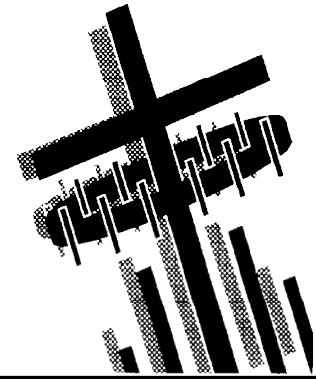


# Comments



324 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ September 2024

## Discipleship Together

The Gospel according to Matthew ends in a scene which is familiar to us all. Jesus meets his disciples atop a mountain in Galilee, declares his authority and instructs them to make disciples. Matthew writes:

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20).*

Much earlier in the same gospel account, we see Jesus atop a mountain in Galilee instructing his disciples (Matthew 5-7). The latter instance we like to call "The Great Commission." The first instance we call "The Sermon on the Mount". Both are connected. One takes place as Jesus begins his earthly ministry, the other as he prepares to take his rightful place on his heavenly throne. The first is a call to discipleship. The second is a call to discipling others. Both are directly linked

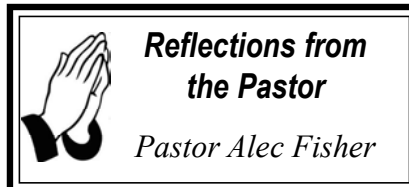
to his authority over heaven and earth.

This September, we are going to begin a new series called "Discipleship Together." It might not always be at the forefront of our minds, but Jesus calls us into discipleship. He calls us into discipleship together as a community. When Jesus' first disciples listened to his teaching, they didn't do so individually isolated from one another. They heard Jesus as they were stading and sitting together. Jesus' teachings are not just about personal piety but about how we get along in the world with others all the while trusting in him.

Together we listen to his words for our own lives. We live according to his way and trust

him as he reigns over heaven and earth. The gospel readings for this series will be based on the Sermon on the Mount, which we find in Matthew 5-7. Each week we will discuss a teaching of Jesus and consider how we might apply that teaching to our own lives.

What does Jesus teach about seeking his Kingdom? What does he teach about fasting and prayer, judging others, or self-control? What does Jesus teach about serving one another, about retaliation, about anxiousness? What does Jesus teach about making promises? All of these things and more can be



# CLC Notes and News

(continued from page 1)

found in the Sermon on the Mount.

The first disciples of Jesus were not called “Christians”. They were called “followers of the way”. That’s because their lives were transformed once they put their faith in Jesus as ruler of heaven and earth, as Savior. The Christian life is a practical life with practical instructions from our Lord. Listening to his voice rather than all the various teachings of the world is an act of faith. Jesus’ way is truth—the way of salvation.

We will begin this new series on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Rally Day will then take place the following week, on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Rally Day will kick off a variety of new Bible studies and groups to be part of. I encourage you to try attending one. These are opportunities for discipleship, to learn more about the Word of God and to be in fellowship with one another. When we read the Bible in community with each other, when we pray together, when we eat together, we share a common fellowship. As Jesus reigns over heaven and earth, the Holy Spirit has brought us together to follow him, to share in discipleship together. When one of us grows in faith, we all grow. We can’t do it without each other.

I pray that this series would edify you, challenge you, both bring conviction and comfort, and, most of all, that it would enrich your life as a disciple of Jesus.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Alec*

**Guiding Through  
God’s Love**



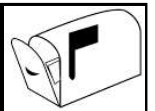
The LWML will meet Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in the multipurpose room. Please bring you latest LWML quarterly for the topic. We will discuss our year’s plans and pray that more ladies from the church would join our group. Bring mites and free will offerings.

The District Convention is in Cary the end of September. Linda Bolick will be the group’s delegate, and Kathy Ludwig will vote as a past district president.

LWML Sunday is in October and Christ’s Lutheran door offering will be for mites. We hope it will be mighty as the mites are for our mission projects around the world.

MAY THE LORD  
bless you  
AND  
PROTECT YOU  
NUMBERS 6:24

Please note: Change of address!



**Carolyn Smith**

Autumn Care of Drexel, Room 107  
307 Oakland Avenue  
Morganton, NC 28655  
Phone: 828-546-3083

Dear Friends:

Thank you for partnering with us in ministering to the needy in our community. Generous gifts like yours make it possible for us to help meet the increasing needs of those who are hungry in our area. We depend upon faithful friends like you to enable us to continue to address their needs. Thank you for all you do to make sure our guests don't go without! God bless you!

Sincerely,  
Austin Pearce, Exec. Dir.  
Hickory Soup Kitchen



**In memory of  
Brandon Caldwell**

Pastor David & Kathy Ludwig

--- *Altar Flowers* ---

**Aug. 18:** The Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the birthday of Daniel Lail (Aug. 18) by Linda and the Rose Family.

**Women's Bible study:** The Tuesday evening Women's Bible study will begin on September 10 at 6:00pm. We will continue to meet via zoom to welcome those sisters who participate but are not members of CLC. We pick up with the letter "L" as we study the Love chapter (1 Corinthians 13). If you would like to join us, please speak to Sister Robie or send her an email ([srrobie@msn.com](mailto:srrobie@msn.com)).

**Rally Day: Sunday, September 8.** There will be an installation of all those who teach or help with an educational class here at CLC during the 10:30 late service. Also, this is the Sunday that Children's Sunday school classes begin. **Sunday school will begin at 9:00am** to better align with the beginning of early service and small groups.

**St. Stephens Elementary School needs your help!** We are implementing a new positive reward system and are in desperate need of small items for a prize store. Any donation would be greatly appreciated! I will provide a gray tub with *SSE Donations* labeled on it for you to turn in the donated items. Each Sunday I will collect the items and leave the tub for the next week. The areas needed are: School Supplies; Puzzles & Games; Sports Gear; Personal Use; Toys; Home/Room Decor; Books, Arts & Crafts; Holiday; Snacks; and Sweet Treats. Again, we would be so appreciative of any help you could offer! We have about 740 students K-6 and look to offer the prize store every 9 weeks! Thanks so much!

– Kat Pingel



## Close to the Brokenhearted

When Sheree, mother of two teenagers, arrived in our lobby, she was warmly greeted by Tamara, our front desk receptionist. Sheree told Tamara she was embarrassed to say that she and her family needed food assistance. Tamara told her that she would begin her application so that she and her family could get the food they needed. Sheree was more than grateful while she was waiting for Tamara to complete her application. Sheree saw a small gray bowl with different slips of paper placed just outside the front desk window in the lobby. With a touch of curiosity, she asked Tamara about the slips of paper and their significance. With warmth in her voice, Tamara explained that the pieces of paper were bible verses. These verses were selected by our staff because they held special meaning for them, serving as encouragement during challenging times. Sheree randomly pulled out one of the pieces of paper, and opened it to find the words, “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit” (Psalms 34:18).

Sheree was instantly moved by these words and let the meaning seep deeply into her soul. In a moment of vulnerability, Sheree confided that she had been feeling truly alone and brokenhearted due to her daughter’s current struggles, her words laden with worry and fear. As a mother, Tamara empathized with the depth of Sheree’s pain, offering practical assistance and a compassionate ear followed by words of comfort. Tamara asked if she would like to pray. Sheree agreed and they prayed, drawing strength from their shared faith and the reassurance that they were not facing their struggles alone. Upon parting ways, Sheree felt a sense of care and support. She left with more than food assistance. Sheree left with a clear reminder that she was not alone...that kindness, love, support, and hope are available during times of need.

Our goal is to extend this same message of care and support to others facing hardships, so that they are not alone in their crises. Your support allows us to share this truth with all of Catawba County, and on their behalf, we cannot thank you enough.

From Asure Ministry (formerly known as ECCCM)

## Fall Educational Opportunities

### Sundays

#### Rally Day – September 8

- **Children’s Sunday School** resumes at **9:00am** (Note the new time, to better coincide with Early Service and Small Groups)
- Teacher installation at late service

#### Small Groups – continue at **9:00 & 10:30am**

- Watch the bulletin announcements for more information about topics offered.

### Mondays

Study the Gospel of Matthew with Pastor Alec at **1:00pm** beginning **September 9**. The Gospel of Matthew will be a major focus of the fall/spring sermon series.

### Tuesdays

Sister Robie leads the zoom Bible study at **6:00pm** beginning **September 10**. We continue to move topically through the alphabet. We pick up with the letter “L” as we look at 1 Corinthians 13, the “Love” chapter.

### Wednesdays

Pastor Alec will lead a topical Bible study in person beginning September 11 at **1:00pm** with the word “Angels”.



# THE CHURCH FAMILY

## JOYS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

### Mission outreach for:

- our ministry of Guiding through God’s Love
- local outreach ministers: CCM, Soup Kitchen, University Christian High School, Pregnancy Care Center
- Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission (malim.org)
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation

**Hospital:** Cade Haskins (8/11 NICU, infant relative of Tony & Anna Lail)

**Rehabilitation:** Brad Fulbright (9/1); Robert Rinehart (9/1); Robert Sigmon (Mooresville Nursing & Rehab); Judy Bolick (8/4 Conover Nursing & Rehab, cousin of Sylvia Lail)

**Recovering:** Charles Beeker (8/25); Miranda Setzer (8/18 granddaughter of Jimmy Gantt); Mikayla Minton & Jonas (8/18 Frye; great-granddaughter & great-great-grandson of Jimmy Gantt)

**Undergoing treatments:** Judy Baker; Teresa Mays; Doris Smith; Barbara Jones (sister of Lois Hunt)

**Under doctors’ care:** Shelly Baker; Becky Rimmer; Rita Roseman; John Sigmon; Virginia Crew (sister of Jim Starkey); Justin Crooks (8/4 son of Jim & Evelyn); Rita Crotts (8/11 sister of Tony Lail)

**For shut-ins:** Juanita Isenhower at Trinity Village; David & Donna Lumb at Serenity Family Home Care; Peggy Mays; Carolyn Smith (Drexel Nursing Home); Randy Smith; Alice Yount

**If not otherwise updated, prayer requests will remain on the Prayer List for four (4) weeks.** Some dates are listed next to names to indicate when a person has been added to the Prayer List. Please update the church office with any changes within four (4) weeks to help us keep the Prayer List current.



Financial Stewardship		
	Actual: July 2024	Actual: January – July 2024
Income	\$ 24,167.33	\$ 161,825.49
Expense	\$ 26,453.56	\$ 165,011.64
Net Income	\$ - 2,286.23	\$ - 3,186.15

# September 2024

# Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Pentecost</b> <b>1</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service ☩ NO Children's SS 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service	<b>2</b> Church Office <b>Closed!</b> 	<b>3</b> 10:30a PEEPS	<b>4</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a LWML	<b>5</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC)	<b>6</b> 10:00a Zumba 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>7</b> 
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Pentecost</b> <b>8</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service ☩☩ Teacher Installation 11:45a Elders	<b>9</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec	<b>10</b> 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom) 	<b>11</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec	<b>12</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC)	<b>13</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>14</b> 
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Pentecost</b> <b>15</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service ☩ 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service	<b>16</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>17</b> 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>18</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Soup Kitchen	<b>19</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC)	<b>20</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>21</b> 
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Pentecost</b> <b>22</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service ☩☩ 	<b>23</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec	<b>24</b> 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>25</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec 	<b>26</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC)	<b>27</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	<b>28</b> 11:30a <i>Feed the Needy</i> 
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost</b> <b>29</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service 9:00a Children's SS 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service ☩☩	<b>30</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec 6:30p Kenworth Assn Mtg. (CLC)				<b>Holy Communion</b> ☩ - early ☩☩ - late	

## *September 2024 Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### *Congratulations and may God continue to bless you!!!*

1	Madisyn Abee	20	Roger Downs
3	Jim Hunt		Erica Yount
	Elaine McClough	21	Marc Bolton
	Pat McKinney	22	C. J. Jonas
6	Elizabeth Bechinski		Rita Roseman
	Emma Dockery	24	Allison Godfrey
7	Monica Garber		Manda Tucker
	Thalia Holman	26	Dot Grater
9	Butch Schafer, Jr.		Ella Smith
12	Jolinda Deal	27	Nicole Rose
13	Pastor David Ludwig	29	Kathy Crittenden
15	Sandra Abernathy		Randy Duncan
16	Glenda Griffith		Nicole Morton
17	Robin Baker		Chance Wilson
			Doug Yount

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
22	Dale & Janet Matthews
25	Johnny & Mary Ross
29	David & Taylor Higgins



	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Ludwig	Pastor Tucker	Pastor Fisher
<b>Lector</b>	Alison Matthews	Zach Rose	Pastor Fisher	Aiden Turner	Robie Hillhouse
<b>Distributor</b>	~*~	Angie Ewing	~*~	Angie Ewing	Linda Bolick Zach Rose
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jack Fisher	Adeline Fisher	Aiden Turner	Jack Fisher	~*~
<b>Elder</b>	Sadie Lail	Nancy Rinehart	Maria McKinney	Angie Ewing	Nicole Rose
<b>Counters</b>	Pat Hamby Angela Watts	David & Shawn Terry	Darryl & Dot Grater	Pat Hamby Angela Watts	Jim Hunt Cam Davis
<b>Audio/Video</b>		Kyle Donovan		Cam Davis	Cam Davis
<b>Media</b>	Rick Lail	Kyle Donovan	Karla Bolch	Susan Fulbright	Rick Lail
<b>Host</b>	Betty Link	Mary Puett	Pat Hamby	Anna Newton	Betty Link
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Nicole Rose	Nicole Rose	Nicole Rose	Nicole Rose	Nicole Rose
<b>Security Team</b>	Rick Lail	Chris Mundy	Randall Mays	Jimmy Gantt	David Puett

# Connection

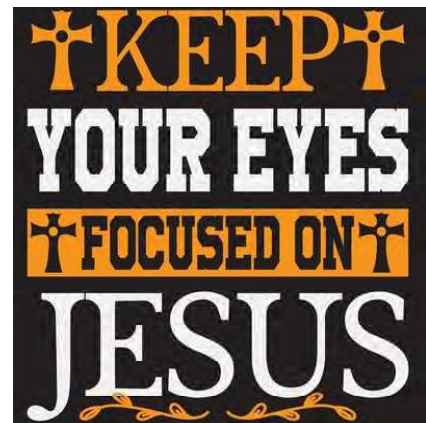
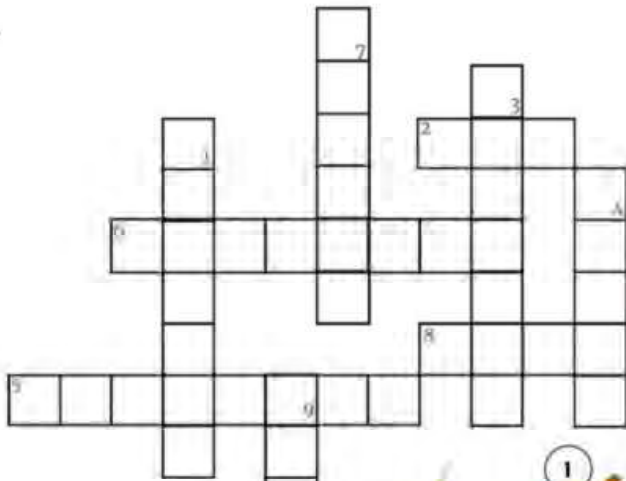
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The month of September is here and with it, our thoughts turn to the changing seasons as we see leaves turning colors, days of shortened sunshine become more noticeable, and evenings bring cooler temperatures. Let us praise and thank God who never changes. Let us pray for the joy that fills our hearts and lives and spills over into our interactions with others.

God of all seasons, as we embrace the autumn chill and misty mornings shrouded in fog, we ask you to fill our hearts with joy. Help us to navigate this transition into shorter, cooler days with joyful and thankful hearts. May joy radiate from us in the same way that the brilliant colors of the leaves radiate from the trees. Amen.

(edited from prayforeverything.com)





# Christ Lutheran Church

324 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, SE  
Hickory, NC 28602

## Comments

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**Our Mission Motto is**  
*Guiding Through God's Love*

### CHURCH STAFF

Adm. Pastor.....Rev. Alec Fisher  
Assoc. Pastor.....Dr. David Ludwig  
Assistant Pastor.....Rev. Richard Tucker  
Organist.....Danny Foster  
Secretary.....Jill P. Lafone  
Adm. Assistant.....Nancy Rinehart  
Newsletter Staff.....Nancy Rinehart  
and Jill Lafone  
Contributors: CLC Family & Friends



# Christ Lutheran Church

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And people should eat and drink and  
enjoy the fruits of their labor, for  
these are gifts from God.

Ecclesiastes 3:13

*Happy Labor Day!*