



# CELC Newsletter

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

## Pastor's Message

*"Let there be light."*

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Genesis Ch. 1 has long been a favorite of mine, and I would suspect many of you have the same sentiments. Our ancient forefathers in the faith felt similarly, finding there great depths of meaning within these sacred pages. In more modern times however, readers who've come to the great summit that Genesis is, have been more or less distracted by external concerns which are foreign to the deeper interests of the Sacred Scripture, and therefore have failed to immerse themselves or even to discover these great depths. For example, when I was a boy, I remember some of my school teachers and even Sunday School teachers were altogether preoccupied with the *length* of the days of creation. They would ask, *"Is it really necessary to think of those "days" in the sense of having 24 hours? Might they rather represent long eras of natural history?"*

No. No matter how much we may want to, we cannot claim that this is what the biblical Author had in mind in revealing this part of history to us. The trouble with such questions is that they ultimately distract the mind of the reader from the deeper message of the Word of God. Simply put: To ask how long the days of creation were, is a fruitless endeavor and an unnecessary distraction. The intention of Genesis 1 is not to invite a discussion about *How could God do all of this stuff in so short a time? –or- How long were days before God created the sun and moon? –or- Whatever!* --The intention of Genesis 1 is to show us that it was our God who created.

Further, in the story of creation the rising and setting of the sun are not what determines day and night. Regarding the first day we are told that, "there was evening and there was morning" and yet the sun hadn't even been formed! How in the world can there be evening and morning without the sun rising and setting? And therein lies the problem. We moderns generally think of the sun's rising as making day and the absence of the light as making night. The Sacred Scripture and our early brothers and sisters would have thought this to be a rather shallow definition and causation for day and night. They knew that the sun rises and sets, evening and morning comes and goes, indeed all of creation is held together only by the Word of God spoken in the beginning. In the Scripture, the sun only *marks* the day, it does not cause nor create it. The "day" is still there; it still happens, with or without the sun. God opened his mouth and light emerged three days before he created any of the stars or sun or moon, etc. So light and darkness in Genesis, as well as today, exist independently of the sun or any other cause we may have ascribed to them.

It's also interesting to notice that Genesis does not say that God created darkness. Darkness was in a sense already there--it was the void. For those of you who remember the movie, *The Neverending Story* and "the nothingness" in that movie-- darkness is nothingness. The "night" of creation is essentially nothingness. And this is of course why the book of Revelation, when it speaks of heaven, tells us, "There shall be no night there".

Light is the first thought of God in regard to creation. The very first recorded words of God to us are, "Let there be light". And this light in Genesis is not a by-product of the sun or any other heavenly body. The light that God calls forth to shine in the created universe is the light of the eternal Son, Jesus. *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* John 8.12 It's only by this Light which proceeded from the Father at creation that anything in creation can be and is illuminated -- intellectually or otherwise.

The modern culture as a whole, or at least a significant part of it, believes that our purpose is to give meaning to the world around us; to "make sense" of it, rather than discovering the meaning that is already there. The modern mind has ultimately come to this conclusion because it doesn't any longer believe that the world was in fact created at all. Our sense of wonder at the creation has given way to the formation of the universe as a result of random physical forces. The modern and rather mundane world cares little or nothing of the "why" of creation only of the "how". This is to say that the only light which *it* recognizes and is able to possess is physical light. And so the mind is left in true darkness, void, and nothingness; an existence that is forever outside of the Light of the world. In this sense, modern man's situation is grimly like that of Judas Iscariot-- "*So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.*" John 13.30

Brethren, remember always the baptismal summons: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven

Pastor Frye+

**KEEP IN PRAYER:**

The North American Lutheran Church this week as it meets in Convocation August 2-6 in Corpus Christi, TX.

## 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:** Pat Ritchie, Ruth Laue, Jim & Bertie Billups, William Busch, Butch Human

**Home-bound Members:** Gaynelle Moore

Friends and Relatives: "Maggie" Magnolia White, Carol Bodenheimer, Mark McClure, Jerry Winham, Joe Mackowski, Jack Wilson, Faye Harper, Harry & Wanda Murphy, Rick Martin, Luther Murphy, Everett Lineberger, Donnie Miskelly, Jim Bumgardner, Betty Coulter, Crystal White, Tony Carroll, Buddy Hodge

## August's Birthday's

5 Doris Cope  
8 Andrew Olls  
12 Julie Bodenheimer  
13 Kim Costner  
15 Kyle Medlin  
31 Grayson Bodenheimer

## August's Anniversary's

5 Buck & Ann Helms  
13 Steve & Kim Lineberger

## Baptism Anniversary

1 Tim Cloninger  
6 Harold Lineberger  
23 Haley Hawkins  
26 Meredith Brodland

### Contacting the Office

During the next couple of weeks, if you need to contact the church office, you can call there first, but if you do not get an answer you can call Julie at her home. (704 908-3451)  
Julie will be working from home periodically because the air conditioner in the Educational Building is not working. Some days are hotter than the others.

Thanks, Julie

Dear Fellow Christ's Lutheran Church Members,

There will be a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, August 1, 2021, immediately following worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the expenditures required to replace the air conditioning unit in the educational building.

Hope to see you there.

Blessings to All,

Judy Abernathy  
Council President

I wanted to share this with the Christ's Lutheran Family. I received a phone call a couple weeks ago from Trang Cao. She was part of the family that Christ's Lutheran sponsored that came from Vietnam. She has changed her name to Paige and lives in California but still considers Christ's Lutheran her church home. Doris Cope did a 4-part article on this in our newsletter a couple of years ago. If you wish to read those articles there will be copies on the table in the narthex.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Trang Cao. I am currently residing in Anaheim California. Lutheran Church sponsored our family in 1976. I am very loyal to this church. I have faith in this church. They took great care of us, especially Bill and Doris Cope. They were attentive kind and so generous to us.

I enclosed a cheque. My mission support dollars help the church to do ministry in the name of our Jesus Christ. Although I am not there with you at Sunday services, but my heart and soul are with all of you. I enjoy watching any movies about N.C. simply for nostalgic reasons. God Bless America

Sincerely,  
Trang Cao



## CONGRATULATION!!!

To Todd and Tonya Campbell who were joined in Holy Marriage on June 19!

May God continue to bless you richly as you live out the Gospel in your lives together!



## YOU'RE INVITED!!!

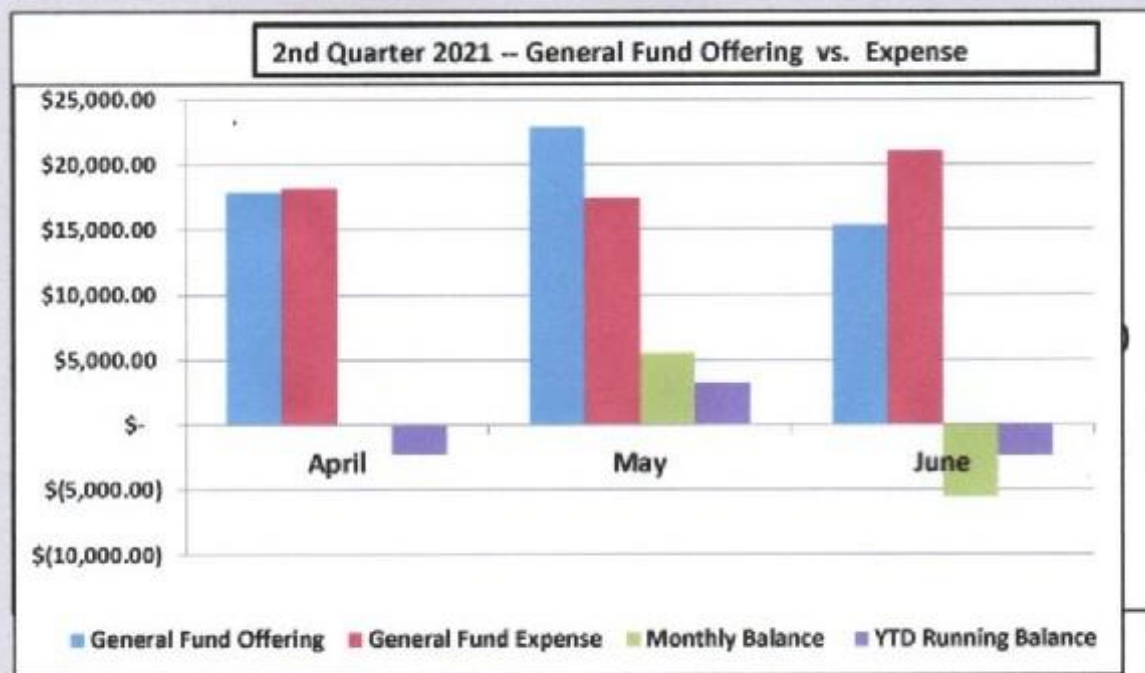
To celebrate the Holy Marriage of Scott Lilly and Kara Deal at a meal in the Family Life Center after they are joined as one by God during the Divine Service on **Sunday, August 8, 2021.**

Please plan on attending and rejoicing with the bride and groom during this joyous occasion!

2nd Quarter 2021 -- All Funds Received			
	April	May	June
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 17,830.00	\$ 22,780.00	\$ 15,084.00
Other Income	\$ 235.67	\$ 113.01	\$ 263.15
<b>Total General Fund Offering</b>	<b>\$ 17,865.67</b>	<b>\$ 22,893.01</b>	<b>\$ 15,347.15</b>
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,236.50	\$ 2,804.90	\$ 914.20
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ -	\$ 85.00	\$ 45.00
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$ 19,102.17</b>	<b>\$ 25,782.91</b>	<b>\$ 16,306.35</b>
* 4.5 % Benevolence to NALC			
* 5 % Given for Local Benevolence (CELC Social Ministry Programs)			

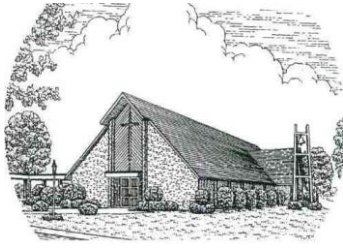
2nd Quarter 2021 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense			
	April	May	June
General Fund Offering	\$ 17,865.67	\$ 22,893.01	\$ 15,347.15
Designated Funds (Budget)	\$ 220.00	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Fund Disbursements	\$ 31.14	\$ -	\$ 43.40
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$ -	\$ 85.00	\$ 45.00
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 1,674.85	\$ 2,164.10	\$ 1,432.98
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 25.95	\$ 955.95	\$ 25.95
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 11,892.92	\$ 11,812.51	\$ 11,346.03
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ 289.75	\$ -	\$ 10.69
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 4,285.04	\$ 2,441.36	\$ 3,578.52
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,591.83
<b>General Fund Expense</b>	<b>\$ 18,168.51</b>	<b>\$ 17,373.92</b>	<b>\$ 20,986.00</b>
All Expenses (Including DF & Transfers)	\$ 18,199.65	\$ 17,458.92	\$ 21,074.40
Monthly Balance	\$ (82.84)	\$ 5,519.09	\$ (5,638.85)
YTD Running Balance	\$ (2,290.29)	\$ 3,228.80	\$ (2,410.05)

Note --



# August 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
1 Divine Service 10:30am	2	3	4 No Bible Study	5 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	6	7
8 Divine Service 10:30am Wedding of Scott Lilly & Kara Deal during worship.  Church Council Meeting 6pm	9	10	11 Bible Study 6pm	12 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	13	14
15 Divine Service 10:30am	16	17	18 Bible Study 6pm	19 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	20	21
22 Divine Service 10:30am	23	24	25 Bible Study 6pm	26 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	27	28
29 Divine Service 10:30am	30	31				



# Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

## CELC Newsletter August 2021

August

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

**Schedule:**

**Sunday**

10:30 am Worship Service

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday—Friday 8:00 am until 12:30 pm