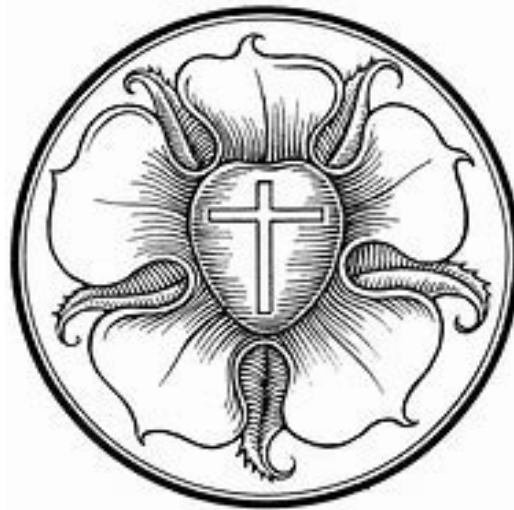


Christ Lutheran Church, Inc., of Englewood, Florida
701 North Indiana avenue
Englewood, FL 34223

Church office 941-474-1989
E-mail: office@christlutheranfleng.org
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CLC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313

Published by Christ Lutheran Church, Office Administrator



Once there was a rich German farmer. He left the farm to study theology because he believed that God had called him to be a missionary. He was sent by the church to serve poor German immigrants in Paris. Later he became pastor of a small congregation at Dellwig on the Ruhr River. In 1869, all four of his children died within two weeks. Inspired by tragedy in his own life, he became the director of a small home for epileptics in order to minister to other victims of tragedy. In the remaining years of his life, he turned that small institution into a vast complex of mercy and love for epileptics, the homeless, and the hopelessly mentally and physically handicapped. Today the center is known as Bethel-Bielefeld, a model for similar institutions all over the world. The pastor's name was Friedrich von Bodelschwingh and he once described Christmas in these words (English translation):

"The miracle of Christmas Eve is that the bright sun shines in the darkness of the earth."

The angels sang on the first Christmas Eve, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on Earth for all those pleasing Him." (Luke 2:14) Light and peace. Where are they today? The darkness of our global pandemic is slowly lifting but the fallout will cast its dark shadows for a long time. I met a restaurant owner from Hawaii recently who told me that he could not survive the COVID event and had to sell his business and commend his employees to welfare support. He is now researching new options for earning a livelihood. The COVID crisis is accompanied by the specters of global warming, threats to democracies around the world, people lined up at borders seeking relief from poverty and persecution, and the alarming rise of conspiracy theories. But crisis can be a catalyst motivator for latent strength. Abraham Lincoln was once asked how he could possibly withstand the stress of a horrible civil war. He replied, "It has only driven me to discover the inner peace within me."

Our entry into the Advent season can guide us to the discovery of peace, the peace of assurance that God is in charge of history and will fully disclose a new heaven and a new Jerusalem at a time He will determine. That fact alone brings to the surface of our awareness the peace of Lincoln, the peace we call the peace "that passes all understanding." The candles of Christmas Eve will dispel the darkness. Pastor Bodelschwingh's mission to bring light into the lives of the mentally and physically handicapped survived the euthanasia threats of the Third Reich and today continues to serve as a place of refuge and hope. The Christmas light of the angels of Bethlehem sustains us. Christmas glory will bring peace and hope to us on Christmas Eve and at all times and moments of our lives.

Your fellow Christmas traveler, Pastor Ken



CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

- 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 laundromats, 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."

Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader



COUNCIL MEETING KEY POINTS - November, 2021

1. A Budget for 2022 has been prepared and will be presented before the Annual Congregation Meeting, which will be held in January, 2022.
2. A New Member Orientation will be held on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 2 pm. New members will be received by the congregation on Sunday, December 5, 2021.
3. Pastor Lentz and Council members, Dotty Berner, Fran Kulak and Barbara McAlister attended either the virtual meeting of the FL Bahamas Synod or the Mid-Gulf Conference. There have been many changes in the Synod with churches closing and some undergoing “new” starts. The Synod has also received 43 new Rostered Members.
4. Repair of the sandwich board at road level will begin this month.
5. Inspection of our current electronic organ has taken place. Due to age and unavailability of parts, it CANNOT be repaired. Thanks to a very generous donation of “seed” money to purchase a new organ, the Council approved the establishment of a Designated Organ Fund to replace the Sanctuary organ.



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

Music and Worship

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - Twenty-eight names of loved ones deceased in the past year was announced, a candle on the altar lighted, and a bell rung for each name.



DECEMBER 12TH at 2:00 Priscilla Fullerton will present a Christmas Piano Concert. A free will donation basket will be placed in the Narthex, proceeds from which will benefit the church. There will be an ad for the concert in the local newspapers. The sandwich board in front of the church will also announce the concert. Copies of beautifully colored fliers for the concert were printed by Pstr. Robert Firby as a donation to the church. These will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for three weeks prior to the event. Angie Ziegler and Louise Glose will head up a "Cookies and Punch" reception after the concert in the Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS will go up after service on Dec. 19th...many volunteers are needed. Louise Glose will donate a new Pre-lit Christmas Tree to the church to replace the old one.

CHRISTMAS EVE, Dec. 24th at 5 PM there will be a Candlelight Service. All Christmas decorations and the candle holders will remain in place until Epiphany.

CHRISTMAS DAY - There will be no service on Saturday, Dec. 25th, but our usual service will take place on Sunday, Dec. 26th.

MASKS - It was decided that Pastor and the Worship Assistant will no longer be required to wear a mask or gloves.

CHOIR - Pastor Ken would like to see if forming a choir is possible. Gail volunteered to be the Choir director for as long as she is able to do it. There will be a sign-up sheet for singers.

NEW ORGAN - There will be an Organ Fund instituted to replace our very old organ, which is in a state of disrepair. Parts of this organ are no longer available.

Lois Greene, Chair Music and Worship



“A generous donation has been received for the purchase and installation of a new organ for Christ Lutheran Church.

The council has accepted the gift and decided to open an organ fund so that parishioners may contribute to the fund. Please donate to the organ fund by writing “Organ Fund” on your check on the memo line.

The decision about a pipe organ versus a new electronic organ has not yet been made. The organ has traditionally been regarded as the primary instrument for worship for a number of centuries. The hymns we sing in our worship are an expression of prayer to God.

Luther spoke frequently about music as a great gift from God. Your church council has accepted the initial “seed money” gift with the expectation that Christ Lutheran Church has a mission to offer a church home to the thousands of folks who are moving to our gulf coast in the next decade. Many will seek out a church with traditional worship. However, the time will surely come when CLC will consider the addition of a more contemporary service of worship for those who wish a more relaxed informal worship format. Informal worship does not rule out the use of an organ. Please contact one of our council members if you have questions regarding donations.”



“Adult Sunday School education led by Pastor Ken takes place every Sunday at 11 a.m. after services in the office building. The lesson for each Sunday will be repeated each Monday morning at 11 a.m.

We are beginning to study the New Testament using the textbook, “Path Through Scripture” by Mark Link available to buy for \$20.00 at class time.

Please bring your bible and textbook which you may have purchased previously to each class.”



“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”

ENGLEWOOD HELPING

THANK YOU to ALL who bring items for our “Little Red Wagon”! These donations help to feed and care for our neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet.



Our next time to work in the Englewood Helping Hand pantry will be Wednesday, December 8th and Thursday, the 9th. Please call Carol Rice (941-475-1017) if you would like to volunteer.

KIDS’ NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD

During Advent and the Christmas season, November 28th through January 2nd, we have the opportunity to donate **SHOES, SOCKS, UNDERWEAR and JACKETS/SWEATSHIRTS** for kids of **ALL sizes**. As you are able and the spirit moves you, feel free to add these items to your Christmas lists.

To assist us with this project, Mary Anne DiGrazia applied for and received a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant. Thrivent’s motto is “Live Generously.” Thank you, Thrivent!

Kids’ Needs provides help to children in Englewood area schools, Kindergarten through High School. Kids’ Needs works together with teachers, school administrators and parents to meet basic needs such as clothing, personal care products, school supplies, etc.

For more information about Kids’ Needs, please talk to Pastor Ken or Carol Rice. We look forward to filling our giant stockings and box with your thoughtful gifts! Thank you in advance for your generosity!



QUILTING AND KNITTING

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

Our next Social Ministry Team meeting is on December 2nd at 11am.

Peace and Joy!

Carol Rice for the Social Ministry Team





Christmas Calendar

11-28 Sunday, Advent 1

12-01 Wednesday - Music Committee @ 11^{am}, church office

12-02 Thursday - Social Committee @ 11^{am}, church office

12-03 Friday - Orientation for new members @ 2^{pm}, church

office 12-05 Sunday, Advent 2 - Instillation of new members

12-08 Wednesday - Church council @ 1^{pm} in church office

Stewardship Committee @ 2:15^{pm} in church

office Luau committee @ 3^{pm} in church office

12-12 Sunday, Advent 3

Priscilla Fullerton concert @ 2^{pm}

*Christmas reception to follow
concert*

12-19 Sunday, Advent 4 - decorating the church for

Christmas 12-24 Friday, Christmas Eve Service @ 5pm 12-25

Saturday, Christmas Day - NO service 12-26 Sunday,

*Christmas 1 @ 9:30^{am} 01-22 Saturday, Hawaiian Luau 4-7^{pm} -
more info to follow.*

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Priscilla Fullerton

Christmas Piano Concert

Sunday December 12, 2021 at 2:00pm

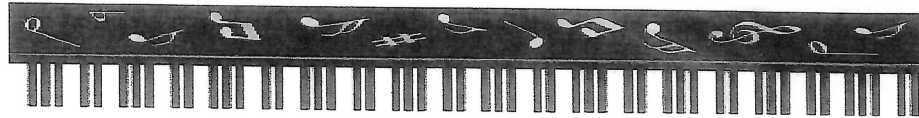
Christ Lutheran Church
701 North Indiana
Avenue Englewood, FL
34223

Priscilla Fullerton

941-486-5114

email: pnoptorg@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."

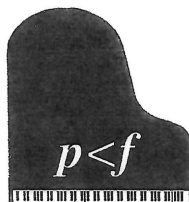
Morning News, Erie, PA

"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





December Birthdays

Ed Bohon	12/04
Duane Martin	12/07
Jan Bishop	12/08
Lizzy Egeland	12/21
Larry Froemming	12/25
Val Egeland	12/27

**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.



Attendance and Financials

November 7	65	\$ 4,290.00
November 14		\$ 1,355.75 rummage sale
November 14	58	\$ 202,970.50
November 21	55	\$ 1,603.00
November 28	43	\$ 1,463.00

TOTAL \$211,682.25