



September 2020

# 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.

One of the things I did in my first parish in order to celebrate Holy Communion more frequently was to move the Church's Feast Days (for example, The Feasts of *St. Michael and All Angels*, *Saints Peter and Paul*, *St. Athanasius*, etc.) to Sunday. Then, we could have an excuse to celebrate the Sacrament other than, "Well, the Pastor really wants to and he thinks it's important." That excuse may have been enough 70 years ago, but it doesn't hold as much weight as it once did.

Today, I am fortunate to not have to worry about the frequency of Holy Communion—at Christ's, as was the venerable tradition going back to the Apostles, Holy Communion is celebrated *at least* once a week and always on the Lord's Day. In having put off my old "movable-feast" ways however, The Feast of St. Mary came and went before I even knew it had. Normally, August 15<sup>th</sup> is a day on which I thank God for the witness and vocation of the Blessed Virgin. This year sadly it slipped by me. So, with that said I want to meditate upon Mary, the mother of God; the first Christian.

There are many and weighty meditations upon the Blessed Virgin that one may find in the writings of the Fathers of the Church, however, one of my favorites was penned by St. Gregory of Nyssa (one of the three Cappadocian Fathers). Saint and 4<sup>th</sup> century Bishop of Nyssa, Gregory wrote, "*What came about in bodily form in Mary, the fullness of the Godhead shining through Christ in the Blessed Virgin, takes place in a similar way in every soul that has been made pure... In this way the child Jesus is born in each of us.*"

Nestorianism (named after the Patriarch of Constantinople, Nestorius) was a heresy condemned at the Council of Ephesus in AD 431. In his error, Nestorius taught that Mary did not give birth to God, for it was not possible to give birth to divinity, rather she only gave birth to the flesh of Christ. The slogans quickly became Theotokos -vs- Christotokos (or God-bearer -vs- Christ-bearer.)



This seems like it was a rather inconsequential argument in semantics but this couldn't be farther from the truth. The orthodox position of Mary as Theotokos asserted that since Jesus was fully God, and that Mary gave birth to Jesus, that she necessarily did in fact bear God in her womb. St. Cyril of Alexandria even boldly and rightly asserted that Mary's womb became the Holy of holies where God Himself deigned to dwell. You see, if you sever the divine and human natures of Jesus in such a way that you have the Son's humanity being born of Mary but *\*not\** his divinity (as the Nestorians claimed), then you destroy the fullness of the Incarnation of God and end up with a messiah who is not fully God and fully man. This has major implications, not the least of which has to do with the salvation of the race of Adam: Can the blood of someone less than God atone for the sins of the whole world?

The earliest Christians knew that the Virgin's "yes" to bear the fullness of God in her womb and thereby impart her flesh to Him was not only the turning point in human history but also lifted up the meaning of Christian vocation. Mary's "*Behold I am the handmaiden of the Lord, be it done unto me according to Thy Word*" is the believing "yes" to the God who loves her and will use her in a singularly unique way in His plan to redeem the fallen Race of Adam.

The LORD in His mercy called Mary to be the God-bearer; the new Eve—the true mother of all the living. And the LORD's mother bore him faithfully into the world. It may be that we look at a vocation such as the Blessed Virgin's and stand in awe at the gravity of how she was called to serve. Maybe we behold what she has done and come to the conclusion that *we* could never do anything as wonderful and meaningful or be of such incredible use to God in His plan of salvation. Nonsense! You *are* the servant of the LORD. The broad vocation of every baptized son and daughter of God is the same as Mary's—to bear forth Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God into the world. We are his ambassadors. As St. Gregory of Nyssa so rightly concluded—By faith, God is born in each one of us. So much so that we can say with the Apostle that it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. There is nothing simple or plain about the vocation to which each of us have been called. We are with Mary, God-bearers. Take courage then because your work is set before you.

Your brother in Jesus, Pastor Frye+

#### **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

#### **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.

## 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: Gene Brodland (Paul Brodland's Father), Leigh Anne Faulkenberry, Vicki (Linda Griggs niece), Christine Wallace (broken hip). Please pray for the Nation and the people diagnosed with the coronavirus.

Grieving:

The Abernathy Family  
The Keefer & Cloninger Family  
The Wallace & Mahovsky Family  
The David Helms Family

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore

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

Friends and Relatives:

Diana Kingsley, Ray McNeely, Trudy Dixon, Sidney Mitchell, Harry & Wanda Murphy, Rick Martin, Luther Murphy, Everett Lineberger, Barbara Rhyne, E.C. Clippard, Donnie Miskelly, Jim Bumgardner, Devoe Casagrande, Michael Arim, Betty Coulter, Andy Abernathy, Crystal White, E.C. Clippard, Terry Throneburg, Tony Carroll, Karen Prueett, Judy Stalvey, Buddy Hodge, Betty Coulter, Andy Abernathy, E. C. Clippard, Devoe Casagrande, Crystal White, Mickey Lineberger, Ray McNeely,

## September's Birthday's

2 Chase Clippard	9 Bob Mahovsky
4 Brian Robinson	15 Lois Conley
5 Tommy Hedrick	20 Tonya McAlister
5 Steve Lineberger	23 Ann Helms
6 Patsy Lineberger	25 Prissy Helms
8 Ruth Cloninger	27 Bitsy Medlin
9 Nancy Dukes	

## September's Anniversary's

11 David & Janice Clark  
28 Donnie & Rene' Clippard

## Baptism Anniversary

1 Judy Cloninger	14 Crystyl Lewis
1 Gary Dixon	21 Kim Costner
1 Andrew Olls	22 Connie Dixon
6 Christine Wallace	23 Doris Cope
10 Paul Brodland	24 Caroline McCumbee
14 Bud Abernathy	28 Stephen Lineberger
14 Leigh Faulkenberry	

### Church Work Day

There will be a church work day on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8am. Please try to attend.

**ZOOM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 9th, 2020**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Devotions:** Pastor Frye opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Call to Order:** President Jay Human called the meeting to order.

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

**Present:** Jay Human, Crystyl Human, Emma Human, Pastor Frye, Bob Mahovsky, Judy Abernathy, Buddy Abernathy, Janice Clark, Tonya Stone, Michael Dukes, Tommy Hedrick, Leonard Lewis, Buck Helms

**Absent:** Richard Medlin, Gabe Frye

**Report of the Pastor:**

Pastor Frye asked for feedback about the online sermons. People said he needed to talk louder and that the mini services are going great.

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

**General Fund:** Michael gave the monthly general report for April

**Unfinished Business:**

- Jay gave a refresher on Governor Roy Coopers COVID-19 guidelines.
- **Property:** Leonard is working on finding a new air handling unit and is looking for an up to date quote.
- **Mutual Ministry:** Employee evaluations will be postponed a month.
- **Website Committee:** Gil Harris is the newest addition to the committee and Meredith is doing an excellent job running the Facebook page.
- **Cemetery Fund:** Bob is in the process of planning the events for Veterans Day and has secured a booth at Oktoberfest. Fire ants were destroyed prior to Bill Hawley's funeral. As of March the relationship between Stanley and our cemetery has been strengthened. The Town of Stanley sent out a resolution recognizing the new stronger bond between the cemetery and Stanley. There is a dramatic new view of how people are perceiving the Ancestry/Cemetery committee. There has also been lots of support from other Stanley churches, and there are more good things to come!

**Adjournment:**

1. The meeting was adjourned following The Lord's Prayer.

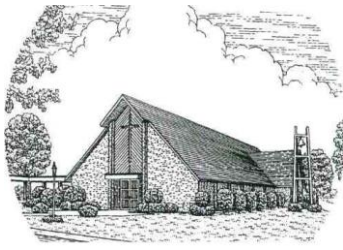
Respectfully submitted,

Emma C. Human, Secretary

# September 2020

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

## CELC Newsletter September 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