

E-LIFE NEWS

EVERLASTING LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



WEEKLY SERVICES

- SUNDAY 10:00 A.M.
(VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON BY REGISTRATION ONLY)
- MONDAY 7:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM
- WEDNESDAY WORD 12:00 P.M.
- THURSDAY 8:45 AM WOMAN TO WOMAN BIBLE STUDY—CONFERENCE CALL

ABOUT US

EVERLASTING LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAS BIRTHED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 AS A SMALL CONFERENCE CALL BIBLE STUDY. IT QUICKLY GREW FROM LOCAL PARTICIPANTS TO STATE-WIDE, AND EVENTUALLY COUNTRY WIDE CALLERS. A DECISION WAS MADE IN JANUARY 2011 TO MOVE FORWARD IN MINISTRY AND BEGIN OFFICIAL INCORPORATION AND TAX-EXEMPT STATUS AS A CHURCH UNDER FEDERAL AND NC STATE LAW.

EVERLASTING LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (ELCC) DERIVES ITS NAME FROM JOHN 4:14 AND ROMANS 6:22. BOTH VERSES SPEAK OF AN ETERNAL LIFE AWAITING ALL THOSE WHO WALK IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LIVE ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD UNTIL JESUS CHRIST RETURNS.

MISSION OF ELCC

Our mission is to train, teach and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those in our community through outreach and love according to Mark 16:15-18. This involves ministry to the whole person – body, mind and spirit.

Q: Why a newsletter?

A: To keep you, leaders, members, and donors, informed on events, to encourage you, and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

“AND JESUS CAME AND SAID TO THEM, ‘ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.’”

MATTHEW 28:18

“PRAY ALWAYS. PRAY CONTINUALLY.”

- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-17 NIV

THIS EDITION INCLUDES:

- * Winter Meal Distribution Details - November & December 2023
- * Info about Scholarship Application & the Saturday Men’s Discussion
- * Announcements & Videos
- * Reflections: ‘Proceed with Caution’ - Notes from Elect Lady Cyntria Lyons
- * Pastors Word of Encouragement & State of the Ministry

PRAYER REQUEST—MESSAGE US!

As this year gradually comes to an end, we appreciate your prayers and support. Let us know how we can pray for you. We know God hears every prayer.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“MAY GOD BE GRACIOUS TO YOU AND BLESS YOU AND MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU.”
PSALM 67:1

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

CURRENTLY LIVE! APPLY NOW!

Do you know a student, (high school senior or college), who would benefit from a monetary blessing? If you don't, please help us find one! The application is accessible via our website: [Scholarship Application—Form](#). For a more detailed view of how to apply, here is a video you can share, [ELCC Scholarship Application Video](#).

We understand the hard work and dedication required to maintain success. We also know the financial burden that college can cause. Our hope is to plant a seed in good ground. First step, is informing students there is help.

To be able to provide monetary support to students working towards their academic goals is a great opportunity. We encourage and welcome you to be a part of this community service!

“BEHOLD, HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASANT IT IS FOR BRETHREN TO DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY!”

- PSALM 133:1

MEN SATURDAY DISCUSSION

ELCC Men—Bi-Weekly Discussion—Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom

The men of ELCC have participated with the Lion & Lamb Men's Discussion Group over the past several months.

To join this discussion group, as they address many relevant topics that men are faced with and identifying Biblical tactics to overcome, **SIGN UP!** Go to the homepage, scroll down, and complete the form pictured TO THE RIGHT.

We want men to know you're not alone. Many of your fellow brothers have similar challenges and can offer prayer, encouragement, and support.

(Please note: This is not a replacement for professional counseling services.)

Men's Bible Study Sign Up

The men of ELCC participate in a Bible Study every other Saturday morning. Please enter your contact information if you would like more information.

* Full Name

* Email Address

Message

Message



MEAL BOXES

“WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US.”

1 JOHN 4:19

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR WORKING TOGETHER TO SERVE FAMILIES!

Thank you to each member, volunteer, business, family, and friends who made our two service days a success!

We received many messages from families expressing their gratitude for the meals and gifts. They shared pictures of their children opening gifts and thankful for the meals they were able to prepare. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we were able to serve over 30 families.

Sincere thanks to the businesses in Fuquay Varina that teamed with us, Food Lion, Staples, and Harris Teeter. We also spoke to other business owners who want to contribute throughout the year as we serve. April will be our next service month.

If you would like to contribute to our meal boxes and family services,

>>> Join Us In the Mission! <<<

“LET US HOLD TIGHTLY WITHOUT WAVERING TO THE HOPE WE AFFIRM, FOR GOD CAN BE TRUSTED TO KEEP HIS PROMISE.”

- HEBREWS 10:23



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“MAY GOD BE GRACIOUS TO YOU AND
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PSALM 67:1

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children’s Bible Study—Mondays at 6:30 pm

Easter Meal Distribution— The week of March 17-24

School Supply Distribution—Fall 2024—Date to be determined

Video—Bible Reading by Micah—Child Reading the Bible

Video of Overseer Aileen Lyons—Message of Focused on Jesus (First of many of ELCC ministers sharing a message this quarter.)

***** Ministers of ELCC shared a ‘7 Minute Message’ on 12/31 morning service. Included in this edition, from Minister Cyntria Lyons, Elect Lady, notes entitled ‘Proceed with Caution’. What a great time in the Word!**

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS—SONG BY HELEN H. LEMMEL

O soul are you weary and troubled
No light in the darkness you see
There's light for a look at the Savior
And life more abundant and free

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace

His word shall not fail you he promised
Believe him and all will be well
Then go to a world that is dying
His perfect salvation to tell

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REFLECTIONS

CONTINUED

"EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

PROCEED WITH CAUTION—MINISTER CYNTRIA LYONS

1. God is still the same. We've changed. The year has changed.
2. We must be prepared for anything. Stay on guard. Be alert. Watch & pray.
3. We are closing our eyes to so much, but God is still watching.
4. We are entering a season of prayer and uncovering.
 - A. Those that talk to Him regularly won't be shocked.

Romans 12:12 NIV "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
5. More churches will close this year.
 - Some leaders have placed the burden of pastoring on themselves.
 - They haven't been called, they're simply captivating
 - People love a show.
 - The tides are turning. People are about to start longing for the "truth."
 - They're neglecting the responsibilities of the pastor:
 - Shepherding the flock
 - Teaching and preaching the Word of God
 - Providing spiritual guidance
 - Caring for the needs of the congregation
6. Don't eat at everyone's table.
 - A. He Gave them pastors after "His" heart
 - B. Your leader will know what to feed you.
 1. Some leaders aren't qualified to feed the people.
 2. You can't scale and debone the fish (the Word of God) before serving it. Otherwise it takes away the sting and the stab of conviction that the Word provides.
 3. The flip side of that is that you have babes in Christ that can't handle the bones, so you will have to debone, break down, have Bible Studies and Bible classes, check on them, see about them.
 4. Folks are dying spiritually from choking on the little bones.
 5. Leaders must do more than "Preach and jump around."
7. Note to the pews: If you have a problem with your leader(s) knowing what's going on in your life, find a new ministry.
 - A. Don't sit under people you can't trust
8. Leaders, you cannot create your own rendition of the word, "just for your people."
 - A. Then they're only equipped to fight the battles created in your respective church.
9. Satan's not going to stop.
 - A. He knows what his job is.
 - B. As the church, we have to make sure we're not helping him.
10. Love everyone (not just in Word, but in deed)
 - A. Churches are full of everything but love.
 - B. The love of God must be felt coming through the door of the church.
 1. The world is so void of "real love." When people come to the church, they want to feel something genuine and different from what they experience in the world.

PLEASE READ: Galatians 6:10 KJV—Isaiah 40:29-31 KJV— Psalm 103 KJV—Psalm 34:17

HIGHLIGHTS:

Genuine love doesn't require that we compromise what we teach or believe.

Remember, sometimes people need to be "taught" how to be loved (ie., the abused).

Don't give your enemy time to recover! God has already taken care of what's before you. Be on time in the assignment!

Some of us feel like we just made it out of 2023, but by God's grace and His will, we will begin 2024 in about 14 hours.

Let us re-up! Refuel! Revive! Regenerate! Renew! Recommit



PASTOR WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT & STATE OF THE MINISTRY - PASTOR STEPHEN & CYNTRIA LYONS

Welcome to the New Year – 2024! God brought us through 2023 and has allowed us to see a brand new year. What does God have in store for you this year? I don't know exactly, but God knows and it's up to you to remain faithful and focused, so you know. What I do know is that God's plan is perfect and that what He has in store for us this year is good and it's better than our past.

I started this year with the message "Maintaining the Right Perspective: Going Through Hard Times with Him." James wrote in **James 1:3 & 4**, "For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing." Our faith will be tested this year, but James reminds us that when our faith is tested it's given the opportunity to grow. We'll never go through trials in life without also gaining access to opportunities. Anytime you go through, tell yourself there must also be an opportunity in this. Ask God to open your eyes to see the opportunity in the midst of what you're going through.

Test and trials in our lives help mature us and develop us into the masterpieces God created us to be. **Ephesians 2:10** reads, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." We have been uniquely created and positioned by God to fulfill the plan and purpose of God. So, anytime you find yourself going through, remind yourself, "I've been uniquely and especially created by God to go through this. He has strategically placed me where I am for His divine purpose and to fulfil His divine will. If He created me for this than I will get through this."

Saints of God, this is not the time to lose focus or to walk around with the wrong perspective. The wrong focus and perspective cause us to waste time and fall behind. Get up and get to moving in 2024!

For 2024 we will continue raising funds towards our building campaign. Thank you to all those who made and paid pledges in 2023. We received an initial 2023 pledge amount of \$5,800, but we ended up raising \$6,700 in pledges (\$900 over our pledge amount). We still need to raise and put down \$150,000 in cash to secure our building loan. We are currently at \$60,000. This means we need to raise \$90,000. We have a long way to go, but we also have a pathway to get there. In March we will kick-off our 2024 Pledge Campaign. This Pledge Campaign will run through **October 1, 2024**. We hope you will consider making a pledge.

We also welcome personal loans that individuals would like to make towards our building goal. If you're interested in lending ELCC funds especially for our building project, please reach out to us. All loans will be documented and notarized.

So, where are we in the building process? Below is a tentative building project timeline. Dates are estimated target dates and may change. I will update the timeline accordingly in our quarterly newsletters.



PASTOR WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT & STATE OF THE MINISTRY - PASTOR STEPHEN & CYNTRIA LYONS

Milestone	Responsible(s)	Target Date	Status
Obtain well permit	Architect	March 15, 2024	Outstanding
Final approval of site permit	Town of Fuquay-Varina	April 15, 2024	Outstanding
Submit application & drawings for building per-	Architect	April 30, 2024	Outstanding
Building application and drawings reviewed and	Town of Fuquay-Varina	June 30, 2024	Outstanding
Apply for construction permit	Architect	August 1, 2024	Outstanding
Construction permit reviewed and approved	Town of Fuquay-Varina	September 30, 2024	Outstanding
Execute construction contract with Builder	Cornerstone Builders & ELCC	October 30, 2024	Outstanding
Obtain building loan approval	Pastor & Lender	November 30, 2023	Outstanding
Complete pre-construction steps and process	Cornerstone Builders & ELCC	December 31, 2024	Outstanding
Building construction begins (6-8 month process)	Cornerstone Builders	January 31, 2025	Outstanding
Building construction ends (6-8 month process)	Cornerstone Builders	August 31, 2025	Outstanding

In addition to raising funds for our building campaign, we plan to give back to our community by participating in several holiday meal programs and offering our Christmas Gifts Program again this year. Your help is needed to ensure our outreach is a success. Our first meal distribution will take place around Resurrection Sunday (March 31). If you are interested in contributing to these programs, please note this when you give. If you're interested in volunteering for any of these programs, please let us know.

Use the donation options on our website to give. Any and all donation amounts are welcomed and appreciated. Please let us know if you'd like a tax donation letter for 2023. Tax contribution letters will only be provided upon request.

Join us on **Sunday, February 25** for our **Annual Church Meeting**. More details will be provided on our building project and plans for 2024.

Thank you for helping us make 2023 a success. Now on to 2024 and making the best of what God has in store for us!

PRAYER FOR THIS SEASON—NEW YEAR!

Thank you Lord for your grace and your mercy as we embark on another year! We have many plans, many hopeful aspirations to achieve this year. But dear Lord, we want You to be our guide. Where ever you lead us, may we walk boldly the path set before us, with assurance that You will be with us every step of the way. Even when we feel like we are alone, You will be with us. May your peace, joy, and love flow in our speech and our actions, and fill our homes, our places of work, and our schools. May we remain humble, knowing that we need You Lord. Many things in our life may change, but God, You remain the same. May our faith not waiver, our strength endure, and our hope in your remain steadfast. You are absolutely amazing and each breath we take is a blessing. Help us learn to be content and trust You even more, with our mustard seed of faith. Selah.

