we can achieve benchmark before that three year period.

## ***What is the financial impact?***

Family of Faith has a balanced budget of \$120,000 which is heavily subsidized by the ELCA, the Synod and Family of Faith savings, totaling about \$65,000 the first year, \$55,000 the second year and \$45,000 the third year. With this merger, we will incorporate both their income and expenses into the Christ Lutheran Churches overall budget. They have four acres and a nice sanctuary/ fellowship hall with no debt. While the financial risk will be minimum for these three years, we will have to add two very part time staff members (15 hours per week) to help with programs and music as well as budget for marketing, technology and program costs. To offset these costs, we will have a very intentional and focused stewardship campaign for the fall.

## ***What will the worship style be at Christ Concord?***

That is yet to be determined by their own congregation and discernment team. While they have always had a very traditional style, they currently are experimenting with a more blended sound. Our leadership team will help them shape a worship style that is uniquely their own.

## ***What will the preaching rotation be like?***

Currently, I preach at Christ Providence 66% of the time. That will not change. Those days I am not scheduled to preach at Providence, I will rotate in at South and Concord.

## ***Will there be another capital campaign?***

At this point there are no plans for another campaign. If and when there will be a campaign in the future, I would imagine it would be something that would benefit all three campuses such as land for South, debt-reduction for Providence and program space for Concord. But again, there are no plans at this point for a capital campaign.

## ***What will we vote on and when?***

On August 13, we will one worship service at 10:00, followed by one congregational meeting at 11:15. Christ South will Skype in. The vote will have two parts. The first will be to merge with Family of Faith/Concord, and the second will be to call Pastor Paul Myers as a pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. Constitutionally, you must be present in order to vote.

## ***What are the demographics of the surrounding community?***

According to the Percept Group that prepared a thorough demographic study of the 1.5 mile radius surrounding Family of Faith, there is a very high projected population density with strong projected growth. The families are primarily affluent and traditional in make up. The largest group of non-white families are Asian. Overall, there is a high level of post high school education. Studies show there is a high level of receptivity to faith and high capacity to support financially. Currently, while there are many Lutheran churches in Cabarrus County, in this southwest corner nearest to Charlotte, Family of Faith stands alone as the Lutheran presence.

## ***Are we losing our Lutheran identity with Christ Providence, Christ South and Christ Concord?***

No. These are primarily for internal communication for clarity as to which campus is which. You will tell friends that you attend Christ Lutheran Church. Where? At our Concord, South or Providence Campus. Our sign will continue to say "Christ Lutheran Church." The banner of our website will read, "Christ Lutheran Churches." The sign out front of Family of Faith will continue to read, "ELCA." The answer is no. Lutheran will remain a part of our signage, title, theology and practice.

It is a big decision for Christ Lutheran and I continue to welcome your interests, questions and concerns. We went through this very same healthy conflict with the Children's Center, the capital campaigns, the Ministry Center, purchasing land, building the Worship Center and opening Christ South. This dialog is necessary because this is an engaged congregation that trusts its leaders and puts their faith in God, but rightfully does its due diligence. And for that, I am thankful.

**Pastor Scott**  
suskovic@christelca.org  
(704)366-1595

# Wednesdays *together* starts August 30

- 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. **Dinner in Spirit Hall**  
\$6 adults • \$3 children (*first time visitors FREE*)
- 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. **Children/Youth Programming**
- 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. **Good Soil: Parenting Class**
- 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. **Adult Classes**

## FALL 2017 ADULT CLASSES

### Disciple Bible Study (Fast Track) • in the Forum

Led by Pastor Scott and Pastor Drew

This class will study both the Old and the New Testaments over the course of 24 weeks. Disciple Bible Study is perfect for anyone whose busy schedule makes it challenging to study the Bible and open to anyone, regardless of their church affiliation or Bible knowledge. To help you decide if Disciple Bible Study is right for you, please plan to come to an introduction on August 30th. You will experience a condensed sample meeting and have a chance to ask questions. Be ready to begin on September 6! (\$15 suggested for materials)

### Women Making Connections Bible Study • Worship Parlor

Led by D'Linda Highum

Learn to study the Bible together in a small group setting full of laughter, friendship and absolutely no judgement about what you do and don't know about Christianity. All women and questions welcome!

### The Letter to the Hebrews Bible Study • Adult Library

Led by Hans Teich

The author addresses a group of people ready to give up their Christian faith and to return to Jewish practices. He shows the advantages of Christian belief over Jewish teachings, and that Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets, the angels and to Moses. Hebrews shows us the far reaching effects of Jesus Christ's ministry, death and resurrection in the world.

### Book Study on Miracles • W150 A&B

Led by Geoff Maibohm

*Miracles* author C.S. Lewis is viewed by many as the most important Christian writer of the 20th century. He argues that a Christian must not only accept but rejoice in miracles as a testimony of the unique personal involvement of God in his creation. This class will feature weekly teaching and discussion.

### Good Soil: Parenting Class • Christ Chapel Parlor

This is a 45-minute-long class that will meet from 6 - 6:45 p.m. and is primarily for parents with younger children. While the kids are engaged in Wednesday night activities, parents can spend time in God's Word and have conversations about the amazing and challenging task of raising children who are strong, healthy, followers of Christ. Be reminded that your life, however messy and wonderful it may feel, is good soil where God is planting His Word!

### GriefShare • Church Office Great Room

September 13 - December 13

GriefShare is a 13 week-long, Christ-centered grief support group open to members and nonmembers. GriefShare uses three components - a DVD lesson, small group discussion, and a workbook-to help those who have lost loved ones find healing and hope.



**Calling All Seamstresses**  
to help at Try-On Day  
Sat., August 26th • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
in Center Six  
Come help young prom attendees with dress fittings and alterations.  
Interested? Contact Wendy Becker at [wendy@whatsinyoursandbox.org](mailto:wendy@whatsinyoursandbox.org)



**Picnic & Games**  
at Lake Norman  
Saturday, August 19 • 3:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Invitation to Follow  
More Information  
Melinda Dale (704) 277-0868

**PRISON MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT CLC**  
*Jesus said, "I was in prison and you visited me."*  
Matthew 25:35  
Mission Possible/Words of Hope sends a free monthly newsletter to encourage with Scripture.  
Kairos is a semi-annual weekend ministry to share God's love with inmates in NC.  
For more info: Sally Murray (704)560-2318 or Ed Eddleman at (704)506-4272



**Kindergarten Readiness Workshop**  
Thurs., Sept. 21 6 p.m. • in Center Six  
*Is my child ready for Kindergarten? Would he/she benefit from TK? How can I help them prepare? How do I start the registration process?*  
Join CLCC staff for this informative meeting to learn the answers to these questions and more!!

# ROCK QUARRY SWIMMING PARTY

@Carrigan Farms

**\$20**

for grades 6-12  
**Mon., August 14 • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Register on ChristLink at [christelca.org](http://christelca.org)  
**PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 8**

# FAMILY MINISTRY

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW FAMILY MINISTRY STAFF



### Kate Harrison

Kate joins us as the Preschool Ministry Director. You may know Kate as a traditional worshiper and mother of sweet Mille Grace. Kate has worked as a kindergarten teacher for nine years and as a stay-at-home mom. She will oversee preschool Sunday School, nursery and children's sermon at the Providence Campus. We are blessed to have Kate join the church staff as she leads our youngest ones in growing their faith.



### Laura Scott

Laura is the Children's Ministry Director for Christ South. She is also the Preschool Director at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church. Laura is married to French Scott and they have two wonderful teenagers. Laura will oversee all the children's ministry at Christ South as well as the large family events for all of Christ Lutheran. We are blessed to have Laura on the Family Ministry Team.

## 6th Grade Retreat

**Saturday, August 26 • 10 - 4 p.m.**  
 at the YMCA Hemby Center

Youth will enjoy fellowship and advice from current Middle Schoolers. Parents will join at the end to learn about CLC's Middle School and Confirmation programs.

**\$20 • Register on ChristLink at [christelca.org](http://christelca.org)**

## THE EXPERIENCE

Wednesdays 6-7:30 p.m. in the PIT

Come check out our high school production group designed to utilize the talents of everyone with music, drama, dance, visual arts, video and more!

**First Rehearsal: August 30**

## stepping stones

### UPCOMING EVENT

**Worshipping Together and Bible Presentation**  
 for three-year-old children and their parents

**Sunday • August 20, 2017**  
 10:00 a.m. • Worshipping Together  
 9:00 or 10:45 a.m. • Bible Presentation

CHRIST LUTHERAN  
 RSVP to Kate Harrison  
[kharrison@christelca.org](mailto:kharrison@christelca.org)

## Fuel Night

FOR CHRIST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

**Remember Your Baptism...**

next FUEL Night:  
**Sun., August 6**  
 6 p.m. • in the PIT

Dinner provided (\$5 donation requested).  
**Bring everyone!**

Info: Ryan Carter [rcarter@christelca.org](mailto:rcarter@christelca.org)

## save the date

# RITE OF CONFIRMATION

**Sunday, August 27**  
 at Traditional and Contemporary services

# OUTREACH NEWS

## DAY OF SERVICE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

Thank you to Thrivent members and Thrivent Action Teams that helped us with several projects:

- Amy Saunders and 10 volunteers provided food and lunch for Urban Ministry Center's Soup Kitchen.
- Diana Daniels and 100 volunteers packaged over 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger
- Miriam Morrison and 10 volunteers shopped for and delivered over 200 toiletry item to A Child's Place.
- Jenna Cooper and 10 volunteers made 100 teacher appreciation treats for McClintock teachers.
- Wayne Clark and 5 volunteers put together WOW! Bags for McClintock administrators to give to students caught doing great things.

In addition:

- Gregg Huether and 7 volunteers packaged over 450 snack bags for A Child's Place.
- Dawn Weisenberger and 28 donors helped the American Red Cross collect 28 pints of blood for patients in our region.

## WHEELS FOR THE WORD

We now provide transportation to members and guests for Sunday School and Worship, Wednesday's Together, and for other special events in addition to multiple routes for McPIE Family Nights on Tuesdays. Please join our wonderful team of drivers and navigators. Contact Sharhonda Morgan at [smorgan@christelca.org](mailto:smorgan@christelca.org) to get involved or to ask questions.

## GET READY FOR McPIE FALL FAMILY NIGHTS

Would you like to become a Family Night volunteer? Possible volunteer teams include meals, transportation, school store, younger sibling care, middle school & high school clubs and adult classes. In addition, we have opportunities available for have daytime tutors, teacher partners and much more!

If you are interested in joining a volunteer team, contact Kelley Fluharty at [kfluharty@christelca.org](mailto:kfluharty@christelca.org).

### Middle School Clubs

Calling all engineers, former girls scouts, woodworking enthusiasts, chess players, cooks, auto racing interests, and others with hobbies and expertise that would benefit middle school students. This is a wonderful opportunity to join a team of like-minded individuals to provide a club for McClintock students at Family Night. Contact Cindy Covill at [cindycovillinteriors@gmail.com](mailto:cindycovillinteriors@gmail.com) to find out more!

### Volunteer Orientation

**Tuesday, Sept. 12 • 6:00 pm**  
**at McClintock Middle School**

If you are a current or future volunteer for Family Nights, please save the date for our upcoming volunteer orientation for the fall semester. A light supper will be provided.



Freedom School has successfully come to a close. Thank you to all of those that made this summer so great for our 100 scholars!





**McClintock PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

### DAYTIME VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Sign-ups begin in late August*

- Tutoring provide 1-on-1 help
- Teacher Partner support with prayer and encouragement.
- Other book fair, EOG proctor, Harris Teeter VIC card link-up, etc.

**Interested? Contact Cathy Miller**  
[pmiller9@carolina.rr.com](mailto:pmiller9@carolina.rr.com)



*It's time for our annual*  
**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

As you start to do your back-to-school shopping, please pick up some extra items to donate at church on Sundays.

*Pencils • pens • 2" binders • colored pencils markers • and other items you come across*

**Drop off on Sundays in the big yellow box in the Lower Commons.**



SINGLE ADULTS LINKING TOGETHER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, August 12

**Dinner**

**Mickey and Mooch**

*at the Arboretum*

Contact group for meeting time

**RSVP & INFO**

[SALT@christelca.org](mailto:SALT@christelca.org)

# DISCIPLE

**FAST TRACK**

**Wednesdays starting August 30 • 6:15 p.m.**  
*in the Forum*

This class will study both the Old and the New Testaments over the course of 24 weeks.

Led by Pastor Scott and Pastor Drew.

CHRIST LUTHERAN  
**cornerstone**  
*gifts*



Like us on Facebook!  
Cornerstone Gifts  
at Christ Lutheran

**FIND THE  
PERFECT  
GIFT  
FOR YOUR  
CONFIRMAND!**

CONFIRMATION  
IS AUGUST 27

*Oktober  
Fest '16*  
*for India*

**Sunday, October 29**

4:30 p.m. at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery

*Save the Date!*

**LUTHERAN  
MEN**



**Chicken & Corn Roast**

**Monday, August 21 • 6 p.m.**

St. Luke's Lutheran Church • 3200 Park Rd.

Speaker: Tony Marciano, Charlotte Rescue Mission

*"Bringing Balance to Your Life"*

**Tickets \$10**

Ed Eddleman: [ed.eddleman@edata-charlotte.com](mailto:ed.eddleman@edata-charlotte.com)

*New Member Class*

**October 1st & 8th**

**12:15 - 3 p.m.**

Lunch Provided • Childcare Available

*RSVP*

Gretchen Suskovic • (704) 366-1595

[gsuskovic@christelca.org](mailto:gsuskovic@christelca.org)



*Save the Date*



This year's CROP Walk will be on  
**Saturday morning • October 14**

*The walk will be moving to Saturday  
for the first time. Help stop world hunger!*



*is now on*



Christ Lutheran Church-Charlotte  
Christ South



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# Christ CONNECTIONS

AUGUST 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



**Wednesdays Together starts August 30**  
Dinner 5:15 p.m. • Youth Classes 6 p.m. • Adult Classes 6:15 p.m.

**Sunday School & Fall Worship starts Sept. 10**  
Traditional 8:45 a.m. • Bridge 10 a.m. • Contemporary 11 a.m.  
Sunday School 10 a.m.

**Wednesday Class descriptions on page 4.**  
**Stay tuned for Sunday Class descriptions!**

DOWNLOAD OUR CHURCH APP



search "Christ Lutheran Charlotte"  
on your smartphone or tablet's app store

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

Christ Lutheran Church  
4519 Providence Road  
Charlotte, NC 28226

[christelca.org](http://christelca.org)  
phone 704|366|1595

## AVOID THE HEAT, STAY INSIDE & FINISH THOSE CHRISMONS!

Please return your finished chrismons to the basket at the information desk by August 13. If you are unable to stitch yours, please return the kit and someone else can complete it. Thank you for helping to make our christmas trees beautiful!

## SPECIAL THANKS

The Crigler Family would like to thank the members of Christ Lutheran for all of their support, sympathy and prayers in this time of Benner's passing.