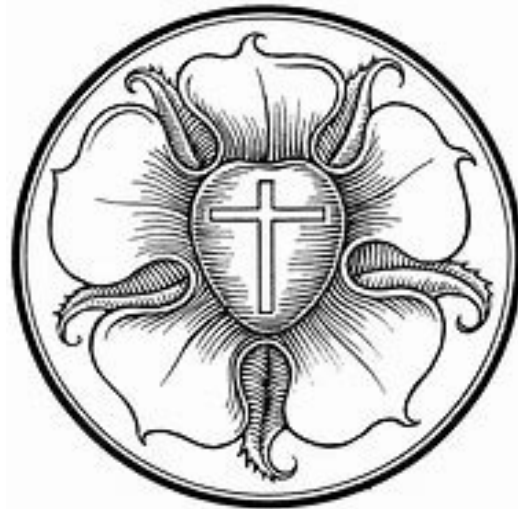


Christ Lutheran Church, Inc., of Englewood, Florida
701 North Indiana avenue
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CLC NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

Published by Christ Lutheran Church, Office Administrator



I recently found an article written a few years ago by our former ELCA Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson. He notes that Protestants barely make up 50 percent of the U.S. population and more and more Americans, especially young adults, claim on surveys, “no religious preference.” Bishop Hanson noted that the membership of the ELCA has dropped to under 5 million. I recently saw an article that reported that our present ELCA membership is now 3.2 million. Hansen attributed membership decline to (1) failure of mainline denominations to require commitment, (2) failure to aggressively seek membership growth, and (3) a declining mainline birthrate. Hanson also noted that the ELCA is still basically white and its membership is older in average age than the U.S. population.

The paradigm shift from modern to post-modern is also an important contributing factor not only in the mainline church but also in the (so-called) evangelical (or Bible) churches. Millennials as well as those one generation before them are rapidly moving from “religious” to “spiritual.” Belonging to and going to church is no longer regarded as important. Contemplating the “spiritual” realm of existence is enough. I recently learned that grandchildren of our older members have no sense of belonging to a community that worships on Sunday and confesses corporately from memory passages called “the Lord’s Prayer” or “the Apostles’ Creed.”

On October 17, I referred to the “Theology of Glory.” Luther railed against the “Theology of Glory” and insisted that proper biblical theology is the “Theology of the Cross.” The bible calls the faithful to trust in the work of Christ who suffered on the cross in our behalf and who calls believers to postpone the “glory” until the life ahead. Those who want religion to be glory religion believe that the real church is present when the church is full, beautiful, and comfortable. The real church grows by leaps and bounds and the tiny church that is just managing to hold on is not the real church. But Luther said that the real church of the faithful is invisible, not visible. Only God knows who the faithful really are. The faithful are not necessarily those who march around in beautiful vestments, or listen to 100 voice choirs, or worship in modern AC climatized big buildings, or enjoy games and hot dogs on the church grounds.

I have been lucky enough to be your pastor already for over 1-1/2 years. I would not be at CLC if it were not for the few brave souls who adamantly refused to roll over and play dead. That decision had nothing to do with glory; it had to do with faith, faith that the church will be victorious in the end because Christ’s resurrection was a victory over sin, death, and the devil. In the long run, it is not fancy programs or a beautiful church or a huge choir that brings folks to faith. Hanson points to the importance of community. Those who have joined our church in the last year or so have commented about the openness and friendliness of our congregation. Hanson suggests that we focus on words and deeds that bear witness to the love of Christ. We should invite neighbors and friends and family to worship. We should not be afraid to mention that we are Christians and we should nurture faith in our homes and in our family circles.

It is ludicrous to think that faith brings tangible riches and fame. Faith may bring challenges and even mockery. But Christ gives us the will to try, to struggle against temptation to seek the easy way out, to be brave enough to admit to hypocrisy but do the right thing anyway. May our Thanksgiving celebrations be marked by gratitude for the chance to be what Christ calls us to be. Nothing glorious about that but who ever said that serving others is glorious? The real glory is not how glorious we are, who think we can get ourselves holy and heaven-bound, but real glory is the glory of God who in Christ suffered for us. That is called the theology of the cross.

Your friend and partner in the faith, Pastor Ken



CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE - OCTOBER, 2021

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. The CCM Team is always available to visit anyone at home who may want a visit. Just contact the church office (941-474-1989), Pastor Lentz (928-970-1313) or Charlene Seltz (941-460-0183), to request a visit.

In His care and infinite wisdom,
Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader



COUNCIL MEETING KEY POINTS - OCTOBER, 2021



1. Preparation of a Budget for 2022 is underway. Beginning the first Sunday in November, a series of “Stewardship Temple Talks” will be presented by members of Christ Lutheran Church. “Our goal at CLC is to help individuals relate to God with faith and to give of their time, talents and treasures.”
–*Pastor Robert Firby 10-13-21*
2. Efforts are underway to start a Sunday School atmosphere in the side meeting room of the church office for any children who attend CLC. Margaret Jenkins (Montessori based educator), has volunteered to do so when the opportunity is available.
3. Plans are in place for the celebration of Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day. Members are requested to submit the names of all loved ones that have passed away in the last year only.
4. **SAVE THESE DATES:**
The Council will be sponsoring a Hawaiian Luau on Saturday, January 22, 2022, 4-7pm. Additional Planning Committee members are needed. The first Planning Meeting will be on **November 10, 2021** after Council at 3 p.m. Three more Events have been approved for the coming months:
Saturday 11/6/21: Englewood Area Orchid Society Plant Sale (outside-Fellowship Hall), 8 am-12 pm
Saturday 11/13/21: CLC Rummage/Estate Sale (Fellowship Hall), 8am-12pm.
Sunday, 12/12/21: Christmas Piano Concert presented by Priscilla Fullerton, exceptional Piano Recitalist, 2pm (inside church).

Music and Worship

On Dec. 12th @ 2 PM Priscilla Fullerton will present a piano concert as a gift to the congregation. There will be a punch and cookie reception held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following. Announcements for same will be inserted in the Sunday bulletin two weeks prior.



The M/W Committee has agreed that the Pastor and Assistant will remain gloved and masked during the distribution of communion. Communion at the rail is now being offered for those who care to partake. For those who are not comfortable with that procedure, lining down the center aisle is still being offered through November. This will be revisited in Dec. to evaluate further need for masks, gloves and social distancing.

Gail Pedersen, our organist, will be presenting some new hymns for us to learn starting in Dec. Each new hymn will be repeated for two Sundays, adding some variety to our music.

Teenage soloist Sydney Sturza will continue to sing at the Offertory on the first Sunday of each month.

The wooden columns for flowers adjacent to the altar have been moved up one level and the kneeling pads are being modified to accommodate one more person at the communion rail on each side. Temporary pillows have been placed there. The rail will then accommodate 5 people on each side.

An additional alb (robe) is being ordered for the Worship Assistants to share.

Plans for All Saints Sunday (Nov. 7th) are in place where at the end of the service the names of those deceased in the past year will be read aloud, a candle lighted and a bell rung.

Lois Greene for Music and Worship



WANTED...TEAM LEADER:

Do you want to do everything you can to enrich the lives of others? If you do, follow His example-Christ. Please help CLC "Make Christ known." If you would like to join others in getting His word out, please contact the church office at 941-474-1989 or Charlene Seltz at 941-460-0183. In such

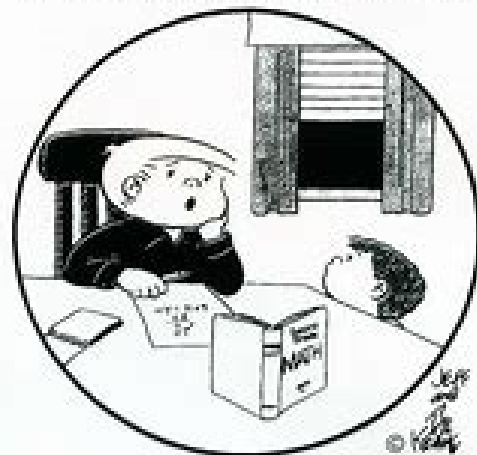


troubling times, many are turning to God. Help us make Him known. Due to the inability to evaluate the success of the "Welcome Postcard Project," a decision was made to discontinue the project at the last Council Meeting.

However, older copies of "Our Daily Bread," are still being recycled around the community, labeled "recycled by Christ Lutheran Church...The dates may be different, BUT the message is the same." The devotional can be placed at launder mats, restaurants, beauty salons, etc. (with permission, of course). Anyone from the congregation can do so. Old labeled copies, along with the latest Devotionals will be available on the table in the Narthex. Please help CLC "Make Christ known."



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bill Keane



"The Bible tells us to study math. It says, 'Go forth and multiply.'"



ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

THANK YOU to ALL who volunteered in the pantry in October. Also, THANK YOU to ALL who bring items for our "Little Red Wagon"! These are wonderful opportunities to serve in our community. Our next time to work in the pantry will be Wednesday, December 8th and Thursday, the 9th.

Below is a rendering of Englewood Helping Hand's future home. It is being built close to its former building on the grounds at Englewood United Methodist Church. When finished, it will allow more efficient and effective space for the pantry, for referral services and to help clients with other services.

Christ Lutheran was one of the founding churches of EHH in 1983 and continues as a partner church. For more information about EHH, please talk with Mary Anne DiGrazia or Carol Rice. They serve as church captains for Christ Lutheran Church.

QUILTING and KNITTING

Christ Lutheran Church Comfort Quilters and Knitters gather in the Fellowship Hall the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, from 9-12. 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

During Advent and the Christmas season, November 28th through January 2nd, we will once again collect SHOES??, SOCKS??, UNDERWEAR and JACKETS/SWEATSHIRTS for Kids' Needs. Some of us like to get a head start on Christmas shopping, so, as you are able and the spirit moves you, feel free to add these items to your lists.

Kids' Needs provides help to children in Englewood area schools, Kindergarten through High School. They work together with teachers, school administrators and parents to meet basic needs such as clothing, personal care products, school supplies, etc. We look forward to filling our giant stockings and box with your thoughtful??gifts!

Peace and Joy!
Carol Rice

**ONE
DAY
ONLY!**



RUMMAGE SALE
Nov. 13th 8 AM – 12 NOON

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
701 NORTH INDIANA AVE.
ENGLEWOOD, FL**

Christmas Items
Household Items,
Small Appliances,
Clothing
Purses,

Books
Jewelry
Shoes
Large Men's items
and lots more!

OUR PRICES HAVE NOT GONE UP!

Priscilla Fullerton Christmas Piano Concert

Sunday December 12, 2021 at 2:00pm

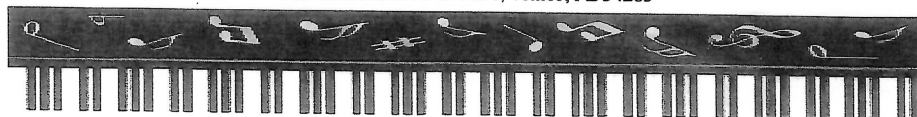
Christ Lutheran Church
701 North Indiana Avenue
Englewood, FL 34223

Priscilla Fullerton

941-486-5114

email: pnoforg@gmail.com

900 Tamiami Trail S. #434, Venice, FL 34285



Priscilla Fullerton studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the University of Illinois. She has studied with Dean Sanders, Eugene List, and Grant Johannesen, and has also performed in master classes for Ruth Slenczynska and Jorge Bolet.

Ms. Fullerton has performed extensively as a piano recitalist for colleges and universities throughout the Eastern and Mid-Western United States as well as a New York Debut at Carnegie Recital Hall. Fullerton's wide spectrum of repertoire goes beyond standard literature and includes music by women as well as American composers. Ms. Fullerton held faculty appointments at Allegheny College, Meadville, PA as well as Edinboro University of Pennsylvania where she was an Associate Professor of Music for almost 30 years.

Ms. Fullerton was organist for Faith Lutheran Church in Rotonda West, Florida for 15 years. Ms. Fullerton is a member of the American Guild of Organist and a nationally certified teacher of music (NCTM) through the Music Teachers National Association.

"Her playing is conscientious, honest, and forthright."

New York Times

"A pianist always in command. Her strength is found in delicacy and restraint, in gentleness of nuance, in seriousness of purpose."

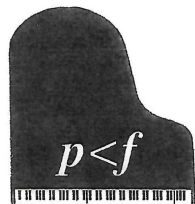
Morning News, Erie, PA

"A competent, brilliant technician with ample concert tones...a really impassioned interpreter of her chosen program."

Altoona Mirror, Altoona, PA

"She conveys splendid musicality and assured competence."

Wittenberg University





November		
Brenda Kehrier	11-09	11-09
Barbara Kludt	11-13	11-13
Beverly Nielsen	11-16	11-16

There are no anniversaries for the month of September.

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, and you would like it to be, please contact the office to share your special day.

Attendance and Financials

October 3, 2021	42	\$3,002.50
October 10, 2021	48	\$ 868.00
October 17, 2021	42	\$1,153.00
October 24, 2021	54	\$2,637.00
October 31, 2021	76	\$2,011.45
TOTAL		\$9,671.95