

CELC Newsletter

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church Church Website: www.celcstanley.com

Pastor's Message

The Other-Worldly, Awe-Inspiring Majesty of the Divine Service - vs- Rock Concert Worship

Christmas is coming. What gifts to get who is inevitably running through our minds. I read an article that discussed the style of Christian worship that parents find appeals most to their children. I was interested almost immediately because it seems almost everyone today has adopted the position that we must "simplify" or "minimize" the Divine Service in order to make it appeal to children (oddly, it's not the children saying this, almost across the board it's those of the Baby-Boomer generation that push for the "contemporary" service!) Puppet Mass, Clown Communion, modern liturgical dance, et al. (Google them!) all came from people over 50 and not from actual children. Surprisingly, or maybe not, the article concluded that worship services with superficial elements meant to appeal to children were NOT the ones that drew children in and formed them the most. Instead, the worship services that best grabbed children's attention and solicited their participation were the ones with "all the bells and whistles". Here are some of the things that parents mentioned as appealing to their children: beautiful music, chant, incense, stained glass that's aesthetically beautiful and easy to understand, beautiful art.

Notice anything absent from the list? -- "Children's Church" and the "cry room".

The Church over the past 40 years has spent so much time and effort trying to make a worship space that appeals to children by making it appear like their home or school--giving them a place apart where they can go and do their "kid thing". But I ask, does this giving children a place "over there, off to the side" not betray the very words of Jesus when he commands, "Let the little children come unto me and do not hinder them."?

First, we are mistaken if we believe we need to *make* children welcome in the Church. Simply by virtue of the fact that the Head of the Church called children to Himself, they *ARE* welcome. If people are of the opinion that the Worship Service is no place for children, then they are in obstinate defiance to the Lord Jesus Himself and stand against Him, and they therefore need to recant and repent (period) In fact, to our Father we are all children, and we are all equally welcomed and desired by our God in worship. If you think children are unable to give worship because of their age or cognition abilities then you are mistaken, for does not the Holy Spirit Himself intercede for us with groanings too deep for words? Indeed he does!

Secondly, we aren't really supposed to feel exactly "at home" while giving our worship, at least not in the sense that we feel comfortable behaving at worship in the way that we do at home. For example, you wouldn't put your feet up on the pew in front of you, smoke your cigar, play on your phone, or carry on a conversation while the worship of the Holy Trinity is going on. During the Divine Service we have direct and immediate communion with God. Worship transports us into the heavenly realm to where we pray and glorify God with the Church on earth AND the Church in heaven--most poignantly at the Sanctus--*Holy, Holy Holy.* Stepping into worship should make us marvel and wonder at the mysteries of our God. When we enter those doors into the Nave we should immediately notice that our surroundings have changed and it should bring us to reverent attention and contemplation of the divine things of God; it should bring us to worship--if it doesn't there's

either something wrong with the place or with us. Our children notice the difference too, and especially when it's reinforced by the quiet reverence of their parents and those around them. They may not respond to it in exactly the same way that we do, but a child senses the holiness and that sense is his adoration of his God.

In the same way, the celebration of the Holy Communion should only amplify that experience. Sacred music that makes a child look around and marvel at where it could possibly be coming from. The smell of burning oil from the candles and wax from the acolyte's torches accompanied by rising smoke; fire flanking the holy Altar on both sides; the shining threads woven into the pastor's vestments that catch the light at the Altar; the sun's morning rays illuminating the stained glass that tells the story of our Faith; bells that toll beckoning people to be mindful that something sacred is going on in here; the organist composing her worship to the Lord.

This is what Church should evoke for a child, and really for us all.

Churches are not meant to make us feel "at home", and the Altar of our God is not in any way like our dinner table, it is an exceedingly holy place and should be approached as such. The Worship Services of God's people are meant to elevate our senses beyond earthly temporal things, while giving us ears to hear and eyes to see the things of eternal importance. Children are smarter and much more aware than we give them credit for, and God speaks to them more than we probably believe. Children are naturally programmed to experience awe and wonder and their capacity to understand and respond to the sacred is much more developed than we often give them credit for in our day with our clown communions, cry rooms, rock-concert worship, and children's church (where children are actually *taken away from* the gathered assembly and Christ's Presence so that they'll never learn how to act and respond in worship!).

Children don't need another environment superficially geared toward their needs. They don't need to feel completely at home at worship in the sense that worship doesn't induce a different experience than home for them. What children need (now maybe more than ever) is a sense of the sacred--an awareness that what happens on Sunday morning is different than what happens anywhere else. Stepping into Christian worship should inspire in a child the sense of their heavenly home, not their earthly one. They need to see and believe that they are not *the Church of tomorrow* but the Church of right here and now.

Most of all what children need is to grow up with a clear sense of the sacred. In our society, where we are increasingly inundated by fallen humanity's sins, where even Christmas has been co-opted by the world's commercialism (the Beast's economy for all of you who come to Bible Study on Wednesdays), we need a place set apart that recalls the hope of eternity, that lifts our worship beyond the world around us to the wonder and glory and majesty of the Throne of heaven. To this place our children need to be taken and they need to grow up in, and be formed by it!

It may not always prevent the inevitable child's tantrum or even complete meltdown that calls for a few moments outside during the Divine Service, but bring them back if you can. Giving our children a knowledge of what it means to enter a place where Jesus Christ Himself is present --Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity --and the holy calm of awe and wonder that this brings about will plant a seed of reverence, adoration and devotion that will most certainly mature as they grow older. It is work, but it is a gift to your child that you will never once regret giving.

Your brother in Jesus,

Pastor Frye

Prayer Requests:

Immediate Care Concerns:	Rene Clippard, Marilyn Smith, Richard Medlin, Pat Ritchie, Neal & Pat Ritchie, Ronnie Davis, Hubert Abernathy, Bertie Billups, Lindy Hawley, Christine Wallace, Gaynelle Moore, Pearl Summey, Libby Michael, Jimmy Harrison Richard Smith, Susan Wyatt, Elijah Kale					
Grieving:	The Talmadge Summey Family					
Home-bound Members:	Gaynelle Moore, Pearl Summey, Lindy Hawley.					
Members in Nursing Homes:	Christine Wallace is at Huntersville Health & Rehabilitation Ctr., 13835 Boren St. Huntersville, Sarah Lewis & Ruth Cloninger are at Carillon in Lincolnton					

Friends and Relatives:

Everette Lineberger	Jewel West	Cindy Turry	Bob Stewart	Chris Davidson
Eddie Rhyne	Gail Conner	Harry Murphy	Jason Hames	Jennifer Champange
Karen Scrivani	Joe Canipe	Tom Hodge	Rod Rudisill	Robert Caskaddon
Ron Ritchie	Tom Olls	Wanda Murphy	Amy Blythe	Kathy Shockley
Bob Hilton	Luther Murphy	Frances (Hawley) Walker		Dr. Michael Case
Sidney Mitchell	Frank Parker	Vicky Throneburg		

December's Birthday's

December Anniversary's

Tommy & Terri Hedri
 Wayne & Nina Hovis
 Jay & Crystyl Human
 Keith & Kim Costner
 Rick & Anne Chapmai
 Harold & Patsy Lineberger
 Doug & Susan Hawkins

Baptism Anniversary

2 Logan Dixon 18 Betty Hoover 19 Sara Abernathy	21 Landon Dixon 23 Michael Dukes
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Halloween 2018













































DECEMBER EVENTS

Hanging of the Green

Our "Hanging of the Green" service will be Sunday, Dec. 2nd incorporated into the Divine Service. Mark your calendar for this inspirational service.

Christmas Concerts

Plan now to join us the 16th annual Christmas Concert ...3:00 pm Saturday and Sunday, **December 1–2**, 2018. In the sanctuary of First Baptist Church, 409 Old Mt. Holly Road, Stanley, NC 28164

<u>Workday at Operation Christmas Child</u> <u>Tuesday, December 4th, 2018 --- 9am to 1pm</u>

Sign-up now for a fun day with other CELC Members to work at OCC! Your heart will overflow with joy as you touch these boxes! It will be a wonderful experience for you! Let me know if you plan on joining us for this day together. We have 15 spots reserved for this morning ... ask a friend to join too! Thanks, Kathey

<u>Prime Timers Christmas Dinner -- "Carolina Prime" Charlotte, Saturday Night,</u> <u>December 8th, 2018 -- 6:30PM -- Leave CELC at 5:45 PM</u>

Put it on your calendar and sign-up for our special annual Christmas meal together! Always good food, beautiful decoration and great fellowship! Hope you plan on going again this year ... it's a tradition!

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will be meeting on Dec. 11th at 10am in the fellowship hall. Remember to bring toilet paper.

<u>Youth Night at Operation Christmas Child</u> <u>Friday, December 14th, 2018 --- 7pm to 10pm</u>

A fun filled evening together for 12 youth/adults is on the calendar! Sign-up for a life experience of sharing <u>your</u> time for others. Who knows? There will be a late night dinner for us at Chili's in Gastonia too. Thanks, Pastor Frye and Kathey

Senior Citizens Breakfast

Please plan to attend the annual Senior Citizens breakfast on Wednesday, Dec. 19th from 7am to 11am, hosted by the Stanley Police department in our Family Life Center.



Hooray! Hooray!

CELC members put together "37" Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child 2018! Thanks to all for sharing and caring for children less fortunate than our own. There will be "37" happy children somewhere around the world when they receive **your** special packed box!

Angel Tree for Stanley Total Living Center

The tree is coming very soon! The "Angel Tags" will be placed on the tree for your selection and they will be numbered. <u>Please</u> sign out your tag and go shopping!! What fun to shop for these young at heart people and the great feeling you receive from making someone's Christmas alittle brighter! Return your gift wrapped with angel tag on top of the gift by Sunday, December 16th! Doesn't this little elf project make you all excited, wow! If you have questions, please see Judy Ray or Kathey Brown!

Do you have BOOKS?

Let's help our own "Stanley Little Library" caretaker (Charles Ray) with filling it up! The location of this library is at Harper Park in Stanley. Everyone is welcome to enjoy these free books, take and read one, then return one for someone else to enjoy! What fun and excitement to see what is there and not to forget that it keeps us reading and learning! If you have any books that you would like to donate at anytime, just place in the box at the back. Adult books and Children books especially are needed! This is going to be fun!

A Note from the Church Council President

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights, and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozen of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals, and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sin in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

... In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table lines.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the give of love will endure.

Wishing you all the gift of love, Judy Abernathy Council President

Congregation Meeting 2018

The results for the New Council Members for 2019 are: Tommy Hedrick, Emma Human, Jay Human and Tonya Stone. Our Youth Representative will be Gabriel Frye. The budget passed unanimously.

CHRIST'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2018

MINUTES OF MEETING

<u>Call to Order</u>: At the conclusion of the Sunday morning worship service on November 11, 2018, Judy Abernathy, as President of Church Council, called the annual congregational meeting to order.

<u>Purpose of Meeting:</u> The annual congregational meeting was held for the purpose of voting on the following matters:

1) Election of Church Council members for 2019

2) Approval of the 2019 budget for Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

A copy of the ballot was distributed to the congregation for the election of Church Council members for 2019 and approval, or disapproval, of the 2019 budget, a copy of which is attached and made a part of these minutes. As shown on the attached copy of the ballot, the following individuals were presented to the congregation for election to the 2019 Church Council:

Tommy Hedrick, Emma Human, Jay Human, Bob Mahovsky, Tonya Stone are running for Council. Gabriel Frye and Laura Olls are running for the youth representative position on Council. <u>Action by Congregation</u>: While the ushers handed out the ballots, Judy discussed any differences between the 2018 and 2019 budgets. She then asked the congregation if they had any questions regarding any of the items on the ballot. There were none. As there were no questions, and a quorum being present, the congregation voted and the ballots were collected by the ushers.

<u>Adjournment</u>: As the results of the vote will be presented to the congregation at a later date, a motion was made by Gil Harris to adjourn. Nancy Olls seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph L. Keefer, Council Secretary

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING October 14, 2018 MINUTES OF MEETING

Devotions: Tonya Stone opened the meeting with a devotional reading and prayer.

Roll call and action on excuses for absence:

Present: Pastor Frye, Michael Dukes, Tommy Hedrick, Crystyl Human, Joe Keefer, Leonard Lewis, Pat McAlister, Richard Medlin, Nancy Olls, Laura Olls, Judy Ray, Brian Robinson, and Tonya Stone (Bob Mahovsky, guest)

Absent: Judy Abernathy, Prissy Helms

Minutes of last meeting:

1) The minutes of the September 9, 2018 Council minutes were approved with corrections.

Reception of petitions and communications and new business:

1) There is a request from Kathy Brown to install a wind chime tower in the Memorial Garden with the memorials that were given in Jack's name. A rack would be built to hold the wind chimes and they would be placed in the Memorial Garden. The exact location will be determined by Council.

2) A large bell (18" tall) has been donated to the church by Gordon Hacker. It has been given to CELC to be used as a dirge bell. A dirge bell is to be rung at funerals in commemoration of the dead. Council

has several options as to where to place the dirge bell. Judy asks that Council members consider this before our next meeting. The discussion of the dirge bell was tabled until the next Council meeting

<u>Report of the Pastor:</u> Pastor Frye brought the following matters to Council for discussion and /or informational purposes.

1) Report of pastoral activities for the month of September, 2018. Pastor Frye presided over the Divine Service 4 times, attended 2 committee meetings, had 18 pastoral contacts, and presided over the funeral of Bill Cope. He held Wednesday night Bible Study 2 times and Sunday morning Bible Study 4 times. Pastor Frye took part in the community intercessory prayer hosted by Christ's Lutheran. He was one of 3 participants from Christ's Lutheran. The other 2 were Tim Cloninger and Claude Williams. Pastor Frye also dropped off supplies that were collected as a church family for hurricane victims at St. John's Lutheran in Statesville.

2) Pastor Frye asks that we remember the victims of Hurricane Matthew. For the next few months, there will be great need in the wake of this disaster. Donations will continue to be sought from members of CELC and taken to our local NALC distribution center in either Statesville or King's Mountain.

3) The Bishop Michael McDaniel Reformation Conference will be held at Gordon Conwell, Thursday, October 25, starting at 2:00 PM. The Reverend Dr. Paul Hinlicky will be speaking on Robert Jenson's contribution to the Reformation. This is open to both clergy and laity.

4) A letter has been written to our attorney, Michael Carpenter, summarizing the Council's sentiments from our last meeting when we went over Mr. Severen's lawyer's letter so that Michael can respond to Jack Severen's attorney.

Reports by General and Capital Fund Treasurers:

1) Michael presented the September, 2018 financial report for the General Fund to Council members for review and discussion. Crystyl presented the September, 2018 Capital Fund Report to Council for review and discussion. Thanks to all who have contributed to the Family Life Center floor!

Reports of Standing Committees:

Archives/Communications: No Report

Christian Education: No Report

Endowment: Joe reports that three \$750.00 scholarships were given to CELC members who are continuing their education. They are Caroline McCumbee, the daughter of Susan and Doug Hawkins, who is attending dental school at Creighton University, Leigh Anne Faulkenberry, who is studying medical office administration at Gaston College, and Emma Human, who is studying nursing at Gaston College. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients!

Evangelism: Bob Mahovsky reports that three existing committees will be combined. They are Evangelism, Internal Ministry, and Stewardship. The new committee will be called the **"We Care Committee."** This new committee will have members from each of the three original committees, and will allow communication with members that are not in church. When any member of the committee learns of a church member who is in need of support, that church member will be contacted, and given support as needed. A "We Care Bag" with contents that include reading material, snacks, and personal care items will be given to these church members. The intent is for this support from membership to be a pleasant surprise for the church member and his or her family. (There will be a specific bereavement package and a sickness package, depending upon circumstances)

Finance/Stewardship: No report, Internal Ministry: No Report, Mutual Ministry: No Report

Property Committee: Brian reports that:

1) Pat has cleaned and sealed internal doors of the church and Family Life Center with polyurethane. He also coated the wood around the stained glass windows with polyurethane.

2) Bud Abernathy has been cutting the grass at the church and the lot out back.

3) The leak in the Family Life Center foyer has been repaired.

4) Bob is taking care of ants on the church property. Brian estimates there are six trillion ants! Go get them, Bob!

Social Ministry: Judy Ray reports that they are collecting items for hurricane relief. Please remember the hurricane victims, as they are in need of help.

Stewardship: Offering envelopes for 2019 are in.

Worship and Music: No Report

Youth: It has been difficult for youth to attend Luther League, as they meet at the same time as Church Council.

Report of Special Committees:

1) The safety and security committee has installed the first aid kit boxes and they are stocked with first aid items.

2) Brian has declared November 5 as Fire Ant Treatment Day.

3) The Cemetery Restoration committee will hold a fund raiser on October 20th. They will be selling fish plates for \$8.00. They will have both take out and eat in.

Other Reports:

The nominating committee is looking for people to run for Council. Tonya, Tommy, Prissy, Judy A., and Judy R. will all be leaving Council at the end of 2018. Please consider helping out by running for Council.

Unfinished Business:

1) Family Life Center Floor: Jack Severens, the original contractor for the new Family Life Center floor, has offered a low amount to be refunded to CELC, but wants to pay it in monthly installments. Council has requested a refund of \$20,000.00. If he agrees to pay that amount, we will accept 10 monthly payments of \$2,000.00. If this is unacceptable to Mr. Severens, we will once again request the full \$23,000.00 to be refunded. Judy Ray made a motion to ask for \$20,000.00 in 10 monthly installments. Pastor Frye seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2) The FLC floor has been paid for by the General Fund. \$13,000.00 has been donated by the congregation. This money will be transferred to the General Fund. The Endowment Fund will meet to consider matching funds.

New 2018 Council Business:

1) David and Leonard will open and close the church in October and November, 2018. Thanks, David and Leonard!

2) The 2019 budget was reviewed by Council. Richard made a motion to accept the budget as written. Judy Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The budget will be presented to the congregation on November 11, 2018 at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Adjournment:

The next council meeting will be November 11, 2018, at 6:00 PM. Nancy will lead devotions. The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph L. Keefer, Church Council Secretary

		1	2018 All Funds Received October November				December		
Seperal Fund - L	Inrestricted *		\$	17,885.00	\$	16,509.49	\$	Decembe	
General Fund - Unrestricted * Other Income			\$	25.00	\$	15,320.00	\$		
Total General Fund Offering			1.	17,910.00	\$	31,829.49	\$		
Designated Gifts		Unering	\$	3,284.25	\$	3,688.88	\$		-
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the state of the s	nated Fund Disbu	· · · · ·	\$	2,931.84	\$	1,506.74	\$		
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	EXTENSION - Ber		\$	1,520.23	\$	1,423.94	\$		-
EXPANS	SION - Mission in C		\$	52.95	\$	25.95	\$		-
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff			\$	12,265.14	\$	11,123.78	\$		-
MINISTRY - Worship & Word				169.89	\$	104.05	\$		-
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property			\$	4,279.31	\$	2,706.72	\$		-
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.			\$	-	\$	_	\$	***************************************	-
	General Fund	Expense	\$	18,287.52	\$	15,384.44	\$		-
All Expense	es (Including DF &	Transfers)	\$	25,039.36	\$	18,551.18	\$		-
÷	Monthly	/ Balance	\$	(377.52)	\$	16,695.05	\$		-
	YTD Running	Balance	\$	(56,597.46)	\$	(39,902.41)	\$	(39,9	02.41
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\$(60,000.00)

\$(70,000.00)

December 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
						1 Christmas Concert 3pm
2 Sunday School 9:30am "Hanging of the Green" & Worship Service 10:30am Christmas Concert 3pm	3	4 Operation Christmas Child 9am-1pm	5 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir 7pm	6 Food Pantry 11:30am-12:30pm Confession & Absolution 12:30pm-1:30pm	7	8 Prime Timer's Christmas Dinner Leaving CELC at 5:45pm
9 Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am	10	11 Women's Bible Study 10am	12 Bible Study 5:30pm Choir 7pm	13 Food Pantry 11:30am-12:30pm Confession & Absolution 12:30pm-1:30pm	14 Youth Work Day Operation Christmas Child 7pm-10pm	15
16 Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am	17	18	19 Senior Citizens Breakfast 7am-11am Bible Study 5:30pm Choir 7pm	20 Food Pantry 11:30am-12:30pm Confession & Absolution 12:30pm-1:30pm Office Closed	21 Office Closed	22
23 / 30 Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am	24/31 Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Food Pantry 11:30am-12:30pm Confession & Absolution 12:30pm-1:30pm Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29



Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

CELC Newsletter December 2018

Pastor: Rev. Wesley R. Frye, STS Administrative Assistant: Julie Bodenheimer Facilities: Rick Chapman

Schedule: Sunday 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service

Wednesday 5:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir Practice

Church Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8:30am until 1:00pm

