



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastor's Message

On Martyrdom and Courage: Heinrich Voes and Johann Esch.

In his defense of the Christian Religion titled *Apologeticus*, Tertullian of Carthage, responding to the mass persecution of his brothers and sisters by the Roman Empire, wrote what would become his most quoted saying regarding martyrdom: *"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."* (Apologeticus, Ch. 50) His meaning was that when others would see the manner in which the Christians were gathered up and tortured until they died, it had the opposite effect of what Rome intended—instead of scaring people away from the Faith, it drew people to it who wondered just exactly *what it was* that was so alluring that these people would suffer in such a way instead of denying it. And so instead of shriveling up and dying with each martyrdom, the Holy Church of Jesus swelled with growth and life.

'What IT was' that was so alluring of course was God Himself—the Way, and the Truth, and the Life who is Jesus delivered to the believer intimately—Eden restored and improved upon. That's what the pagan world finds when it approaches the Creator of all things through the Holy Church. Christ will not be accessed in any other way than through his Bride that has been gathered into the Kingdom by the Holy Spirit. This is what was so alluring and enticing and indeed still is today. This is what has caused women and men to stare death in the face and refuse to recant their belief.

Fast-forward roughly 1,300 years from Tertullian. Shortly after the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation there emerged two Augustinian monks: Heinrich Voes and Johann Esch. These men had chosen to devote their lives to the Word of God set apart from the world in a monastic setting. Because of this, they knew the Word of their Master Jesus well, for they lived and breathed it every day. And so it was, that when a fellow Augustinian monk named Martin emerged insisting that the indulgence abuses especially with regard to Purgatory were contrary to the clear Word of Scripture, and that Bishops and even the Pope did not have higher authority than the Word, that Voes and Esch, intimately familiar with the Word of God, found in Luther a voice proclaiming the Truth which they already knew and had loved for so long.

In 1523 this time the persecution was coming from even *within* the Holy Church when Voes and Esch's Bishop had them arrested for siding with Luther. Voes and Esch were given the opportunity at least twice that we know of to recant of their position. Instead they declared, *"We will die as Christians for the Truth of the Gospel"*. They were burned alive publically in Brussels on July 1, which became the day we commemorate these first martyrs of the Reformation. As their fiery executioner was slowly kindled beneath their feet, rising up to meet our brothers, they confessed the Faith over and over again with the words of the Apostles' Creed and sung the Te Deum until *"the fire choked their voices, and there remained of them nothing but ashes"* as W.K. Kelly puts it.

This week I commend their steadfast and immovable faith to you. Remember them before the Altar and in your prayers, thank God for their exemplary faith asking Him to grant you the same gift of immovable faith in the midst of a world that seems to be crumbling before our eyes. Pray to your Father that in the midst of all of this, we may have the courage of our convictions and never back down from the Truth that God, in his mercy, has delivered to us—for our Enemy shall pounce upon every opportunity or perceived weakness. Thank God and fear not, for the same crucified and risen Lord who holds our brothers Heinrich and Johann in his hand, holds us there with them as well, in a communion of saints that begins at Holy Baptism and finds its end in eternity with Jesus our Lord, Friend and Brother.

Your servant and brother in Jesus,

+Pastor Frye

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank You for the many cards (we read him every one), phone calls and prayers during daddy's illness and memorials upon his death. He loved and cared for all of you deeply. Other than being home, his favorite place to be was in the church building, worshipping with his church family. Our loss on earth is his gain. He's home with the Lord and our precious mom, both whom he loved with all his heart and soul.

Yes, we know - "It is well with his soul".

Love, Prissy, Royce and Shelley

The family of Kevin James Hinch acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.

Dearest Church Family,

Thanks so much for the food and kindness shown to me and my family during the passing of Kevin, my precious husband. Please keep me and family in your prayers as we adjust during days ahead!

"Love in Christ"

Lee Ann Lineberger Hinch

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: Hubert Abernathy, Michael Benedict. Please pray for the Nation and the people diagnosed with the coronavirus.

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore

Members in Nursing Homes: Christine Wallace is at Stanley Total Living Ctr., Ruth Cloninger is at Carillon in Lincolnnton, Neal Ritchie is at Stanley Total Living (123)

Friends and Relatives:

John Wallace, Diana Kingsley, Ray McNeely, Trudy Dixon, Sidney Mitchell, Harry & Wanda Murphy, Rick Martin, Luther Murphy, Everett Lineberger, Barbara Rhyne, E.C. Clippard, Donnie Miskelly, Miles Cooper, Jim Bumgardner, Devoe Casagrande, Michael Arim, Betty Coulter, Andy Abernathy, Crystal White, E.C. Clippard

July's Birthday's

1 Marilyn Smith	19 Doug Hawkins
2 Tim Cloninger	20 Richard Medlin
5 Leigh Ann Faulkenberry	25 Richard Smith
7 Michael Benedict	27 Meredith Brodland
9 Paul Brodland	28 Christine Wallace
9 Mary Robinson	30 Cindy Keefer
11 Judy Ray	31 Crystyl Human
12 Laura Olls	31 Emma Human
15 Martha Jean McIntosh	
17 Loretta Lewis	

Temporary Observances during Worship at Christ's Church

- + Please use hand sanitizer in Narthex
- + Please sit every other pew.
- + The Choir will not be sitting in the Choir Loft.
- + There will be no Sharing of the Peace. Therefore, if there is a matter between you and your brother or sister please go to them outside of the Divine Service and resolve it before you approach the Altar for the Holy Communion.
- +If you have a mask, it is recommended that you wear it.
- +Please refrain from shaking hands

July's Anniversary's

3 Mike & Judy Bozeman
19 Richard & Bitsy Medlin
27 Hubert & Eleanor Abernathy
31 Grayson & Hannah Bodenheimer

Baptism Anniversary

16 Emma Powell
28 Emily Keefer Veronla

Reception of the Holy Communion:

- +When appropriate distancing can be observed (6ft. minimum apart) and directed by an usher, get up to form a line down the center aisle towards the Altar.
- +Ushers, please use hand sanitizer after each person you might assist up the Chancel steps.
- +We will limit our gathering around the Altar to groups of 10. Please, spread out evenly around the Altar, with the exception of those you traveled to worship with.
- +For reception of the Sacred Host, please hold out your hands one on top of the other (to form a cross-shaped throne on which to receive the King of kings) and the Pastor will there place the Host. Please do not grab the Host.
- +For the reception of the Precious Blood, please allow the Communion Assistant to distribute the individual cup to you. He will be observing diligent hygiene. Leave the cup, on the Altar rail and they will be picked up by the Assistant after you depart.

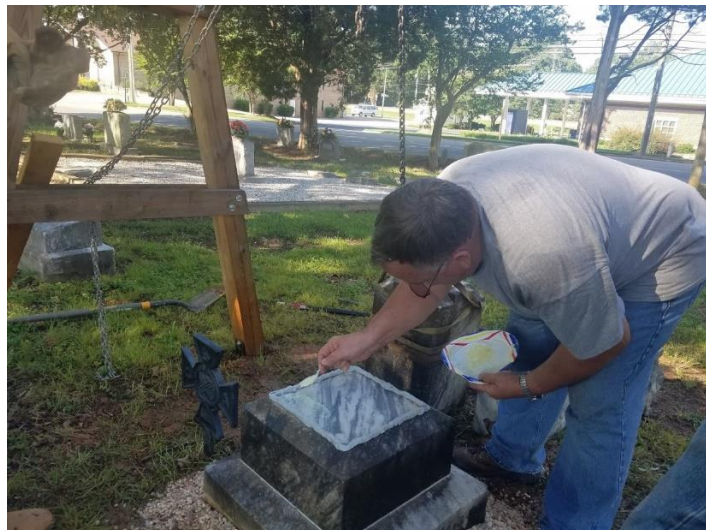
CEMETERY WORK DAY 6-20-2020, A GREAT SUCCESS!

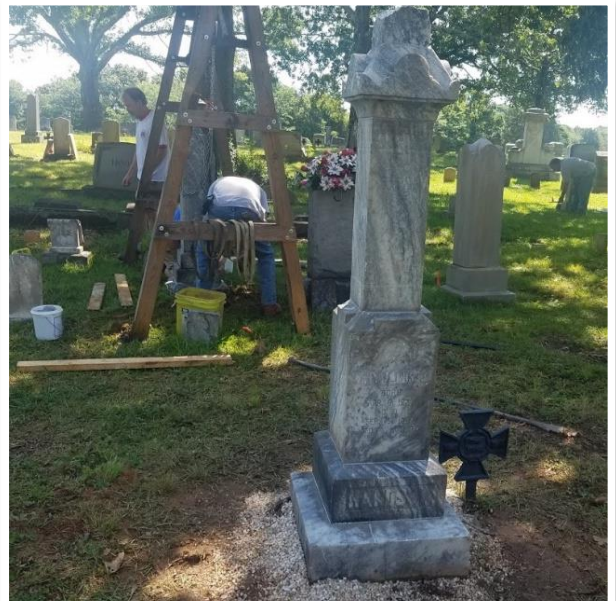
THANK YOU DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!

Pictures taken by Bob Mahovsky

**3 LARGE AND 24 SMALL MONUMENTS WERE CLEANED, REPAIRED
AND/OR ERECTED!**

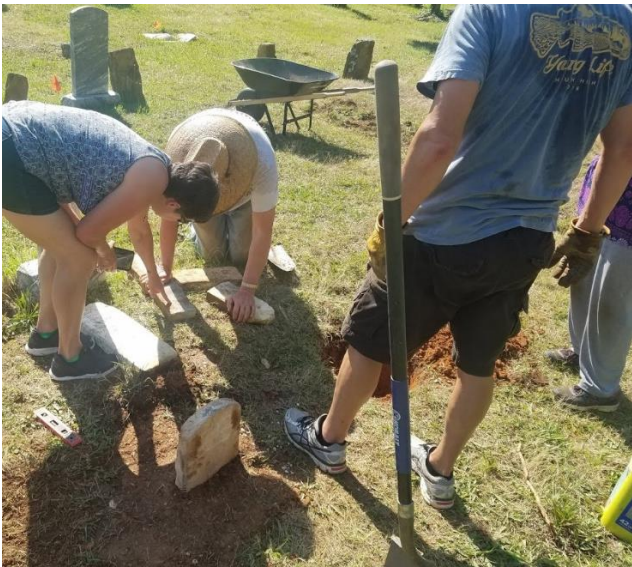






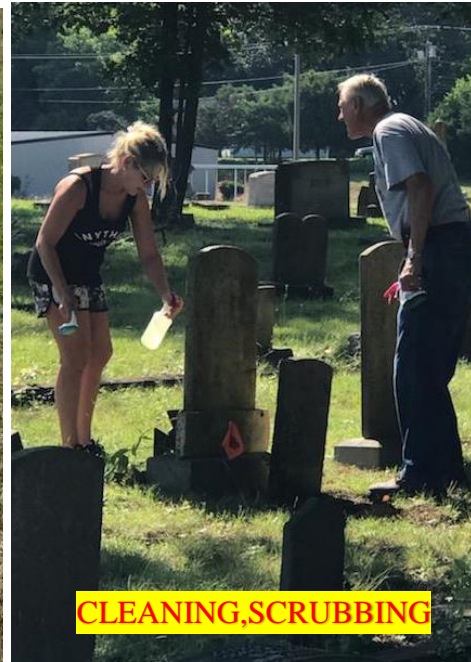
**CLEANED & STRAIGHTENED,
MOVE ON TO THE NEXT**







FALLEN MONUMENT, CLEANED, REPAIRED,



CLEANING, SCRUBBING

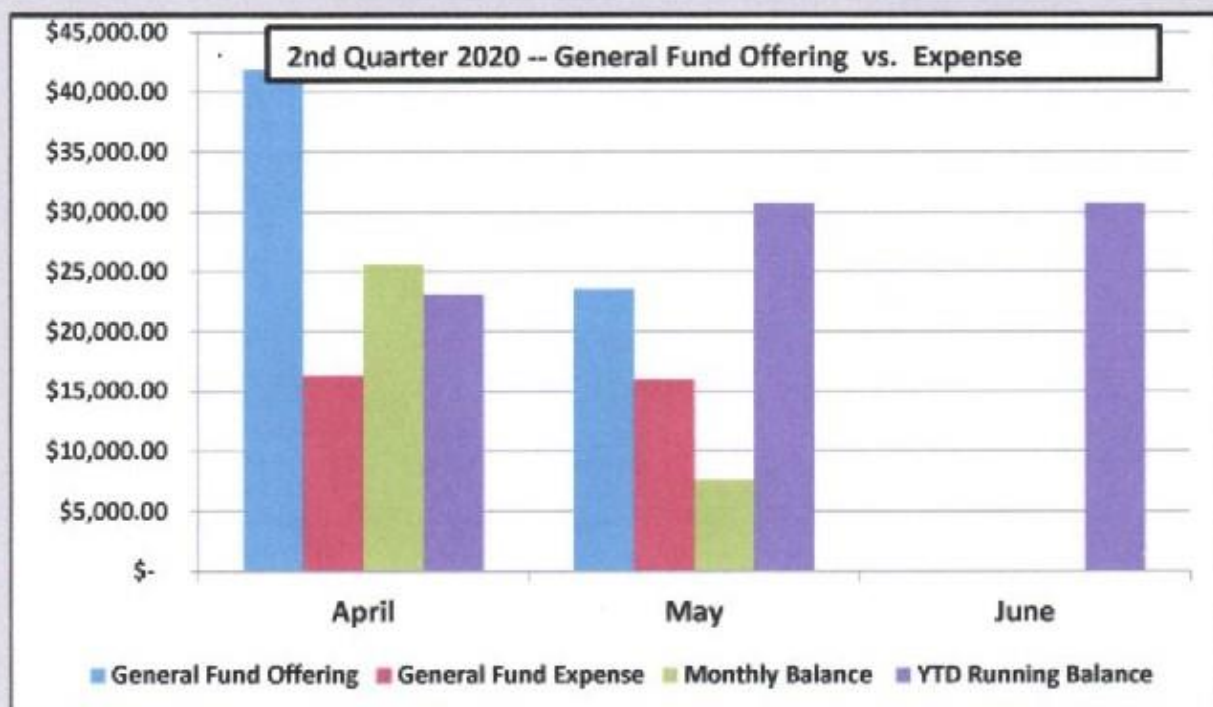


LOST MONUMENT, FOUND, RETURNED TO ORIGINAL LOCATON, ERECTED.

2nd Quarter 2020 -- All Funds Received			
	April	May	June
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 16,215.60	\$ 23,518.00	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 25,600.15	\$ 12.41	\$ -
Total General Fund Offering	\$ 41,815.75	\$ 23,530.41	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 812.78	\$ 9,210.90	\$ -
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ -
Total Offering	\$ 44,028.53	\$ 34,001.31	\$ -
* 4.5 % Benevolence to NALC			
* 5 % Given for Local Benevolence (CELC Social Ministry Programs)			

2nd Quarter 2020 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense			
	April	May	June
General Fund Offering	\$ 41,815.75	\$ 23,530.41	\$ -
Designated Funds (Budget)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Fund Disbursements	\$ 452.00	\$ 7,285.00	\$ -
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,260.00	\$ -
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 940.48	\$ 2,234.21	\$ -
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 625.95	\$ 50.95	\$ -
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 11,740.89	\$ 11,678.25	\$ -
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ -	\$ 42.68	\$ -
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 2,941.21	\$ 1,930.66	\$ -
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Expense	\$ 16,248.53	\$ 15,936.75	\$ -
All Expenses (Including DF & Transfers)	\$ 18,100.53	\$ 24,481.75	\$ -
Monthly Balance	\$ 25,567.22	\$ 7,593.66	\$ -
YTD Running Balance	\$ 23,094.30	\$ 30,687.96	\$ 30,687.96

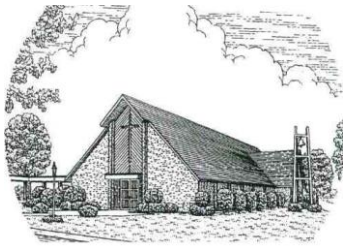
Notes -- 1) No worship services in April due to the coronavirus / Limited worship in May
2) Other Income - \$25,238.00 (Paycheck Protection Program Loan from SBA)



July 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
5 Divine Service 10:30am	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Divine Service 10:30am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Divine Service 10:30am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Divine Service 10:30am	27	28	29	30	31	

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

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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 8:00 am until 12:30 pm