



We are a Christ-Centered congregation committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. We follow His Word, which commands us to reach out to all people with the saving power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, witness and service.

Christiana Courier

Keith Less, Interim pastor
704-279-4655 (Office)
443-480-3075 (Cell)

From where I sit...

Where, oh, where did our Men go? We have not heard from them in 3+ years!

We have two Ladies' groups that are very active, working to serve God and having a lot of fun doing it.

We once had a Men's group that other churches tried to copy. Not anymore! We were hard-working, making things happen: sponsoring car shows, had big fund-raisers including BBQ and chicken dinners. Sometimes we even caught fish!

It's past time for our men to step up and make themselves known again.

What about it, guys?

August Scripture Lessons

10th Sunday after Pentecost, August 6

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 136: 1-9 (23-26)
Romans 9:1-5 (6-13)
Matthew 14; 13-21

11th Sunday after Pentecost, August 13

Job 38: 4-18
Psalm 18:1-6 (7-16)
Romans 10:5-17
Matthew 14: 22-28

12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 20

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-23
Matthew 15:21-28

13th Sunday after Pentecost, August 27

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 11:33-12:8
Matthew 16;13-20

Committee Fair is August 20



Join a Committee

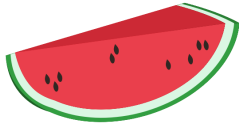
From Moses to Jesus, 'committees' were used to accomplish great missions and visions. Moses' father-in-law came to visit Moses in the wilderness and saw all Moses was doing. He said,

"Why are you trying to do all this alone...? This is not good. You are going to wear yourself out. This job is too heavy for you to handle all by yourself. Select leaders over groups - they will help you carry the load. Then you will be able to endure the pressures." (paraphrased from Exodus 18)

On August 20, Christiana Committees will have displays set up in the Smith Assembly Hall and a light lunch will be served after the morning worship service. All are invited to attend and learn about serving opportunities in the

Poor August!

Poor August, the only month without holidays! Still, there's lots to celebrate these final weeks of summer. Enjoy some summer flavors: August 1 is National Raspberry Cream Pie Day; August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day; August 3, National Watermelon Day; August 10, National S'mores Day (have a bonfire!); and August 24 is National Peach Day.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

Now this is a simple truth: GOD demands of each of us such as we have; that's all there is to it. GOD requires each of us to share that which we have, gifts we all possess: our time, our talent, our money.

The first is the gift of our time. The question is, how will we use it? This has at least two implications. This time is given by someone who cares.

And we have the gift of our talents which are sorely needed in today's world.

We have the gift of our resources, our money. That's the third gift that belongs to all of us. What we have, we give.

How are you going to share the gifts GOD has given to YOU?

August Children's Church Leaders

Aug. 6 Becca Scarola & April Smith

Aug. 13 Robin Adkins & Marlene Pethel

Aug. 20 Laura & Laurie Ritchie

Aug. 27 Becky Morris

August Worship Support

Reader: Laura Ritchie

Greeters: Jenny Roberts, Eddie Eller, Tara Beaver, Lillian Beaver, Vivian Beaver

Communion Assistants: Karen Goodman, Dale Beaver

Lock Up: Brittney Ritchie

Altar Guild: Linda Crouch, Wendi Hawkins, Debbie & Eddie Eller

July Attendance

July 2

Worship: 112
Sunday School: 53

July 9

Worship: 108
Sunday School: 57

July 16

Worship: 108
Sunday School: 49

July 23

Worship: 90
Sunday School: Not reported

August Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Harold Morris | 20 Claude Lingle, Jr. |
| 3 Joy Bernhardt | 20 Ben Lyerly |
| 4 Jackson Pryor | 21 Rebecca Kepley |
| 5 Drew Pethel | 22 Mike Merrell |
| 6 Jude Wyrick | 22 Lindsay Wright |
| 7 Abby Cozart | 25 Louise Crowther |
| 10 Angie Hayes | 25 Marsha Beaver |
| 12 Scott Hayes | 27 Sandra Cross |
| 12 Mike Keene | 28 Dale Beaver |
| 12 Dee Smith | |
| 17 Barbara Crouch | |
| 18 Diane Smith | |
| 19 Zelia Frick | |
| 19 Brian Cross | |
| 19 Caidee Hawkins | |



Altar Flowers

Aug. 6 Linda Duncan

Aug. 13 Debbie Eller

Aug. 20 Vickie Keene

Aug. 27 Shelby Harwood

From the Pastor



Psalm 121:1-2
I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

A lot changes this month. Things go back to a more normal schedule for the most part. School reopens. Harvest is getting close. Fair is over. Some have gotten out of the habit of regular church and Bible class. The problem is that people don't realize the lifelong commitment that being a Christian ask of us. We forget that

we promised to be faithful for our entire lives. We even said that we would be lifelong learners. For while it worked, then we realized that we were going to have to keep doing it. That seems to be the moment when many decide that the work of being a Christian is too much of a burden. So, what's the problem? Is it God's fault for demanding too much of us? Hardly, but some use that excuse. I think that it's a faith and trust issue. Most people that opt for the lighter commitment, which is not a commitment at all, do so because their God isn't big enough. There are too many distractions, and they think God is mean for not giving into their every whim and desire. Again, that isn't how faith works. Trusting God is trusting no matter what. Even when it is more like work than anything else. Even when our preferences are not met. Faith and trust are a lifelong commitment to follow God and not drag Him where we think He needs us to be. It is possible to grow our faith to the point where the Holy Spirit gets us so close to God and nothing else matters. How great that is. To fully trust and let God lead. To provide for us without us producing a want list. Faith as it is intended to be.

Pastor Keith



Christiana Rowdy Seniors

will meet for lunch at Olive Garden in Salisbury on Tuesday, August 15 at 11:30. All are welcome!

Together Let's Honor and Celebrate
The Retirement of Our Office Administrator
Ann Teague
at the Worship Service on
Sunday, September 10, 10:30 a.m.

Reception following the service.
in the Smith Assembly Hall

Christiana Lutheran Church
6190 U.S. 52 Highway
Salisbury, NC 28146

Prayer concerns:

Woodrow Frick, recovering from hip surgery after fall. Wanda Smith, eye stroke and multiple health issues. Judy Stoner's SIL, Janette Yost, multiple myeloma. Betty Hatley, recovering from mastectomy. Betty Rose Witty, Terra Bella. Glenn Wilson, declining health. Family of Mariah House-Morris. Onetia Bruce's daughter, injured in fall. J Wood's daughter, Mary Beth Mursch, multiple myeloma. Ann Teague's friend, pancreatic cancer. Diane Smith's cousin, Deanna Shue, cancer returned. Tammy Hill. Earlene Ritchie's sister, Dottie McLaurin, metastatic cancer. Earlene's other sister, Theresa, tumor on ear nerve; some hearing loss. Families of those affected by gun violence. Dianne Hall's husband, Doc. Chris Coletta, terminal cancer. Teresa McKinney's husband, esophageal cancer. Pastor Bruce Sheeks, blood clots. Bonnie Sechler, at son's; chemo treatments. Vickie Hill. Scott Hayes, prayers for recovery. Jenny Roberts, ALS. Becky Preslar's father, at home. Linda Cline's neighbor, Ann Mitchell, tests. Kay Abernathy, at home. Don Dedmon, The Laurels. Patti Holshouser, TOHAR. Elizabeth Ritchie, Liberty Commons. Vaughn Hatley, immunotherapy. Kathie Albright, neck and shoulder pain.



Mailing and e-mail addresses needed for college students

Christiana supports its college students by keeping them informed of the church's events so they will know they are still an important part of their church family while away in school. Please send mailing and e-mail addresses to the church office ASAP to:
christiana1@charlotte.twcbc.com
or call 704-279-4655.

Remember those in nursing homes

Terra Bella:
Betty Rose Witty

Liberty Commons:
Elizabeth Ritchie

The Laurels of Salisbury:
Don Dedmon

Trinity Oaks Health & Rehab:
Patti Holshouser



LCW August meetings

Miss Katherine Lyerly Group

will meet on Tuesday
August 1 at 10:00 a.m. in the
Smith Assembly Hall
with Linda Duncan,
hostess and program leader.

Sister Lucille Lyerly Group

will meet on August 6 immediately
following worship for a covered dish pool
party at the home of LaVaughn Beaver.

Carolina Caring Center for Grief and Healing provides grief support and palliative care through creative healing workshops, a book club, a coffee group, and more.

A special support group for caregivers, spouses and widows/widowers of veterans is also offered.

Visit www.carolinacaring.org. or call 828-466-0466.

Monthly Kids' Breakfasts ending

It has been decided to discontinue the monthly Kids' Breakfasts.

Many thanks to all who helped make this possible.

*Thank
You*

We all have heard the expression that Uncle Sam wants you. Someone wants you to answer His call. God wants you to join the CIA (Christians/Christiana In Action). This will be a visitation team (in addition to the Pastor's visiting). The CIA will visit the homebound, hospitalized, and the nursing home residents at least once a month. People matter to both God and you. Visiting them lets them know that you care and they aren't forgotten. Everyone needs encouragement, comfort or a sense of belonging. ALL would benefit from a visit. Phone calls, visits, cards/postcards, these types of activity in our congregation greatly increases the effectiveness of the ministry and outreach of this congregation. If you are interested please contact Gail Koontz - gisk81@aim.com or [704-773-4439](tel:704-773-4439). Based upon interest there will be a meeting to discuss teams and the rotation of visits. Please consider this ministry.

I am very excited to announce that the Card Ministry has sent out 88 cards since April. Cards sent have been a mixture of thinking of you, birthday, graduation, congratulations to new parents, get well and a couple sympathy cards. I am so blessed by the donation of cards, someone gave a donation to help support the ministry and the Sister Lucille Circle gave a donation to help start the ministry. If you would like help support the ministry nothing is to big or to small.....even prayers are accepted. God bless you all! Gail Koontz

Card Ministry Update

The church is in need of a volunteer to recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, etc. on a regular basis. If you, your committee, or group is looking for a worthy service project, please contact the church office.





Christiana Creative Preschool's 2023-24 Open House is August 2nd & 3rd from 6:00-7:00pm. First day of preschool is August 14th. To learn more about the preschool or enroll your child, visit: www.christianalutheran.org

Blessing of book bags set

On Sunday August 6, Christiana will have the annual blessing of the book bags. All students and teachers are invited to bring their book bags to worship for a blessing.



Handbells will rehearse August 13 & 20

Youth to go horseback riding

Christiana's youth will enjoy a Back to School Horseback Riding adventure on Sunday, August 13 beginning at 3 p.m. at Highland Hill Stables, 5051 Old Mocksville Rd, Salisbury. Highland Hills is a family-oriented riding facility for kids of all ages to learn about horses, meet new friends, and have lots of fun! This event will feature horseback riding, a barn tour, devotional, food, and CIS Mission Project. All are invited!

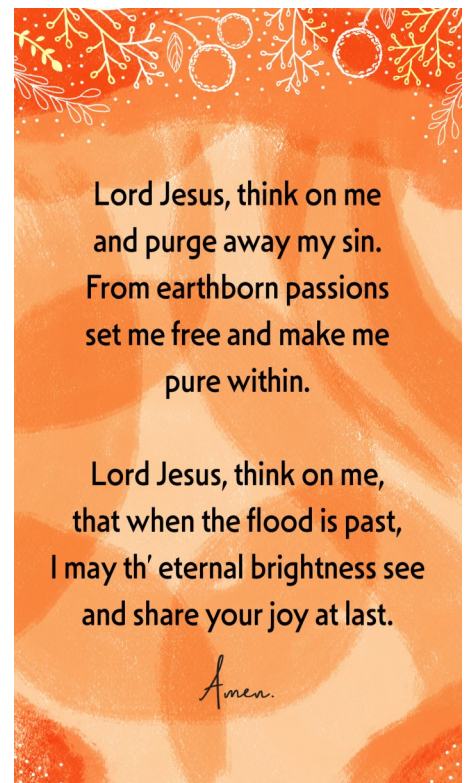
It has been over a year now and counting since the Interim Prayer Team was organized. It is great when we meet together as a large group or small gathering.

The Lord's Word is so powerful and meaningful and it encourages all of the congregation as a special verse is highlighted each week in our bulletin and weekly bulletin.

We sense the presence of Jesus as we daily pray for our New Pastor. It is exciting to witness the prayer team reaching out beyond the next pastor and praying for the needs of our fellowship and beyond.

We have room for you to join us. You will be glad you did.
Jim

Join the
Prayer
TEAM



Lord Jesus, think on me
and purge away my sin.
From earthborn passions
set me free and make me
pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that when the flood is past,
I may th' eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

Amen.

**Christiana Council Minutes
July 9, 2023**

Present

Richard Crouch, Pres.	Todd Koontz	Terry Ritchie	Harry Agner	Brian Barringer
Cam Ritchie, VP	Linda Duncan	Banks Kluttz	Mike Keene	Terry Ritchie
Laurie Ritchie, Treas.	Charlotte Pacilio	Jeff Fleming	Karen Goodman	Rev. Keith Less

Absent

Brittney Ritchie

Treasurers Report:

Envelope Offering \$4,389.82 below budget
Total Income \$4,598.51 below budget
YTD Envelope Offering \$3,840.15 below budget
YTD Total Income \$3,890.79 below budget
Monthly Expenses \$4,398.67 below budget
YTD Expenses \$17,108.35 below budget
Cash on Hand \$34,060.28 & \$150,000.00 in Money Market
Treasurers report was approved.

Pastors Report: Pastor Keith- A little behind on shut in visits. Currently not having any members visiting the shut ins. Pastor Keith expressed the importance of this ministry by the members. Will be teaching Adult VBS. Continuing Monday Bible Study. Next Bible Study is Lamentations and then will be the Chosen Series. We will be learning Setting 10 in worship.

Church Office Administrator Committee: Cam Ritchie presented the progress on posting the Church Office Administrator position to the council. (Ann's Position) Pastor Keith suggested that part of the requirements include the candidate must be an active member of a church. The committee consists of Cam Ritchie, Madeline Zieverink, Vickie Agner-Keene. The position will be posted next week on Facebook with a "boost", Indeed, church website and the bulletin.

Call Committee: David Preslar gave the council an update on the progress of the Call Committee. The church's posting went up on June 9th. A letter was sent to all pastors with new additions of postings. There are 72 churches within the NALC currently seeking pastors. There are only 4 in North Carolina. Next step is to continue to pray for our new pastor. David reminded the council this is the hardest part of the process which is waiting. Pastor Carl was elected Dean for our region and he will not be supervising our Call process since he was the previous Pastor. Pastor Steven King will be our resource.

Stewardship Report: Preschool financials were reviewed. The current Credit card for Bus gas now has a \$10.00 monthly fee per gas card. These will be cancelled and we will get one credit card through F&M for the drivers. This will have \$1,000 limit. This will be used for gas, and repairs should the bus break down. Insurance rate renewal for the church were reviewed. Motion to donate \$500 to Gordon Conwell for scholarships in honor of Dr. Mary Havens retirement. Funds to come from the Pastors Discretionary Fund. There being no discussion it was passed. A letter was received from Epiphany Lutheran Church. They left current church which was an ELCA church and are having to start completely new. Motion was made seconded and passed to send \$250.00 from Pastors Discretionary Fund.

Christian Ed.: VBS this week

Property Committee: Ice machine in the Smith Assembly Hall not working.

Social Ministry: Baby bottle campaign has concluded. Final numbers not in yet.

Fellowship Meal: Served one funeral meal.

Nehemiah Group: Had an incident with someone wanting to enter the church to use the restroom and they were not let in and became unfriendly. Reminding members to be aware of your surroundings when you come to the church. If you do not recognize cars use caution when you exit your vehicle.

Landscape: in the Cemetery Fire ants in the cemetery. Has been treated.

BTB: Sound System has been installed. It is working wonderful. Will be meeting soon regarding the windows.

Youth: Went to LaVaughn Beaver's house. July youth are helping with VBS.

Sister Lucille: Planned for LCW Sunday

Miss Katherine Lyerly: Planned service for LCW Sunday, made gifts for Fathers' Day, collected cans for Jenny's Kitchen. Purchased Pedestal Roses for Woman of the year. Made donation to Gordon Conwell & sent get well card and birthday cards to shut ins.

CRS: Last meeting at Cagney's there were 8 in attendance.

Bus: Now have enough gas keys for the bus. Time for the inspection soon. Todd working on the battery cables.

Preschool: Laurie presented the finances for the first year of preschool. Preschool finished the year with \$4,223.80. Half of this will be given to the General Fund for use of the facilities. Other half is the salary for the Director. Director salary was reinvested into the program for use in the coming year.

There being no further business the meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Ritchie, Treasurer

Haiti Missions Day is August 27

Save the date for a special Sunday at our church!

The morning service will feature Pastor Alexis Jean Baptiste from LaVictoire, Haiti as our Guest Speaker and The Gospel Plowboys will be in concert that evening at 6pm giving a benefit for the Children of Haiti Missions. They are committed to sharing the Gospel and the love of Christ through Gospel Bluegrass music.



Call Committee Updates as of 7/20/2023:

The Call Committee completed both the written and video profiles.

The written profile was shared with Church Council on 5/14/23 and after some minor modifications, Council voted unanimously to accept the written profile.

The video profile was presented in a called council meeting on 5/28/23. Council voted unanimously to accept the video profile. Great work Jason and Brittney!

The Call Committee shared both the written and video profiles with our congregation on 6/4/23 during Sunday School. Received favorable comments concerning the profiles during and after the sharing. The profiles were forwarded to Pastor Shelly Schultz for review and posting on the NALC vacancy website.

They were loaded and available on 6/9/23.

You can view the posting on the NALC website following the link below:

Go to this location: thenalc.org/call-process

Then select: North American Lutheran Church

Scroll down the page and you will find the listings for all congregations for the NALC

The listings are in state order - alphabetically

To minimize your search, select "Full Time Only"

Then select North Carolina, in the state drop-down box

We are the last listing for North Carolina

Richard has loaded and the profiles and they are available on Christiana's web page.

Steps after profiles are posted:

Pastor Shelly communicates with all pastors in the NALC to consider if they're interested with seeking a new calling.

This was completed on July 6th

Currently there are 72 NALC congregations seeking a new pastor.

42 of those churches are seeking full-time pastors

30 are seeking part-time pastors

Based on the document I received on 7/6, there are four vacancies in North Carolina.

Receive applications for potential pastors from Pastor Shelly.

Call committee screens applications for preliminary initial interviews.

Complete preliminary interviews and determine which pastors to conduct full interviews with.

Schedule and conduct interviews.

Be focused and continue to pray for those engaged in the call process that Christiana will locate the pastor God is calling to lead us.

David has been in contact with Pastor Shelly asking questions concerning expectation on next steps. This is the message below, with Pastor Shelly's responses.

Good morning!! Just wanted to check in to understand expectations moving forward.

1. Will we receive names as pastors apply, or will we get them at a certain time each week, month? **Response:** You will receive pastor profiles as pastors indicate to me, they are interested in serving your congregation. It will happen at no certain time in the month. But will occur as I receive the request and then I will forward the pastor's profile to you via email for your call committee to review and begin the interview process

2. Are new postings announced when they are loaded to the NALC website? How do we know if steps 11 and 12 have been completed (as indicated in the NALC Process Summary)? **Response:** *New postings of vacancies are indicated in the monthly vacancy list that is emailed to all the NALC pastors. New postings are indicated in red print. David, you will be receiving your first vacancy list shortly since I will be updating it in this next week for distribution to all the pastors.*

3. Is there a location on the website where I can check to see if there has been any interest in our church's pastor vacancy? **Response:** *At this time, we are not able to check to see how many times your profile has been viewed.*

4. Is there anything else we need to do at this point? **Response:** *Your next step would be to gather your interview questions. And continue in daily prayer: personal, call committee, congregation members, and weekly worship.*

Thanks to both of you for your continued guidance as we maneuver through this process to locate the pastor God is calling to Christiana!!

I have said this before, we are blessed and thankful to Jim and Linda Duncan for leading our prayer team. Also, we are thankful to the entire prayer team for the foundational work they have done and continue to do preparing our congregation for our new pastor! We ask that everyone be in prayer concerning this most important process. We discuss in every call committee meeting the importance of prayer in the Call process and the great job our prayer team continues to deliver.

Now we are in a period of waiting, seeking and trusting God to provide our next pastor. We don't know how long it will take, so we need to be patient remembering this will happen in God's time. Lord, we pray that you guide and direct us to our new pastor!

Yours in Christ!

David Preslar <>< Call Committee Chair

7/21/2023

**CHRISTIANA will host blood drive
on
Sunday – August 13th
12:00 to 4:30pm
Fellowship Hall**

I will be glad to schedule your appointment – just contact me at 704/213-4181 or go to www.redcrossblood.org to schedule your appointment. Donors of all blood types are needed. Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors.
Madeline Zieverink

FAMILY FUN DAY
at Christiana Lutheran Church
SATURDAY, August 26 11 am—2 pm
Step right up and join the fun!
Bring your kids and grandkids to celebrate
Dee Dee's (Louise Crowther) 100th birthday!

RSVP
text, phone call, email or Facebook
Charisse Peeler
charissed@gmail.com
760-581-4352



6190 US Hwy 52
Salisbury NC 28146
Address Service Requested
Phone: 704-279-4655

Mailed July 26, 2023

Sunday School 9:15 AM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Council President: Richard Crouch
Council Vice-President: Cam Ritchie
Council Secretary: Brittney Ritchie

Interim Pastor: Keith Less
Church Admin.: Ann Teague
Email:christiana1@charlotte.twcba.com
Church Treasurer: Laurie Ritchie
Organist/Music Director: Becky Morris

Chancel Choir
Becky Morris, Director
Selected Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Handbell Choir
Marsha Beaver, Director
August

Puppet Team
Becky Morris, Director
On summer break



Join us on Facebook



To the Memorial Fund

In memory of Ann Meacham by Onetia Bruce, Robert & Gathel Meacham
In memory of Jenny Thomas by Patricia and Kaitlin Pena

To the Preschool Fund

In honor of LaVaughn Beaver by Dale & Marsha Beaver

To the Endowment Fund

In memory Tonia Duncan by Mike & Vickie Keene
In memory of Ann Meacham by Mike & Vickie Keene

To the Nehemiah Group

In memory of Tonia Duncan by Dale & Marsha Beaver

To the Fellowship Hall Fund

In honor of Jason Smith & Harry Agner by Ronnie & Janis Smith



Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt



Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)