

Christ Lutheran Church, Inc., of Englewood, Florida
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CLC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2024



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



The summer has been hot and maybe September will be no better. However, the arrival of September reminds us that fall is not far behind. Our church activity will pick up and so will the opportunities to engage in outreach to the non-churched. It's time to think about our personal efforts to tell the story. The story is about God's kindness, love, and mercy. The story is about our own individual witness to what God and/or Christ has done for us in our lives. Witnessing isn't threatening people with hell; it's about a connection to a gathered community. It's about the blessings of togetherness, knowing each other, helping each other, praying with each other.

How does one become a "Christian?" I sometimes say that I am a Christian because Charlemagne forced my forebears into the river to baptize. Beginning in 772 A.D., the emperor of the "Holy Roman Empire of the German States" used fire and sword to encourage the recalcitrant Saxons to embrace the faith. His advisor, Alcuin, convinced Charlemagne to wait until "converts" had been properly instructed before they were marched into the river.

Today's "fire and sword" are gentle. We may be Christians because our parents sent us to Sunday School, or to confirmation classes, or because we were in the habit of going to church during our childhood years. Baptism has become a pleasant thought. Unfortunately, millennials feel free to simply acknowledge their Christian roots but no longer is "church going" a necessary or desirable part of their lives.

One cannot "force" someone to take up the cross. Even persuasion has lost its luster. The contemporary historian, Martin E. Marty has observed, "...the most important lesson of the crusades was this: a Patrick or a Martin or a Boniface or an Ansgar could accomplish more for the Christian mission as such than could conquest by the sword." Discussions about religion incorporating logic and reason usually do not work. One cannot "shout" religion into a person and one cannot "prove" the legitimacy of one's religious position. One cannot use power, physical or logical, to create a believer through intimidation.

Jesus said (from the gospel for August 18) "But the one who eats the bread will live forever." Life forever begins with "eating" the bread of Jesus. To eat the bread of Jesus is to trust him and the truth he presents. One can rarely threaten another into eating the bread of Jesus. I keep pointing out that "witnessing" doesn't necessarily mean that the witness must be able to outmatch the other with a string of Bible verses. Witnessing involves telling someone about something that is foolish. Paul called it "Christ crucified," the "word of the cross," (1 Cor. 1), or simply, God loves me not because of who I am but in spite of who I am.

No one will believe because someone in the past marched his or her ancestors into the water to be baptized. If baptized as an infant, the one baptized will still have to make his or her decision to follow Christ. Sunday school, confirmation, youth group, Christmas memories have their place but the Christian is one who somehow through faith (not through logic, reason, or strong-arm emotional tactics) accepts the simple proposition, "God is love," and "I can feel that love, express that love, celebrate that love, in the gathered community and wherever I am." Fall is in the air. It's time to practice, rejoice, and tell about the kind of abiding faith that moves mountains.

Pastor Ken

Music and Worship

There were no Music and Worship meetings held in July or August.

However, as a recap, Pastor Ken has returned from his six weeks in Hawaii and things are returning to normal as we approach fall. During Pastor Ken's vacation, we would like to acknowledge and thank Pastor Joe LaDu for guiding us each Sunday.

Our Organist, Richard Benedum has also returned from vacation. During Richard's vacation, Gail Pedersen filled in as our organist for those Sundays and we want to thank her for coming out of retirement, once again, for the Sundays that Richard was away.

Our next Music and Worship Meeting will be held in the church office on September 11th at 11:00am as we discuss the season ahead when all of our Northern friends return for things like Oktoberfest and a gala organ concert.

Lois Greene

Chair Music and Worship



OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM



ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND (EHH)

As you are able, please continue to donate food and personal care items, placing them in our "Little Red Wagon". Thank you for donating! EHH is located on the grounds of Englewood Methodist Church. They are 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. 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, Brenda Sahlstrom, Carol Rice and Joyce and Bill 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. Please request these by talking to 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!

TROSHUK FAMILY

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

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." On Sunday, September 8, our congregation will celebrate this special ELCA day of service. Our selected project this year is to make and donate Care Kits to Lutheran World Relief. Items needed for each kit are:



- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 lightweight, dark colored bath towel | 2 bath-size bars of soap |
| 1 adult toothbrush (in original package) | 1 sturdy comb |
| 1 metal nail clippers | |

Please help by purchasing and donating any of these items between now and September 8. Mary Anne DiGrazia secured a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant to help us purchase kit items. On September 8, please plan to join together as we assemble these kits immediately after church. Many HANDS will make light WORK. All of our kits will be sent to bless people in war-torn and disaster-stricken areas of the world. Thank you to all who have helped with donations!

*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, September 19 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



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.



Christ Lutheran Church Women's Circle!

Welcome back to fall!

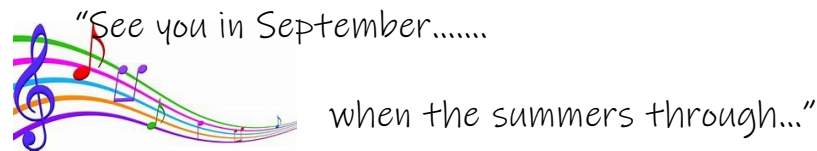
We are going to restart after our summer hiatus with pizza/pasta dinner on Thursday September 26th at 5:00^{pm} in the parish hall. Come join us as we catch up from the summer, talk about the youth gathering and look at events for the fall.

See you then!

Pastor Linda+

Christ Lutheran Men

Like the classic 1966 song by the Happenings;



Greetings from a sunny, warm and inviting Englewood Florida. Yes, the summer is almost through—where did the time go—and it's time to start thinking about **Christ Lutheran Men's Group; R.O.M.E.O.s**

Going forward into the fall, we have several exciting and great fellowship activities for the Men of CLC.

September 19th Prayer, Pizza and Planning; Pizza provided, BYOB

5:30^{pm} meet at Church for fellowship, reconnecting and planning for our meeting schedule and future activities. Please let me know if you are attending.
Mark Baker; mbaker16p@gmail.com

October 25th Friday set-up for the October 26th, Oktoberfest Event

5:00^{pm} sharp meet at Fellowship Hall to set-up tables, assist with décor and general event preparation.

This is going to be a great community out-reach CLC Member's gathering—lots of FUN

October 26th 4:00 to 7:00^{pm} Oktoberfest Celebration

7:00^{pm}, Men to assist with tear-down, chair put away and general clean-up.

Gents, mark your calendars and plan to join with CLC Men this fall and winter.

Mark Baker

Stewardship

Oh my.....look at the *Time*....

It's September! Where has *Time* gone??

We need to take a moment to count our many blessings and assess our *Time and Talents*; those we commit to Christ Lutheran Church.

This fall and winter we have many exciting ministries and opportunities to serve and participate in at CLC. **YOU**, are needed!

Time:

- Serve and Assist with Worship
- Serve on Community Out Reach; Helping Hands
- Help with Social Committee; Fellowship
- Participate with Men's Group; R.O.M.E.O.s
- Participate with Women's Group

Talent:

- Organization and Administration; Church Council
- Finance; Sunday Donation Accounting
- Grounds and Maintenance
- Welcome and Evangelism

Please prayerfully consider **what** and **how** you can serve our Church and Community.

BTW: what's in your purse or wallet??
If it's a CLC giving envelope (?)... it may be time to send it in.

Mark Baker;
Stewardship Facilitator





Anna	Basile	09/06
Shirley	Schimke	09/06
Mike,	Virlee	09/06
Susan	Thron	09/10
Larry	Wentzel	09/18
Jenny	Waring	09/19
Jordon	Waring	09/19
Nakiema	Wolfgram	09/21
Russell	Peterson	09/22
Joyce	Hanisits	09/24
James	Sahlstrom	09/26
Russell	Schimke	09/28



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.*

Church Attendance

	Attendance	Giving
07/07	48	\$3,926.00
07/14	35	\$2,370.00
07/21	40	\$1,281.00
07/28	47	\$1,054.00
08/04	19	\$2,611.00
08/11	44	\$2,421.00
08/18	46	\$1,751.00
08/25	39	\$746.00
	318	\$16,160.00




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.





1	WORSHIP / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
2	BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
3	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM}
4	QUILTING 9:00 ^{AM} - 2:00 ^{PM} / FORKS & FELLOWSHIP
5	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00 ^{AM} - 12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5:00 ^{PM}
6	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
7	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
8	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
9	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
10	BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5:00 ^{PM} NO BRIDGE CLASS
11	QUILTING 9:00 ^{AM} - 2:00 ^{PM}
12	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00 ^{AM} -12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5:00 ^{PM}
13	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
14	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
15	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
16	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
17	BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} / No BRIDGE CLASS / CHURCH COUNCIL 1:00 ^{PM}
18	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM}
19	LINE DANCING 9-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} / OUTREACH 11 ^{AM} / MENS GROUP 5:30 ^{PM}
20	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
21	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
22	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
23	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
24	BRIDGE CLASS 9:30-11:30 / BRIDGE CLUB - 12 - 5:00 ^{PM} / OKTOBERFEST COMM 1:00 ^{PM}
25	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM}
26	LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5:00 ^{PM} / WOMEN CIRCLE 5:00 ^{PM}
27	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
28	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
29	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} PENDING
30	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
	Bridge Club Class - 12 - 5:00 ^{pm}



Christ Lutheran Church
701 N. Indiana Avenue
Englewood, FL 34223

Wurst & Sauerkraut
Kartoffelsalat
Beverage & Dessert

Music by
Alpine Buben

Oktoberfest

October 26 at 4:00^{pm}

\$20 - Adult \$10 - Children under 10

FOR "WILL CALL" TICKETS PLEASE CALL:

603-475-3492