



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastor's Message

On why the appearance of the LORD on the Last Day is described as terrible.

*“The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.*

¹⁵ *A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements”.* – The Holy Prophet Zephaniah 1.14-16

“When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,¹⁸ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave¹¹ and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” – Revelation 6.12-17

During the sermon on Christ the King Sunday I mentioned “the four last things”—heaven, hell, death and judgment.” These are salutary “things” for believers to contemplate and especially during the Church’s season of Advent. I want to explore, briefly, a facet of the latter: The Last Judgment.

When considering the humility of Jesus who condescended his own divinity by taking up our flesh and dwelling with sinners in gentleness, compassion, meekness, and mercy, it may seem strange to the believer that the Day of the Lord is described as dark, violent, bitter, wrathful, etc. Why would the One who bled and died for us wear such a terrible vestment on the day of his appearing? The truth is there are numerous reasons why the Lord should judge the race of Adam so severely, however the chief one is because he has been so severely outraged and offended by humanity’s sin.

Human beings don't experience the full depth and immensity of the sins we commit—at least not outside of Hell. In our fallen condition, we are no longer without the effects of sin and because of this we have become generally desensitized to the absolute horror of our sin. The gravity of doing/condoning/celebrating something that is directly opposed to the good and gracious will of our Father is not immediately or fully realized by human creatures and so we have a twisted tendency to downplay sin. Our forebearers in the Faith likened the sin of man thusly: Imagine a great circle in which you stand in the middle of. On one side of the circle is Satan with all of his worldly seductions calling out to you to entice to away from God to himself. On the other side are the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity, with Jesus Christ in the foreground -- alive out of death and bearing the marks of your salvation on his body. To sin, then, is to say to this merciful God, "*Of my own accord I choose to turn from You and to follow this hateful demon that I prefer to give myself to over You. Though this foul devil has done nothing for me, and though You, O Lord have done everything for me, I still desire him over You.*". How that must pierce and sink deeply into the sacred heart of the Savior of men. Such a dark scenario as described above should make us sick to our stomachs and indeed to our souls. And yet every time we deliberately and willfully consents to sin, we do exactly this.

Too many today, view the Atonement of Jesus Christ as God no longer caring about the sins that we commit. They believe that now that Jesus has done what he has done for our poor race, that he just sort of looks the other way at whatever great or small sins we may commit, and now we may go about transgressing his holy Word. This is demonic whispering from the other side of the circle!

"God" and "hate" are words not often found together in Sacred Scripture. However, when they are, they *always* have to do with sin. For example: "*There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*" -Proverbs 6

God hates sin and it kindles his wrath. Sin seduces you away from God and because he loves you, he hates sin. On the Last Day, God's wrath will burn hot against sin and the wicked of the earth will be sentenced to eternal death in Hell. *Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous* -Psalm 1. This is precisely why to the wicked (those who are outside of Jesus Christ) the appearance of Jesus Christ on the Last Day is fiercely terrible. Sinners on that day will experience the LORD *not* as the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, but as the fierce Lion of Judah whose fury against sin will be unleashed. But fear not you Christian, you are baptized—turn unto Christ with penitent hearts while there is still time, with these or similar words:

O merciful Father, I have sinned against you terribly. I have forsaken my loving Father, crucified your precious Son, grieved your Holy Spirit who loves and sustains me. This I have done many times by thought, word and deed. All my works are before you, O Lord, and they only cry out for my condemnation. But you O Lord, are the same God whose property is to always have mercy. And for the sake of the Incarnation, bitter sufferings, death, resurrection, and ascension of my brother, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner who loves you. Amen.

May this be our prayer through Advent and beyond. 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: Pat Ritchie, Hubert & Eleanor Abernathy, Leigh Anne Faulkenberry. Please pray for the Nation and the people diagnosed with the coronavirus.

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore is at home and Eleanor Abernathy is at home. Sherry Tindall is at her sister's Tonya Rutledge

Friends and Relatives: Sherry Tindall, Ray McNeely, Faye Harper, Trudy Dixon, Harry & Wanda Murphy, Rick Martin, Luther Murphy, Everett Lineberger, E.C. Clippard, Donnie Miskelly, Jim Bumgardner, Devoe Casagrande, Betty Coulter, Andy Abernathy, Crystal White, Terry Throneburg, Tony Carroll, Buddy Hodge, Mickey Lineberger

December's Birthday's

1 Ronald Davis	14 Johnny Helms
9 Steve Hawley	15 Ansley Spears
10 Rene' Clippard	17 Lilian Chronister
12 Larry Cloninger	27 Charles Ray
13 Lori Spears	31 Linda Cloninger

December's Anniversary's

11 Tommy & Terri Hedrick
17 Wayne & Nina Hovis
17 Jay & Crystal Human
21 Tim & Teri Clark
21 Keith & Kim Costner
23 Rick & Ann Chapman
28 Harold & Patsy Lineberger
31 Doug & Susan Hawkins

Baptism Anniversary

2 Logan Dixon
15 Haley Hovis
18 Betty Hoover
19 Sara Abernathy
21 Landon Dixon
23 Michael Dukes



The Family of Neal A. Ritchie thanks our Church family for their many acts of love and kindness given to our family during the past 2 years - as Neal's home was Stanley Total Living Center until his death. Your calls, prayers, cards and visits (when there could be visits) were so much appreciated and treasured. Neal loved his Church and wanted so badly to be able to worship with his Church Family. We ask for continued prayers as we adapt to life without our beloved husband, father, extended family and friends. You have truly been a blessing to us.

Pat Allison & Carmen

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Please help us Remember, Honor, and Teach on December 19, 2020 at 12:00 noon by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or inviting friends to help.

SPONSOR WREATHS: by going to the Wreath Across America Website

<https://wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/165237/Overview/?relatedId=165679>



Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund



Results: 2020 SO FAR 83 Wreaths Sponsored, 55.3% to Goal, 67 To Go!

REMEMBER the Fallen. . . HONOR those who Serve. . . TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

Sponsored by Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church's and Wreaths Across America. And coordinated with Springfield Memorial Baptist Church and Mt. Pleasant UMC.

On **December 19, 2020 at 12:00 noon**, **Wreaths Across America** will be at the **Stanley Cemetery** located at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 203 South Main Street, in the parking lot between the North and South acreage of the cemetery to Remember and Honor our veterans through the laying of **Remembrance Wreaths** on the graves of our country's veterans and fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud at the gravesite. Veterans in the Springfield and Mt. Pleasant Cemeteries will also be honored.

Please help our location lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by clicking the red "Sponsor" button on the web page. Or, if you would like to volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony, please click the "Volunteer" button next to the cemetery name below, and don't forget to click the "Invite" button to invite your friends and family to join you.

Thank you so much for supporting the Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund and Wreaths Across America!

Communicated by the American Heritage Girls,
organized by Judy Billings 704-215-0466



Dear Sponsors,

American Heritage Girls Troop NC0512, Christ's Lutheran Church and the Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund thanks you for your donation and sponsorships of wreaths for Wreaths Across America to honor veterans at gravesites in the Stanley community. Please join us for the Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 12 noon at the Stanley Cemetery located at Christ's Lutheran Church, 203 South Main Street, (Highway 27), Stanley, NC. New Covid 19 restrictions by the State of North

Carolina require all attendees, participants and volunteers to wear a face-covering over the nose and mouth at this community event. For updates regarding a change in the event plans or cancellation due to mandated restrictions please go to this website: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/NCCELC> If you would like to volunteer to assist with the wreath laying please visit this webpage to register: <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/NC0400P>

Thank you again for your support!



Thank You, Thank You,
Thank You CELC again!
You prepared 33 Shoeboxes
this different kind of year
and that's amazing!
Boxes were loaded and
delivered ... on the way to
making someone happy!
God bless each and everyone
for your thoughts and
prayers this season.



Christmas Baskets

The Martin Luther Class will soon be preparing Christmas baskets for our shut-ins. If you would like to donate individually wrapped candy or snacks, please leave it in the church office or fellowship hall kitchen this week. Monetary donations would be appreciated also.

Stanley Angels for 2020

CELC has five (5) Stanley Senior Citizens as our angels this year. What a joy to make someone special and spread the good news of Christmas. Please see Judy Ray for a name and list of items to purchase for your angel. All gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 13th!

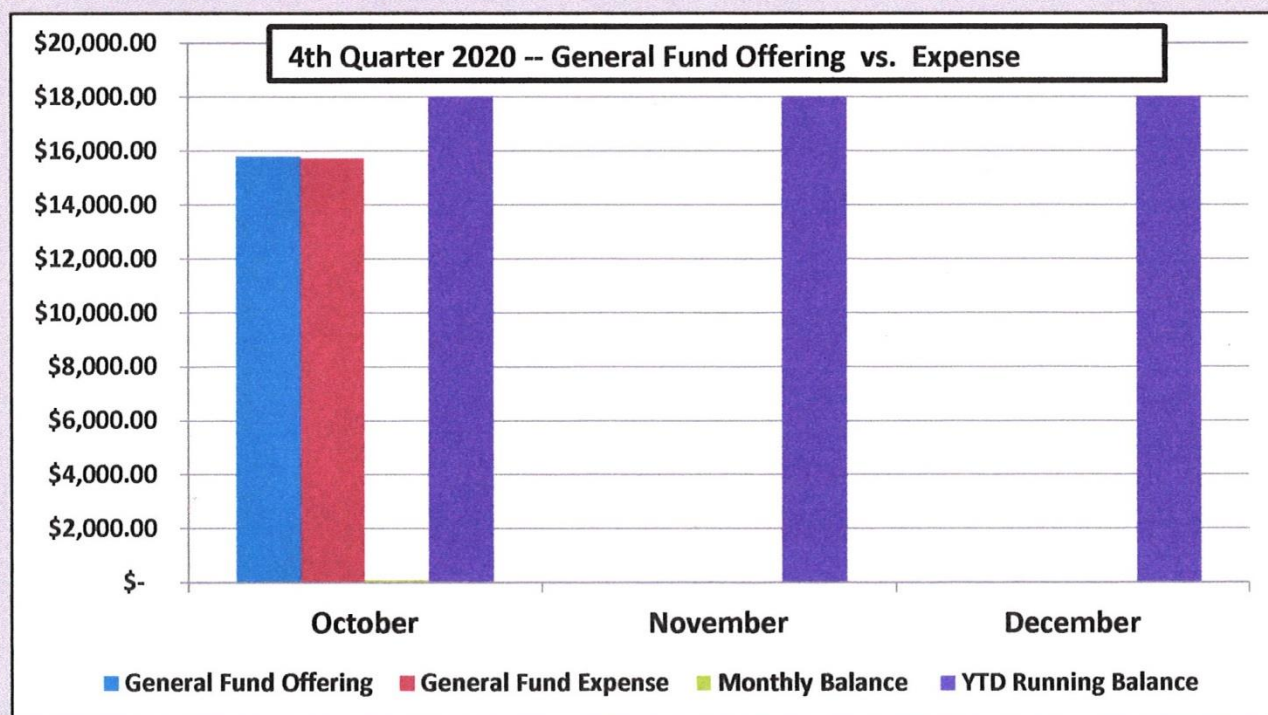
Contributions

The last date to make a contribution for 2020 will be Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, for the church year. If you are mailing them please mail them in time to go toward your 2020 contributions.

4th Quarter 2020 -- All Funds Received			
	October	November	December
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 15,745.00	\$ -	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 43.93	\$ -	\$ -
Total General Fund Offering	\$ 15,788.93	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,285.25	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ 125.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Offering	\$ 17,199.18	\$ -	\$ -
* 4.5 % Benevolence to NALC			
* 5 % Given for Local Benevolence (CELC Social Ministry Programs)			

4th Quarter 2020 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense			
	October	November	December
General Fund Offering	\$ 15,788.93	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Funds (Budget)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Fund Disbursements	\$ 935.25	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$ 125.00	\$ -	\$ -
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 1,495.78	\$ -	\$ -
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 25.95	\$ -	\$ -
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 10,843.08	\$ -	\$ -
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ 157.80	\$ -	\$ -
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 3,187.44	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Expense	\$ 15,710.05	\$ -	\$ -
All Expenses (Including DF & Transfers)	\$ 16,770.30	\$ -	\$ -
Monthly Balance	\$ 78.88	\$ -	\$ -
YTD Running Balance	\$ 18,015.79	\$ 18,015.79	\$ 18,015.79

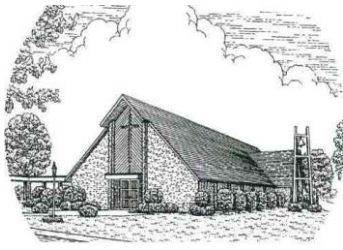
Note --



December 2020

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	4 Office Closed	5
6	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 6:00 PM	17 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	18	19
20 Divine Service 10:30 AM	21	22 Office Closed	23 Bible Study 6:00 PM Office Closed	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25 Office Closed	26
27 Divine Service 10:30 AM	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Bible Study 6:00 PM Office Closed	31 Office Closed Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	Office Closed	

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 December 2020



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