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CLC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2024



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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I still remember visual and audio clips from Sundays in the country church where I grew up. The story goes that my forebears, who migrated west over the Alleghenies from eastern Pennsylvania, established their farms in western Montgomery County, Ohio, in the early 1800s. They were German Lutherans and built a church at the corner (of what is now) Route 35 and Lutheran Church Rd maybe only about 20 miles east of Richmond just west of the Indiana border.

By the time I was born, the original log church had metamorphized into a sturdy brick church built in 1930. I remember heading down into the basement to Sunday School with my pennies tied in a handkerchief before graduating to the upward steps into the sanctuary. I was confirmed with 11 other members of my confirmation class in 1954. It was a big deal. We had to submit to a public examination in front of the congregation before we donned our white robes adorned with a white carnation and marched down the center isle to kneel and be blessed by Pastor Brown at the altar on Palm Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, robed again in white, we received our first communion from a common cup. I still have the official photo of our “class.”

The youth group welcomed us at a banquet soon thereafter. In my high school years, my friend Dave picked me up on Sunday morning and he and I sat with other high schoolers in the balcony peering down at the black-robed pastor celebrating worship alone at the altar. There were no lectors, acolytes, or assistants at the altar to help carry the heavy burden of leading worship.

I especially remember the organ but, of course, I have no idea about its construction or quality. I assumed that all churches had organs. I learned the old Lutheran hymns. I really knew “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty” because we sang it every Sunday. I learned more hymns in three weekly chapel services at Capital University and still more in chapel at seminary. But, of course, nowadays we Lutherans cannot assume that visitors and new members (not of the Lutheran tradition) are going to find our hymns familiar. I discovered that the hymns we are currently singing on Sundays are usually more familiar to life-long Lutherans than those new to the Lutheran faith. Perhaps it would be helpful if those so inclined would take a few minutes and write down one’s favorites and hand them to yours truly. The universal Christmas and Easter hymns can be left off the list.

Now the Lutheran tradition of music is about to get a shot in the arm by our new organ, soon to be properly voiced by the builders. Ready or not, the church council has established March 10 as Dedication Sunday. We will welcome Pastor Khader El-Yateem from our synod staff to do the honors.

Pastor El-Yateem studied at Bethlehem Bible College and at the Ev. Theological Seminary in Cairo before earning his M.Div. degree at our seminary in Philadelphia. He served as pastor at Salam Arabic Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. before landing in Florida in 2018 to serve at The Florida-Bahamas Synod. He will soon go to Chicago to begin his tour of duty as Executive Director for Service and Justice at our ELCA national headquarters. Luckily, he will visit CLC on March 10 before moving to Chicago.

Thanks to the gift of Allen Dreyfuss, we have been blessed with one of the best organs in local churches. Thanks also to our new organist, Dr. Richard Benedum, our music at CLC will continue the tradition of good music in our Lutheran tradition. Martin Luther once quipped, “His holy Word (is) driven into the heart with sweet song” and “He who is singing has no quarrel with the world.” (“What Luther Says,” Vol. II, p. 981f) Great Lutheran composers (Johann Sebastian Bach, etc.) blessed the gathered community with music to lift spirits beyond earthly existence. It will hopefully be possible soon to resurrect our bell and worship choirs. In the meantime, let us “rejoice and be glad” and officially inaugurate Allen’s gift on March 10.

Your fellow disciple along the way,

Pastor Ken



Music and Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY is February 14th. There will be a 3:00 PM service of communion and distribution of ashes.

BEGINNING IN LENT - It was decided that starting on February 21st and each Wednesday in Lent, there will be short devotions held in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 PM during which a meal of homemade soup and bread will be served. Pastor is selecting various persons to give a 10-minute testimony each Wed.

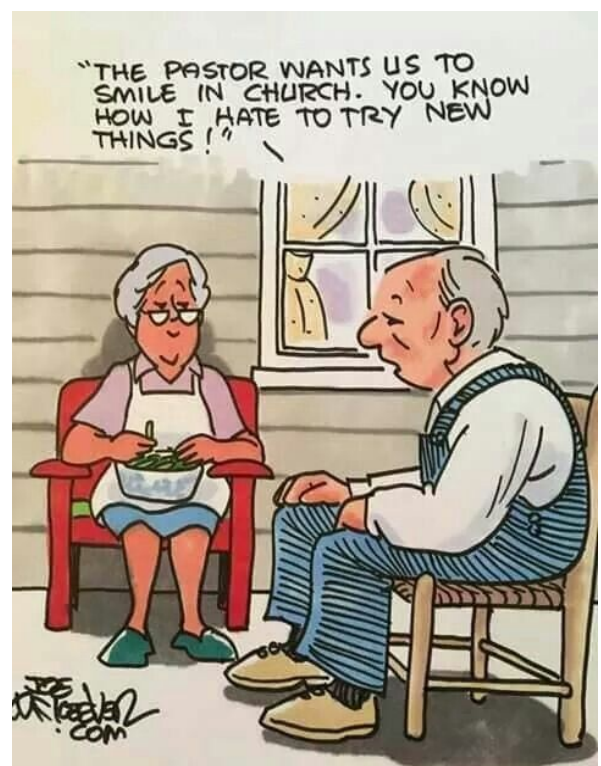
FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY will be February 18th immediately following service during which a breakfast meal will be served. Each member is requested to bring a friend to this meal. Both events will be headed up by the Fellowship and Evangelism Committees.

The "Alleluia" response will be changed on February 18th to "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful. Slow to anger and abiding in steadfast love. And abiding in steadfast love".

The Organ Dedication service will take place at a Sunday service, where certain guest/dignitaries will be invited by Pastor Lentz. Date is March 10th.

It was decided to postpone the Organ Concert scheduled for March 3rd until this time next year to be certain that the Sanctuary is completed, and our Northern friends are here.

*Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*



OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND - THANK YOU for all the “Little Red Wagon” donations. Thanks also to our recent pantry volunteers, Joyce and Bill H. and Carol R. With the increase in grocery costs, the need for food help has increased. As you are able, please continue to donate food and personal care items.



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. Our annual Quilt and Prayer Shawl Blessing was on Sunday, January 14th. The sanctuary was adorned with 62 quilts, 13 lap robes and 1 prayer shawl. Thanks be to God for the volunteers who share their time and skills to make these gifts!



THRIVENT

Are you a Thrivent member? Please remember to direct your Choice Dollars each quarter. Christ Lutheran is 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. Grant requests can be initiated by calling Thrivent or by going online. Need a project idea? The Outreach Ministry Team will help..

KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD - We continue to collect new and gently-used clothing for Englewood area elementary, middle and high school students. Donations can be placed in the Kids' Needs collection box in the narthex.

TROSHUK FAMILY - It was a joy to have our Ukrainian family sing during worship on January 14. Tanya's sister, Julia, and her family joined in. They recently immigrated from war-torn Ukraine. She and her husband have 3 sons. Please continue to support all of them with your prayers.

*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, February 22nd 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





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.



February



2/08	<i>Connie Fowler</i>
2/12	<i>Mark Baker</i>
2/13	<i>Clenora Hoversten</i>
2/13	<i>Ron Tessmer</i>
2/20	<i>Herb Dixon</i>
2/23	<i>Brenda Sahlstrom</i>
2/25	<i>Rudy Kludt</i>
2/28	<i>Dennis Beehler</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

Jan	Attendance	Giving
7	86	\$3,396.00
14	111	\$3,152.00
21	84	\$2,443.00
28	91	\$2,639.00
	372	\$11,630.00



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.

ORGAN DEDICATION - Pastor Khadar El Yateem, assistant to our bishop, will dedicate our new organ at worship on Sunday March 10. We will welcome pastor El Yateem to officially ask God's blessings and join us in giving thanks for the gift of music.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 18 - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY!

Bring friends, neighbors, and family to service at 9:30am followed by a free brunch in the Fellowship Hall. CLC will be reviving an old tradition, an opportunity to encourage members of our community to experience the hospitality of Lutheran community in action. Invitations for those you invite are available from someone in the Narthex.





2024



1	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON-5 ^{PM}
2	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
3	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
4	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY-11 ^{AM} / SUNDAY SCHOOL-11 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON-
5	9:30 ^{AM} DANCE 2B FIT / TAI CHI 2:00-3:00 ^{PM} / CONF. CLASS - 6 ^{PM} / VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
6	BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
7	QUILTING 9-NOON
8	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-12 / WOMEN CIRCLE 10 ^{AM} (COFFEE & GOODIES) / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
9	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM} / YARD SALE SET-UP
10	SATURDAY - YARD SALE 9 ^{AM} - 1 ^{PM}
11	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY 11:00 ^{AM} / SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-
12	9:30 ^{AM} DANCE 2B FIT / TAI CHI 2:00-3:00 ^{PM} / CONF. CLASS - 6 ^{PM} / VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
13	BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
14	QUILTING 9-NOON / ASH WED 3 ^{PM} SERVICE
15	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON-5 ^{PM}
16	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
17	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
18	FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY 11:00 ^{AM} / SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 ^{AM} / SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 ^{AM} / FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5:00 ^{PM}
19	9:30 ^{AM} DANCE 2B FIT / TAI CHI 2:00-3:00 ^{PM} / CONF. CLASS - 6 ^{PM} / VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
20	BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM} / CHURCH COUNCIL 1:00 ^{PM}
21	QUILTING 9 - NOON / WED LENT SOUP & BREAD 5 ^{PM}
22	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-NOON / OUTREACH COMMITTEE - 11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
23	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
24	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
25	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY /SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5 ^{PM}
26	9:30 ^{AM} DANCE 2B FIT / TAI CHI 2:00-3:00 ^{PM} / CONF. CLASS - 6 ^{PM} / VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
27	BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
28	QUILTING 9 - NOON / WED LENT SOUP & BREAD 5 ^{PM}
29	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON