



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastors Message

Lions, and Tigers, and Troll Farms—Oh My!

“And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.” -Mark 3.23-25

The truth of what our Lord declares as recorded by St. Mark runs deeper than its immediate context in the Gospel. Our Lord is specifically addressing the matter of Satan and his conspiring fallen angels. However, this principle applies more broadly to the nations of the world and certainly very poignantly to the United States of America.

I have lived forty years and some months on this earth. Never have I encountered the level of division in which we are now living in this country. We are divided over everything. It could accurately be said that “division” is now our *climate*, *atmosphere*, and the *air we breathe*. My mere forty years did not allow me to live through the Vietnam War period, however, from all the evidence I can gather, we have clearly surpassed that level of division in our modern-day disunion.

Furthermore, the division today seems to be deeper and more fundamental than that of previous periods. For example, we can't even agree on what biological male and female are anymore. What we *can* agree on however, is that historical record indicates that gender dysphoria presents in the late stages of a civilization as a culture is starting to unravel and decline. The Hellenistic and Roman cultures are certainly prescient examples of this, however a more modern one is that of the post-WW1, Weimar Republic.

All evidence certainly seems to point to the decline of our civilization. Not just in the sense mentioned above, but on a much broader scale. “Science” is the new religion. Freedom of speech is being challenged everywhere in our cancel-culture. True journalism is an artifact of the past. In its place are news conglomerates aligned with one political party or another—usually leaning rather heavily to one side, the result being that the citizenship is exposed only to what this one-sided media wants you to be exposed to. For example, it was just recently revealed that all of the charges of “Russian collusion” regarding the former President of the United States were completely fabricated by the opposing political party. This was all over the news. This was all over every social media platform. The problem is, as it turns out, there was *zero* truth to it. Zero. However, conversely, when there was (and still are) some very concerning issues of national security with one of our current President's sons, the story was silenced by the same media. As you know, I do not care much for the

politics of the “left-hand city of God” however, it’s startling that there has been absolutely no repercussions or reprimand for any of this. Truly, a kingdom divided against itself will not stand.

Now, I bring up all of this to point out a potentially more immediate danger that some of us might be the victim of – troll farms. So what is a troll farm? A troll farm is an organization whose goal it is to post online (usually to Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram) intentionally provocative, offensive, or click-bait things for the sole purpose of causing division. People always tend to be a good bit meaner when having a conversation with another person over the internet—I don’t think there’s anything to do to solve this problem other than not participating in one. However, it is exceptionally concerning that the majority of these troll farms are state-run. It has long been China’s strategy (going back to Sun Tzu) that before they attack their enemy, they first weaken them by causing internal strife and division.

Rank	Christian	Troll Farm?
1	Be Happy Enjoy Life	Y
2	Jesus is my Lord	Y
3	You Can	Y
4	Speak Loudly	Y
5	Purpose of Life	Y
6	Positive Quotes	Y
7	Memories of a loved one	Y
8	Smile & Shine	Y
9	Light of the World	Y
10	Why Not Us?	Y
11	Happiness Is In Your Mind	Y
12	My Life	Y
13	Life is Beautiful	Y
14	Blessing	Y
15	Conscious Reminder	Y
16	Blessed	Y
17	Guideposts	N
18	Simply Beautiful	Y
19	Motivational Quotes & Videos	Y
20	light-candle for a lost love one	Y

In October of 2019 a former Facebook employee gave to the MIT Technological Review a report which revealed that, among other things, 19 of the top 20 Christian pages on Facebook were run by Eastern European troll farms. Yes, 19 out of the top 20! The propaganda of these troll farms has and continues to reach 140 million United States Facebook users per month. Yes, 140,000,000 per month! That is staggering. This propaganda usually comes in the form of unsolicited memes based on things that we’ve “liked” or commented on in the past. A Facebook user doesn’t even need to belong to the particular group in order to receive propaganda in their news feed from it. Truly, we live in a new and terrifying era where our enemies have unbridled and direct access to our nation’s citizenship and are so effectively tearing it apart slowly from the inside by turning them against one another.

And so the words of our Lord enter into our hearts and minds with all of their cautionary force in Mark 13: **See that no one leads you astray, many will come in my name saying, ‘I am he’ and they will lead many astray... nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom... But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.** ³³ **Be on guard, keep awake.**

Your brother in Jesus, 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: Mack Cloninger, Ruth Laue, Jim & Bertie Billups, William Busch

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore

Friends and Relatives: Dawn Mitchell, Teresa Amelio, Ronald Sigmon, Sylvia Podlasinski, Cherry Huff, Loretta Bell, "Maggie" Magnolia White, Jerry Winham, Christina Walls, Jack Wilson, Rowena Helms, Tony Carroll, Buddy Hodge, Betty Coulter, Andy Abernathy, Jim Bumgardner, Crystal White, Harry & Wanda Murphy, Luke Murphy.

December's Birthday's

1 Ronnie Davis	15 Ansley Spears
9 Steve Hawley	17 Lillian Chronister
10 Rene" Clippard	25 Donnie Edwards
12 Larry Cloninger	27 Charles Ray
13 Lori Spears	31 Linda Cloninger
14 Johnnie Helms	

December's Anniversary's

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

Baptism Anniversary

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



Grandmother and
grandson leaving church!
Isn't it wonderful to hear
and see a little one in
church. God's wonderful
blessing!



Happy 51st Anniversary
to this CELC couple!
Ronnie and Teresa Davis!

CELC Workday at Operation Christmas Child

Thursday, December 9th, 2021

Put on your comfortable shoes and get ready for a wonderful experience!
We will travel to the processing center in Charlotte on this day and prepare boxes that go around the world to spread the word of God to children.

How exciting! You share a little of yourself for a child!

I have reserved 10 spots for us to work four hours ... sign-up and go!

We will leave CELC at 7:30am and return after lunch.

Remember: Mask are required and social distancing too.

CELC Member... Prayers are requested for our save work and the difference we make in the life of a child somewhere!

Thanks to our wonderful angel here at CELC for paying the shipping for our boxes this year!

Sign-Up with me and reserve your spot! Thanks, Kathey Brown



Thanks to everyone for the 41 boxes prepared this year for Operation Christmas Child! They are on the way now and thanks to our CELC member who paid all the shipping for these boxes!



Listening to Miss Lois practice



Working in the Garden. Planting Flowers.



Decorating the Church for the Advent
and Christmas Season.



Poinsettia Donations

In Memory of Luther and Betty Lewis by David Lewis

To the Glory of God by David Lewis

In memory of Everette Chapman by Rick & Anne Chapman

In Memory of Hubert Abernathy & Tracy Abernathy by Eleanor Abernathy

In Memory of Our Parents by Jim & Bertie Billups

In Memory of Our Brother, Art Thomser by Jill & Bertie Billups

In Honor of Our Grandchildren by Paul & Meredith Brodland

In Memory of Randy Robinson by Mary Robinson

In Memory of Linda Hovis by Darrell, Kristina & Phillip Wyatt

In Memory of Sue Wyatt by Darrell, Kristina & Phillip Wyatt

In Memory of Ray & Janice Black by Jeff & Kathy Black

In Honor of Buck & Ann Helms by Jeff & Kathy Black

In Memory of Christine Wallace by Cathy Morris

Snack Pack Donations

In Memory of Hubert Abernathy & Neal Ritchie by Bud & Judy Abernathy

In Memory of Doris & Everette Chapman by Rick & Anne Chapman

In Memory of Bill Cope by Doris Cope

In Memory of Paul, Edna & Don Shook By Doris Cope

In Memory of Charles & Gladys Cope by Doris Cope

In Memory of Neal Ritchie by Pat Ritchie

In Honor of Allison & Hope Englert by Pat Ritchie

In Honor of Jacob Bailey by Pat Ritchie

In Memory of Ann McAlister by Tammy Poarch

In Memory Or Jack Brown by Kathey Brown

In Memory of Rufus & Summia Pope by Kathey Brown

In Memory of Ben & Margaret Brown by Kathey Brown

In memory of Butch Human by Jay, Emma & Crystyl Human

In Honor of the Food Pantry & Snack Pack Volunteer Workers by David Lewis

In Memory or Ann S. McAlister by Pat McAlister

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jess Sherrill by Pat McAlister

In Memory of Emma Powell by Julie Robinson

In honor of previous & current educators at Christ Lutheran by Anne Fields & Gil Harris

In Memory of Eddie Wyatt by Susan Wyatt

In Honor of Sofia Kathlene Nelson, Ezekiel Leland Nelson & Virginia Mary Hudson by Jeff & Kathy Black

In Honor of our children and grandchildren by Richard & Bitsy Medlin

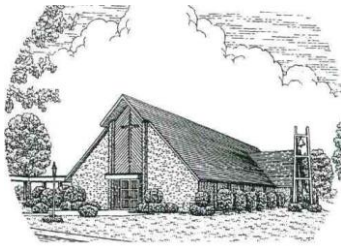
In Honor of my church family by Kyle Medlin

In Honor of my seven great grandchildren, Will, Rennie, Anna, Andrew, Dorsey, Virginia, & Jane by Betty Hacker

*Poinsettias
should be in
the church
on
December
12th.*

December 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM	2 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	3	4
5 Divine Service 10:30pm	6	7	8 Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM	9 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM Operation Christmas Child 7:30AM	10 Office Closed	11
12 Divine Service 10:30pm	13	14 Women's Bible Study 10:00PM	15 Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM	16 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	17 Office Closed	18
19 Divine Service 10:30pm	20	21	22 Choir 7:30 PM	23 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 
26 Divine Service 10:30pm	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM Office Closed	31 Office Closed	



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
Choirmaster: Nancy Olls

Schedule:

Sunday

10:30 am Worship Service

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:00AM until 12:30PM