

*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)

## Council Officers for 2023 & Retreat Date

The Congregation Council Officers for 2023 are:

- Richard Crouch- President
  - Cam Ritchie -Vice President
  - Secretary –Laura Ritchie
- The new council members serving the term 2023- 2025 are:
- Tara Beaver
  - Linda Duncan
  - Mike Keene
  - Cameron Ritchie
  - Terry Ritchie

The council retreat is set for January 7 beginning at 8 am in the Smith Assembly Hall.

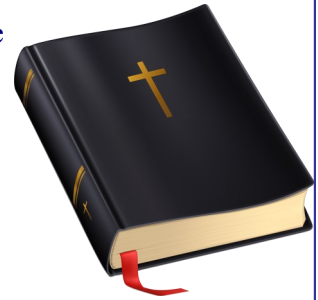
Members should dress comfortably and bring with them their council notebook, a writing instrument, and Bible. There will be coffee and lunch will be provided by the outgoing council members.

## Bible Study begins Jan. 9

A study of the book of Revelation will be held Monday nights at 6:30 in Smith Hall.

The Bible Study will also be broadcast on Facebook Live for people that don't want to come out in the evening but would like to participate.

The study will be weekly for one hour. Please bring your own Bible.



# Welcome, 2023!

**The Church Office will be closed December 26-January 2**



## Brighten the Beacon Fellowship Meals will resume on January 10 at 5:30

The Fellowship meals will resume in January. The menu will be chicken and dumplings, vegetables and dessert prepared by members of the Miss Katherine Lyerly Circle.

Cost for the meal—\$10 per person. Kids under 12 free.



## STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

### GIVING AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

**Malachi 3:10** Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

**Mark 12:42-44** And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty, has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

**1 Corinthians 16:1-2** Now concerning the contribution for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come.

## Christiana Rowdy Seniors to eat at Cagney's

This group of active seniors will meet for lunch at Cagney's in Granite Quarry on Tuesday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m.

### January Children's Church

**Jan. 1:** April Smith & Debbie Eller

**Jan. 8:** Debbie & Eddie Eller

**Jan. 15:** April Smith & Diane Smith

**Jan. 22** Marsha & Dale Beaver

**Jan. 29** Charlotte Pacilio & Tara Beaver

### January Worship Support

**Reader:** Richard Crouch

**Usher:** Brian Barringer

**Greeter:** Jenny Roberts, Eddie Eller, Mary Morgan

**Communion Assistant:** Judy Stoner, Todd Koontz

**Sound:** TBA

**Lock Up:** Karen Goodman

**Altar Guild:** Marlene Pethel, Dale & Marsha Beaver

### December Attendance

**December 4**  
Sunday School: 67  
Worship: 114

**December 11**  
Sunday School: 52  
Worship: 93

**December 18**  
Sunday School: 49  
Worship: 91

**December 25**  
Sunday School: no SS  
Worship: 66

## January Birthdays

1 Erica Isley	20 LuAnne Scott
3 Scott Isley	21 Kent Cozart
5 Emily Haynes	21 Dollie Lingle
10 Megan Lyerly	22 Chase Hawkins
12 Matt Fleming	23 Marshall Shank
13 Pr. Carl Haynes	23 Meredith Diaz
13 Sheryl Lyerly	24 Dylan Kluttz
14 Jeremy Cross	24 Tara Beaver
14 Camille Abernathy	25 Hannah Isley
14 Eddie Eller	25 Riley Isley
14 Denise Koehn	26 Marlene Pethel
16 Emmett Shank	29 Lynda Pethel
19 Katie Sease	



### January Altar Flowers

Jan. 1 Altar Guild  
Jan. 8 Pastor Keith  
Jan. 15 Lynda Pethel  
Jan. 22  
Jan. 29

*Please notify Vickie Keene if you would like to provide flowers for any available Sunday throughout the year.*

# New Year's Message

FROM THE PASTOR

*But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.*  
*Psalm 71:14*

We begin a new year with joy and thanksgiving at the possibility of new beginnings and a renewed sense of purpose. So many things are going to impact us this coming year. You have already made a good start with a commitment to prayer and a renewed sense of purpose. I would encourage you to dive into the Bible and spend the year reading through the Word of God to get a sense of God's plan for our church. Spend some time too in a Bible study. There are many offerings at Christiana. To learn more of God is to draw closer to Him and see His purpose in all we do. Hope is contagious and leads to joy and peace. That is my wish for you all as begin this year together. I look forward to the coming months and the unfolding of God's plan. I look forward to watching you grow as a group and individually. Take comfort in the fact that God is in control and all things will work out in His exact timing. It takes faith as well as trust to put the future in God's hands. However, the benefits far outweigh and out last anything we can imagine or create for ourselves. Relaxing into God's plan takes courage and planning. I believe in it with my whole heart and hope that you do too. It will be exciting to see where God will take us as we engage in ministry together. Keep praying and studying. It will pay off in the long run. Rejoice that God has a plan and is just waiting to surprise us. Hang on to the sense of wonderment that infuses the Christian life. I pray for you daily and hope that you pray for me as well. We have a great task before us. Embrace the possibilities.

Happy New Year!

*Pastor Keith*



Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13, attributes to love: "Love is \_\_\_\_\_; love is \_\_\_\_\_. ... it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)



## Congregational Prayer Concerns

Glenn Wilson, pneumonia. Eston Doyle, NHRMC. Bruce Wilhelm, COVID. Rose Meeks, MOW coordinator, back pain. Cam Ritchie, recovering from knee surgery. Lynda Pethel, back pain. Harold Morris's sister, recovering from aortic aneurism surgery. Dee Smith, kidney surgery Jan 5. Jenny Roberts, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). David Preslar's father, Dewey Preslar, Sr., recovering from abdominal surgery. Ron & Wanda Smith's grandson, Rex, foot injury. Madeline's sister-in-law, at home. Ricky Cross, at home. Betty Rose Witty, with daughter. Eileen Full, home. Linda Cline's neighbor Ann Mitchell, NHRMC, stroke. Bonnie

Sechler, at son's; therapy completed and condition stable. Kay Abernathy, at home. Don & Rose Dedmon, rm. 405, The Laurels of Salisbury. Patti Holshouser, Ann Meacham, Cardell Gibson, TOHAR. Eston Doyle, TOHAR Assisted Living, Elizabeth Ritchie, Liberty Commons. Joe Haas, Autumn Care. Vaughn Hatley, immunotherapy. Kathie Albright, spinal stenosis, spondylolisthesis, & osteoarthritis; her friend Maxine Campbell, multiple health issues.

### Haiti Missions update

2022 has been a year of challenge. The country of Haiti is reeling with gang warfare. There is a vacuum of law and order. The shortages of food and fuel have only become worse. This past year we have continued to send monthly support to the 1000 children, their teachers and their pastors. Please ask for God's continued hand on this work as we work to feed the children of Haiti.



### Packing Away the Christmas Decorations

On Thursday, January 5 at 6:00pm, Christmas decorations will be taken down, carefully packed, and put away. This is a big job that takes a lot of help. The Worship Committee & Altar Guild of Christiana invite all who will come to help.

### Our Members in Nursing Homes

Autumn Care: Joe Haas

Liberty Commons:  
Elizabeth Ritchie

Trinity Oaks:  
Cardell Gibson  
Ann Meacham  
Patti Holshouser

TOHAR Assisted Living: Eston Doyle

The Laurels of Salisbury: Don & Rose Dedmon



### Winter Snow Schedule

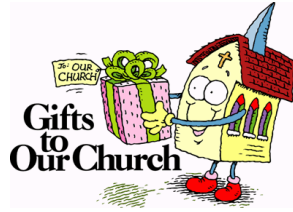
If there is bad weather on Sunday morning and the roads are too dangerous for travel, worship services will be cancelled and the church phone tree will be activated to notify you. You may also check our Facebook page for updates.



### To Brighten the Beacon

In memory of Grace Less by LaVaughn Beaver & Kate Beretsky

To the Glory of God by Roger and Addie Nance.



In memory of Roy Pethel by Larry & Sandra McKenzie, Bryant & Bolick Financial Services

### To the Memorial Fund

In memory of Roy Pethel by Sharon Hoffman, Bob and Pam Setzer, Kevan Barringer, Kay Abernathy, Shulenburger Surveying, Christopher and Renee Bradshaw, Harold & Becky Morris, Larry & Sandra McKenzie

In memory of Voight Basinger by John Fisher, Harold & Becky Morris, Keller Memorial Lodge

In memory of Billy Witty by Patricia and Kaitlin Pena

### To the Music Fund

In memory of Helen Kiker by Harold & Becky Morris

In memory of Charles Roberts by Harold & Becky Morris

### To the Cemetery Fund

In memory of Harry & Miriam Fox by Donna Fox  
In memory of Moses & "Mac" Klutz by Kay & Elvin Clapp

### To the General Fund

In honor of Emma Apple by Eugenia Hufham

## Scripture Lessons for January

### 1st Sunday after Christmas, Jan. 1

Numbers 2:22-27

Psalm 8

Philippians 5:2-11

Luke 2:15-21

### Baptism of our Lord, Jan. 8

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Romans 6:1-11

Matthew 3:13-17

### 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany, Jan. 15

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42a

### 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, Jan. 22

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42a

### 4th Sunday after the Epiphany, Jan. 29

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

## Thank you!

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for the cards, phone calls, visits and food during my surgery and recovery time. But particularly, I thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

I love being a member of Christiana and couldn't ask for a better church family and friends.

Thank you again for everything and may God continue to bless you all.

Love in Christ,  
Marsha Beaver



The Church Office is in the process of compiling the 2022-2023 Annual Report Booklet and Church Directory. If your personal information was incorrect in the last directory or

if you have a new address, phone number, E-mail address, or if your birthday was not listed or was incorrectly listed, please notify the church office ASAP. The information may also be e-mailed to: [christiana1@charlotte.twcbc.com](mailto:christiana1@charlotte.twcbc.com).

**Annual Reports Due Jan. 7**  
**[christiana1@charlotte.twcbc.com](mailto:christiana1@charlotte.twcbc.com)**

## 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 17, 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, checks 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.

## LCW Happenings

MKL Group  
will meet at the church  
on Tuesday, January 3 at 10  
a.m.  
Program Leader TBA.

Sister Lucille Group  
will meet  
at 7:00 p.m. on January 3 in  
the Smith Assembly Hall.  
Hostess is Earlene Ritchie  
and program leader is  
Brittney Ritchie

## Prayer Team monthly update

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Prayer Team has had a wonderful 2022. We have met regularly and have purposed to pray every day for our new pastor and for all our church leadership and activities and prayer needs. We appreciate having Pastor Keith as our Interim Pastor and are pleased that he is a part of our prayer team.

So now here we go into 2023. The Prayer Team is still full of energy and will continue to pray for all the needs listed above. It is an honor to be part of this fine group of fellow Christians. We do meet every month for a meal and get together and welcome all to join us. Our meeting times will be posted in the bulletin as well as the monthly calendar

The Prayer Team also publishes a weekly scripture to support our prayer mission. Please take note of the scripture and read it daily. Much prayer and research go into selecting the appropriate scripture for the time we are in. God Bless you and thank you for praying for the Prayer Team.

Jim & Linda Duncan

**Council Meeting Minutes  
December 11, 2022**

**Present**

Richard Crouch, Pres. Karen Goodman Jeff Fleming  
Jason Smith, VP Earlene Ritchie Kevan Barringer  
Laura Ritchie, Sec. Eddie Eller Banks Kluttz  
Laurie Ritchie, Treas. Harry Agner Todd Koontz  
Linda Duncan Tara Beaver Mike Keene

**Also Present Absent**

Brittney Ritchie Keith Less, Robbie Robinson  
Charlotte Pacilio Interim Pastor  
Terry Ritchie  
Cam Ritchie

**Items of Business:**

November Treasurers Report:

November Envelope Offering: \$18,376.90  
November Offering Variance: \$4,347.26  
Total November Income: \$18,652.40  
Total November Income Variance: \$4,482.18  
YTD Envelope Offering: \$239,160.23  
YTD Envelope Offering Variance: \$10,805.53  
YTD Total Income: \$242,169.48  
YTD Total Income Variance: \$12,310.88  
Total November Expense: \$18,254.56  
Total November Expense Variance: \$4,879.99  
YTD Total Expense: \$205,052.71  
YTD Total Expense Variance: \$49,427.54  
Cash on Hand: \$148,179.05  
Cash on Hand Money Market: \$100,000.00

Expense Notes:

Altar Guild -Over Budget by \$117.74  
Devotional Material- Over Budget by \$150.05 6906  
Sub Organist- Over Budget by \$285.00  
Supply Pastor- Over Budget by \$1245.52  
Electricity- Over Budget by \$637.64  
Garbage Service Over Budget by \$67.59 7108  
Nehemiah Group- Over budget by \$126.94

Designated Funds:

Interest earned: \$112.29  
September contributions to BTB: \$1,906.00  
BTB Meal: \$415.00  
Total Contribution to BTB: \$2,321.00

Council approved as presented.

November Pastor's Report:

Will begin another round of visiting the shut-ins next week. Approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship:

Discussed the copyrights again and would still like to get most of those under one plan.  
A motion was made from the stewardship committee to buy a new printer for the church office to come out of the office equipment fund. Council approved the motion.  
If one of the church groups plan to have a fundraiser this year, they need to inform the council to get it approved.  
Commitment Sunday Results = 113 people made a commitment.  
The veteran group raised 982 pounds of food in Christiana's name.

Christian Ed: Plan to start the Monday night book study on Revelations the second week in January.

Property: Sound system will begin installation tomorrow morning and will take less than a week.

Worship: We need some volunteers to help run the sound system.

Social Ministry: Angel tree presents must be in by Dec. 18. Linda and Richard will be taking them the week after.

Evangelism: Thanksgiving meals went really well and the donations have fully covered the cost.  
Will meet at the beginning of next year to begin planning events for 2023.

Fellowship: Began the Advent services and meals last week and it was very successful.

Landscape: New flowers were planted in the flower bed.

Membership Review: Council approved the survey for inactive members. The cover letter has been written. Those surveys will be mailed out the middle of January.

Nehemiah Group: The members were touched by the acknowledgement during the first Advent service.

Cemetery: Discussed the qualifications to get a plot in the columbarium and cemetery.

LCW – SL Group: Meeting this week to pack the bags for the shut-ins.

LCW - MKL Group:

Met on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.for a meal and stuffed backpacks for students.

Made small candles for the shut-ins.

Goodie bags for meals on wheels clients.

Made plans for BTB meal (Chicken & Dumplings).

Making deserts for Preschool reception.

Gave \$100.00 to a needy family.

CRS: Next meeting is at Slice of Heaven on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023.

Youth: Going Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 and will return to eat pizza and participate in a Christmas Story escape room.

Youth Committee will meet on January 8<sup>th</sup> following the church service to plan for the new year.

Bus: If your groups need transportation use the bus to keep it running as much as possible.

Preschool: The Christmas program is Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

Polar Express Event is Friday during which there will be several church members volunteering and helping.

There are some openings in the two & four year-old classes.

Pastoral Call Committee:

Met Thursday to begin the first part of the profile which will be shared with the congregation for feedback.

Other Council Matters:

**Fundraiser Schedule:** Presented the 2023 Fundraiser Schedule as a motion from the Stewardship Committee. Council approved the motion.

**Fellowship Hall:** The original goal of the building was “To Brighten the Beacon.” We have had some issues with users who use the fellowship hall not following the policies plan. Made a motion to changing the usage agreement to: “As long as there is an active church member present, we allow them and their families/friends to use the fellowship hall or Smith Assembly Hall without payment. If you do not fit this criterion, the usage fee is \$250.00 with a \$250.00 deposit. The sanctuary usage fee will be \$500.00. The property committee will clear the deposit after the event. A motion was made to make these amendments and it was seconded. Council approved the motion.

**Election of 2023 Officers:**

President:

Jason Smith nominated Richard Crouch. It was seconded by Charlotte Pacilio = (Approved unanimously)

Vice President:

Charlotte Pacilio nominated Cameron Ritchie. It was seconded by Jason Smith = Approved unanimously.

Secretary:

Jason Smith nominated Brittney Ritchie. It was seconded by Eddie Eller = Approved unanimously.

The date for the Installation of Incoming Council Members/Officers is on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the church service.

**January Lock-Up, Devotions, & Closing Prayer:** Banks Klutz **Next Meeting: Council Retreat Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 8a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** (Lunch provided by the outgoing members. Info will be emailed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura E. Ritchie



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Mailed Dec. 29, 2022

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  
Sundays at 4 pm

Puppet Team  
Becky Morris, Director  
Sundays after Confirmation

Visit our website:  
[www.christianalutheran.org](http://www.christianalutheran.org)

Join us on Facebook



**Blood Drive**  
**January 15**  
**12-4:30 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

There is a huge need for donors!

**GIVE BLOOD**



**SAVE LIFE**



### **2023 offering envelopes delayed**

2023 children's offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Adult envelopes are delayed, but should be here by mid-January. Please see Laurie Ritchie for other envelopes to begin using on January 1. Please put your name on the envelope so you will be credited with your contribution. If you make a contribution to any special fund such as the Brighten the Beacon Fund, etc., please write a separate check and place it in a separate envelope as these monies are deposited into a separate account from your regular envelope offering. These procedures will help ensure that your contribution gets posted to your name.