

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)

Just Dance/Blackout Night

Date: Saturday February 25th 5 - 7 p.m.

Location: Smith Assembly Hall

Activities: "Praising God in All We Do"

Lesson

Dance, Blackout Lights

Board Games, Food

All Youth invited!



Schedule

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m.

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

Lenten Supper at 6:30 pm

Lenten Service at 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

April 6 Maundy Thursday Service 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.

Let's tackle hunger on Feb. 12

It's time for Souper Bowl Sunday. On February 12th funds will be collected for the food pantry at Rowan Helping Ministries. Your offerings will be received 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 12th a "Souper Sunday" at Christiana Lutheran Church.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

Pay GOD First

That's all GOD is asking us to do. There will be more than enough to do anything everything you want to do.

Just think: 10% of all you have is what GOD wants. 10% of a dollar is only one dime...10 cents. In my day 10 cents would buy one hotdog and a Coke. A candy bar and a pack of gum. So little GOD is asking for us.

Your money and possessions own you if you think that wealth can do something for you that GOD cannot do.

When we die, our hands will be empty. Remember, the more you give, the more you will receive.

February Children's Church

Feb. 5 Becca Scarola & April Smith

Feb. 12 Robin Agner & Marlene Pethel

Feb. 19 Laurie & Laura Ritchie

Feb. 26 Becky Morris

Worship Support in February

Reader: Becky Morris

Usher: Brian Barringer

Greeter: Jenny Roberts, Eddie Eller, Angie Fleming, Jeff Fleming

Communion Assistants: Karen Goodman & Dale Beaver

Lock Up: Mike Keene

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

January Attendance

January 1

Sunday School: 45
Worship: 79

January 8

Sunday School: 40
Worship: 91

January 15

Sunday School: 50
Worship: 90

January 22

Sunday School: 59
Worship: 88

February Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Rick Roper | 20 Eric Reavis |
| 2 Emma Scott | 21 Judy Stoner |
| 3 Chloe Shank | 25 Tommy Burriss |
| 5 Sierra Braun | 25 Karen Goodman |
| 7 Frances Peeler | 25 Landon Coffey |
| 7 Caroline Barnes | 26 Gracin Wyrick |
| 8 Jarrett Kluttz | 27 Jill Shank |
| 14 Lucas Coffey | |
| 18 Angie Fleming | |
| 19 Debbie Eller | |
| 19 Rhonda Honeycutt | |
| 19 T J Woods | |



February Altar Flowers

Feb. 5

Feb. 12

Feb. 19 Jay Goodman
Pedestal—Brian Barringer

Feb. 26 *Lent, no flowers*

Please see Vickie Keene to sign up for altar flowers

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. 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.

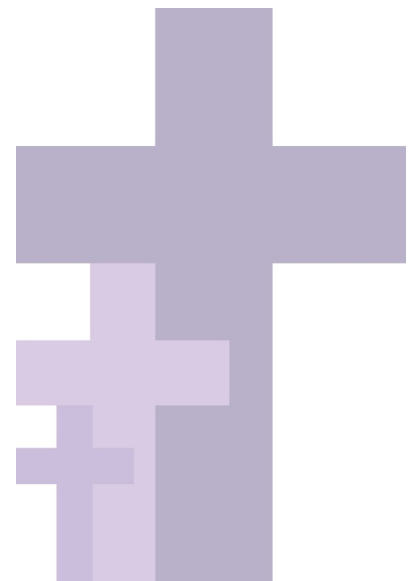
Hubert & Blanche Ritchie Scholarship College (2)

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.

“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.”

—Sally Koch



FROM THE



PASTOR

New year, new me. I know that the previous statement is rather trite and gets repeated often. However, it is appropriate for the life of the Christian. Every day we get the opportunity to embrace our Baptisms and begin again. Every day is like a new year or a new life. We have the choice to fully embrace the new life we are given and live in the way God redeems for. If we are aware of this newness, life becomes something much more exciting and possible. If we don't, we are left with the awareness that something is not quite finished in us. We can even begin to think that somehow, we are incomplete or that there is something about us that God and His mercy can't touch. This is dangerous thinking and can give the enemy a foothold that leads to greater problems and a distrust of God and His word. When we come clean and seek what God so willingly offers, we are given a new chance, a new beginning to live as God calls us. It is a richer and fuller existence. Rejoice is a word often used at this time of year in various Bible passages to describe the plan that God created for all of humanity to be a part of. There are too many to quote just one in particular. I urge you to find one that has personal appeal and meaning for you and make it your verse for the year. Rejoice and be glad. Our salvation has come and it has daily consequences. Happy New Year and happy new beginnings.

Pastor Keith



DATE:
Saturday, February 4th

TIME:
10-11AM

WHERE:
**West Rowan High School
auditorium**

Christiana Rowdy Seniors will meet at
11:30 a.m. on
Tuesday,
February 21
at the Salisbury
Cracker Barrel.



Calling All Seniors!

Thank you!

The members of Christiana would like to thank Joe and Denise Koehn for their many years of coordinating the Red Cross Blood Drive at Christiana. We have been blessed to have two members who have organized and volunteered for many years to make sure the Blood Drive always runs smoothly. They have recruited many volunteers and donors over the years and we now have a core group of donors, including Church members that come to each drive.

Madeline Zieverink (Zee) has agreed to coordinate the future Blood Drive for Christiana. She will keep membership updated on dates of all future blood drives.

Gifts to our Church

To the Nehemiah Group in honor of Jay & Karen Goodman by Madeline Zieverink

To the Building Fund in memory of Nellie Trexler by Kenneth Trexler

To the Endowment Fund in honor of Terry Connell by Madeline Zieverink

To Brighten the Beacon

In honor of Jason Smith by Eileen Full

In honor of Terry Connell by Mike & Vickie Keene

In memory of Eston Doyle by LaVaughn Beaver, Mike & Kate Beretsky

In memory of Tommy Cook by Carl & Kathy Haynes

To the Memorial Fund

In memory of Eston Doyle by Dale & Marsha Beaver, Robert Barringer

In memory of Albert Thomas, Callie Jo Shirley, Carl Thomas, Jr., Junius Thomas by Patricia & Kaitlin Pena

February Scripture Lessons

5th Sunday after Epiphany, February 5

Isaiah 53:3-9a

Psalms 112:1-9

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

6th Sunday after Epiphany, February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Transfiguration Sunday, February 19

Exodus 24:8-18

Psalms 2:6-12

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday, February 22

Joel 2:12-19

Psalms 51:1-13 (14-19)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent, February 26

Genesis 3:1-21

Psalms 32:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Greetings friends,

Happy New Year!

Thank you for your generous gift in support of our kids. You are making a difference for them.

Thank you and God bless you.

Blessings,

Tim Unsinn

Senior Development Officer

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

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 for your continued support.

Chaplain Michael Taylor

Rowan County Sheriff's Department

Dear friends,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your generous Christmas gift. I consider each of you my friend and wish you all a most blessed 2023.

Sincerely,

Ann Teague

Congregational Concerns

Liberty Commons:

Elizabeth Ritchie

Trinity Oaks:

Cardell Gibson

Patti Holshouser

Ann Meacham

The Laurels:

Don & Rose Dedmon



Council Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2023

Present

Also Present

Richard Crouch, President	Karen Goodman	Kevan Barringer	Charlotte Pacilio	Interim Pastor Keith Less
Cam Ritchie V. President	Terry Ritchie	Banks Kluttz	Linda Duncan	
Brittney Ritchie, Secretary	Harry Agner	Todd Koontz	Tara Beaver	
Laurie Ritchie, Treasurer	Jeff Fleming	Mike Keene		

Items of Business:

December Meeting Minutes:
Council approved as presented.

December Treasurers Report:

December Envelope Offering: \$27,990.18
December Offering Variance: \$5,266.02
Total December Income: \$28,368.68
Total December Income Variance: \$5234.10
YTD Envelope Offering: \$267,150.41
YTD Envelope Offering Variance: \$5,000.00
YTD Total Income: \$270,538.16
YTD Total Income Variance: \$7,076.76
Total December Expense: \$19,690.18
Total December Expense Variance: \$3,444.50
YTD Total Expense: \$224,742.89
YTD Total Expense Variance: \$52,872.04
Cash on Hand: \$157,135.62
Cash on Hand Money Market: \$100,000.00
Expense Notes:

Altar Guild -Over Budget by \$307.74
Devotional Material- Over Budget by \$150.05
Sub Organist- Over Budget by \$360.00
Supply Pastor- Over Budget by \$1245.52
Custodial Supplies – Over Budget by \$78.64
Electricity- Over Budget by \$1,650.05
Garbage Service Over Budget by \$227.85
Water-Sewer Over budget by \$144.48
Nehemiah Group- Over budget by \$240.63

Designated Funds:

Interest earned: \$114.51
December contributions to BTB: \$1,005.00

Council approved as presented.

Motion to zero out NALC disaster relief, Easter Lily, and Trunk-or-Treat account funds using undesignated funds. Motion approved.

December Pastor's Report:

Verbal report given.

Will begin another round of visiting the shut-ins this month after finishing rounds from last month.

Grateful for the opportunity to choose the Christmas Eve offering charity to go to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch of Minot, North Dakota.

Bible study on Revelation to begin Monday, January 9th.

Approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship:

Copyrights- working to put it all on one plan.

A motion made for a \$5000 donation received that was designated to go to either the endowment fund or fellowship hall to be allocated to the endowment fund. Council approved.

Motion for reimbursement of \$203 for a puppet team purchase, with funds coming out of the music fund line item for the 2023 annual budget. Council approved.

Christian Ed:

Revelation bible study begins Monday, January 9th.

Evangelism:

Meeting soon to plan for 2023.

Landscape:

Looking to set a spring work date for the outside and inside of the church sometime after Easter.

Membership Review:

Surveys for members no longer attending to go out this month.

Nehemiah Group:

Lost two members and three-year schedule has been mapped out.

LCW – SL Group:

Schedules set

Continuing work with RHM this year

Continued work on refurbishing Pastor's Study

LCW - MKL Group:

Motion for approval for a St. Jude's Hospital fundraiser meal on Feb. 12th after worship. Tentatively approved (with tentative loose offering for that Sunday) if there are no scheduling conflicts.

Working on yearly calendar.

BTB meal for January 10th.

CRS:

Met at Slice of Heaven on January 2nd.

Next meeting Jan 17th at Cagney's at 11:30 am.

Pastoral Call Committee:

Posters and inserts distributed with top five characteristics we are looking for in a Pastor. Asking for prayers for our new pastor to have those traits.

Continuing work on congregational profile.

Next meeting on Jan. 12th

Other Council Matters:

Discussion of parking issues with large events. Sent to BTB committee for research.

February Lock-Up, Devotions, & Closing Prayer: Mike Keene

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 12th at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Brittney Ritchie, Council Secretary

Prayer Team monthly update

It is sooooo exciting to pray and witness the Good Lord answering the prayers and petitions of the prayer team.

They are such a dedicated group of prayer warriors.

The group is growing every month and it is exciting to have folks join in on our prayer mission.

You said, "What's the mission?" Well, we are praying for our new pastor. And that's not all. We are lifting up the needs of the church body and all that Christiana is involved with in the community and abroad.

It would be neat if we had some youth join us regularly. We don't care how old or young a person happens to be.

We just want all folks that have a desire to join this team to feel welcome.

Well, that's it from us. Hopefully we will see you soon at our monthly meeting.

Jim Duncan

2022 Report of the Council President

Christiana has been through many changes since Linda and I joined the church 19 years ago, but none more impactful than what we experienced in 2022.

It began in February when the long-time preschool director announced she was retiring in May. Seeing the need to make the school a *direct ministry* of Christiana, Laurie Ritchie offered to be the director and kicked off the brand-new Christiana Creative Preschool in August. Laurie updated the curriculum and created a fresh experience for the students by hiring an entirely new staff of devoted teachers and assistants. Laurie's vision for our new preschool is "to provide a unique educational experience designed to encourage and motivate children to learn in a loving Christian environment". Midway through its inaugural year, Christiana Creative Preschool is already an overwhelming success. The kids AND parents are loving the new environment and it's amazing to see how God is working at Christiana!

On June 4th Pastor Carl preached his final sermon at Christiana, and after the service, the church gave he and Kathy a wonderful retirement send-off with a beautiful reception brilliantly orchestrated by our many creative and talented ladies. The day was a bittersweet celebration of two people who meant so much to so many.

The next four months without a pastor was when I most appreciated the people of Christiana Lutheran Church. Many stepped up and took on new roles and jobs to help facilitate the worship services as well as make the church operations run as smoothly and efficiently as possible. It was amazing to experience the congregation coming together closer than ever before; loving and encouraging one another, staying positive and hopeful, filling the large gaps left by a 30-year pastor and his wife. It was beautiful to see the entire congregation placing their trust in God to lead us through this transition between pastors.

Each week there was a different supply pastor with a different personality and a different style. There were a number of weeks when a supply pastor was not available so one of our own would deliver the message. During the services when a little "snafu" occurred here and there, the congregation was so gracious, so sweet and understanding and that meant the world to me and to everyone involved. It was a challenging but rewarding time and I'm so thankful to our Lord & Savior and to all the members for your love and support during that time.

Becky Morris did a stellar job of keeping our worship services humming right along and kept things fresh with new songs, special nuances and events such as Patriotic Sunday. Ann Teague in the office was the glue holding the operational side of the church together. She took on many functions that PC did in terms of preparing each week for the worship service and keeping us all informed and linked so that very little fell between the cracks. I'm very grateful for these two ladies going above and beyond the call of duty. The very first thing we did after Pastor Carl's departure was form the Prayer Team. I asked Jim Duncan to head up this team and he and Linda immediately went to work recruiting members and creating a process for praying for our next pastor. The Prayer Team meets once a month and each member has a prayer partner

with whom they pray with weekly. The team members also take turns offering up the Intercessory Prayers during the worship services. Many thanks to Jim and Linda and to every person on the team for taking on such an instrumental role in seeking God's perfect will for Christiana.

In August, the Pastoral Call Committee was formed and is chaired by David Preslar. I'm very grateful to David and each person on his team for taking on this most important task. The other members are Brittney Ritchie, Dale Beaver, Jason Smith, Charlotte Pacilio and Cam Ritchie (I serve on the committee as ex officio). In October, the committee held a congregational workshop to inform and involve all members of the church. The workshop was very productive and ultimately produced the top 5 traits the congregation will see and recognize in the pastor God is sending us. The committee is in the process of creating our "congregational profile" which will be posted on the NALC website in the spring of 2023. For a pastor seeking a call, this will be their first glimpse into the life of Christiana.

Pastor Keith Less arrived on October 2nd to serve as Christiana's interim pastor. He came highly recommended by our mission district dean and upon arrival was greeted with three back-to-back-to back funerals which accelerated his connecting to the congregation. PK has been well received for bringing a comforting presence, fresh perspective and casual style to the members. He conducted mid-week Advent services in the Smith Hall and is starting a Bible study in January on the book of Revelation. Many thanks to Pastor Keith for being with us during this period of transition.

In December a new sound system was installed with Facebook cameras in the sanctuary and Smith Hall. This much needed upgrade will certainly enhance our worship experience however, because it's brand new technology, it will take little time to learn and tweak so your patience and understanding will be greatly appreciated in the meantime.

Reflecting back on 2022 and all the good that took place, I have so much for which I'm thankful. First and foremost, I thank God our Father for the strength and encouragement He gave me and each one of us as we embarked on this new chapter of Christiana Lutheran Church. I thank Him for each of you and for the exciting plans He has for us. I'm thankful for our leadership who seeks to know God and do his will. I'm thankful for our former pastor, our current interim, and our next pastor—whoever that may be. I'm confident the Holy Spirit will reveal that person to all of us in His way and in His timing.

Thank you, Christiana, for your love and support last year. I love you all and hope you agree 2022 was a very exciting and rewarding year. I'm eager to see what God does through you and me in 2023.

In His service,
Richard Crouch
Council President

Call Committee Updates as of 1/22/2023

Completed development of the top five characteristics we're seeking in our new Pastor. This will be incorporated in our profile and provided to our congregation and congregational committees as a common focal point for prayer as we seek our new pastor. A special thanks to Richard Crouch for his work with finalizing, formatting, and then having flyers printed. Thanks to Terry Ritchie for printing the documents. Richard also hung the flyers throughout our campus.

David Preslar shared the document with Pastor Keith. Pastor Keith gave a thumbs up and complimented us on our work with the list. However, he wanted us to know that Jesus was not available...

David told him that was ok, but Jesus-like characteristics is what we're seeking in our new pastor. Ann will continue to print and include characteristics as:

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

Discussed how to share with congregation:

David completed an overview of the characteristics on 1/15, and challenged our members to review and discuss in their committee meetings and to be in prayer about what we're seeking in our new pastor.

For the next five Sundays in a row Call committee members will review individual characteristics in a temple talk format. The following members will share as listed below:

Charlotte Pacilio: Led by the Holy Spirit - on 1/22
Brittney Ritchie: Grounded in Scripture - on 1/29
Dale Beaver: Compassionate - on 2/5
Jason Smith: Evangelistic - on 2/12
Cam Ritchie: Relational - on 2/19

Reminded folks leading the talks to share what's on their heart about the characteristic and the importance of that characteristic for our church. Have faith, God will guide you.

Dale Beaver worked with Pastor Keith and Becky to describe our worship practices. Dale completed this and turned in to Call Committee for review ([for the congregational profile](#)).

Dale Beaver provided a document to Sunday School teachers to provide information about the focus of their class (for the congregational profile).

David Preslar provided a document for council members to use to provide descriptions of the committee that they chair or represent (for the congregational profile).

Brittney Ritchie provided the call committee with an outline on what the video profile would include.

Committee reviewed and made some modification to the document so we can begin to move forward to develop this portion of the profile.

Brittney and Jason will work collectively as a team to provide the finished product.

The call committee continues to meet and take steps that prepare Christiana for the next pastor that God is providing us. Members of the Call Committee are Richard Crouch, Dale Beaver, Cam Ritchie, Charlotte Pacilio, Brittney Ritchie, Jason Smith and David Preslar. Please let us know if you have any questions. We'll answer your questions to the best of our ability. The committee wants the same thing that you do, the best possible pastor for Christiana.

A continued special thanks to Jim and Linda Duncan for the foundational work that they have done and continue to do preparing our congregation for our new pastor by leading the prayer team. We ask that everyone be in prayer concerning this most important process.

God's peace!

David Preslar <><

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 (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
Address Service Requested

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
Sundays at 4 pm

Puppet Team
Becky Morris, Director
Sundays after Confirmation

Mailed January 25, 2023



Join us on Facebook



Winemaker needed

The Worship Committee is seeking volunteers interested in learning how to and making Sacramental Wine to be used for our Communion Services. If you would like to inquire about this awesome opportunity, please contact LaVaughn Beaver or any other member of the Worship Committee.

WINTER SNOW SCHEDULE

If there is inclement weather on Sunday morning and the roads are too dangerous for travel, worship services will be cancelled and the church phone tree will be activated.

Check our website or Facebook page .



LCW Group #1

will meet at 10 am on Feb. 7 in the SAH with Marlene Pethel & Charlotte Pacilio, hostesses

Sister Lucille Lyerly LCW

will meet at 7 p.m. on February 7 in the Smith Assembly Hall with Angie Fleming, hostess and Robin Adkins, program leader RMH packing party Feb. 9 at 5:30 pm