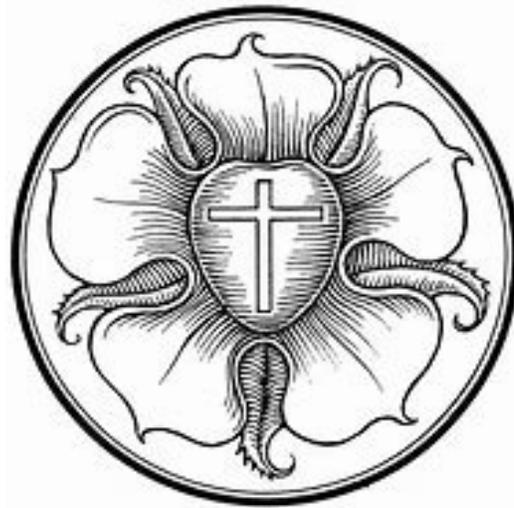


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CLC NEWSLETTER

MAY 2022



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

Published by Christ Lutheran Church, Office Administrator

From the Pastor



April, 2022

Two important baptisms are noted on my calendar. Last Sunday I drove after services to Advent Lutheran Church in Orange Park, Florida, to baptize my little niece, Bailey. She was born two years ago in Jacksonville, Florida, and weighed only 11 ounces, born only seventeen weeks after conception. Our whole family considers her to be our “miracle baby.” After weeks in ICU and many weeks of close observation at home (in the midst of the COVID crisis), she is finally free from all medical treatments and ready for baptism.

The second baptism coming up is for Ellen Ray Egeland, daughter of Andy and Val, scheduled to take place at Manasota Beach at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 7. Our entire Christ family is invited to attend and enjoy coffee and donuts after Ellen’s baptism in the Gulf.

I once was asked the question, “Where in Scripture does Jesus say a child should be baptized shortly after birth.” I wrote the answer and published it in the VENICE GONDOLIER in 1997. Answer: Nowhere. Jesus never said that a child must be baptized shortly after birth. The question is timely because some churches only practice “believer’s baptism,” and sometimes will even rebaptize persons baptized as babies. In their defense, it is clear that the first baptisms in the Church were baptisms of adults who made a deliberate decision to become followers of Jesus in a loosely-organized community called “the Way.” For example, in the book of Acts (2), Peter delivered an inspiring sermon which moved many to ask, “We believe; what do we do now?” Peter answered, “Repent, and be baptized!” And we read that 3,000 accepted Peter’s invitation. Obviously, it is likely that no toddlers stepped forward to be baptized. Therefore, some groups of Christians will only baptize those old enough to make a decision for Christ.

However, most Christians in the world (about 400 million Orthodox, 1 billion Catholics, and 600 million Protestants) practice infant baptism. They point to two accounts in the book of Acts for authority: The jailor at Philippi, motivated by the charity of Paul and Silas, presented his entire family to be baptized (Acts 16) and the centurion Cornelius presented his “relatives and friends” to Peter for baptism (Acts 10). The argument is weak but orthodox Christians for 20 centuries practice infant baptism because of the testimony of some early church fathers who speak of widespread infant baptism in the early formulative years of the church.

But most meaningful (at least for liturgical churches) is the sacramental understanding of the “entrance rite” which witnesses to the action of God rather than the human act of acceptance. The kiss of a child bestowed by a parent does not require the understanding of the child. Churches which baptize infants do the baptizing in the context of the faith of those who present the child. Baptism is a great witness to faith in a God who acts first to forgive, bestowing grace upon the baptized who will later in life accept that grace at an age of discerning. That’s why those baptized as infants are encouraged to “affirm” baptism in the rite of confirmation.

But infant baptizers have no objection when parents prefer to allow their offspring to wait until an “adult” decision for Christ can be made. However, at some point individual faith must be “wedded” to the baptism, either before the baptism or after the baptism. Most Christian churches recognize the baptisms of all denominations. Baptism is a great sign of Christian unity and should not be something that divides Christians. The significance of baptism is more important than the timing of baptism. Baptism is the sign of inclusion in the family that recognizes God’s unbounded love in the Person who commanded his followers to “go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19)

Your fellow disciple in the Kingdom through baptism,
Pastor Ken



CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE



APRIL, 2022

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 setbacks. In April, Pastor Lentz traveled to Moffett Cancer Center with Jim Jung to give last rites to Jim Jung's step sister, Cecelia McCloy. Their mother, Ruth McCloy was a member of Christ Lutheran Church for many years, and a congregant of the Congregational Care Ministry. A "Celebration of Life" at CLC will be held in June. Also 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. The CCM Team is always available to visit anyone at home who may want a visit or special prayers. Just contact the church office (941-474-1989), Pastor Lentz (928-970-1313) or Charlene Seltz (941-460-0183), to request a visit or prayers. In His care,

Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader



"If you're ever headed the wrong way in life, remember the road to Heaven allows U-turns."

April 2022

The CLC Church Council met on April 13, 2022.

1. Unfinished business from March included:
 - Property issues - paint cross by patio
 - Draw up organizational Leadership flow chart
 - How to encourage people to submit their Time & Talent Sheets.
2. New business included:
 - Thank you letter to members for their commitments and closure of Stewardship Campaign
 - Use of CLC congregation e-mail list for non member request.
3. Congregational Care Ministry continues to visit and bring Holy Communion to Clc's homebound. Cards and visitations continue.
4. Evangelism Ministry continues to distribute copies of "Our Daily Bread" in the community. Greeters will be asked to encourage visitors/guests to sign the guest book.
5. Fellowship Ministry - Joyce Hanisits will be the Council support for Fellowship Hour.



Respectfully submitted,
Fran Kulak, CLC Council Recording Secretary



Music and Worship - April 2022

Holy Week Services:

- ⌘ Maundy Thursday service at 5:00^{pm} had an attendance of approximately 20+.
- ⌘ Good Friday Tenebrae service 5:00^{pm} had an attendance of 17.

Since attendance was so light, next year Holy Week services will most likely occur at a later time slot. This will be revisited in 2023.



To date, the **PASSING OF THE PLATE** will not resume; however the usher for the day will take the plate from in front of the baptismal font during the Offertory and bring it forward to present to Pastor Ken.

The **"LITTLE RED WAGON"** will follow. The gifts will be presented by Pastor and returned to their original place immediately for when the congregation recesses.

CONCERNING MASKS ... It was decided that the Pastor and the Assistant will no longer be wearing masks during the distribution of communion. Hand sanitizing will be done at that time.

The **"PASSING OF THE PEACE"** by physical contact will not resume at this time. To be reviewed in the future.

Jean Rugg has been added to the Music and Worship Committee to help Lois with some of the various agenda items. Thank you so much Jean.

Pastor Bill Biljean will be officiating in Pastor Ken's absence from May 12th to June 3rd; and from June 20th to July 14th.

*Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



ENGLEWOOD HELPING HANDS



EASTER VISITS With Our HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Easter visits with our homebound members were joyful! On April 11th, Peggy Elshoff, Pastor Ken, Ellen Novotny and Carol Rice visited and celebrated communion with 6 of our members. Smiles abounded as we arrived with lilies and cards. As we ended our visits, we sang together "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today". We are thankful for these opportunities to connect face-to-face with these special people.



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. Starting in April, the "Little Red Wagon" is being brought to the altar for blessing during the offertory.

Our next time to assist in the Englewood Helping Hand pantry will be Wednesday, May 18th and Thursday, May 19th. The pantry is open to clients every Wednesday and Thursday, from 8am-1pm. The new pantry building will be OPENING SOON, we hope!!

Another opportunity for volunteering is the US Postal Food Drive on Saturdays, May 14th. Donations will be sorted and crated from 10am-2pm. Please see or call Carol Rice if you would like to volunteer with Englewood Helping Hand.



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!

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

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.

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

*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!

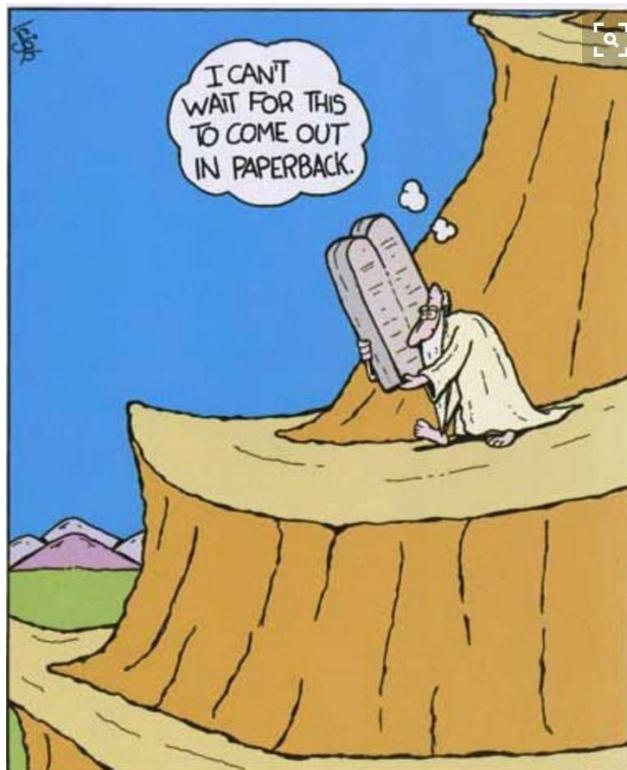
Carol Rice for the Social Ministry Team



“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.”





MAY BIRTHDAYS

Dorothy Berner	05/02
Sharon Tessmer	05/03
Dorothy Gramstead	05/04
Deborah Seliski	05/12
Barbara McAlister	05/14
Elizabeth Tyanner	05/17
Patricia LaPierre	05/18
Jeff Rice	05/20
Katherine Fogt	05/21
Henry Miller	05/21
Paul Rugg	05/22
Katie Egeland	05/25
Thomas Flebbe	05/25
Lois Greene	05/26

**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.



& Attendance

April 03	66	\$2,321.00
April 04		\$2,000.00 (luau)
April 10	77	\$2,952.50 (Palm Sunday)
April 14	25	\$ 190.00 (Maundy Thursday)
April 15	20	\$ 160.00 (Good Friday)
April 17	96	\$3,097.00 (Easter)
April 24	<u>76</u>	<u>\$1,697.50</u>
	360	\$12,418.00

