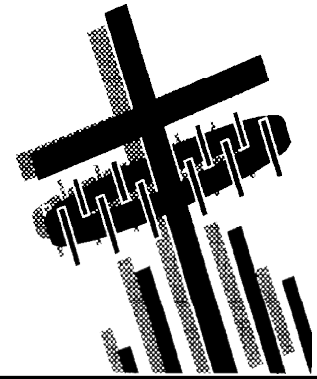


Comments

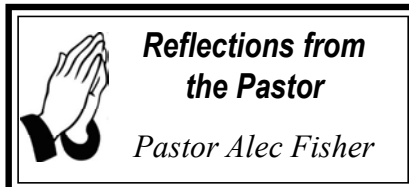


324 2nd Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ November 2024

The Meal Service

Walk into a boardroom and its purpose is obvious. A movie theatre, a concert venue, an arena, a restaurant, a classroom, a living room, bedroom—the furniture arrangement of so many rooms both ancient and modern tells the story of what happens inside. They're built and arranged for a purpose. Church buildings are no different. The focal point—a representation of Christ usually made from wood or metal—puts Jesus at the center to be praised and worshiped as King over all creation. The pews or chairs face the same direction. In the sanctuary or gym, shoulder to shoulder there's sitting, standing, facing forward.

During the service we sing and pray in unison. We listen to the same sermon. Maybe there are screens, and maybe there aren't. We kneel side by side at the communion rail, stand, or walk in line. We eat the wafer, sip from the chalice or the individual cup usually not facing each other. And, despite the way our bodies are positioned in the room, we're often not staring at our focal point either. Maybe an odd occurrence—an incorrect note played or a typo in the bulletin, a child grabbing our attention, someone fumbling a hymnal, a microphone malfunction—causes us to look up and catch another's eye. There's some time before the service to talk—or after. Sharing the peace of the Lord, we might greet each other for a matter of seconds. Maybe we'll get a chance to chat during coffee hour.



Reflections from the Pastor

Pastor Alec Fisher

How much time do we spend interacting with other members of our congregation on any given Sunday? And how much of that is in the worship setting itself? Or do we come together in the same room just *to be alone*? To remain relatively *anonymous*? As we stand shoulder to shoulder facing downward at our hymnals or bulletins or up at a screen, it's easy to forget that Christ is the focal point and that we're all simultaneously experiencing a profound incarnational mystery. Through Christ's presence in the elements we consume, *we* become his very own body—together.

The true body and blood of the ruler of the universe comes into us as his own dwelling uniting us in himself. But does the furniture really fit? Are the seats arranged to acknowledge the presence of Christ in each of us?

Are our sanctuaries arranged to embrace that reality in its fullest?

For a long time, Christians traditionally worshipped facing east toward the rising of the sun—the church nave as the ark bringing God's people to the resurrection. But what if we worshipped facing the resurrected and living Lord in a way that is more than symbolic by facing him as he dwells within our neighbor here and now? During the time of Christ, the meal itself was of sacramental nature. It was a communal celebration of God's continual grace as Sustainer and Provider. Table fellowship—sitting across from people and next to them as a community breaking bread and

CLC Notes and News

(continued from page 1)

thanking God for his gifts—has always meant something. Of course, when Christ places his own body and blood at the center of that shared meal, he sustains us not only in this age but also into the age to come—a feast of love, a feast of victory unto life eternal.

When we eat together, we are no longer isolated and anonymous. On the one hand, our popular culture—driven by shame and the ever-lingering threat of “cancelation”—pushes *anonymity* as a safe, nonconfrontational word of salvation to us. On the other hand, in the church, it’s good to be known, even if it’s not always easy or convenient. It’s true that when congregational life is communal, unresolved sin becomes a cause for strife and even schism. It’s not just a personal matter. Paul speaks of his opposition to Cephas for breaking table fellowship with Gentiles in Antioch and calls the Corinthians out on their own sin within their community meal. In both cases, there was actual interaction between the members of the congregation. Otherwise, it wouldn’t have mattered. After refusing to commend the Corinthians for their table fellowship practices, he encourages them, “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:12–13).

Whereas sin has the potential to be a powerful force of destruction within the congregation that actively interacts, the Holy Spirit is stronger, and he brings unity. And the bond of Christ’s love—the fellowship that we have in him—goes so far beyond the often-anonymous chit chat that often occurs before or after the service. God knows us in our sin, and he knows us in his love, the same love in which we are to know those around us. It’s a forgiving and reconciling love to be shared in community interaction. It’s a love which

brings peace and inspires joy.

While there are different ways that we come together to worship our Lord Jesus Christ, the *meal service* is meant to acknowledge the profound importance of table fellowship and community interaction within the worship setting itself. It’s nothing new to the church, and the last several decades have seen a rise in this practice across denominations. Within Lutheran churches, the potentially powerful sacramental implications have often been overlooked. In fact, I believe that Lutheran theology—with our belief in the real presence—lends itself to this. It’s another way to gather together and worship our Lord Jesus!

In the meal service, we set the tables with tablecloths colored as appropriate for the liturgical season (green for the Sundays after Pentecost, blue for Advent, purple for Lent, etc.). The service itself is simple. It begins with an invocation, a prayer, and a song. Everyone is then invited to share the peace of our Lord, which means getting your food and eating together for about 20 minutes. People are invited to continue eating through the duration of the service. We continue with an extended reading followed by an interactive message, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the blessing with another song or two.

Though utilized for the service and present in the room, the main focal point is neither song lyrics nor a piece of wood representing Christ. The focal point is the crucified and living Lord Jesus genuinely dwelling within the heart of the one sitting across from you and to your sides, with whom you’re in conversation. Sometimes it’s the empty heart—otherwise driven in shame toward anonymity—needing to be filled with the Gospel by the loving words of Christians taking the time to sit and eat and share their lives—a heart that desperately needs real fellowship centered around the word of God. As it’s

something we all need at various moments in our lives—probably more often than we realize or would like to admit—I continue to reflect upon the question, *do our rooms agree?* How's *our* furniture arranged?

On October 20th, we had our first meal service, and it's something that we're going to try to do on the 3rd Sunday of every month during the 9am service. As we're always growing closer together as a community, I encourage you to join in and try it out! It might be something that you like, but it might not be for everyone. Whatever the case, I hope that it's a blessing to our community life together.

In Christ,
Pastor Alec



The LWML will meet on Wednesday, November 6, at 11am in the multipurpose room of the church.

Linda Bolick will lead the topic “The Lord, my helper, keeps me.” Bring your fall Lutheran Woman's quarterly.

Judy Baker will deliver a birthday cake to the men's group home on November 21 and Linda Bolick will deliver one on November 27.

We will plan our Christmas meeting and Christmas party which will be on Wed., Dec. 3rd at 11am.

From the Pastors: We are so grateful to be part of your lives and to have you as part of ours. The appreciation that you have shown to us this month (and every month!) is so strongly felt. Words cannot express the gratitude we have for your love, encouragement, and support. With each day, we are regularly reminded of how wonderful it is to be part of the Christ Lutheran Church community. Thank you for all that you do to support us.

In Christ,
Your Pastors

If you are 75 and older OR active or retired military.....Christ Lutheran wants to honor you following the 10:30am service on Sunday, **November 12**. You should have received an invitation in the mail with all of the details for this special luncheon event. We want to ensure we have your name on our list! Feel free to bring along a family member or a friend to enjoy the meal and fellowship. If you are able to attend, please let the church office know (828-328-1483) or sign up at the Welcome Center no later than November 5. This will help us as we make final plans for the celebration. Please don't let transportation get in the way of your joining us. We'll be happy to arrange transportation to and from the event if you need assistance. Just let the church office know when you call. **One request when you come: Veterans, please bring a picture of yourself when you were in uniform, and Seniors, please bring a picture when you were younger.** It's going to be a great event and we look forward to celebrating and seeing **YOU!**

WANTED: Your Special Memories: In looking forward to celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church in 2025, the Steering Committee thought it would be fun to look back and share special memories. Do you have a favorite memory of an event or a special person from your time at CLC that you would be willing to share? We would like to share those special memories throughout the year. Please give us a brief account of the story or stories you want to share. It can be digital, typed or hand written. You can send it to Betsy Downs (betsydowns@gmail.com) or to Jill (clcs@clchickory.com) marked attention Betsy.

**Guiding Through
God's Love**

WINTER WARMTH MINISTRY PROJECT 2024:

While our hearts go out to the people in Western North Carolina who were devastated by Hurricane Helene, we don't want to forget those in need in our immediate community. Watch for the **WINTER WARMTH CON-TAINERS**. Last year, because of the generosity of our members and friends, we were blessed to be able to provide warmth and comfort to a good many of the less fortunate in our community. Austin Pierce once said to me, "Imagine that you woke up on the ground this morning." Whether the individuals we gave a blanket or a sleeping bag or a tarp or warm clothing to, did in fact wake up on the ground or not, there were also those who lacked the means for adequate heat or a warm jacket or sweater, or cozy hat and gloves. We were blessed to be a blessing! Beginning near the end of October, we will again collect WARM items to share. Here is a list of suggested items: small blankets, small tarps, warm hats, gloves and scarves, socks, warm coats, jackets, sweaters, warm overalls, reading glasses, hand and foot warmers, rain ponchos, sturdy tote bags, basic hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap and wash cloth). Again, if you would like to participate but prefer not to shop, you may make a donation and we will shop for you. If you have questions, please feel free to ask Betsy Downs.



ECCCM Renames to Represent Expanded Service Area. On February 3, 2024, the board of directors of Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Inc. (ECCCM) unanimously voted to change its name to Ashure Ministry. In August of 2023, the board shared the results of their strategic planning process. They faithfully wrestled with several new realities for the ministry, including their expanding service area. To acknowledge and address the community's growing needs and affirm their goal of serving more clients through high-quality crisis and food assistance, one of their strategic goals includes increasing the knowledge and understanding the community has for the mission and work of the ministry.

To accomplish this goal, the board recognized the need for a renaming and rebranding process for the ministry. First and foremost, ECCCM includes "Eastern Catawba" in the name. As their service areas expanded to all of Catawba County, it was important to establish a name that didn't cause potential clients to question their ability to access services. Clients come first. Other reasons for



In memory of Charles Beeker:

Pastor David & Kathy Ludwig
Carolyn & Stephen Johnson
Jeanette I. Hefner

In memory of Ken Moser:

Pastor David & Kathy Ludwig

changing their name included some misconceptions revealed in the listening process for their Strategic Plan. A significant number of constituents and stakeholders either didn't know what ECCCM represented or confused them with another local nonprofit.

In August, a strong team of ECCCM supporters brought their creativity and passion for the ministry to the table as the renaming team. They took their role seriously and cautiously, knowing that something like a name change would create feelings of excitement and anxiety. Through a process of elimination, they used three variables to go from 100+ name ideas to the final. Most importantly, these variables include the word's meaning and connection to the Christian faith. Secondly, the availability of URLs and social media accounts was considered. Finally, knowing that people would shorten the name, it was critical that it could stand alone without an acronym.

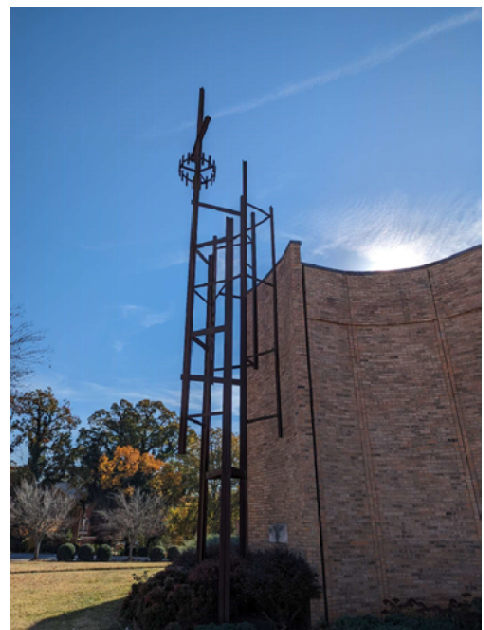
Ashure, known as Noah's pudding, is a grain pudding considered the first meal that Noah from the Old Testament in the Bible fed his family as they left the ark. It is considered a dessert or celebration dish. It is made from leftover grains. It symbolizes peace and harmony among all living creatures in God's creation. In principle, you eat only very little of the ashure you prepare. You share most of it with the poor, your neighbors, friends, and others. This act generates abundance and strengthens community bonds.

The renaming team valued the story of Noah and his family, who lived through struggle and crisis and whom God delivered from the ark. They felt the connection between crisis and struggle was significant. They also valued that the name Ashure represents a celebration, thanksgiving, and sacrifice. It is a shared dish among a community that genuinely cares for each other. It embodies hope for a new day and gives glory to God for bringing that new day. They chose to include the word Ministry in the name instead of the plural version, ministries. The new *mission to provide crisis assistance to the people of Catawba County* is holistic, and most clients qualify for multiple programs they offer. They are one ministry offering

comprehensive programs or services.

The new ICON combines three essential elements. At the center is the cross that continues out into the world - a cross that directs and sends the ministry out into the world to serve all people in the name of Jesus. It features the people of God circled in community, reliant on each other for care and support. Each person reaches in and out as they are able at different times in their lives. This represents those who benefit from the services and those who support them. Finally, it features a color palette that reflects growth and new life. The colors are intentionally chosen to create calm and comfort.

Over the coming weeks, Ashure Ministry will begin transitioning all its social media accounts, emails, and website to the new name and branding. This change does not affect the types of programs and services they offer. The people of Catawba County may continue to apply for food and crisis assistance during the transition. "Our donors and supporting churches have stepped up to provide the additional financial resources necessary to continue growing our ability to serve more clients," said Kristal Manning, director. "I am proud of the team's work and look forward to living into this new chapter for the ministry."



Do you recognize this picture?
David Puett took this of our church front.

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

Surgery: Lisa Smith (11/12)

Hospital: Fred Abromaitis (10/27)

Rehabilitation: Robert Sigmon (Mooresville Nursing & Rehab); Terry Pittman (10/13 Winston)

Recovering: Judy Baker (10/6); Ralph Day (9/29); Carmen Divers (10/20); Tony Lail (9/29); Chris Mundy (9/29); Robert Rinehart; Rita Crotts (9/29 sister of Tony Lail)

Undergoing treatments: Teresa Mays; Joanne Moser (10/13); John Sigmon; Doris Smith; Courtney Brown (10/13 friend of the Hamby's); Joanne Roseman Donley (9/29 sister of Marsha Day)

Under doctors' care: Kathie Albright (9/29); Shelly Baker; Jim Hunt (10/20); Becky Rimmer; Rita Roseman; Sonya McLeod (10/20 daughter-in-law of Ken & Sue McLeod); Justin Crooks (10/20 son of Jim & Evelyn);

Barbara Jones (sister of Lois Hunt); Gina Hubbard (9/29 neighbor of Rick & Glenda Setzer)

For shut-ins: Juanita Isenhower (Trinity Village); David & Donna Lumb (at home); Peggy Mays; Carolyn Smith (Autumn Care); Randy Smith; Alice Yount

For those who mourn the death of Ken Moser, and Devin King (nephew of Leisa Peck)

For those who are suffering due to *Hurricanes Helene and Milton*

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: Sept. 2024	Actual: January – Sept. 2024
<i>Income</i>	\$ 27,588.13	\$ 210,128.81
<i>Expense</i>	\$ 23,835.96	\$ 213,659.51
Net Income	\$ 3,752.17	- \$ 3,530.70

November 2024

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Holy Communion † - early †† - late					10:00a Zumba 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) ALL SAINTS DAY	
All Saints Sunday 3 9:00a 1st Service/ Small Group † 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service/ Small Group 11:45a Sunday Lunch 	4 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p "Matthew" w/ Pastor Alec	5 Election Day 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study- "Work" (Zoom)	6 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a LWML 1:00p "Topics" w/ Pastor Alec	7 7:00p CMT (FLC) Council 	8 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	9
25th Pentecost 10 9:00a 1st Service Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2nd Service †† 11:45a Sr. Adult & Vet Luncheon	11 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p "Matthew" w/ Pastor Alec 	12 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study-"Bible" (Zoom) 	13 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p "Topics" w/ Pastor Alec	14 7:00p CMT (FLC)	15 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	16
26th Pentecost 17 9:00a 1st Service † Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service	18 Newsletter Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 1:00p "Matthew" w/ Pastor Alec	19 10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study-"Commandments" (Zoom)	20 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Soup Kitchen 1:00p "Topics" w/ Pastor Alec	21 7:00p CMT (FLC)	22 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC)	23 11:30a <i>Feed the Needy</i>
Christ the King 24 9:00a 1st Service Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2nd Service ††	25 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba (FLC) 6:30p Kenworth Mtg. @ Mt. Zion	26 10:30a PEEPS	27 Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 6:00p Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 Church Office Closed 	29 No Zumba	30 10:00a Decorate for Christmas

*November 2024 Birthdays and Anniversaries
 Congratulations and may God continue to bless you!!!*

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Barbara Clemons | 14 | Brent Godfrey |
| 3 | Kecia Roseman | | Michael Smith |
| 4 | Tim Gabe | 17 | Jason Reep |
| 8 | Deana Flores | 18 | Jennifer Berube |
| 10 | Jessica Lackey | | Zaine Hicks |
| | Sarah Lail | 19 | Evan Roseman |
| 12 | Brad McClough | 20 | Dylan Hefner |
| 13 | Karla Bolch | 23 | Leslie Yount |
| | Betty Bolick | 24 | Alycia Abee |
| | Joseph Griffith | 25 | Andrew Baker |
| | Kathy Ludwig | | Virginia Sigmon |
| | Dana Seaboch | 29 | Tyler Hefner |

- | <i>Anniversaries</i> | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Fred & Cindy Abromaitis |
| 7 | Cliff & Lea Ann Sloan |
| 9 | Buckley & Monica Garber |
| 13 | Glenn & Kecia Roseman |
| 17 | Justin & Kelsey Wall |
| 19 | Richard & Gaye Tucker, Sr. |
| 25 | Jim & Pat Hamby |
| 27 | Tim & Mary Ann Isenhower |
| 29 | Jason & Kelley Reep |



	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24	
Preaching	Pastor Ludwig	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Tucker	
Lector	Pastor Fisher	Cam Davis	Alison Matthews	Karla Bolch	
Distributor	~*~	Angie Ewing	~*~	Linda Bolick, Zach Rose	
Acolyte	~*~	Jack Fisher	Adeline Fisher	~*~	
Elder	Nancy Rinehart	Maria McKinney	Angie Ewing	Nicole Rose	
Counters	David & Shawn Terry	Darryl & Dot Grater	Pat Hamby Angela Watts	Jim Hunt Cam Davis	
Audio/Video		Kyle Donovan		Cam Davis	
Media	Rick Lail	Karla Bolch	Susan Fulbright	Kyle Donovan	
Host	Mary Puett	Pat Hamby	Anna Newton	Betty Link	
Altar Guild	Nicole Rose	Nicole Rose	Nicole Rose	Nicole Rose	
Security Team	Jimmy Gantt	David Puett	Britt Griffith	Chris Mundy	

Connection

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“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” James 1:5.
Tuesday, November 5, is Election Day. Let us surround the day with our prayers, seeking guidance and wisdom to make informed and just choices.

Heavenly Father, we come before you with humble hearts, seeking your guidance and wisdom. We recognize the significance of the choices we make today, as they will shape the future of our nation and communities.

Grant us the discernment to make wise decisions. Help us to choose leaders who will govern with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to justice. We pray for all those involved in the electoral process – candidates, voters, poll workers, and officials. We lift up to you the candidates who have dedicated their time, energy, and passion to serve their communities and nation. We recognize the challenges they face and the weight of responsibility they carry. Surround them with your grace, guiding them to lead with integrity, empathy, and a commitment to the greater good, no matter the outcome.

We place our trust in you, Lord. Guide us in your wisdom and lead us as we cast our votes. May your will be done in this election and may your peace reign in our hearts.

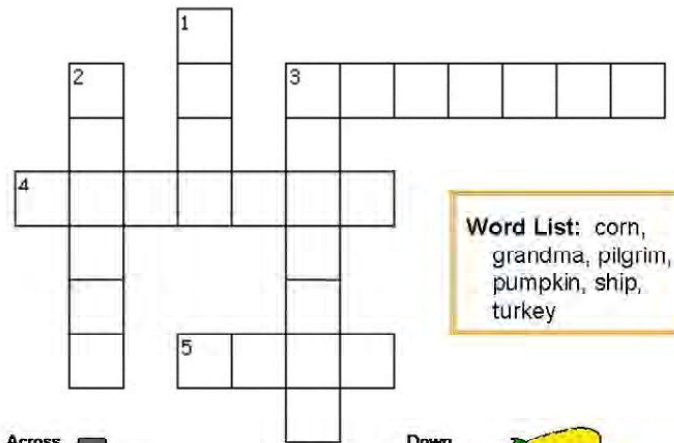
Amen. (edited from Christianity.com)

Thanksgiving Crossword

In all things
GIVE thanks!

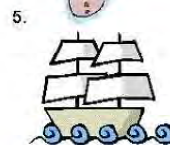


Thank you!
TO THOSE
That served!!
Happy Veterans day!

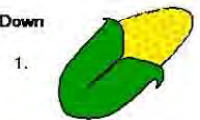


Word List: corn,
grandma, pilgrim,
pumpkin, ship,
turkey

Across



Down



Christ Lutheran Church

324 2nd Avenue, SE
Hickory, NC 28602

Comments

is published monthly by *Christ Lutheran Church*, a non-profit church located at 324 2nd Ave., SE, Hickory, NC 28602; Phone: 828-328-1483; Fax: 828-328-9841; Email: cles@clchickory.com; web: www.christlutheranchurchhickory.com

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

