



# CELC Newsletter

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Church Website: [www.celcstanley.com](http://www.celcstanley.com)

## Pastor's Message

### The Forgiveness of Enemies

It may be the case that we've heard the plainest words of Holy Scripture so often that we no longer really hear them. A long but somewhat shallow acquaintance with Holy Scripture's teaching may serve only to deflect if not outright dull the keen double-edged sword of God's Word in us. We assume that the point of the Divine will has already pierced its way into our hearts. For as in truth we may have spent so much time dodging and cleverly parrying the thrust of the divine blade that the Word of God may have never entered into our hearts at all.

Take for example the simple mandate to love our enemies. The thing could have hardly been plainer: *Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you. If you do good to those who do good to you what credit is that to you.* Many of us have heard this injunction, whereas it is likely that we have merely stepped aside to let it conveniently pass us by. It is certainly the case that modern prejudice makes the command to love your enemies a thing of great difficulty to understand. Because in modern speech the word "love" often times refers to feelings, there is then a prior cultural conditioning to interpret this command of our Lord in mainly an emotional sense. And so we wrongly imagine ourselves directed by God to entertain kind and benevolent sentiments towards our enemies. And as long as we have accomplished the inner dexterity to be able to pretend that we like the person who has wronged us then we image that we have submitted to this command of our Lord and that we really do love our enemies because we've forced ourselves to feel love toward them.

Regarded more carefully however, the Sacred Scripture says something quite different. It does tell us how to *feel* towards our enemies, indeed the Bible shows not the slightest interest in how we *feel* about our enemies. The love the Bible commands has about it a completely positive, active and practical sense. The meaning of the verb "love" is shown by its context. In the passage given above the command "to love" and "to do good" are set in parallel construction, creating what grammarians call a hendiadys—a rhetorical device in which a single idea is conveyed in two different ways. Throughout his earthly ministry Jesus often uses various rhetorical devices—parable, simile, hyperbole to craft and fortify his teachings. And so in this passage, the command "to love" and "to do good" mean exactly the same thing. The second

(to do good) simply being the explanation of the first (to love). That is to say that “one who loves” according to the biblical definition is “one who does good”.

Now it may happen that by doing good to our enemies, our emotions toward them change. We may in due course feel differently about those enemies. This is very well and fine, but this is not the intent of the Lord’s command which is directed specifically to our activity *not* to our sensitivity. In respect to this matter we are burdened with a deeply-seated modern bias that makes “feelings” the gauge of what is real. Thus we determine those things to be ‘most genuine’ that we can “feel” most deeply, as if emotive spontaneity creates authenticity. This modern predicament has crept even into certain branches of the Christian Church and especially with regard to the Holy Spirit, however it also skews even our own hearing of the Lord’s simple command to love our enemies.

When duty (especially divine duty) obliges us to do things that we don’t necessarily “feel”, the current culture would have us regard ourselves as phony and insincere, hypocrites even. This is utter nonsense. This completely bogus presupposition of the contemporary culture is a great impediment for hearing and doing the Word of God and has caused many to despair that they have not loved or forgiven a person who has wronged them. In this remember that it is the *act* not the *feeling* that is commanded. The martyr Stephen may have felt rather bitterly toward those who were killing him, indeed he called them stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! If he did feel any resentment toward his killers it is of no matter of importance, the important thing was that Stephen really forgave those people.

On my mind as I write all of this are a few things but especially the September 11, 2001 attacks. Almost 17 years have passed and the wounds are easily ripped open. Nearly 3000 of our countrymen died at the hands of people who simply thought they shouldn’t live anymore. It is needless to say, infuriating. But I must not let my emotions convince me that I cannot love my enemy and forgive even the most heinous of actions. What might this look like for me? Pray for my enemies. Pray for those who persecute you, as the Lord commands. This is not easy, I know this well, but no one ever said Christianity is for the faint-hearted. God bless you with strength enough to love and forgive even those who hate you.

Your brother in Jesus, +Pastor Frye

## Prayer Concerns

**Immediate Care Concerns:** Richard Medlin, Randy Frye, Pat Ritchie, Joe Keefer, Jay Human, Neal Ritchie, Ronnie & Teresa Davis, Linda Cloninger, Hubert Abernathy, Bertie Billups, Lindy Hawley, Christine Wallace, Gaynelle Moore, Pearl Summey, Libby Michael, Jimmy Harrison Richard Smith, Susan Wyatt, Elijah Kale

**Grieving:** The Bill Hawley Family (Phyllis Hawley- August 31<sup>st</sup>)

**Home-bound Members:** Gaynelle Moore, Pearl Summey, Lindy Hawley.

**Members in Nursing Homes:** Edna Lineberger is in Stanley Total Living Center (502 B), Christine Wallace is at Huntersville Health & Rehabilitation Ctr., 13835 Boren St. Huntersville, Sarah Lewis is at Carillon Cramer Mountain (Room C-2). Ruth Cloninger is at Carillon in Lincolnton

### Friends and Relatives:

Everette Lineberger	Jewel West	Cindy Turry	Bob Stewart	Chris Davidson
Ann Lineberger	Eddie Rhyne	Jennifer Champange	Gail Conner	Harry Murphy
Karen Scrivani	Joe Canipe	Tom Hodge	Rod Rudisill	Steve McAlister
Ron Ritchie	Tom Olls	Wanda Murphy	Amy Blythe	Robert Caskaddon
Bob Hilton	Luther Murphy	Frances (Hawley) Walker		Kathy Shockley

## September Birthday's

2 Chase Clippard	15 Lois Conley
4 Brian Robinson	20 Tonya Stone
5 Tommy Hedrick	23 Ann Helms
5 Steve Lineberger	25 Prissy Helms
6 Patsy Lineberger	27 Bitsy Medlin
9 Nancy Dukes	28 Bill Cope
9 Bob Mahovsky	

## Anniversary

11 David & Janice Clark  
13 Ryan & Ashley Clark  
28 Donnie & Rene' Clippard

## Baptism Anniversary

1 Judy Cloninger	14 Crystyl Human
1 Gary Dixon	21 Kim Costner
1 Andrew Olls	22 Connie Dixon
2 Pearl Summey	23 Doris Cope
6 Christine Wallace	24 Caroline Hawkins McCumbee
14 Bud Abernathy	28 Steve Lineberger
14 Leigh Anne Faulkenberry	



A summer day on the front porch of Carillon in Cramerton.

Friends (Sarah Lewis and Kathey) enjoying flowers, watching butterflies and talking about old times!





Ocean creatures everywhere -- beside us, above us, around us and beautiful! What a wonderful God to give us all of these creatures to enjoy.

Nineteen Prime Timers explored the "SeaLife" in Concord for a most wonderful learning experience. Did you know that the Sea Horse Dad actually carries the babies and delivers from 150 to 200 at one time? Wow! Now that's a busy dad, ha! The lunch feast was at Sonny's BBQ and man was it delicious and party favors for all. If you don't know us ... come along and meet some real great creatures -- all made by Gods hand and different!!!

### **Family Life Center Fundraiser**

Fund raising is underway for the floor replacement in the Family Life center. We hope to raise enough money to pay for this project by homecoming, which is Sunday, September 23, 2018. In addition to your regular offering, please designate your contribution to the "Floor fund" on your check and/or envelope. Please help us reach our goal!

### **Toilet Paper Drive**

The Women of the Church are having a toilet paper drive. Don't forget to bring toilet paper for the Food Pantry.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Ladies Day Out (Men are Welcome too)**

**Saturday, October 6, 2018**

**Sweet Adelines "Festival of Tables"**

This annual day together will be here soon and tickets are on sale NOW!

The table theme this year is "Let the Good Times Roll"

Always a fun time together with beautiful decorated tables, delicious food and those yummy dessert tables too. Door prizes will be given out and you vote for your favorite table. Great music by the Sweet Adelines will finish up our lunch time together, what a treat! Cost this year is \$22.00 per ticket. Sign-up and reserve your seat (tickets go fast). Let me know by Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>! Hope you plan to go and expect a great time. Thanks, Kathey

### **Cemetery Fundraiser**

On Saturday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> from 3-7pm there will be a Cemetery Fundraiser. Catfish Cove will be catering and the cost of the meal will be \$8.00. There will be a choice of Chicken Strips or Fillet of Flounder with the fixings. (slaw, french fries, hushpuppies, and a dessert).

Tickets will be going for sale soon.

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

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!



## A Note from the Church Council President

### Homecoming

Homecoming at Christ's Lutheran is just around the corner. Our annual event will be held on Sunday, September 23, 2018. Reverend T.C. Plexico will be our guest preacher this year. Our covered dish meal will be held in the Family Life Center immediately following worship.

I never get tired of reading one of my "Christ's Lutheran Moments". This brings back fond memories of Homecoming from the past. Hope you enjoy re-reading this again.

Christ's Lutheran Moments

September 18, 2016

Looking Back with Mrs. Ida Hoover

Dr. Graham Weathers was deeply involved with worship and music during the year 2002. Each Sunday, he would research the hymns to be sung and share with the congregation who wrote the hymn and all the circumstances that led to the hymn being written. Graham also enjoyed discussing events of previous years with Ida Hoover. With homecoming approaching in 2002, Graham interviewed Ida to record her recollections of homecomings past. The interview was printed as an insert to the Sunday bulletin of September 22, 2002. It's worth sharing with you.

"Homecoming has always meant good food and the coming together of old friends and dinner on the grounds. As far back as I can remember, tables covered with tablecloths stretched out all across the front lawn of the church under the great oak trees. Myrtle Wallace always made sure the walks were clean and swept early Sunday morning. The tables were laden with all kinds of wonderful, home-cooked food -- an array of southern country cooking. You would see the likes of fried chicken, platters of country ham, vegetables, homemade cakes and pies. The cakes were all made from scratch with freshly churned butter, fresh eggs, and real white flour to which you added your own baking powder. Baking with buttermilk required a bit of baking soda to sweeten and make it rise. The chickens had all been killed the day before and fried early in the morning of Homecoming Sunday. The last of last-years ham was brought out of the smokehouse and fried to a glorious brown and sided with "red-eye" gravy. No woman would think about bringing a "casserole" because such was no excuse for not taking "pride" in your cooking. Sure there were large dishes of sweet potato pudding, chicken pies, green beans with new potatoes, large bowls of potato salad and freshly deviled eggs. Home- canned peaches and cucumber pickles teased our palate. There were bread-and-butter pickles, pickled beets, grape-leaf pickles, peach pickles with the stone boasting the clove-spiced flesh, tiny sweet cucumber pickles, and some rare homemade dills. Myrtle Wallace loved to bake a ham, and few could surpass her baked ham. I loved to bring my baked pound cake and platter of fried country ham. The children usually went first with the help of mom, then followed by men while the proud ladies went last. The ladies also kept protective eyes over their little ones lying on the quilts spread on the ground for the comfort of the young ones."

Hope to see you all for worship, fellowship and a delicious meal at Homecoming 2018.

Blessings to All,  
Judy Abernathy  
Council President

## **A Message from the Mutual Ministry Committee**

Occasionally when we are in the church we hear the phrase "may the peace and grace of the Lord be with you." When we worship we can feel the peace that can come to us when we worship. Unfortunately, when we are distracted or deeply troubled by something our concerns can get in the way of getting in touch with our spiritual side or feeling the peace that can come as we worship.

At times I am so impressed with Pastor Frye's way of handling mistakes/errors in our service, or in our bulletin etc. He is such a wonderful role model on how to take errors and mistakes lightly and for being forgiving. He is a good model of how we should focus on our worship and not let the distractions take away something as important as our worship time. When I think of others who are sharing our worship time, I feel so grateful that as a congregation we seem to be able to avoid letting errors/mistakes (in procedure, in the bulletin, in voting on something like the FLC floor, in the singing, leading worship, etc.) distract us from actually being able to worship and see that God is good. It is easy to understand that negative comments/feelings can cause us to become distracted from prayerful worship.

As you know, our worship time is also the worship time for those who contribute to our worship services. At this time, I would like to thank all those who contribute to our worship service in sharing their time and talents during worship services. That would include our choir, musicians, acolytes, readers, worship assistants, our church secretary and janitor who help the church in many different ways.

What then are we to do when we see problems/errors that distract us? The tried and true remedy of following the chain of command is the best approach. In our church that means talking with Church Council members, or talking with members of the Mutual Ministry Committee or with our Pastor during non-worship time. As you know addressing someone about a matter that is bothering you during, just before, or just after worship time can be a huge distraction to not only you but to the time others wish to devote to worship on Sunday mornings.

May the peace and grace of the Lord be with you,  
The Mutual Ministry Committee Chairperson

## DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

Just to clarify, did you know there are two cemetery funds? Yes, that is why some people are confused. Each Cemetery fund has a different purpose and a different name.

The **Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund** is attempting to build a perpetual care fund over the next 5 to 10 years through annual solicitations as it pays to have the cemetery lawn mowed. At least one annual donation is hoped for from each church member, and non-CELC member, who have ancestry in the cemetery. Also, donations are hoped for from individuals who feel this is a moral responsibility to protect the final resting place of so many former Stanley residents. This is a non-profit tax deductible organization. Bob Mahovsky is leading that organization.

The **Cemetery Restoration Fund** is asking for donations to pay for the repair of damaged cemetery monuments. When the fund achieves a total of \$1,000.00 that committee is able to pay an expert work man to lead the committee in a "work day" to repair monuments. This committee is also working to file an application for an historic site designation for the cemetery. Doris cope is leading this organization.

Both are doing important but different work. Thank you for supporting the work you feel is important.

Submitted by: Bob Mahovsky

## Use & Care for the Carolina Custom Decorative Chip Floor in the Family Life Center.

- For minor spills, simply wipe them up with a paper towel or other soft cloth. Routine maintenance cleaning is best achieved with either a soft bristle brush (suitable for washing a car) or a blue commercial dust mop (both are available at any home improvement store). For heavy cleaning of a soiled floor, sweep away any loose debris and then mop floor with a rag/string mop with water and CLEAR ammonia. 4-5 ounces of ammonia per gallon of water is all that is needed to adequately remove soiling. If desired, the floor can be hosed out and squeegee dried. Try not to leave standing water on floor when and where possible.
- For stubborn tire marks or tracks, use one of the soft bristle brushes (mentioned above) on a pole with a bucket of ammonia and water. Lightly brush affected areas then hose out garage and squeegee dry.
- **DO NOT USE BLEACH** or any cleaner that contains acids (citrus cleaners, vinegar, etc.) or soap based cleaners. Soap based cleaners leave a residue on the floor that not only detracts from the shine, but also becomes increasingly slippery should the floor get wet





## 2018 NALC CONVOCAATION

About 600 delegates and visitors gathered August 15-17 in Denver, Colo., for the 2018 Convocation of the North American Lutheran Church around the theme, "The Holy Spirit: Calling, Gathering, Enlightening, Sanctifying."

The Mission Festival began with a focus on discipleship. Featured speakers Sherry Weddell and Katherine Coolidge of the Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado Springs, Colo., talked about ways congregations can form intentional disciples. The Mission Festival also featured a variety of breakout sessions to equip members for mission.

Pastor Gemechis Buba, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, offered presentations at the Mission Festival and Convocation sessions. He told inspiring stories of God's work in providing buildings for some NALC mission congregations serving Oromo people.

Bishop John Bradosky will not be seeking reelection as Bishop of the NALC when his term expires in 2019. The Bishop talked about "passing the baton" of the office of Bishop and pointed out the need for all of us to "pass the baton" of faith and discipleship.

To prepare for the nomination and election process for Bishop, a packet of information was provided to congregations including a booklet of prayers encouraging NALC members to engage in a year of prayer and discernment leading up to the election at the NALC Convocation August 7-9, 2019, in Indianapolis, Ind.

**Elections:** Richard Jansak of Hendersonville, N.C., and Pastor Melinda Jones of Summerville, S.C., were elected to four-year terms on the Executive Council. Pastor John Moffett of Ashland, Ohio, and James Gale of Washington, D.C., were elected to the Court of Adjudication. Ralph Wold of Red Deer, Alberta, and Pastor Rolf Bjornstad of Sherwood Park, Alberta were elected to the NALC

Canada Section Governing Board. Pastor Wendy Berthelsen of Midlothian, Texas; Pastor Dennis Di Mauro of Herndon, Va., and Pastor Phillip Gagnon of St. Albert, Alberta, were elected to six-year terms on the North American Lutheran Seminary Board of Regents.

**The North American Lutheran Seminary** will be seeking a new president. The Rev. Dr. Amy Schiffrin, president of the NALS, has been serving as both president and seminary faculty. She will continue as full-time faculty and transition out of her position as president after the 2018-2019 school year or when someone is called as president.

**2019 budgets were approved.** The Convocation approved a \$2.1 million Operating Budget for the NALC. Budgets were also approved for NALC designated funds: \$589,000 for the Theological Education Fund (which includes the seminary); \$175,500 for the Great Commission Fund; and \$89,000 for the Disaster Response Fund. Most of the budgets anticipate spending some cash reserves.

**A resolution regarding ecumenical consultation** between the NALC and the Roman Catholic Church was approved. The resolution inviting the Roman Catholic Church into conversation and cooperation was proposed by the NALC's Commission on Theology and Doctrine.

**A new NALC Global Worker**, James Puotyual, who will serve in South Sudan, was commissioned at the Convocation.

**Stuff the Tonka Truck for NALC Disaster Response** received more than \$11,000 worth of gift cards to assist those recovering from disasters. The effort was organized by the Women of the NALC.

**Reports** of the work of the NALC's staff, teams, task forces, ministries and ministry partners were warmly received.

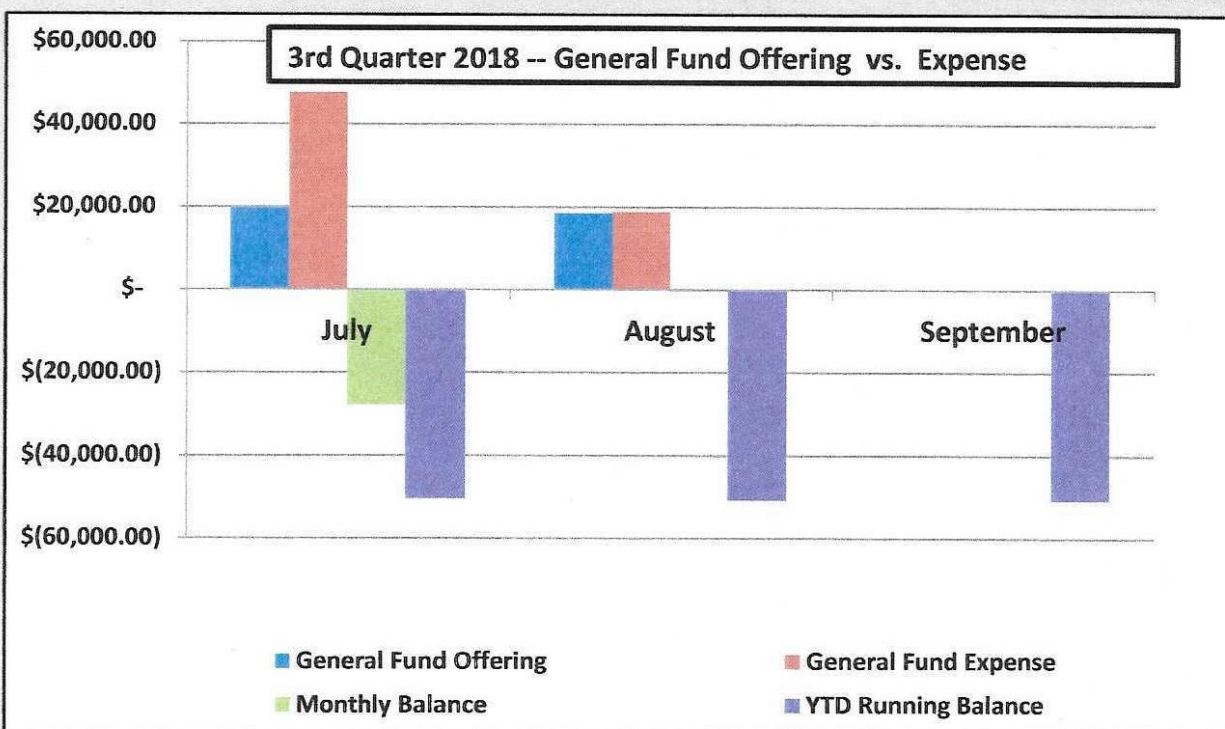
**Events preceding the Convocation** were the Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology, Women of the NALC Annual Gathering, Discipleship Coaching workshop and the Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium. The Convocation and the events preceding it comprise the NALC's annual Lutheran Week.

**Documents, photos and videos** from the Convocation and other events of Lutheran Week will be posted at [lutheranweek.com](http://lutheranweek.com).



3rd Quarter 2018 -- All Funds Received			
	July	August	September
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 19,645.77	\$ 18,253.00	\$ -
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 217.00	\$ -
<b>Total General Fund Offering</b>	<b>\$ 19,645.77</b>	<b>\$ 18,470.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Designated Gifts	\$ 28,500.55	\$ 4,847.65	\$ -
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ 2,730.00	\$ 5,130.00	\$ -
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$ 50,876.32</b>	<b>\$ 28,447.65</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
* 3.5 % Benevolence to NALC			
* 5 % Given for Local Benevolence (CELC Social Ministry Programs)			

3rd Quarter 2017 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense			
	July	August	September
<b>General Fund Offering</b>	<b>\$ 19,645.77</b>	<b>\$ 18,470.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Designated Funds (Budget)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Designated Fund Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.46</b>	<b>\$ 44,627.24</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Transfers to Capital Fund</b>	<b>\$ 2,730.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,130.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 1,669.90	\$ 1,551.51	\$ -
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 224.95	\$ 87.95	\$ -
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 11,096.72	\$ 11,329.15	\$ -
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ 1,684.01	\$ 1,170.11	\$ -
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 32,967.76	\$ 4,708.28	\$ -
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>General Fund Expense</b>	<b>\$ 47,643.34</b>	<b>\$ 18,847.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
All Expenses (Including DF & Transfers)	\$ 52,373.80	\$ 68,604.24	\$ -
Monthly Balance	\$ (27,997.57)	\$ (377.00)	\$ -
<b>YTD Running Balance</b>	<b>\$ (50,440.51)</b>	<b>\$ (50,817.51)</b>	<b>\$ (50,817.51)</b>
Note --			





## Joke Corner

### Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

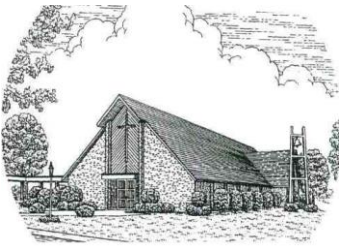
55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.



# September 2018

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 Sunday School 9:30am  The Divine Service 10:30am	3 Labor Day  Office Closed	4	5 Bible Study 5:30pm  Choir 7:00pm	6 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm  Confession & Absolution 12:30pm- 1:30pm  Budget/ Finance Meeting 6:30pm	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:30am  The Divine Service 10:30am Council Meeting 6:00pm	10	11 Women's Bible Study  10am	12 Bible Study 5:30pm  Choir 7:00pm	13 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm  Confession & Absolution 12:30pm- 1:30pm	14	15 Church Workday 8am- 12noon  Lunch provided
16 Sunday School 9:30am  The Divine Service 10:30am	17	18	19 Choir 7:00pm	20 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:30am The Divine Service 10:30am Homecoming Sunday	24	25	26 Bible Study 5:30pm  Choir 7:00pm	27 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm  Confession & Absolution 12:30pm- 1:30pm	28	29
30 Sunday School 9:30am  The Divine Service 10:30am						



# Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

## CELC Newsletter September 2018

HOME+COMING  
September 23, 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