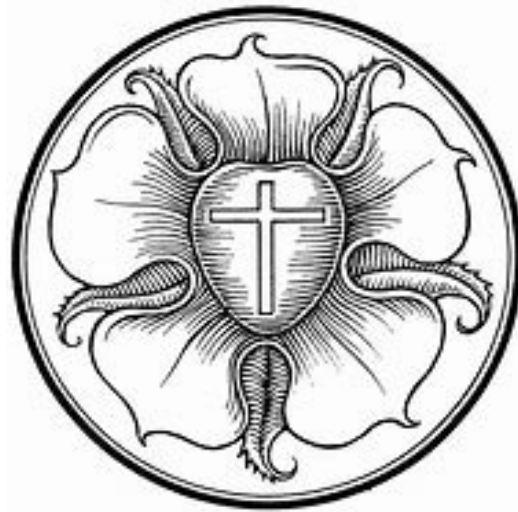


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CLC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

Published by Christ Lutheran Church, Office Administrator



The blue hope of Advent has now become the white hope of Joy.

Senator John McCain once told about the Christmas Eve he celebrated in 1971 as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. His POW officer asked him to lead services that evening and the guards allowed McCain to look at a Bible for only a few minutes. He copied some verses down quickly and then read those verses to his men and the entire group sang Christmas carols from memory. Tears of joy streamed down many faces. The angel spoke to them that night, "I bring you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior." McCain later recalled, "Suddenly we were 2,000 years and a half a world away in a village called Bethlehem. And neither war, nor torture, nor imprisonment, nor the centuries themselves had dimmed the hope born on that silent night so long ago."

I remember that many people were glad to leave the year 2001 in the rearview mirror on New Year's Day 2002. Any delusions about a better century at the door on January 1, 2000 were gone like the wind. The 9/11 events were a bitter reminder that the human propensity for self-destruction was not left behind in a former century. The new century also ushered in a smaller world. Terrorists could strike in any neighborhood in the world. I joined my sister at the end of 2001 for a trip to EPCOT Center to attend the Christmas concert in front of the American Pavilion. We watched and listened to the choirs made up of fresh-faced high students who were gathered to sing Christmas hymns. At the end of the concert, Gary Sinise offered a final "prayer." He prayed, "God bless America!" but then quickly added, "God bless the world!"

We are all tightly connected in the world of the 21st century. We must attempt to be instruments of God's saving grace in a smaller world because we have to. If a virus gets loose in China, we all have to face the consequences. If the Soviets station army troops on the border of the Ukraine, we have to be concerned. Recent weather events in America's south are not harbingers of what could happen in a national weather change but in a global change in weather. Where is God in all of this? He remains close. He reminds us that we humans must suffer the consequences of our decisions and mistakes. But the color of hope turned white also reminds us that God's will shall prevail. His grace will abound in 2022. In light of the victory of Christ in behalf of the whole world, may we take a few pages from the future and learn to live in peace and harmony. Let us share earth's space and let us share earth's resources.

Your fellow traveler on the road of faith,

Pastor Ken

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE



DECEMBER, 2021

Pastor Lentz continues to deliver communion to congregants who are unable to attend services on Sunday. Cards continue to be sent to all members of Christ Lutheran Church who wish their birthdays acknowledged and those who are experiencing medical issues. The CCM Team is always available to visit anyone at home who may want a visit. Just contact the church office (941-474-1989), Pastor Lentz (928-970-1313) or Charlene Seltz (941-460-0183), to request a visit.

In His care and infinite wisdom,
Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader



COUNCIL KEY POINTS DECEMBER, 2021

1. Final plans were discussed for the preparation of the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service to be held on December 24, 2021 at 5 pm.
2. A new pre-lit Christmas tree will be placed in the church and decorated on December 19th. A special thank you to Louise Glose for the donation of the tree.
3. Additional discussion took place regarding the development of a "Restricted" Organ Fund. Fran Kulak will design a "Fund Raising" Thermometer for this project.
4. Plans for a Lutheran Heritage Class in January, 2022 were announced.
5. The website for Christ Lutheran Church has been updated. Check www.christlutheranfleng.com for upcoming events.
6. Pastor Lentz has designed LUAU invitations for the upcoming January 22, 2022 LUAU to be held at CLC at 4 pm +. Live entertainment (which includes a band, hula dancer and fire dancer) plus a Hawaiian Buffet are included. Tickets are available by contacting 978-500-8187. Adults: \$20; Age 10 and under \$10.



Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader



Music and Worship

The Music and Worship Committee did not meet in the month of December as there were no unresolved issues for an agenda.

On Dec. 19th the sanctuary was adorned with a new 7' pre-lit Christmas tree donated by Louise Glose. Several members helped to hang wreaths, move statuary, and decorate the tree.

A week later 55 Poinsettia plants were delivered and distributed throughout the sanctuary.

At 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve there was a candle lighting service held, where approximately 85 persons attended. The sanctuary was alive with the center aisle decorated with our festive lighted brass candlesticks on the ends of each pew. Christmas Carols were sung, and each member was handed a lighted candle while we sang Silent Night. A beautiful tradition here at Christ Lutheran.

The next Music and Worship Committee meeting will be held on February 2nd, at 11:00 with a Lenten and Easter agenda.

Lois Greene, Chair Music and Worship





ENGLEWOOD HELPING

THANK YOU to our volunteers who worked in the pantry in December...Macie G., Joyce H., Brenda and Jim S., Ellen N., and Carol R. filled bags, shelved donations, greeted clients and found joy in serving others in our community. Christ Lutheran Church is loves to share Christ's LOVE.



Please call Carol Rice (941-475-1017) if you would like to volunteer at the Englewood Helping Hand pantry and if interested to get additional information and upcoming dates.

KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD

During Advent and the Christmas season, through January 2nd, we are donating SHOES, SOCKS, UNDERWEAR and JACKETS/SWEATSHIRTS for kids of ALL sizes. Wrapped boxes and giant stockings are bursting with your donations. These are gifts of necessity, which will give HOPE to Englewood area kids and their families.

To assist us with this project, Mary Anne DiGrazia applied for and received a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant. Thrivent's motto is "Live Generously." Thank you, Thrivent!

Kids' Needs provides help to children in Englewood area schools, Kindergarten through High School. Kids' Needs works together with teachers, school administrators and parents to meet basic needs such as clothing, personal care products, school supplies, etc.

For more information about Kids' Needs, please talk to Pastor Ken or Carol Rice. Thank you for your generosity!



QUILTING AND KNITTING

Christ Lutheran Church Comfort Quilters and Knitters gather in the Fellowship Hall the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month, from 9-Noon. We enjoy a time of Christian fellowship and service. All willing hands and hearts are welcome...no previous experience or skills are necessary. Please come and join us!

Several hand-made lap robes and prayer shawls were donated this month to Village on the Isle (V.O.T.I.). Chaplain Don and Activities Director, Holly extended their deep appreciation for these gifts of warmth and CARE!

Sunday, January 16th, will be our annual Blessing of the Quilts at our regular service. Quilts will be displayed on our pews during church. After the blessing, they will be packed up and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution throughout the world, bringing warmth and HOPE in the face of tragedy and disaster.

CAROLS AND POINSETTIAS

On December 21st, 8 of our members: Mary Anne D., Louise G., Alf H., Pastor Ken, Carol R., Jean and Paul R., and Shirley S. car pooled to visit several homebound members. We sang Christmas Carols and gifted each member with a card and a beautiful poinsettia. The word of the day was JOY!

Our next Social Ministry Team meeting is on January 6th at 11am.

Peace and Joy!

Carol Rice for the Social Ministry Team



“Adult Sunday School education led by Pastor Ken takes place every Sunday at 11 a.m. after services in the office building.

We are beginning to study the New Testament using the textbook, “Path Through Scripture” by Mark Link available to purchase

for \$20.00 at class time.

Please bring your bible and textbook which you may have purchased previously to each class.”



January Birthdays

Ines Kallmeyer	01-02
Elizabeth Stevens	01-04
Deborah Scheuermann	01-10
Paul Campbell	01-13
Jean Rugg	01-13
Steve Plumley	01-18
Sue Nace	01-19
Rev. Chester Hoversten	01-21
David Fogt	01-28
Carol Rice	01-29
Isaac Santos	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 and Financials

December 05	65	\$ 2,528.00
December 12	58	\$ 2,873.00
December 13	50	\$ 390.00 (concert)
December 19	57	\$ 3,148.50
December 24	75	\$ 935.00
December 26	<u>34</u>	<u>\$ 1,325.00</u>
	339	\$11,199.50



LUAU

Christ Lutheran Church

Saturday, January 22nd

4:00 pm

Featuring live band:

KAUAI KANAKAS



For Tickets please call:

Fran Kulak 978-500-8187

\$20.00 adult

\$10.00 for age 10 and under

Hawaiian buffet included

**Tickets may be purchased after church
or by calling the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 11^{am} - 4^{pm}.**