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# CLC NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER, 2024



**Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313**  
*Published by Christ Lutheran Church, Office Administrator*



It's hard for me to believe that this newsletter heralds the beginning of the end of the year 2024. On our liturgical calendar, the church year ends with the end of November, with Advent starting on December 1.

I looked over old articles I wrote years ago for the VENICE GONDOLIER and discovered that in my article published on November 13, 1999, I railed against the commercialization of Christmas. I had returned from a trip to Europe in the middle of September and went to Wal-Mart to buy an alarm clock. I was shocked by the elaborate displays of cute snowmen, electrified reindeer, and a vast assortment of yard props without reference to the "Reason for the Season." This year's Wal Mart offerings are mind dazzling, featuring lighting features that can turn any living room or front yard into a spectacular light show that would impress even Walt Disney.

Now, more than ever, the merchandise of Christmas featured at Wal-Mart, Home Depot, and Lowe's can supply customers with "stuff" that has become so distant from a spiritual Christmas that it is now easier than ever to deck the halls with the accouterments of a practical happy atheism.

But we can't blame the retailers. After all, Wal-Mart's representative, Mr. Glass, wrote to me in 1999 and reminded me that Sam Walton's motto was "The customer is the boss." Wal-Mart, according to Mr. Glass, "strives to offer everyday low prices and friendly service." I wondered at the time if Mr. Glass had ever read about Dietrich Bonhoeffer's cultural observation about the "world come of age." The "world come of age" is now free from the tutelage of the organized church. We are now free to get ready for party time without the church's directive about Christmas, that Christmas is about the birth of a child in Bethlehem, a child recognized even today by 2 billion believers as the Savior.

I learned again on my recent trip to visit friends in Germany, that the number of believers in Europe is steadily declining. When I served at St. Petri Kirche in Buxtehude in 2001, there were 6,500 "members" affiliated with that congregation but attendance on Sunday numbered only about 80. "Members" are those in a particular parish area who pay church taxes. My retired pastor friend in Buxtehude told me two weeks ago that the number of tax payers are now about 4,500, of whom perhaps only 30 attend worship.

I received a phone call this week from a lady in Englewood who expressed her concerns about declining worship attendance in her congregation after COVID. Maybe the absent church-goers are zooming now. Maybe not.

The aisles of commercialism at Wal-Mart, Lowe's, and Home Depot are catering to the "boss," and if the boss wants Frosty and Rudolph, then the boss (the customer) will get what he/she wants. Last year I went to Hallmark to get a few "religious" Christmas cards. There were none. Just banal holiday cards that said practically nothing. I thought that the "religious cards" had already been sold out, but the clerk told me that there weren't very many to begin with.

Our American right to religious freedom gives us the constitutional right to express our "religion" anyway we choose. Nothing wrong with that. But it also guarantees our freedom to separate ourselves from our "Ground of Being" and escape into a world of tinsel, tinny music, and plastic angels. Fulton J. Sheen once spoke of people who hide within themselves, much as Adam and Eve hid themselves from God in the garden. And so we are free to separate ourselves from the Advent announcement of the coming of the Messiah. Ho hum.

Our holiday season begins on Thanksgiving Day and officially ends on the church calendar on Epiphany, January 6. Plenty of time to give some thought to reconnecting to the "ground of being," visually lighting up the world from a point of transmission, a point we call a stable in far-away Bethlehem.

**Pastor Ken**

# Music and Worship



The Music and Worship Committee scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> was cancelled. The Committee will meet next on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. All are welcome.

On October 27<sup>th</sup> Pastor Ken did his annual portrayal of Martin Luther which is always well received and appreciated. The Troschuk family sang for us during the Offertory.

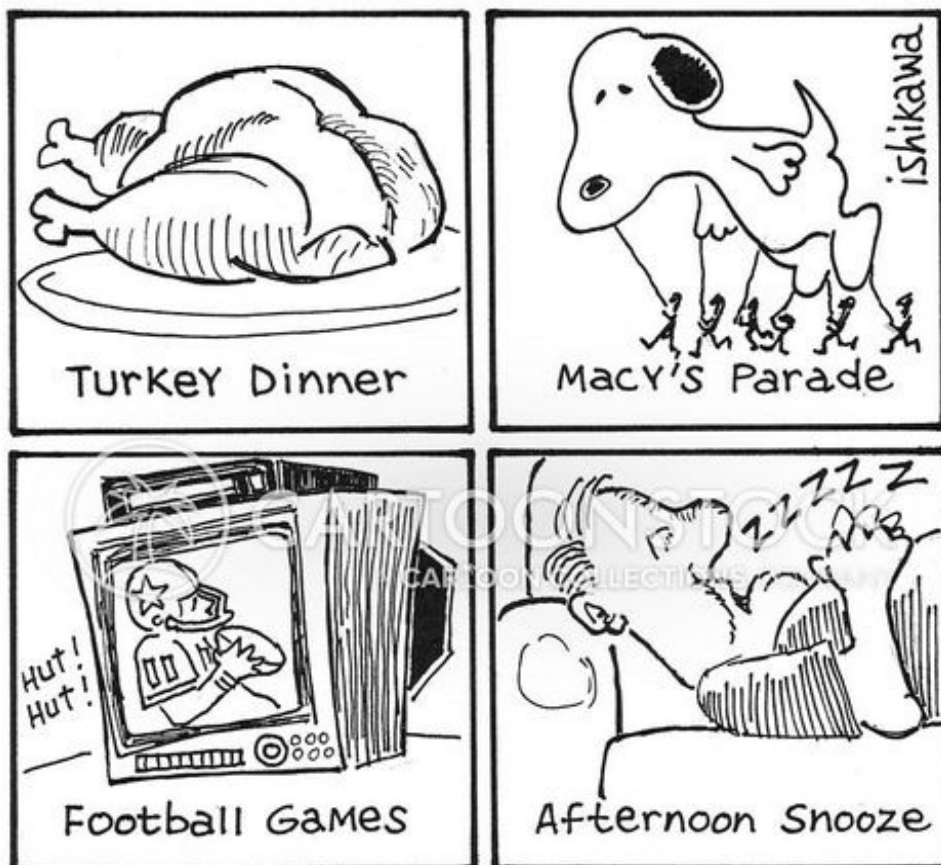
Pastor Joe LaDu presided on October 13<sup>th</sup> while Pastor Ken was in Germany.

The Organ Concert is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. Help with publicity is needed. See Lois Greene if interested.

*Lois Greene*

*Chair Music and Worship*

CS164494



## Thanksgiving Day Traditions

# OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

## ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND (EHH)

Thank you for donating food and personal care items to EHH! Located on the grounds of Englewood Methodist Church, EHH is open to clients on W and TH, 8am-1pm and new hours on the 1st and 3rd W each month, from 4:30-6:30. In October, our church volunteers helped sort donations, made up bags of groceries and organized the pantry on W, 10/23 and TH, 10/24. If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol Rice or Mary Anne DiGrazia know. A special thank you to our recent pantry volunteers: Betsy Casale, Mary Anne DiGrazia, Lois Greene, and Joyce Hanisits!



## QUILTING AND KNITTING

Please join us for a time of Christian fellowship, fun and service...no skills necessary. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and have expanded our hours to 9-2 every Wednesday. The expanded time allows for flexibility to come when you can and stay as long as you are able. All willing hands and hearts are welcome. Most of our quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief. Beautiful knitted and crocheted Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes are donated locally. If you know someone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl or lap robe, please let Pastor Ken, Carol or Mary Anne.

## 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 our narthex. Thank you to all who have helped children in our community! Pastor Ken enjoys volunteering monthly with Kids' Needs during their TH evening shopping nights. Thank you, PK!

Looking ahead to Christmas, our team decided to collect new shoes, socks, undies, sweatshirts and jackets again during Advent. These gifts of comfort help local families provide these necessities for their children.

## TROSHUK FAMILY

Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for PEACE!

\*The Outreach Ministry Team will not meet in November.

*Peace and Joy!*

Carol Rice for the Outreach Ministry Team





**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](mailto: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.



**Christ Lutheran Church Women's Circle!**

Like many other activities, the weather unfortunately canceled our October meeting. I will be in Spain in November and December, therefore I am inviting the women to join me for a Epiphany dinner on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 5:00<sup>pm</sup>. Let's get together for some Twelfth Night laughter and merriment. Three Kings Day is celebrated throughout the world and we will put our spin on it.

Please keep in your prayers all those who have been effected by the hurricane. We will have some funds available for emergencies, and the synod also has a hurricane fund for those in need.

See you then!  
Pastor Linda+

# Christ Lutheran Men

## November, month of Thankfulness

### MEN'S MINISTRIES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men of Christ Lutheran Church meet in Christian Fellowship to share and serve our Lord. All Men are welcome and encouraged to join with us.

Ecclesiastes: 4:9-10

“Two are better than one, because they have good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up”

The Men's Group will meet every Thursday, 9am at the Church Office Conference Room. There will be some special events, held on different dates; TBA

### Up-coming Schedule:

Thursday Nov. 7th, 9am at Church Office Conference Room

Coffee,  
Devotions,  
Donuts  
Bible Study

Thursday Nov. 14th, 9am Church Office Conference Room

Coffee,  
Fellowship,  
Devotions,  
Donuts  
Guest Speaker; TBA

Thursday Nov. 21st, 9am at Church Office Conference Room

Coffee,  
Fellowship,  
Devotions and program

No Meeting Nov. 28th, Thanksgiving. Blessings to all!

**SPECIAL DATES:** Please mark your calendars

Thursday Dec. 12th, Men's sponsored Holiday Dinner Party

Sunday Dec. 15th, Church Decorating. After worship

Saturday Jan. 11, Special Church Gathering: TBA

Sunday Feb. 16th, Organ Concert

*Mark Baker, Facilitator*



Julie	Wentzel	11/13
Michael	Yankowski	11/19
Don	Kliner	11/23
MaryJane	Rock-Brien	11/25
Thomas	Newton	11/25



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.

*Another adventure filled  
year awaits you.*



# Church Attendance

October	Attendance	Giving
10/06	39	\$2,273.00
10/13	34	\$2,289.00
10/20	60	\$1,091.00
10/27	84	\$3,938.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
	<b>217</b>	<b>\$9,591.00</b>



## 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.





<b>NOVEMBER</b>	1	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 <sup>AM</sup>
	2	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
	3	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 <sup>AM</sup>
	4	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 <sup>PM</sup>
	5	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30 <sup>AM</sup> / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5:00 <sup>PM</sup>
	6	QUILTING 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> - 2:00 <sup>PM</sup> / 11:00 <sup>AM</sup> WORSHIP COMMITTEE
	7	9:00 <sup>AM</sup> MENS GROUP / COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> -12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
	8	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 <sup>AM</sup>
	9	ENGLEWOOD ORCHID SOCIETY ANNUAL SALE
	10	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 <sup>AM</sup>
	11	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 <sup>PM</sup>
	12	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30 <sup>AM</sup> / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 <sup>PM</sup>
	13	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 <sup>PM</sup>
	14	9:00 <sup>AM</sup> MENS GROUP / COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00 <sup>AM</sup> -12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
	15	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 <sup>AM</sup>
	16	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
	17	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 <sup>AM</sup>
	18	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 <sup>PM</sup>
	19	BRIDGE CLASS 9:30-11:30 / OKTOBERFEST COMM - 11 <sup>AM</sup> / BRIDGE CLUB - 12 - 5 <sup>PM</sup> / CH COUNCIL 1 <sup>PM</sup>
	20	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 <sup>PM</sup> / 6:30 <sup>PM</sup>
	21	9:00 <sup>AM</sup> MENS GROUP / COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
	22	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 <sup>AM</sup>
	23	
	24	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 <sup>AM</sup>
	25	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 <sup>PM</sup>
	26	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30 <sup>AM</sup> / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 <sup>PM</sup>
	27	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 <sup>PM</sup>
	28	HAPPY THANKSGIVING - OFFICE CLOSED
	29	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 <sup>AM</sup>
	30	