



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)

An NALC Congregation that is Christ Centered, Spirit Led, Ministry Focused

Congratulations Graduates

Graduates will be honored on May 7 during the 10:30 am worship service. If you will be a 2023 spring graduate or if you have graduated within the last 12 months, **please** contact the church office ASAP!!

On the 7th, graduates are invited to don cap and gown and process as a group to their reserved seating.

Known Graduates:

- Gabe Honeycutt - Jesse Carson High School
- Ainslee Lowry - Graystone Day School
- Jackielynn Lowry - Lee's McRae College
- Carlee Lowry - Pfeiffer University




Calling all Youth

A Christian Carnival complete with “Fun-Filled Christianity” lesson, a bouncy house, carnival games and food booths is planned for Sunday, May 21 from 3—5 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall parking lot area.

Come one, come all!




FIRST Communion

Parents of children eligible for First Communion class are invited to meet with Pastor Keith immediately following the worship service on May 7.

Confirmation class will follow this meeting.

The oldest and youngest mothers present will be recognized during the announcement time before worship on Mother's Day, May 14th. They will receive one of the altar flowers given by the Fellowship Class.



Happy Mother's Day!

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Remember the days of “paying it forward” when you went to McDonald’s or another restaurant with a drive-through lane? You’d get to the window expecting to pay for your Big Mac, and the cashier would happily announce, “The guy in front of you already took care of your order.” What a feeling that was! Someone you didn’t even know paid for your lunch!

Then what did you do? The generosity you experienced became contagious! You wanted to get in on it, didn’t you? So you paid for the person behind you in line, right? It was fun to see just how long that would go on—five cars, six cars—how long could we keep it up? Sometimes the cashier would tell you how many times it happened already and what number you were in that line of spontaneous giving.

This story shows us how contagious giving can be. When we see someone we trust giving joyfully, not worrying about what they might be parting with, but instead excited about what God is doing, we then see others giving in the same way. Generosity has a ripple effect. It is exciting! But most times we need to invite others to join us! We may be denying them the opportunity to share in our joy if we never mention what God is doing and how we can be a part of it.

April Attendance

Apr. 2
Worship: 98
Sunday school: 50

Apr. 9
Worship: 130
Sunday school: 65

Apr. 16
Worship: 96
Sunday school: 59

Apr. 23
Worship: 86
Sunday school: 48

Those Who Serve in May

Reader: Marsha Beaver

Usher: Brian Barringer

Greeters: Jenny Roberts, Eddie Eller, Camille Abernathy, Nancy Huneycutt

Communion Assistants: Terry Ritchie & Vickie-Agner Keene

Lock Up: Todd Koontz

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

May Children’s Church

May 7 Becca Scarola & April Smith

May 14 Laura & Laurie Ritchie

May 21 TBA

May 28 April Smith & Diane Smith

May Birthdays

2 Clay Kirk	19 Stanton Cross
2 Penelope Sease	20 Gary Lingle
3 Sandra McKenzie	21 Charlie Shank, Jr.
3 Oretha Thompson	23 Trish Kelsoe
4 Pat Burris	24 Kimora Cooper
4 Paul Kluttz, Jr.	26 Rhett Sease
5 Katherine Diaz	27 Kaitlin Peterson
6 Robert Mead	
8 Jennifer Honeycutt	
8 Jeffrey Scott	
9 Michael Lowry	
9 Charles Shank	
16 Caroline Diaz	
17 Charlotte Diaz	
18 Kevin Coffey, III	



May 7 Joyce Cavanagh-Wood

May 14 Fellowship Class

May 21 Todd Koontz

May 28 Becky Morris



FROM THE



PASTOR

Proverbs 31:10

*The Woman who fears the Lord, an excellent wife
who can find?*

May is the Month of Mother's Day. I prefer to honor all women who are influencers of the people around them regardless of their parental or marital responsibilities. This text from Proverbs at once reveals the primary role of the woman in a marriage and sets the tone for the spiritual work of all women of influence. The high regard or honor women and man both have for God is a reflection of their faith. Consequentially, the higher the regard or fear/respect one has for God, presumably the greater the faith. The goal then of women in positions of influence; Mothers, community leaders, bosses, teachers and the like is to be not only a positive influence for those around them, but to also be an encourager of faith growth to those under their care. It is all well and good to have a day that we honor Mother's and all women for their lives and roles, but primarily we should be especially grateful for those who taught us about Jesus and encouraged us to have or showed us what an active growing faith looks like. All people of faith are to be beacons of faith to those around them. May is a good time to spend some time thanking those women who have been key to our faith growth and our first encounters with the Jesus story. So, to all those who are women of faith who influence those around you with your fear/ respect for God, thank you. You are to be commended for your life, your work, and your calling. Continue to grow your own faith as you look out for those in your sphere of influence. Be the example that God calls you to for those around you. Be a blessing to everyone. And again, thank you for your care.

Pastor Keith

LCW HAPPENINGS

LCW Miss Katherine Lyerly

will meet on Tuesday, May 2 at 10 a.m. at the church. with Charlotte Pacilio, program leader

LCW Sister Lucille

Sister Lucille Group will meet at 6 p.m. on May 2 in the Smith Assembly Hall with Sandra Cross program leader and Linda Cline, hostess.

CRS to travel to Gold Hill

Christiana Rowdy Seniors will meet at Faith Soda Shop on Tuesday, May 16 at 11:30a.m. Everyone's invited!





Who likes getting cards? Pretty much everyone. Who sends cards? This is an art that is falling by the wayside for many reasons. But that's where Gg's Card Ministry picks up. (Gail & Gavin's Card Ministry). A card expresses all the human emotions—thanks, sympathy, humor, love, we miss you, etc. Cards are like memories. Cards can be saved and cherished for years to come. A text or email just isn't the same. So, what we are asking for is names, addresses and the need (sympathy, get well, whatever the need) and we will send the card. Signed by Gg Card Ministry, Your friends/family at Christiana Lutheran Church, Sister Lucille Circle **Send request by email to Gail Koontz at: gisk81@aim.com, or text to Gail's cell phone: 704-773-4439.**

Handbells to resume rehearsals

Handbell rehearsals will resume on Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 pm. and will continue on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month.

Spring Yard & Jewelry Sale

Saturday, April 29, 7
7 a.m.—12 p.m.

Christiana Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

All proceeds to
Wallace Cancer Institute

Sponsored by
the Sweet Potato Queens

Project Light Rowan (PLR) anti Human Trafficking

Project Light is located in Rockwell and is currently the only full time anti human Trafficking Agency in Rowan County. PLR's mission is Awareness, Prevention and Reporting. We also work with victims, survivors and Safe Houses.

FOLKS WE HAVE A PROBLEM IN ROWAN WITH SEX TRAFFICKING!!!!

We have an opportunity to fight Human Trafficking in Rowan Country with Project Light.

Thank you Christiana for your support financially, volunteering and providing supplies.

Statistics:

12-14 age children average age of trafficking victims.

Youth spend more time on social media than time in school or talking to parents.

IF WE KNOW OF A PROBLEM AND DO NOTHING THEN WE ARE THE PROBLEM

See Jim, Linda or Laurie for more information.

Many families in our fellowship are currently supporting PLR. Please join us.

Council Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2023

Present:

Richard Crouch, Pres.	Banks Kluttz	Mike Keene	Kevan Barringer
Cam Ritchie, VP	Todd Koontz	Tara Beaver	Jeff Fleming
Laurie Ritchie, Treas.	Charlotte Pacilio	Karen Goodman	Linda Duncan
Brittney Ritchie, Sec.	Terry Ritchie	Harry Agner	

Also Present:

Rev. Keith Less

March Meeting Minutes: Council approved as presented.

March Treasurers Report:

March Envelope Offering: \$26,483.31
March Offering Variance: \$3,964.64
Total March Income: \$27,114.15
Total March Income Variance: \$4,267.29
YTD Envelope Offering: \$71,827.61
YTD Envelope Offering Variance: \$4,271.60
YTD Total Income: \$73,042.45
YTD Total Income Variance: \$4,501.87
Total March Expense: \$22,249.10
Total March Expense Variance: \$661.50
YTD Total Expense: \$61,680.67
YTD Total Expense Variance: \$7,051.13
Cash on Hand: \$82,586.94
Cash on Hand Money Market: \$100,000.00

Treasurer's report approved by council as presented.

March Pastor's Report:

Funeral for Rose Dedmon
Pastor's Retreat/Conference Coming Up
Time Off Mother's Day Weekend/Week

Committee Reports:

Stewardship:

Phone tree will be a budgeted item for the next year.
Motion that loose offering in September be given to Project Light. Motion approved.
Motion to give \$200 from the Pastor's Discretionary to Project Light. Motion approved.
Motion to move \$50,000 from the Cash on Hand to Money Market Account. Motion approved.

Christian Ed:

Rally Day and the Committee Fair to be together on August 20th.
VBS in July.
Easter Program went well.

Property:

Kevin and Brian Barringer donated mulch for clean-up day.
Clean-up day successful.

Worship:

Baptismal font was repaired.
Praise to those who decorated for Easter and those that helped with the Living Last Supper.

Social Ministry:

Served at RHM Shelter March 24th and 25th.
Baby Bottle Campaign in May.

Fellowship:

Provided 3 Lenten meals in March with Chili Cookoff coordinated by United in Christ donations to BTB.
Chicken purchased for covered dish meal.
Provided food for Rose Dedmon's celebration of life.

Membership Review:

Two regular visitors every week with additional visitors attending, good non-member attendance.

Nehemiah Group:

Covered shelter prototypes presented. Passed to Brighten the Beacon.
First Saturday of May will be a training day.
Jay Goodman has been providing security to Preschool.

Landscape:

Clean-up day was successful.

Cemetery:

Looking to put in two new trees near Pastor Plaque in cemetery and looking to update memorial plaque.

Brighten the Beacon:

Meeting Tuesday the 18th at 6 pm.
Continuing to update the Education Building.
Nehemiah group station and covered shelter.

Youth:

Bible-Based Bowling was successful. Thanks to Todd Koontz for driving the bus and to Terry Ritchie for providing security.

April Event – 23rd from 3 to 5– Reels, Wheels, and Feels
NALC Youth Retreat Interest Meeting Sunday April 30th
Long Term Planning Meeting

LCW SLC Group:

Rally Day and Committee Fair
Supporting Gail Koontz's Card Ministry

LCW MKL Group:

Easter bags and cards for shut-ins.
Wash Cloth Rabbits and Bears for shut-ins and children.
Treat bags for children.

CRS Group:

Next meeting 18th at 11:30 at East Coast Wings.

Bus:

Tags updated.
Electrical issue to be fixed on door and battery.
New keys for backdoor made, looking to have keys for the gas cap made.

Preschool:

May 6th the Preschool will display artwork at Arts in the Park in Granite.
April 26th – Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dads before Patterson Farms fieldtrip.
Looking at door updates and key code locks and considering safe rooms and stronger doors.
Field Day May 19th

Pastoral Call:

Continuing to work on profile and getting close to finalization.
Planning to add graphics and visuals to make the profile stand out. Profile video near completion as well.
David will update the congregation during announcements this week.

Executive Committee Item:

Motion to approve new Vision Statement “Jesus making a difference in the world through our lives.” Motion approved.

Other Council Matters:

Blood Drive today, Madeline has graciously taken over coordinating the Blood Drives.

May Lock-Up, Devotions, and Closing Prayer: Todd Koontz

Respectfully Submitted,
Brittney Ritchie, Council Secretary

Baby Bottle Campaign announced

The baby bottle campaign for Life Choices Rowan will begin on Mother's Day, May 14th and will continue until Father's Day, June 18th. Baby bottles will be given out on May 14^h for you to fill with your loose change or check. Bottles will need to be returned to Christiana by June 18th. Please be in prayer for the staff at Life Choices Rowan, their clients and how the Lord will lead you to donate to this awesome organization.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:13-14.

Haiti Missions and Christiana Lutheran Church

Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink?

Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me...

Our church takes the words of Matthew 25 to heart. The children of Haiti thank you for the food and the water that your gifts help provide.



Piedmont East Mission District

Spring Mission Event Friday, May 5 & Saturday May 6 Miller's Lutheran Church Hickory NC

On Friday night delegates will hear from 9 Mission Partners (Awakening Lives to World Mission, Carolinas Lutheran Men, Carolinas Lutheran Women, India Transformed, Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries, Lutheran World Relief, Malawi Orphan Care Project, NALC Disaster Response, and SON Network). EVERYONE IN YOUR CONGREGATION IS WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS EVENT, even if they do not plan to attend on Saturday. There is no registration fee for the Friday night event BUT WE STILL NEED YOU TO REGISTER. On Saturday, we will deal with the business of the Convocation.

On Saturday at the Convocation, the Mission District will meet to nominate and elect one lay person to the regional council and a new dean.



In memory of Rose Dedmon

To the Music Fund by Charlotte & Nick Pacilio
To the Nehemiah Group by LaVaughn Beaver
To Christiana Preschool by Frances Peeler
To Brighten the Beacon by Doris Ritchie, Kevan Barringer

To the Endowment Fund by Marlene Zieverink
To the Memorial Fund by Jeff & Angie Fleming, Mike & Kate Beretsky, Gordon Hurley & Jeff Hurley, Bobby Barringer, Anita Davis, John Rink Ann Weatherford, Salisbury Animal Hospital, Stephen & Reba Rumble, Elliot Mathis, Glenn & Sue Wall, Kevin & Susan Holland, CF Parks, Inc., Ronnie & Janis Smith, Kay Abernathy, Tom & Judy Childress, Eddie & Debbie Eller

In memory of Dewey Preslar

To the Nehemiah Group by LaVaughn Beaver
To the Memorial Fund by Mike & Kate Beretsky
To the Endowment Fund by Madeline Zieverink
To BTB by Doris Ritchie, Kevan Barringer

In honor of Jay Goodman

To the Nehemiah Group by Madeline Zieverink

Call Committee Updates as of 4/15/2023

The Call Committee continues to meet every other Thursday, working diligently to complete the development of both the written and video profiles. Prior to discussing next steps, Dale Beaver lead us through Bible study to prepare our heads and hearts for discussing our actions to identify the pastor God is calling to Christiana.

We should complete the written profile by the end of April with the video profile being completed shortly after that. We will share both profiles with our congregation shortly after completing them. The profiles will then be forwarded to Pastor Shelly Schultz for review and posting on the NALC website.

Steps taken after the profile is completed:

Profile added to list of vacancies

Start receiving applications, then schedule and conducting interviews with potential pastors seeking a calling at Christiana

During this time Ann continues to print and share the characteristics as:

flyers in our weekly bulletins
part of our weekly updates
part of our monthly newsletter

Other items that have been reviewed and updated as part of the journey to call our new pastor include:

Updating Christiana's Mission statement; Christ Center, Spirit Led, Ministry Focused.

Foundational characteristics that guide us on what we work to accomplish and be at Christiana every day

Updating Christiana's Vision Statement; see below;

Foundational characters that guide us toward what we want to become



Working to update Christiana's brochure/flyer to share with our community, visitor and others about God's work at Christiana. This should be rolled out in the next couple of weeks.

A continued special thanks to Jim and Linda Duncan and the prayer team for the foundational work that they have done and continue to do preparing our congregation for our new pastor by leading our prayer team. 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 provide.

God's peace!

David Preslar <><

Call Committee Chair



Pray for Christiana's NEW PASTOR to Model These Traits

The Call Committee gleaned these TOP 5 characteristics from the Congregational Workshop, Members' Survey and Prayer Team. They are listed here in order of importance.

Let's join together in prayer that our new pastor is:

LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Christ shines through in their words and actions.
Has no illusions about their own sinful heart.
Seeks Godly wisdom over human wisdom.

GROUNDED IN SCRIPTURE

Believes/teaches the Bible as written (orthodox).
Preaches the Gospel (our need for a Savior).
Seeks the Word for answers, decisions, and problems.
NALC core values.

COMPASSIONATE

Loves people and actively cares for them.
Has a shepherd's heart.

EVANGELISTIC

Has a heart for winning souls to Christ and developing disciples.

RELATIONAL

Personable (likeable, good listener, humble, sense of humor).
Relates well from the pulpit, in small groups and one-on-one.
Deeply engaged in the life of the church.
A natural leader.

Pastoral Call Committee Christiana Lutheran Church



Wow we are in May already! The Prayer Team has truly been blessed since our first gathering last summer. The team grows monthly and is full of prayer warriors. I am honored to be counted with this team.

Of course we were "created" to pray for our new pastor and we are daily praying for our pastor. And we daily pray for the needs of our fellowship, church leaders and special needs. God is so good!

We have room for more prayer warriors and would love to have you join us and check us out. We usually meet right after the BTB meal.

Please read the weekly prayer in the bulletin every day. Hope to see you soon.

Brighten the Beacon meal is Tuesday May 9

The next Brighten the Beacon Meal will be on Tuesday, May 9th from 5:30 to 6:30 sponsored by the prayer team.

Menu will be chicken tetrazzini, mac & cheese, salad, garlic bread, beverage & dessert.

Cost is \$10 per person.

Prayer team will meet following the meal.

Remember those in nursing homes

Liberty Commons:

Elizabeth Ritchie

Trinity Oaks:

Patti Holshouser
Ann Meacham

Terra Bella

Betty Rose Witty

The Laurels

Don Dedmon



May Scripture Lessons

5th Sunday of Easter, May 7

Acts 6:1-9, 7:2a, 51-60

Psalm 146

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

6th Sunday of Easter, May 14

Acts 17:16-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

The Ascension of our Lord, May 18

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

7th Sunday of Easter, May 21

Acts 1:12-16

Psalm 68:1-10

1 Peter 4:12-19

John 17:1-11

Pentecost Sunday, May 28

Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 25:1-15

Acts 2:1-21

John 7:37-39

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Sympathy is extended to David Preslar and family upon the death of his father, Dewey Preslar, Sr.

Congratulations to Jay & Karen Goodman whose grandson, Boston Reese Burton was born April 12.

Carmen Pethel, chest pain. Diane Smith's cousin, Deanna Shue, cancer returned. Tracy & Sheri Trexler, lost home & pets in fire. Pastor Bruce Sheeks, hospitalized with blood clot. Earlene Ritchie's sisters, Dottie McLaurin, metastatic cancer and Theresa, tumor on ear nerve; some hearing loss. Families of those affected by gun violence. Dee Smith, stent removed. Dianne Hall's husband, Doc. Sherry Hurst, heart surgery. Chris Coletta, terminal cancer. Frances Basinger, at home. Teresa McKinney's husband, esophageal cancer. Bonnie Sechler, at son's; under treatment. Vickie Hill. Scott Hayes, prayers for recovery. Jenny Roberts, ALS. Becky Preslar's father, at home and receiving physical therapy. Madeline's sister-in-law, at home. Ron & Wanda Smith's grandson, Rex, foot improving. Ricky Cross, at home. Linda Cline's neighbor, Ann Mitchell, tests. Kay Abernathy, at home. Betty Rose Witty, Terra Bella. Don Dedmon, The Laurels. Patti Holshouser, Ann Meacham, TOHAR. Elizabeth Ritchie, Liberty Commons. Vaughn Hatley, immunotherapy. Kathie Albright, neck and shoulder pain; her friend Chris McRady, improved.



6190 US Hwy 52
Salisbury NC 28146
Address Service Requested

Mailed April 26, 2023

Phone: 704-279-4655
Fax: 704-279-1595

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

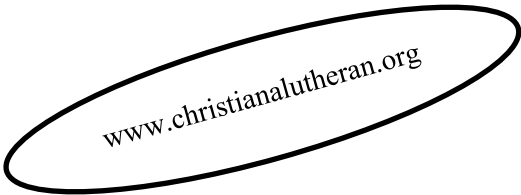
Council President: Richard Crouch
Council Vice-President: Cam Ritchie
Council Secretary: Brittney Ritchie

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

Chancel Choir
Becky Morris, Director
Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Handbell Choir
Marsha Beaver, Director
May 7 & 14 at 4 pm

Puppet Team
Becky Morris, Director
Dates & Time TBA



Join us on Facebook



Making summer plans for your children? Carolinas Mission Region is sponsoring SOLID ROCK DAY CAMP June 19-23 at Faith Lutheran Church. Children currently in grades K-5 are invited to an exciting week of Bible stories, songs, crafts, games, and more! Counselors from throughout Carolinas Mission Region will lead activities from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily. Volunteers from Faith Lutheran will provide free child care from 7:30-9:00 and 4:00-5:00. CHILDREN FROM AREA CONGREGATIONS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Visit this website for more information and to access the registration link: faithlutheran-faithnc.com/2023-solid-rock-day-camp/

• • • • •
• **All Christiana Scholarships** •
• **will be presented during the** •
• **10:30 a.m. worship service** •
• **on May 21.** •
•  •
• • • • •

Thank you to all who helped with the recent Red Cross Blood Drive. We collected 38 units – 8 more than was collected in January. This was a group effort and it would not have been successful without everyone's help and support. We had a 1st time donor who is member of our church family! Our next Blood Drive is Sunday, August 13th.