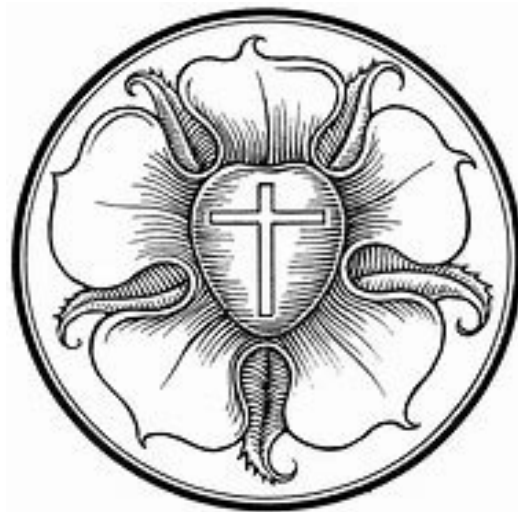


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# CLC NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2022



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

*Published by Christ Lutheran Church, Office Administrator*



I once wished “Merry Christmas” to a supermarket check-out clerk. She replied, “You’ll have to say that another way, sir.” She rejected “Happy Hanukkah” and asked that I wish her a “Happy Holiday,” explaining that she was a Wiccan. I later found out from one of my new age manuals that she subscribed to the philosophy of Wicca, a kind of natural spiritualism.

The menu of religions in America continues to change dramatically. The days of White Anglo-Saxon Protestantism at the core of American religion will soon be gone. The season we call “Christmas” means many different things to different folks. Like you, it disturbs me that the “reason for the season” seems to be getting lost in the folds of a complex American culture.

But I am not threatened by increasing cultural diversity. I love living in Florida but I miss the cultural and racial diversity of California. My house was surrounded on all sides by Asian neighbors. While there I met Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, and every conceivable brand of Christians. I indulged in adventurous forays into the cultural elements woven into the fabric of life on the west coast.

The present ever widening divide between our two political parties is, in part, driven by the uncomfortable awareness that our country now includes ever growing numbers of black, brown, and Asian minorities. The WASP days are numbered. I enjoy ethnic diversity but many fear that the “good, old days” are slipping into the pages of history books.

A healthy approach to cultural change, first of all, is to know definitely about our “brand” of religion. Knowledge about our origins and traditions, and dedication to one’s faith increases self-identity and shores up mental health. If I know what I stand for, I am less likely threatened by another point of view because I am more certain and secure about my own point of view.

Secondly, we must be tolerant so that cultural, racial, and religious diversity inspires and stimulates. Our forebears in our republic insisted that, in the words of William Penn, “we must yield the liberties we demand.” Robert Owen, a champion of the working class, lamented how the names of Mohammed, Jesus, and Moses have been misused to cause “disunion, hatred, and suffering for deluded followers and victims as well.”

Thirdly, we have to be open to dialogue. We have much to learn from each other. Dialogue demands that the follower of Jesus know what she or he believes and is able to verbalize those convictions. Dialogue helps more if we omit generalizations like “We’re all going to the same place” or “It doesn’t matter what one believes.” Digging a little deeper for the real differences may not lead to total agreement but understanding the other’s point of view (without agreement) increases acceptance of each other as those who agree that “we must yield the liberties we demand.” Besides, it is always good to learn from one another. I learned as a teacher of world religions that there is something good in all major world religions. Mahatma Gandhi dedicated his life to the end of enmity between Christians, Muslims, and Hindus. He recommended that all Hindus study the teachings of Jesus.

Let’s learn to articulate what we believe, listen to others, and be grateful for the diversity and opportunities to learn from each other. Why try to push away the stranger at our doorstep? Welcome the stranger in the land. (Lev. 19:33-34)

Your fellow traveler in the faith,

*Pastor Ken*

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE



January, 2022

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*

**Luau**

**Hawaiian Entertainment**  
**Hula & Fire Dancers**  
**Live Band featuring Kauai Kanakas**  
**Authentic Hawaiian Buffet Menu & atmosphere**

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**701 North Indiana Avenue**  
**Englewood, Florida**  
**941-474-1989**

**Call Fran Kulak for Tickets**  
**978-500-8187**  
**Adult \$20.00**  
**Children 10 and under \$10.00**

## JANUARY 2022 COUNCIL MEETING

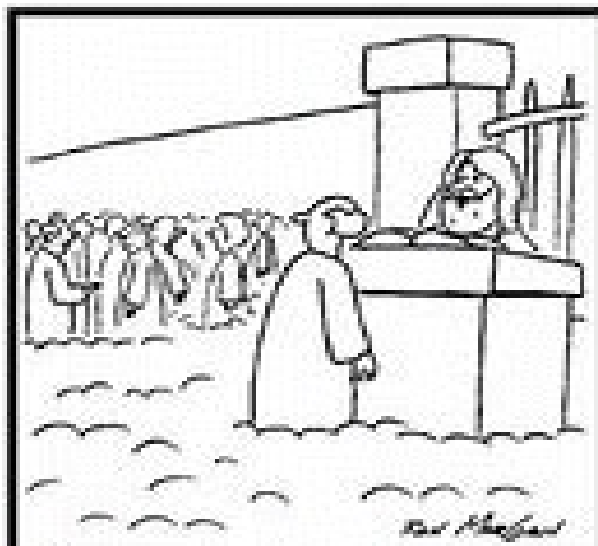
### KEY POINTS

1. Restricted funds for the Air Conditioning and the Organ have been separated in the computerized accounting system. After separation, the Air Conditioning Fund has \$29, 980.74.
2. The Stewardship Committee reported that only 1/3 of the membership has returned the yellow “Time and Talents” sheets and “Intent” sheet. Pastor Lentz will address this issue.
3. Nominating Committee volunteers selected a slate of potential full-time members to be considered as nominees for the 2022 – 2024 Council. These members will all be contacted.
4. Both outdoor flags have been damaged by recent wind storms. Lois Greene and Pastor Lentz have volunteered to replace them.
5. A “Planning Mission Meeting” may be held in February and another “New Member Orientation” scheduled for March.



Submitted by Charlene Seltz, Council Recording Secretary

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**“Those are the Saints. One day,  
they just came marching in.”**

## Music and Worship

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

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*

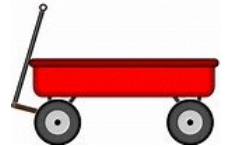


Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I've been praying for 75 years!"



## ENGLEWOOD HELPING

THANK YOU to ALL of our volunteers who staffed the pantry in January-Mary Anne D., Joyce H., Muriel L., Carol R., Brenda S. and Jim S. Also, thank you to all who bring items for our "Little Red Wagon"! These donations help to feed and care for our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet.



Our next time to assist in the Englewood Helping Hand pantry will be Wednesday, March 16th and Thursday, March 17th. Please call Carol Rice (941-475-1017) if you would like to volunteer. The pantry is open to clients every Wednesday and Thursday, from 8am-1pm.



### QUILTING AND KNITTING

On Sunday, January 16th, our sanctuary was adorned with 50 Quilts and 9 Prayer Shawls/Lap Robes. All were blessed by Pastor Ken. The quilts will soon be sent through Lutheran World Relief on journeys to people in the world facing natural disasters, displacement (refugees) and extreme poverty. It is our hope and prayer that each quilt will be a symbol of unconditional love and bring comfort and hope to its recipient. Amen!

A lovely thank you note was received from Village on the Isle for the Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes that were donated in December. If you know of a family member, friend or neighbor who would be comforted by a prayer shawl, please let us know.

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!



\*Our next Social Ministry Team meeting is on February 10th 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 Social Ministry Team*





50 Quilts and 9 Prayer Shawls/Lap Robes.



“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.”



### February Birthdays

Connie Fowler	02-08
Clenora Hoversten	02-13
Ron Tessmer	02-13
Brenda Sahlstrom	02-23
Rudy Kludt	02-25
Dennis Beehler	02-28

**If your birthday is not listed,  
and you would like it to be,  
please contact the office  
(via e-mail at ... [office@christlutheranfleng.org](mailto:office@christlutheranfleng.org))  
to share your special day.**





Treasurer  
Report



### Attendance and Financials

January 02	54	\$ 6,220.00
January 09	60	\$ 5,618.00
January 16	49	\$ 797.00
January 23	68	\$ 1,577.50
January 30	<u>N/A</u>	<u>\$ not available at publishing</u>
	231	\$14,212.50

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# LUAU

Christ Lutheran Church

Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

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 also be purchased after church  
or by calling the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 11<sup>am</sup> - 4<sup>pm</sup>.**