



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastor's Message

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

None of us started the year 2020 knowing what it would bring with it. Having 20-20 hindsight vision (pun intended), a couple things pop up in my mind that characterize this infamous year. One is a line from a Jimmy Buffet song that, for me, is frequently evoked when there is a perfect storm of things that go wrong. Speaking of the state of California (of course) in his song *Fruitcakes* he says, “*They’ve got riots, fires, and mudslides; they’ve got sushi in the mall.*” Certainly, this characterizes the year at least in the sense that much has gone poorly and has done so very quickly. The next, is the line from the Wizard of Oz when the unlikely traveling companions are walking down the yellow-brick road through the forest, and scared of what they can’t see in the looming darkness they chant in unison, “*Lions and tiger and bears, oh my!*” The 2020 version of this could have easily been, “*Covid and social unrest and politics, oh my!*” Though this doesn’t have the same ring to it as the former, there was and is a lot of “fear of the unknown looming darkness” surrounding these things.

Though I’m starting to despise the word, “essential” as much as “social-distancing” and “governor’s order”, it is a good thing, I believe, to step back from the hustle and bustle of life and take stock of things. And for all of the lions and tigers and bears of 2020, one of the *positive* things that’s happened is that we’ve been forced to take stock in our lives of the essential things. The old adage is correct—God, family, and country—in that order.

However, this ordering is *not* the prevailing one anymore. In a recent polling of the American people, the order goes: family first (68%), country second (52%), God last (38%). This according to the Washington Post. Why the change? While I think there are many things converging together forming yet another perfect storm, a large part of the reason for this, I believe, is that people have allowed themselves to be formed more by the world than formed by the Holy Church and the Sacred Scripture. For example, I was watching the news the other day and the news anchor said that they were going to have a “tribute to all those people that we lost this year to Covid”. On the face of things, this seems innocuous enough. But it’s the phrase “those people that we lost” that is insidious. Insidious, not because of any ill-intent, but insidious because it’s a patently wrong reality for Christians and yet it’s been ingrained in us in such a way that it creeps up on us and we may not even

think twice about it. We might even use this phrase to describe death—In my own haste and lack of thoughtfulness, I certainly have.

In Jesus, it's not true to say that the reality of death is a person "lost". Many of our brothers and sisters have been victims of this virus and some have died from it. But it's untrue to say that their reality right now is "lost". In fact, those who die in the Lord are more *found* now than they ever have been before. They have entered into the nearer Presence of the Lord, gone to his good acre, rest in heavenly benediction, live in the eternal repose of God, entered into the reward of the saints in light, worship in the Church Triumphant, come to the blessed rest, gone to Abraham's bosom. Nothing in these statements indicate that anything has been lost or misplaced. God uses and makes all things work together for his sons and daughters. Even Covid, even social unrest, even politics, even death—they all submit to the merciful rule and providence of

the Lord. All things he uses his just purposes and for our good. In Jesus, death is now the door to Life. It's certainly *not* a vacuous wormhole into the unknown. Jesus lives, and that fact makes all the difference in the world.

We don't know what 2021 will bring, but Jesus does, and we exist in his nail-pierced hands. And when our future is in the hands of such a merciful and loving King, what evil could we have to fear? Lions and tigers and bears, oh my??? NO! Rather—Lions and tigers and bears, so what!!!

Blessed new year.

+Pastor Frye

Mary pondered these things in her heart.

6:00 Wednesday Night
Bible Study to start back
January 6th

Come join us in the Nave Wednesday
evenings and bring a friend!

**Blessing of the Home in (or
around) the season of
Epiphany...**

...has long been a custom in the
Christian Tradition. If you would like
for the Pastor to come and bless your
home give him a call to set up a time.



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, Eleanor Abernathy, Leigh Anne Faulkenberry. Please pray for the Nation and the people diagnosed with the coronavirus.

Grieving: The Harold Lineberger family (Harold's Brother, Miles died)
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: Jack Wilson, Sherry Tindall, Ray McNeely, Faye Harper, 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

January's Birthday's

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

January's Anniversary's

31 Bud & Judy Abernathy

Baptism Anniversary

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

Annual Report

Attention Council
Committee Liaisons and
Committee Chairs: Please
send in your annual
reports due to church
office by Jan. 31, 2021.
Also **members** if you have
any updated contact info
please email it to the
office.

Mahovsky Extols Veterans, Cemetery Project

Thomas Lark
Staff Writer



Honoring vets, both living and dead, paramount to Stanley man

1/11/2020 5:08:00 PM

STANLEY--Bob Mahovsky is a big believer in honoring living military veterans.

And the Stanley man is also very keen on memorializing veterans who've gone on to their Great Reward. Wednesday, Mahovsky told *The Herald* more about this past Sunday's Stanley Area Veterans' Day Celebration at Stanley Pentecostal Holiness Church and the nonprofit Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund, which was the workhorse behind organizing the entire event. Mahovsky is the group's president.



Bob Mahovsky addresses the crowd at Sunday evening's inaugural Stanley Area Veterans' Day Celebration, held at Stanley Pentecostal Holiness

"Major General (ret.) Abraham Turner gave a very motivational presentation," he said of Sunday's celebration. "I believe he not only gave educational information to the audience, but he also inspired patriotic feelings at a time our country is sadly in great turmoil. His presentation was strong and very respectful of all veterans for their service to the country. He made special comments to address the unfortunate experience some Vietnam

veterans had when they returned home. No doubt, he helped to heal some emotional wounds.

"(Stanley) Mayor Steven Denton spoke about his blessings by being raised in a military family," he continued. "He also very professionally started the celebration, calling the color guard to present the flag. The color guard set the stage for patriotic feelings. But when Purple Heart recipient Jim Henderson led the



audience in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and singing the National Anthem, everyone was engaged, and you could feel the complete bonding of everyone to our country and deep appreciation for our veterans."

Stanley Mayor Steven Denton spoke about his blessings by being raised in a military family and he also very professionally started the celebration, calling the color guard to present the flag.

An honor guard of military veterans is always a highlight of any such event.

Mahovsky also cited Rep. John Torbett of the North Carolina General Assembly. "Mr. John Torbett was commanding in his presentation and yet engaging about the meaning of why we were gathered," Mahovsky said, "and how his personal military career was so important to him. His respect for the veterans came across as being very strong.



“(Stanley) Town Manager Heath Jenkins spoke of his great respect for the veterans,” he added, “and he read the poem, ‘What Is a Veteran?,’ with deep respect and understanding of the veterans’ importance, their dedication and critical need by our society. And Pastor (Danny) Penny, whose church hosted the celebration, always makes everyone feel comfortable and welcome. His heartfelt greetings and warm, down-to-earth style of communicating with people made everyone feel like they were a part of a family gathered to share, learn and show appreciation for our Stanley-area veterans.”

Mahovsky also praised Stanley Pentecostal’s church musicians.

“The quality of the singing and music was extremely professional,” he said. “When Chris Lynch played the melody and Barry Summey sang ‘Arlington,’ some were brought to tears. When Levi Summey sang ‘God Bless the USA,’ the audience was seen singing, waving their hands. Many said they had never heard that song sung that well or with that depth of meaning in the voice of the person singing it. It was extremely motivational and much appreciated! All the musicians performed very professionally.”

Capping things off was Rev. Wesley Frye of Christ’s Lutheran Church, also in downtown Stanley.

“He closed the celebration with a profound benediction,” said Mahovsky.

More about the Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund

With his close-cropped white hair, military bearing and proud patriotism, many mistake Mahovsky for a veteran himself.

But he dispelled that misconception. Mahovsky actually hails from the worlds of education and business. He simply comes from a family with a proud record of military service, as he revealed, and he believes in honoring all veterans.

“I am not a veteran,” he said, “but I have many family members who are veterans. One in particular saved me from drowning when I was a very young child. I am a person who has a passion for information about all the wars our country has fought, and that passion has caused me to have enormous respect and appreciation for our veterans. I am of the belief that I would have been a better person sooner in my life, had I joined the armed forces.”

Mahovsky also further explicated the Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund, which is so crucial to the future preservation of this enormous graveyard. Adjacent Christ’s Lutheran Church, it is the final resting place of some 111 veterans. It dates back to Stanley’s earliest days, more than two centuries ago.

At the veterans’ celebration, Mahovsky spoke not only of the importance of our veterans but also how the Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund will honor them by installing an American flag in the Stanley Cemetery in the near future. The organization will also work in partnership with Wreaths Across America by collaborating with Detective Judy Billings of the Stanley Police Department and the American Heritage Girls (Billings’s daughter, Chloe, is a veteran of this group) on Dec. 19, placing wreaths on the gravesites of veterans in three local cemeteries: the Stanley Cemetery and those of Springfield Memorial Baptist and Mt. Pleasant United Methodist churches.

Those wanting to support the work of the Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund may send contributions to:

**The Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund
c/o Treasurer Thomas Deese
P.O. Box 772
Stanley, NC 28164.**

2020 Angel Tree Project

Thank you CELC for making five (5) Angels very happy this year. Your gift will bring much joy to these Stanley shut-ins who receive "the meals on wheels program". You've been a special little elf showing the love of God by sharing your own blessings.

Operation Christmas Child

A beautiful sunny day to service others at Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Center. Thanks to some of our young CELC Members we had seven total that worked this year. Your time was appreciated ... and you made us older ones feel young again (maybe not on Tuesday morning, ha)!



The Beautiful white poinsettias on the Altar are given for the Glory of God and in memory of Oliver & Tiny Shook by The Richard Medlin Family.

Poinsettia Donations

*In Memory of Luther and Betty Lewis by David Lewis
To the Glory of God by David Lewis
In memory of Naomi Hovis by Rhonda Thrower
In Memory of Roger Hovis by Rhonda Thrower
In Honor of Chris Hovis by Rhonda Thrower
In Honor of David Hovis by Rhonda Thrower
In Memory of Randy Robinson by Mary Robinson
In Memory of Allen Campellone by Jack B. Campellone
In Memory of Bertha Campellone by Jack B. Campellone
In Honor of Allan Campellone by Jack B. Campellone
In Honor of Dan Spicozza by Jack B. Campellone
In Honor of Ray McNeely by Kaye Alexander & Chris McNeely
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. James Craig Whitley by Cathy Morris
In Memory of Christine Wallace by Cathy Morris*

Food Pantry Donations

*In memory of Bud Conley by Lois Conley
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. E.W. Conley by Lois Conley
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. E.V. Sigman by Lois Conley
In honor of my great grandchildren by Betty Hacker
In Memory of Jack Brown by Kathey Brown
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Pope by Kathey Brown
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ben N. Brown Sr. by Kathey Brown
In Memory of Stephanie Chapman by Kathey Brown
In Memory of my parents, Bill & Phyllis Hawley by Prissy Helms
In Memory of Bill Cope by Doris Cope
In Memory of Paul, Edna & Don Shook by Doris Cope
In Memory of Howard & Gladys Cope by Doris Cope*

Thank You

Doris Cope would like to thank the Martin Luther Sunday School Class for the beautiful fruit basket she got for Christmas.

Thank You

I would like to thank the Martin Luther Class for the wonderful Fruit basket and the monetary gift I received. I love and appreciate all of you.
Julie

A Message from the Council President

After reading this, I wanted to share it with you all. Perhaps you have seen it before, but it's worth reading again.

When the carols have been stilled
When the star topped the tree is taken down
When family and friends are gone home
When we are back to our schedules
THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS
To welcome the refugee
To heal a broken planet
To feed the hungry
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear
To share our gifts
To seek justice and peace for all people
To bring Christ's light to the world.

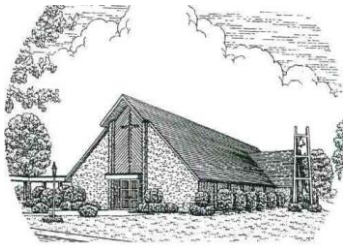
Our hope is not in the new year...But in
The One who makes all things new.

Blessings to All,
Judy Abernathy
Council President

January 2021

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

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