



# CELC Newsletter

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

## Pastor's Message

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth—The blessed Trinity.

*Saint* is an English word drawn from the Latin adjective, *sanctus*, (from the Greek, *hagios*—both meaning “holy”). In the Scripture, the term “saint” is not limited to those who have already entered into glory through the gate of the grave. The term “saint” rather refers to all those who are *in Christ*, regardless of how much their lives are still in need of improvement. And so the Apostle Paul addresses the Christians in Corinth as “saints”, even though he knew very well just how far away from perfection they were.

Therefore, when we consider the one holy Church we must take into account not only the immense cloud of witnesses surrounding the throne in heaven, but also those of us who are still far away from what we will one day finally be. We may revere and lift up as exemplary, particular saints who are of the Church in heaven, but their holiness is of the same kind as the holiness that all the Body of Christ shares, because it is from the same Head. So then, a few things about holiness.

First, it’s helpful for one to realize that holiness or sanctity is a participation. One can choose not to participate in the life of Jesus' Church. According to Scripture, holiness (or “saintliness”) is a participation in the life of God. So the beginning of holiness is not human ambition, but rather God Himself. Because of this, holiness is not merely moral progress in this life. I have met many moral pagans, and you likely have too. Holiness rather has to do with what and who we are as new creatures born again in the Son of God. It's not “a lifestyle” so much as it is “a life”.

So, if holiness is “a life” (and it is) then it is firstly a gift given to us from God. It is born from our coming into contact with the holy things of God-- Baptism , Holy Communion, Holy Scripture, the grace of Repentance and so on. Recently on Wednesday evening worship and Bible Study, we spoke of how at the same time God declares us righteous, he also causes his Holy Spirit to dwell in our bodies, thus sanctifying them. So many things that are given to us are holy. When we partake in them one of two things can happen: We either become holier by coming into contact with them, or we defile them by touching them. For more on this read Matthew 7.6 keeping in mind what happened when something came into contact with an unclean animal—that is, it was defiled.

Secondly, holiness has the characteristics of an atmosphere. Wherever we go, it goes with us. It was for this reason that Paul addresses the Colossian Church in this way: *To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colossae.*” Here the Apostle twice uses the preposition “in”. The holy brethren are said to be simultaneously “in Christ” AND “in the city of Colossae”. So this is to say that their being “in Christ” is to determine and dictate *how they are to be* in Colossae. The fact that they are *in Christ* determines how they are to act and behave *in the city*. In the same way, that we are *in Jesus* (and THAT always first!) determines how we are to operate in the places where God in his wisdom has placed us.

The city of Colossae is sanctified in a way by the Christian people's presence in it (as all cities are by the presence of the Christian community). The Holy Christian Church itself is one of God's many blessings to the world. By these people, God's own Presence is assured in the places where they are. For where we are, there Christ is also. Matthew 28.20 The city is also the dwelling place and home for the holy and faithful people who are in Christ. And because of this fact, the city became the immediate setting of their holiness and fidelity to the Lord. It's the setting where they speak the truth in love, it's the environment of their mission, their courage, endurance, service, commitment and witness. What Christians are in the world is analogous to what the soul is in the body. As the soul is dispersed through all the members of the body, so Christians are scattered throughout all the cities of the world. In fact all flesh is made exactly from the earth.

Lastly, sanctity is not optional. It is what naturally flows from God's justifying act, by which the Father makes us his children. *Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.* (Hebrews 12.14) This could not have been said more clearly--without holiness we will not see the Lord. Holiness and growth in it is not something extra that we can just do away with. We are told by the Word of God to "pursue" it. And even though holiness is first a gift, it requires a certain measure of striving and assent on our part. Our Lutheran Confessions call this co-operation with the Holy Spirit. For more reading on this check out the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, On Free Will or Human Powers, paragraph 65.

Because our Shepherd is merciful and loves us, his command to us is: "Pursue holiness". So what then do we do? Surrounded by this great cloud of saints, we are to lay aside every sin that so easily strikes and kills and rather run with endurance the race which God has set before us. It's often the case that we know exactly what the pursuit of holiness requires of us. And so our problem isn't normally one of ignorance, but rather spiritual laziness—a softness of the will, ultimately the Church calls this, sloth. This may be precisely the reason why the Bible uses active, athletic words to speak of this life-long pursuit for holiness. So then, let us run, fight, strive, discipline and train ourselves in holiness, not just for the sake of the witness we give to the world, but also that we might draw closer to the One from whom all love flows; who has made us holy *in* his Son, Jesus.

Your servant-brother. +Pastor Frye

### **Operation Christmas Child Workday in June 2021**

**Tuesday—June 1, 2021 - 9am to 12pm (leaving CELC at 7:30am)**

Shoobox Packing Time... What? Yes, this is the opportunity to help pack boxes ordered last year for distribution to kids around the globe. We will work for three hours in Charlotte packing boxes. This is a different process where you will shop and put together a box right in the building. It's a fun day and boy does the time fly when you are having fun! I've reserved five spots for this day... so be one of them, spend time with your church friends and let's get packing! Please let me know ASAP (call me) as to make plans for travel. Please remember face mask are required for this event! Thanks for sharing your time for this wonderful program! Kathey Brown - 704-263-1244

## 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:** Marilyn Smith, Jim & Bertie Billups  
**Grieving:** The David Lewis Family (brother-in-law, Kenneth Pruett)  
**Home-bound Members:** Gaynelle Moore

Friends and Relatives: 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

## June's Birthday's

2 Ryan Clark  
5 Rodney Wyatt  
6 Caroline McCumbee  
7 Mack Cloninger  
8 Brenda Cloninger  
9 Jameson Bodenheimer  
12 Lisa Cloninger  
15 Michael Dukes  
16 Pat McAlister  
17 Buck Helms  
23 Craig Poarch

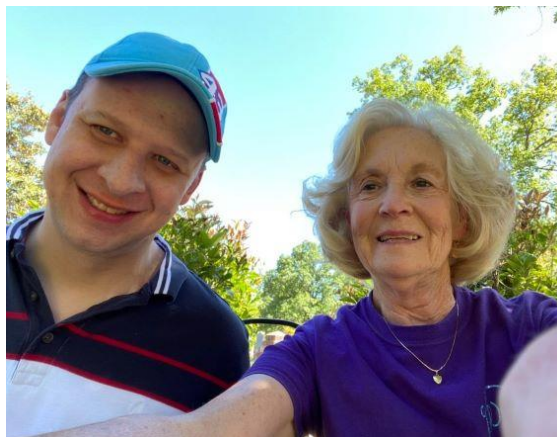


## June's Anniversary's

11 Paul & Meredith Brodland  
19 Andrew & Nancy Olls

## Baptism Anniversary

1 Jameson Bodenheimer  
5 Ruth Ridge  
18 Mary Robinson  
20 Barbara Benedict  
30 Mack Cloninger



Friends working in the Garden







# MOTHER'S DAY 2021

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 11th, 2021**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**

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

**Devotions:** Tonya gave the devotion for this meeting.

**Roll call and action on excuses for absence:**

**Present:** Jay Human, Emma Human, Pastor Frye, Bob Mahovsky, Judy Abernathy, Buddy Abernathy, Tonya Stone, Michael Dukes, Buck Helms, Gabe Frye, Todd Campbell, Gil Harris, Paul Brodland

**Absent:** Janice Clark, Tommy Hedrick

**Minutes of the last meeting:**

1) The minutes were approved with the discussed corrections. The motion was made by Gil, Buddy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Report of the Pastor:**

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

- 5 divine services
- 4-midweek Vespers services
- 2 meetings
- Service of Confession and Absolution
- 1 home Holy Communion Service
- 1 Midweek Communion Service
- 8 calls
- 1 Baptism for Ezekiel Leland Nelson
- Took the week after Easter off
- Worship on Holy or Spy Wednesday of Holy Week.
- As of March 18th, the pastor is fully vaccinated.
- Inquiry- Some members have asked why the timers on the lights pointing towards the stained glass cross in the balcony of the Nave are disconnected. After some discussion, it was decided that Buddy and Todd would take a look at them.
- Midweek Bible Study will start on Wednesday, April 14th. Council members and other church leaders are encouraged to go.

**Reports by General and Capital Fund Treasurers:**

Michael: Michael gave the Designated Funds report and Deposits Summary for March.

Crystyl: We discussed the report for February and March.

### **Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Archives/Communications:** The framed artwork has been placed in the church.

**Christian Education:** No Report, **Endowment:** No report, **Evangelism:** No report, **Internal Ministry:** No Report, **Mutual Ministry:** No report, **Social Ministry:** No Report, **Stewardship:** No Report, **Worship and Music:** No Report, **Youth:** No Report, **Safety and Security:** No Report

**Finance:** 1099 NEC has not been received.

### **Property Committee: Bud reports that:**

Leonard has decided that we should do a split AC unit. Waiting for information from the air conditioning guy.

Water continues to be left on in the women's restroom.

### **Report of Special Committees:**

**Cemetery:** Memorial celebration is still set to happen at 11:30 AM. Bob wants to know what to do if bad weather occurs. Bob needs to fill out a form and get it approved before the event can happen in our Family Life Center.

- Doris Cope would like to do another Restoration Workday on the cemetery. Buddy is looking at dates for May.

**Website:** Gil looked at the cameras. One is unusable and the other is in working condition. However, we can't use it for our purposes. Gil will meet with a friend to discuss all of the equipment and he is going to try to fix it. Another option is a camera that could be controlled with a remote.

### **Other Reports:**

No Report

### **Unfinished Business:**

See Website Committee

### **New 2021 Council Business:**

Dalton Studenmund from Spectrum would like us to rethink our current plan with AT&T. Michael will follow up with him.

### **Adjournment:**

1. Leonard and David will continue to open/close the church.
2. The next council meeting will be on May 16th and Gil will lead devotions.
3. Buddy made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Tonya seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

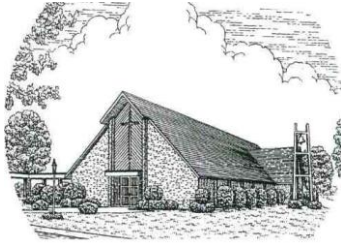
Respectfully submitted,

Emma C. Human, Secretary

# June 2021

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

If you need anything please call the church between 8am-12:30pm,  
Monday - Friday.



# Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

203 S. Main St. Stanley, NC 28164

## CELC Newsletter June 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