



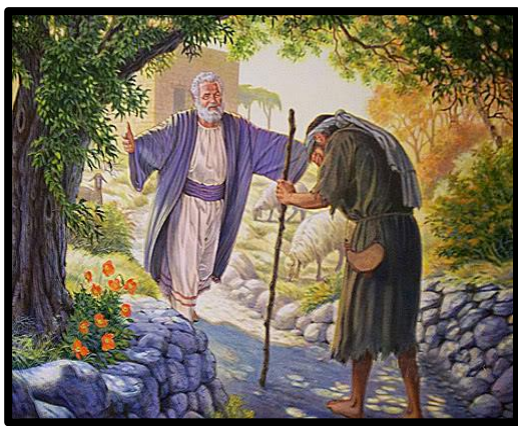
CELC Newsletter

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

Pastor's Message

On the Summons of the Father and the Ecclesia.

A year-plus of Covid-19 has taken its toll on the lives and souls of the Christian people. We may very well find ourselves doing things differently than before. Some of those things may stick, some may not. We may find ourselves with new habits—some good, some bad. With regard to the latter, and though I certainly cannot know such a thing, I would imagine that universally for the Christian people, worship attendance on Sunday morning has been down and is still down from what it was before March, 2020. Thankfully, God has granted it to humanity to find a vaccine speedily and to discover more effective ways to treat this virus that has kept us apart and in fear for so very long. However, habits are rather easy to form for human creatures and even harder to break. If you think I'm wrong, pay attention to which shoe you put on first tomorrow morning or where you sit next Sunday for worship!



The preeminence of “community” for the Christian people is indispensable. The term “ecclesia” (which means, “the gathered assembly” and is often translated into English as “church”) stands in the New Testament 115 times. This assembly of the faithful is summoned by the Father; gathered in by the Holy Spirit; and fed and forgiven into life by Jesus Christ the Great Physician of our souls. The New Testament is quite clear that the only place this happens is within the gathering of this particular ecclesia. This is to say that the gathered assembly is absolutely vital to the life and health of every son and daughter that belongs to God.

This ecclesia of God has suffered over the past year and a half. The pandemic has made all of us into prodigals in one way or another, myself included. We have been confronted with a plague that has made us afraid to come together and so we've stayed apart; a plague that has placed a stumbling block of fear before us when we approach the Lord God Almighty in his Holy Supper at the Altar; a plague that had tempted us to form new habits and new ways of existing in the world.

The world is insistent that we have *lost* many people to Covid-19. In fact, I saw many people blaming the pandemic on Christians because they refused to obey their local governor's executive orders and gathered for worship instead. However, the Christian people live in a completely different and new reality than the rest of the world. For one, the Christians are a people who, like their Master, are accustomed to calling a spade a spade. And because of this, they are completely

satisfied in rejecting the lie that says we have *lost* many people to a virus. In fact, we haven't *lost* any one at all. The reason we haven't lost anyone is because of the peculiar nature that God has given to this called, gathered, and fed people which the New Testament calls "the ecclesia of God". You see this ecclesia belongs to the Holy Trinity. It has been purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ. These people are unimaginably precious to him and he will never let one of them out of his sight and care. He knows and loves every hair on our heads. We would be foolish and faithless to believe that the God who holds and commands all things, simply abandons the people he has purchased for Himself. All "the world" does is lose people, God never does. Death can never stop the love our Father has for us.

Furthermore, if it's true that he hasn't lost them, then we haven't either. This is another of the peculiarities of these people called the ecclesia of God. Towards the end of last year, I wrote an article on the communion of saints in which I quoted The Rev. Berthold Von Schenk. Speaking of the communion and unity resident within this community of the ecclesia, Von Schenk says: "*How truly blessed we are to be a part of this incredible reality! ... What we must always remember when we go to the Lord's Supper is that we commune with Christ - and wherever Christ is, there is heaven. And this communion includes all the saints who have died and risen in Christ : Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Ruth, Peter, Paul, our parents and grandparents, perhaps even our spouses or our children, all the saints now living in the world... and those still to come.*" This is to say, that where Jesus is, there also are all those who have been joined to him by Baptism and faith. Jesus has so united Himself to this ecclesia, that he is *never* apart from them. And so Von Schenk continues, "*The sacrament of the Altar is the place of closest meeting with the saints who have died and are in his keeping.*" Yea verily!

To this community of his ecclesia, the Father sends out the summons even now. Maybe we hesitate for reasons of pandemic, maybe we have other reasons. What we must *not* do is let our hesitation turn into habit. We must trust that our Father is good and fear not, because he wants us to live. He will never call us to something that isn't abundantly good for us and for our salvation. To this ecclesia which he calls us to, the Father has promised to come. There he causes a river of grace to flow to these people—a river of mercy that flows into eternity.

Come to the Father. Hear his summons and know that the One who calls you is merciful, loves you, and calls you to what he knows is best for you.

Your brother in Jesus,
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: Ruth Laue

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore

Friends and Relatives: 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

July's Birthday's

1 Marilyn Smith	15 Martha Jean McIntosh
2 Tim Cloninger	17 Loretta Lewis
5 Leigh Ann Faulkenberry	19 Doug Hawkins
7 Michael Benedict	20 Richard Medlin
9 Paul Brodland	25 Richardl Smith
9 Mary Robinson	27 Meredith Brodland
11 Judy Ray	30 Cindy Keefer
12 Laura olls	31 Crystyl Human
15 Martha Jean McIntosh	31 Emma Human
17 Loretta Lewis	

July's Anniversary's

3 Mike & Judy Bozeman
19 Richard & Bitsy Medlin
31 Grayson & Hannah Bodenheimer

Baptism Anniversary

16 Emma Powell
28 Emily Keefer Veronla

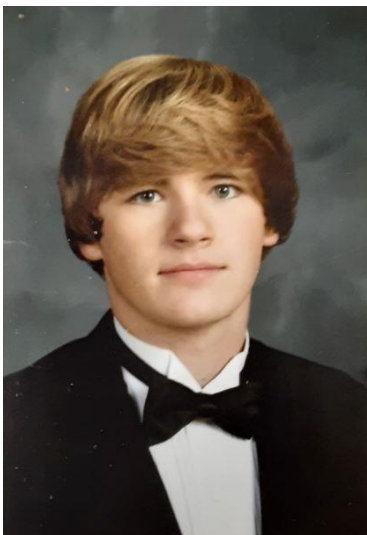
Contacting the Office

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

Graduates 2021

Gabriel Frye graduated from Cleveland Community College on May 13th with an Associate's Degree in Science. On May 29th he graduated cum laude, and a member of the National Honor Society from Pinnacle Classical Academy High School. He is planning to attend Belmont Abbey College in the fall. Gabriel is the son of Pastor Wesley & Elicia Frye.



Logan Dixon graduated from Stuart Cramer High School. He attended Ida Rankin Elementary and Mt. Holly Middle School. He plans to go to Gaston College to pursue an associate degree in business administration. He wants to go into the real estate business. He enjoys the outdoors, camping, and hanging out with friends. Logan is the son of Gary & Connie Dixon and grandson of Mary Robinson.

Jameson Bodenheimer, son of James & Julie Bodenheimer, graduated from Clemson University on May 8th with a BS in Biology and a minor in Micro Biology. He worked in the lab at Clemson for several years and was selected to go to the Ecological Society of America Conference in 2019 in Lexington Kentucky, where he did two oral presentations and published a paper on Pneumogen. Jameson is currently living in Georgetown Texas and is starting his career as an Associate Analysts at MicroChem in Round Rock Texas.





James Bodenheimer graduated from Belmont Abbey on May 15th with a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and received the Academic Excellence in Interdisciplinary Studies Award.



Kelli Costner graduated Cum Laude with her Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (Pharm D) from the Levine College of Health and Sciences at Wingate University on May 14th 2021. She was one of only 14 in her graduating class of over 70 to be matched with a pharmacy residency program. Her Clinical Pharmacy Residency will take place at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center in Christiansburg, Virginia starting July 1st. Thanks so much to you and our church family for your congratulations, but more importantly for your prayers and support as

she begins the next chapter of her life's journey.

Kelli is the daughter of Keith and Kim Costner and the granddaughter of Richard and Bitsy Medlin.



CONGRATULATIONS EMILY



Teacher of the Year: Congratulations to Emily Faulkenberry Locklear for being selected as Buford Middle School Teacher of the Year. Emily has taught for two years and teaches 6th grade math at Buford Middle School in Lancaster, South Carolina. Buford Middle School has a student body of approximately 500 students. Comments about Emily included "she works diligently to make sure students understand her content and is always there for a caring word of encouragement to both students and her fellow teachers. Emily is the embodiment of a great teacher."

Emily graduated from North Greenville University in 2018 with a BA in Elementary Education with an Early Childhood Certification. She earned her Master's Degree in Special Education Intervention from Winthrop University in 2020. Emily is married to Jimmy Locklear who also teaches at Buford Middle School. Emily is the daughter of Leigh Anne Faulkenberry and granddaughter of Bud and Judy Abernathy.

To: Christ's Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you for your phone calls, card, messages, food and prayers when our son-in-law, Kevin Costner died.

Your support and comforting words have helped us get through a devastating time in our family.

Sincerely,

Richard and Bitsy Medlin.

To: Christ's Lutheran Church Family,

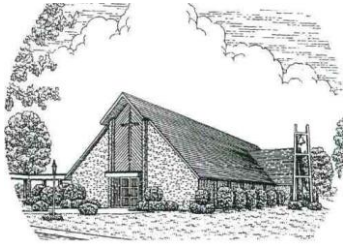
My family would like to express our thanks to everyone who sent cards and expressed sympathy to my family in the passing of my father. We love our Church family.

Thank you!

Rick & Anne Chapman

July 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	2	3
4 Divine Service 10:30am	5 Office Closed	6	7 Bible Study 6pm	8 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	9	10
11 Divine Service 10:30am Church Council Meeting 6pm	12	13	14 Bible Study 6pm	15 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	16	17
18 Divine Service 10:30am	19	20	21 Bible Study 6pm	22 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	23	24
25 Divine Service 10:30am	26	27	28 Bible Study 6pm	29 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	30	31



Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

CELC Newsletter July 2021



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