

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

THIS EDITION INCLUDES:

- * The impact of your donations!
- * Scholarship Details & Recent 2023 Event
- * Info about Saturday Men’s Discussion
- * Biblical Reflections
- * Updates on ELCC building Progress & Goals (Pastors Word of Encouragement & State of the Ministry)

“PRAY ALWAYS. PRAY CONTINUALLY.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-17 NIV

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 and your family. 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—SPREAD THE NEWS!

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! ELCC Scholarship Committee will have the application available soon! The application will be accessible via elchristianchurch.com. For a more detailed view of how to apply, here is a video you can share once the application is LIVE— [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.

"WHO IS LIKE THEE, O LORD, AMONG THE GODS? WHO IS LIKE THEE, GLORIOUS IN HOLINESS, FEARFUL IN PRAISES, DOING WONDERS?"

- EXODUS 15:11

MEN'S SATURDAY DISCUSSION

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

"How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!"

PSALM 133:1 NLT

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.)

The article in the REFLECTIONS section, entitled "Discontentment", includes notes from the most recent session.

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



SCHOLARSHIP

“AND WE HAVE SEEN AND TESTIFY THAT THE FATHER HAS SENT HIS SON TO BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.”

1 JOHN 4:14

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DEAR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT!

The Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony was held Saturday, July 22, 2023. ELCC Scholarship Committee acknowledged the accomplishments of each child in attendance to this year's ELCC Scholarship event. Family and friends shared details of awards received during the previous school year and current summer activities. The Scholarship Committee member, Minister Carrie Wilson, awarded each with their own award and word of encouragement, handmade by her and her grandson. Thank you for acknowledging each child.

Our scholarship recipient, Blake Jones, has shown great dedication to his education, and overall growth. He has traveled, gaining much wisdom and insight throughout his college experience. One thing he has not abandoned is his faith in God. He took a moment to remind the youth of ELCC to listen to their parents and maintain their relationship with God by communicating with Him often.

We are truly thankful for the opportunity to share how your donations are making an impact in, not only this college student, but the impact to generations to follow. Your donation is more than monetary. Donations are an extension of God's blessings that overflow in ways that we can not begin to imagine. **Join Us In the Mission!** Thanks.



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

- HEBREWS 10:23



2023

Moments captured.



REFLECTIONS

"THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE THESE PROMISES, DEAR FRIENDS, LET US PURIFY OURSELVES FROM EVERYTHING THAT CONTAMINATES BODY AND SPIRIT, PERFECTING HOLINESS OUT OF REVERENCE FOR GOD."

1 CORINTHIANS 7:1

DISCONTENTMENT—STERLING PORTER II, CPA

Discontent is a manifestation of pride. It flows from a heart that says, "I deserve better than God has given me." This was the original sin of Satan himself. Pride led some angels to say, "We deserve better than God has given to us!" God gave them positions of authority, but they were not content. They are not content now. They never will be. Thomas Boston says, "The devil is the proudest creature and the most discontented because pride and discontent lodge under one roof."

Alan Redpath says, "There is nothing—no circumstance, no trouble, no testing—that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with a great purpose, which I may not understand at the moment. I refuse to panic. And as I lift up my eyes to him...no circumstance will cause me to fret, for I shall rest in the joy of what my Lord is—that is the rest of victory!"

(NIV, unless otherwise stated) Jude 6 - And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jude 16 - These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. (NLT says grumblers and complainers).

Revelation 9:11 - Their king is the angel from the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon—the Destroyer. (NLT) NIV calls the bottomless pit the Abyss. A bottomless pit is a symbol of discontentment. The Devil is looking to pull as many people as possible into the Abyss but will never be satisfied.

Proverbs 27:20 - Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes.

The whole book of Ecclesiastes is about contentment in God. King Solomon, the richest and wisest man to ever live, noted all he gained was vanity (Hebrew word "hevel" which means like a vapor or smoke). He doesn't say success is bad, but recognizes its true worth compared to God. **1 Thess 5:18** - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Another scripture that is often taken out of context for selfish ambition:

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

What is the power working within us:

Ephesians 1:18-20 - 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

In both Ephesians 3:20 and Ephesians 1:19-20, Paul's prayer is that we can grasp just how powerful God is. That power works within us. But does it work within us to pursue what we want, or what God wants?

Psalms 37:4 says "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." If we take our delight in the Lord, then our desires will be for the things that please Him. Thus, our own selfish ambitions will take a back seat. What Paul is trying to show is that when we trust God he can do exceedingly and abundantly above what we could ask or think so that it's no question who gets the glory. To accomplish God's will, Jesus made it clear:

John 15:5 - 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

I honestly believe that many things we hope for won't come until we learn how to be content with what we have.



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

WHO AM I? WHY WAS I BORN? – OVERSEER AILEEN LYONS

"And God said, Let us make man in our image after our likeness. 27- So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."

Genesis 1:26a-27

Identity: the condition of being oneself and not another; character as to who a person is; qualities, beliefs; the sense of self; the individual characteristics by which a person is recognized.

If we do not know our identity:

- We will allow others to give us an identity.
- We will travel in the wrong direction and eventually come to a dead-end.
- We will become frustrated, aggravated, confused, depressed and every other spirit that attaches itself to us.
- Some become suicidal because of inward struggles.
- Living in the shadow of others is misery.

Truths:

- Nobody can tell or show us who we are except our Creator.
- Therefore, to know our identity, we must connect with our Creator.
- To know our Creator, we must seek Him in spirit and truth.
- Our truth identity is spiritual because our Creator is a Spiritual being.
- We were in Him before we were formed in our mother's womb.
- We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

***** Tune in to the first quarter 2024 E-Life News for additional notes.*****

PRAYER FOR THIS SEASON

Lord, we have read Your Word. We have trusted in Your promises. We will not lose sight of who You are or what You have spoken. You have answered so many prayers, in Your timing. Thank You for your faithfulness! May we remember all You have spoken and not lose heart because of where we are or what we see. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11). In due time, You will reveal what is needed. You are God, not restricted by time, always on purpose (Psalm 57:2). We have come this far by faith, leaning on You. Lord! Through sickness, health, storm, drought, in times of plenty and in times of want, we look to You (Psalm 139). In You, we find comfort, peace, and direction. We do not always understand the path we travel, but we press on! You have proven Yourself faithful time and time again! We welcome You Holy Spirit! Sweep through our schools! Sweep through our homes! Sweep through our jobs! Touch the hearts and minds of our leaders. Have your way! Thank You for the doors You have opened. Thank You for the doors You have closed. Thank You for being the Way! (John 14) Continue to be our Way, our Truth, our Life. Let us not be distracted by what we see, because You sit high and look low (Psalm 138:6). May we find freedom in You, now, right where we are (John 8:36). So, as we go into the next season, firmly planted in You, we will freely and boldly proclaim Your Word, confidently knowing You are with us! Shalom & Amen.



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

We have reached the last quarter of 2023. I thank God for bringing us this far and to this point. We started the year off talking about the importance of the Word of God in our lives and applying it to our walk; then took a look at what it means to become the righteousness of God and a disciple of Christ. Half-way through the year we studied all the post resurrection appearances of Jesus (10 total) and begin a study on spiritual warfare and fighting the good fight of faith. We're ending the year with a study on giving, stewardship, sanctification, and the importance of putting our complete faith and trust in Christ during and throughout the process. There's several other lessons and topics we talked about and learned about in 2023. I just can't name them all, but you catch the replay at any time on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#)!

Not only was this a year of going deeper in the word of God, but we also continued to aggressively raise funds towards our building campaign. Thank you to all those who made pledges, met their pledges, and continue to give and support the vision of ELCC. Your liberal and generous giving allowed us to reach 65% goal attainment (at the writing of this article). Our goal is to be at \$65,000 in the building fund by end of January 2024. It's not too late to pledge or give towards our vision. Use the [options on our website](#) to give. Any and all donation amounts are welcomed and appreciated. **Please let us know before the end of January 2024 if you'd like a tax donation letter for 2023.** Our goal is to have all tax letters sent to you by January 31, but they will only be sent **upon your request.**

So, where are we in the building process? Below is a tentative step plan in order of milestone and estimated target dates for the next 7 months. This schedule is liable to change and will be updated accordingly in our 2024 quarterly newsletters.

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

We plan to help at least one family in our community before the year is out. We have reached out to Wake County Human Services Operations for assistance in connecting us with the right family. Please keep us in prayer as we endeavor to be a light and voice in our community.

Thank you for helping us make 2023 a success and ending it on a high note. We believe God has remarkable things in store for His Body and everyone connected to it. Keep praying, keep believing, and keep working for the Lord. I know it'll all pay off after while!

