

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

APRIL, 2024



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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A photographer from the American Guild of Organists met me at the church recently to photograph our new organ in order to publish an article about our new instrument. Local AGO chapter members will meet at CLC to see and hear the new organ on May 18. There seems to be some local interest generated by the installation of our new instrument, gifted to us by Allen Dreyfuss. There are some community members who believe that the new acquisition will attract visitors and, potentially, new members.

What does it take to enlist new disciples for Christ? When I drove to Grosse Pointe, Michigan in the fall of 1965 to begin my year of internship at St. Paul Lutheran Church, I was surprised when told that the congregation hosted over 200 kids every weekend for Sunday School. The church was alive on Sunday and during the week bustling with activities. The congregation, for example, hosted four women's circles and offered three Sunday services. Now I am told that only a few dozen folks worship on Sundays at one service. And that is the story of many ELCA congregations. Churches are closing their doors and numerous congregations are yoking with other congregations and sharing one pastor with one or more churches. Since 1976, the ELCA lost 30 % of its membership and closed 12.5 % of its churches. The Presbyterian membership loss was 40% and the Methodists lost almost 17%.

How can one do evangelism in an age of secularization? I'm a Christian because Charlemagne in 776 AD used fire and sword to march the recalcitrant Saxons to the river for baptisms. (His advisor, Alcuin had to convince him to wait until the "converts" had been properly instructed before the march to the river.) Other tactics were orders by pain of death proclaimed by the Magyar prince Geisa in the 10th century.

In 1096 AD, Pope Urban II ordered the Christians of Europe to send armies to the Holy Land to re-Christianize the Muslims. At the end of the 13th century, Jerusalem was still in the hands of the Muslims and thousands of Christians, young children, and Muslims had been pillaged and slaughtered. Lutheran historian, Martin E. Marty observed, "...the most important lesson of the crusades was this: a Patrick or a Martin, a Boniface or an Ansgar could accomplish more for the Christian mission as such than could conquest by the sword." Nowadays some disciples of Christ might not use guns or swords to march people to the baptismal font but threatening people with images of the fire and brimstone of hell doesn't work either.

Those on the far right today who advocate the mission of "Christian Nationalism" are also barking up the wrong tree. It's too late to turn America into a white Christian nation. Jesus died on the cross to establish a kingdom of heaven (visible on earth through witness and good deeds), not the kingdom of America or, for that matter, the kingdom of China or Russia. The Kingdom of Heaven is in the heart, achieved through witness of lives changed by faith. No swords, no threats, no guns, no watered-down gospel, no "best-show-in-town" performances on Sunday morning. The witness compelled by Jesus is our mission. We tell others about Jesus and let God count those who are in the Kingdom, not the visible church but the church known only to God.

Will our new organ bring hundreds to our door? I hope so but maybe not. I only know this: we will sing the joy of salvation and not worry about numbers. Numbers do not the kingdom make. Easter reminds us that Christ rose from the dead. The victory has been won. We proclaim the victory. Let the Spirit do the rest. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Your fellow traveler along the way,

Pastor Ken

THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS WILL BE OUR GUESTS



HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVE WOOD CRAFTS

On April 14, 2024 and during the service, we will be hearing a ministry moment about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after each service we will be hosting in the narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olive wood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angles and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war, due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land. This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christians family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem. Let us carefully tend our roots, the Christians of the Holy Land. And let us pray together for peace in the Holy Land.

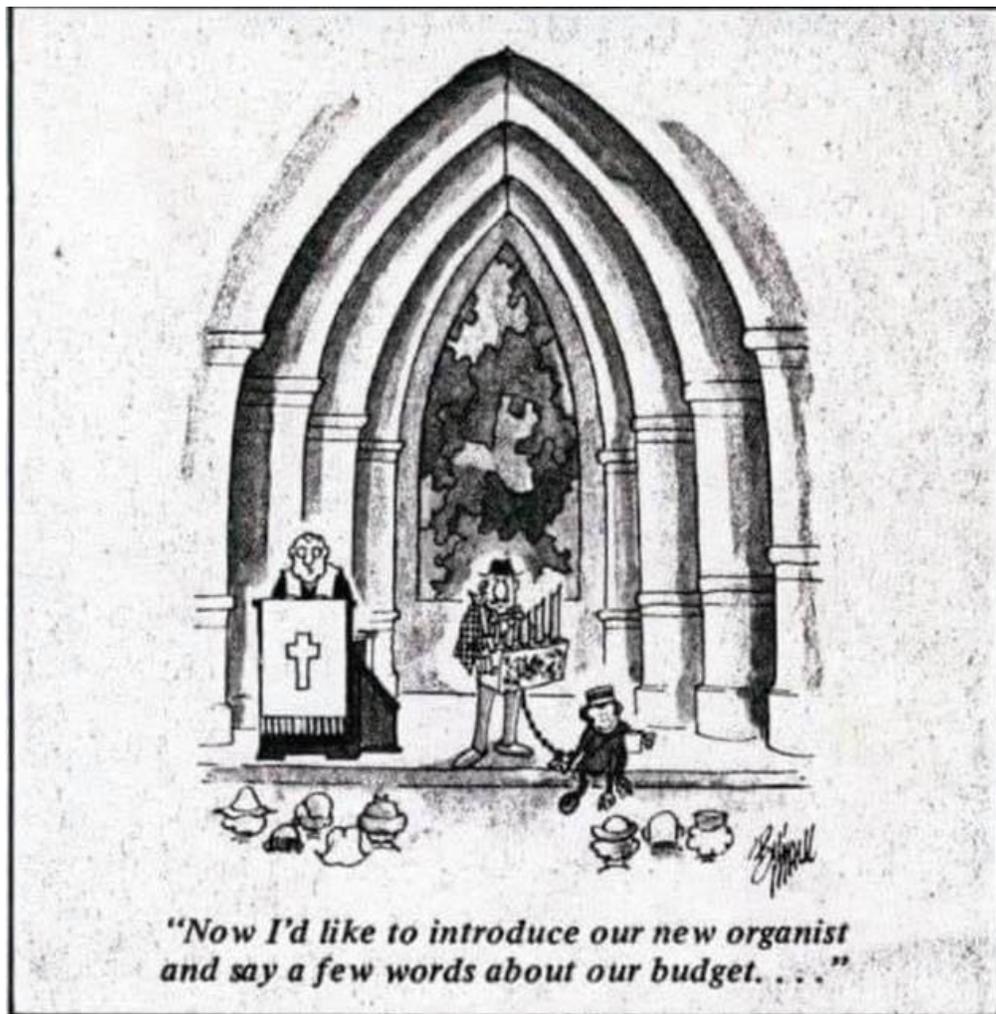
Music and Worship

The Music and Worship Committee did not meet in March. Tom Renaud played guitar and sang the first Sunday in March. Pastor Larry Froemming was the guest organist on March 17th.

Wednesday Soup and Bread was celebrated every Wednesday evening during Lent in the Fellowship Hall with approximately 20 members each week. Various members were asked to witness each week which was interesting and informative.

Palm Sunday was celebrated with the distribution of palms to all congregants. The Holy Week services were at 4:00 on Holy Thursday, at the end of which the altar was stripped and the crucifix veiled. Good Friday Vespers took place at 4:00 amid a silent recessional. Easter Sunday service at 9:30 was beautifully attended, and the sanctuary was adorned with a burst of beautiful flowers, and new carpeting throughout. The Music and Worship Committee will meet again in on June 5th at 11:00. All are welcome to attend

*Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*



OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

With current grocery costs, you can imagine the need for food help has increased. As you are able, please continue to donate food and personal care items, placing them in our "Little Red Wagon". Thank you for donating to this awesome community nonprofit!



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Plans are set for "Lilies and Praise", our Easter visits with our Homebound members, on Thursday, March 28th. If you were able to join us, we thank you and know your heart will be full of joy! These visits share Christ's love that shines in and through each of us.



QUILTING AND KNITTING

Please join us for a time of Christian fellowship, fun and service...no skills necessary. We meet from 9-Noon, every Wednesday, 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



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 (ages 5-18). Donations can be placed in the Kids' Needs collection box in the narthex.

TROSHUK FAMILY

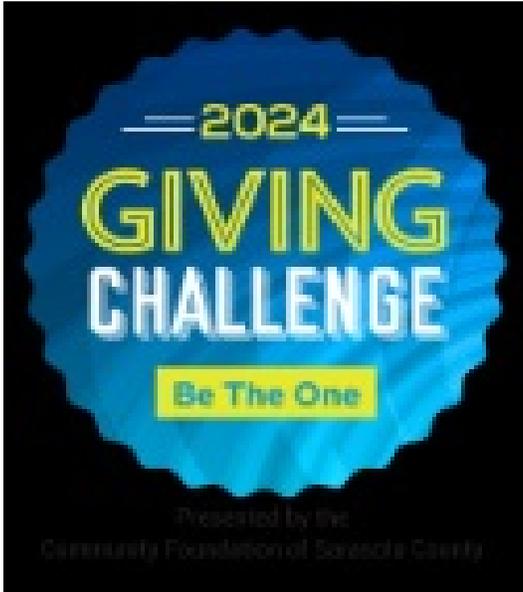
Please continue to support all of them with your prayers

*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, April 4, 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

Outreach Ministry





Take Part in the 2024 Giving Challenge!

The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects about 700 nonprofit organizations with passionate donors and community members to support diverse causes and create enduring impact in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties.

Since 2012, the Giving Challenge has acted as a catalyst for connection and provided more than \$75 million in unrestricted funding over eight challenges.

Being a part of the Giving Challenge can transform nonprofit organizations through meaningful relationships and partnerships, all while strengthening their potential reach.

The Giving Challenge is hosted by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation.

Keep up with the latest on social media with #GivingChallenge2024 and #BeTheOne.

*Get Ready to Connect, Collaborate, Come Together
Noon to Noon, April 9 - 10, 2024*

Englewood Helping Hand, Inc. is participating in the 2024 Giving Challenge on April 9 and 10. This is a 24 hour online local giving

The Giving Challenge is hosted by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County with giving strengthened by The Patterson Foundation. This means that for every unique \$100 donation, The Patterson Foundation matches it with another \$100!





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.



- Ray & Mary Addison
- Dan & Pam Christensen
- Robert Cunningham
- Moirah Ehlers
- Heidi Hose
- Don & Helen Kliner
- Tom Maschhoff
- David & Beth McGhee
- Jean Miller
- William & Debra O'Neill
- John & Brendajean Patterson
- Robert St. Pierre
- Bob & Janet Singer
- Natalie Tickner
- Richard & Susan Thron
- Richard Valenti
- Ruth Vincent
- Mike & Paula Virlee



April

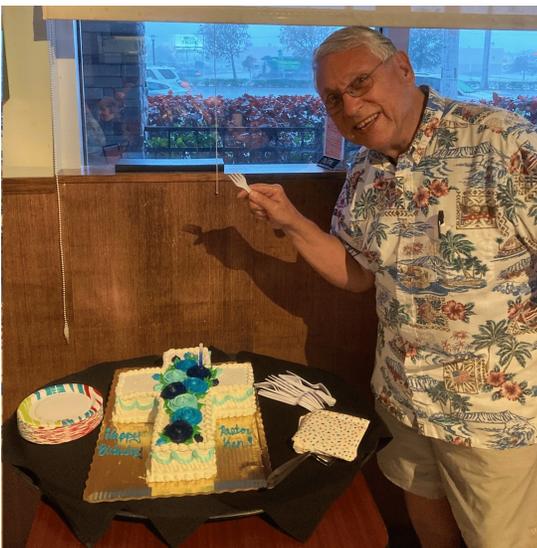


4/08 Gene Samuelson
4/09 Carson Erickson
4/12 Neil Jenkins
4/15 Margaret Jenkins
4/19 Ron Bishop

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.

**The secret to staying young
is to live honestly, eat slowly,
and lie about your age.
Lucille Ball**



Pastor Ken's Birthday celebration & cake



Treasurer Report

& Attendance

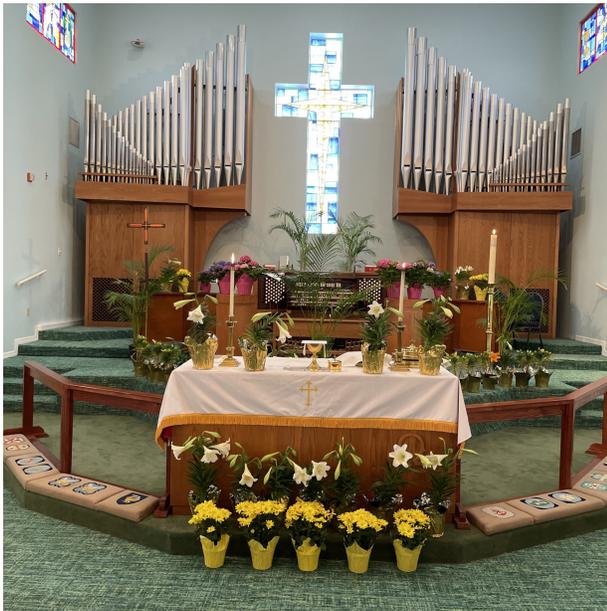
March	Attendance	Giving
3	116	\$3,359.00
10	124	\$1,196.00
17	113	\$2,580.00 \$2,040.77
24	122	\$4,363.00
28 (MT)	26	
29 (GF)	44	
31	156	\$3,349.00
	631	\$14,847.00



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.







2024

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CHRISTIANS OF THE
HOLY LANE
HANDMADE OLIVE
WOOD RELIGIOUS
CARVINGS FOR SALE

1	VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
2	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM} / NO CONF CLASS
3	QUILTING 9-NOON
4	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-12 / OUTREACH MEETING 11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5 NOON-5 ^{PM}
5	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
6	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
7	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY 11:00 ^{AM} / SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 ^{AM}
8	VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
9	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10 / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM} / 6:00PM CONF. CLASS
10	QUILTING 9-NOON
11	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON-5 ^{PM}
12	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
13	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
14	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY 11:00 ^{AM} / SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 ^{AM}
15	VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
16	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10 / BRIDGE CLUB NOON 5 ^{PM} / CHURCH COUNCIL 1: ^{PM} / 6:00PM CONF. CLASS
17	QUILTING 9 - NOON / WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB SUPPER 5:00PM
18	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-NOON / MENS GROUP 9:00 ^{AM} - METRO DINER / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
19	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
20	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
21	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY /SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 ^{AM}
22	VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
23	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10 / BRIDGE CLUB NOON 5 ^{PM} / 6:00PM CONF.CLASS
24	QUILTING 9 - NOON
25	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON
26	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM}
27	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
28	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY /SUNDAY SCHOOL 11 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5 ^{PM}
29	VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
30	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10 / BRIDGE CLUB NOON 5 ^{PM} / 6:00PM CONF. CLASS