

Christ Lutheran Church, Inc., of Englewood, Florida
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CLC NEWSLETTER

APRIL / MAY 2023



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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April, 2023

Three years ago I told the story about an Indian who lived in the Caribbean in 1511 named Hatuay. Spanish Christian missionaries insisted that he become a Christian. Hatuay refused and had to flee his home in order to escape death. Two years later he was found by the missionaries in Cuba. He again refused to convert. He was burned at the stake. Hatuay was avenged three centuries later when Henry Benjamin Whipple, an Episcopal missionary in the Minnesota Territory, courageously defied the military, the territorial governor, and outraged white settlers by protesting the planned execution of over 300 Dakota people. The Indians, at the point of near starvation, were accused of planning an uprising. Whipple saved the lives of 268 Indians by appealing to President Abraham Lincoln.

The track record for Christian missionary tactics is less than perfect. And yet, the church must express gratitude for the thousands of Christian missionaries who brought new life and hope to countless individuals. My own ancestors worshiped trees in northern Europe until visited by English missionaries like Willibrord and Boniface in the eighth century.

Three years down the road from the decision in February, 2020, the members of Christ Lutheran Church in Englewood are missionaries in the footsteps of Whipple, Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg (founder of the first American Lutheran Synod in 1748), John Stauch (missionary in Ohio), and over 500 ELCA mission servants now in many foreign parts of the world. Disciples of Jesus, those loyal to the Great Commission, have preached with deeds of love and service. St. Francis once advised, "Preach the gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." True disciples always preach with actions wrapped with love and compassion. The true witness of Christ tells the "old, old story" but listens and learns from those to whom she or he goes. The true witness of Christ never compromises the faith but shows respect for the stories of others. Attacking the faith of others usually doesn't work but simply telling others what Christ and the Christian community means gets through the barriers of those ready to summarily reject any "better than thou, goody-goody-two-shoes" preaching.

Three years ago, the 30 or so "faithful remnant" at CLC made a commitment to forge ahead and dedicate themselves to a vital Lutheran presence on Rt. 776 and contracted with me to work with them. Thanks to people like Barb McAlister and the church council members who supported the new "vision," CLC has weathered financial woes, the ravages of COVID-19, and Hurricane Ian and now is looking forward to the final touches of recovery and the installation of a new hybrid organ in the fall. With full support from the church council, Dotty Berner and Bob Cosler have done a stellar job reducing recovery bills and increasing payments from Church Mutual. When all is finished, our church will remain debt free. On Easter Sunday we will receive about 20 new members who will bring our numbers up to about 140 members (full and associate). We continue to rely upon the witness of church members to family, neighbors, and friends who will lead visitors to worship on Sunday.

The COVID epidemic began concurrently with my arrival (no relationship I hope) and the attendance at our first worship was 12 (not including one dog in attendance). We numbered 103 a few weeks ago.

I still regard CLC to be a "mission" church. Slowly, constitutionally mandated committees are being re-instituted. Thanks to Steve Nielsen, we now have a property committee and thanks to Pastor Linda Fernandez, we also now have a Women's Circle. Please attend our Maundy Thursday Seder observance and Good Friday Vespers. We will have much to celebrate on Easter Sunday.

The rising sun on the first Easter shone forth a whole new world, a world of love, faith, and hope. Let us continue to work faithfully together to announce in word and deed the coming Kingdom, the kingdom already in our midst when disciples keep their shoulders to the grindstone.

Your fellow traveler along the way, *Pastor Ken*

Music and Worship

MUSIC AND WORSHIP TEAM did not meet in the month of April. Next meeting will be May 3rd at 11:00. Nothing new to report.

*Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

THANK YOU for all the “Little Red Wagon” donations and for our pantry volunteers, Paula Beehler, Mary Anne D., Joyce and Bill H., Brenda and Jim S.!

FAMILY PROMISE of SOUTH SARASOTA COUNTY We will provide a meal for families on May 5th. Please talk to Ellen N. or Carol R. if you would like to help.

QUILTING AND KNITTING

Please join us for a time of Christian fellowship and service...no skills necessary. We are now meeting every Wednesday, from 9-Noon, in the Fellowship Hall. All willing hands and hearts are welcome.

KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD

Kids' Needs has opened its new location at Heron Plaza on S. McCall Rd. For more information, please visit their website: kidsneedsenglewood.org

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.

TROSHUK FAMILY from UKRAINE

It was a JOY to have the Troshuk family sing for us on April 17th! Please continue to pray for them as they adjust to their new home and life here in the USA and for PEACE in their homeland. Amen!

*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, May 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

Meet our organist, Shawn Marren

Shawn Marren was born in Philadelphia, PA, and began studying music at a young age. His family moved to Florida in 1997 and Shawn graduated from Lemon Bay High School, continuing on to pursue a degree in Music Performance at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Alas, the degree never came: in late 2006, while working at Walt Disney World Resort, Shawn made the decision to run away and join Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus as a keyboard player. While on the road he met his wife, Valeria, and they had their first children: identical twin boys Shawn, Jr. and Anthony. In 2011 they left Ringling and Shawn pursued a career as a human cannonball! Having learned the craft from a famous cannonball couple while working at Ringling, Shawn traveled with his family touring the USA, Canada, and Australia for several years working in circuses, carnivals, and fairs.

In 2019, Shawn's family (which now included a third child, Phineas—named after P.T. Barnum!) moved to Las Vegas where Shawn took a full-time job as a Sound Designer for Konami Gaming. Since that time, he has been composing music and sound effects for slot machines and video games while also writing for several live performance ensembles. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, they moved back to Englewood to be closer to family. He maintains an active performance schedule playing Principal Trumpet with the North Port Symphony, freelancing as a jazz pianist with The Brandon Robertson Quartet, and running live sound for several local performance venues.

Shawn is on the board of directors of The Charlotte County Jazz Society (where he serves as the Education Director) as well as The Venice Chorale. The twins are now 13 years old and Phineas is 9; they attend Genesis Christian School in Port Charlotte. Shawn's wife, Valeria, is a Clinical Assistant at the Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Clinic which provides medical services for indigent and low-income residents of Charlotte County. In addition to playing for Christ Lutheran Church, Shawn is also the organist for the 7:30am Mass at Epiphany Cathedral on Venice Island and after our 9:30 service, he and his family worship at their home church, Calvary Baptist Church, just around the corner from Christ Lutheran. In his spare time (what little he has!) Shawn enjoys reading, playing chess, studying 18th century counterpoint and composition techniques, and going to lunch with Pastor Ken!

Shawn





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.

From Pastor Linda

Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner and Service



Did you know that the Seder dinner during which Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper was actually a family meal? Young and old gathered together to tell the story of God's promises to His people through stories, song, games, and food. On Thursday April 6 our church family here at Christ Lutheran Church gathered to here the story, eat the Passover meal and finish with communion. This was a pot luck event, and to our wonderful surprise we had more guests than we planned for. Thank you to all that made this Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner a huge success.

Women's Circle

Due to circumstances beyond our control we have postponed the spring tea until Mothers Day, when we will have a special reception after church. Please plan to join us for a little while before your plans for the day.

Our next meeting will be Monday April 3 at 10 am. At the church.



APRIL

Gene Samuelson	04/08
Carson Erickson	04/09
Neil Jenkins	04/12
Ron Bishop	04/19
Margaret Jenkins	04/15
David Waring	04/16
Susan Yankowski	04/21

MAY

Dorothy Berner	05/02
Sharon Tessmer	05/03
Dorothy Gramstead	05/04
Kathy Sidebottom	05/06
Kenneth Waring	05/07
Lois Melchiore	05/08
Deborah Seliski	05/12
Barbara McAlister	05/14
Elizabeth Tanner	05/17
Patricia LaPierre	05/18
Richard Lentz	05/19
Jeff Rice	05/20
Henry Miller	05/21
Katherine Fogt	05/21
Paul Rugg	05/22
Katie Egeland	05/25
Thomas Flebbe	05/25
Lois Greene	05/26
Robert Cosler	05/31

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

March 05	80	3,752.00	
March 12	78	4,697.95	Recovery Fund \$ 712.00
March 19	83	9,602.00	Recovery Fund \$1,312.00
March 26	<u>80</u>	<u>1,588.50</u>	<u>Recovery Fund \$ 112.00</u>
	321	19,640.45	\$2,136.00
April 02	78	3,036.89	Recovery Fund \$562.00
April 09	110	5,332.00	
April 07	30	165.00	
April 16	<u>88</u>	<u>1,577.00</u>	<u>Recovery Fund \$600.00</u>
	306	10,110.89	\$1,162.00



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.



No activities
for Saturdays
22nd, 29th



No activities
for Saturdays
6th - 13th - 20th - & 27th

20	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
21	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club
22	Saturday - no activities
23	Worship Service 9:30am / Bible Study 11:00am / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
24	Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30pm
25	Bridge Club noon - 5pm
26	Quilting 9-noon
27	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
28	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
29	Saturday - no activities
30	Worship Service 9:30am / Bible Study 11:00am / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
1	Women Circle 10am / Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30pm
2	Bridge Club Supervised Play 10-11:30am (\$5.00 charge) / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
3	Quilting 9-noon / Church Council 1pm
4	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon-5pm
5	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
6	Saturday - no activities
7	Worship Service 9:30am / Bible Study 11:00am / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
8	Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30pm
9	Bridge Club Supervised Play 10-11:30am (\$5.00 charge) / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
10	Quilting 9-noon / Church Council 1pm / Forks & Fellowship 5:00pm
11	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
12	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
13	Saturday - no activities
14	Worship Service 9:30am / Women Tea 10:30am / Bible Study 11:00am / Bridge Club
15	Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30pm
16	Bridge Club Supervised Play 10-11:30am (\$5.00 charge) / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
17	Quilting 9-noon
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