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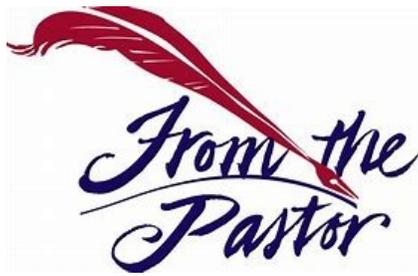
CLC NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2024



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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I once read about an eighteen-year-old boy who drowned while experimenting with an aqualung. He was a mild tempered gifted lad full of great promise. When his father looked down upon his body that afternoon, he cried out in anguish, "Why did this have to happen? Why have you been taken away from us when you had so much to live for?" A young minister arrived upon the scene and tried to comfort the distraught father by placing an understanding hand upon his shoulder and saying, "It is God's will. You must understand, it is God's will." The father with face distorted from grief and anger, raised his eyes to the

sky and shouted, "God, if you could do this, if you could take my only son from me, then I want nothing to do with you, ever!"

I have heard those kind of thoughts many times in my ministry. The story reminds me of the time when one of my best high school friends tragically died in an accident after his first year of university. He and two other graduates of my high school class borrowed a small aircraft and tried to fly from Ohio to Annapolis to visit another friend of mine. They encountered bad weather and, in the darkness, flew into the top of a mountain in West Virginia. My friend's parents, immigrants from Germany, lost their only child. Soon after the accident, they sold their farm and moved away. Rumor had it that they resettled in Florida somewhere. They were grief-stricken. They too raised their eyes to the sky and shouted, "God, why did you take our only son from us?"

I don't think it is "God's will" that anyone die. Many of us today weep in our hearts when we see the images of the destruction in Ukraine, in the Gaza strip, or in Sudan. Perhaps some of us have lost family members or friends who have been deprived of years of productivity. Easter has reminded us again that there is an enemy, "Sin, Death, and the Devil," that was vanquished by the victory of Jesus upon the cross. But the enemy lingers. The fruits of Christ's victory are visible now in our faith, in our will to love others, in our prayers. But the victory is not yet realized. Hegel identified the enemy as "man's separation from Being," and Solzhenitsyn blamed the line that cuts through the heart of every human. Our era is still marked by the tension between good and evil that spawns violence in all forms, the ensuing confusion at the border between two human imperatives.

The Letter to the Hebrews implies that we are still caught between two events: the coming of Christ the first time and the coming of Christ the second time. The time of the present is filled with faith optimism, something not known to those who lived before the ministry of Jesus on planet earth. The father who lost his son could only impute his own faith into the experience of his son. That, in my opinion, would have been more helpful than the insensitive "assurance," "It is God's will." It is helpful to me to understand that we humans are not blessed with the full picture of the world's events. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.," (I Cor. 13: 12)

Our existence is colored by our separation from God although that gap has been bridged by Christ the "pioneer" as Hebrews puts it. Once Clarence Darrow visited a group of ghetto dwellers in Chicago. He heard their stories of hunger, drug abuse, unemployment and street crime. When he spoke to an elderly black woman, she said, "Mr. Darrow, we got a passel of troubles, but we still got Jesus." We got our troubles, but now Easter reminds us, we got Jesus.

Your fellow traveler along the way,

Pastor Ken

Music and Worship

The Music and Worship Committee did not meet in April.

Holy Thursday service at 4:00 was minimally attended. The altar was stripped after service in preparation for Good Friday. Good Friday service at 4:00 was also minimally attended, but was quite moving nonetheless. It is hoped to generate better attendance next year.

Easter Sunday found the church to be adorned with Easter Lilies and palms, Hydrangeas, Tiger Lilies etc. that made for a spectacular Easter Sunday. It had a “wow” factor much to everyone’s delight. Richard played the Hallelujah Chorus which inspired all to concentrate on the Resurrection. Soloist Joyce Bailey sang at the Offertory which added another “wow” factor to a beautiful and meaningful Easter celebration.

On April 7th, Tom Renaud presented a concert of Christian music with guitar and voice in the sanctuary at 3:00 after which a small reception was held on the patio.

The next Music and Worship Committee will take place on June 5th at 11:00 in the office. All are invited to attend.

*Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*



Hacker: “We have all your passwords”
Snoopy “ Thank God!, can you please tell me them!”

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! EHH is located on the grounds of Englewood Methodist Church. They are open to clients on W and TH, 8am-1pm. If you would be interested to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol Rice or Mary Anne DiGrazia know.



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. Thank you for helping children in our community!

TROSHUK FAMILY

Please continue to support all of them with your prayers

*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, May 2 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

O Offering
U Understanding
T Trusting
R Respect
E Enjoyment
A Acceptance
C Christians
H Helping



Christ Lutheran Men's Group



The Men (**R.O.M.E.O.'s**; Remarkable Older Men Enjoying Our-Fellowship) of Christ Lutheran, have had an exciting and positive first part of 2024.

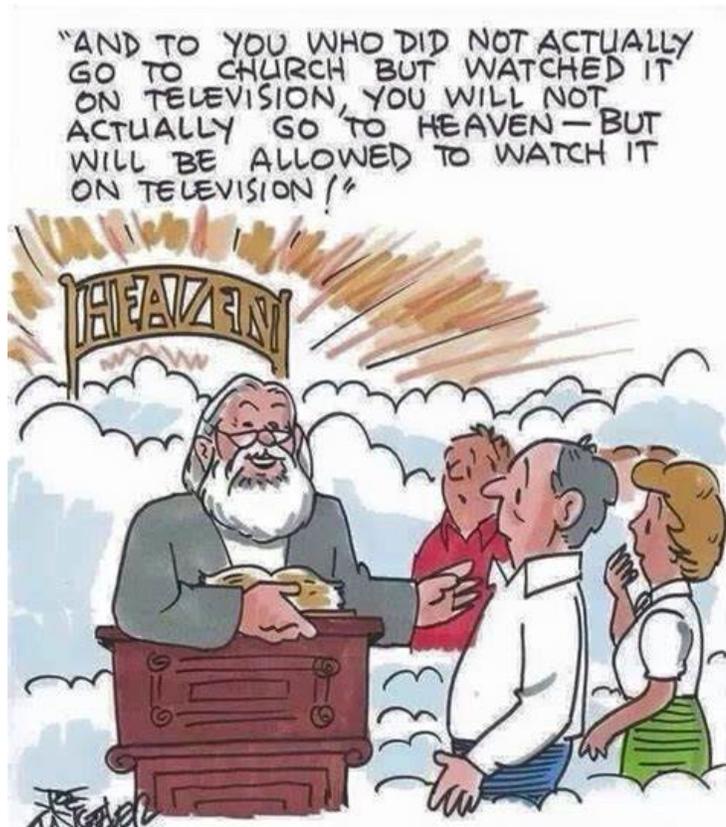
Our purpose for meeting is devotions and Christian fellowship; meeting and getting to know each other. At times we go forward, attempting to be "arms and hands" of Jesus, in caring for our congregation.

The Men have been meeting twice a month; 1st & 3rd Thursday, 9am. We meet at the church on the first Thursday and go-out for breakfast together on the third Thursday of the month.

The Men's group will be taking a break for the months of June, July and August. We will reconvene in September. The Men will also be reviewing the best fall dates and times to meet. Some possible additions may be gathering occasionally in the afternoon or evening.

All Christ Lutheran Men, member, guests and friends are welcome and encouraged to join us. We especially extend a welcome to our new members.

Mark Baker
Men's Group co-facilitator



2024, CHRIST LUTHERAN QUARTERLY CHECK-UP

Just like a visit to your primary care-giver—How are you doing? Feeling good? Everything going well? I hope so. Let's review.



How is your Stewardship of TIME?

Taking TIME to pray, read Holy Scripture, sharing God's Love

Taking TIME to share the Good News

Taking TIME to serve at Christ Lutheran and community

Taking TIME to welcome newcomers with a smile

Making the effort to wear your NAME TAG



What has been your Stewardship of TALENT?



Using your God given TALENTS to Participate in and join;

Men's Group

Women's Group/Book Studies

Worship Support, Music

Buildings, Grounds

CLC Fellowship and Community Out-Reach

The first quarter of 2024 has been excellent for Christ Lutheran, due to your on-going involvement and support. We have had record setting worship attendance, some new and renewed programs and incredible financial support to date. Thank you.

Keep up the good work.

God bless you all "good and faithful servants"

Mark Baker, Stewardship facilitator



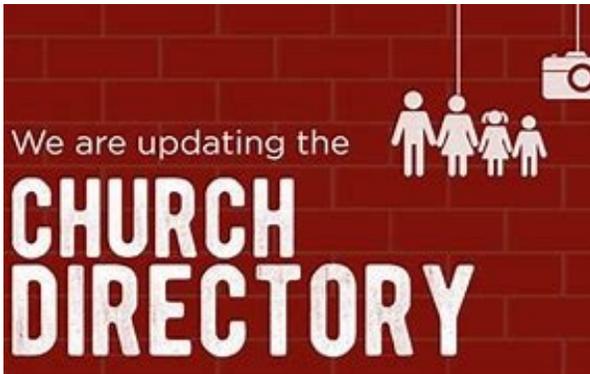


Things you need to know!



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 Hanits, council rep to Fellowship Ministry



NEW CLC PHONE directories (blue cover) are available. Again, please let us know, via e-mail, a note, phone call, or carrier pigeon, etc. if your information needs updated. **PLEASE, if you have changed or there is an error, please let us know.** We can't express how important it is to keep us up to date by sending us any **NEW** info at office@christlutheranfleng.org telling us to add or correct your e-mail. And remember,

penmanship counts ... if I can't read it . . . guaranteed it will be 100% incorrect.

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.



"Remind me never to ask the Youth Group to help fold the church bulletins again."

May

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------|
| Dorothy | Baerner 05/02 | |
| Kathy | Sidebottom | 05/06 |
| Kenneth | Warring | 05/07 |
| Steven | Fernandez | 05/09 |
| John | Patterson | 05/10 |
| Deborah | Seliski | 05/12 |
| Ray | Addison | 05/16 |
| Dennis | Johnson | 05/16 |
| Patricia | LaPierre | 05/18 |
| Ray | Addison | 05/16 |
| Elizabeth | Tanner | 05/17 |
| Patricia | LaPierre | 05/18 |
| Richard | Lentz | 05/19 |
| Henry | Miller | 05/21 |
| Paul | Rugg | 05/22 |
| Richard | Valenti | 05/23 |
| William | O'Neill | 05/23 |
| Robert | Cunningham | 05/24 |
| Thomas | Flebbe | 05/25 |
| Gail | Johnson | 05/25 |
| Frances | Regan | 05/26 |
| Fern | Durham | 05/28 |
| Robert | Cosler | 05/31 |

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.

Another adventure filled year awaits you.





Treasurer Report

& Attendance

| April | Attendance | Giving |
|-------|------------|--------------------|
| 7 | 104 | \$4,204.00 |
| 14 | 92 | \$1,836.00 |
| 21 | 82 | \$6,052.00 |
| 28 | 71 | \$1,020.00 |
| | 349 | \$13,112.00 |



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.

THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU'LL STAY HERE.
THE BAD NEWS IS YOUR LUGGAGE
HAS GONE TO HELL.





2024

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | QUILTING 9:00 ^{AM} -NOON |
| 2 | COUNTRY LINE DANCE 9:00 ^{AM} -NOON / OUTREACH MEETING 11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00-5:00 ^{PM} / MENS GROUP 9:00 ^{AM} |
| 3 | TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5:00 ^{PM} |
| 4 | SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES |
| 5 | WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} |
| 6 | DANCE 2 B FIT - 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} (LAST CLASS TILL FALL) / VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM} |
| 7 | BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5 ^{PM} / 6:00 ^{PM} CONF. CLASS |
| 8 | QUILTING 9:00 ^{AM} -NOON |
| 9 | COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00 ^{AM} -NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON-5:00 ^{PM} |
| 10 | TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON-5:00 ^{PM} |
| 11 | SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES |
| 12 | WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH 11:00 ^{AM} AFTER SERVICE |
| 13 | VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM} |
| 14 | BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10:00 ^{AM} / CHURCH COUNCIL 1:00 ^{PM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5:00 ^{PM} / 6:00PM CONF. CLASS |
| 15 | QUILTING 9:00 ^{AM} - NOON |
| 16 | COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00 ^{AM} -NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5:00 ^{PM} |
| 17 | TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5:00 ^{PM} |
| 18 | AMERICAN GUILD ORGANIST MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL 9:30 ^{AM} - 1:30 ^{PM} |
| 19 | WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} |
| 20 | VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM} |
| 21 | BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10:00AM / BRIDGE CLUB NOON 5:00 ^{PM} / CONF. CLASS 6:00PM |
| 22 | QUILTING 9:00 - NOON |
| 23 | COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON |
| 24 | TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5:00 ^{PM} |

| | |
|----|--|
| 25 | SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES |
| 26 | WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} |
| 27 | VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM} |
| 28 | BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON 5:00 ^{PM} / 6:00 ^{PM} CONF. CLASS |
| 29 | QUILTING 9:00 - NOON |
| 30 | COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB NOON |
| 31 | TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB NOON - 5:00 ^{PM} / FL BAHAMA SYNOD ASSEMBLY THRU 06/02 |



Mother's Day
BRUNCH

Next Sunday May 12th, we will be having our second annual Mother's Day Brunch sponsored by the women of the parish. Please plan to stay after church for a few minutes for food and fellowship. Anyone wishing to bring a dessert or a salad is welcome to do so. Volunteers are needed to set up tables before service. See you there!

