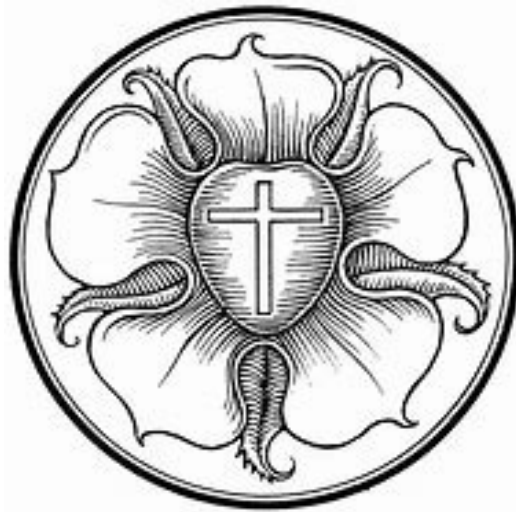


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# CLC NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2022



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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Archaeological evidence suggests that human belief in an after-life is part of what makes one more than just homo sapiens. Swiss theologian Emil Brunner and others postulate a spiritual quality that sets us apart from other members of the animal kingdom. Brunner called it “humanum,” but most of us speak of the “soul.” The graves of Neanderthal men contain burial objects that they may have left to serve the dead in their after-life. The Cro-Magnons, taller than Neanderthals, who populated Europe and part of Africa only 25 thousand years ago, surrounded their dead with practical implements as well as ornaments for an after-life which would suggest a belief in something more than just basic survival.

The Christian teaching of “resurrection” speaks to a “humanum” instinct that senses an existence beyond the grave. Resurrection is not the same as immortality since the principle of immortality, most beautifully expressed by the Greeks, proposes a complete separation of the soul from the body and denies the obvious complete destruction of the whole person, commonly referred to as death. Resurrection is not the same as reincarnation because the principle of reincarnation teaches that the soul transmigrates from one physical container to another until “enlightenment” and release from the physical world is achieved.

The Easter message is a “gospel” about re-creation of the whole person, including soul, body, psyche, spirit, mind, and whatever other components there may be in a person. Since one leaves space and time behind, the new “body” will be re-created, designed to exist in a different dimension we call the “spiritual” world, or the place where God is. Important to the Christian understanding of the event we call “death,” is the honest acknowledgment that death is the end of the road, complete annihilation, absolute destruction. Death is not an illusion; it is the victory of time and space over a fragile machine called the body. Any spiritual response to the problem of death must address this reality. The attempt to regard death as benign fails when innocent children are killed, when young men and women are taken in war, and when poverty or disease or war mercilessly strikes down entire populations.

In spite of the finality of death, our post-death future with God is regarded as an existence that embodies consciousness. We may not “slide” from one dimension to another easily, but the arrival at the end of the road is joyfully experienced. For most of us, our final journey might be thought of as going home. I have never missed my home in a small town in Ohio as a physical location, but lately I seem to more frequently think about my childhood, my loving parents, and my school friends. Home for me is not necessarily a physical site or location but it is the collection of childhood memories, a place mentally which was safe, secure, and beautiful. Fancy theology did not reach the souls of Neandertal man and Cro-Magnons. It was a longing for a place where their daily struggles and doubts would come to an end. As a Christian, that place and the map that leads to it is better defined, but my “home” now is only a foretaste of what is to come. Easter is a statement about what was only dimly envisioned by our forebears. It is a statement about what is to come but it is also power that comes now.

Your fellow believer,

Pastor Ken



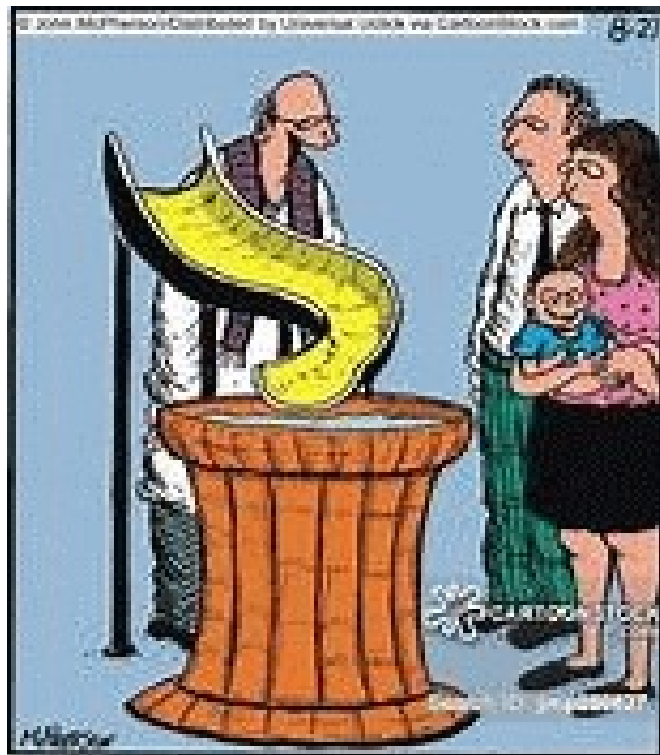
# CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE



## March 2022 - UPDATE

Although there are fewer to commune at home on a regular basis, Pastor Lentz and the CCM assistant have been very busy as many are ill and prayers, cards, and visits are needed. 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. Pastor has made many visits to hospitals and Rehab facilities to offer support, encouragement, and blessings by prayer to those who recently had surgery or set backs. In June, Pastor Firby with CCM assistants will be overseeing the final interment of our sister in Christ, who passed away in 2020, Bea Ridenhour. A "Flash Sale" of our departed brother in Christ, Vern Gustafson's painting were sold. Also, during March, members of the CCM team, attended a "Church Security" Seminar at Westcoast Church. Some very interesting, informative data was received. 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

*Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader*



It makes baptism a lot more fun for everyone.



# **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**

## March 2022 COUNCIL MEETING

The CLC Church Council met for a planning retreat on March 6, 2022, at the home of Lois Greene.

Pastor Robert Firby led the Council in reviewing CLC's Mission/Purpose Statement and to identify and prioritize the goals the Council has set for the upcoming year.

A main goal is to increase membership. Other goals (that have already been reached) included cleaning up the "tool room" at the back of the Fellowship Hall, cleaning and painting the patio area, removing tree roots, and resurfacing portions of the parking area.

It was suggested that a congregational meeting to remind all that even though they are not here during the full year, the expenses of running the church remain the same year-round.

The Council expressed appreciation for those who have returned Time and Talent Sheets.

At the regular Council Meeting of March 9, 2022, Pastor Lentz will baptize Ellen Ray Egeland at Manasota Beach in Englewood. The congregation is invited to attend. The family will serve coffee and donuts following The Rite of Baptism.

Congregational Care Ministry continues to visit and bring Holy Communion to CLC's homebound.

It was noted that the large metal cross in the patio area needs to be painted.

The next CLC Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 1:00 PM in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Kulak, CLC Council Recording Secretary



### Church Bulletin

## Bloopers



The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

## Music and Worship

There was no Music and Worship meeting in March, however, here are some items worth repeating.

1. During Lent, the “Hymn of Praise” will be changed to the familiar “Return to the Lord our God, for he is gracious.....”.
2. Palms will be distributed at the 9:30 service on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. Maundy Thursday (April 14<sup>th</sup>) services will be held at 5:00
4. There will be a special, very moving, Tenebrae service at 5:00 on Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. You won't want to miss this.
5. There will not be a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, however, Pastor Larry Froemming will hold a brief service at 9:00 before service, at the Gazebo for all who wish to remember loved ones who have passed or whose ashes are interred in the garden.



*Lois Greene,*

*Chair Music and Worship*







## **ENGLEWOOD HELPING HANDS**



### **EASTER VISITS With Our HOMEBOUND MEMBERS**

Please join us on MONDAY, APRIL 11 at Noon. We will car pool from the office parking lot and visit our homebound members. These opportunities to share our time and love with these special people brings so much JOY!



#### **ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND**

THANK YOU for ALL of the "Little Red Wagon" donations each week! These donations help to feed and care for our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet. THANK YOU also to Paula Beehler, Joyce Hanisits, Mary Anne DiGrazia and Carol Rice for helping in the pantry during March.

Our next time to assist in the Englewood Helping Hand pantry will be Wednesday, May 18th and Thursday, May 19th. 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. The new pantry building is progressing beautifully! It will be OPENING SOON, we hope!!



#### **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!

On March 23rd, quilting guilds and community members were invited to help us cut squares from our "stash" of material. Lunch was provided for all who attended. A local quilt historian, Patty Butzin, gave a "Trunk Show", sharing information about quilts of the past. It was a time of service, learning and making new friends.

LET US ALL PRAY FOR PEACE and for RELIEF for the PEOPLE of UKRAINE. AMEN!





## KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD



Christ Lutheran continues to be a collection spot for new and gently used clothing for kids of all sizes. Also needed are school supplies and personal care products. A large Kids' Needs collection box is in our narthex. Pastor Ken enjoys volunteering during family shopping nights from 5-7 on Thursdays.



## THRIVENT

**THRIVENT**  
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Are you a Thrivent member? Please 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.

\*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, May 5th 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*

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“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.”



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Gene Samuelson	04/08
Carson Erickson	04/09
Neil Jenkins	04/12
Margaret Jenkins	04/15
Ron Bishop	04/19

**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



March 02	49	\$ 308.00 (Ash Wednesday)
March 06	74	\$ 3,212.00
March 13	66	\$ 2,253.50
March 14		\$1,300.00 (Luau)
March 20	71	\$ 1,727.00
March 27	<u>80</u>	<u>\$ 3,131.00</u>
	340	\$11,931.50