



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastor's Message

Judge Not Lest You Be judged?

Probably the most popular and most quoted biblical phrases the secular world employs (and usually against Christians) are the words of Jesus from Saint Matthew's Gospel: ***Judge not, lest you be judged.*** (7.1) The reason I want to talk about this is because our Lord's words here are so often taken out of their context and misused by people who don't even consider themselves to be followers of Jesus.

You know how it goes— Someone brings this quote up every time they wish to show that another person's actions or thoughts are not in line with Scripture. They believe it gives their position credit and validity if they quote Jesus even if they are very much misrepresenting what the Lord intends and not interested in anything else he says. However, if that person were to actually look at the rest of chapter 7 instead of isolating one verse as a "proof text", they would see that Jesus is teaching us about not making specific hypocritical judgments while we are actually guilty of exactly the same thing. For example, if you were to catch your friend stealing and exhort him to stop, but then turn around and commit the same sin yourself, then you would be guilty of the "hypocritical judgment" that Jesus warns about in Ch.7.

Many however, have used this verse to defend the practice of keeping silent when they encounter evil and wrong-doing of any kind (and usually when it's an evil they themselves or someone they're close to are guilty of). However, the burden of proof is upon those who insist that Jesus makes this sort of decree here. This because the truth is that our Lord certainly *does not* make a general decree about making judgments—instead he speaks about dealing with your own sin first *in order that* you can then better deal with the sin of your neighbor. So in fact Jesus does expect you to make judgments but only if you've sufficiently dealt with your own sin through confession and repentance and a denial of the flesh before you bring it to your brother or sister's attention. In fact, Jesus says through Paul, "*The spiritual man makes judgments about all things...*" (1Cor.2.15).

This notion therefore, that we are not to judge the actions of anyone is completely absent from the Scripture. It comes from twisting what Jesus actually meant when he said, "*Judge not, lest thou be judged*" into what certain individuals want it to mean. Simply put, this is called false doctrine. The only people that ever accuse Christians of "judging" others are those who are either unfamiliar with the Scripture or those who do not like to be told that they or their loved ones are committing sin. At the end, it is exactly false doctrine and the teaching of demons to maintain that we are not to be concerned about our neighbor's sin.

I honestly cannot tell you how many times I've heard someone say, "Don't judge me" or "Judge not lest you be judged" in an attempt to shut down the conversation by invoking a higher authority. Unfortunately this is going to happen and it's going to happen especially when you judge and reject a teaching or practice the predominant culture has deemed acceptable. People will hate you for such judgments. But this should never stop a Christian from confronting sin head-on, for we know exactly what it means to be our brother's keeper and we know it's not an option for us to just stand by and watch a brother or sister be dragged down into the Abyss by their sin—our love for them and for Jesus our Savior won't let us.

Even though the world will hate us for not keeping silent about its unrepentant sin, we have the beatific blessing of Jesus Christ that comforts us: **Matthew 5:10-12** ¹⁰ **"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Blessed indeed!

Your brother and servant,
Pastor Frye

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: Hubert Abernathy, Michael Benedict

Grieving: The Rene' Clippard Family (Rene's Mother Jewell West)

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 is at Stanley Total Living Ctr. (123)

Friends and Relatives:

Diana Kingsley	Tony Beale	Ray McNeely	Trudy Dixon	Sidney Mitchell
Harry Murphy	Rick Martin	Wanda Murphy	Luther Murphy	Everett Lineberger
Barbara Rhyne	Gary Beale	Donnie Miskelly	Miles Cooper	Jim Bumgardner

February's Birthday's

1 Danielle Clippard	19 Emma Powell
2 Ronnie Abernathy	26 Ann Harrison
5 Janice Clark	27 Sally Mahovsky
5 Michael Olls	27 Ruth Ridge
5 Rebekah Olls	27 Susan Wyatt

February Anniversary's

15 Leonard & Loretta Lewis

Baptism Anniversary

2 Ruth Cloninger
2 Amelia Clark
2 Whitney Clark
2 Ansley Spears
10 Wesley Clark
12 Neal Ritchie
12 Brian Robinson
24 Ann Linebeger
24 Richard Smith



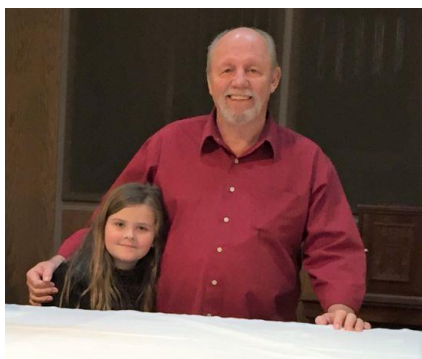
Christmas Caroling in the neighbor! What fun for these four people excited about the season! We surprised Mike and Nancy along with other families with song. Even woke up the neighborhood dogs!



Gabriel and Morgan packing the sleigh for delivery of "Angel Tree" Gifts to TLC!
Thank you all for making someone's Christmas special.

Christmas at Christ's Lutheran

Celebration of the Christmas Season with family and friends at CELC! Good to see All!



Prime Timer's Pizza Party

Wow, the pizza dough maker was busy!
These 30 CELC members sure enjoyed lots of pizza and salad on a beautiful Sunday after church.
Enjoy the pictures of the happy crowd!
What fun and fellowship... join us next time.



Prime Timers --- Invite You!

Let's celebrate "Valentine's Day" For Others 2020!

February is the month of sharing, caring and sending cards to others.

No need to "address" your card ... just put the name on the envelope ... they will be delivered by a Valentine cupid helper!

Put your cards in the mailbox in the memorial corridor of the church.

You can see a suggestion list for sick/shut-in and nursing home members on the table in the memorial corridor. Final day for accepting cards will be **Sunday, February 9th!** Make a card or buy one then say a prayer for each one who will be receiving your little envelope of love! This will be great fun!! See Kathey or Mary if you have questions.

Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be February 26th at 7:00pm. If you are not able to attend the chief 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service there will also be a 12:00 Community Service that we will be hosting.

Property Committee Meeting

There will be a property committee meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 4th at 7pm.

Church Council Meeting

There will be a church council meeting on Sunday, February 9th at 6 pm.

Women's Bible Study

There will be a Women's Bible Study on February 11th at 10am in the fellowship hall. Please bring toilet paper for the food pantry.

Cemetery Work Day

Volunteers are needed to assist in the removal of fallen leaves and tree limbs in the historic Stanley Cemetery.

Bring your leaf blower and/or leaf rake.

Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020, if rained out then Feb 22

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

For more information call:

Bob Mahovsky, 704-678-6643

Christ's Couple's Class

We will begin our Thursday evening Christ's Couple's Class on Thursday **February 13th** at 6 o'clock. If you are interested in joining, we would absolutely love to have you. Please let Tonya Stone, LeighAnne Faulkenberry or Crystyl Human know by Feb 9th, due to the need to order additional handbooks.

*Thank
You*

Thanks so much for the cards, Phone calls & the beautiful funeral service, flowers, all the food for our family during our time of need.

Steve & Debbie Hawley

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
December 8, 2019
MINUTES OF MEETING

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

Devotions: Brian Robinson opened the meeting with an uplifting devotional reading and prayer.

Roll call and action on excuses for absence:

Present: Pastor Frye, Michael Dukes, Jay Human, Tommy Hedrick, Crystyl Human, Leonard Lewis, Pat McAlister, Richard Medlin, Brian Robinson, Tonya Stone, Bob Mahovsky, Emma Human

Absent: Gabe Frye, Nancy Olls, Joe Keefer

New Members Present: Judy Abernathy, Buddy Abernathy, and Janice Clark

Absent: Buck Helms

Minutes of the last meeting:

1) The minutes of the November 10th, 2019 Council meeting were approved with 2 corrections. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes with the revisions. Leonard seconded. The motion passed.

Report of the Pastor:

Pastor Frye presented the following:

1. For the month of November 2019, Pastor Frye presided over the Divine Service 4 times, taught Wednesday Night Bible Study 3 times, Taught Sunday Morning Bible Study 4 times, 9 visits, 5 office visits, two meetings, attended the Southern Piedmont Mission District Convocation for the purpose of electing a Dean, Participated in the Community Thanksgiving Service which we hosted this year, helped decorate the Chrismon tree, and came to the CPR certification class on 12/7.
2. Pastor Frye reports that The Southern Piedmont Mission District Meeting on November 24th was a success! Steve King is our newly elected Dean.
3. During our CPR class on December 7th, the lead instructor advised us to look into having an emergency sheet for members with illnesses. Pastor Frye suggested doing this on a voluntary basis and storing the information in a general area where all could find it.
4. Christ's Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM this year.

Reports by General and Capital Fund Treasurers:

1. Michael reviewed the Designated Funds and the Deposit Summary for November 2019. Michael made everyone aware that funds available for the Stanley School Snack Pack Fund were running low.
2. Crystyl presented the November 2019, Capital Fund report for Council to review.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Archives/Communications: No Report, **Endowment:** No Report, **Finance:** No Report, **Internal Ministry:** No Report, **Mutual Ministry:** No Report, **Social Ministry:** No Report, **Worship and Music:** No Report, **Youth:** No Report

Christian Education: Bob inquired about sending an invitation to the community about a new course titled Why I Believe. He wants Councils' opinions on the new course and the invitation being sent out. He proposes 500+ flyers be sent out to houses within a 2-mile radius. Leonard makes the motion to approve Bob's venture and allow him a budget of \$375 for the material. Pat seconded. Motion passes, with one objection.

Evangelism: Crystyl notes that the calendar on our website is still blank.

Property Committee: Brian reports that:

1. Sherry Helms has requested handrails leading up to the altar in the center and that she would personally pay for them.
2. Pat reports that the lights on the sign need to be changed. Tommy makes the motion to change 2 of the lights. Leonard seconded. He has also fixed the office lights and the hallways lights in the Educational Building.

3. Charles Ray has changed the lights in the sanctuary, however, he still has a few more to do.
4. The water bill was unusually high this month, we are looking into the reason why.
5. Buddy Abernathy asked where we planned to hang Gordon Hackers' dirge bell. Brian is looking into different ways of mounting it.

Stewardship: Offering envelopes for 2020 are available.

Report of Special Committees:

Safety and Security Committee: Christ had a CPR class on December 7th in the Family Life Center.

Website Committee: Views on our website are increasing.

Cemetery: Bob learned that 2 Presbyterian churches resided where our cemetery is now.

Unfinished Business:

Update on the Chime Tower. The permit has been issued, however, now the builder will be unavailable until February due to health issues.

New 2019 Council Business:

1. Annual reports need to be emailed to Julie by mid- January.
2. A Stanley Police officer has requested to use our FLC for his family Christmas party on December 21st or 22nd. Council discussed and decided that Julie will send him our Facility Use Guidelines.
3. **New 2020 Council Representative**
 - a. **President: Jay Human.** Nominated by Judy Abernathy. Richard seconded.
 - b. **Vice President: Judy Abernathy.** Nominated by Crystyl. Bob seconded.
 - c. **General Fund Treasurer: Michael Dukes.** Self-nominated. Jay seconded.
 - d. **Capital Fund Treasurer: Crystyl Human.** Nominated by Jay. Tonya seconded.
 - e. **Secretary: Emma Human.** Nominated by Pastor Frye. Jay seconded.
 - f. **Financial Secretary: Michael Dukes.** Nominated by Jay, Emma seconded.
4. **Liaisons**
 - Endowment- Janice Clark**
 - Property- Buddy Abernathy**
 - Music- Buck Helms**
 - Mutual Ministry- Judy Abernathy**
 - Internal Ministry- Emma Human**
 - Social Ministry- Tonya Stone**
 - Archives- Richard Medlin**
 - Finance- Tommy Hedrick**
 - Christian Education- Bob Mahovsky**
 - Stewardship- Leonard Lewis**
 - Evangelism- Crystyl Human**
 - Youth- Gabe Frye**
 - Nominating Committee- Chair- Leonard Lewis**
 - Members- Crystyl Human and Bob Mahovsky**

Open and Close Church: David and Leonard will open and close the church in January 2020.

Adjournment:

1. The next council meeting will be January 12th at 6:00 PM, Tonya Stone will lead devotions.
2. The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma C. Human, Secretary

1st Quarter 2020 -- All Funds Received

	January	February	March
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 17,396.00	\$ -	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 1,357.73	\$ -	\$ -
Total General Fund Offering	\$ 18,753.73	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,865.57	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ 805.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Offering	\$ 21,424.30	\$ -	\$ -

* 4.5 % Benevolence to NALC

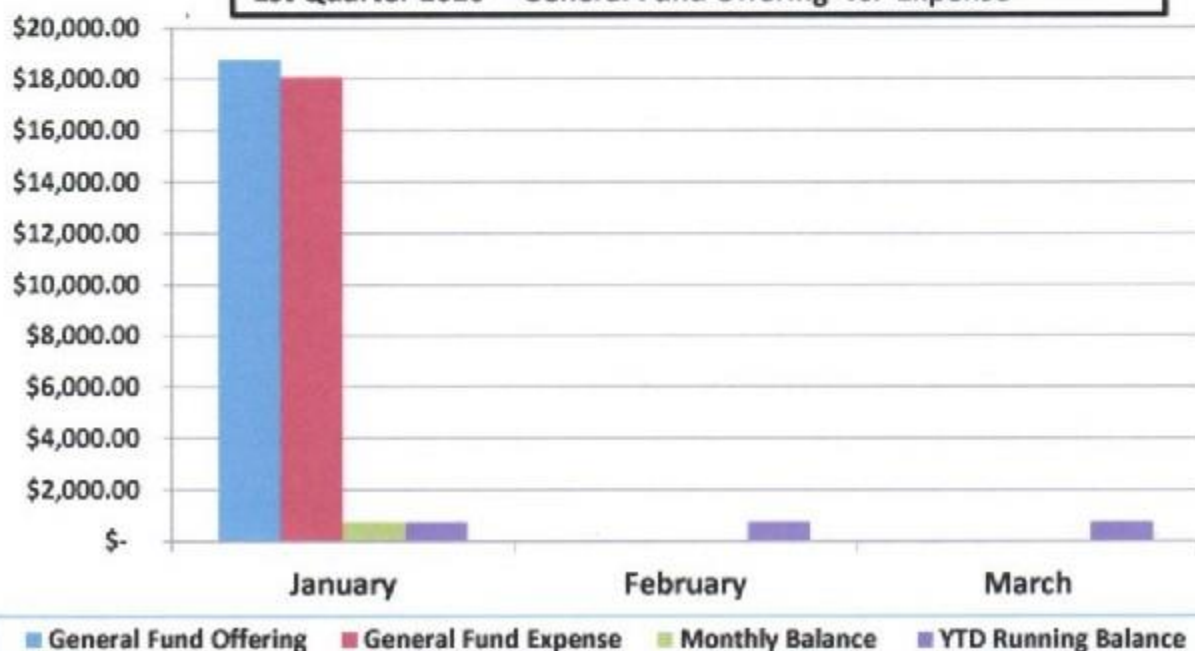
* 5 % Given for Local Benevolence (CELC Social Ministry Programs)

1st Quarter 2020 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense

	January	February	March
General Fund Offering	\$ 18,753.73	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Funds (Budget)	\$ 23.50	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Fund Disbursements	\$ 320.00	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$ 805.00	\$ -	\$ -
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 1,652.62	\$ -	\$ -
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 35.95	\$ -	\$ -
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 11,051.56	\$ -	\$ -
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ 746.91	\$ -	\$ -
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 4,570.29	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Expense	\$ 18,057.33	\$ -	\$ -
All Expenses (Including DF & Transfers)	\$ 19,182.33	\$ -	\$ -
Monthly Balance	\$ 719.90	\$ -	\$ -
YTD Running Balance	\$ 719.90	\$ 719.90	\$ 719.90

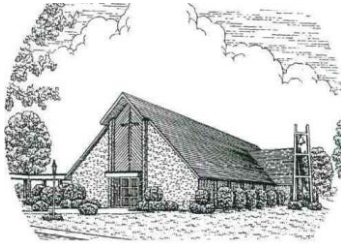
Note --

1st Quarter 2020 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense



February 2020

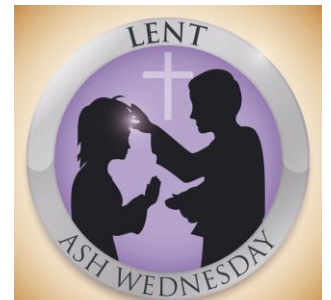
Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 Sunday School 9:30AM Divine School 10:30AM	3	4 Property Committee Meeting 7pm	5 Bible Study 5:30PM Choir 7:00PM	6 Food Pantry 11AM-12:30 PM	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:30AM Divine School 10:30AM Council Meeting 6pm	10	11 Women's Bible Study 10:00AM	12 Bible Study 5:30PM Choir 7:00PM	13 Food Pantry 11AM-12:30 PM Couple's Class 7pm	14	15 Cemetery Work Day 9AM-12PM
16 Sunday School 9:30AM Divine School 10:30AM	17	18	19 Bible Study 5:30PM Choir 7:00PM	20 Food Pantry 11AM-12:30 PM Couple's Class 7pm	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:30AM Divine School 10:30AM	24	25	26 Community Ash Wed. Service 12:00 Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	27 Food Pantry 11AM-12:30 PM Couple's Class 7pm	28	29



Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

CELC Newsletter February 2020



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 8:30 am until 1:00 pm