

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, 2024



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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Now we are facing a new year. There is a dictator trying to seize a democratic country in Europe. There are many Israelis mourning the loss of loved ones ruthlessly killed on the west side of the Gaza Strip. There are fresh graves of thousands of innocent Palestinians filled with small children and women. There is the daily news of gun violence in our cities. There are reminders everyday about ice packs melting and rising sea waters encroaching on human settlements on soon-to-be land under water.

Sadly, Christian believers can only succumb to the universal truth of human sin and inability to fix humankind. Again and again, we witness to the balm of spiritual hope. That spiritual hope is founded in the conviction that God is in charge of the future and that the future will ultimately end up where God wants it to end. Paul wrote to the Colossians and promised that Christ holds all things together (Col. 1:17). The theologian, Juergen Moltmann, put it this way:

Men and women are called to enduring hope. True hope is not based on the ebb and flow of our feelings. Nor does it come from success in life. True hope—which means the hope that endures and sustains us—is based on God’s call and command. We are called to hope. It is a command: command to resist death. It is a call: the call to divine life. (EXPERIENCES OF GOD, Fortress, 1980, p. 19)

Hope engages itself aligned against post-Christmas depression, resignation to doom and destruction in one’s personal life or in the world order, and cynicism. Hope is the weapon of the spiritual soldier who looks eagerly to the next day and to the next year. Hope sees beyond illness, the loss of friendship, seemingly insurmountable barriers, and the victory of death. Hope knows that death is not victorious. Hope provides the real reason for the celebration of the new year. We celebrate not because we “hopefully” and optimistically envision a better year but, more importantly, we envision a grand and wonderful finale to the end of history. No human mind (nor AI engineered robot) could conceive a happy end of history, let alone orchestrate it.

The beginning of a new year is the time to discard some “old clothes,” some old misconceptions and negative attitudes. The beginning of the year is the time to clean up the office or the garage, organize our thoughts, prepare for the year, embrace the future, and find strength and encouragement in the hope that God shared in the Christmas event, an event that points to the smashing victory and celebration of Easter. God will take us all the way. “All flesh is grass...the grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.” (Isaiah 40:18)

Your fellow traveler into the new year 2024,

Pastor Ken

Music and Worship

The information below was printed in December's newsletter, but it is still relevant and worth repeating.

The Hymn of Praise has been changed and can be found on page 139 of the red hymnal, and music will be printed in the bulletin. Additionally, the Agnus Dei will now be sing by the congregation immediately following the Lord's Prayer.



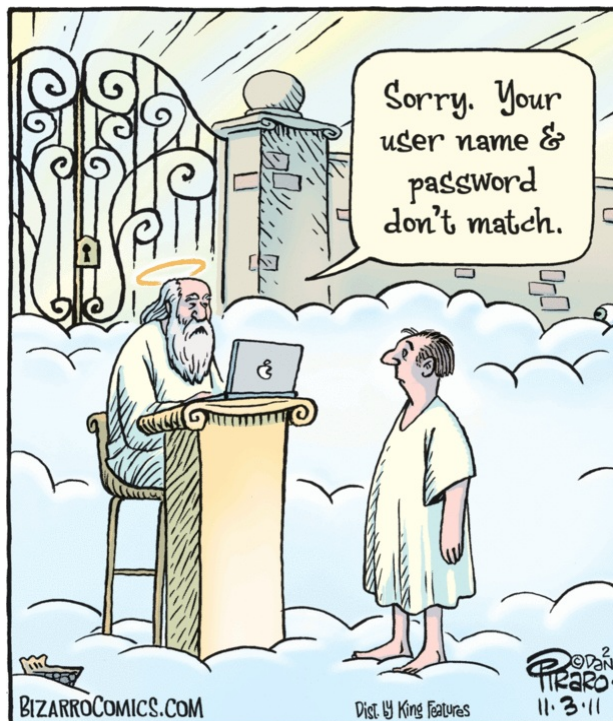
Please volunteer. The décor will be taken down (also voluntarily) on January 7th after service.

After the carpeting is installed and the organ then voiced, there will be a dedication service (TBD). Guests will be invited (bishop and other dignitaries). Pastor Lentz will preside.

A tentative date of March 3rd has been set aside for a Gala Organ Concert given by our professional organist, Richard Benedum. This is a major event and many volunteers will be needed. A reception will follow in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall. This will be an amazing Marketing Opportunity to help our congregation population grow. Please consider volunteering for this event. Contact Lois Greene

Lois Greene,

Chair Music and Worship



OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM



CAROLS AND POINSETTIAS - It was a delight to visit our Homebound members on December 21. We sang Christmas Carols and presented each with a beautiful poinsettia. Thank you to Mary Anne D., Pastor Linda F, Pastor Ken, Ellen N., Jeanie P., and Carol R. for helping to spread Christmas cheer!

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND - THANK YOU for all the "Little Red Wagon" donations and to our recent pantry volunteers, Joyce H., Carol R. and Jim S. Our next pantry days will be in January, but the dates are not yet known.



QUILTING AND KNITTING

Please join us for a time of Christian fellowship and service...no skills necessary. We meet every Wednesday, from 9-Noon, in the Fellowship Hall. All willing hands and hearts are welcome. Most of our quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief. Knitted and crocheted Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes are donated locally. Looking ahead, our annual Quilt and Prayer Shawl Blessing will be on Sunday, January 14th.



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, please 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.

KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD - Thank you to all who donated SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES (boxers for boys), SWEATSHIRTS and JACKETS to KIDS' NEEDS. These gifts of necessity show our love and care for local children and families

TROSHUK FAMILY - Our Ukranian family is doing well! Please continue to support them with your prayers.

*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, January 11th 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

Outreach Ministry





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.



Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. Philippians 1:3-6

Happy New Years and Happy Epiphany!

Christ is the light we celebrate in the darkness of winter and when we come together we reflect that light. Thank you to all who came to the Advent tea, and helped with the set up. It was so wonderful to share that time with you. So, we decided to do something similar for our January meeting. Please join us for a morning coffee and goodies on Thursday, January 11 at 10 am. We welcome all the women of the parish for a time to continue our fellowship, and plan our next gathering. We will meet in the women's ministry room. I hope to see you there!

Blessings, Pastor Linda

January



1/02	<i>Ines Kallmeyer</i>
1/04	<i>Elizabeth Stevens</i>
1/10	<i>Deborah Scheuermann</i>
1/13	<i>Jean Rugg</i>
1/18	<i>Steve Plumley</i>
1/19	<i>Sue Nace</i>
1/21	<i>Rev. Chester Hoversten</i>
1/28	<i>David Fogt</i>
1/29	<i>Carol Rice</i>
1/29	<i>Isaac Santos</i>

*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.

Yesterday is a beautiful reflection.

Today is a new beginning.

Tomorrow is a limitless possibility!





Treasurer Report

& Attendance

Dec	Attendance	Giving
3	60	\$2,811.00
10	60	\$3,074.00
17	78	\$1,225.00
24 am 24 pm	63 82	\$3,702.00
31		
	343	\$10,812.00



ORGAN DONATIONS -

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

January 2024



1	Tai Chi 2:00-3:00 ^{pm}
2	Bridge Club noon - 5:00 ^{pm}
3	Quilting 9-noon / 11:00 ^{am} Music & Worship Committee
4	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon-5 ^{pm}
5	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am} / Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm}
6	Saturday - no activities
7	Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} / UN-Deck the Halls / Bridge Club noon - 5:00 ^{pm}
8	Tai Chi 2:00-3:00 ^{pm} / Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30 ^{pm}
9	Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm}
10	Quilting 9-noon
11	Country Line Dancing 9-12 / Women Circle 10 ^{am} (coffee & goodies) / Bridge Club 12-5
12	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am} / Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm}
13	Saturday - no activities
14	Worship Service w/Quilt blessing 9:30 ^{am} / Bible Study 11:00 ^{am} / Bridge Club 12 - 5:00 ^{pm}
15	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am} / Conf. Class resumes 6:00 ^{pm} / Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30 ^{pm}
16	Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm} / Church Council 1:00 ^{pm}
17	Quilting 9-noon
18	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Fellowship/Evangelism 10:00 ^{am} /Bridge Club noon-5 ^{pm}
19	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am} / Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm}
20	Saturday - no activities
21	Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} / Bible Study 11:00 ^{am} / Bridge Club noon - 5:00 ^{pm}
22	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am} / Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30 ^{pm}
23	Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm}
24	Quilting 9-noon
25	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm}
26	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am} / Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm}
27	Saturday - no activities
28	Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} / Cong. Meeting / Bible Study cancelled / Bridge Club 12-5 ^{pm}
29	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am} / Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30 ^{pm}
30	Bridge Club noon - 5 ^{pm}
31	Quilting 9-noon