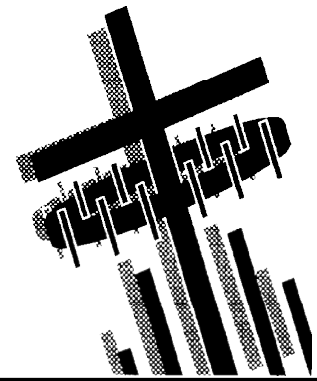


Comments



324 2nd Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ February 2025

God's Mystery of Making All Things New

This year, as we are celebrating 125 years of God making all things new at Christ Lutheran Church, we are sharing stories and memories of how God has been at work. I thought that I would take the time to share with you one of my favorite stories from Christian history. As the universal church on earth, all our stories are connected, and this one has had a profound influence on me ever since I can remember.

One of my favorite figures in church history was a Scottish man, who lived in the 5th century AD. His name was Succetus. Succetus lived in the Roman province of Britannia, in modern day Scotland. His mother was a native Scott but his father was an imperial Roman of some repute. Succetus' father was also a deacon in the church and himself the son of a Christian priest.

However, Succetus, unlike his father and grandfather, was not a Christian. When he was sixteen years old, he was kidnapped from his home and smuggled across the Irish sea where he, as a slave, looked after the sheep of his captors. During his time of captivity, Succetus had a life changing experience. He wrote that something moved within him. And he became a Christian. He said that he wasn't searching for this, but it was purely a gift from God. In his early twenties he escaped from his captors and went back home.

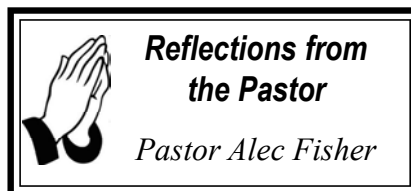
Succetus would eventually become a bishop in Britannia, after which he did something quite profound. One day he had a vision, and in that

vision, he was told to return to Ireland to the land of his captors and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, he did. God used this man to proclaim the Gospel of grace, the favor that he has for all in and through Jesus Christ, and he did so to those who had once kept him in bondage. He became an unlikely missionary.

God used Succetus to transform the hearts of thousands during his own life. Through his ministry, God built up the church in Ireland, and so that those who lived in darkness would experience God's favor by means of the one whom they enslaved. This is how God has worked all over the world. He sent his apostles out to the ends of the earth. Without people like Succetus, we wouldn't be here right now.

Because of God's grace, those who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Succetus himself took on another name—a preferred name: Patrick. That's the name by which many know him today.

St. Patrick wrote a lot about his travels and his ministry—the story of his life. You can read these writings in his *Confessions*. I highly recommend reading it if you ever get the chance. It's clear that, because of his own situation, Succetus (Patrick) truly understood the grace of God. Patrick writes that because of the grace of God given to him, he was compelled to preach the gospel everywhere, confidently, and without fear, “so that after my death I may leave it to my Gallican brothers and



CLC Notes and News

(continued from page 1)

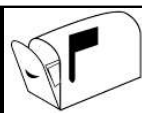
to my sons, many thousands of whom I have baptized in the Lord. And I was neither worthy nor deserving that the Lord should so favor me, his servant, after such afflictions and great difficulties, after captivity, after many years, as to grant me such grace for this nation—a thing which, still in my youth, I had neither hoped for nor thought of.” Patrick put everything on the line and his own personal baggage and trauma aside to Ireland and for the sake of God’s grace. And his witness is known even to this day.

Like Patrick, there is no way for us to know what God has in store for our lives. God is making all things new, but how he does this in our lives is often mysterious and unpredictable. We could probably say the same about his work through Christ Lutheran Church. We can only lift our hearts to him seeking his will and following where he leads that those around us would also be blessed. While we at Christ Lutheran Church can look back on the last 125 years, we don’t know what our God has in store for the next 125. May he bless our future as he has blessed our past along with those who have gone before us, like Patrick. God is still making all things new.

In Christ,
Pastor Alec

Save the Date!
Christ Bible Camp (VBS)
June 2-5, 2025
9am - 12:30pm

Please note: Change of address!



Peggy Mays
Terra Bella Newton
1088 Radio Station Road
Newton, NC 28658

Pastor Alec’s Book of the Month: Pastor Alec invites you to read books that he’s now revisiting. Each month a new book will be recommended for your own enjoyment. For the month of February, Pastor Alec will be reading *The Four Loves*, in which C.S. Lewis talks about the nature of love as we experience it. If that’s a topic that might interest you, you’re encouraged to pick up a copy and read along!

Breaking Bread Together: Next Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, so join us for lunch together after the 10:30am service! There’s no need to bring anything but yourself and the joy of our Lord Jesus! During our meal, we’ll also be doing some Bible and Christ Lutheran Church trivia to continue our 125th anniversary celebration. The winning table will get a prize!

If you have changed your cell or home phone number OR your email address, please call the office (828-328-1483) so we can update our directory in order to prevent you from missing any texts or voicemails about upcoming events, time changes, or cancellations from Christ Lutheran Church.

The next Church Council meeting is Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 7:00pm in the multi-purpose room. Please let Betsy Downs know if there is anything to add to the agenda ASAP. Thank you!



In honor of
Pastor David & Kathy
Ludwig:
Cozette Sinclair



The LWML will meet meet Wednesday, February 5th, in the multi-purpose room at 11:00am. Anna Newton will have the topic on the third article from the quarterly. We would love to have a visitor or two. Keep those mite boxes coming in.

Guiding Through God's Love

125 Years – God is still making all things new: Christ Lutheran Church was formed in 1900 and officially brought into the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in 1903. So, 2025 marks 125 years of our life together as a congregation! This year, we will have all kinds of reminders about what God has been doing and continues to do at CLC. Our Theme verse for this year is: *And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new”* (Revelation 21:5a). God has been making all things new at Christ Lutheran Church for the last 125 years, and he continues to do so today. We pray that this year of fellowship, celebration, and trust in God’s future plans for us will be a reminder to us all! Happy 125th anniversary!

Meal Service – February 16th at 9am: The third Sunday of the month (Feb 16th), which means that our 9:00am service will be a Meal Service! Bring a breakfast dish and join us for fellowship together as we pray, praise, give thanks, and hear God’s Word gathered around a meal!

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 putting your compassion into action. I am incredibly grateful for the blessing your generosity is for our guests! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Austin Pearce, Exec. Dir.

The Evangelism Committee would like to collect fitted twin sheets for the Hickory Memory Care Facility. They do not ask for top sheets, just the fitted bottom sheets. They have 52 residents and it would be nice to be able to collect one for each resident. We will collect through February 23rd. Questions, please see Mary Puett.

The Catawba Valley Community Chorus invites you to join them this spring as they present one concert in three area churches. To join, auditions are not required, although some level of singing and reading music is required. Rehearsals take place in the Choral Room at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church (4420 County Home Road, Conover, NC 28613), beginning Tuesday, February 18, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm. For more information, check us out at www.zionhickory.org/cvcchorus, and express your interest.

Wednesday Bible Study: On Wednesday, February 5, at 1:00pm in the multi-purpose room, the group will be talking about the Apostles Creed. Come join the group!

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: James Robinson (2/6)

Testing: Barbara Clemons (2/5)

Hospital: Loretta (1/12 from the Community)

Recovering: Judy Baker (1/26); Rebecca Locke (2/2); Jim Starkey (2/2 at *The Greens* in Viewmont); Rita Crotts (2/2 sister of Tony Lail); Eli (friend of Betsy Downs); Megan Hollar (1/26 friend of Tony & Anna Lail)

Undergoing treatments: Teresa Mays; John Sigmon; Doris Smith; Barbara Jones (sister of Lois Hunt); Thekla Sebaugh (2/2 sister of David Ludwig)

Under doctors' care: Kathie Albright; Shelly Baker; Carmen Divers; Pat Hamby; Lois Hunt (1/12); Becky Rimmer; Rita Roseman; Thomas Coley (1/12 brother-in-law of Jimmy Gantt); Paul Cates (1/12 husband of Angela); David Pingel (1/26 father of Kathryn)

For shut-ins: Juanita Isenhower at Trinity Village; David & Donna Lumb at home; Peggy Mays (Terra Bella Newton); Robert Sigmon (Autumn Care, Statesville); Carolyn Smith (Autumn Care); Randy Smith; Alice Yount

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

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: Dec. 2024	Actual: Jan.–Dec. 2024
Income	\$ 38,288.34	\$ 292,232.26
Expense	\$ 21,278.72	\$ 278,724.64
Net Income	\$ 17,009.62	\$ 13,507.62

February 2025

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Holy Communion ✝ - early ✝✝ - late</p>						<p>1</p> 
<p>4th after Epiphany 2</p> <p>9:00a 1st Service ✝ Small Group 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service Small Group 11:45a Sunday Lunch</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 1:00p <i>Matthew Monday</i> w/ Pastor Alec</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a LWML 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00p CMT (FLC) Church Council</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba</p>	<p>8</p> 
<p>5th after Epiphany 9</p> <p>9:00a 1st Service Small Group Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2nd Service ✝✝ Small Group 11:45a Elders</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 1:00p <i>Matthew Monday</i> w/ Pastor Alec</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>7:00p CMT (FLC)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba</p> 	<p>15</p>
<p>6th after Epiphany 16</p> <p>9:00a Meal Service ✝ Small Group Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2nd Service Small Group</p>	<p>Newsletter 17 Deadline</p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 1:00p <i>Matthew Monday</i> w/ Pastor Alec</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Soup Kitchen 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00p CMT</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:30a <i>Feed the Needy</i></p> 
<p>7th after Epiphany 23</p> <p>9:00a 1st Service Small Group Sunday School 10:00a Fellowship 10:10a Ad. Choir Reh. 10:30a 2nd Service ✝✝ Small Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 1:00p <i>Matthew Monday</i> w/ Pastor Alec NO Kenworth Mtg.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:30a PEEPS 6:00p Womens Bible Study (Zoom)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 1:00p Bible Study w/ Pastor Alec</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00p CMT</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba</p>	

*February 2025 Birthdays and Anniversaries
 Congratulations and may God continue to bless you!!!*

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|----------------|
| 2 | Tearza Bryant | 15 | Mary Kerns |
| 3 | Craig Mays | | Terry Roseman |
| | Peggy Mays | 17 | Maria McKinney |
| 4 | Payton Dockery | 19 | Chad Gantt |
| 5 | Daylen Lemaire | | Emily Schwandt |
| 9 | Lauren Downs-Harms | 20 | Shelly Baker |
| | | 21 | Ella Juerges |
| 10 | Damien Land | 23 | Laura Grater |
| 11 | Jerry Isenhour | | Patrick Setzer |
| 12 | Mary Bolch | 25 | Linda Bolick |
| | Josh McClough | | Brandi Link |
| | Elizabeth Sain | 26 | Caleb Garber |
| | Camilla Sain | | Odin Higgins |
| 13 | Lisa Kiziah | | Randall Mays |
| 14 | Sarah Sturgill | 27 | Brooke Brewer |
| | Tylan Turner | 28 | Danny Foster |
| | | | Leigh Yount |

<i>Anniversaries</i>	
7	Rick & Glenda Setzer
10	Scott & Cynthia Lail
11	Dan & Linda Sturgill
22	Terry & Sandra Reinhardt
27	Don & Sylvia Lail



	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23	
Preaching	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Tucker	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Ludwig	
Lector	Wendy Wilson	Pastor Fisher Alison Matthews	Britt Griffith	Pastor Tucker Robie Hillhouse	
Distributor	~*~	~*~	~*~	Wendy Wilson	
Acolyte	Jack Fisher	Jack Fisher	Adeline Fisher	Adeline Fisher	
Elder	Bill Lail	Jim Crooks	Sadie Lail	Nancy Rinehart	
Counters	Cam Davis Kathryn Pingel	Darryl & Dot Grater	Pat Hamby Bob Rinehart	David & Shawn Terry	
Audio/Video		Noah Lail	Kyle Donovan	Cam Davis	
Media	Lisa Smith	Rick Lail	Kyle Donovan	Karla Bolch	
Host	Pat Hamby	Anna Newton	Betty Link	Mary Puett	
Altar Guild	Sadie Lail	Susan Fulbright	Sadie Lail	Susan Fulbright	
Security Team	Rick Lail	Chris Mundy	Randall Mays	Jimmy Gantt	

Connection

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We are currently in the Church Year season called the “Sundays after the Epiphany”. The word “Epiphany” is Greek, meaning “to show forth” or “manifestation”. During this season (from January 6 through the day before Ash Wednesday) we remember that God showed forth His glory to the gentiles (that would be us!). It is a good season to remember that we are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our neighbors and friends.

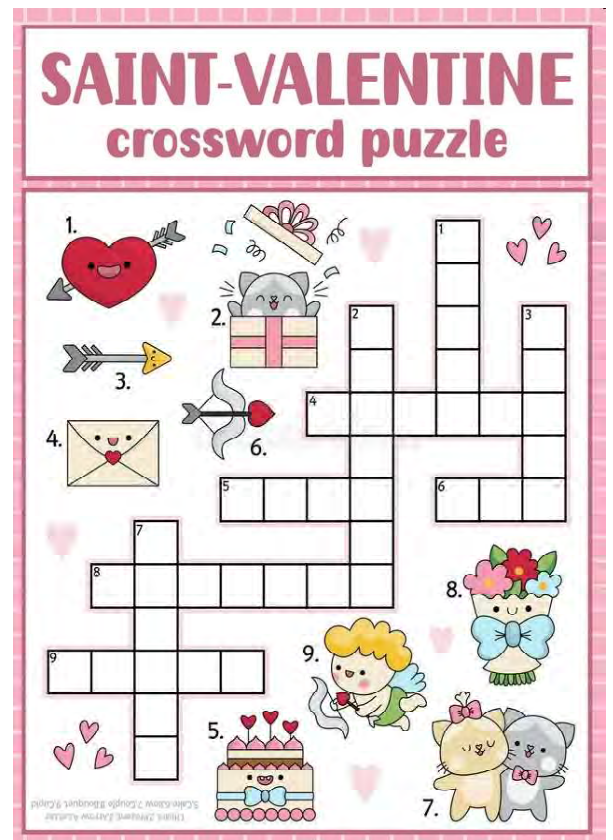
Consider using this prayer as you come to God, asking for the bold desire to be bearers of the good news:

Gracious God,

- I pray for confidence to share your Word with others and for the opportunity to proclaim it. Forgive my reluctance, my timidity.
- I pray for wisdom to know what should be said and the moment in which to say it. Forgive my reticence, my anxiety.
- I pray for knowledge of the fullness of your Grace and the willingness to live it. Forgive my ignorance, my self-reliance.

Be the center of all that I am, the Light by which I walk, and the blessing I bring to others, through Jesus Christ alone I ask these things. Amen.

Happy Groundhog Day!



Christ Lutheran Church

324 2nd 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

