



CELC Newsletter

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

Pastor's Message

WHAT IS SO COOL ABOUT VESPERS?

The Vespers prayer office along with Matins (Morning Prayer) and Compline (Prayer at the Close of the Day) is further proof of the Christian Church's deep Jewish roots. At one time more commonly known as the "Divine Office" or "breviary," these prayers have a revered history in the Church that stretches back to Apostolic times.

In the early days of the Church, the first Christians after the Incarnation were Jewish converts (indeed, Christianity is the culmination of Judaism), and the Book of the Acts of the Apostles depicts them not only participating in the breaking of the bread, but also going to the synagogues and Temple to worship. This included traditional prayer services at the third, sixth and ninth hours of the day (our 9 o'clock in the morning, noon, and 3 o'clock in the afternoon).

Pentecost—when the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles—was at the third hour of prayer (Acts 2:15). Peter prayed on the housetop at the sixth hour (Acts 10:9). And Peter and John went to the Temple to pray at the ninth hour (Acts 3:1).

These hours of prayer were adopted by the early Christians and correspond to prayer times for what was later called the Divine Office, specifically to Terce, Sext and None, (coming from the Latin for third, sixth and ninth). But the Divine Office's major hours for prayer were morning and evening "Matins" and "Vespers"—which corresponded to the morning and evening sacrifice in the Temple. The early Christians adopted these two times which, since then, have become the Church's principal daily periods of prayer. Among the themes of Vespers is penitence and "the evening sacrifice." Psalm 140 reads, "*Let my prayer rise like incense before you, the lifting of my hands like an evening sacrifice*". I have heard many Christians marvel at the devotion of Muslims because they pray at specific hours of the day. They stole this practice from observing the Christians do it. And yet today, we would be lucky to find a Christian that prays the Our Father at least once a day.

Because of their belief that Jesus is the Messiah, the early Christians eventually were expelled from the Temple and synagogues. That was when they developed their own prayers around the same times—said individually or in common. In this way, the early Church obeyed Christ's directive to "*pray always and never lose heart*" (Lk 18.1), as well as St. Paul's exhortations to "*pray always*" (1 Thes 5.17), and "*with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired canticles to God*" (Col 3.16).

From earliest times, the Church has done exactly that—using psalms, canticles and other biblical texts. The best known of these is the prayer of Christ himself, the Our Father, which the Didache (did.dock.ay—Greek, meaning “The Instruction” and the earliest manual of the Church on worship written concurrently with and before the last book of Sacred Scripture was written), instructed the Christians to pray three times a day.

From the 2nd century until the 4th the Church’s prayer times are hard to discern largely due to the periodic destruction of documents during the persecutions. By the 4th century however, under the Roman emperor Constantine (ad. 337), practices of the faith—including communal daily prayers—became legal and thus public. The widespread persecution of Christians had ended for a time, and the faithful found themselves free to gather without fear around their bishop for what became known as the "cathedral office" of prayer.

Since the faithful had daily work and families to care for, the cathedral office was by necessity brief, consisting of perhaps a psalm, antiphon (short verse from a psalm or sentence from the Bible, for example: “*Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice*”), canticles, Scripture reading, and intercessions and if a priest were present usually a sermon. Over time the cathedral office came into disuse in the Western Church. And then our good Lutheran forefathers rediscovered their benefit to the faithful in fulfilling Christ’s command to “pray always”. The ancient forms are almost exactly what we find in the LBW and they are intended for communal use AND for the head of the household to use at home. This is the reason we used to give out hymnals to families, a tradition I wish would come back.

Our brethren almost 2000 years ago prayed in very much the same way that we do—or rather more appropriately, we pray the same way they did! When we participate in any of the Divine Offices, we join the entire Church throughout the world in its common prayer and praise of our Father in heaven, through the beautiful tradition of our Christian heritage. ***THAT*** is cool!

Your brother in Jesus, Pastor Frye+

Worship During Lent

Lenten Vespers - 7:00 March 3

Lenten Vespers - 7:00 March 10

Lenten Vespers - 7:00 March 17

Lenten Vespers - 7:00 March 24

Maundy Thursday - 7:00 April 1

Good Friday – 7:00 April 2

The Resurrection of Our Lord – April 4

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: James Bodenheimer

Home-bound Members: Gaynelle Moore

Friends and Relatives: Jack Wilson, Sherry Tindall, Ray McNeely, Faye Harper, Harry & Wanda Murphy, Rick Martin, Luther Murphy, Everett Lineberger, Donnie Miskelly, Jim Bumgardner, Betty Coulter, Andy Abernathy, Crystal White, Terry Throneburg, Tony Carroll, Buddy Hodge, Mickey Lineberger

March's Birthday's

4 Nancy Olls
18 Judy Cloninger
24 Joe Keefer
25 John Clark
28 Abigail Price
30 Ann Lineberger

March 's Anniversary's

2 Charles & Judy Ray
31 Tim & Brenda Cloninger

Baptism Anniversary

3 Nancy Olls
9 Om Carter
19 Pat Ritchie
21 Julie Robinson
24 Cindy Keefer
27 Joe Keefer
28 Ron Abernathy
29 Teresa Davis

On Sunday, January 24th Micah Alexander Moody, the son of Myles Moody and Sara Abernathy was baptized during the Divine Service. Myles is the Great Grandson of Eleanor Abernathy and Grandson of Ron Abernathy.



Things You'll Never Regret

Praying
Putting your phone down
Listening over talking
Visiting Grandma
Reading the Bible
Kindness on social media
Investing in memories over things
Not gossiping
Thankfulness over comparison
Buying lemonade from the stand

Taking the higher road
Catching fireflies with your kids
Forgiving others
Forgiving yourself
Doing that scary thing
Giving the compliment
Drinking more water
Saying "I love you"
Trusting God

Blessings to All,
Judy Abernathy, Council President

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery Committee Report, 1/10/2021

This report is filled with very good news.

First the good news.

- (1) The Stanley Cemetery Ancestry Fund has successfully conducted the Inaugural Veterans Day Celebration with keynote speaker Army Major General Abraham Turner delivering a very inspiring speech. In attendance were 141 individuals that included many veterans, and live streaming allowed another 85 households to watch the celebration.
- (2) In the bulletin that was published and distributed at the Celebration a total of 131 veterans were honored or remembered.
- (3) A total of 36 businesses financially supported the celebration.
- (4) Post celebration comments by attendees were very positive expressing the inspiration of all the speakers, the wonderfully sung patriotic music, and the overall manner in which the event was conducted.
- (5) Following the Veterans Day Celebration, the Ancestry Fund coordinated with Wreaths Across America to place a total of 200 wreaths honoring our veterans. Wreaths were placed in the Stanley Cemetery, at the O'Brien monument in Harper Park, at the Stanley Post Office Veteran Monument, at Springfield Memorial Baptist Church Cemetery, and the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church Cemetery.
- (6) The Lincoln Herald and the Belmont Banner published stories about both the Veterans Day Celebration and the Wreaths Across American ceremony. This will help to increase awareness of the Stanley Cemetery.

Report submitted by Bob Mahovsky

ANCESTRY FUND CEMETERY WORKDAY, 2-20-2021 THANK YOU TO ALL THESE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

Pictures taken by Bob Mahovsky



Stanley Cemetery

PO Box 772, Stanley, NC 28164



Ancestry Fund

(A TAX EXEMPT 501 C13 NON-PROFIT CORPORATION)



1st Quarter 2021 -- All Funds Received			
	January	February	March
General Fund - Unrestricted *	\$ 16,439.00	\$ -	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 411.34	\$ -	\$ -
Total General Fund Offering	\$ 16,850.34	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 1,054.95	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Fund Offering (Bldg & Memorials)	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Offering	\$ 18,005.29	\$ -	\$ -
* 4.5 % Benevolence to NALC			
* 5 % Given for Local Benevolence (CELC Social Ministry Programs)			

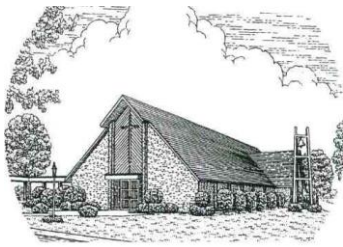
1st Quarter 2021 -- General Fund Offering vs. Expense			
	January	February	March
General Fund Offering	\$ 16,850.34	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Funds (Budget)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Fund Disbursements	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ -
Transfers to Capital Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
EXTENSION - Benevolence	\$ 1,561.71	\$ -	\$ -
EXPANSION - Mission in Community	\$ 25.95	\$ -	\$ -
GUIDANCE - Mission in Staff	\$ 11,996.26	\$ -	\$ -
MINISTRY - Worship & Word	\$ 395.24	\$ -	\$ -
DEVELOPMENT - Admin & Property	\$ 4,025.77	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER EXPENSES - Insurance, etc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General Fund Expense	\$ 18,004.93	\$ -	\$ -
All Expenses (Including DF & Transfers)	\$ 18,329.93	\$ -	\$ -
Monthly Balance	\$ (1,154.59)	\$ -	\$ -
YTD Running Balance	\$ (1,154.59)	\$ (1,154.59)	\$ (1,154.59)
Note --			



March 2021

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3 Lenten Vespers 7pm	4 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	5	6 Church Work Day 8am - 12pm
7 Divine Service 10:30pm	8	9	10 Lenten Vespers 7pm	11 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	12	13
14 Divine Service 10:30pm Church Council Meeting 6pm	15	16	17 Lenten Vespers 7pm	18 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	19	20
21 Divine Service 10:30pm	22	23	24 Lenten Vespers 7pm	25 Food Pantry 11am- 12:30pm	26	27
28  Divine Service 10:30pm	29	30	31	April 1 st Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	April 2 nd Good Friday Service 7pm	

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