



**Community
In Christ
Lutheran Church**

CIC NEWS

June 2020

Serving the Lake Norman area since 1977

A newsletter published for the members and friends of Community In Christ Lutheran Church, 7621 Norman Island Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031 704-892-0120 email: swheeler@communityinchrist.net www.communityinchrist.net



Worship In June.....

Please continue to join us for worship during the Season after Pentecost through our 10 a.m. livestreams on Sundays on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

[Facebook Link](#)

[YouTube Link](#)

Community In Christ is an ELCA Lutheran Church located two miles west of I-77 at Exit 25. Our office hours are 9:30 am-5:00 pm Monday through Friday. During the school year (September through May) we have worship at 9:00 am & 11:00 am on Sundays. Nursery is available during Sunday Worship. We have a Wednesday evening worship at 7 pm. Communion is served at all services. Adult and Children's Sunday School is at 10 am. During the summer months (Memorial weekend through the 2nd Sunday of September) we have one service at 10 am with nursery available. An open invitation is extended to everyone to share our joy of Christian fellowship in worship and life.



From the Pastors.....

Dear Community in Christ,

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

How? & When? These are the questions that have been consuming much of our time and energy over the month of May. *When* will we be able to physically gather together again? *How* will we be able to physically gather together when the time comes? Some days, the information surrounding our questions would arrive to us like a slow trickle. Other days, it hit like a tsunami. In consideration to these questions, there are recommendations from medical professionals like the Centers for Disease Control that go along with local and state regulations that churchwide and denominational leaders then try to morph into practices for individual congregations. There are many, many factors and layers that go into answering our questions. And, these factors and layers are changing—frequently.

As of May 22nd, North Carolina entered into "Safer At Home—Phase 2." This states that indoor gatherings are still limited to 10 people or less. Phase 2 is currently scheduled to last until June 26th, however, it could be extended or shortened. These recommendations are based on our state's infection data and how we delay or prevent infecting one another for both the love of each other and the healthcare system taking care of all of our needs. Given this timeframe, we are anticipating that our most common method for worship during the month of June will continue to be virtual.

Conversation about *how* and *when* is occurring among congregational leadership and the plan is adjusting as new information is provided to us. *How* it will look will be significantly different than any of us have ever experienced. On the short list: numbers will be limited; seats will be separated; live singing and corporate speaking will not take place; communion, passing of the peace, and offering will not involve contact; and there will be nothing that can be touched like hymnals or bulletins. But, at the point *when* the timing is right and solidified for our in-person gatherings, we will be ready.

Central to the answers of our *how* and *when* questions is the element of **safety**. A popular phrase circulating among church and business leadership recently goes along the lines of, "Just because we can doesn't mean we should." Undoubtedly, you have heard elected officials encouraging churches to open. We are immensely grateful for our religious freedoms and our ability to be a worshiping community, however, the *right* to gather at this time does not mean it is wise for us to do so. This virus, unfortunately, can't tell if we're sitting in a school classroom, restaurant, movie theater, or church. It just wants to keep finding new bodies to find a home. The health and well-being of the congregation and our community will always be of the utmost concern for any future decisions congregational leadership make moving towards in-person gatherings, and those decisions will be based on the recommendations of public health, infectious disease, and medical professionals as well as the recommendations of the ELCA and NC Synod.

And, to be absolutely clear, the Church is open. While CIC and congregations all over the world closed the doors of their sanctuaries months ago, the Church has continued to gather together in new and different ways in order to express our love for God and for our neighbors.

Loving God and loving our neighbors—this is the answer to another big question that is crucial for us to remember in all of this. Loving God and loving our neighbors is the reason *why* we gather together. Figuring out *how* and *when* we can do so physically in the same space in the future are crucial questions, but our *why* is not limited by space. We must not forget *why* we worship to begin with.

To say that we are eager to get back to in-person worship is a vast understatement. We miss regularly being with you in the ways we are used to so much! As we continue to eagerly anticipate that time when we can safely congregate, we are looking forward to the upcoming fellowship event on June 7th as well as numerous other ways for us to connect as the body of Christ. Whether it's through Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, e-mails, texts, or phone calls, whenever and however we gather together, Jesus is with us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael

From the Church Council.....

Hello CIC Members,

First topic: The annual meeting. After discernment among staff and council, along with consultation with the NC Synod office, we have unanimously decided to postpone the annual meeting. We will be planning on having our annual meeting in September but will remain flexible depending on the COVID-19 situation. Our annual meeting is both a starting-line and a finish-line for our congregation. It works as a venue to wrap up the previous year: report out on our finances, give thanks for the congregations generosity, celebrate our various ministries, and give thanks for our many lay leaders – including those rotating off of council. It also marks the beginning of a new year, where we elect new council members and adopt a new annual budget. All of these things will still happen during the September meeting! But – in the short term – we'll have to be nimble and adjust to this temporary reality as best as we can.

Second topic: Church council. CIC's council formed a nomination committee early this year to seek out interest and identify potential candidates to fill the council seats that were scheduled to be vacated by current members rolling off after three years of service. The committee was comprised of the two members ending their service, Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael, Susan Kullstam, Carol Moser and Laverne Waskelis. The committee included an announcement in the bulletin and Tuesday emails weekly. Once the group had a list of candidates, each expressed a willingness to be considered for a position by Council and the congregation. Council voted in April to bring forth three candidates to be voted upon by the congregation at the Annual Meeting originally scheduled for May 31. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and state guidelines we now anticipate that the annual meeting will be held in September with nominees formally presented to the congregation at that time. As we all seek to maintain forward momentum with plans for CIC, Council voted to invite the proposed new council representatives to attend Council meetings starting in June in order to become oriented to processes and ongoing agenda items without yet having an official vote. The nominees for Council in 2020-2021 are Paul Handrock, Deborah Lowe and Paul Miller.

Last topic (for this month!): 2020-2021 budget. Lots of discernment, time, and debate has been put into our proposed 2020-2021 budget. While this is true every year, we are especially thankful for our strong financial leaders – Colleen, Thomas, Shari and entire finance team – and all the work they have done over the last few months. Council will be meeting on May 31st to finalize this tentative budget. Once finalized, we will begin operating against this tentative budget when our new fiscal year begins. When we reach the annual meeting in September, we will still present this budget to the congregation. If there are any changes, we will adopt those changes over the course of the remaining 2020-2021 fiscal year. We are a pretty lean organization, like many churches, and our leaders and staff have been diligent about trimming or delaying every possible expense since the beginning of this COVID-19 crisis. We will remain diligent stewards of the congregation's financial gifts.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or just would like more information on this path forward, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

In Peace,

Jeff Moen

Susan Kullstam

Pastor Lisa Beery

Pastor Michael Beery

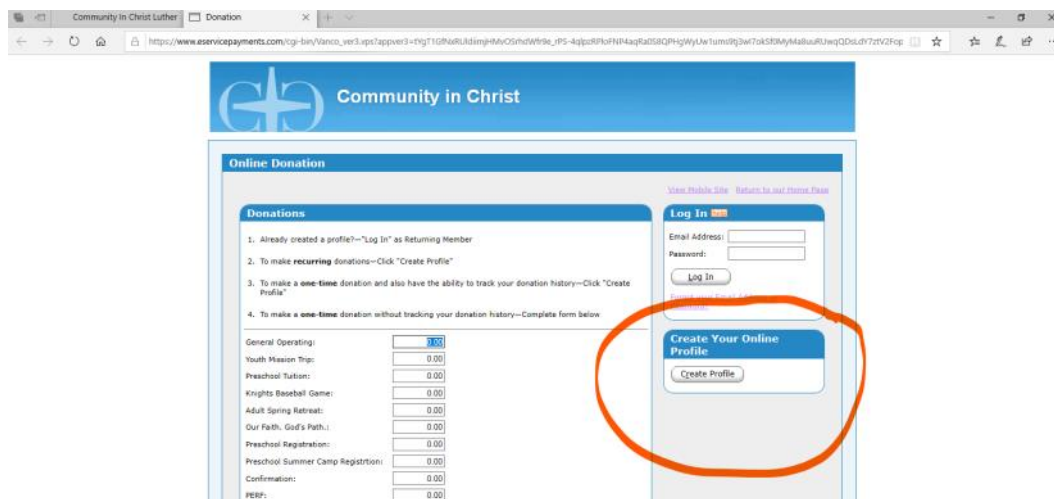
Ways That You Can Continue to Give of Your Tithes and Offerings at CIC:

1. Online/Direct Withdrawal

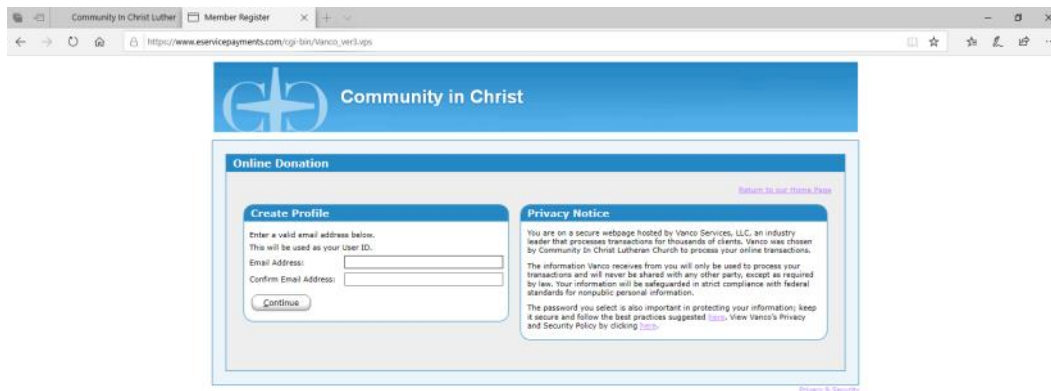
A. Go to www.communityinchrist.org & click on the “donate now” button in the upper-right hand corner.



B. Select “Create Profile”



C. Provide Your E-Mail Address



D. Create your profile and provide the various pieces of requested information. Once your profile is created, you can select what types of giving you would like to sign up for (one-time or reoccurring,

2. Traditional Mail Option: At CIC we now have a locked mailbox that is checked frequently. CIC's address is: 7621 Norman Island Drive, Cornelius, NC 28031



Celebration of Holy Communion

When and Where:

We will celebrate Holy Communion together on Sundays after the 10am livestream worship concludes. The communion portion of worship will take place via Zoom starting at 11am. The Zoom link will change each week. It is sent out each week in the weekly Take Two e-mail and a reminder in a Friday e-mail. If you haven't been receiving these e-mails, please contact Stephanie in the church office. (swheeler@communityinchrist.net)

Preparation:

- ♦ **Setting:** Please prepare a special space in your home to serve as the location where you will celebrate Holy Communion. Clear off a section of your table, desk, etc. where you can place a candle, a plate with bread, and a cup(s) with wine/grape juice.
- ♦ **Supplies:** You will need some type of bread and wine/grape juice. Unleavened bread is traditionally what is used. Only set out the amount of bread/wine/grape juice that you will consume.
- ♦ The recipe for CIC's communion bread is sent in the Friday e-mails.
- ♦ You are welcome to pick up bread, like pita, during your next grocery store purchase.
- ♦ Pre-packaged sealed wafer/juice packets (note, these are not gluten-free) are available at the church if you would like. Please contact the church office for a pick up time. You can pick up what you need for the month so that you don't have to pick up each week.

Participation:

- ♦ The communion liturgy looks similar to what occurs during a typical Sunday at CIC. One big difference is that when the elements are raised and blessed during the Words of Institution, you raise the bread and the wine in your home.
- ♦ After the Lord's Prayer, Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael name participants one at a time and then we all commune together at the same time. After everyone has received communion, we conclude with a final prayer and blessing. You are on mute while you are not receiving communion.
- ♦ Non-communing children are welcome to receive a blessing.

Prayers

Prayers for Members: Carla Beaver, Gary Salzman, Suzette Iskander, Gregg Bottemiller, Bertie Steely, Claudia Boggiano, DiBenedictis family, Jim Carney

Prayers for friends & relatives of members: Mike & Tristin (friends of Suzi Hinrichs), Marie Gustke (Norma Short's mother), Allen & Nancy Short (Rod Short's parents), Justin Keene (friend of Stephanie Wheeler), Jennifer Trimble (friend of CIC, Stella Ryan), Jim Luke (Cassie Conrad's father), Tina Von Dohlen (Renate Von Dohlen's daughter), Karen Ardillo (friend of Martha Smith), Ann Donahue (Bill Langan's sister), Teresa Swing (Steve Swing's sister), Sandra Eliassen (Carol Swing's mother), Kate Danko (Lucy Price's daughter), Carol Porter (friend of Bill Kauffman), C.J. King (friend of the Spano's), Laurie Higgins (Gary Samuelson's girlfriend) Marilyn Earnhardt (Preschool Teacher), Liz & Mia, Julie & Patrick Murphy (friends of Lisa Hudson)

Prayers for all active duty military personnel and their families, healthcare workers, first responders and public servants (Community In Christ thanks you and continues to pray for you)

The Lay Pastors meet monthly to pray for all people on the list. They also send out cards letting them know they have been prayed for. Please provide addresses to send the cards. Please submit all prayer requests to the office at swheeler@communityinchrist.net or 704-892-0120.

CIC Buddies

If you'd like to have a buddy to check on and be checked in on by, it's not too late! If you're interested in being a CIC Buddy, please e-mail Carol Swing (carol@communityinchrist.net) and she will match you with a buddy.

A Thank You

We recently received a card from a woman we were able to assist with rent in January. *"Thank you. You helped me when I didn't know how I was going to make it through a rough time in my life. May God continue to use you to be a blessing to others and light in such a dark world."* Included with this kind note was a "repayment" and an additional gift to help someone else. What a joy to hear that her life had emerged from the rough place! Thank you for faithfully supporting the Pastors' Emergency Relief Fund (PERF) over the years. Your financial gifts are the hand of God in people's lives in their times of need. ~Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael

Summer Camps:

We will follow CDC, State, and County guidelines for summer gatherings as they are announced. For now, please keep these dates marked on your calendars and we will update you on them when we can.

Preschool Summer Camp: Camp is for children ages 2—5. Each camp session is \$130 with a \$65 non-refundable fee that will hold your child's spot in the camp. The remaining balance is due two weeks prior to camp. All camps run from 9:05 am to 1 pm. Questions? Contact Sharon Fuller @ sfuller9564@gmail.com. Dates for camp are:

- **July 6-9—Animal Adventures.**
- **August 3-6—Wee Rock.**

Outdoor Ministries Update

June is the month our NC Synod Outdoor Ministries – Agape Kure Beach Ministries (AKB) and NovusWay Ministries (Lutheridge and Lutherock) – dream and plan for all year. Our own congregation would have welcomed AKB Day Camp one week and turned around and headed to Lutheridge the next with our confirmation students. Usually right about now, summer staff are trained and the energy is palpable to welcome hundreds and hundreds of youth and adults into transformational encounters with Jesus in safe and spirited ways. These ministries have had to make faithful yet extraordinarily heart-wrenching decisions this year. Both AKB and NovusWay have made the difficult decision to suspend all Summer Camp programming for resident and day camps in the Summer of 2020. As we are all church together, please pray for these precious ministries of our synod during these unusual days.



New Congregational Fellowship Event!

On June 7th at 6:30 pm we will be gathering together in CIC's parking lot for an exciting and fun evening of BINGO! This is an inter-generational event that we hope many people will be able to take advantage of. Participants will need to stay in their vehicles for the duration of the game. Additional instructions will be sent in a congregational e-mail before the event. Did we mention that there will be prizes?!?!



Congregational Dinner **Wednesday, June 10 - 6 pm:**

Pick up/have your food delivered to support a local restaurant! Cook a meal for yourself! Pour a bowl of cereal! Whatever you decide to eat on Wednesday, June 10th, at 6, eat it with a device nearby to connect on Zoom. Can't jump on right at 6? That's alright, join when you can! Zoom etiquette for groups, to avoid back feed, is that everyone except those speaking is on mute. Please also be sure there isn't music or a television playing in the background. Each person/couple/family joining in will have an unmuted chance to share how they're doing and what they're up to ... while the rest of us give thumbs up, air high fives, and exaggerated facial expressions in response! You're also welcome to unmute and ask questions of each other, too! See you soon! The link to join the meal is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85614167303>
Meeting ID: 856 1416 7303

Office & Staff Information

While teleworking is still encouraged in Phase 2, staff continue to work at home and in the office in ways that promote social distancing. Staff can always be reached through e-mail. Contact information for staff follows:

Pastor Lisa – pastorlisa@communityinchrist.net

Pastor Michael – pastormichael@communityinchrist.net

Stephanie Wheeler, Church Administrator – swheeler@communityinchrist.net

Carol Swing, Director of Inviting Ministries – carol@communityinchrist.net

Sandy Barefoot, Director of Music Ministries – sandy@communityinchrist.net

Colleen Karpovitz, Director Church Finance – ckarpovitz@cox.net



Devotions At Home

Are you looking for daily devotions to participate in at home? Pastor Michael and Pastor Lisa suggest these. Check out one or all of them!

- ⇒ **Morning Watch** – Pastor Jesse and Pastor Matt, brothers who are both pastors in Greensboro, have been producing a Morning Watch for adults and a Morning Watch Kids that is based off of the “Morning Watch” experienced each morning at Lutheridge ... where they grew up as two of the children of long-time former Program Directors Pastors Tim and Mary Caniff-Kuhn. The devotions can be found on their YouTube channel and Facebook. Search for “Morning Watch.” [Morning Watch YouTube Link](#); [Morning Watch Facebook Link](#)
- ⇒ **God Pause** – A Daily Devotion by Alumni of Luther Seminary – These daily scripture lessons, short devotions, and prayers are written by current and retired pastors in Christ’s church. A new God Pause is posted each day. Miss one? No problem, you can click on a calendar to see any date. Google “Luther Seminary God Pause”. [God Pause Link](#)
- ⇒ **Christ in Our Home** – Augsburg Fortress is continuing to offer a FREE subscription to its online Christ in Our Home daily e-mail devotional through June 30th. Sign-up for free on the website and a devotion will be e-mailed to you every morning at 5 a.m. Google “Christ in Our Home E-mail Subscription”. [Christ in Our Home Subscription Link](#)

“Tuesday Morning” Bible Study

Pastor Lisa and Pastor Michael have been putting together a virtual Bible Study of sorts that reflects on or gives a little food for thought about the week’s upcoming lectionary texts. We can’t yet guarantee what day of the week it is e-mailed out, but if you’d like to receive the Bible Study, please contact Stephanie in the church office to be added to the list. (swheeler@communityinchrist.net)

Synod Worship Opportunity

Looking for an additional worship opportunity during the week? The synod office has subscribed to a call-in plan which offers a new option for folks worshipping across the synod. Call the toll-free number any time during the week to hear the previous Sunday's recorded worship. Starting on Monday of each week, you may call **833-924-1988** to access it. Press 1 to hear the full worship; press 2 to hear the sermon; and press 3 to hear the prayers.



BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

On June 7th we will be celebrating CIC's 2020 High-School graduates. Please be sure to join the livestream starting at 10am as we, as a family of faith, extend our well-wishes and God's blessings to them as they transition into a new phase of life. CIC's current graduates are:

Morgan Canady

Evan Rixman

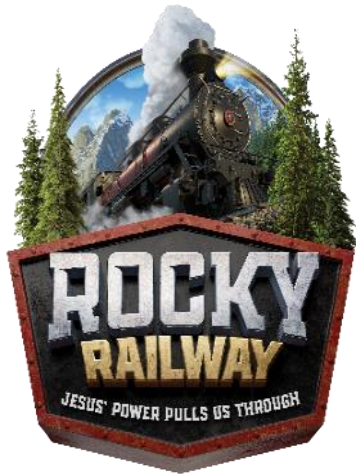
Ian Theisen

Sean Theisen

Kaden Theisen

Aaron Zimmerman

Adam Zimmerman



**Rocky Railroad VBS has taken a detour!
Expected to pull into the CIC Station summer of 2021!!**



Because of this detour we are excited and busy planning a

Family “Splash in God’s Word” Summer Activity

It will be a fun, water and faith filled week
with a combination of parking lot (in or next to your car) gatherings,
take-home activities and some virtual content.

Watch for more details and registration
to open mid-June!!!!




From the Finance Team

Community in Christ Ministry Plan	Jul19-Jun20 Budget	Jul19-Apr20 Actual	% of Budget
Revenue			
Revenue	\$585,359	\$428,726	73%
Operating Budget offerings			
Other Revenue	\$179,806	\$ 141,167	79%
Facility Usage, Preschool tuition and fees, Bank interest			
PPP Funds used for April expenses		\$ 15,693	
Total Revenues	\$765,165	\$585,586	77%
Expenses			
Worship	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,006	57%
altar supplies, devotionals, substitute pastors			
Witness	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,330	85%
offering envelopes, family life, evangelism, giving garden			
Serve	\$ 58,536	\$ 42,959	73%
synod benevolence			
Administration	\$ 47,239	\$ 41,065	87%
computer software, copier lease, insurance, internet, postage, office supplies, telephone, payroll service, credit card fees			
Mortgage	\$ 92,196	\$ 65,101	71%
principal and interest on mortgage			
Property	\$ 56,574	\$ 43,182	76%
building maintenance, janitorial services, utilities, lawn care, fire/security alarms, exterminating, floor/carpet cleaning			
Staff	\$ 471,237	\$ 370,872	79%
salaries, taxes, and benefits for four full-time and two part-time employees; staff development (partially offset by designated giving in 2016-2017)			
Montagnard Mission	\$ 3,500	\$	0%
salary for one part-time employee, stipends, activities (expenses are offset by grants and designated giving)			
Music Ministries	\$ 5,235	\$ 2,331	45%
guest artists, music for choirs, copyright fees			
Youth Ministries	\$ 12,150	\$ 3,282	27%
youth mission trips, retreats, activities; 2017-2018 and 2018-2019: also includes Sunday school, campfirmation			
Preschool	\$ 12,241	\$ 12,561	103%
activities, supplies, maintenance			
Total Expenses	\$ 765,158	\$ 585,690	77%
Budget Surplus		\$ (105)	

PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR CREDIT CARD EXPIRATION DATE IF YOU ARE SET UP FOR AUTO DEDUCTION ON OUR WEBSITE.

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Cornelius, NC 28031
Permit #5



Community in Christ Lutheran Church
7621 Norman Island Drive
Cornelius, NC 28031
1-777, Exit 25 2 miles west on HWY 73
(704) 892-0120 e-mail: swheelcer@communityinchrist.net

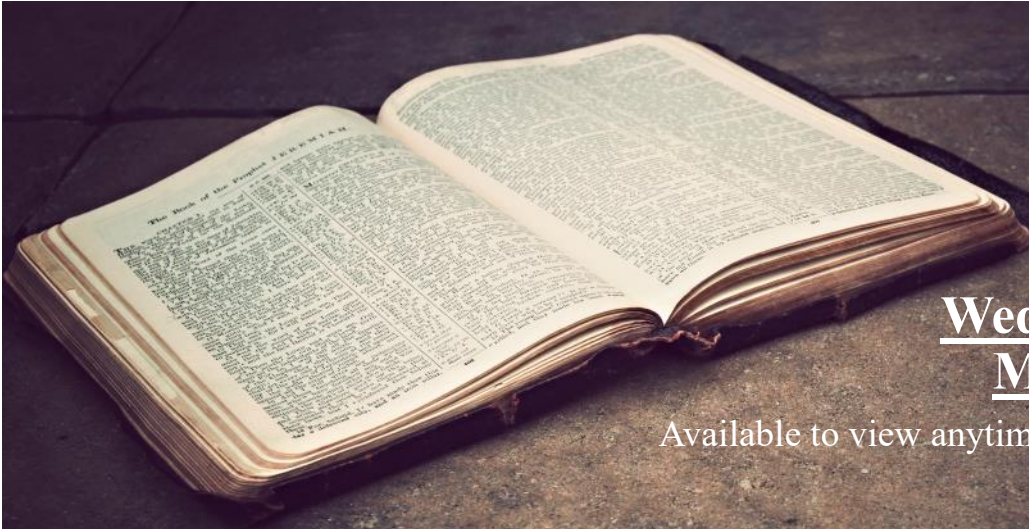
Church Council Team

Leaders
Jeff Moen (VP)
Patricia Maruna
Justin Shingleton
Shari Gomilla
Debbie Davidson (Secretary)
Susan Kullstam
Mark Myers
Kathy Shugartman
Thomas Finlay (Treasurer)

Staff
Pastor Lisa Beery
Pastor Michael Beery
Office Administrator,
Stephanie Wheeler
Music Director, Sandy Barefoot
Preschool Director, Sharon Fuller
Finance - Colleen Karpovitz
Director of Inviting Ministries
Carol Swing
(carol@communityinchrist.net)

Stewardship (Marcia Langan)
Support Staff (Kathy Shugartman)
Worship & Music
Legal Counsel (Tim Nohr)
WELCA (Laverne Waskieles)
Inviting Ministries (Carol Swing)

Youth
Adult Faith Formation (Mark Myers)
Family Life
Finance (Colleen Karpovitz)
Technology (Scott Brooks)
Outreach (Kathy Dutton)
Property (Stephanie Wheeler)



Worship Times
10 am Live on Facebook
Wednesday Evening
Ministry Moment:
Available to view anytime after 5 pm on Facebook

Please note that announcements for the bulletin, newsletter and facebook pages are for church related items only. Anything non-related to the church will be deleted. Thank you for adhering to this policy. Submissions for the bulletin must be received in writing to the church office by Thursdays at 10 am. Submissions for the newsletter must be received in writing to the church office by the 20th of the month.

Are you getting our E-Mails?
Each week we send out an e-mail to the congregation sharing what's going on and what's coming up. If you have not been receiving these e-mails, please let us know. Write your e-mail down in the black book and put a note by it asking us to include you in our weekly e-mails. You can also sign up for e-mails at our website. www.communityinchrist.net