



# CELC Newsletter

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

## Pastor's Message

The Small Catechism

The Creed - The First Article: Creation

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

***What does this mean?*** I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

**This is most certainly true.**

We have just finished up the Commandments section of the Catechism and have seen what it is God desires us to do or to leave undone. Hopefully, by this point, we have seen how thoroughly we have failed at keeping them and realize how much we need Jesus and the saving doctrines which he sets forth. It is most certainly fitting then that the next part of the Catechism is the Creed—which sets forth, in a nutshell, the content of the Faith of the holy Christian Church.

When we confess that we believe in God the Father who created all things, we are firstly saying that ‘I am a creature of God and I am held in existence by his will’. When we confess this what we are also necessarily confessing is that we are not God; but rather we are his possession and are subordinate to Him. Our Father gives us all things needful for life. And so we learn from this article that we can in no way preserve life or anything that we have been given no matter how seemingly small or insignificant the thing may seem.

We also confess here that God gives us protection against evil and guards us against the “unseen” things of the Creed—namely the demons that also rebelled against God but who are nonetheless still our enemies. He does this because he is our Father and does not wish even a hair on our head to be harmed. Such deep love he has for us that he even appoints his holy angels to encamp around us and to be our guardians.

Finally, this first chief article of the Creed ought to drive us to humility and penitence because even though we may mouth these words every week, their meaning doesn’t penetrate our hearts deeply enough. Because how often do *we* take credit for all that we have in our lives? How often do *we* boast as if we have proven worthy of the raise or promotion we’ve received at our places of work as if God doesn’t cause our very blood to course through its veins? Or how often do *we* present ourselves to others as the sole reason for the good fortune and blessings in our lives? And it’s exactly then that we

betray this article of the Creed, for we do not give God the credit and the glory for everything in our lives. We do not treat nor honor him as the sole Creator of all things. In this, we have shown ourselves no better than the world who neither loves God nor regards Him as the creator and provider of anything.

And so we ought to daily pray the Creed and meditate upon the deep meaning of these words. When some good comes into our lives, when we narrowly escape a car accident or some other tragedy, when our child returns to the Faith that he has for so long rejected, we ought to realize that all of these things issue forth from the deep well of the heart of the Holy Trinity and not only these but God has given even all of Himself to us in the Person of his Son, Jesus.

God continue to bless you as we enter more deeply into the penitential season of Advent.

+Pastor Frye

### Hanging of the Green

Our "Hanging of the Green" service will be on Sunday, Dec. 8th during the 10:30 AM worship. Mark your calendar for this inspirational service.



Emily Keefer and Robert Vernola were married by Pastor Frye on September 15, 2019, during the morning service. Emily is the daughter of Cindy and Joe Keefer and the granddaughter of Ruth Cloninger. She is presently enrolled in Duke University's School of Medicine Physician Assistant program. Rob is a U.S. Army Veteran and presently works for the City of Durham. Emma Vernola is 5 years old and is Rob's daughter and Emily's stepdaughter. She was flower girl and wardrobe design consultant for the occasion.

## Prayer Requests:

Reminder: People's names will be rotated off of the Prayer List upon request or after 30 days. If you know of someone who needs to remain on the prayer list for longer than 30 days, and have their permission to do so, please let the church office know.

Immediate Care Concerns: Linda Cloninger, Leonard Lewis, Michael Benedict, Teresa Davis, Leonard Lewis, Tim Cloninger, Harold Lineberger, Ronnie Davis

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore

Members in Nursing Homes: Christine Wallace is at Huntersville Health & Rehabilitation Ctr., 13835 Boren St. Huntersville, Ruth Cloninger is at Carillon in Lincolnton, Neal Ritchie & Lindy Hawley is at Stanley Total Living Ctr.

### Friends and Relatives:

Diana Kingsley	Ray McNeely	Tony Beale	Ray McNeely	Trudy Dixon
Sidney Mitchell	Harry Murphy	Wanda Murphy	Luther Murphy	Jewel West
Everett Lineberger	Vicky Throneburg	Barbara Rhyne	Donnie Miskelly	Miles Cooper
Joe Canipe	Rick Martin	Jim Bumgardner	Gary Beale	Diane Skidmore

## December's Birthday's

1 Ronnie Davis	13 Johnnie Helms
9 Steve Hawley	15 Ansley Spears
10 Rene' Clippaard	15 Lillian Chronister
12 Larry Cloninger	26 Joey Keefer
12 Bill Hawley	27 Charles Ray
13 Lori Spears	29 Linda Cloninger

**A big thank you to East Gaston High School and their can food donation to our food pantry.**

**Thank you so much!!!**

## December's Anniversary's

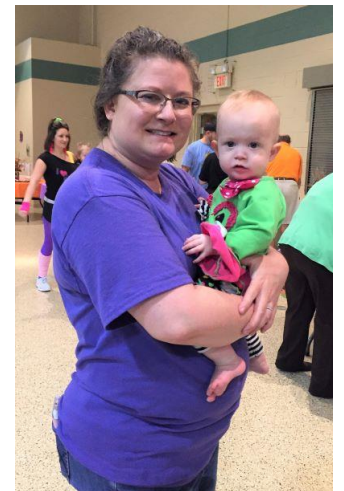
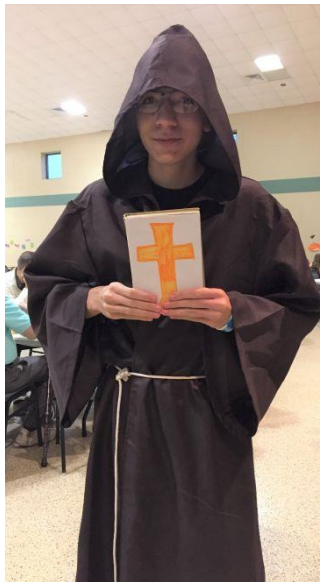
11 Tommy & Terri Hedrick	21 Keith & Kim Costner
11 Wayne & Nina Hovis	23 Rick & Anne Chapman
17 Jay & Crystyl Human	28 Harold & Patsy Lineberger
21 Tim & Teri Clark	31 Doug & Susan Hawkins

## Baptism Anniversary

2 Logan Dixon	19 Sara Abernathy
15 Haley Hawkins	21 Landon Dixon
18 Betty Hoover	23 Michael Dukes



# Fall Festival 2019







Great turn out for the annual CELC Fall Festival even on a stormy night!  
 Delicious hotdogs (although they were cooked inside on electric grills) and marshmallows  
 roasted by the stove, ha!  
 Teresa that sure was a flame on that marshmallow but yummy!  
 Thanks to all who worked, donated items and just came out to enjoy ... wonderful fellowship  
 night for everybody.



## FESTIVAL OF TABLES



All enjoyed a morning of beautiful tables and food on this beautiful cool November day.

It is always fun too chat with friends and laugh while listening to music from the Sweet Adelines!

Operation Christmas Child

Congratulations to CELC Members! We prepared 33 shoeboxes this season! These will make for some smiling and happy children somewhere around the year! Thanks to everyone for helping out!





### Church Council Meeting

There will be a church council meeting on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

### Women's Bible Study

There will be a Women's Bible Study on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the fellowship hall. Please bring toilet paper for the food pantry.

### Put it on Your Calendar!!

### CELC Workday at Operation Christmas Child

Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 --- 9 am to 1 pm

Plan on having the best time of the season with fellow CELC members while doing something for children around the world!

We'll make the annual morning trip to Charlotte to pack shoeboxes!

Leaving CELC at 7:30 am and returning after lunch.

Sign-up to make a difference --- we have 12 spots reserved for the day.

Thanks for sharing your busy time! Kathey Brown

### Prime Timers -- Save the Date

### Christmas Meal at the Woodshed - Stanley

Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm

We're celebrating this wonderful season together!

Signup for a night of good food and fellowship!

We have space for 25... So get your name on the list with Kathey or Mary. Christmas is coming!

## Community Thanksgiving Service



## "Angel Tree" 2019


Be on the lookout for our Angel Tree very soon!

Our Angel names will be from Stanley Total Living Center this year! Once the tree is up just pick a name, purchase their wanted surprise and wrap. What joy you will receive from making someone special happy! Thanks and watch for that tree in the back of the church.

Ask Judy Ray or Kathey Brown if you have questions.

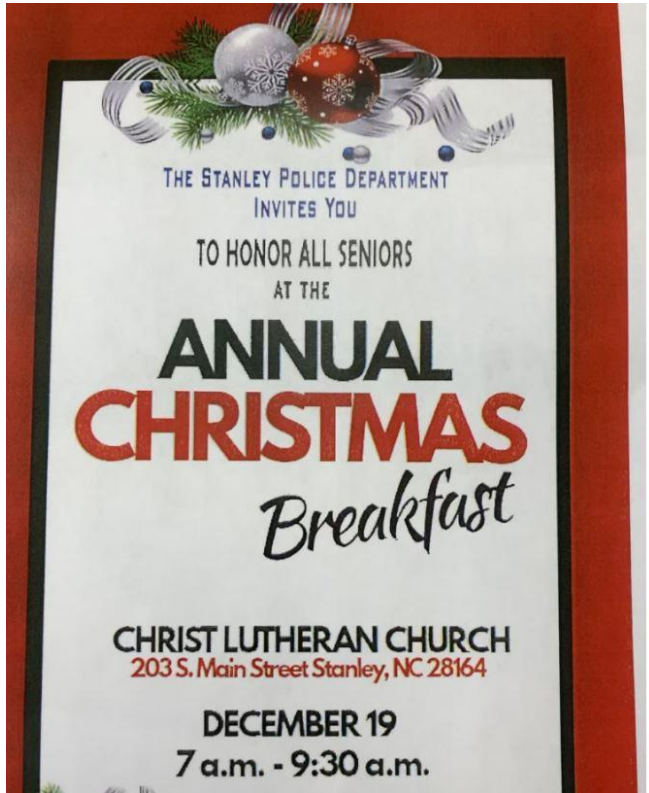
*This event is too great to miss!*

The Internationally Acclaimed  
**MOREHOUSE  
COLLEGE  
GLEE CLUB**



AT  
**Stanley First Baptist  
Church**  
Saturday  
**January 25th 2020**  
**3 pm** Tickets \$25  
See Pastor for tickets by November 1st

Those wishing to secure tickets for the event should contact Michael Dukes. This will be a sold-out event!



THE STANLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
INVITES YOU  
TO HONOR ALL SENIORS  
AT THE  
**ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS**  
*Breakfast*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
203 S. Main Street Stanley, NC 28164

DECEMBER 19  
7 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

## **Annual Christmas Concert**

**The annual Christmas Concert will be presented  
at the First Baptist Church in Stanley on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>  
and Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.  
Reception following the Concert.**



## Part 2: Cao Family June 30, 1976

Mr. Cao and Mrs. Pham have four children: an eleven-year-old girl Thuy Trang; a ten-year-old girl Ngol Khanh; a six-year-old boy Van Minh; and a four-year-old boy Wuang Vinh. Also living with the family is Mr. Cao's sister Nga Cao.

Mr. Cao is 31 years old. He was an interpreter for the United States Green Berets Special Forces, during the Vietnam War, where he was wounded in combat. His wounds forced him to resign his work with the Army. He then worked with his uncle, in a farm equipment dealership in Vietnam. Later he purchased a farm, but had to leave everything behind when he fled Vietnam in May 1976. He has a sister who lives in Canada, having fled the country earlier. He speaks English, French, and Vietnamese. Mrs. Pham is 27 and worked as a typist. Mr. Cao's sister and her vocational skills are unknown.

### The Cao Family Arrives

What an exciting moment that Saturday morning, July 31, 1976, at (12:30 AM) was as Trung, his wife Hiew, his sister Nya, and the four children, Trang (11), Khan (10), Minh (6) and Vinh (4) stepped off Eastern Flight #355 to be greeted by some twenty-five people from our congregation. What an exciting time for the family, as well as those who waved balloons, shouted and clapped at their arrival.

### Their New Home

They were so pleased with their new home at 400 W. Plum Street. The appliances, furniture, bedding, decorations, and clothing are a truly wonderful family. Trung, said he had dreamed of being sponsored by a church in a small town and His dream had come true! The overall process of preparing for this family was overwhelming with each committee serving to provide, Housing, Decorating, Furniture, Lines, Clothing, Transportation, Educational (enrollment of children in school, teaching of English to family), Financial (handling of money and all paperwork), Medical Committee, and Food committee (Vietnamese shopping list items).

They are a beautiful family. The Holy Spirit has guided us in this witness to our community of the open, loving arms of Jesus Christ whom we are called to model. Let us thank God for safely sending us this family.

### Resettlement Process Begins

Trung started work at J.P. Stevens. His sister is working at Stanley Knitwear, and Hiedw is also employed. Trung has his driver's license, and three of the children started school, while Vinh is attending nursing school.

Trung, Hiew, and Nga speak three languages (English, French and Vietnamese).

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

October 13, 2019

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Jay Human.

**Devotions:** Crystyl opened the meeting with a prayer. Gabriel Frye will do devotions in November. He was scheduled to do them tonight, but was unable to attend.

**Roll call and action on excuses for absence:**

**Present:** Jay Human, Michael Dukes, Tommy Hedrick, Crystyl Human, Emma Human, Joe Keefer, Leonard Lewis, Bob Mahovsky, Pat McAlister, Richard Medlin, Brian Robinson, and Tonya Stone

**Absent:** Pastor Frye, Gabriel Frye, Nancy Olls

**Minutes of last meeting:**

- 1) The minutes of the September 8, 2019 Council meeting were approved with corrections. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes, with corrections. Crystyl seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Report of the Pastor:** Pastor Frye presented the report for September, 2019, in abstentia.

- 1) **For the month of September 2019**, Pastor Frye presided over the Divine Service 3 times, taught Wednesday Evening Bible Study 4 times, taught Sunday Morning Bible Study, had 17 pastoral visits, presided over the wedding of Emily Keefer and Robert Vernola, attended the church workday, helped the Ancestry Fund with their mailing at the Family Life Center, participated in feeding lunch to our local teachers, and attended 1 meeting.
- 2) Pastor Frye has been asked about turning on the speakers in the choir loft. He and Brian checked them. They are now on and working. However, some claim that they still cannot hear them.
- 3) Microphone #7 is malfunctioning. There are times that loud static noises have forced Pastor Frye to turn off the microphone during the service. This problem needs to be addressed ASAP. Brian will get it checked.
- 4) The Christian Education Team met on September 19 and decided to continue Youth Sunday School.
- 5) Pastor David McClure of New Life Baptist is coordinating a Trunk-or-Treat downtown again this year on Halloween evening. He invited us last year and Pastor Frye told him that we had been doing our own thing for some time now and that we didn't want to do both. Maybe in an attempt to somewhat participate, we could have our hayride stop there.
- 6) Pastor Frye would like to "re"-commend to the Council the possibility of adjusting the process for electing Council members per our discussion at our September meeting.

**Reports by General and Capital Fund Treasurers:**

1) Michael reviewed the Deposits Summary and the Designated Funds Report for September, 2019. Michael recommends that we move the balance in the Open Arms Ministry to Stanley School Snack Pack Fund. Bob made a motion to accept Michael's recommendation. Crystyl seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Michael also requests that Council find an assistant Treasurer to work with him and replace him at the end of 2020.

2) Crystyl presented the September, 2019, Capital Fund report to Council for review. Crystyl also reports that there is a lot of interest in sponsoring the wind chimes of The Memorial Chime Tower in the Memorial Garden.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Archives/Communications:** No Report, **Evangelism:** No Report, **Mutual Ministry:** No Report, **Social Ministry:** No Report, **Worship and Music:** No Report, **Youth:** No Report, **IT Committee:** No Report, **Website Committee:** No Report, **We Care Committee:** No Report

**Christian Education:** Tonya still needs 3 teachers. An announcement made in church did not help. Tonya also notes that she has new material for Christian Education and really likes it. More volunteers are needed to cover the 10 week semester.

**Endowment:** Requests have been sent for the quarterly distributions to the Endowment Fund and the Rhyne Scholarship Fund.



**Finance:** Tommy presented the projected budget for 2020. Income is expected to remain at the 2019 level. The budget was reviewed and one line item change was made. Council voted to give Rick Chapman money to cover 2 week's vacation, as Rick covers his replacement costs out-of-pocket. After further discussion, Emma made a motion to accept the budget; Jay seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. It will be presented to the Congregation on November 10, 2019, at the annual Congregational Meeting

**Internal Ministry:** We are preparing for the Fall Festival!

**Property Committee:** Brian reports that:

- 1) The work day went very well. He estimates that 25 people showed up. Pressure washing was done by Pat before painting. Doors were painted. Bushes were trimmed. Memorial Garden bushes were thinned and trimmed and looks really good.
- 2) Charles Ray has wanted to replace the lights in the sanctuary with LEDs for several years. He and Bob talked and Council is willing to try some and see how they do. Charles recommends the GE Soft White LED. Jay made a motion that we try LED lights. Leonard seconded. Council voted unanimously to try LED lights in one area and if they work out, change all the lights in the sanctuary.
- 3) Bob reports that the new location for debris from landscape maintenance will be the two parking spaces closest to Highway 27. The Town of Stanley has agreed to help with prompt removal of any debris placed there. This will honor requests from families of relatives buried in the cemetery.
- 4) Bob has an idea to alleviate our parking problem on the exit side of the church. He presented pictures and plans for parking on the right hand side of the exit, adding to the area already in concrete. It would be adjacent to, and beyond the heat pump area. This would allow people to park in this area instead of the left hand side, which many deem disrespectful to the dead. Bob will get estimates for the concrete work and lighting. We will table this discussion until Bob gets some numbers.

**Stewardship:** Leonard gave an update on the status of Council member elections

#### **Report of Special Committees:**

**Safety and Security:** There will be a CPR class in November or December, 2019 for our congregation. Please plan to attend this important training. Even if you have training, plan to attend. **EVERYONE** should know basic CPR!

#### **Other Reports:**

**Cemetery Committee:** Bob reports that:

- 1) Bob presented plans for a possible Wallace Memorial in the cemetery. It would be centered around a magnolia tree planted by Myrtle Wallace, directly across from the choir room entrance. The magnolia tree is suffering from compacted soil. An arborist was consulted about the tree's condition and recommended eliminating parking in that area. After the parking situation is clarified, the tree could then be properly protected, as part of the memorial. Council tabled this discussion until the parking area is voted upon.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- a) **Progress report on the Memorial Chime Tower.** The bushes have been thinned and trimmed, and the four corners have been marked. We are presently awaiting County approval to proceed.

#### **New Business:**

- 1) Leonard is head of the nominating committee. Joe and Brian have agreed to help him, as needed.
- 2) David and Leonard will open and close the church in November and December, 2019.

#### **Adjournment:**

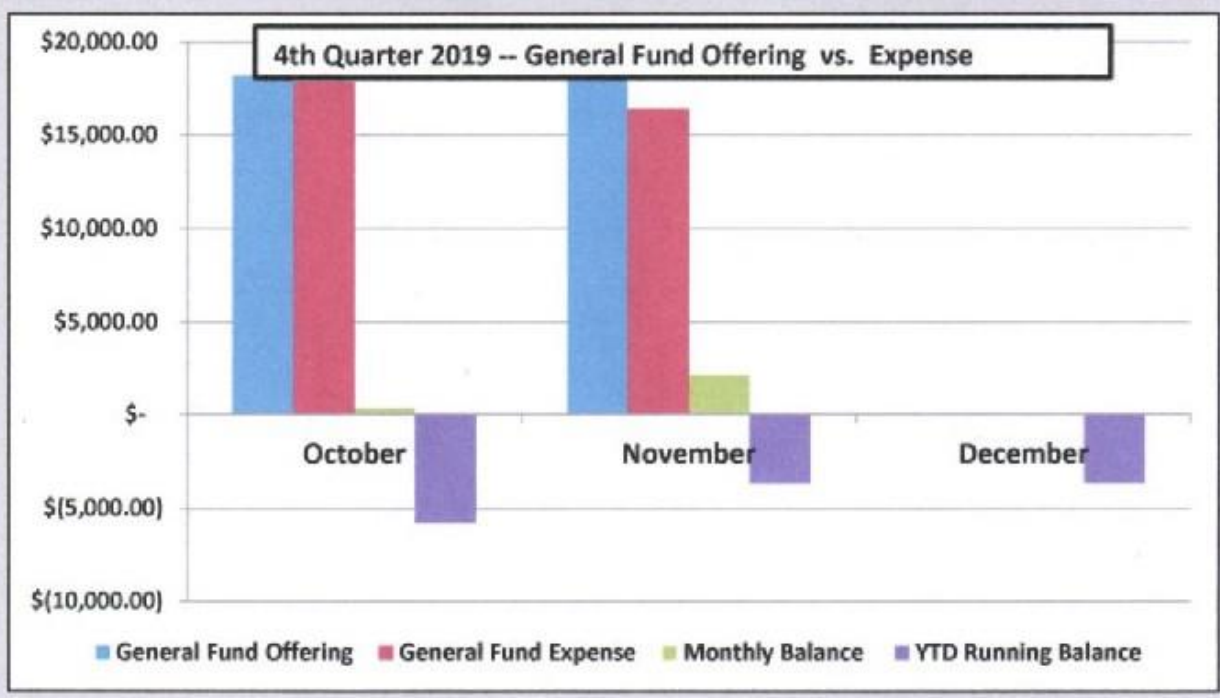
- 1) The next council meeting will be on November 10, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Gabriel will lead devotions.
- 2) The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph L. Keefer, Secretary

4th Quarter 2019 -- All Funds Received			
	October	November	December
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 17,839.00	\$ 18,306.00	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 347.00	\$ 192.77	\$ -
<b>Total General Fund Offering</b>	<b>\$ 18,186.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,498.77</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,428.95	\$ 2,664.61	\$ -
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ 1,955.00	\$ 1,630.00	\$ -
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$ 21,569.95</b>	<b>\$ 22,793.38</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
* 3.5 % Benevolence to NALC			
* 5 % Given for Local Benevolence (CELC Social Ministry Programs)			

4th Quarter 2019 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense			
	October	November	December
<b>General Fund Offering</b>	<b>\$ 18,186.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,498.77</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Designated Funds (Budget)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Designated Fund Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 2,554.26</b>	<b>\$ 2,722.20</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Transfers to Capital Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1,955.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,630.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 1,516.32	\$ 1,556.01	\$ -
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 329.26	\$ 25.95	\$ -
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 11,739.30	\$ 11,585.21	\$ -
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ 198.11	\$ 421.63	\$ -
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 4,081.51	\$ 2,796.32	\$ -
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>General Fund Expense</b>	<b>\$ 17,864.50</b>	<b>\$ 16,385.12</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>All Expenses (Including DF &amp; Transfers)</b>	<b>\$ 22,373.76</b>	<b>\$ 20,737.32</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Monthly Balance	\$ 321.50	\$ 2,113.65	\$ -
<b>YTD Running Balance</b>	<b>\$ (5,803.60)</b>	<b>\$ (3,689.95)</b>	<b>\$ (3,689.95)</b>

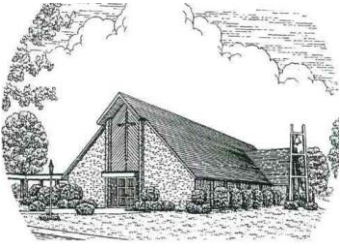
Note --





# December 2019

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
<p>1 Sunday School 9:30am</p> <p>Divine Service 10:30am</p>	2	3	<p>4 Bible Study 5:30pm</p> <p>Choir 7pm</p>	<p>5 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm</p>	6	7
<p>8 Sunday School 9:30am</p> <p>Divine Service 10:30am</p> <p>Council Meeting 6pm</p>	9	<p>10 Women's Bible Study 10am</p> <p>CELC Workday at Operation Christmas child 9am-1pm</p>	<p>11 Bible Study 5:30pm</p> <p>Choir 7pm</p>	<p>12 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm</p>	13	14
<p>15 Sunday School 9:30am</p> <p>Divine Service 10:30am</p>	16	<p>17 Prime Timer's Christmas Dinner at the Woodshed 6pm</p>	<p>18 Bible Study 5:30pm</p> <p>Choir 7pm</p>	<p>19 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm Senior Citizen's Breakfast 7am-9:30am</p>	20	21
<p>22 Sunday School 9:30am</p> <p>Divine Service 10:30am</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	28
<p>29 Sunday School 9:30am</p> <p>Divine Service 10:30am</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Office Closed</p>				



# Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

## CELC Newsletter December 2019



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

### **Schedule:**

#### **Sunday**

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

#### **Wednesday**

5:30pm Bible Study

7:00pm Choir Practice

#### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday—Friday 7:30 am until 12:00 pm