

Christ Lutheran Church, Inc., of Englewood, Florida
701 North Indiana avenue
Englewood, FL 34223

Church office 941-474-1989
E-mail: office@christlutheranfleng.org
Website: www.christlutheranfleng.com

CLC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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January, 2023

Two years ago I shared the story of two young boys who raced outdoors to enjoy the first heavy snowfall of the season. They threw snowballs, made a snowman, and happily screamed as they rode their sleds down the hills between the wooded groves. They suddenly arrived at the edge of a large freshly covered field. One boy challenged the other, "Let's see who can make the straightest tracks across that field!" They began their journey across the trackless expanse. When they reached the other side, they observed that the track lines were different. One line was almost perfectly straight and the other zigzagged crazily. The zigzagger asked the other, "Why are your tracks so straight while mine are so crooked?" His friend answered, "It's simple. I picked out a post on the other side of the field and kept my eyes on it, always walking straight toward it."

Those with well-defined goals in life walk purposely and tend to achieve more while those who establish no goals tend to leave behind an ill-defined legacy. The beginning of a new year gives us reason to ponder: "Is human history a zigzagged affair or is it haphazard? Has God directed a well-choreographed history of Earth or have the millennia of events preceding this moment been zigzagged and dependent upon non-God orchestrated 'survival of the fittest' principles?" Those who subscribe to the "straight line" theory tend to favor a God as architect of the universe perspective and see the last hundred years as a century of human progress starring Edison, Einstein, Karl Barth, and Martin Luther King. Those who see history as coincidental and accidental see a history that fortuitously but accidentally produced human existence. They are therefore not surprised that millions have died as the result of war and personages like Hitler, Stalin, Hussein, and Putin have made their bestial contributions.

But we religious folk tend to think positively. We accentuate the positive. The world in which we live is a product of evolution perhaps, but evolution guided by a loving and conscientious deity. The years have been good to us and the coming years will bring more of the same.

But I think we would all agree that the year 2022 brought mixed blessings. It seems that COVID-19 has finally been essentially conquered but respiratory diseases are on the uprise and inflation and the illegal and brutal invasion of Ukraine are more than disturbing. Thanks to Hurricane Ian, many folks at Christ Lutheran have had to scramble literally and financially to put the damage behind them. We at CLC are also scratching our heads to figure out how to pay for the recovery process. But it has turned out that not all is lost. Thanks to Bob Cosler and Steve Nielsen, our plan for recovery is well underway. Thanks to Allen Dreyfuss, our newly resurrected sanctuary will feature a beautiful digital/pipe organ. God will continue to provide. We have much to look forward to in 2023. The Lord has sent a talented new organist, Shawn Marren, to tickle the ivories and Pastor Linda Fernandez has retired in our community and has offered to help us out. Already, she has initiated the formation of a new women's circle. Many members (those from the past and new members) have stepped up to bat.

The Biblical prophetic utterances (i.e., Isaiah 53, Haggai 2, and Ezekiel 48) encourage us. John of Revelation sees "...the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, like a bride adorned for her husband." (21:2) One of my favorite teachers, Helmut Thielicke ("The Silence of God"), taught that, "in spite of all appearances to the contrary, God still has a plan for this bankrupt world. He still has something in store for it. He still wants this world as a theater for His grace and glorious direction." We do not fear the future. In faith we walk. We make straight lines of tracks in the snow (or sand) because we see the goal ahead of us. In spite of everything, we move confidently forward to a world waiting for us.

Happy New Year! Your fellow traveler on the road to the future, Ken Lentz

Music and Worship

The Music and Worship Committee did not meet in Dec. However, all Advent and Christmas preparations were readied. The beautiful Advent Wreath was lighted each Sunday.



The Sanctuary was adorned for Christmas on Dec. 11th with the help of many volunteers, and a beautiful mural was erected outside in front of the church for the first time in many years thanks to many working hands.



Priscilla Fullerton presented her second beautiful Christmas Piano concert on Dec 18th followed by a lovely reception on the patio with a celebratory cake. Proceeds for the concert were donated to the Recovery Fund

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service took place this year at 7PM, and a Christmas Day service was offered at 9:30 ^{A.M.}



There will be no M/W Committee in January. The next M/W will be February 1st at 1:00 ^{PM} in the office.

*Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*

BLOOPERS.



we all love them :)

- ☺ An announcement in a church bulletin for a National Prayer & Fasting Conference: “The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals.”
- ☺ Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say “hell” to someone who doesn’t care much about you.
- ☺ The agenda was adopted. . . . the minutes were approved . . . the financial secretary gave a grief report.
- ☺ The ‘Over 60s Choir’ will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.
- ☺ Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 p.m. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- ☺ The eighth grade will be presenting Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” in the church basement on Friday at 7 ^{pm}. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND



“CAROLS and POINSETTIAS”

On the Monday before Christmas, several members visited our Homebound members to share some cheer. We car pooled from church. At each visit, we sang a couple of familiar carols, presented a poinsettia and Christmas card. It was a JOYFUL time!

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

THANK YOU for all the food and personal care items donated and lovingly placed in our “Little Red Wagon” on Sunday. Please see or call Carol Rice (941-475-1017) if you would like to volunteer with Englewood Helping Hand. The 2023 rotation of churches is not published, yet.



FAMILY PROMISE of SOUTH SARASOTA COUNTY

Family Promise actively cares for homeless families by providing shelter and meals, a week at a time in partnership with area churches. Whenever families are “at home” at Englewood United Methodist Church, Christ Lutheran, helps as a support congregation. We assist with meals, pantry items and hosting duties. If you would like to learn more about Family Promise or would like to assist in the future, please talk with Carol Rice or Ellen Novotny. Also, check out the Family Promise website: info@familypromisessc.org

QUILTING AND KNITTING

Please join us for a time of Christian fellowship and service, no skills' necessary. Our Christ Lutheran Comfort Quilters and Knitters gather in the Fellowship Hall the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, from 9-Noon. All willing hands and hearts are welcome. Quilt and Prayer Shawl Blessing Sunday is scheduled for January 29th.



KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD

A big THANK YOU to ALL for the SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, SWEATSHIRTS AND JACKETS donated to KIDS' NEEDS. These gifts show our care and compassion for local children and families who are struggling to make ends meet.



THRIVENT

Are you a Thrivent member? Please remember to direct your Choice Dollars each quarter. Christ Lutheran would feel blessed to receive these gifts. Also, consider applying for a Thrivent Action Grant (value of \$250) to support a special project for our church and/or the community. Need a project idea? The Outreach Ministry Team will help.

THE TROSHUK FAMILY FROM UKRAINE

THANK YOU! The Troshuk family is grateful for all the LOVE, CARE, and GENEROSITY and for welcoming them to their new home in the USA. On Sunday, December 18, the Troshuk family sang at our worship service. Please continue to pray for them and for PEACE for the people of Ukraine. AMEN!



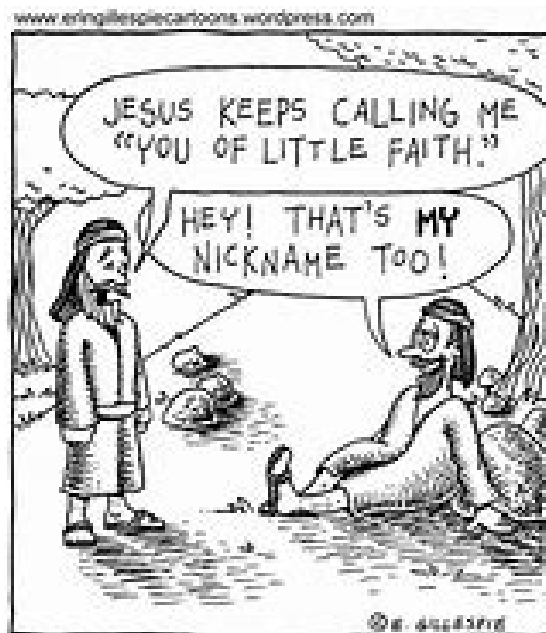
Let us also pray together for recovery from the destruction and displacements caused by hurricane Ian. May God's love and care surround us and spread through us. AMEN!



*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, January 12th at 11am. All are welcome on our team. Please share your ideas for reaching out into our community with Christ's love.

Peace and Joy!

Carol Rice for the Outreach Ministry Team





Recover, Renew, Rejoice

Recovery from the devastation of hurricane Ian is proceeding, but at a painfully slow pace. Our buildings have suffered recurring damage from high winds and driving rain which has complicated the process of obtaining accurate estimates of repair. However, two estimates have been received and are being reviewed and compared for completeness, accuracy, and competitiveness.

Samples of materials, including carpet, paint and fabric samples are being prepared for review by the property committee and council. We hope to display presentation boards in the narthex soon.

The property committee, led ably by Steve Nielsen has saved the church lots of money by sawing up the three massive trees that were blown over in the storm. Removal of the debris may take a bit longer. Steve also arranged for repair of the window in the ladies' restroom of the fellowship hall.

Our sign will likely be repaired temporarily but not straightened. Our insurer has reimbursed us for replacement cost, and we have obtained two bids for this service. We are delaying the replacement until we have greater confidence that Sarasota County will not be changing the building codes as a result of Ian.

Our roof will be replaced beginning after the first of the year. A Notice of Commencement has been filed and building permit was obtained. Fraser Roofing will have a large crew on site in January to get the job done quickly and competently.

Thanks to all those who have donated to the recovery fund. We will recover and renew and then rejoice. In the interim, please prayerfully consider a year-end donation to the recovery fund.

Yours in Christ,
Bob Cosler



CLC Council Highlights, December 2022

It has been quite a year for Christ Lutheran Church!

- ⌘ We are grateful that our congregation continues to grow with new members joining and our winter residents returning.
- ⌘ Community groups using CLC's Fellowship Hall have made generous contributions to support such things as sponsorship of a Ukranian family.
- ⌘ The congregation has voted to support two major fund-raisers:
 1. The Organ Fund for the purchase of a hybrid pipe/electronic organ (special thanks to an individual donor)
 2. Hurricane Recovery Fund to pay for the restoration of our church and outbuildings.
- ⌘ Although CLC has insurance, there are deductibles to be met and damage far exceeds the insurance limits.
- ⌘ Special thanks to Bob Cosler for hours of research regarding FEMA, roofing contractors, property insurance (just to name a few tasks he has assumed).
- ⌘ The Council continues to put in countless extra hours of meetings and research as CLC moves forward toward total restoration.

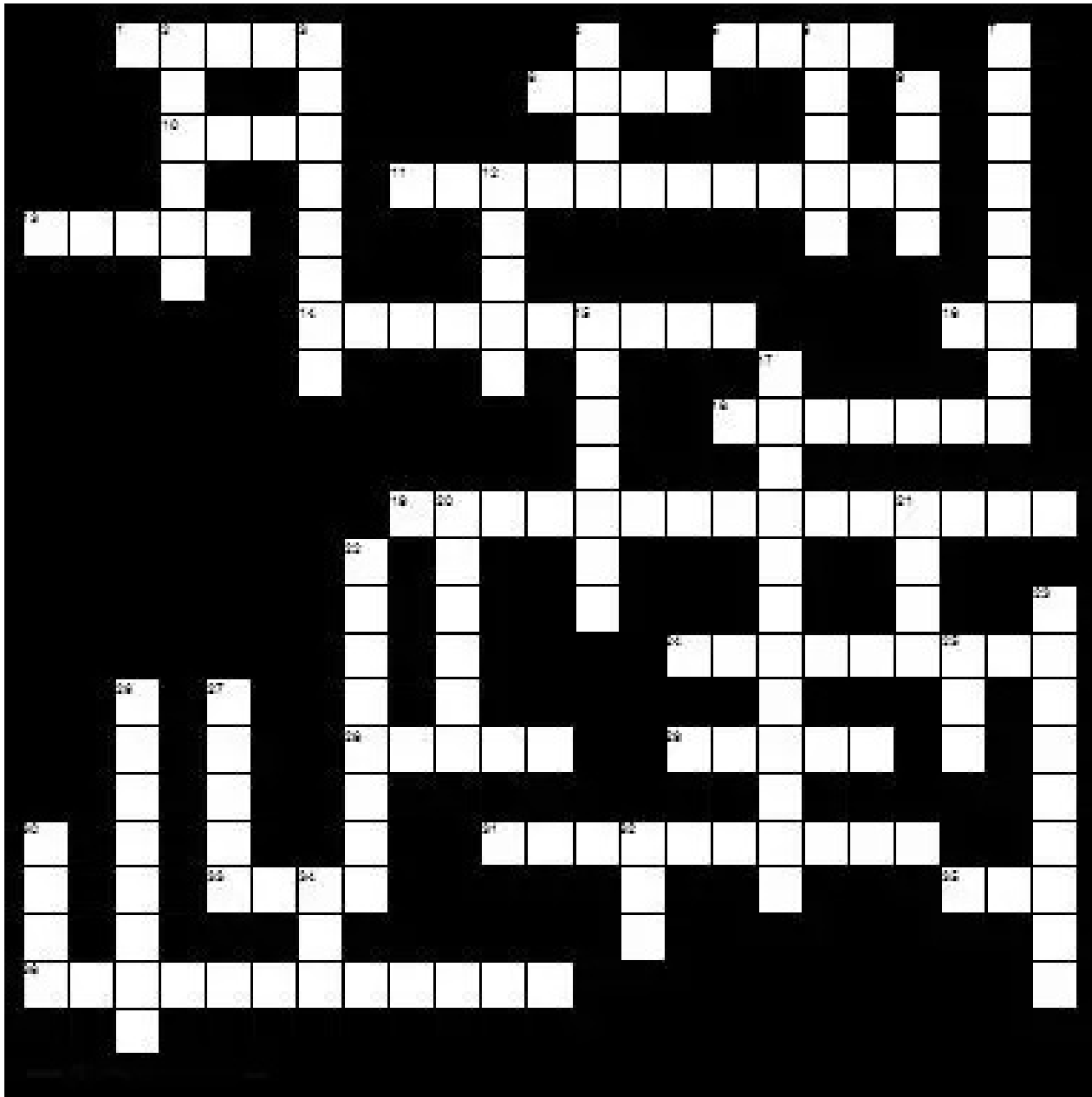
It has been an eventful year full of challenges met and blessings received.

Come on 2023 . . . we are ready for you!

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Kulak, CLC Council Recording Secretary

Bible Crossword Puzzle About Adam



ACROSS

- 1 What his wife was called.
- 5 Who he shall cleave to.
- 8 What was in the air that he named.
- 10 What his wife saw the tree was pleasant to .
- 11 What God made to cloth them with.
- 13 This is now bone of my _____.
- 14 What Adam became.
- 16 What they did because they were naked.
- 18 What they heard the voice of the Lord God doing.
- 19 Who a man shall leave.
- 24 The name of the tree they were not to eat of.
- 28 Where the tree of good and evil could be found.
- 29 Flesh of my _____
- 31 What was in the field that he named.
- 33 What he was formed from.
- 35 His wife's name.
- 36 What God put him in the garden to do.

DOWN

- 2 What the serpent said their eyes would be.
- 3 What God breathed into.
- 4 What the serpent said they would be as.
- 6 What his wife gave him to eat.
- 7 What his wife was the mother of.
- 9 What to her the tree desired to make one.
- 12 Not good to be _____.
- 15 This was more cunning than any beast.
- 17 Where he lived.
- 20 How they felt when they knew they were naked.
- 21 They were not to eat of everyone of these.
- 22 What God made for him.
- 23 What God caused to fall upon him.
- 25 The serpent said it would not surely happen to them.
- 26 What the woman said the serpent did to her.
- 27 What they realized they were.
- 30 What his wife saw the tree was good for.
- 32 What his wife was created from.
- 34 Adam and his wife were the first people to do this

Answers on last page . . . Don't cheat!!





Things you need to know!



If you are planning to bring baked goods to church for fellowship after service, please text or call Angie Ziegler at 941-525-7829

Joyce Hanisits, council rep to Fellowship Ministry



Christ Lutheran Church Privacy Statement . . .

The Church Directory of Christ Lutheran Church is provided to the members for the purpose of conducting church business only. The church Directory is not for sale and use of the information; including names, telephone numbers, emails or web addresses for purposes other than church-related business is strictly prohibited.



Christ Lutheran Church's Women's Circle has started meeting the First Monday of each month at 10:00 am. All are welcome. If you need a ride please let the office know.

FYI . . . For January, we plan to meet on the second Monday (9th) but only for January.

Please join us for our second meeting.



January

Ines Kallmeyer	01/02
Elizabeth Stevens	01/04
Deborah Scheuermann	01/10
Jean Rugg	01/13
Sue Nace	01/19
Rev. Chester Hoversten	01/21
David Fogt	01/28
Carol Rice	01/29

If your birthday is not listed, and you would like it to be,
please contact the office

(via e-mail at . . . office@christlutheranfleng.org) to share your special day.



Treasurer Report

& Attendance

December 04	61	\$11,572.00
December 11	61	\$6,374.50
December 18	66	\$1,909.00
December 24	63	\$4,865.00
December 25	<u>30</u>	<u>\$ 564.00</u>
	281	\$25,284.50



ORGAN DONATIONS -

You are invited to make a contribution for our new organ to be installed by mid 2023. Please make checks to Christ Lutheran Church with "organ fund" in memo section.

THE SAME BOAT

A Joyful Toon by Mike Wilford



You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

- Romans 2:1 rev



1	service 9:30 / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
2	Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm
3	Bridge Club Class 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
4	Quilting 9-noon
5	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
6	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
8	service 9:30 / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
9	Women Circle 10am / Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm
10	Bridge Club noon - 5pm
11	Church Council 1pm
12	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
13	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
15	service 9:30 / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
16	Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm
17	Bridge Club Class 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
18	Quilting 9-noon
19	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
20	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
22	service 9:30 / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
23	Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm
24	Bridge Club Class 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
25	
26	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
27	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
29	Service 9:30 / Cong. Meet / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
30	Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm
31	Bridge Club Class 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm

