



*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  
443-480-3075

An NALC Congregation that is Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused

## 2023 Mid-Week Lenten and Holy Week Services

**Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

Lenten Supper at 6:30 pm  
Lenten Service at 7:00 pm  
Smith Assembly Hall

**April 6** Living Last Super 7:00 pm

**April 7** Good Friday Service 7:00 pm

**Sunday, April 9**

Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.  
Breakfast  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Celebration of the Resurrection 10:30 a.m.



## Living Last Supper to be presented

On Maundy Thursday, April 6, the choir and drama cast (TBA) will once again present The Living Last Supper in the sanctuary.

The stage and set construction will be led by Kent Cozart and Mike Keene, and take place on Palm Sunday afternoon, April 2. Time TBA

Dress Rehearsals for choir, actors and crew will take place at 7:00 on Sunday evening April 2 and Wednesday evening April 5.

Choir practice moves to 5:00 pm Wednesdays.

Living Last Supper music rehearsals are at 6:00 pm Wednesdays.

All Sundays in March: Living Last Supper drama rehearsal in Smith Assembly Hall after church.



LIVING LAST SUPPER

## February Attendance

### Feb. 5

Sunday School: 39  
Worship: 85

### Feb. 12

Sunday School: N/A  
Worship: 77

### Feb. 19

Sunday School: 42  
Worship: 90

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT THE WHY, HOW AND WHAT OF GIVING

So often I have heard members of congregations ask “How much should I give?” Luke 6:38 says, “...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.”

In my younger days I heard many a sermon telling me that if I wanted to be blessed, then I should give lots of money to the preacher or church doing the asking. It was much like a barter system for the blessings of God. “God, I give to you, and you give back to me.” What was most often missing was a heart for Jesus. My thinking is this: If Jesus has our hearts, then would not giving flow naturally? Hopefully, we give for all that God has given and done for us.

All we have comes from God. It would be foolish to think we created this wealth independently of God. I believe there is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. There is only the person who refuses to recognize all that they have has come from God’s blessings. Everything I have, everything I am and everything I ever will be all came from God and belongs to God. We give to God and to others only what God has already given us.

## Those Who Serve in March

**Reader:** Dale Beaver

**Usher:** Brian Barringer

**Greeter:** Jenny Roberts, Eddie Eller, Linda Crouch, Shelby Harwood

**Communion Assistants:** Richard & Linda Crouch

**Lock Up:** Jeff Fleming

**Altar Guild:** Carmen Pethel, Shelby Harwood, Earlene Ritchie, Brittney Ritchie

**Intercessory Prayers:** Robin Adkins

### Children’s Church

**March 5** Becca Scarola & April Smith

**March 12** Debbie & Eddie Eller

**March 19** April Smith & Diane Smith

**March 26** Marsha & Dale Beaver

## March Birthdays

2 Frances Basinger	28 Mark Roberts
2 Shelby Harwood	31 Amy Shank
5 Jan Pruette	
10 Don Dedmon	
10 Jim Duncan	
12 Richard Crouch	
15 Matthew Preslar	
16 Donald Lyerly	
18 Patti Holshouser	
19 Barbara Shank	
20 Carlee Lowry	
21 Gloria Cross	
21 Nick Pacilio	
22 Mike Beretsky	
25 James Swanner Jr.	

happy  
birthday

## LCW HAPPENINGS

**LCW Miss Katherine Lyerly**  
will meet on Tuesday, March 7 at 10 a.m.  
with Debbie Eller, program leader and hostess

**LCW Sister Lucille**  
Sister Lucille Group will meet at 6 p.m. on March 7  
in the Smith Assembly Hall with Brittney Ritchie,  
program leader and Earlene Ritchie, hostess

RHM Packing party is March 9 at 5:30 pm

## Scholarships Available Through Christiana in 2023

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](http://www.christianalutheran.org). If you have any questions or if you need assistance in accessing the information, please contact either Brian Barringer, chairperson of the 2023 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 24, 2023.** 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.

## Jesus answers our uncertainties

Thomas didn't believe the other disciples when they said Jesus had risen. The two travelers to Emmaus despaired over Jesus' death, uncertain what might come next.

During our life of faith, we all face questions, doubts and despair. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado says Jesus' responses to us echo his responses to the disciples. His answer to our doubt is the same as with Thomas: "Touch my body" — which we do every time we connect with the church (the body of Christ), wounds and all. As with the Emmaus disciples, Jesus urges us to ponder his story found in Scripture — which we do through Bible reading and study. Today, just as long ago, Jesus meets his followers — in his body, in his Word — and strengthens our faith.



*“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe”*

*—Proverbs 18:10*

Where do you go or who do you call when there is a problem or a crisis? The answer to that question says a lot about who or what you put your trust in. When my children were young and something upset or frightened them, they called my wife or myself. They trusted us to deal with whatever the problem was. As they got older the problems became more complex, but they still called us for advice or comfort depending on what was needed.

God as our Father is very engaged and willing to listen to our problems, hurts, and disappointments. Like most grown children, we try and handle things ourselves whenever we can with mixed results. We like to think we are in control and can manage just fine. However, that is not the relationship God fought for when He sent Jesus to cover our sins and re-forge the broken relationship between Himself and the world. He is an active participant in the lives of His children and is willing and able to guide and protect us. We must be willing to go to Him with our concerns and cares. The good news is that He can and does offer what He promises.

So, the question for us is, do we trust God enough to go to Him? It is a good question and one that should be considered often. Do I trust God in this? Do I really believe His promise of aid? Take some time during this Lenten season meditating on your relationship with God and just how comfortable you are with trusting Him in all things.

*Pastor Keith*

## **2023 Blood Drive Update**

As the new coordinator of the Red Cross Blood Drives, I wanted to let the congregation know the dates for rest of the 2023. We will host blood drive on these Sundays - 12:00 to 4:30pm:

**April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**August 13<sup>th</sup>**

**November 19<sup>th</sup>**

I will be glad to schedule your appointment – just contact me at 704/213-4181 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://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

## **Thoughts from the Prayer Team**

On behalf of the Prayer Team we thank all who are praying with us for our new pastor. This is an exciting time for Christiana and all of us can and should be on board with the process of calling our pastor.

The call committee is extremely dedicated to this process and we all need to daily lift them up in prayer.

Matthew 17:20 TLB

[20] "Because of your little faith," Jesus told them. "For if you had faith even as small as a tiny mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move!' and it would go far away. Nothing would be impossible.

Are “WE” saying, if we had the faith of a tiny mustard seed we could even move a mountain?

Absolutely not! Jesus said it!!!! We must have faith.

Let’s all ramp up our prayers for our pastor and all the needs of our church and watch the mountains move and clear the way.

Jim and Linda

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Rose Dedmon hospitalized, back at Laurels. Patti Holshouser, hospitalized, back at TOHAR. Gloria Cross, ill. Barbara Crouch, anemia. Betty Weant, COVID. Bonnie Sechler, at son's; continuing treatments. Charlotte Pacilio's daughter, Vickie Hill, home; continued seizures. Dan & Mar Payne, health issues. Dee Smith, recovering from surgery at home, Marsha Beaver, Karen Goodman, Emma Apple, all recovering from surgery. Emma Scott, broken ankle. Scott Hayes, prayers for recovery. Jenny Roberts, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). Becky Preslar's father, Trinity Place for rehab. Ron & Wanda Smith's grandson, Rex, injured foot. Madeline's sister-in-law, at home. Ricky Cross, at home. Betty Rose Witty, with daughter. Linda Cline's neighbor, Ann Mitchell, tests. Kay Abernathy, at home. Don & Rose Dedmon, rm. 405, The Laurels of Salisbury. Patti Holshouser, Ann Meacham, Cardell Gibson, TOHAR. Elizabeth Ritchie, Liberty Commons. Vaughn Hatley, immunotherapy. Kathie Albright, new neck and shoulder pain; her friend Maxine Campbell, multiple health issues.



## Scripture Lessons for March

### 2nd Sunday in Lent, March 5

Genesis 12:1-9  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-8, 13-17  
John 3:1-17

### 3rd Sunday in Lent, March 12

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95: 1-9  
Romans 5:1-8  
John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42)

### 4th Sunday in Lent, March 19

Isaiah 42:14-21  
Psalm 142  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

### 5th Sunday in Lent, March 26

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:1-11  
John 1:1-45 (46-53)

## Gifts to our church

**To Brighten the Beacon** in honor of Dale Beaver, Joyce Cavanagh-Wood, Ron Smith & Todd Koontz by Becky Morris, Madeline Zieverink, LaVaughn Beaver, Marlene Pethel, Debbie & Eddie Eller, Jay & Karen Goodman, Mike & Vickie Keene, Emma & David Apple, Cam & Laurie Ritchie

**To Brighten the Beacon** in honor of Lynda Pethel by Eddie & Debbie Eller

**To Brighten the Beacon** in honor of Terry Connell & Eddie Eller by Nick & Charlotte Pacilio

**To the Memorial Fund** in memory of Eston Doyle by Earl & Shirley Gray, Mike & Vickie Keene.

Easter Lily order information will be available later in March and an order form will be included in the April newsletter.



**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 12, 2023**

**Present:**

Richard Crouch, Pres.      Harry Agner  
Cam Ritchie, V Pres.      Jeff Fleming  
Brittney Ritchie, Sec.      Banks Kluttz  
Laurie Ritchie, Treas.      Todd Koontz  
   Tara Beaver

**Also present:**

Charlotte Pacilio  
Terry Ritchie      Pr. Keith Less  
Linda Duncan  
Mike Keene

**Absent:**

Karen Goodman  
Kevan Barringer

**Items of Business:**

- January Meeting Minutes:
  - o Council approved as presented.

**· January Treasurers Report:**

- o January Envelope Offering: \$24,809.16
- o January Offering Variance: \$2,290.49
- o Total January Income: \$25,098.16
- o Total January Income Variance: \$2,251.30
- o YTD Envelope Offering: 24,809.16
- o YTD Envelope Offering Variance: 2,290.49
- o YTD Total Income: \$25,098.16
- o YTD Total Income Variance: \$2,251.30
- o Total January Expense: \$19,346.95
- o Total January Expense Variance: \$3,563.65
- o YTD Total Expense: \$19,346.95
- o YTD Total Expense Variance: \$3,563.65
- o Cash on Hand: \$76,356.76
- o Cash on Hand Money Market: \$100,000.00

**Year End Treasurers Report 2022:**

- Sales tax refund applied for 2021 and working on 2022
- Books reviewed for 2021 and 2022.
- Year-end financial report finalized.
- Sound system is paid off.
- Treasurer's report approved by council as presented.

**January Pastor's Report:**

- Lent –
  - Ash Wednesday upstairs (no dinner)
  - Midweek services to be run like the Advent services.
  - Pleased with progress of Revelation study and those that are attending or tuning in.
  - Pastor's report approved by council as presented.

**Executive Committee Items:**

- Motion to approve Madeline Zieverink as coordinator of the Blood Drives. Motion approved by council.
- Motion to approve Jim Duncan as delegate for NALC National Convention. Motion approved by council.
- Motion to approve new mission statement: Christ Centered – Spirit Led – Ministry Focused. Motion approved by council.

**Committee Reports:**

- Stewardship:
  - Request that members use the church credit card for purchases for the church so that sales tax can be returned.
  - Motion made for the Lenten loose offering to go to a dedicated account for Christiana Creative Preschool to provide assistance to student families (tuition, snacks, field trips). Motion approved by council.
  - New Pastor Package Recommendation from Stewardship to go to Call Committee.
- Christian Ed:
  - Had a meeting to discuss material for the coming year, and planning for a 3-day program for VBS in July.

- Property:
  - Parsonage Cleanup and Prep – Current family has vacated. Carpets have been cleaned. Walls to be cleaned up. Re-doing the bathroom floors. Focusing on making the Parsonage presentable before seeking new pastor. Collected funds from rent will be used later to refurbish based on new pastor’s preferences.
  - Motion to approve up \$1,500 to be spent out of parsonage rental funds to clean up the parsonage. Motion approved by council.
  
- Worship:
  - Ash Wednesday – Service February 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Wednesday Lenten Services with light meals in Smith Assembly Hall.
  - Request for Council to sponsor sunrise service meal – Harry Agner to check with men’s group for sponsorship funds.
  - LaVaughn to continue as Worship Committee Chair.
  - Seeking to refurbish Baptismal Font. Having someone look at it to get a price estimate.
  - LaVaughn taking on production of Communion Wine.
  
- Social Ministry:
  - 170 winter items were collected for Rowan Helping Ministries on the Angel Tree
  - Souper Bowl for Caring – February 12<sup>th</sup>
  
- Evangelism:
  - Meeting on Feb. 23 at 5 pm, to plan for the year. Looking for new members, any interested contact Brittney Ritchie.
  
- Landscape: Spring Workday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.
  
- Membership Review: Membership survey sent out to absent members. Some were returned and to be reviewed.
  
- Cemetery: Looking into getting the pastor plaque updated.
  
- LCW – SL Group: Continuing work on the pastor’s study. Close to completion.
  
- LCW - MKL Group:
  - Planned out projects: Collecting razors for the nursing home and putting together bags for women at the battered women’s shelter.
  - Purchased a food cart for the kitchen in the Smith Hall.
  
- CRS: Next meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup> at Cracker Barrel.
  
- Youth: Youth Sunday went well and very proud of the youth.
  
- Bus:
  - To be driven to check on maintenance.
  - Check-in with drivers
  
- Preschool: Enrollment high. Potential waiting list for next year.
  
- Pastoral Call Committee:
  - New mission statement presented to council. See details under Executive Committee notes.
  - Completed a video outline to be put with the congregational profile.
  - Continuing to work on the profile. Close to completion but will need to go through the editing process.
  - Temple Talks on Pastor Characteristics going well and to continue over the next couple weeks.
  
- Other Council Matters:
  - Discussion of continuing adjustments on sound system, with request to seek assistance if further issues.
  - Council Brainstorming Session

March Lock-Up, Devotions, & Closing Prayer: Jeff Fleming. Next Meeting: March 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am in the fellowship hall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brittney Ritchie

## **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.

### **GROUNDING 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 (likable, 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

6190 US Hwy 52  
Salisbury NC 28146  
Return Service Requested

Mailed February 22, 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](mailto: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  
Now on break

Puppet Team  
Becky Morris, Director  
Sundays after Confirmation



Join us on Facebook



**Daylight Saving  
Time begins  
March 12**



Dear friends at Christiana,  
We appreciate your donation of children's pajamas for our shelter children.

Thank you for caring for our children with love and hope. We had lots of big smiles when sharing those PJs!

Christiana Rary, executive director  
Family Crisis Council

## Congregational Concerns

### The Laurels:

Don & **Rose Dedmon**

### Liberty Commons:

Elizabeth Ritchie

### Trinity Oaks:

Cardell Gibson  
Patti Holshouser  
Ann Meacham

