



NORTHCROSS

C H U R C H

Loved. Equipped. Sent.

Welcome to NorthCross Church!

Whatever your spiritual disposition

- skeptic, seeker, follower -

we are glad you are with us today and pray that you experience the grace of our Lord.

Our desire is to have our hearts strengthened by the grace of Christ and to share that grace with the community of Lake Norman.

Administrator – Angela Howard
angela@northcrosschurch.com

Worship Director - Ben Chapman
ben@northcrosschurch.com

Children’s Director –
Emma Chapman
emma@northcrosschurch.com

Elders (*Ministry Oversight*)
Damon Anderson (*Children & Youth*)
Mark Andrews (*Missions/Outreach*)
Hudson Belk (*Life Groups*)
Matt Estler (*Deacons*)
Matt Seiter (*Sunday morning*)
Dean Whitehill (*Men & Women*)

Deacons

Mark Bankert
Justin James
Reuben Vandezande
Joel Campanella, Treasurer

Women Shepherds

Pat Andrews, Jean Edwards,
Holly Stone, Lynn Whitehill

NorthCross Church Office

704-237-4853

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Cornelius, NC 28031

Meet: 11020 Bailey Rd., Ste. H
Cornelius, NC

northcrosschurch.com

Our Mission

NorthCross Church exists to facilitate a gospel movement throughout the communities that make up Lake Norman for the glory of Christ.

Our Vision

To be a people who are Loved by God,
Equipped by the Gospel, and Sent into our communities.

Loved: Experiencing God’s love and the love of one another
in community

Equipped: Growing in our knowledge of the gospel and
strengthened to share it with others

Sent: Engaging in the mission of God within our local communities

Sunday Morning Children’s Ministry Information:

Sunday School: 9:30 am (children age 3 – high school)

*All children are welcome to stay with their parents in the
worship service! Also available:*

Nursing room: adjacent to the sanctuary. Turn on the
speaker to hear the sermon.

Nursery: provided during the worship service for babies and
children up to age 2

Children’s church: ages 2 & 3 in the toddler room
ages 4 - 2nd grade in the early elementary room

**Children will be dismissed from the service during the Passing of
the Peace. They will return before Communion. The teachers will
bring the children to the sanctuary and help find their parents.*

Wifi Network: NCC **Password:** #northcrosschurch1

WORSHIP SERVICE

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship

Read Responsively

Isaiah 25

Leader: O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

Congregation: For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.

Leader: On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

Congregation: He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Leader: It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." As we wait, let us worship the Lord of Hope together!

Advent Reading

Isaiah 2:2–5; 7:14

Preparing for Worship

With so many distractions vying for our attention, this is a time to quiet ourselves and prepare our hearts for worship.

Call to Worship

God calls us to worship because God exists and speaks first. Therefore, our worship is answering God. We answer him by offering what we are to who God is. The Call to Worship is a way to proclaim God as he is, while also challenging what we worship daily.

GOD'S PEOPLE WORSHIP

Songs of Worship

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing
O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Confession of Sin

The prayer of confession invites us to speak words that are remarkably honest about how our thoughts, feelings, actions and words can curve inwards. This kind of honesty does not come naturally in our relationship with God or with others. But confession is liberating when we sense the greater power of Jesus' love.

Confession of Sin

Read Together

Psalm 62

ALL: Almighty and Faithful Father, we come to you acknowledging that you are a God of promise and man's true refuge. You are faithful and sure in all your ways. Yet, we confess that we often forget your promises. We are often full of fear, anxiety, anger, and despair. Our lack of trust in You and your promises has shown itself in our disobedience. We have sought our own glories and refuges besides seeking you and your promises. We look to our jobs, education, entertainment, relationships, accomplishments and other false saviors. Yet there is no lasting hope in them. Father, forgive us. Jesus, you are our Living Hope. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we say the words of the psalmist with confidence, "For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken." Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

This is what we need to hear after the honesty of our confession. These are God's affirming words, his forgiveness of us because of Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Pardon

Read Responsively

Titus 3:4-7
2:11-14

Leader: But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Congregation: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Song of Thanksgiving

The First Noel

LIFE TOGETHER

Passing of the Peace

**Children ages 2 through 2nd grade dismissed for Children's Church*

Announcements

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Pastoral Prayer/The 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Tithes and Offerings

We give as an act of faith, remembering his faithfulness as our provider and joining with God's people in expressing our dependence on him, in obedience to be generous with all we have as he is generous to us.

Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:13-22

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The sermon is teaching based on the Scripture Reading. The role of the sermon is to explain the truths of the Bible and apply them in our lives. This is not just an intellectual function; our hearts are to be affected by the words of God preached.

CHANGED BY GOD'S WORD

Sermon

"Why the First Christmas?"

Terry Powell

Professor of Church Ministry (retired)

Columbia International University

penetratingthedarkness.com

The Lord's Supper

Jesus Christ promised to meet (or commune) with his people in a special way through this "sacrament" - from the Latin word meaning mystery. We experience Christ's spiritual presence as we eat in faith. The Lord's Supper points us to the finished work of Christ at the cross and in the resurrection on our behalf.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

Song of Response

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The Lord's Supper

Song of Receiving

What Child is This?

Benediction

Benediction

"Benediction" means "a good word" or blessing. In this blessing God gets the last word, promising to be with us as he sends us out into the world, carrying the hope, joy and love of Christianity's central message (the gospel).

This Week's Calendar

- 12.03 Daybreak Prayer, 7:30 am
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship Service, 10:30 am
- 12.05 Youth Group, 7:00 pm
- 12.07 Women's Christmas Party, 7:00 pm

Announcements

Women's Christmas Party - Thursday, Dec. 7th at 7:00 pm at Oak Street Mill in Cornelius. Food and drink will be provided, please bring a wrapped mug (any kind!) for our gift exchange. RSVP on the Church Center app or at northcross.churchcenter.com.

Youth Christmas Party - Friday, Dec. 15th

Christmas Eve Service - Dec. 24th at 10:30 am

Dr. Gary Purdy Installation Service - Sunday, December 31st at 10:30 am

Lost & Found - Please claim your items from the Lost and Found in the Lobby. Items will be donated on Dec. 11th.

This week's Mission + Outreach Organization
Barnabas Center

Connect Card - If you are new to NorthCross and want to connect, or if you have a prayer request, use this QR code and fill out the form online.



Daybreak Prayer at 7:30 am:

The session invites us to join in prayer for NorthCross during this time of transition. Please join us Sunday mornings at 7:30 am via Zoom (link is in the Weekly News).

Life Groups meet regularly for fellowship, prayer, service and study.
Contact one of the leaders if you would like to attend.

Huntersville: Sunday
Hudson Belk, HUDSONBELK2@HOTMAIL.COM

West Lake Norman: Sunday
Matt Estler, MDESTLER5@GMAIL.COM
Greg Howard, GWHOW1961@GMAIL.COM

East Huntersville: Sunday
Roger Edwards, ROGER.EDWARDS55@GMAIL.COM

Cornelius: Sunday
Jonathan Skolrood, JONATHAN.SKOLROOD@GMAIL.COM

Cornelius: Sunday
Matt Gordon,
MATTHEW.RANDOLPH.GORDON@GMAIL.COM

Davidson: Sunday
Matt Seiter, MATTHEW.SEITER@GMAIL.COM

NorthCross Church YTD Financial Summary

(for fiscal year 2023/2024; as of October 31, 2023)

Congregation Giving - Actual \$105,236 vs. Budget \$112,261
Expenses (less Missions & Deacon's Fund) - Actual \$85,798 vs. Budget \$437,684
Missions expenses \$9,731 Deacon's Fund expenses \$706
Worship Facility Received \$201,254 | Non-restricted cash position \$620,946