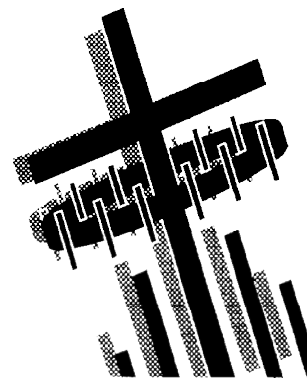


# Comments



324 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ June 2025

## Waters of Hope

The Bible begins: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* Genesis 1:1-2 gives us a picture of the deep waters of creation and the Spirit of God resting above them, blowing over them, guarding and keeping them, even in the darkness. For the Ancient Israelites, the waters were a place of fear, chaos, and uncreation.

The sea was something to be tamed and even someday overcome. The Philistines, the great enemies of Israel, were associated with the “sea people” and worshipped a nautical god. When Jonah wanted to flee the presence of God, he went to the sea. Yet, God showed Jonah that he was present even in the cold, dark chaos.

Our God commands the sea itself. The psalmist writes: *He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.* (Psalm 107:29-30). In Matthew 8, we read: *Then Jesus rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is*

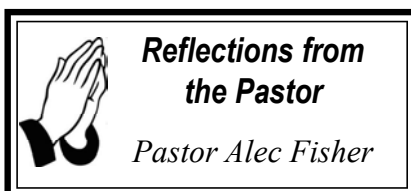
*this, that even winds and sea obey him?”* Jesus, God in the flesh, commands the sea.

In Exodus 14, we read: *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.* Our God demonstrates power over the sea, and he also

brings his people through it: salvation through the deep. The psalmist writes: *He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like*

*a heap* (Psalm 78:13). Jesus, God in the flesh, goes even further. He does not divide the sea. He simply walks on top of it. When he walks on the water to approach his disciples who are in the boat, he tell them, *“Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid”* (Matthew 14:27).

God commands the cold, dark waters of creation and uses those same waters to bring about salvation for his people. Even further, our God uses those very same waters for recreation. We see this in the baptism of Jesus. Matthew writes: *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened*



**Reflections from  
the Pastor**

Pastor Alec Fisher

# CLC Notes and News

(continued from page 1)

*to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"* (Matthew 3:16-17). The Spirit of God not only hovers over the waters, but he also hovers over Jesus as he is called the Son of God.

That gift is for us too. Though Jesus was begotten of the Father before all time, through the waters we too get to enter the family of God. When Paul was in Ephesus, he came across a group of gentiles and baptized them. Luke writes: *On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying* (Acts 19:5-6). The waters of creation are sometimes turbulent and intimidating. They even have the power to kill. But when our God kills, he also makes alive. Through the water, God blesses us with the gift of his Spirit. Now, the Holy Spirit dwells in us.

The Spirit, in the waters of baptism, brings us restoration and hope. These waters of hope turn us into something new. Paul writes, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come* (2 Corinthians 5:17). It's no accident that, when this creation has passed away and the new creation dawns, John writes: *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more* (Revelation 21:1). In the end, the sea will have served its purpose.

In this turbulent world, we face the waters of hope. They are waters that bring us to nothing so that we might be made new—a new identity in Christ. May you rest in the hope of our Lord who continues to make all things new.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Alec**

## Guiding Through God's Love



The LWML had their May meeting and celebrated Judy Baker's birthday. They will meet again, September 3.

We thank the congregation for participating in giving mites for many mission projects. Collect those mites during the summer!



*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, and thank you for all you do for our community!*

*Sincerely,  
Austin Pearce, Exec. Dir.*



**In memory of Alice Yount:**

Anna Newton

**In memory of Jim Starkey:**

Daniel Lail  
Anna Newton

**In memory of Peggy Mays:**

Anna Newton

**In memory of Barbara Foster:**

Pastor David & Kathy Ludwig

**The Evangelism Committee** has an over-stock of coffee mugs that were ordered for the new visitor bags. If anyone in the congregation is interested in purchasing a cup for \$5.00, there will be a pre-sale sheet and an example of the cup on the hostess desk.



## **CLC Council Proposed Roster for 2025-2026**

**President:** Betsy Downs (2)

**Vice President**

**Recording Secretary:** Diana Rink (2)

**Elders:** Robert Kraay (4) Chair

Bill Lail (4) Jim Crooks (2) Sadie Lail (2)

Nancy Rinehart (2) Maria McKinney (2)

Angie Ewing (1) Nicole Rose (1)

**Building & Ground:** Dale Matthews (4) Chair

Terry Reinhart (4) David Puett (2)

Rick Setzer (4)

Daniel Lail /Outside Flowers

**Education:** Sister Robie Hillhouse (4) Chair

Rachel Fisher (4) Anna Lail (3)

Janet Matthews (3)

Linda Bolick – SS Superintendant (4)

**Stewardship:** Jim Hunt (4) Chair Eli Rose (2)

**Evangelism:** Mary Puett (2) Chair

Lois Hunt (1) Karla Bolch (1)

**Fellowship/Publicity:** Evelyn Crooks (4) Chair

Nancy Rinehart (4) Pat Hamby (4)

Sylvia Lail (4) Debbie Wolf (1)

Dana Seaboch (1) Diana Rink (1)

**Finance:** Robert Rinehart (3) Financial Secretary

Mike Hillhouse (3) Treasurer

Angie Ewing (6) Dan Sturgill (7)

Cam Davis (1) - Treasurer Elect

**Social Ministry:** Barbara Clemons (6) Chair

Betty Bolick (5) Pat McKinney (0)

Deborah Hefner (0)

**Youth:** Janet Matthews (0) Chair

Pam Godfrey (3) Brian Rose (0)

Brad Fulbright (0) Kim Fulbright (0)

**Pentecost: June 8<sup>th</sup> - Single Service:** The Pentecost holiday is just around the corner! On June 8<sup>th</sup> we will have a single service at 10:30am with a candle light procession. Mark your calendars as we celebrate the Holy Spirit of our God coming to dwell within our hearts and minds and transforming us into his temple – an event which changed the foundations of creation itself!



**Father's Day** is June 15! Since this is our Meal Service day, we will serve you breakfast at 9:00am in the FLC (not potluck). During the meal we will also have a devotional service recognizing the gift of fatherhood for all to celebrate! All fathers and families are invited. Please sign-up. There are sign-up sheets in the narthex and the FLC.



"My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and long life, and peace, will they add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and a good reputation in the sight of God and man."  
– Proverbs 3:1-4



**Summertime is coming and so are vacations.** If you travel and have toiletries, please save them for the Pregnancy Care Center's Mommy Bags. There is a green basket in the narthex labeled "Bucket of Love for Pregnancy Care Center" for collection. Thank you!

"Start children off on the way they should go...they will not turn from it."  
~~ Proverbs 22:6

**Have you seen ALL of the things done around CLC these last few months??** A sincere **THANKS** goes out to **many** people who have helped. I hope I don't leave anyone out!!

First, to Linda Sturgill for her expertise in selecting the colors for the multi-purpose room; Pastor Alec Fisher for his discerning aesthetic taste and general advice; the Finance Committee for putting up with the paint smell and constant "goings on" in the multi-purpose room; Laura Fite for **ALL** her time and coordinating each aspect of the room; for Laura and Robie Hillhouse for renovating & painting the room; PurThermal for refinishing the air vents; Kathy Ludwig for her attention to the closet doors in the room; Dale Matthews for ordering and installing the doors; Dale Matthews, Rick Setzer & Terry Reinhardt for moving the piano to the Parish Hall; Terry Reinhardt for providing & placing the window valences & the CLC clock; Linda Bolick for helping to identify old items from the multi-purpose room closets & drawers...

In preparation for Easter: Laura Fite & Dale Matthews for placing the altar paraments for each service (& every Sunday throughout the year); Joanne Moser for the gift of the new drape for the FLC cross; Evelyn Crooks & Lois Hunt for the beautiful flowers in the garden planter; Dan Lail for his unfailing attention the flowers in the yard planters; Rick Setzer for the year-long mowing & caring for the lawn & church grounds; Rachel Fisher & children for assisting in moving the lilies from Laura's car to the FLC; Laura Fite & Mary Puett for moving the lilies from the FLC to the sanctuary and watering them; and last but certainly not least, the congregation for ordering the lilies each year! They are a beautiful addition to worship!!



**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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



# 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: Kathie Albright (6/16); Marsha Day (7/1); Pat Hamby (6/12)

Hospital: David Pingel (5/4 father of Kathryn)

Rehab: Glenda Griffith (5/25 at Carolina Rehab, Icard); DiAnn Wichman (5/25 at Trinity Village)

Hospice: Becky Rimmer (home); Elliott Abernathy (5/4 cousin of Kathryn Pingel); Doris Kaylor (5/4 aunt of Kathryn Pingel)

Recovering: Teresa Mays; Ken Pingel (5/4 uncle of Kathryn); Lance Queen (5/4 friend of Maria McKinney); Cathy Dunn (5/11 friend of Pat McKinney); Megan Hollar (6/1 friend of Tony & Anna Lail)

Undergoing treatments: Tim Brewer (5/11); Doris Smith; Mary Jacob (5/4 sister-in-law of Kathy & David Ludwig); Courtney Brown (5/18 friend of the Hamby's); Paul Cates (5/4 husband of Angela); Erik Smith (5/11 friend of the Sturgills); Phil Wendling (5/18 former member & friend of Ludwigs)

Under doctors' care: Fred Abromaitis (5/11); Judy Baker; Carmen Divers; Roger Downs (5/4); Lois Hunt; Rita Roseman; John Sigmon (6/1); Evan Lail (5/11 father of Tony); Judy McKinney (5/11 friend of Pat McKinney); Thomas Coley (5/14 brother-in-law of Jimmy Gantt); Wayne Daniels (6/1 friend of Tony & Anna Lail)

For shut-ins: Juanita Isenhower at Trinity Village; David & Donna Lumb at home; Robert Sigmon (Autumn Care, Statesville); Carolyn Smith (Autumn Care); Randy Smith

For those who are suffering due to *Hurricane Helene*

**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: April 2025		Actual: Jan.-Apr. 2025	
Income	\$ 21,731.16		\$ 96,706.59
Expense	\$ 22,708.73		\$ 105,443.27
Net Income	– \$ 977.57		– \$ 8,736.68

# June 2025

# Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Ascension 1</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service ☩ 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ser/Small Grp 11:45a Voter's Assembly <i>Breaking Bread</i> <i>Together - Sunday Lunch</i>	<b>2</b> 9:00-12pm CBS 10:00a Zumba (PH) 11:00a Chair Zumba 1:00p Matthew Monday w/ Pastor Alec	<b>3</b> 9:00-12pm CBS	<b>4</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00-12pm CBS 10:00a Zumba (PH)	<b>5</b> 9:00-12pm CBS 7:00p CMT (FLC) Council	<b>6</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba	<b>7</b> 
<b>Christ Bible Camp – June 2-5, 2025</b>						
<b>Pentecost 8</b> 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a ONE Service 11:45a Elders	<b>9</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 1:00p Matthew Monday w/ Pastor Alec	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC)	<b>12</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC)	<b>13</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba	<b>14</b>
<b>Father's Day Holy Trinity 15</b> 9:00a Father's Day Breakfast w/ Cont. Serv. ☩ 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service 	<b>16</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba	<b>17</b>	<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 	<b>21</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Penecost 22</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service ☩☩	<b>23</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC)	<b>26</b> 7:00p CMT (FLC) 	<b>27</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba	<b>28</b>  11:30a <i>Feed the Needy</i>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Penecost 29</b> 9:00a 1 <sup>st</sup> Service 10:00a Fellowship 10:30a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Service ☩☩	<b>30</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 					

# *June 2025 Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

1	Martha Bolick	16	Gaye Tucker
	Tina Bryant-Gaither		Sadie Watts
2	Lisa Bradshaw	20	Tony Lail
4	Brett Sain	22	Evelyn Crooks
5	Byron Yarbrough	23	Pam Lackey
7	David Sigmon	24	Shonda Brewer
	Lib Tucker		Amanda Lemaire
8	Leslee Baker	25	Noah Lail
9	Sandra Reinhardt	26	Jay McFarland
	Will Rose	27	Candy Clark
10	Camela Davis		Kathy Hefner
	Darryl Grater	29	Michael Juerges
	Sue McLeod		David Puett
11	Braiden Bell		Carolyn Wendling
	Gage Lackey		Debbie Wolf
13	Laura Fite		
	Leisa Peck		
	Lucy Roseman		
15	Natashia Beckinski		



<i>Anniversaries</i>	
5	Bob & Nancy Rinehart
7	Nathaniel & Cassie Kraay
8	Brent & Pam Godfrey
11	Jim & Evelyn Crooks
	Jim & Lois Hunt
13	Nicole & J.R. Morton, Jr.
15	Randall & Teresa Mays
	Terry & Mary Roseman
16	Alyssa & Kris Arnold
20	James & Jolinda Deal
	John & Karen Sigmon
23	Alec & Rachel Fisher
	David & Shawn Terry
27	Doggy & Deana Flores
28	John & Sandra Abernathy
	David & Renae Sigmon
29	Robert & Virginia Sigmon
30	Mark & Lisa Kiziah

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Fisher	Pastor Ludwig	Pastor Fisher
<b>Lector</b>	Zach Rose	Pastor Tucker	Alison Matthews	Pastor Tucker	Wendy Wilson
<b>Distributor</b>	~~*~~	~~*~~	~~*~~	Angie Ewing	Karla Bolch
<b>Acolyte</b>	Jack Fisher	Adeline Fisher	Jack Fisher	Adeline Fisher	Jack Fisher
<b>Elder</b>	Jim Crooks	Sadie Lail	Nancy Rinehart	Maria McKinney	Angie Ewing
<b>Counters</b>	Darryl & Dot Grater	Pat Hamby Bob Rinehart	David & Shawn Terry	Cam Davis Kathryn Pingel	Darryl & Dot Grater
<b>Audio/Video</b>	Noah Lail	Kyle Donovan		Cam Davis	
<b>Media</b>	Rick Lail	Kyle Donovan	Karla Bolch	Lisa Smith	Rick Lail
<b>Host</b>	Anna Newton	Betty Link	Mary Puett	Pat Hamby	Anna Newton
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sadie Lail	Cam Davis/Wichman	Sadie Lail	Cam Davis/Wichman	Cam Davis/Wichman
<b>Security Team</b>	Britt Griffith	Rick Lail	Chris Munday	Randall Mays	Jimmy Gantt

# Connection

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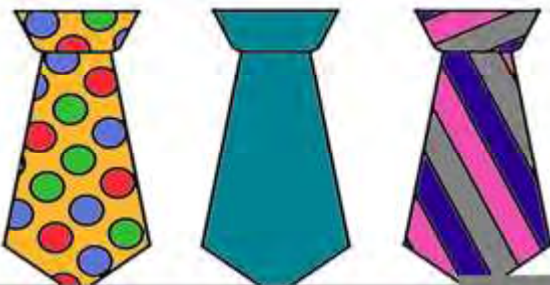
Happy Father's Day! We give God, our heavenly Father, thanks for our earthly fathers and father figures who have been a presence in our lives. We pray:

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness, and patience. Support them in the work they do, protecting those who look to them, just as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen.

BE MERCIFUL  
just as  
YOUR FATHER  
is merciful



LUKE 6:36



## What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it... Dad.

- Author Unknown

# 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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