



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastor's Message

Grace and peace to you from Him who is, who was, and who is to come.

The first words from Jesus for Lent, we receive on Ash Wednesday: *“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.” But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret.” Matthew 6.*

It may seem strange hearing those words while you have just somewhat *disfigured* your face with ashes. It may seem like you are transgressing the exhortation of the Lord, Jesus but you are not. We do not receive the ashes so that we *may be seen by others!* We receive them to call to our minds the kingdom of dust and ash and death that Adam and we belong to without and apart from our Lord. Sinners tend to eventually think too much of themselves. This sinner would probably do well to hear the pronouncement that ‘I am dust and to dust I shall return’ more than just the bare minimum of once per year. Nonetheless, this dusty declaration (and not the baptismally bathed Holy Absolution) is what concludes the Ash Wednesday Confession and marks the beginning of our Lenten walking.

Ash Wednesday is a severe lashing with God’s holy Law—and yet we welcome and embrace it all that it may sweeten the hearing of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in us. We have the advantage of looking at the kingdom of dust and ash in the rear-view mirror! However, like sirens to sailors, in this life that dark kingdom is always eerily calling to us. And so it is ours to struggle against this kingdom, to discipline ourselves by the help of God who is our Father.

And so we enter this holy season with rended and torn open hearts ready to be filled to the brim with unending grace; with weeping and contrition over our sins because they have hurt our God and King; with fasting that we may discipline and train our bodies and stand firmly against the kingdom of dust and ash; with prayer that his love would continually be on our minds, in our hearts, and on our lips; with works of mercy that we actively love those whom our Lord loves. Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths directly to your heart. God bless you on the Way.

+Pastor

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, Teresa Davis, Nancy Olls

Grieving: The Jimmy Harrison Family

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	E.C. Clippard	Donnie Miskelly	Miles Cooper	Jim Bumgardner
Jaime Cope	The Friday/McConnell Friday			

March's Birthday's

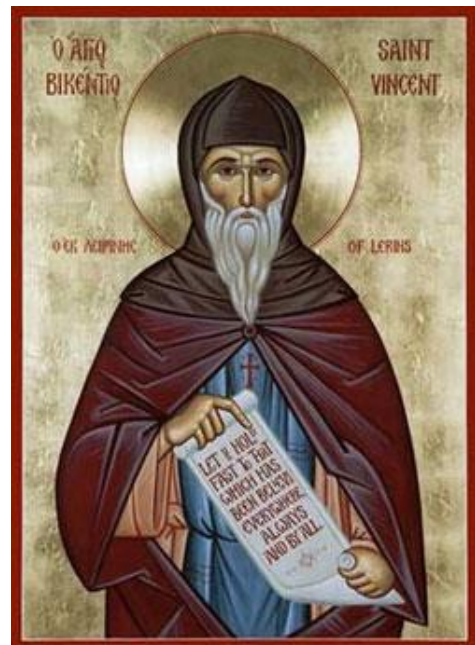
4 Nancy Olls	25 John Clark
18 Judy Cloninger	28 Abigail Price
24 Joe Keefer	30 Ann Lineberger

February Anniversary's

2 Charles & Judy Ray
31 Tim & Brenda Cloninger

Baptism Anniversary

3 Nancy Olls
9 Om Carter
19 Pat Ritchie
21 Julie Robinson
24 Cindy keeper
27 Joe Keefer
28 Hubert Abernathy
28 Ron Abernathy
29 Teresa Davis



Has anyone seen St. Vincent???

St. Vincent of Lerins has long been a frequent and welcomed guest at Pastor's Wednesday Night Bible Studies in the Martin Luther Room. Four weeks ago he decided to up and wander. If you see him, please show him the way back to the M.L. Room or bring him to the Church

Lenten Vespers

The Lenten Services will begin with a meal at 5:45-6:30pm and the Vespers will be at 7pm on March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, & April 1. Please plan to attend for a wonderful time of fellowship.

Church Workday

Mark your calendar for the church workday on Saturday, March 7th from 8am-12noon.

Church Council Meeting

There will be a church council meeting on Sunday, March 8th at 6 pm.

Women's Bible Study

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

Cemetery Restoration Meeting

There will be a Cemetery Restoration meeting on Sunday, March 15th at 5pm.

YOUTH OUTING

Sunday, March 22

to

George Pappas Liberty Lanes
Gastonia

We'll leave after worship!



Thank You

My thanks to all who sent such lovely Valentine greetings and thoughts.

They were greatly appreciated.

Betty Hacker

Thank you to Jeff Guzman for offering his technical skills to help get the church's electronic information backed up on Carbonite and for getting it onto an external hard drive to keep off site in the event of a fire. Thank you Jeff!

Thank you to Pat McAllister for all of his hard work in replacing so many of our old fluorescent lights with new LED ones. These are so much more efficient and brighter. Thanks Pat for all you do!

ANCESTRY FUND- CEMETERY WORKDAY, SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 15, 2020, HARD WORK, FELLOWSHIP, SUPPORT,
SHOWING RESPECT. **THANK YOU!**

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY BOB MAHOVSKY



Christ' Evangelical Lutheran Church
Stanley, NC 28164

Cemetery Committee Annual Report for 2019

In the year 2019, the second year that the Ancestry Fund was in existence, volunteers have made it a very successful year in maintaining the lawn and grounds of the cemetery with a quality that has not been seen for decades. Many abandoned gravesites that had become overgrown, or generally poorly kept, were cleaned and had the overgrowth removed. In addition, many dedicated volunteers who believe in the importance of respecting those who have gone before us have also made it a safer place by destroying the vast majority of fire ant nests.

I am proud to report that the volunteers who responded to requests for help came from many places. As you would suspect the Lutherans were very strong supporters with their time and talent, but also there were volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church – Stanley that worked very hard on the days they dedicated to assisting with this cause. In addition, several unaffiliated Stanley citizens dedicated some of their time and talent in helping to beautify the cemetery. The evidence of the result of their work is easily noticeable by the number of grave monuments decorated by flags and/or flowers. All this hopefully makes descendants of the ancestors and Town of Stanley citizens proud to have the Stanley Cemetery as the final resting place for their relatives and/or as a historic site in Stanley.

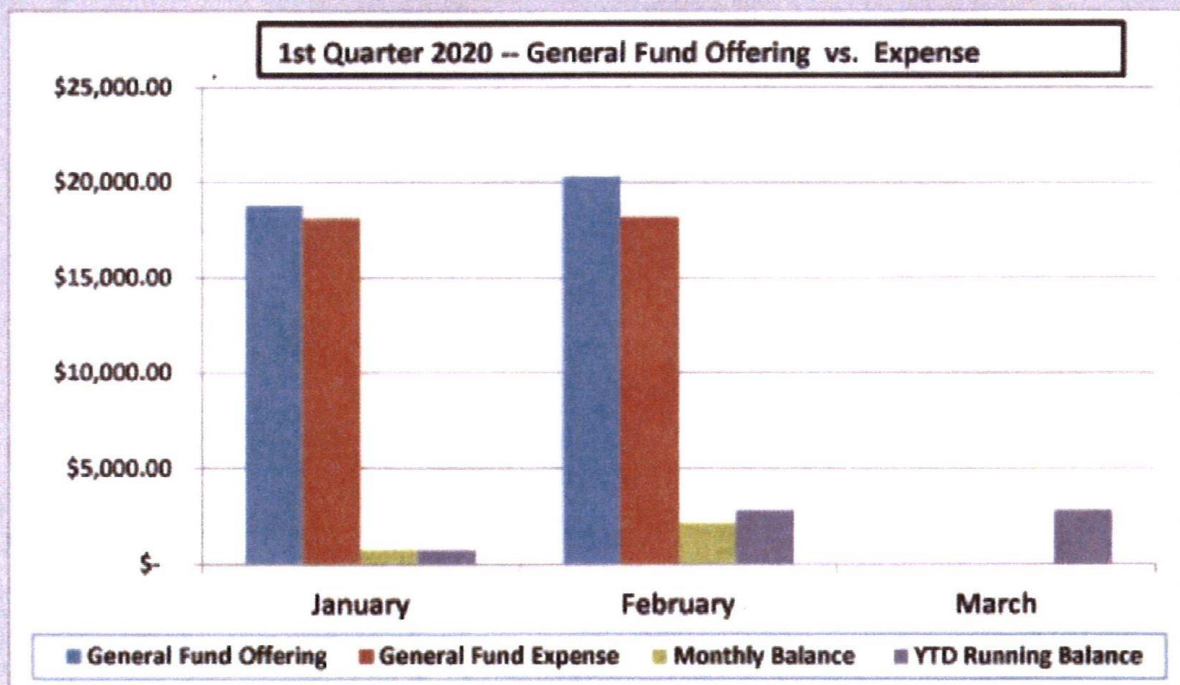
In regard to funding, the Ancestry Fund received many donations from individuals who have relatives in the cemetery, and from local citizens who have no relatives in the cemetery but feel the moral responsibility. **Unfortunately, many people who donated in 2018 did not repeat donating in 2019.** In addition, many people with relatives in the cemetery have never donated to the Ancestry Fund. A perpetual care fund (i.e. unending support for the care of the cemetery) remains the most important goal of the Ancestry Fund. Please consider supporting this important mission and donating annually until this goal is reached.

If you have never donated before and would like to donate at a very affordable level please consider designating \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00 or \$10.00 etc. weekly or monthly in your offering. No donation is too small. The creation of the perpetual care fund is too great a need to go unsupported.

Report submitted by: Bob Mahovsky

1st Quarter 2020 -- All Funds Received			
	January	February	March
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 17,396.00	\$ 20,252.00	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 1,357.73	\$ 4.00	\$ -
Total General Fund Offering	\$ 18,753.73	\$ 20,256.00	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,865.67	\$ 1,845.90	\$ -
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ 805.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -
Total Offering	\$ 21,424.30	\$ 22,251.90	\$ -
* 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	\$ 20,256.00	\$ -
Designated Funds (Budget)	\$ 23.50	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Fund Disbursements	\$ 320.00	\$ 1,223.14	\$ -
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$ 805.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 1,652.62	\$ 1,923.94	\$ -
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 35.95	\$ 31.95	\$ -
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 11,051.56	\$ 11,254.96	\$ -
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ 746.91	\$ 214.67	\$ -
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 4,570.29	\$ 4,734.22	\$ -
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Expense	\$ 18,057.33	\$ 18,159.74	\$ -
All Expenses (Including DF & Transfers)	\$ 19,182.33	\$ 19,532.88	\$ -
Monthly Balance	\$ 719.90	\$ 2,096.26	\$ -
YTD Running Balance	\$ 719.90	\$ 2,816.16	\$ 2,816.16
Note --			



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2020

MINUTES OF MEETING

Call to Order: President Jay Human called the meeting to order.

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

Roll call and action on excuses for absence:

Present: Judy Abernathy, Bud Abernathy, Michael Dukes, Tommy Hedrick, Leonard Lewis, Richard Medlin, Tonya Stone, Buck Helms, Emma Human, Jay Human, Bob Mahovsky, Janice Clark

Absent: Pastor Frye, Gabe Frye, Crystyl Human

Minutes of the last meeting:

- 1) Tonya made the motion, Bud seconded with one correction.

Report of the Pastor:

No Report

Reports by General and Capital Fund Treasurers:

General Fund: Michael reviewed the Designated Funds and the Deposits Summary for December 2019. He also reviewed the 2019 Financial Secretary report that will go out to the congregation. A refund of \$440 from the insurance company was issued based on Workman's Comp.

Capital Fund: Jay reviewed the Capital Fund report in Crystyl's absence.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Archives/Communications: No Report, Christian Education: No Report, Endowment: No Report, Evangelism: No Report, Internal Ministry: No Report, Worship and Music: No Report, Youth: No Report

Finance: Michael reports that the 2019 taxes have been completed. Michael also gave more information on which specific holidays the staff are off.

Mutual Ministry: Jay and Bob conducted a 6-month review with Julie on January 8th, 2020.

Property Committee: Bud reports that:

Minor damage to the South West side of the Educational building. It will need repair.

Minor leaking in the Sanctuary due to the storm.

The rest of the LED bulbs were distributed to the Choir loft in December. More lightbulbs will need to be placed in the darker parts of the corridor heading towards the Choir room.

Discussion of upcoming projects such as handrails, replacing the heater in the Sanctuary, sidewalks, FLC has some minor leaking that will need to be addressed, lights in the Sanctuary need changing.

Bob requested a new paper folding machine for Julie. Bob will submit a formal request to Endowment.

Social Ministry: Kathey Brown delivered the Angel Tree gifts to Stanley Total Living Center.

Stewardship: 500 copies of the Why I Believe program were sent out. Bob has had 4 responses from the letters and he has been communicating with these people. He is still in the process of scheduling the February meeting. Bob will have a report next month on the teachers and what they have discussed.

Report of Special Committees:

Cemetery: No Report

Website: Bob reported on the 2019 Google review. He asked the Council and the Congregation to review our church on Google. Jay spoke to Jennifer and she added a 4th user spot for Crystyl so she will be able to add to the calendar.

Safety and Security: No Report

Unfinished Business: No Report

New 2020 Council Business:

Employee Handbook: Michael compiled an Employee Handbook that will be distributed to our employees. Bob expressed concerns about the use of the pastor's backup salary. Janice said she would look back in the minutes to see what the function of the account was for.

Michael passed around the Church Council info sheet with all contact information for the Council members.

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

Adjournment:

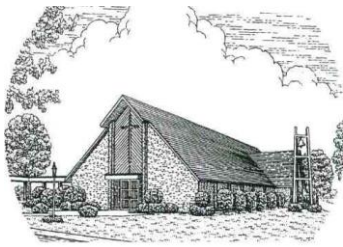
The next council meeting will be on February 9th. Judy will lead devotions. Janice made the motion to adjourn and Bud seconded. The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Human, Secretary

March 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
1 Sunday School 9:30M Worship Service 10:30am	2	3	4 Lenten Meal 5:45pm Lenten Service 7pm	5 Food Pantry 11:30am- 12noon Couples Class 7pm	6	7 Church Workday 8am-noon
8 Sunday School 9:30M Worship Service 10:30am Council Meeting 6pm	9	10 Women's Bible Study 10:00am	11 Lenten Meal 5:45pm Lenten Vespers 7pm	12 Food Pantry 11:30am- 12noon Couples Class 7pm	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:30M Worship Service 10:30am Cemetery Restoration Meeting 5pm	16	17	18 Lenten Meal 5:45pm Lenten Vespers 7pm	19 Food Pantry 11:30am- 12noon Couples Class 7pm	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30M Worship Service 10:30am	23	24	25 Lenten Meal 5:45pm Lenten Vespers 7pm	26 Food Pantry 11:30am- 12noon Couples Class 7pm	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:30M Worship Service 10:30am	30	31				



Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

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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