



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastors Message

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

The Church on earth, is, and always will be, at war. Not only did our Lord foresee and tell us to be prepared for this, he ordained it. It was he who brought the sword. We live in a world that is fallen and is not yet as it should be; a world that is hostile to life. Wolves take town and eat lambs, both of my daughter's cats torture shrews for their own sin-darkened sense of amusement (not even for sustenance!) and life across the board on this earth ends too soon. It should not be this way, but for now, this is what we must contend with. We reside in death's domain even while belonging to Life—and so we fight.

We fight against the death that is resident in the present order of things. We fight against the powers of Hell on the earth because we have been drowned in the waters of regeneration and raised up again with repentance and forgiveness from above. The Lord teaches us that the only way out of death is through death; that when a man loses his life, it's only then that he gains it. And so the saints of God traverse the only way that leads to Life—the Way of our Lord Jesus Christ. And his Way is the way of the holy Cross; the way of sorrow and suffering; the way of battle and the way of prayer.

There is no question as to the cost of walking in the Way. Often times it hurts. It can be uncomfortable and awkward. It can put us at odds with and even divide sons and fathers, brothers and sisters, wives and husbands, pastors and parishioners, friends and coworkers. The cost may be dear to us but we must never cower in battle, it is the Church Militant's lot in this Age to engage the enemy in battle. And so we fight.

No strength of ours can match his might... the "Battle Hymn of the Church of the Reformation" goes. And so we engage in battle not with our own strength but rather in wielding the sword that Jesus Himself brought. We attack and we defend, bearing the sword that is the Word of God that can neither lie nor fail and that will not return empty. (Rev. 1.16; Isaiah 55.11). He has authority both in heaven and on earth. He not only *gives* life, he *is* Life Himself! He speaks us clean and makes us new and bestows on us courage and faith in his Body and Blood. Our days may be long and weary; the outcome of our individual battles may be uncertain, but our future is as certain as the fact that Jesus lives.

Each of us is called to stand and fight. We are all called to use the particular skills, gifts and battle strategies that he has bestowed to us. I fight by preaching Jesus Christ crucified. You fight the kingdom of Satan by being a Christian in the vocations which God has called you to. The enemy is all around us and it is their desire to see us destroyed. We are out-manned, out-gunned, outwitted. We are grossly outmatched by the power of the enemy, but the fact is—we cannot actually lose. God Himself fights by our side. It is never wasted energy to speak the Truth. For when we are weak, it's then that we are strong.

To the world, it is foolishness, to the Jews, scandalous, but my part in the battle is fought mainly from the pulpit. My first order is to preach Jesus Christ. From the preaching office it is the pastor's duty to preach Jesus, first, second, last and always. The words coming from the pulpit are not just Christ-centered, that is, having Jesus somewhere in there, or in the background, or in-focus. The Apostolic preaching of Jesus to the saints who are beaten and battered and weary from battle *must be* Christological—that is, the preaching that

actually *reveals*, *testifies to*, and *communicates* Jesus. This is how the Apostles preached as recorded in Sacred Scripture. *This* preaching is what binds up, heals, strengthens and prepares the warriors in the pews for their next bout. This is no game or trivial philosophy among many others. This is a deadly serious war.

This may indeed seem an odd “happy New Year” letter, though maybe not. The Lord has assigned me *not* the duties of a life-coach or counselor to give you moralistic life-lessons, but rather to care for the souls of the members of Christ’s Lutheran and to prepare you for battle. And so I encourage you in this coming year to make your participation in the life of the Church at the forefront of your priorities. I want to see Christ Lutheran grow and become a center in our community that is known for the Word of God, and I know you want to see this too. For this to happen there has to be continued commitment that is more fervent and persistent than most of our fleeting New Year’s resolutions. Resolve to come study Holy Scripture with the community that God has given you at Christ’s Lutheran. Bible Class is Wednesdays at 6:00 in the Nave. We will begin back this year January 12th. Throughout the coming year I will be challenging you in this. Because, God willing, I intend to be at Christ’s for a long time, and to thrive in the Gospel while we are together.

Your brother in Jesus +Pastor Frye

Please come to the Epiphany of Our Lord Service on Thursday, January 6, at 7:00 PM.

There will be a Women's Bible Study on January 11th at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.

Reminder: Bible Class is on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM In the Nave. They will begin back on January 12th.

To all Council Members please remember to turn in your annual reports for 2021 to the church office.

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, William Busch, Carol De-Jong

Grieving: Julie Bodenheimer (Uncle Harry Murphy)

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore

Friends and Relatives: Randy & Karen Davis, Geraldine Clarke, Judith Rourke, 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, Wanda Murphy, Luke Murphy.

January's Birthday's

3 David Lewis	14 James Bodenheimer
3 Pat Ritchie	15 Eleanor Abernathy
3 Rachel Walker	25 Gail Weathers
7 Wesley Clark	27 Terri Hedrick
9 Leonard Lewis	
14 Kimberly Benedict	

December's Anniversary's

31 Bud & Judy Abernathy

Baptism Anniversary

1 Anne Chapman
1 Loretta Lewis
1 Pat McAlister
1 Tammy Poarch
1 Tonya Campbell
28 Jill Price



CELC friends enjoying a day at the Billy Graham Library



Wonderful day working at Operation Christmas Child! We packed 645 boxes in 3 1/2 hours! That's moving with laughter and a good time for all. Lunch was delicious pizza and lots of conversation.

**COUNCIL MEETING
November 14th, 2021
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Call to Order: President Judy Abernathy called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Buck led devotions for this meeting.

Roll call and action on excuses for absence:

Present: Jay Human, Crystyl Human, Emma Human, Pastor Frye, Bob Mahovsky, Judy Abernathy, Buddy Abernathy, Tommy Hedrick, Michael Dukes, Buck Helms, Paul Brodland, Tommy Hedrick, Todd Campbell

Absent: Tonya Campbell, Gabe Frye, Gil Harris

Minutes of last meeting:

- 1) Approved the minutes with one correction. Motion made by Bud, Emma 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Pastor:

Pastor Frye brought the following matters to the Council for discussion and/or informational purposes.

- Worship and Music has scheduled the decoration for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, November 28th after worship. I'll buy pizza for lunch that day.
- On Advent 1, 2021 we will be switching back to Divine Service Setting 2.
- Presided over the Divine Service 5 times, Rite of New Members for 6 people on October 24, 2021, Taught Bible Study 4 times, 7 visits, 23 calls, Gave the Invocation at the 2nd Annual Veterans Day Celebrations, 6 meetings.

Reports by General and Capital Fund Treasurers:

Paul: September had minor changes. October had 5 Sundays, higher funding due to this.

Designated funds- a steady stream of contributions. Snack Packs received more money because money from hymnals was allocated for this. Some line items on the report will need correcting because they shifted when entering the data.

Bob made the motion to keep the leftover money for outside designations and add it to general funds, Paul seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Michael stated that this should not be done because it goes against what the congregation voted on.

Crystyl: The Capital Fund received \$280 dollars from contributions during the month.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Archives/Communications: No report, **Christian Education:** No report, **Endowment:** No report, **Evangelism:** No report, **Internal Ministry:** No report, **Mutual Ministry:** No report, **Stewardship:** No report, **Youth:** No report.

Finance: The Finance Committee has established a new system for requesting a check or receiving a reimbursement for back-up or fill in staff positions.

Property Committee: Bud reports that: He met with Clint Clemmer in October about units for the sanctuary. He will do the work for \$70,000, we will need to do some of the tear-out. Pat McAllister will do the electrical work, Pat will give us a quote. Clint said it would take 2 months to get the units and he will need \$30,000 to buy the units. Leonard will help with this.

Social Ministry: Tonya is getting names for the Christmas angel tree.

Worship and Music: Choir practice has begun back.

Report of Special Committees:

Cemetery: Bob gave a brief history of the ownership of the cemetery.

Unfinished Business:

The meeting with Gary Rushing about live streaming has been postponed until Gil can be here.

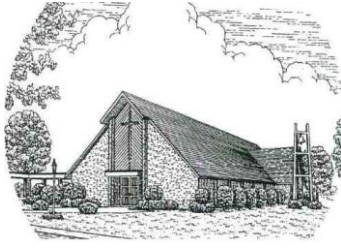
Adjournment:

- 1) Leonard and David will continue to open/close the church.
- 2) The next council meeting will be December 12th and Tonya will lead devotions.
- 3) The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Emma C. Human, Secretary

January 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2 Divine Service 10:30 AM	3	4	5 Choir 7:30 PM	6 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM The Epiphany of Our Lord Divine Service 7pm	7	8
9 Divine Service 10:30 AM Church Council Meeting 6:00PM	10	11 Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM	12 Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM	13 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	14	15
16 Divine Service 10:30 AM	17	18	19 Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM	20 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	21	22
23 Divine Service 10:30 AM	24	25	26 Bible Study 6:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM	27 Food Pantry 11AM- 12:30PM	28	29
30 Divine Service 10:30 AM	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
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