

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

Carl Haynes, pastor
704-279-4655 (Office)
704-223-1468 (Cell)

Hug a blanket this month

Sister Lucille Circle is sponsoring and coordinating a "Hug a Blanket" project in which new and gently used blankets are collected for the NALC Disaster Relief appeal.

Due to recent area disasters, blankets of all sizes and for all ages are very much in need at this time. Because of this need, we have set a hefty goal to collect and donate 500 blankets from Christiana!

If you would like to contribute to this need, please bring your donations to the church and place them in the Narthex or Elevator Lobby by February 27.

As always, our super shoppers, LaVaughn Beaver and Madeline Zieverink, are available to shop for you if you prefer to make a monetary donation.

Watch for the "Hug a Blanket" count each week!



"But I say to you that listen,

Love
your enemies,
do good

to those who hate you,

bless
those who curse you,

pray
for those who abuse you."

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

Souper Bowl set for Feb. 13

It's time for Souper Bowl Sunday. On February 13th funds will be collected for the food pantry at Rowan Helping Ministries. Collections will be taken at the end of the service in the Narthex and at both side doors. If you are unable to attend worship service on this date, you may mail in your donation. Please make your check payable to Christiana Lutheran Church and note it is for "Souper Bowl Sunday." The food pantry is constantly giving food to those in need and any donation would be greatly appreciated. Let's make February 13th a "Souper Sunday" at Christiana Lutheran Church.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

Haven't You Heard?

Do you not know that GOD loves you even when you let him down? When we refuse to share with him our Time—Talent—Treasure.

Which of these gifts will you personally commit to use more fully to send or take the Good News to those who have not accepted it?

Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting GOD. We must plant the seed of stewardship of our Time—Talent—Treasure or people will never know of Jesus. Generous giving involves a cheerful heart. Our thoughts on the needs of others, no matter the cost to us.

We cheerfully first offer ourselves to his service. Understanding the price he paid for us is nearly impossible. Give generously through him. And so when you give, be assured that what you give (your Time, Treasure, and Talents) was first given to you by a Lord who loves you and provides for you. Know that you are simply doing your duty; offering up a little for the Lord, who offered up everything for you. Understand that our Lord is watching. He smiles about your giving. How will we repay the Lord for all his goodness to us?

Plant the Seed of Stewardship in 2022.

Worship Support in February

Reader: Joyce Cavanagh-Wood

Usher: Brian Barringer

Greeter: Jenny Roberts

Communion Assistants: Karen Goodman & Dale Beaver

Sound: Mike Keene

Lock Up: Laura Ritchie

Altar Guild: Carmen & Drew Pethel,
Linda Connell, Earlene & Brittney Ritchie

Nursery

Due to lack of nursery-aged children at this time and lack of volunteer nursery workers, the Worship Committee has temporarily discontinued offering this service.

January Attendance

January 2
Sunday School: 43
Worship: 80

January 9
Sunday School: 57
Worship: 87

January 16—No service
Sunday School:
Worship:

January 23
Sunday School: No record
Worship: 64

February Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Rick Roper | 20 Eric Reavis |
| 2 Emma Scott | 21 Judy Stoner |
| 3 Chloe Shank | 25 Tommy Burris |
| 5 Sierra Braun | 25 Karen Goodman |
| 7 Frances Peeler | 25 Landon Coffey |
| 7 Caroline Barnes | 27 Jill Shank |
| 8 Jarrett Kluttz | |
| 14 Lucas Coffey | |
| 18 Angie Fleming | |
| 19 Debbie Eller | |
| 19 Rhonda Honeycutt | |
| 19 T J Woods | |



February Altar Flowers

Feb. 6 Emily Barnes
Pedestal—Suzanna Roth-Tubman
Pedestal—Reggie Hardister

Feb. 13

Feb. 20

Feb. 27 Jay Goodman

*Please see Vickie Keene
to sign up for altar flowers*

Scholarships Available Through Christiana in 2022

The following scholarships are available through Christiana Congregation. Those interested in applying please note the requirements. Complete information about each scholarship and applications are available on the church website, www.christianalutheran.org. If you have any questions or if you need assistance in accessing the information, please contact either Branson Pethel, chairperson of the 2022 committee, or the church office.

Lena Bangle Lyerly Scholarship

Must be a Christiana Lutheran Church member that participates and attends Christiana Lutheran Church as school schedules allows.

Enrolled in a two or four year college/university.

Working toward a degree in Health or Christian Ed. and having accrued 12 or more credit hours in that school of study.

Brad Patrick Scholarship

Scholarship will be awarded to a Rowan-Salisbury Public High School Senior with a financial need to further their education.

Applications may be obtained in the Guidance Counselor's office in any Rowan County High School.

Hubert & Blanche Ritchie Scholarship High School (1)

Must be a participating and engaged member at Christiana Lutheran Church for the previous 24 months prior to the application deadline.

High school senior.

Enrolled full time in a two or four year college/university.

Hubert & Blanche Ritchie Scholarship College (2)

Must be a Christiana Lutheran Church member that participates and attends Christiana Lutheran Church as school schedules allow.

Full time college student

See full eligibility requirements on the church website.

All scholarship applications must be completed and returned to the church office by 12 noon on Friday, March 18, 2022. Any applications received after that date will not be considered. All applicants applying for scholarships must have an official transcript from the school sent to the church office. No others will be accepted. For those applying, and meeting scholarship requirements, check(s) will be made payable to the educational institution and the recipient awarded the scholarship only. This way we ensure the funds are going to support the student in their academic endeavors and not for miscellaneous or erroneous expenses.

Congregational Prayer Concerns

Dee Smith, Laura Ritchie, Tara Beaver & family, Judy Stoner's granddaughter Presley, Carmen Merrell diagnosed with COVID. Woodrow Frick recovering at home from surgery to repair broken hip. Terry Connell diagnosed with congestive heart failure. Marsha & Dale's friend, Cindy Miller, continuing health issues. Kathie Albright, finished PT, still in pain; her friend Maxine Campbell, 82, PT; feeling much better. Michael Carscaddon chemo treatments. Vaughn Hatley taking immunotherapy treatments every 3 weeks. Onetia Bruce in poor health. Ethan Martin, Lyme Disease. Louise Crowther, shut-in at home; failing eyesight & balance. Ann Meacham, Cardell Gibson & Patti Holshouser at TOHAR. Don & Rose Dedmon in poor health.





True Love

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.
(Matthew 22:37-40)

February is LOVE month. Valentine's Day is the 14th and is the day for lovers to spend money on those they love buying cards and chocolates and all kinds of crazy stuff associated with love to show how much they care. The marketing media plays it up, commercializing love like it does all the other holidays and guilt-tripping us into spending ridiculous amounts of money on things that will be thrown away or at least tucked away in a drawer or closet shelf. Such a big deal is made of Valentine's Day that we feel terrible if we don't at least get our loved ones a card. And *if we care enough to send the very best*, it will be a Hallmark Card.

Pfft! This has nothing to do with true love. True love is sacrificial, the giving of one's life for loved ones. The Apostle Paul's definition of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 shows us what true love is about. ***Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.***

This definition of love defines the love God has for us *and* calls for us to have for one another. This kind of love is not easy, it takes work and effort. That's why God commands us to do it. For the most part we don't have to be commanded to love our spouse, our parents, our children, our friends—that comes easy. But what about when it doesn't? What about loving those who don't love us? We are commanded to love them too. Jesus commands us in John 13:35: ***A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.***

We're to love others as Jesus has loved us. How has Jesus loved us? Sacrificially. In Romans 5:8 we read: ***...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*** As Jesus has loved us, so we are to love one another. Like I said earlier, this is not an easy thing to do. Our old sinful nature doesn't want to do it at all. That's why in the waters of Holy Baptism God makes us new creations in Christ Jesus and gives us his Holy Spirit so that we can love one another as God commands us to.

Read 1 John 4:7-21. This passage is entitled "God is Love." In it John tells us about God's love for us and our love for God. He tells us in vs. 19 that ***We love because God first loved us.*** The fact that we humans can love at all is because God loved us first. Now how do we use this ability to love? Is it just in the giving of cards and trinkets, or is it in acts of understanding, compassion and caring for others as Christ commands us?

True love manifests itself in love for God and love for others. That's the Great Commandment Jesus tells us about in Matthew 22 (*see verses above*). And our Lord tells us that by keeping this commandment, we don't have to worry about fulfilling the Law and the Prophets because they're taken care of through love.

So this Valentine's Day, and all other days you want to show your love to others, show them you care by giving them the very best—Jesus Christ and his incredible, sacrificial love. Then invite them to experience God's love by coming to know Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Pastor Carl

Thank you!

Thank you for your support and gifts for our treat bags. The officers and inmates were so thankful. Without your contribution we would not be able to do this. We believe hearts were touched through your act of love. Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Chaplain Michael Taylor
Rowan County Sheriff's Department

To my dear church family that has been so good to me. Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, and especially the little carolers for the beautiful Christmas songs.

God Bless You All,
Frances Peeler

February Scripture Lessons

5th Sunday after Epiphany, February 6

Isaiah 6:1-13
Psalm 138:1-8
1 Corinthians 14:12b-20
Luke 5:1-11

6th Sunday after Epiphany, February 13

Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1:1-6
1 Corinthians 15:1-20
Luke 6:17-26

7th Sunday after Epiphany, February 20

Genesis 45:3-15
Psalm 103:1-13
1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42
Luke 6:27-38

Transfiguration Sunday, February 27

Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 99:1-9
Hebrews 3:1-6
Luke 9:28-36

Gifts to our Church

A gift has been given to the church music fund by Mark and Kathie Albright in honor of the newly ordained (1/9/22) minister Kevin Sloop at Grace Lower Stone Church where he also serves as organist and music director.

Kevin is the son of the late Mr. Franklin and Lillian Faye Trexler Sloop and therefore a son of this congregation through its long Trexler lineage.

Next BTB supper is February 8

The next Brighten the Beacon supper will be on Tuesday, February 8 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and clean up.

Menu:
Variety of soups
Ham and swiss sliders
Dessert
Beverage

\$10/person. Under 12 free!



Congregational Concerns

Autumn Care
Joe Haas

Liberty Commons:
Elizabeth Ritchie

Trinity Oaks:
Cardell Gibson
Patti Holshouser
Ann Meacham



**Christiana Lutheran Church
Council Minutes Jan. 8, 2022**

Present:

Richard Crouch, President
Jason Smith, V. President
Laura Ritchie, Secretary
Laurie Ritchie, Treasurer
Todd Koontz

Earlene Ritchie
Tony Hawkins
Jeff Fleming
Eddie Eller
Kevan Barringer

Also Present:

Harry Agner
Brittney Ritchie
Karen Goodman
Pastor Carl Haynes

Absent:

Robbie Robinson
Charlotte Pacilio

Items of Business:

December Meeting Minutes approved unanimously as presented. *Note to change Pastor Carl to a member of council as a correction to future minutes*

Treasurers Report:

December Envelope Income was above budget: \$3,869.77

Total December Income was above budget: \$3,612.61

YTD Envelope was above budget: \$451.99

YTD Total Income is behind budget: \$3,248.14

December total expense was under budget: \$5,084.85

YTD total expense was under budget: \$50,370.36

Changes in Expense Notes:

Bulletin Supplies- **Over** budget. Budgeted \$ 600.00, Spent \$618.96

Education Material- **Over** Budget. Budgeted \$2,800.00. Spent \$2,861.62

Postage **Over** budget. Budgeted \$1,500. Spent \$1,831.65

Nehemiah Group Transferred \$358.90 to Budget to cover overage

Water & Sewer **Over** budget. Budgeted \$900.00 Spent so far \$1,076.75

Cash on Hand: \$57,306.41

Designated Funds:

Brighten the Beacon December donations: \$820.00

Treasurers report was approved unanimously as presented.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's report approved as presented.

Pastor's Annual Report: Annual report approved as presented.

Executive Committee Items:

Committee Appointments of Council Representatives:

Committee	Council Representative
Stewardship	Harry Agner
Christian Ed	Earlene Ritchie
Property	Jason Smith
Worship	Tony Hawkins
Social Ministry	Richard Crouch
Evangelism	Brittney Ritchie
Fellowship	Eddie Eller
Landscape	Kevan Barringer
Membership Review	Harry Agner
Pastoral Relationship	Todd Koontz
Nehemiah Group	Karen Goodman
Cemetery	Kevan Barringer
Brighten the Beacon	Jeff Fleming
LCW - SL	Laurie Ritchie
LCW - MKL	Charlotte Pacilio
CLM	Robbie Robinson
CRS	Charlotte Pacilio
Bus	Jason Smith
Youth	Laura Ritchie

Council Meeting Dates & Times/Members Lock-Up & Devotional Duties for 2022:

Month	Council Meeting Dates	Lock-Up & Devotion Assignments
January	Saturday, January 8 th 8:00 a.m.	Laurie Ritchie
February	Sunday, February 13 th 7:30 a.m.	Laura Ritchie
March	Sunday, March 13 th 7:30 a.m.	Jeff Fleming
April	Sunday, April 10 th 7:30 a.m.	Charlotte Pacilio
May	Sunday, May 8 th 7:30 a.m.	Harry Agner
June	Sunday, June 12 th 7:30 a.m.	Richard Crouch
July	Sunday, July 10 th 7:30 a.m.	Earlene Ritchie
August	Sunday, August 14 th 7:30 a.m.	Brittney Ritchie
September	Sunday, September 11 th 7:30 a.m.	Kevan Barringer
October	Sunday, October 9 th 7:30 a.m.	Tony Hawkins
November	Sunday, November 13 th 7:30 a.m.	Todd Koontz
December	Sunday, December 11 th 7:30 a.m.	Robbie Robinson

Committee Reports:

Stewardship:

The newsletter has included a “Stewardship Moment” that was present all last year and will be continued into this year.

The year report was submitted to Ann

There was a question about funding for the youth puppets. Stewardship referred that to the Worship Committee.

Property:

Lighting system to illuminate the stain glass will be replaced and is being funded as a donation by Jason Smith.

The electricity cable that runs underground to the Educational building has been fixed.

Concerns:

Hole in the parking lot will need to be fixed.

Educational building air condition units overflowed and damaged the floor, which had to be replaced. The units themselves will need to be evaluated and possible replaced.

Wrought iron furniture for the patio of fellowship has been priced and the money donated for those is already there.

Social Ministry:

Angel Tree provided 29 residents at Alpha Concord with Christmas gifts.

Members collected over 100 winter items for Rowan Helping Ministries.

Landscape:

Need to set a date for a church-wide clean-up day on April 2nd 8 :00 – 12:00 that will be for all ages and during which we will provide lunch.

Membership Review:

Recommended that the pew-pads are put back in for attendance records so we can keep up with who is attended so we can reach out to them.

Plan to focus on reaching out to families of young children to increase attendance.

Possible review the constitution requirements for a member of the church.

Nehemiah Group:

Cameras and laptops are working well and help a lot.

On February 19th the group will be on the range with Sergeant Philips.

Brighten the Beacon:

There will be the first Brighten the Beacon meal for this year this coming Tuesday 5:30 – 6:30.

LCW – SL Group:

Kicking off our blanket drive for disaster relief on Sunday.
Thrivent will match the funds.

LCW - MKL Group:

Prepared Christmas gifts for the shut-ins and visited to deliver them.
Prepared Gift bags for Battered Women's Shelter
Been collected food for the Rowan Helping Ministry food bank with a 1,040 pounds this year.
New officers were elected. President- Marlene Pethel, Vice-President- Jenny Roberts, Secretary- Charlotte Pacilio

Youth

Christiana will be hosting the Piedmont Mission District youth gathering on January 23rd from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. We need to plan for a meal and activities.

Prayerful Consideration of Council Matters:

The executive committee recommended Karen Goodman to replace Thomas Meade and serve his term for 2022 – 2023. The council approved this unanimously.

The executive committee recommended Laurie Ritchie for Benevolent Foundation 2022 – 2026. The council seconds this recommendation. It will be sent to the congregation for final approval in a congregational meeting on date to be determined in the next month.

Endowment Fund Luncheon on Sunday, January 23rd following church service to inform the congregation about the process and make plans moving forward.

Next meeting: **Council Meeting February 13th at 7:30 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura E. Ritchie
Council Secretary

Faith's role in love

In *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Christian author Sheila Walsh looks at the all-encompassing love that Jesus expects of his followers. He commands us to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27, ESV).

But we can't love that way without faith, Walsh writes. “I'm not living by faith if I have an answer to everything. If I understand everything God does or doesn't do, then all I need to love him with is my mind. We're called to love him with more.” That “more,” she explains, involves these paradoxes: “We love with all our heart, even when it's broken. We love with our soul, even when our humanity wrestles against our situation. We love with our strength, even when it's almost gone. We love with our mind, even when we don't understand.”

Even if God's purposes and plans don't make sense here on earth, we can heed this advice from the great preacher Charles Spurgeon: “When we cannot trace [God's] hand, we must trust his heart.”



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

Pastor: Carl M. Haynes
E-Mail: pastorcarl@charlotte.twcba.com
Council President: Richard Crouch
Council Vice-President: Jason Smith
Council Secretary: Laura Ritchie

Church Secretary: Ann Teague
Email: christiana1@charlotte.twcba.com
Church Treasurer: Laurie Ritchie
Organist/Music Director: Becky Morris

Christiana Lutheran Men:
Christiana Rowdy Seniors: Jenny Roberts

Chancel Choir
Becky Morris, Director
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir
Kathy Haynes, Director
3 p.m. Sundays

Puppet Team
Becky Morris, Director
3 p.m. Sundays

Mailed January 26, 2022

We're on the web at
www.christianalutheran.org

Join us on Facebook



WINTER SNOW SCHEDULE

If it snows or ices on Sunday morning
and the roads are too dangerous for travel,
worship services will be cancelled and
the church phone tree will be activated.

Also check our website or Facebook page
or call Pastor Carl at 704-223-1468.



LCW Group #1

will meet at 10 am on Feb. 8 in the SAH
with Debbie Eller as program leader.
Covered dish lunch at the church

Sister Lucille Lyerly LCW

will meet at 7 p.m. on February 1
in the Smith Assembly Hall
with Becky Morris, hostess.
RMH packing party Feb. 14 at 5:30 pm
Dinner follows at Christo's