

*Christiana Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*A Congregation of the North American Lutheran Church*  
*Christ Centered, Spirit Led, Ministry Focused*  
*6190 US Hwy 52, Salisbury, NC 28146*  
*Office: 704-279-4655, Interim Pastor: 443-480-3075, Website:*  
[www.christianalutheran.org](http://www.christianalutheran.org)

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Youth Sunday January 28, 2024**

*Ministers*

*Interim Pastor*

*Music Director/Organist*

*Members of Christiana*

*Rev. Dr. Keith Less*

*Becky Morris*

*Welcome to Christiana!* Guests: we're glad you're here. Please sign the register found on the aisle end of the pew and give us your email/ mailing address. After all have signed tear off sheet and place in offering plate. *Children ages 3 and older are invited to the Children's sermon and Children's Church. See an usher for directions to the nursery.*

*Today's altar flowers* are given to the glory of God and in honor of Lynda Pethel's birthday by Carmen & Branson Pethel.

**Our greeters today from Thrive Youth:** Rhett Sease, Toby Sease, Colton Hawkins, Jackson Smith, Bailey-Lace Wyrick, & Mariah House-Morris.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Bonnie Sechler, in hospital, under hospice care. Mary Morgan's sister, Kay Roseman. Michele, Madeline's niece, recovering at home. Glenn Wall, kidney dialysis. Betty Hatley's sister, Suzanne Edmiston, health issues. Glenn Wilson, in rehab facility, terminal cancer. Dr. Sean Malone, recovering at home. Chris Hopkins, Jeff & Angie Fleming's neighbor, bladder cancer. Doris Ritchie, severe pain from compression fracture. Joy Braun's sister, cancer and diabetes. Woodrow Frick, at home with PT. Robbie Robinson. Judy Stoner's SIL, Janette Yost, multiple myeloma. Family of Mariah House-Morris. Onetia Bruce's daughter, injured in fall. Ann Teague's friend, pancreatic cancer. Families of those affected by gun violence. Dianne Hall's husband, Doc. Becky Preslar's father, at home. Linda Cline's neighbor, Ann Mitchell, tests. Vaughn Hatley, immunotherapy. Kathie Albright, neck & shoulder pain.

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Cam Ritchie*

**PRELUDE** “*Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho*”

*by Faber & Faber  
Piano Soloist: Penelope Sease*

*Stand*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Lillian Beaver*

L: Jesus calls us to be children of the light,

**C: And to be fishers of men.**

L: Holy God, Bring us out of the darkness,

**C: Willing to follow and love Jesus.**

L: Let us worship God with a trusting and open heart.

### GREETING

*Gracin Wyrick*

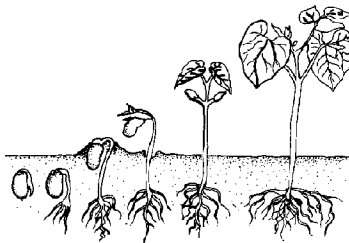
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Emma Scott*

P: O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**\*HYMN 821:** “*Shout to the Lord*”



*Sit*

**FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

*Penelope Sease*

<sup>15</sup>“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers — it is to him you shall listen — <sup>16</sup>just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ <sup>17</sup>And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup>And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 111**

*Kadance Cooper*

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are the deeds of the Lord!**

**They are studied by all who delight in them.**

His work is full of majesty and splendor,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

**He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;  
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

He gives food to those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**He has shown his people the power of his works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all his commandments are sure.

**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is his Name.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures forever.**

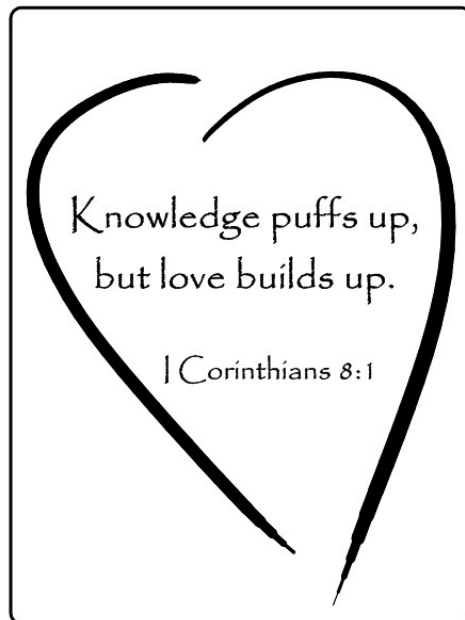
## SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*Avalyn Scott*

<sup>1</sup>Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup>But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” <sup>5</sup>For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords” — <sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. <sup>7</sup>However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup>Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**



Stand

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



S205a

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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## HOLY GOSPEL

*Noah Haivala*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Mark 1:21-28

{Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James and John} went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath {Jesus} entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: The Gospel of the Lord **C: Praise to you O’ Christ**

Stand

\*SERMON HYMN: "Thy Word"

### Thy Word



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be-



side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.



Please be near me to the end.



2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is



wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and



I will love you to the end.

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*Rhett Sease*

**A: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit*

**OFFERING:**

**OFFERTORY: "A Place in the Choir"**

*by Celtic Thunder*

*Interpretive Dance, Christiana Youth*



Stand

**OFFERTORY PSALM: "Give Thanks"**



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!



**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Daniel, Jeniffer, & Gabe Honeycutt*

*Each prayer petition ends with: "Lord in your mercy."*

*The congregation's response is: "Hear our prayer."*

L: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who has taught us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

*Kimora Cooper*

**CLOSING HYMN 732: "Borning Cry"**

**THE DISMISSAL**

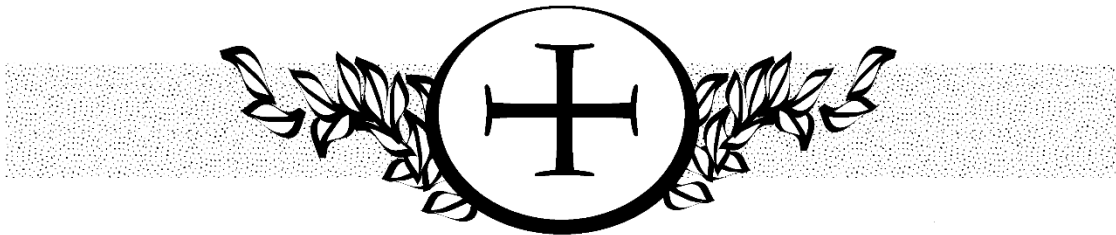
*Vivian Beaver*

P: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE:** *"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*

*Trumpet Soloist: Noah Haivala*



Dear Christiana,

I want to take a moment to say thank you to all the people who make the youth ministry at our church possible:

Thank you to the youth of the church, who continue to remind me what a blessing it is to serve God in this role as we walk through life together. The children of this church are enduring and invaluable members who give it life, laughter, love, and hope. The simplicity with which they see and love our Lord is a constant reminder to me that faith is a walk of life that is ever changing yet ever true. I am truly grateful that you trust us to do our best to guide you on your path. May we always remember that Jesus loved the little children for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Thank you to the youth committee members who work so tirelessly to serve our youth and minister to them in this pivotal time of their lives. The members on this team are essential to its success and their willingness to step up and serve humbles me daily. We have overcome several challenges and continue to seek guidance on the path forward. Please pray for this committee and its ministry, that we will provide an impactful and Jesus-focused experience for our youth in this tumultuous time. I feel we have begun to build a very solid program that I hope will continue to grow and change according to God's will in the year of 2024. May God continue to strengthen these adults and convict them in their purpose to serve him.

Thank you to the church who has embraced our dreams and supported our efforts tirelessly throughout the years. The members of this congregation have and always will inspire me in their support of the youth and their love towards them. Thank you to the parents who share your children with us and thank you to those who are not parents who seek to be guiding lights in the lives of our youth in other mentoring and support roles. In every sense of the word, Christiana's members are the church, we are the people of God, and we are the light for the world. May it always shine for others to seek and find.

Sincerely,

Laura E. Ritchie  
Youth Committee Chairperson

## ATTENDANCE, OFFERING, & CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Attendance/Offering Jan. 14th</b> Sunday School: 49 Worship: 77 Envelope Offering: \$3,511.00 Electronic Offering: \$270.00 <b>Needed each Sunday: \$5367</b>	<b>Attendance/Offering Jan. 21st</b> Sunday School:55 Worship: 86 Envelope Offering: \$1,760.00 Electronic Offering: \$270.00 <b>Needed each Sunday: \$5367</b>
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### *Calendar of Events*

### *Those Serving today*

<p><b>Today, Jan. 28th</b>                  8:45 am Fellowship                  9:15 am Sunday School                  10:30 am Worship:                  Youth Sunday</p> <p><b>Monday 01/29:</b>                  6:30pm Bible Study</p> <p><b>Wednesday 01/31:</b>                  6:00 pm Choir rehearsal</p> <p><b>Thursday 02/01:</b>                  7:00pm Men's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>Sunday, Feb. 4th:</b>                  8:45 am Fellowship                  9:15 am Sunday School                  10:30 am Worship                  Youth Sunday                  Social following the service until 2pm.  <b>Important acolyte meeting will be held during this time, so all current and rising acolytes are requested to attend.</b></p>	<p><b>Readers:</b> Penelope Sease, Kadance Cooper, Avalyn Scott, Noah Haivala  <b>Head Usher:</b> Brian Barringer  <b>Greeters:</b> Rhett Sease, Toby Sease, Colton Hawkins, Jackson Smith, Bailey-Lace Wyrick, Mariah House-Morris  <b>Lock Up:</b> Cam Ritchie  <b>Altar Guild:</b> Linda Crouch, Debbie &amp; Eddie Eller, Todd Koontz  <b>Acolytes:</b> Avalyn &amp; Emma Scott  <b>Children's Church 02/04:</b> Laurie &amp; Laura Ritchie  <b>Intercessory Prayer:</b> Daniel, Jeniffer, &amp; Gabe Honeycutt</p>
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## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



**The January Luther League Event is Today** at Union Lutheran Church from 4-6 pm. Calling all 5-12th graders, meet there for fellowship, games, dinner and worship. Younger siblings welcome, bring an adult.

**The February Sunday Socials** will be held on 02/04 until 2pm. Starting in the sanctuary with guest speaker Dale Beaver and the women from the Altar Guild. Our mission project this month will be helping take down communion and preparing the church for next week's service, followed by lunch in the SAH. The youth will also learn things like how the church wine is made, why acolytes bow/pause at the altar, and why/how the church looks different each week they come in. **Please note:** All current and rising acolytes are requested to attend. Marsha Beaver and LuAnne Scott will be taking measurements for new robes.

**End of Year Giving Statements** were emailed and mailed this week, please contact the church office if you have any questions or have not received yours.

**The January 14, 2024 Blood Drive was very successful.** We collected a total of **46 units!!!** A record for our Church. Thanks to all who made this drive possible. A Big Shout out to our volunteers – Charlotte Pacilio; Marlene Pethel, Diana Smith, Vickie Hill; Council members for room set; MKL Group for drinks; SLC for lunch. This is truly a ministry for our Church and it is an honor to help make this possible. Our next blood drive is: **SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 12:00 – 4:30.** I can schedule appointments now. Thanks again for all who donated and participated in some way. Madeline Zieverink

**The church flower calendar for 2024 is now available** to sign up for weekly altar & pedestal flowers. It can be found on a clipboard on the first pew on the Lectern side of the sanctuary or contact Vickie Keene for assistance.

**2024 Offering Envelopes are available** in the Narthex. If you do not see an envelope with your name on it, please contact the church office and we will get one made for you.

**February 4<sup>th</sup>:** We will be taking up a very special loose offering for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, sponsored by MKL circle. Please give as your heart leads.

**THE TRANSITIONAL PRAYER TEAM ASKS THAT YOU JOIN THEM THIS WEEK  
IN PRAYER AND DAILY READING OF  
Proverbs 3:5 NJKV**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”*

Pray and trust that the Lord is sending His choice for Christiana’s next pastor.  
In Jesus Name, Amen



**Please remember our Military and Missionaries in Prayer:**

**Military Prayer List:** Alex Straight, Ft. Lewis, WA. Shane Herrin, Kuwait. Mitchell Cowden, Newport News, VA. Jason Starnes. Justin Johnson. Clay Kirk, Navy reserve.

**Missionary Prayer List:** Haiti Missions: Caleb Joseph; Pr. Samuel Pawlos Ethiopian Mission

**Lessons for Next Week:**

Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 1 Corinthians 9:16-27, Mark 1:29-39

## **Christiana Scholarships Available in 2024**

The following scholarships are available through Christiana Lutheran Church's Benevolent Foundation. Those interested in applying please note the full requirements for each scholarship on its application. **Download applications from the church website:**

**[christianalutheran.org/scholarships](http://christianalutheran.org/scholarships)**. If you have any questions or if you need assistance in accessing the information, please contact Richard Crouch or the church office.

### **NEW THIS YEAR: The Crawford & Eva Sloop Memorial Scholarship – \$5,000**

Must be a member of Christiana Lutheran Church and very active in the life of the church. Must have a high GPA and be very involved in school and the community and enrolling as a full-time student in a 2- or 4-year college/university. This merit-based scholarship is only awarded when there is an exemplary student applicant.

### **The Hubert & Blanche Ritchie Scholarship for High School Seniors – \$1,000**

Must be a member of Christiana Lutheran Church and actively engaged in the life of the church, and be a high school senior enrolling as a full-time student in a 2- or 4-year college/university. Merit based scholarship.

### **The Hubert & Blanche Ritchie Scholarship for College Students – \$1,000**

Must be a member of Christiana Lutheran Church who attends church and actively participates as their school schedule allows. Must be a full-time college student re-enrolling in a 2- or 4-year college/university. Merit based scholarship.

### **The Lena Bangle Lyerly Scholarship – \$1,000**

Must be a member of Christiana Lutheran Church who attends church and actively participates as school their schedule allows and enrolling as a full-time student in a 2- or 4-year college/university. Must be working toward a degree in Health or Christian Education having accrued 12 or more credit hours in that field of study. Merit based scholarship.

### **The Brad Patrick Scholarship – \$3,000**

Open to all Rowan County Public High School Seniors enrolling as a full-time student in a 2- or 4-year college/university. This scholarship is based on merit and financial need.

Scholarship applications must be completed and **EMAILED to**

**[christiana1@charlotte.twcbc.com](mailto:christiana1@charlotte.twcbc.com)** by **12 noon on March, 15, 2024**. Any application received after this date will not be considered. **Official transcripts must be emailed directly from the school to the church.** No others will be accepted.

**Pray for Christiana's  
NEW PASTOR to Model These Traits**

**The Call Committee gleaned these TOP 5 characteristics from  
the Congregational Workshop, Members' Survey and Prayer Team.  
They are listed here in order of importance.**

**Let's join together in prayer that our new pastor is:**

**LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Christ shines through in their words and actions.  
Has no illusions about their own sinful heart.  
Seeks Godly wisdom over human wisdom.

**GROUNDING IN SCRIPTURE**

Believes/teaches the Bible as written (orthodox).  
Preaches the Gospel (our need for a Savior).  
Seeks the Word for answers, decisions, and problems.  
NALC core values.

**COMPASSIONATE**

Loves people and actively cares for them.  
Has a shepherd's heart.

**EVANGELISTIC**

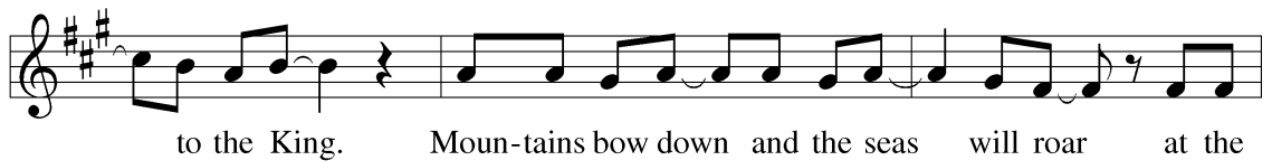
Has a heart for winning souls to Christ and developing  
disciples.

**RELATIONAL**

Personable (likeable, good listener, humble, sense of  
humor).  
Relates well from the pulpit, in small groups and one-  
on-one.  
Deeply engaged in the life of the church.  
A natural leader.

**Pastoral Call Committee  
Christiana Lutheran Church**

# Shout to the Lord





# Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.  
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."  
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."  
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."