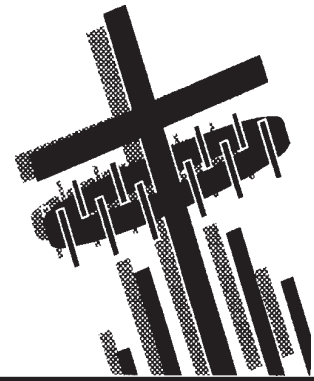


# Comments



324 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, SE ~ Hickory, NC 28602 ~ 828-328-1483 ~ September 2021

## The Blessing of Jesus

In the Gospel of Matthew, from one place to another, Jesus heals the people of diseases, those in pain, paralyzed, possessed by demons. He confronts it all—the whole situation—head on and doesn't shy away from it—the same boldness we saw as he faced Satan himself in the wilderness.

People come to him who are hurting. Oppressed by the evils of this world with nowhere else to go they need something—someone—beyond anything they'd ever known or even imagined possible. The world has never been in any shortage of people in despair, people who have no hope, because this world gives nothing for them to hope in. Have you ever been in a place where you just had no hope? Have you ever been hurting so badly that there was no conceivable way out?

After all that he's done in Galilee, after his fame has spread throughout this massive region and his miraculous works are known, Jesus decides to put words to his actions. Looking at the crowds as they follow him, he goes up onto a mountain and sits down, and his disciples surround him. He begins to teach them about all he's been doing. He tells them that these people who are now hurting, those who are meek, those who seek peace and thirst for righteousness are now blessed, because the reign of heaven is here even for those who are persecuted for his own name's sake.

He's describing to them all that he's been doing—what's been happening—the meaning of his healing illnesses and casting out demons. The poor in spirit are now receiving a blessing beyond measure. He came for those mourning life in this world, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, those who long for peace, those who would do anything for righteousness in this broken world.

As the section of text before this states, Jesus comes as a bright light amid the very same void—the darkness that those hurting in this world face, and he brings with him something so profound it would turn the world on its head. As Jesus comes and encounters those who are in desperate need of God's presence, he walks among them and brings to them—offers to them—the Kingdom of Heaven itself. That's what he's preaching to the people. In his healing, in his restoring, in his casting out demons—ridding this world of evil—Jesus is bringing about a whole new level of existence that nobody had ever thought possible. It's an existence that—prior to Jesus—only a small handful of people had ever seen.

Jesus reveals it to them, makes it known to them, embodies it in his own life, and transfers that life to them—transfers the power of the Kingdom. Those who've encountered Jesus—no matter status or perception—are blessed. They are the beginning of the transformation that he brings. This is a proleptic act—one that he will bring to completion on the



*Reflections from  
the Pastor*

*Pastor Alec Fisher*

# CLC Notes and News

(continued from page 1)

day of his return and restoration—but it’s already begun!

Jesus came to turn the world upside down, and the world still stands contrary to him in a variety of different ways, resisting his presence—we see it in his own cross. We live in a dark world that keeps us down in a variety of ways, and as the world persecuted Jesus, it will come after anyone who declares his name. Still, Jesus makes a promise. He says that even when you’re persecuted because of him, his presence is still a blessing. After all they had seen up to this point—Jesus doing amazing things in the lives of those who are hurting—Jesus’ own disciples stand as witnesses, and in their witness, they too are blessed no matter what happens. It’s better to be a part of the Kingdom of Heaven and rejected by this broken world of hurt than stand with the world and reject the Kingdom.

The resurrection of Jesus shows that the Kingdom of Heaven has the final word—that the light that Jesus brings is more powerful than the darkness. Even in persecution, the Kingdom of Heaven is an unstoppable force. As he lives and reigns as king over all of creation itself, Jesus brings his Kingdom to each of us that we might bear witness to what he’s done. He brings it into our own dark, sinful lives and overcomes us with his light, his love, his forgiveness. His graciousness is beyond anything that we ever could have imagined possible. As we continue to walk together in fellowship with Christ, let us receive him with joy as we bear witness and proclaim his name.

In Christ,  
Pastor Alec

**Guiding Through  
God’s Love**



The 2021 Sunday School Rally Day is scheduled for **September 12, 9:15-10:15am**.

The Board of Education would like to invite everyone to join us for a Rally Day Brunch in the Family Life Center. The children will go to their Sunday School classrooms at 9:45am for fun activities!

Following the brunch will be a special family service at 10:30am.

Please **sign up** at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend the Rally Day brunch!



Would you like to cook an item to bring to the Rally Day Brunch? Please see the sign up sheet at the Welcome Center.



GET READY FOR OUR CHURCH

**★PICTORIAL DIRECTORY★**

## Time to Sign-Up for Photo Appointments

Beginning Sept. 5 sign up sheets will be available at the Welcome Center for photo appointments for our new pictorial directory. Times are available **Thursday, 9/30, from 4:00-8:00pm; Friday, 10/1, from 2:00-8:00 pm; and Saturday, 10/2, from 10:00am to 8:00pm**. Also, *please check your contact information in the directory provided with the sign up sheets* and make any corrections needed. If you are unable to be inside the church building, please call the church office to set an appointment and double-check your contact info. **Please note that there is NO CHARGE for the sitting and you will receive one promotional portrait.**



On September 5, 2021, we will be celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Allen Ford. The lunch will be served in the Family Life Center after the 10:30am church service. Everyone is welcome to help him celebrate. Please, **NO** gifts! The

only gift is your joining him on his day. Please RSVP to Janet (760-707-4300) or let the church office know. There will be a sign-up sheet. Thank you, and just remember:

it is a **SECRET** and **SURPRISE!**



Due to the current covid situation, **OWLS** will **not** meet in September. We will advise you of our next meeting, maybe in October. Watch for more info. Thanks for understanding!



The Wednesday LWML group will meet on the second week in September, September 8, at 11am in the Family Life Center. Again, notice the change from the first Wednesday until the

second Wednesday. Thanks!

**A request from the Evangelism Board:** Here at Christ Lutheran, we have a wonderful young pastor and a beautiful church facility. We have many older Christians who have much to offer in both wisdom and experience. Please pray for opportunities to connect with younger people and families. Remember each day to keep your eyes open to these opportunities and invite your friends, neighbors and acquaintances to come join us.

*Dear CLC Congregation:*

*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. You make our mission possible! I can't thank you enough for your support!*

*Sincerely,  
Austin Pearce, Exec. Director  
Hickory Soup Kitchen*

**We received notice** from a family member that a former vicar of CLC in the late 1940's has died, Rev. Norman Groteluschen. He met Margaret Jones here and married her. Rev. Groteluschen died on July 23, 2021. He was 96-years of age.



**In memory of Libby Fulbright**

(For Funeral Pall & Choir Robes)  
The Fulbright Family

**In memory of Tommy Hefner**

Deborah & Chad Hefner

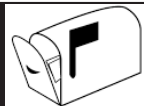
**In honor of Allen Ford's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Bea Herman

*Dear CLC Family,*

*It has been a joy helping with worship once a month playing the organ for the last 3 1/2 years. I wanted to let you know that after recovering from wrist surgery this month, I will be participating in a weekly worship opportunity offered to me at a sister congregation. This is musically my first love in church music and I want to try it for as long as I'm able, so regretfully, I won't be playing organ at CLC. I appreciate the kind words and encouragement you have offered over the years! I know you're in good hands with Danny and Jane.*

*In His love,  
Deb Kastner*

**Please note: Change of address!** 

**Correction of address:**

**Shirley Lee**

c/o Karen & Dwayne Farmer  
**272** Walnut Grove Road  
Kingston, TN 37763

**Change of Phone #:**

**Ken & Sue McLeod**  
828-578-8424

**Jennifer Hughes**

2063 21<sup>st</sup> St., SE, Apt. P  
Hickory, NC 28602

# THE CHURCH FAMILY

## JOYS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

**Surgery:** Tracey Carttett, Sept. 7 (daughter of Patty Starkey)

**Recovering:** Glenda Griffith, Gage Lackey, Rowe Mays, C.W. Meadows, Robert Painter, Don Peck, Greta Putnam at home (sister of Janie Lail); Virginia Crew (sister of Jim Starkey); Ruby Allmon (mother of Karen Sigmon); Isaiah Baker (grandson of Judy Baker)

**Undergoing treatments:** Bill Borchardt, Jim Hamby, Don & Virginia Saunders (brother & sister-in-law of Bea Herman), Julie Taglauer; Tammy Fletcher (aunt of Misty Lail); Alise Sutton (friend of Linda Sturgill); Barbara Jones (sister of Lois Hunt); Lolita Follrod (friend of Hambys); Caitlan Reese (friend of Betty Bolick); Tami Sherrill (daughter of Patty Starkey); Reagan Crawl (student at UCHS)

**Under doctors' care:** Kathie Albright, Max Baker, Charles Beeker, Brandon Caldwell, Linda Gantt, Mike & Phyllis Kane, Bob Rinehart, Rita Roseman, Nell Rudisill, John Sigmon, Randy Smith, Jim Starkey, Michael Younghouse, Eric Yount, Elizabeth Beard, Jason Stephens (son-in-law of John & Karen Sigmon); Harrison & Tanya Reid (friends of Rebecca Locke); Jerry Malone (friend of Kathryn Pingel); Vickie Chapman (friend of Jill Lafone); Andra Pingel (mother of Kathryn)

**Rehabilitation:** Marie Deal at The Berkeley, Morg.; Bea Kupke at King, NC; Don Lefevre at home; Linda McCurdy; Peggy Mays; Carolyn Smith (Conover Rehab)

**For shut-ins:** Elaine Christianson in TN; Luke Jennings at Brian Center East; Shirley Lingle at Cambridge House; Nell Rudisill in Waxhaw; Carolotta Spruill at Abernethy; Robert Spruill at Brian Center Hickory East; Diane Urich in MI; Linda Drum at TR (mother of Misty Lail)

**Hospice:** Maripat Oyaas at home; Garwood (Jr.) Woody at home (Toshia Phillips' grandfather)

**For those who mourn** the death of Elizabeth "Libby" Tucker (sister of Doris Smith) and Mike Cobb (friend of Jim Starkey)

### **Mission outreach for:**

- our ministry of Guiding through God's Love
- local outreach ministries: CCM, Soup Kitchen, Hmong Ministry, University Christian High School
- the Little Samaritan Mission in Moldova (orphanages)
- Tim & Beth Heiney with the Muslim Maninka people in Guinea, West Africa

## Offerings



August 1, 2021: \$ 4,740.00

August 8, 2021: \$ 6,578.00

August 15, 2021: \$ 3,624.00

August 22, 2021: \$ 2,685.00

Weekly budgeted amount needed:  
\$6,186.50







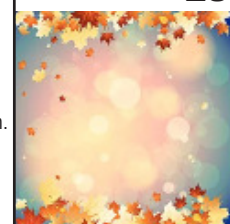

Capital Improvement Fund  
published weekly in bulletin

**Total: \$ 17,627.00**



# September 2021

# Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Holy Communion</b> ✝ - early ✝✝ - late</p>	 <p><b>End of Summer</b></p>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 5:00p Choir rehearsal 6:15p Handbell rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7:00p CMT (FLC)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> 
<p><b>15<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost</b> <b>5</b></p> <p>8:15a Contemporary Service ✝ 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Traditional Service 11:30a <b>Surprise</b> 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party for Allen Ford!</p>	<p><b>Labor Day</b> <b>6</b> Church Office <b>Closed!</b> <b>NO</b> Zumba Classes</p>  <p><b>LABOR DAY</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a LWML 5:00p Choir rehearsal 6:15p Handbell rehearsal</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>7:00p CMT (FLC)</p> 	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC)</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>16<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost</b> <b>12</b></p> <p>8:15a Contemporary Service 9:15a Sunday School <b>Rally Day</b> with Brunch 10:30a Traditional Service ✝✝ 11:45a Elders Mtg.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 11:00a Bd. of Evangelism</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>10:00a Pastors' Conf. (Winkel)</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 10:30a Soup Kitchen 5:00p Choir rehearsal 6:15p Handbell rehearsal</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:00p Bd. of Education 7:00p CMT (FLC)</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 6-8pm Parent's Night Out</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>17<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost</b> <b>19</b></p> <p>8:15a Contemporary Service ✝ 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Traditional Service 11:45a <b>Voters Assembly</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>NEWSLETTER Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 5:00p Choir rehearsal 6:15p Handbell rehearsal</p>  <p><b>AUTUMN</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>7:00p YMT (FLC)</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>11:30a <i>Feed the Needy</i> (FLC)</p>
<p><b>18<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost</b> <b>26</b></p> <p>8:15a Contemporary Service 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Traditional Service ✝✝</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>10:00a Zumba (FLC) 11:00a Chair Zumba 6:00p Kenworth Neighborhood Assn. Mtg. (Mt. Zion)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> 	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:00a Zumba (FLC) 5:00p Choir rehearsal 6:15p Handbell rehearsal</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>4:00-8:00pm Pictorial Directory Photos 7:00p CMT (FLC)</p>		

## *September 2021 Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

1 Allen Ford	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
10 Aniston Schwandt	27 Nicole Rose
12 Jolinda Deal	29 Kathy Crittenden
Toshia Phillips	Randy Duncan
13 Dave Ludwig	Nicole Morton
15 Sandra Abernathy	Chance Wilson
16 Glenda Griffith	Doug Yount
17 Robin Baker	

*Anniversaries*

8 David & Jane Thompson

22 Max & Robin Baker

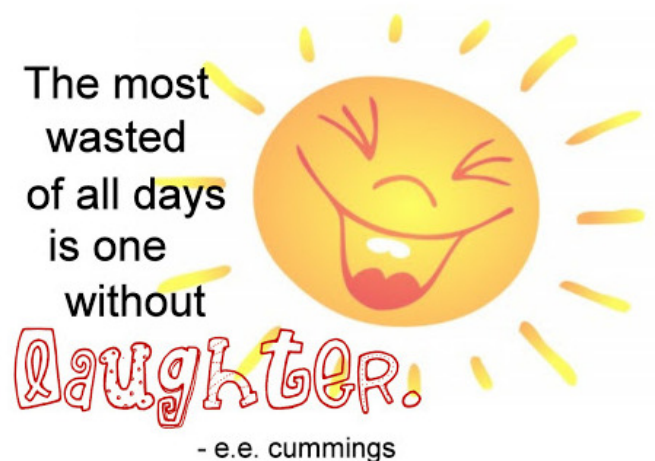
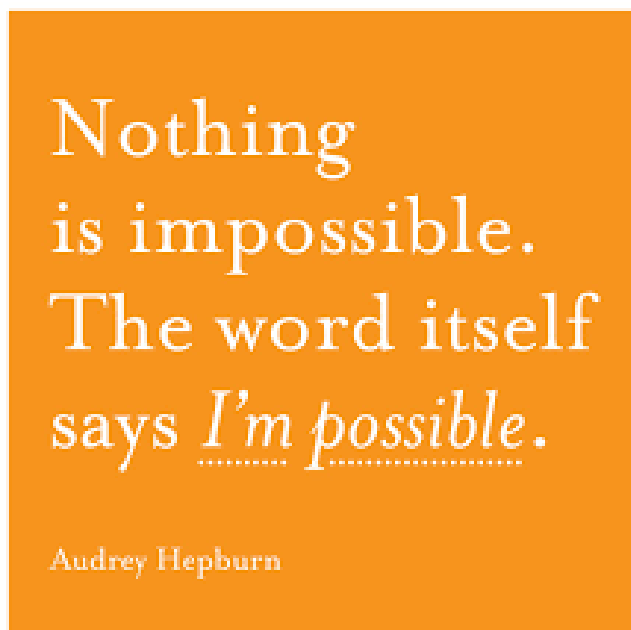
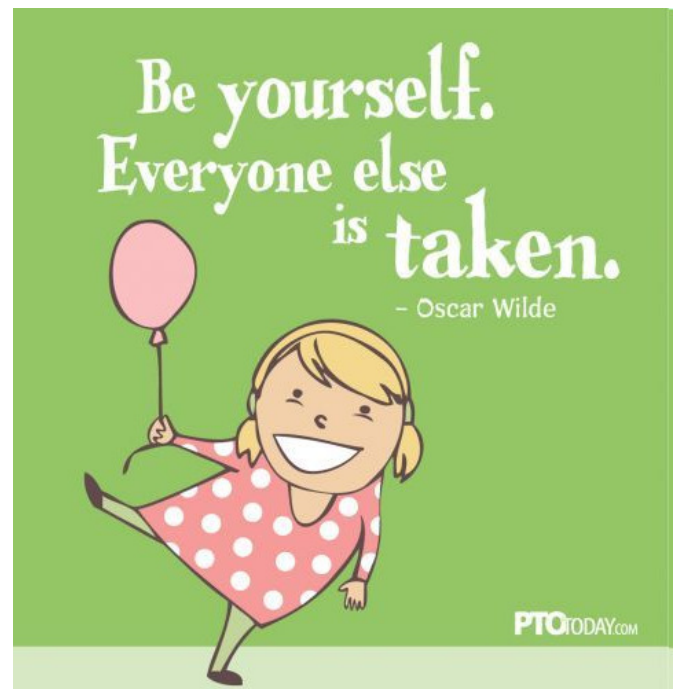
Dale & Janet Matthews

29 David & Taylor Higgins



	Sept. 5	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	
<b>Assistant</b>	Britt Griffith	Chris Mundy	Anna Bedzinski	Nancy Rinehart	
<b>Distributor</b>	~~*~~		~~*~~		
<b>Acolyte</b>	Thomas Bedzinski	Zach Rose	Sammy Bedzinski	Noah Lail	
<b>Elder</b>	Deborah Hefner	John Sigmon	Jim Hamby	Michael Younghouse	
<b>Counters</b>	Jim & Lois Hunt	David & Shawn Terry	Pat Hamby Angela Watts	Bob Rinehart	
<b>Sound</b>	Tim Brewer	Jennifer Hughes	Tomasz Bedzinski	Bryan Isenhour	
<b>Media</b>	Janet Ford	Karla Bolch	Tim Gabe		
<b>Nursery</b>			Teresa Mays		
<b>Host</b>	Brian Rose	Shawn Terry		Mary Puett	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Teresa Mays	Teresa Mays	Teresa Mays	Teresa Mays	
<b>Greeters</b>					
<b>Usher</b>	Team #1 John Sigmon	Team #2 Rick Setzer	Team #3 Randall Mays	Team #4 Darryl Grater	
<b>Security Team</b>	Britt Griffith	Jim Starkey	Rick Lail	Jason Lail	

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# 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

Pastor.....Rev. Alec Fisher  
Assoc. Pastor.....Dr. David Ludwig  
Assistant Pastor..Rev. Richard Tucker  
Youth Worker.....Janet Matthews  
Organists.....Danny Foster  
and Jane Thompson  
Music Director.....Rebecca Locke  
Children's Music.....  
Secretary.....Jill P. Lafone  
Adm. Assistant.....Nancy Rinehart  
Newsletter Staff.....Nancy Rinehart  
and Jill Lafone  
Contributors: CLC Family & Friends

# Christ Lutheran Church

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

1 PETER 4:10