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CLC NEWSLETTER JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2023



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

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I answered a call a few months ago from a man who wanted to meet me in my office in order to “check out” the Lutheran Church. His first question was an inquiry about the creation account in the book of Genesis. I explained that Lutherans were free to interpret the seven-day account literally or interpretively but that either interpretation would conclude that, according to the Hebrew scriptures, there is only one God (instead of many gods) who created heaven and earth and sustains all that he has created. He was not happy about my answer and when I replied to his next question about homosexuality and explained that the ELCA interpretation of scripture allowed for inclusion of gays in our community. The gentleman immediately stood up and left for the door but not before consigning me and all Lutherans to hell.

Had the visitor hung around a little longer, I would have explained that the ELCA and most mainline churches now use the term “inspired Word of God,” having discarded the more traditional term, “inerrant Word of God.” The “inspired” terminology allows for a more contemporary scientific understanding of the Bible. For example, believers are not compelled to believe that the earth is flat but is, in fact, a sphere that is part of a solar system and a galaxy which is one galaxy among galaxies that seem to be in a universe that is infinite. The writers of Scripture confess in the context of their world views their beliefs about God’s deeds and nature in human language which we believe to be “divine truth.”

I have concluded in my own spiritual journey that a radical literal approach to the bible can lead to a dead end that rules out deeper biblical truth. For example, an insistence that Adam and Eve were real flesh-and-blood people may preclude the search for a more important message from Genesis, a message about the sovereignty of God and our dependence upon that God. That point does not depend upon a literal understanding of the creation account, but also does not rule it out. That is also true about the virgin birth account. The virgin birth accounts in Matthew and Luke do not compel or dissuade us from affirming their literal interpretation. They are statements about the **significance** of Jesus, just as the great prologue about the **Word** in John 1 is a statement about the **nature and mission** of Jesus.

In some ways, Rabbi Abraham Heschel spoke also for Christians when he said, the Bible “is a book that cannot die, that is incapable of becoming stale or obsolete...(it is) ... like an ocean at the bottom of which countless pearls lie; waiting to be discovered, its spirit still to be unfolded...What would be missing in the world, what would be the condition and faith of man, had the Bible not been preserved?” (ISRAEL: AN ECHO OF ETERNITY)

Let us not foolishly cast away pearls by getting caught up too much in the trees and miss the woods.

Your fellow traveler on the way,
Pastor Ken

Music and Worship

There was no Music and Worship Committee meeting in July or August. The date for our September meeting will be September 6th at 11^{am}. Hope to see everyone on the 6th.

Thank you to Gail Pedersen, our retired organist, who came out of retirement for two months to play for us until our new organist was able to come onboard Thank you Gail . . .you are the best!

Our new organist, Richard Benedum started on August 6th amidst the debris and chaos in the Sanctuary sans an organ. He is playing the piano for us until our new pipe organ is installed when the Sanctuary renovation is completed. We thank him for his patience and cooperation.

We happily await the return of our Northern parishioners to launch a new church year in a newly renovated space. Meantime, services are ongoing with prayerful attendance of our faithful summer residents. The word of the month is “patience”!

*Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*



**Due to the failure of our organ,
the next hymn will also be sung to the tune of Chopsticks.**



RICHARD P. BENEDUM

Richard P. Benedum is Professor *emeritus* of music at the University of Dayton. From 2001-05 he held the endowed Alumni Chair in the Humanities; he served as chair of the Music Department from 1980-88 and from 1996-2001. He has received numerous awards for teaching and other professional activities and in 2009 was named the outstanding alumnus of the University of Oregon's School of Music and Dance. He is also the founder and former music director of the Dayton Bach Society chorus and orchestra, and has conducted all the major oratorios and passions, and numerous cantatas of Bach, as well as other major works from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. He is active as an organ recitalist and church musician. He was invited to join the Speakers Bureau of the Ohio Humanities Council and subsequently was named to the Council's Board; since moving to Florida he has joined the Florida Humanities Council's Directory of Humanities Professionals.

He directed fifteen Summer Seminars and Institutes for teachers, based in Vienna and studying the music of Mozart, for the National Endowment for the Humanities between 1990 and 2014, and is currently a consultant and review panel member for the Endowment. He has also directed numerous interdisciplinary programs for teachers on operas, especially by Mozart, in Ohio and Florida, supported with NEH and Ohio Humanities Council funding; and enjoys lecturing to non-specialist adult audiences. He wrote and produced a six-part series of programs for National Public Radio on "Mozart: His Music and His Letters," which was broadcast by an estimated 150 stations nationally. He wrote program notes for the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra for 30 years. He is a regular review panel member for the National Endowment for Humanities, and was a consultant for the Ohio Arts Council. He has received more than 250 national, state, and local grants for performances, workshops and symposia, and research, totaling more than \$3.5 million; with a University of Dayton colleague he lead workshops on grant-writing for music faculty and administrators.

He received the DMA in organ performance from the University of Oregon, where he studied with John Hamilton. He subsequently studied organ and conducting with Helmuth Rilling (Stuttgart, Germany) and musicology with Christoph Wolff (Harvard University). His research interests include compositional process in Bach's organ works, and the significance and patterns of articulation marks in Bach's autograph manuscripts; and the operas and early biographical studies of Mozart.

He currently resides in Venice, Florida, and recently retired as organist/choirmaster at Christ Church, Bradenton, and co-director of the Sarasota-Manatee Bach Festival.

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND



“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”-ELCA Day of Service-SEPTEMBER 10th
This year marks the 10th anniversary of “God’s work. Our hands.” celebration projects. We look forward to highlighting KIDS’ NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD. Please help us collect new undies, tennis shoes, light jackets/sweatshirts and socks. A speaker from Kids’ Needs will be in church on Sunday, September 10th to share about their mission.



ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

THANK YOU for all the “Little Red Wagon” donations! Our next pantry days will be September 20 and 21. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Mary Anne D. or Carol Rice.

QUILTING AND KNITTING

Please join us for a time of Christian fellowship and service...no skills necessary. We meet every Wednesday, from 9-Noon, in the Fellowship Hall. All willing hands and hearts are welcome.



THRIVENT

Are you a Thrivent member? Please remember to direct your Choice Dollars each quarter. Christ Lutheran would feel 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. Need a project idea? The Outreach Ministry Team will help.



BOOK COLLECTION for the TROSHUK FAMILY from UKRAINE

Thank you so much for helping to collect books for the Troshuk family! They have a little library now! These books will help them as they learn and grow their English language skills. Ellen and Pastor Ken have shared the joy the children have expressed when receiving the books.

*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, August 10th 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





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.



From Pastor Linda

I had a wonderful time supplying during Pastor Ken's vacation. Thank you for joining me in worship those days. We had some good discussions and great breakfasts!

As fall approaches, I am once again looking toward our women's ministry. Paula Beehler and I went to the WELCA workshop at Synod Convention and came back with some ideas. One possibility is to have a bi-monthly day planning/program meeting, and then an evening fellowship/study at a restaurant coffee shop so there are times for everyone. In the spring we had a discussion about a homecoming brunch sometime late fall.

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 11th at 10 am. Please join us as we decide about dates and times for the fall months.

Thank you .
Pastor Linda

September



September

09/06	Anita Basile
09/15	Larry Wentzel
09/15	Stan Yaro
09/19	Jordan Waring
09/22	Russell Peterson
09/24	Joyce Hanisits
09/26	James Sahlstrom
09/27	Gloria Leonard
09/28	Russ Schimke

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.

Yesterday is a beautiful reflection.

Today is a new beginning.

Tomorrow is a limitless possibility!





& Attendance

Treasurer Report

July	Attendance	Giving	August	Attendance	Giving
2	29	\$1,196.00	6	30	\$1,716.00
9	31	\$4,301.00	13	34	\$4,416.00
16	32	\$2,446.00	20	34	\$701.00
23	33	\$891.00	27	39	650.00
30	32	\$416.00			
	157	\$9,250.00		137	\$7,483.00



ORGAN DONATIONS -

You are invited to make a contribution for our new organ to be installed by mid 2023. Please make checks to Christ Lutheran Church with "organ fund" in memo section.

Please let us know how you like the new format for the newsletter.

If you enjoyed the old format with cartoons, bloopers, members page & puzzles along with everything you see in the new format please let us know that also.

It is important that our newsletter represent what our members like and want.

You can e-mail the office at:
office@christlutheranfleng.org





1	Tai Chi in August / Bridge Club
2	Saturday - no activities
3	Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} / Bridge Club noon - 5:00 ^{pm} / Church Council 5pm- @Beehler
4	Women Circle 10am / Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30pm
5	Bridge Club noon - 5pm
6	Quilting 9-noon / Music Committee 11am
7	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon-5pm
8	Tai Chi in August / Bridge Club
9	Saturday - no activities
10	Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} / Bridge Club noon - 5:00 ^{pm}
11	Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30pm
12	Bridge Club noon - 5pm
13	Quilting 9-noon
14	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon-5pm / Outreach Comm. 11am
15	Tai Chi in August / Bridge Club
16	Saturday - no activities
17	Worship Service 9:30 ^{am} / Bridge Club noon - 5:00 ^{pm}
18	Venetian Harmony 6:30-9:30pm
19	Church Council 1pm / Bridge Club noon - 5pm
20	Quilting 9-noon
21	Country Line Dancing 9-noon / Bridge Club noon-5pm
22	Tai Chi in August / Bridge Club
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