



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastor's Message

On true repentance.

Since we're in the middle of Lent I'm going to take a break from the Catechism and speak more specifically about repentance. I want to do this for several reasons but primarily because I'm convinced that the main reason the Christian Church is shrinking in our land is because 1.) we either refuse to repent or 2.) we simply don't know how to anymore. The former possibility is a true hardening of our hearts and an abandoning of the Faith, and the latter is not too far behind.

God has promised to act in specific ways within the community of his Holy Spirit—we commonly call this community, “the Church”. That is, he has promised to forgive sins, give life and salvation, and instill and strengthen faith within the gathered community and to do so particularly by the means which he has given to humanity to do just that, namely the preaching of the Word, Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar, and the Absolution. Now he *may* indeed do those things outside of the community of his Holy Spirit—*maybe*—, but he has not promised to do so, nor should we expect him to act outside of the perimeters which he Himself has established. For more on how to recognize this community of the Holy Spirit read up on Luther's Seven Marks of the Church.

So how does one repent? There are two parts of repentance: 1.) Contrition and 2.) Faith. Contrition is sorrow felt because of sin. It's knowing that our sin has offended God and feeling terror strike our conscience because of it. This contrition happens when sins are condemned by the Word of God. And so it's true that “contrition” is something that happens to us *passively*. That is, it is not something we do; God, in his mercy, works contrition in us. So hear again what King David says it's like when God strikes us with his Law and we are convicted of our sin: **“My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness, ⁶I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; all the day I go about mourning. ⁷For my sides are filled with burning, and there is no soundness in my flesh. ⁸I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart.”** And so when God strikes us with the guilt of sin by the preaching and hearing of the Law, it must then drive us to confession—to verbally utter one's sorrow over sin. I told the Sunday Bible Class that a good practice is to actually make the effort to write down your confession instead of just having a bunch of jumbled thoughts and feelings bouncing around in your head that you kind of feel bad about—the latter is not confession. Once you've written them down, pray them and in so doing you will confess your sins to God. The point here is to use your intellect (your will that's been and is being formed by the Holy Spirit) and *not* your heart. For more on where “evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander come from, see Matthew 15:19. And so the exhortation to “just pray from your heart” doesn't pass muster, and in the same way it's not really a good idea to attempt to confess with your heart either.

So, contrition is sorrow over sin, even so much that it would drive one to confess their sin. Faith then is the forgiveness of those sins. From the *Apology to the Augsburg Confession* Article 12: “Faith is the belief that for Christ's sake, our sins are forgiven—it cheers, sustains, and enlivens the contrite. This faith obtains forgiveness, because it grasps the forgiveness of sins offered for Christ's sake.” Faith alone grabs onto and receives the forgiveness of sins. You can have all the sorrow over sin in the world, you can feel the hollow echo of the abyss resounding in your soul, but if you do not cling to Christ by faith and believe that for his sake you are

forgiven then the forgiveness of those sins will remain far from you. And so repentance is two parts—*both* contrition and faith.

We don't like to admit it, however we would be fools not to—human beings are very much like the sheep that Jesus compared us to—we are hard-headed, stubborn, flighty, constantly in danger, and we are extremely near-sighted creatures. If we don't constantly see or experience a thing then we gradually begin to forget certain aspects of that thing. One of the reasons God appointed his people to meet together regularly was so that they would not lose sight of and forget his Word, thereby growing weaker and weaker and more susceptible to the demonic wolves. If one forgets the Law, then they also forget that certain actions are sinful and should be abstained from. Ultimately, they see very little if anything that is sinful, having no shame for their sin, and thus they feel no need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ—for they need to be saved from nothing. This is the “shrinking” I mentioned in the first paragraph above. People no longer feel the weight and terror of sin any longer. People who don't believe they need God (at least in the way that He said they do) will infrequently or possibly never come to the community of the Holy Spirit and much less will they actually repent.

And so in the midst of all of this Lent directs us to penitence, not just now but always, because the heart of the Christian religion is this: That because of the work of Jesus Christ, we have a way to always return to the Father no matter what we've done or where we find ourselves—and that “way” is the way of repentance.

Your brother in Jesus + Pastor Frye



Lenten Services at Christ's Lutheran

The Lenten Services will begin with a meal at 5:30-6:30pm and the Service will be at 7pm on April 3, & April 10.

Please plan to attend for a wonderful time of fellowship.



Palm Sunday service will be at 10:30am on Sun, April 14.

Maundy Thursday service will be Thurs, April 18, at 7pm.

Good Friday service will be Friday, April 19, at 7pm.

Easter Service will be on Sunday, April 21 at 10:30am.

Prayer Requests:

Immediate Care Concerns: Bitsy Medlin, Charles Ray, Betty Hoover, Barbara Benedict, Rene Clippard, Marilyn Smith, Richard Medlin, Neal Ritchie, Ronnie Davis, Hubert Abernathy, Bertie Billups, Lindy Hawley, Christine Wallace, Gaynelle Moore, Pearl Summey, Libby Michael, Jimmy Harrison, Richard Smith, Elijah Kale

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, Neal Ritchie is at Stanley Total Living

Friends and Relatives:

Everette Lineberger	Jewel West	Cindy Turry	Chris Davidson	Frances (Hawley) Walker
Eddie Rhyne	Gail Conner	Harry Murphy	Jason Hames	Jennifer Champange
Karen Scrivani	Joe Canipe	Rod Rudisill	Linda Gunter	Robert Caskaddon
Ron Ritchie	Wanda Murphy	Amy Blythe	Amber Buff	
Bob Hilton	Luther Murphy	Sidney Mitchell	Dr. Michael Case	

April's Birthday's

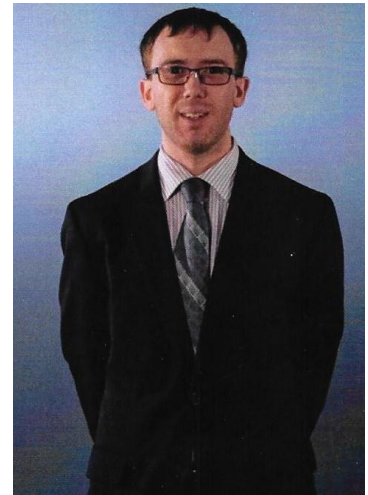
2 Kim Lineberger	27 Whitney Clark
6 Connie Dixon	27 Nicholas Price
12 Bud Abernathy	29 Sherry Helms
17 Gabe Price	

April's Anniversary's

26 Neal & Pat Ritchie

Baptism Anniversary

1 Rick Chapman	13 Rene Clippard
1 David Lewis	14 Lisa Cloninger
4 Judy Abernathy	14 Martha Jean McIntosh
4 David Clark	20 Eleanor Abernathy
8 Joe Keefer	28 Lindy Hawley
10 Donnie Clippard	28 Steve Hawley
10 Larry Cloninger	29 Sherry Helms
11 Doug Hawkins	
11 Susan Hawkins	



Please pray for George Schrader, a first-year student at Trinity School for Ministry

Church Council Meeting

There will be a church council meeting on Sunday, April 14, 6pm.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will be meeting on April 9 at 10am in the fellowship hall.

Do you have BOOKS?

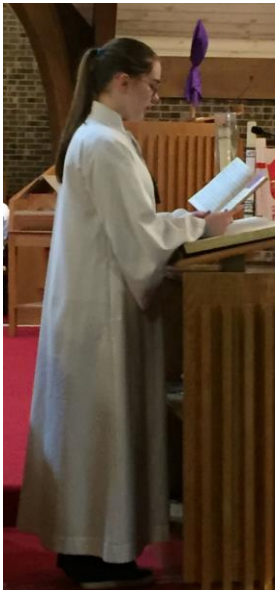
Let's help our own "Stanley Little Library" caretaker (Charles Ray) with filling it up! The location of this library is at Harper Park in Stanley. Everyone is welcome to enjoy these free books, take and read one, then return one for someone else to enjoy! What fun and excitement to see what is there 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!

United in Action of Stanley Churches, Inc.

**** EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION, SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019 (SUN RISE is at 6:43 a. m.)

Hourly Prayer Vigils will be held at COMMONGROUND, First United Methodist Church, 5481 Hickory Grove Road, Stanley, North Carolina 28164, beginning Saturday evening, April 20, through Sunday morning, April 21, 2019 6:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m.

UASC, INC. EIGHTH ANNUAL 2019 COMMUNITYWIDE TENT REVIVAL "under the stars" at the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, COMMONGROUND CAMPUS, 5481 HICKORY GROVE ROAD, STANLEY, N.C.29164, TUESDAY, MAY 14, THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019, 7:00 P.M. EACH EVENING



CELC Members enjoyed the singing special by our Rebekah Olls! Thanks for sharing your talent.



Skylar enjoyed Ms. Judy's singing so much she ran after church to give her "Thanks" with a hug for her beautiful song!

Luau Party

Hula Hula Chicken, Hawaiian Meatballs and Hawaiian Steak Biscuits (Spam) made the Luau Party a delicious meal and the beginning of a wonderful night together. So many fruits to enjoy and desserts were the best. Thank you all who prepared meal items, worked in the kitchen and everyone else for coming out to celebrate. A fun program of juggling by Ernie Pope and games played by some wonderful CELC Members and friends. Who said we couldn't do the Hula?



More Luau Pictures



ATTENTION ALL CURRENT AND FORMER BAND MEMBERS



CLIMB INTO THOSE ATTICS AND DUST OFF THOSE HORNS. BUY YOURSELF SOME NEW REEDS AND START WORKING ON GETTING YOUR LIP BACK. IT'S TIME TO PLAY AGAIN! YOU ARE INVITED TO PLAY WITH THE STANLEY COMMUNITY...

ORCHA-BAND*

Only 4 Rehearsals
Tuesdays, May 21 and 28
Thursdays, May 23 and 30 (if needed)
8:00 - 9:00 pm at CommonGround

Goal #1: Have fun!

Goal #2: Learn 2-3 songs
Play for OUTDOOR worship at
CommonGround

9:00 am on Sunday, June 2, 2019

WE WANT EVERYBODY!

Stanley Community Choirs



TALENT SHOW

BBQ starting at 6:00 pm

Talent Show at 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 6th at Community Pentecostal
Center FLC

320 Ralph Handsel Boulevard, Stanley NC 28164

Admission: \$5.00 each (\$2.00 for children 2 and
under)

COME AND SEE...

Singers, jugglers, piano players, a magician,
guitarists, a **DIDGERIDOO** artist...
violinist, trombonist, a master storyteller, hand
bell ringers, and a comedienne



\$8.00 BBQ plates available, prepared by
Gene Walker

All proceeds to **Stanley Community
Choirs**

Christmas Concerts @ 3:00 pm
December 7-8, 2019

A place to gather, to pray, to be thankful, to remember and appreciate our past loved ones and families, and much more – our Stanley Cemetery

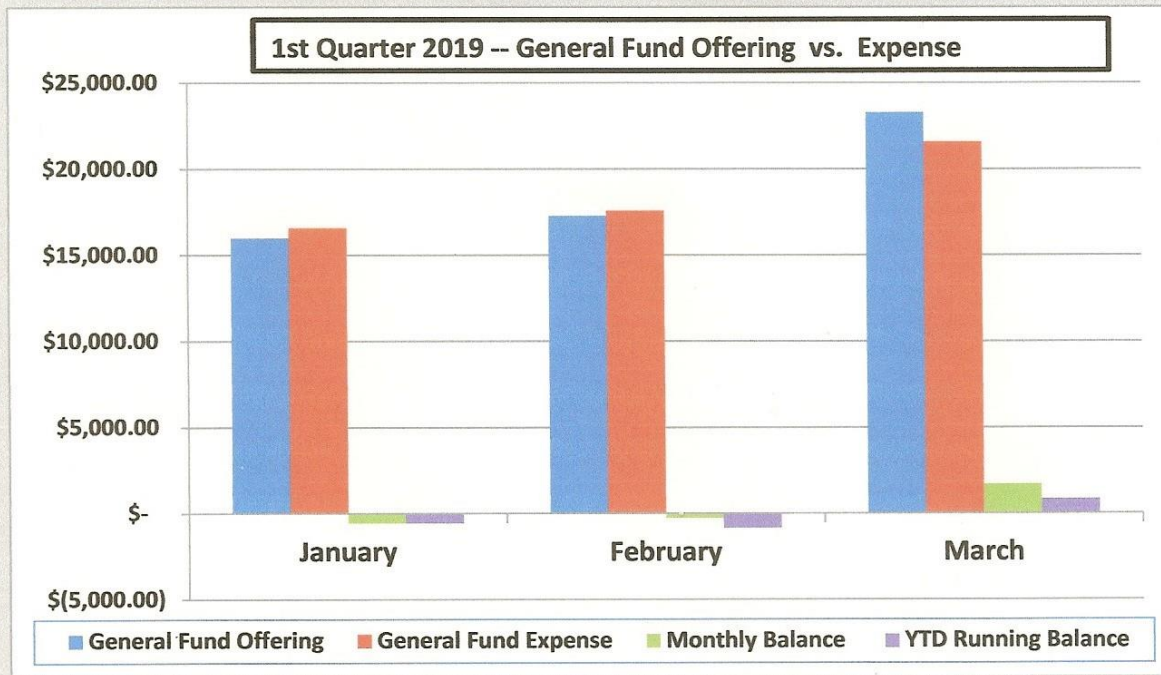
Many thanks for all your time and hard work in beautifying the Stanley Cemetery while honoring those who have gone before us: Bud Abernathy, Dan King, Tommy Deese, Leonard Lewis, Charles Ray, Pat McAlister, and Bob Mahovsky



Mail donations to: The Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund, c/o T. Deese, Treasurer, P.O. Box 772, Stanley, NC 28164

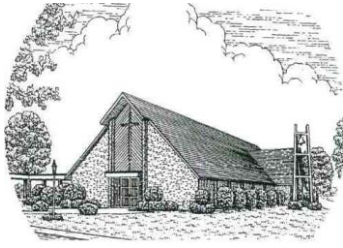
1st Quarter 2019 -- All Funds Received			
	January	February	March
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 15,897.00	\$ 16,655.00	\$ 22,162.00
Other Income	\$ 94.00	\$ 632.00	\$ 1,121.00
Total General Fund Offering	\$ 15,991.00	\$ 17,287.00	\$ 23,283.00
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,440.48	\$ 1,500.71	\$ 2,854.96
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ 2,210.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 452.00
Total Offering	\$ 19,641.48	\$ 20,437.71	\$ 26,589.96
* 3.5 % Benevolence to NALC			
* 5 % Given for Local Benevolence (CELC Social Ministry Programs)			

1st Quarter 2019 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense			
	January	February	March
General Fund Offering	\$ 15,991.00	\$ 17,287.00	\$ 23,283.00
Designated Funds (Budget)	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Fund Disbursements	\$ 380.00	\$ 555.00	\$ 3,173.53
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$ 2,210.00	\$ 1,650.00	\$ 1,352.00
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 1,351.25	\$ 1,415.68	\$ 1,883.77
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 25.95	\$ 25.95	\$ 925.95
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 11,571.46	\$ 11,366.29	\$ 11,428.32
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ 103.11	\$ 603.60	\$ 938.80
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 3,527.31	\$ 2,987.17	\$ 2,083.55
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ 1,179.98	\$ 4,322.25
General Fund Expense	\$ 16,579.08	\$ 17,578.67	\$ 21,582.64
All Expenses (Including DF & Transfers)	\$ 19,169.08	\$ 19,783.67	\$ 26,108.17
Monthly Balance	\$ (578.08)	\$ (291.67)	\$ 1,700.36
YTD Running Balance	\$ (578.08)	\$ (869.75)	\$ 830.61
Note --			



April 2019

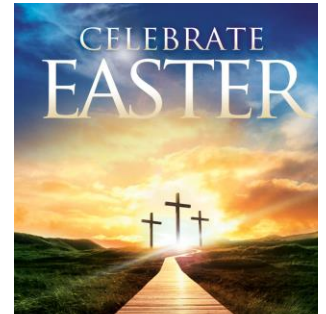
Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3 Lenten Meal 5:30-6:30pm Lenten Service 7:00pm	4 Food Pantry 11am-12:30pm Confession & Absolution 12:30pm-1:30pm	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:30am Worship service 10:30am	8	9	10 Lenten Meal 5:30-6:30pm Lenten Service 7:00pm	11 Food Pantry 11am-12:30pm Confession & Absolution 12:30pm-1:30pm	12	13
14 Palm Sunday Sunday School 9:30am Worship service 10:30am	15	16	17	18 Food Pantry 11am-12:30pm Confession & Absolution 12:30pm-1:30pm Maunder Thursday 7pm	19 Good Friday Service 7pm	20
21 Easter Sunday Sunday School 9:30am Worship service 10:30am	22 Office Closed	23	24 Choir 7pm	25 Food Pantry 11am-12:30pm Confession & Absolution 12:30pm-1:30pm	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:30am Worship service 10:30am	29	30				



Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

CELC Newsletter April 2019



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