



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastors Message

Vaccine Mandates, Trucker Convoys, and Civil (dis)Obedience (Part 1 of 2)

Entering upon our third year post-Covid, what are we to make of the way things are? At the onset of this virus in 2020, we were led to believe that this was one of the most noxious plagues the world had ever known. Thus, some by executive order, others by personal volition exacted some fairly extreme measures to protect themselves and their loved ones. This included canceling in-person worship for a time and some still to this day. It took about a month and a half for me to realize that something in these measures was immensely wrong. It is the case that some people wake up in the morning and **jump** out of bed, others however, do so more gradually—regarding the matter at hand, I fell into the latter category.

Now in 2022, one of the things our country and indeed the whole world is faced with is the question of the vaccine mandate. The question arises: Should a government make its people submit to what that government believes to be best regarding people's own bodies? To be sure, such mandates are nothing new to our citizenship; however, if they were presented with the question today, I believe the some 400 men involved in the Tuskegee Experiment might be somewhat hesitant to surrender the care of their bodies to the government again.

Earlier this month the Supreme Court of the United States denied the Biden Administration's push for a vaccine mandate for the workers in this country. I count this as a victory. At the same time however, the Court upheld the vaccine mandate for healthcare workers—an estimated 20 million of our citizenship in this country. This hits home for me because I am married to one of those 20 million healthcare workers. Indeed, I am her head and it is given to me to protect and defend her from harm, laying down my life even if it is required of me. Now, it happens to be the case that Elicia *elected* to be vaccinated. It was not forced upon her by the government at the threat of losing her job. However, what about the others of this 20 million crowd? In the year 2020 these people were our real-life heroes. We had news reports and signs and memes and banners made extolling them as such. My wife went into one of the first Covid-positive rooms at the hospital. She was understandably scared, and every member of her family was scared for her. Since then and to this day, she has done this over and over again.

What's different today in 2022? Well, seemingly a lot. She and the some 20 million other *former*-heroes, are being told via **federal government mandate** that even though they bravely

went where the rest of us did not go, and in so doing, put their lives at risk to care for our fellow countrymen, they now have to bow down and submit their bodies to the government in the form of receiving this vaccine or lose their job and with it, the means that they have to provide for themselves and their families. By the way, for over a year they were *expected* to operate within their vocation *without* a vaccine, and most of them did so without quitting their job. This immense courage in the face of such evil pestilence ought to be lauded and celebrated and lifted up as exemplary. Instead, what we are telling them in 2022 is “*Thank you for serving us through the pandemic. That was really nice of you and all, but now you will bend your neck to the yoke of pharaoh or be fired.*” The way that a society treats its heroes, speaks volumes about that particular society, and I can’t help but be somewhat reminded in all of this of our Vietnam Veteran war heroes and the hate with which they were met when they returned home after putting their own lives on the line. I say this because if a health care worker were to voice their concern over

this vaccine, they will likely be canceled, silenced, threatened, and in some cases fired for spreading “misinformation”.

On the surface it seems like such mandates are about caring for people; however it is becoming abundantly clear that the issue behind all of this is money and power. I say this because hospitals are, **currently as I’m writing this**, requiring covid-positive healthcare workers to come into work. I learned very early on in the Office of Ministry that hospitals are not charitable organizations, they are for-profit, money making machines. There are exceptions to that rule, however they are few.

At one point in our history (and indeed not that very long ago) we would argue with one another about the things with which we disagreed. This was considerably more healthy than the atmosphere we find ourselves in today. The sort of “cancel culture” that we encounter on social media platforms is everywhere in our society and has now taken up residence within our own democratic government in the form of firing those who will not comply. I write this on the heels of Neil Young’s raging against a man named Joe Rogan who hosts a podcast program where he interviews all sorts of people including those who do not maintain the agenda of the status quo regarding vaccines and vaccine mandates. Because of this, Neil Young is trying to “cancel” Joe Rogan; he wants him completely silenced in such a way that no one can even hear his or his guest’s ideas. The time when we could debate our positions with one another appears to be passing us by quickly. Also happening right now with our neighbors up north in Canada, but with considerably less media coverage, is an act of civil disobedience in the form of a trucker’s convoy in protest of their own country’s vaccine mandates imposed against them.

This Orwellian “cancel and remove” culture is immensely troubling, and I fear is an omen of what’s to come for our society. Being blessed with 4 children, I have stayed fairly current on what history is being taught to our students in public schools. Those people born after Generation X (so about the 1980s) tend to exhibit and propagate a terrible degree of historical amnesia and/or ignorance. I would be surprised if any of Katherine’s classmates (so 8th graders)

could elaborate at any length on a society’s progression into a fascist state. I doubt they could tell me very much about how every fascist regime that’s ever existed began with a “canceling and removing” of any and all ideas that don’t happen to agree with their own. They almost certainly wouldn’t be able to tell me about communist activist, Rudi Dutschke, and his “long march through the institutions” as a strategy to spread the ideals of Communism. Not unrelated is since the time of Dutschke, many of those holding such ideals have retreated/marched into the academic institutions in our society where they consequently held and continue to hold great sway over our youth who are being formed into adults. For the past 40 years, they were quiet and appeared dormant or even to have faded into the ether, but like a virus that attacks the body when its immune system is weakened, they have emerged in full force from the safety of their book forts during the crisis of this current pandemic. Today, their ideals are creeping into even our system of governance in the United States. “Long march through the institutions” indeed, to where our society seems poised for a totalitarian seizure of power—one where the government gets to forcibly inject into our bodies whatever they want to. This because, as every student of history knows, Socialism/Communism always morphs into a sort of fascist totalitarianism. Every diligent student of history also knows, that once a government—whether it be a monarchy or a republic—takes away the freedoms of the governed, they never give them back, ever. The new way becomes de facto in the life of the people. And like Israel under Pharaoh, their burdens are increased.

Now, I may have “gone on” a bit, and for that I apologize. I truly do hope I’m wrong in all of this. But I said all of that to pose a question: When are the Christians allowed to say “no” to the authorities which God has set over them? Sadly, this seems an increasingly pertinent question for us to be able to answer. Because while today a person may only have to suffer the injustice of losing their job for refusing a government vaccine mandate, next month they may be taken away from their families and shipped off to special health care centers for the unvaccinated to “wait this thing out”. I say “special health centers” because I’m sure the Nazi’s had a much gentler and friendlier designation for what would later become known as “death camps”. And if you believe this sort of thing to be unthinkable in a democratic, Western society then you should probably look into what Australia is doing right now. Because what they are doing is taking people who are Covid-positive or have even just come into contact

with someone who is Covid-positive away from their homes and families and putting them in “quarantine camps”.

A quote from Lutheran Pastor, The Rev. Martin Niemoller comes to mind. Referring to his life during Nazi rule in Germany he said:

“First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

I am not a historian, only a student of history, and a fairly poor one at that! The writing is on the wall however and we, as a society, must proceed into the future very carefully with an eye always on the past. I should also say neither am I opposed to vaccinations. I am vaccinated and

boosted against Covid (though I nonetheless caught it anyway – but that is a different conversation). What I am opposed to is the government or anyone else telling me or my family that we *have to be vaccinated* in order to participate in our society.

So I think I’m going to end this now, as I’ve already breached the deadline for the newsletter and I know Julie is anxiously awaiting my part of it. Next month I will pick up on this matter and focus primarily on the question I posed above: When are Christians allowed to say “no” to the government that God, in his mercy and wisdom, has put over them for their good.

Your brother in Jesus, Pastor Frye +

Disaster Response Warehouse

Rodney Paulson runs the Disaster Response warehouse at Advent, Lutheran in Kings Mountain and he has requested that our congregation and congregations in the Mission district help replace some items for their disaster relief funds. The warehouse has been emptied out except for flood/cleaning buckets and is in desperate need of the following items: Health kits, blankets, school kits, diapers and wipes. He would like for our congregation to focus on these shortages to get the warehouse ready for the next disaster. Thank you and God Bless.

Please bring your items and put them on the tables in the Memorial Corridor. Thanks, Pastor Frye

There will be a Women's Bible Study on February 8th at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please remember to bring toilet paper for the food pantry.

Reminder: Bible Class is on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM In the Family Life Center

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, Libby Michaels, Ruth Laue, Jim & Bertie Billups, Carol De-Jong

Grieving: David Lewis (Brother-in-law, Jeff Shockley, Kathy's husband
James Bodenheimer (sister, Judith Rourk)

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore

Friends and Relatives: Geraldine Clarke, Ted Reid, Ray McNeely, 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, Jim Bumgardner, Crystal White.

February's Birthday's

1 Danielle Clippard
2 Ron Abernathy
5 Janice Clark
5 Michael Olls
5 Rebekah Olls
6 Libby Michael
26 Ann Harrison
27 Sally Mahovsky
27 Susan Wyatt

Thank you
James and I would like to thank you for all the prayers and cards we received during our bout with Covid. It brightened my day to get the "Get Well" cards and the calls we received.
In Jesus Love
James & Julie Bodenheimer

February's Anniversary's

15 Leonard & Loretta Lewis

Baptism Anniversary

2 Amelia Clark
2 Whitney Clark
2 Ansley Spears
8 Wesley Clark
12 Brian Robinson
16 Kelli Costner
20 Donnie Edwards
24 Ann Lineberger
24 Richard Smith

CHRIST' EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, STANLEY, NC 28164

ANCESTRY FUND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

In the year 2021, the fourth year that the Ancestry Fund has been 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. As you know, in the previous years' many abandoned gravesites that had become overgrown or generally poorly kept. They are now cleaned and had the overgrowth removed. In the year 2021, I think it is safe to say that it is hard to find a poorly maintained gravesite. In addition, the fire ant problem was minimized.

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 other churches and several unaffiliated Stanley citizens who dedicated some of their time and talent in helping to beautify the cemetery.

Regarding funding, the Ancestry Fund has received many donations from individuals who have relatives in the cemetery, as well as from local citizens who have no relatives in the cemetery but feel the moral responsibility to keep the cemetery in good condition. After the completion of our fourth year of existence, it is obvious that more people are aware of the work of the Ancestry Fund. Our total donor list was 71 at the end of 2018. The list is now well over 150 individuals and 40 businesses. I am confident that the list of individual and business donors will continue to grow in 2022 and beyond.

NET ASSET (AFTER EXPENSES PAID) HOLDINGS/ DONATION ANALYSIS

YEAR	NET ASSET HOLDINGS YEAR 1		NET ASSET HOLDINGS YEAR 2		NET ASSET HOLDINGS YEAR 3	NET ASSET HOLDINGS YEAR 4
2018	\$44,639.86		\$44,639.86		\$44,639.86	\$44,639.86
2019			\$33,840.08		\$33,840.08	\$33,840.08
2020					\$16,778.19	\$16,778.19
2021						\$37,999.00 +\$10,221.36*
	RUNNING TOTALS		\$78,479.94		\$95,258.13	\$143,478.49

* \$10,221.36 additional income from interest and capital gains on investments.

The ultimate goal of a perpetual care fund is still the main goal of the Ancestry Fund. I believe we will achieve that goal because of the dedication of loyal donors, increasingly effective marketing efforts to individuals and local businesses, as well as appropriate investments in the stock market. Another critical

area of support is the generosity of individual who make large donations through Qualified Charitable Donations (QCD's), bequeaths, memorials, repeated donations from those who understand the importance of honoring all those who have gone before us.

The goal remains a total account asset value of \$300,000.00 for the creation of a perpetual care fund. The **Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund Board of Directors** will work diligently to try to achieve that goal within the next 3-5 years. We know we can't do it alone. **Every member of the Ancestry Fund greatly appreciates your past support and future help in achieving that long-desired goal of a perpetual care fund.**

In regard to future donations, just a thought about QCD's. If you are planning on making a future donation and have an IRA please consider the use of a Qualified Charitable Donation – QCD (an IRA asset donation). This benefit permits owners of traditional IRAs who are 70 ½ or older to donate account assets totaling up to \$100,000 a year directly to one or more charities. If you save is 72 or older, the donations can count toward your required minimum distribution (RMD's are required annual payout) from the IRA.

While there is no deduction for the donation, the withdrawal does not count as income on your tax return, and that can help lower both the income tax and income-based Medicare premiums that are based on income. Donors can receive this charitable tax break even if they take the standard deduction. QCD's may not be made to donor-advised funds.

If you want additional or more detailed information on any of part of this report please let me know.

Report submitted by Bob Mahovsky

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 26, 2022, if rained out, then March 5th

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

For more information call:

Bob Mahovsky, 704-678-6643

FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE FUNDS JANUARY, 2022

FOOD PANTRY SOUTH STATE BANK EST. BALANCE	\$ 17,250.00
FOOD BALANCE IN THE DESIGNATED FUND	\$ 6,251.86
LOCAL BENEVOLENCE BALANCE TRANSFERRED	<u>\$ 4,511.12</u>
TOTAL FOOD PANTRY BALANCE ON HAND	\$ 28,012.98

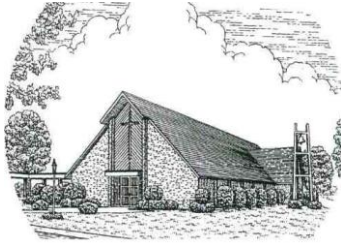
VISITORS PER WEEK = 4.3**FOOD PANTRY AVAILABLE FUNDS JANUARY, 2022**

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February 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fr i.	Sat.
		1	2 Bible Study 6:00 PM in Family Life Choir 7:30 PM	3 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	4	5
6 Divine Service 10:30 AM	7	8 Women's Bible Study 10am In the Fellowship Hall	9 Bible Study 6:00 PM in Family Life Choir 7:30 PM	10 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	11	12
13 Divine Service 10:30 AM Church Council Meeting 6pm	14	15	16 Bible Study 6:00 PM in Family Life Choir 7:30 PM	17 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	18	19
20 Divine Service 10:30 AM	21	22	23 Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM	24 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	25	26 Cemetery Clean-up day 9am- 12noon
27 Divine Service 10:30 AM	28					



Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

CELC Newsletter February 2022



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

Schedule:

Sunday

10:30 am Worship Service

Wednesday

6:00 pm Bible Study

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:00 am until 12:30 pm