

# 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

## PLEDGES—ACCEPTED THROUGH JANUARY 31

### Pledges were made in 2022!

Thank you to donors who made pledges and those who have made their full pledge amount. We are thankful for your faithful support!

ELCC LAND >>>>>

Stay tuned for details for the NEXT  
Land Event 2023!



# REFLECTIONS

“FOR WITH GOD NOTHING  
SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE. “

LUKE 1:37 KJV

## IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD —MONDAY MANNA, OVERSEER AILEEN LYONS

Philippians 2:5-9 KJV 5 this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Our mind should be humble and willing to walk in obedience to the Word of God. Jesus, our example, took the humble position as servant and was obedient unto death for the sake of others.

Christ “thought it not robbery to be equal with God” (7) means He let go of His privileges and glory as deity in heaven so that we might be saved.

## FAITH —SUBMITTED BY STERLING PORTER, II

### Faith Child Weekly Devotional Link

Having faith like a child is no easy feat. In Matthew 18, Jesus tells us “whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Having faith like a child requires putting aside our will. This way our opinions and misconceptions do not get in the way of trusting Christ wholeheartedly. We have to admit that we do not always know what is best and humble ourselves, which can be a challenge.

Having faith like a child means we should have confidence in the promises of Christ and faith even in situations where we cannot see.

Children often have very little control over their own lives. Yet, in healthy circumstances, children embrace the fact that they have to put their trust in other people.

“I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.”

Ecclesiastes 9:11 NIV

“THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.”

JOHN 1:5 NIV



Fuquay Varina Parade Dec 2022 —ELCC



# REFLECTIONS

“ENDEAVOURING TO KEEP THE UNITY  
OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF  
PEACE.”  
- EPHESIANS 4:3

## POTENTIAL OR PURPOSE? —BY MINISTER DALLAS LYONS, III

Empty, yet full. Alone, yet known. Free, yet restrained.

“To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.” - 1 Corinthians 9:22 (KJV)

**It's not about POTENTIAL, it's about PURPOSE.**

If Jesus Christ lived up to His POTENTIAL, think about how different His life would've been. He was GOD in the flesh!

We should strive to reach our PURPOSE and not our POTENTIAL, if we seek to follow the blueprint Jesus set.

## SERVICE SKETCH

### Encourage

Encouraging a child to get involved in the service, using their gifts, is very important to their spiritual growth. Doing so will also help them understand their contribution to the ministry, help us see their perspective, and how they want to serve. ELCC Children are encouraged to sing, take notes, and participate with call and response. Their ability to understand the Word (Bible) and how to relate it to their daily life is a great asset for them and the church body.



(Pastor Stephen Lyons Sermon Entitled “Real Life Adversity”—by Serena Porter)

“LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH; WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND IS SET DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.”

- HEBREWS 12:2

## PRAYER FOR THIS SEASON

*Thank you Lord for your mercy and grace as enter this new year. We believe you are all-knowing. We are not. Our desire is for You to order our steps. As we are led by You, although we may not always understand or know the reason, continue to confirm that we are being led by You. Confirm it in Your Word, through our conversation, in dreams, however we may receive. At times when we get distracted, please redirect our focus back on You. You never fail. As long as our eyes remain on You, there is no doubt, all things will work for our good. In this time, in this season, give us wisdom to know when it's time to prune, reap, and/or sow. With all things, we give You thanks.*

*Amen!*





# PASTOR WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT & STATE OF THE MINISTRY

## PASTOR STEPHEN LYONS



HAPPY NEW YEAR Saints of God! Out with the old...in with the new, new, new!

2022 was a fruitful and productive year for ELCC. Thanks to our Leadership Team and congregation, we ended the year on a high note! One accomplishment I'm super proud of is the local family of 5 we adopted for Christmas. Within a week of adopting the family we were able to get them everything on their wish list and more. What really touched me is when we asked the mother what she wanted for Christmas she said, "I just want to be saved." I am pleased to share; she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and has connected with a local Body of Believers. We have committed to staying in touch with the family and helping in any way we can. Thank you to Minister Carrie Wilson and Evangelist Sophia Bouknight for leading this charge and organizing the meet-up with the family; and to all the Saints who contributed to this Outreach effort.

In August 2022 we began a 6-month pledge to help us more quickly reach our \$100,000 Building Fund Goal. Our goal was to raise an additional \$8,000 on top of what we normally take in during this same period. I'm pleased to say that as of end of December, we surpassed this goal and still have one more month left to go. We will know our final tally once all pledges are received. If you didn't participate in our 2022 pledge, no worries, we will begin a new Pledge Drive in March that will run until end of August. We invite you to join us in this Pledge Drive as we work towards our year-end goal of \$65,000. Whether you make a pledge or not, we encourage you to sow into ELCC's ground. Your liberal, tax deductible giving, ensures the ministry continues to operate and fulfill the will of God.

Our next Leadership Meeting will be Sunday, February 5 @ 11:30am. I'm asking all Ministers, Elders, Deacons, and Overseer to attend. Our Annual Church Meeting will be held Sunday, February 19 at 11:30am. Attendance will be in person, but virtual attendance is available via Zoom for either of these meetings. If you'd like to attend virtually and do not have our Zoom credentials, please let us know so we can get the information to you. Join us at our Annual Church Meeting to learn more about our 2022 Accomplishments, Current Year Plans and Goals, and Future Plans and Goals (you do not have to be a member to join us).

On Tuesday, January 24 our Engineer will present our Site Plan to the Town of Fuquay-Varina in a Pre-submittal Meeting. The Committee attending this meeting will review the plan and provide comments on it. The goal of this meeting is to obtain the Committee's approval on the plan so we can submit it to the Town Board for formal approval. We're believing God that by the end of this quarter we'll have our site plans approved so we can move forward with our building plan approval.

Here's a quick look at our 2023 Church Goals:

- Obtain Site Plan Permit – Town of Fuquay-Varina Board Approval
- Obtain Building Permit – Town of Fuquay-Varina Board Approval
- Reach Building Fund Goal of \$65,000
- Obtain Building Loan

We invite you to be a part of the wonderful things God is doing at Everlasting Life Christian Church. As we begin this new year, I start it as I ended 2022. In the words of Paul to the Thessalonians remember – "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thess. 5:18)."

May we praise God even harder this year. Thank Him even more, and commune with Him more frequently in 2023. Until the next time, take care and God bless you!

