

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

FEBRUARY 2023



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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February, 2023

I was shocked last week to learn that there have been 40 mass shootings in the U.S. since the first of the year. “What next?” I asked myself. Violence in America, coupled with the decline of civility, and the continuing decline in church membership might lead to the question, “Is our culture unraveling?”

I was appalled when the Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine. I could hardly believe that the world’s leaders, even dictators, had not learned the lessons of the last century, that war brings victory to no one. How can the loss of property and life be considered a victory, even for the side that wins? “When will they ever learn, long time passing?” asked Peter, Paul, and Mary. Russian tanks in Ukraine, shooters going to schools and dance halls to kill people, brutal beatings by frustrated law enforcement officers. It just seems that the world should have learned by now that violence and brutality should stay in the past.

Civility is in decline. We just aren’t kind to one another anymore. We don’t place a high priority on personal contact any more. It might take an hour to get to a live human voice when calling the bank, the physician, or the insurance office. I avoid the self-checkout line and purposely choose to wait longer in line at the supermarket so I can engage with a live person. I pick up the phone even when I don’t recognize the caller’s number because it might be important. It only takes a few seconds to detect a vendor. I believe that one should turn off one’s cell phone at the movies or not text during the show. Maybe I’m a dinosaur. Technology is good, right? Until the computer screen or TV screen goes blank. “Technical difficulties” There was once an elderly Scottish lady who went to her village post office one morning. She waited in line until she reached the postal clerk. “Oh, Mrs. McDonald,” the clerk said, “You don’t have to wait in line anymore; you can purchase your stamps over there in our new stamp machine.” Mrs. McDonald looked at the machine in the corner and then turned to the clerk and asked, “But tell me, will it ask about my rheumatism?” I hope zooming will become obsolete. We need to be in personal contact with each other. Don’t watch church on TV; go to church and ask someone about his/her rheumatism.

Church attendance is in decline. Between 1937 and 2020, church attendance dropped from seven out of ten to less than five out of ten. ELCA membership has declined from over 5 million in 1988 to under 3.7 million today. Other denominations are faring worse. Mainline Christianity is taking a big hit. The secularism of Europe has hit our shores. Why the decline? One millennial recently said, “Religion isn’t an important centerpiece in life” and one GEN Z opined that his generation just wants to “help people and shape the future.” He faulted the church for dropping the ball. A recent poll disclosed that people are leaving the church in droves because they dislike the sermons (20%), they don’t feel welcome in church (11%), or they don’t have time for church (26%).

Is the culture “unraveling?” I don’t know. I hope not. Sociologists are urging the recovery of human contact and pacifists keep shouting the futility of violence and war. Proponents of religion should not throw in the towel. Henry Ward Beecher, the American preacher (died 1887), reminded his listeners in the words of Isaiah, “If you had hearkened to my commandments, then had your peace been as a river.” (Isaiah 48:18) The days of violence (and insensitivity to one another) are numbered. The swords will be made into plowshares and “tears will be wiped from our eyes, death will be no more, and mourning and crying pain will be no more.” (Revelation 21:4) We keeping on hoping but we also need to stay the course and practice nonviolence, civility, and our community in Christ.

Your fellow traveler,
Pastor Ken

Music and Worship



After a very busy December, the Music and Worship Committee did not meet in the month of January, however, we have a lot to discuss next month. So, all committee members remember to mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 1st at 1:00^{pm} in the church office.

*Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*

BLOOPERS.



we all love them :)

- ☺ Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be the soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- ☺ Glory of God to all and peace to his people on earth..
- ☺ Next Friday we will be serving hot dogs for lunch. (Should be hot dogs)
- ☺ Applications are now being accepted for 2-year-old nursery workers.
- ☺ If you choose to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly.
- ☺ Lent is that period for preparing for Holy Week and Easter.
- ☺ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget all His benefits.
- ☺ Jean will be leading a weight-management series Wednesday nights. She's used the program herself and has been growing like crazy!

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

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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, counseling, and meals, a week at a time in partnership with area churches. Whenever families are "at home" at Englewood United Methodist Church (EUMC), Christ Lutheran helps as a support congregation, assisting with meals, pantry items and hosting duties. Families will be at EUMC February 5-12. 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 plan to expand our schedule to every Wednesday, from 9-Noon, during February. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. All willing hands and hearts are welcome. Quilt and Prayer Shawl Blessing was on January 29th.



KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD

A big THANK YOU to ALL for the SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, SWEATSHIRTS AND JACKETS donated to KIDS' NEEDS. 167 items were collected, including 40 pairs of new shoes. These gifts show our care and compassion for local children and families who are struggling to make ends meet. Jean Rugg got a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant and bought 23 pair of sneakers to add to all the other gifts! Thrivent members have given awesome support for many projects in the past year. Kids' Needs is moving and will soon open at 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, 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

THANK YOU! The Troshuk family are grateful for all the LOVE, CARE, and GENEROSITY; for welcoming them to their new home in the USA. Please continue to pray for them and for PEACE for the people of Ukraine. AMEN!



*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, February 9th 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



"I never volunteered to cook church suppers until I discovered these."



Hurricane Ian Recovery at Christ Lutheran Church

Hurricane Ian did major damage to the Englewood Florida area and Christ Lutheran Church was no exception. Critical elements of the roof, particularly the ridge shingles were blown off allowing water to encroach on the fellowship hall and the sanctuary. Water damage caused ceiling collapse or damage to over half of the fellowship hall and roughly one-third of the sanctuary. Even our sign was not spared damage from this powerful storm. The sign remained operational, but at a slightly off-plumb angle. At least five trees were toppled but fortunately did not fall on any structures.

Recovery has been painfully slow. With so much damage to the area, reliable contractors were difficult to find and prices for services escalated wildly. Christ Lutheran was able to obtain the services of a remediation contractor that “dried out” the building over a period of about two weeks. Because the fellowship hall was not covered for “Wind Damage” Christ Lutheran suffered a loss of over two hundred thousand dollars to repair the damage. Repairs will go on well into 2023.

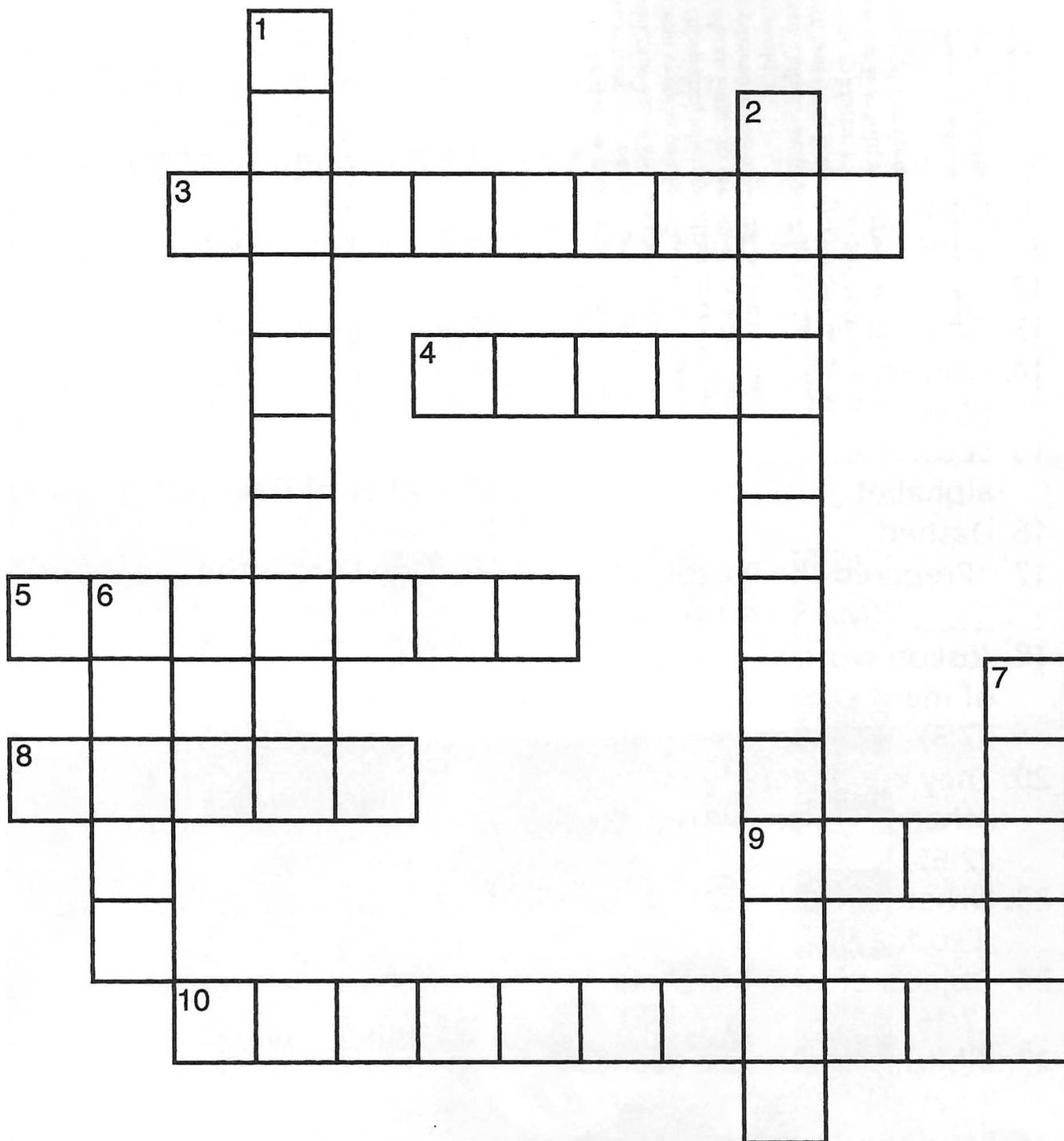
Repair of the sanctuary has also been slow, but fortunately we have been able to worship in the building. After one failed attempt, a roofing contractor has been secured and roofing will begin in January. Repair of drywall and painting will likely not start until the third week of February 2023.

A restoration fund drive was begun and to date has raised over \$35,000. Application was made to FEMA and the Small Business Administration for grant and/or loan funding to assist in restoration. Unfortunately, those efforts appear to have been in vain. CLC did apply for and receive approval for a Two-Hundred Thousand Dollar line-of-credit from Englewood Bank and Trust which will allow renovations to proceed.

While this storm was devastating in its physical strength, the recovery has shown that the body of believers that is Christ Lutheran Church are stronger. We are and will continue to recovery and be stronger as a result.

Yours in Christ,
Bob Cosler

Bible Crossword Puzzle



TATTOO? TABOO!

ACROSS

- 3 Thou shalt not oppress hired servants, whether they be brethren, or _____ in thy land, says Deuteronomy 24:14
- 4 You shall not eat the _____ per Leviticus 11:15
- 5 Hungry for _____? Not allowed, saith Leviticus 11:16
- 8 Because it chews the cud, _____ is forbidden, says Leviticus 11:4
- 9 Any sun or _____ worshipers shall be put to death with stones, says the Deuteronomy 17:3-5
- 10 You shall not put a stumbling block before a _____ warns Leviticus 19:14

DOWN

1. If you knock out your servant's tooth, you must _____, says Exodus 21:27
2. Thinking about _____ upon yourself? Tattoos are taboo! (Leviticus 19:28)
6. Leviticus 19:27 says you shall not _____ around the sides of your head
7. Per Leviticus 19:19, garments with mixed fabrics, like _____ and wool, are forbidden.

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



BIBLICAL LOCATIONS

T A H E R N E B A B R E O N L
Y D T R A W O E E L I L A G W
A A Y A E R Y T S T H O L I V
E S N D O D H H T E R A Z A N
B A O M N A S L V E I S S G N
C M O U N T N E B O O A S O T
H A O Y O U N H A D G H L M N
O R B U T I H E O I N E G O I
S I A E N A M M O Z K I R R A
C A B B H T L E O H T H E R O
T P Y E B S T A S H C S E A R
I P L T G A R A R A T I S H A
S O O H I Y H E B R O N R F E
V J N E E R P Y E O T A H E I
N G I L E A D T G B R I I S J

Every word listed is contained within the group of letters. Words can be found in a straight, horizontally, vertically or diagonally line. They may be read either forward or backward. Leftover letters reveal a quote from Albert Einstein.

ARARAT	BETHLEHEM	GOMORRAH	MOUNT NEBO	SAMARIA
ASHKELON	CANAAN	HEBRON	MOUNT TABOR	SINAI
BABYLON	EDOM	JERICHO	NAZARETH	SODOM
BEERSHEBA	EGYPT	JOPPA	NINEVEH	TYRE
BETHANY	GALILEE	MASADA	RABBAH	ZOAR
BETHEL	GILEAD	MOAB	RED SEA	



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.

Please join us for our next meeting on February 6th.



February

Connie Fowler	02/08
Mark Baker	02/12
Clenora Hoversten	02/13
Ron Tessmer	02/13
Herb Dixon	02/20
Brenda Sahlstrom	02/23
Rudy Kludt	02/25
Dennis Beehler	02/28



Another year older and still a HOOT!
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

January 01	48	\$105,085.07
January 06	76	\$9,083.00
January 15	82	\$3,344.50
January 22	96	\$4,678.00
January 29	<u>101</u>	<u>\$2,071.00</u>
	403	\$124,261.57



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.

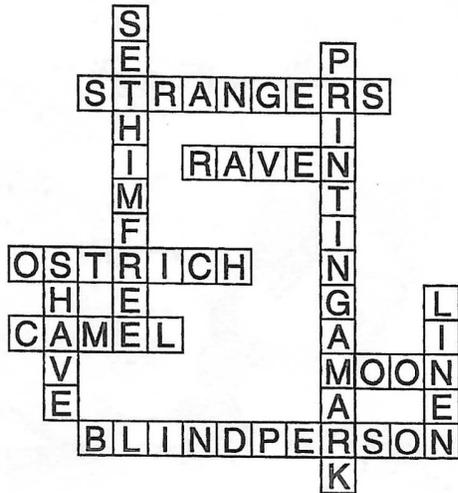




1	Quilting 9-noon / Worship committee @ 11am Special Council meeting @ 1pm
2	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
3	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
5	service 9:30 / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
6	Women Circle 10am / Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm / Tai Chi 2-3pm
7	Bridge Club Class 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
8	Church Council 1pm
9	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Outreach meeting @ 11am Bridge Club noon - 5pm
10	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
12	service 9:30 / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
13	Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm / Tai Chi 2-3pm
14	Bridge Club Class 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
15	Quilting 9-noon
16	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
17	Tai Chi 10-11am / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
18	Lemon Bay Play House private volunteer appreciation party
19	service 9:30 / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
20	Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm / Tai Chi 2-3pm
21	Bridge Club Class 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
22	Ash Wednesday service @ 7:00pm
23	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
24	Tai Chi 10-11am / NO Bridge Club / Rummage Set Up
26	Service 9:30 / Bridge Club noon - 5:00pm
27	Ventician Chorus 6:30-9:30pm / Tai Chi 2-3pm
28	Bridge Club Class 9-noon / Bridge Club noon - 5pm

No activities
for Saturdays
7th - 14th - 21st - & 28th

TATTOO? TABOO!



Answers

Biblical Locations (pages 4-5)

Leftover letters spell: "There are only two ways to live... one is as though nothing is a miracle... the other is as if everything is."

Bonus answer: Jericho

