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CLC NEWSLETTER

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Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313
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I met a lifelong friend in seminary. Ted Peters and I finished seminary together and then he and I started doctoral work at the University of Heidelberg. Ted switched to the University of Chicago to finish his work but I remained at Heidelberg. When I returned to the states, I visited Ted in Chicago and went with him to visit Martin E. Marty at Marty's home. Marty, who died in February, has been recognized as the "most influential interpreter of religion" in the U.S. If I remember correctly, Ted was a student of Marty who must have had an important impact on Ted's choice to enter the academic world and who also has produced a lot of books on theology as well as on our American culture.

Ted started out at a little Lutheran college in Newberry, South Carolina, and I started my pastoral ministry at a little rural congregation in northwestern Ohio. Ted soon moved on to Loyola University in New Orleans. He stayed there a few years and then was called to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. Ted served a number of decades at the seminary where I joined him for six years teaching church history. I enjoyed the company of Ted and his family for ten years in California while serving at Faith Lutheran Church in Castro Valley on the east side of San Francisco Bay. But Ted and I still communicate often---once a year on our mutual birthday on April 3. (He and his wife, Karen, visited me in Florida briefly a few months ago)

I thought again about Ted when I read one of his email newsletter articles in his series, "The Voice of Public Theology." He reviewed the three classic reformation uses of the law. (Think Ten Commandments and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount beginning in Matthew 5) Luther, for example, turned the world of religion upside down when he declared that we are free from the constraints of the law. Why? We are free from the condemnation of the law **in order** to be the servants of all. We just don't go around sinning willy nilly because God doesn't hold us accountable. We are accountable. Not to the law but to the will of God which guides us as we express gratitude for God's unconditional love. The law no longer condemns. What now? Answer: we love others as we love ourselves.

Luther may have announced our freedom from the condemnation of the law but he didn't conclude that the law is useless, that it no longer has a place in our religious life. "No," he said, "the law still has three functions: It guides the state and government in its mission to promote justice and the common good. Secondly, the law is like a mirror. How do we know when we sin? The law tells us what is a 'no no,' and reveals our sinfulness." We don't kill because the law forbids it. We don't commit adultery because the law demands faithfulness to our spouses. Thirdly, Luther insisted that the law guides us in our Christian life, just as the law guides the state down the paths of justice and equality.

In his article, Ted applies the standard of the law to the present political situation. He suggests that the application of the law rules out leadership trusted with absolute power. He quotes Jim Wallis of Georgetown University who warns of "bad leaders (who) want only wealth and power for themselves....they don't want to serve 'the people,' they only want to serve themselves." I will let the reader apply Wallis' (and Ted's) observations. Lent is the season to ask ourselves about the law and what it says to each of us. Allow us to let our conscience be our guide. Let the law be our guide as well. It seems that Wallis and Ted Peters think that government is

sidestepping the law. What about you and me? Doesn't government begin with us? Lent is a time to get our own houses in order. February 9, our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, has notified all ELCA congregations that Ret. Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn and Elon Musk posted a comment on X (formerly Twitter) that Lutheran Service Agencies in America "are operating an illegal money laundering operation."

That kind of rhetoric is an attack upon our tradition of ministry to others that is part and parcel of the history of Lutheranism in our country. Lutheran communities in the early 18th century on the Delaware and Hudson rivers gathered donations from the faithful for the relief of the poor. Provisions were made by Lutherans in Eastern Pennsylvania for the care of widows and a home for orphans was planned by the Swedish and Germans under the guidance of Muhlenberg. Concern was expressed for Native Americans who were encouraged to attend divine services by the Swedes and efforts were made to minister to them until the Indians began their withdrawal to the west. Muhlenberg spoke against "people who pretend to be Christians and use their fellow creatures...as body slaves." (THE LUTHERANS IN NORTH AMERICA, Fortress Press, 1975, p. 74)

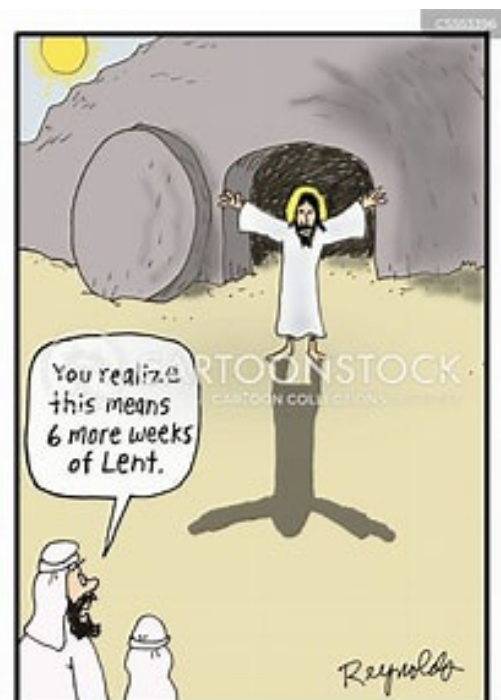
Some Lutherans are happy about the results of the recent elections and others are concerned. We are divided politically but we are not divided about our common mandate to promote justice, peace, equality, and inclusion. As of mid-February, Global Refuge (formally Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) reported that funding for vital refugee resettlement has been frozen, currently facing 5, 870 newly arrived refugees served by Global Refuge with the prospect of eviction and food insecurity.

We can help by writing to our representatives in Congress to set the record right and consider sending checks to: ATTN: Gift Processing, Global Refuge, PO Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21298-8266

Come hell or high water, we are summoned by our Lord to share the Gospel in word and in deed. "God's Work; Our Hands."

Your fellow traveler along the way,

Pastor Ken



Music and Worship

The Music and Worship Committee did not meet in the month of March...The next meeting will be May 7th

During the month of February, we held a Gala Organ Concert presented by our very own Dr. Richard Benedum to an appreciative and enthusiastic audience of 165. A lovely reception was held in the Hall by our Fellowship Committee.



March 5th, Ash Wednesday service was held at 3:00 wherein all participants received ashes to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

On March 9th we heard the sweet sound of our newly formed choir, under the Direction of our Choir Director, Joyce Bailey. The Choir will be singing every other Sunday in season, followed by a summer hiatus. We are very grateful for this new addition to our music program. During communion this morning, we were also treated to beautiful piano melodies by Pastor Larry Froemming.

Pastor Ken confirmed two Confirmands, Ravin Martin and Aiden Egeland, during service on March 9th. A lovely reception sponsored by the Egeland family was held in the Hall. Both were presented with personalized bibles.

During each Wed. evening in Lent soup and bread will be held in the Fellowship Hall with a light devotion, and voluntary sharing of a "Faith Journey" by a church member.

MAUNDY THURSDAY service, April 17th, will be held at 3:00 in the Sanctuary.

GOOD FRIDAY service, April 18th, will also be held at 3:00.

EASTER SUNDAY service will be celebrated at 9:30. Soloist, Joyce Bailey.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Greene,

Chair Music and Worship



OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND (EHH) - Thank you for donating food and personal care items to EHH! Located on the campus of Englewood Methodist Church, EHH is open to clients on W and TH, 8am-1pm and on the 1st and 3rd W each month, from 4:30-6:30. Thank you to our March volunteers, Joyce Hanisits, Jeanie Patterson, Brenda Sahlstrom and Carol Rice. If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol Rice know.



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 or Carol Rice know.



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. These donations can be placed in the Kids' Needs collection box in our narthex. Pastor Ken enjoys volunteering monthly with Kids' Needs during their TH evening shopping nights. Thank you, PK!

TROSHUK FAMILY - - Pastor Ken and Ellen Novotny visit our adopted Ukrainian family on most Saturdays for interaction and English lessons. Through the use of stories, verbal quizzing, games, crafts and just spending time together, Pastor Ken and Ellen have noted improving English skills and the development of special relationships. Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for world PEACE!??

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS- Please plan ahead to join us on Tuesday, April 22, at 10am, when we visit our Homebound members and share Lilies and Easter greeting cards. These visits help us to connect with members who are unable to come to regular worship services. It is a time of joy for all of us!

ENGLEWOOD COMMUNITY COALITION-“Fun Night Done Right”-On Saturday, March 15, Christ Lutheran Church welcomed several middle and high school students for a St. Patrick's Party in the Fellowship Hall. There were games, prizes, music, pizza and even a magic show by guess who!? The Vision of Englewood Community Coalition is a Safe, Healthy and Drug Free Community.

*The next Outreach Ministry Team will be on TH, April 10, at 11am in the office meeting room.

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 Hanisits, council rep to Fellowship Ministry



NEW CLC PHONE directories (green 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.



Women's circle News

The women of Christ Lutheran Church have been asked to provide the Lenten supper on April 9th. We will need two soups, breads and drinks. Please let Pastor Linda know what you can bring. Also, we will be having the Mothers Day brunch on May 11, 2025. We will need desserts and help setting up that morning. Thank you for your help!

Pastor Linda Fernandez+

Christ Lutheran Men

It's APRIL....(no fooling!)

MEN'S MINISTRIES,

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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

Matthew 18: 20

*"For where two or three gather in my name,
there am I with them"*

It has been an active and productive 1st quarter of 2025.

ROADSIDE CLEAN UP:

Thanks to our Christ Lutheran "Road Warriors." Initiated by John Gronski and lead by our "Crew Chief" Bob Cosler, the following folks accomplished this great community service;

Paula and Dennis Beehler

Roseanne and Larry Froemming

Tom Maschhoff

Brenda and Jim Sahlstrom

Steve Nielsen

John Gronski

Mark Baker

Katherine and David Fogt

Kendal Cohen & Bob Cosler

Next Meetings: 9am at church.

April:

Thursday April 10, 9am

Thursday April 24, 9am

New Opportunities to Serve:

Wed. Night Lenten Bread and Soup; assist with table set-up and teardown.

Planning for a Fish Fry event; details shared in the near future.

Looking to the future:

Halloween Safe - Walk Booth and

CLC Dec. - Holiday Gathering

Mark Baker, Facilitator



Carson	Erickson	04/09
Moira	Ehlers	04/10
Barbara	Kopp	04/14
Margaret	Jenkins	04/15
David	Warring	04/16
Susan	Yankowski	04/21
Beth	McGhee	04/24
John	Gronski	04/27



*Another adventure
filled year awaits
you.*



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

Church Attendance



February	Attendance	Giving
03/02	91	\$1,965.00
03/05 Ash Wed	45	\$255.00
03/09	100	\$5,069.00
03/16	84	\$1,879.00
03/23	86	\$4,219.00
03/30	88	\$1,378.00
	666	\$14,765.00



04/01	9-10 ^{AM} BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
2	QUILTING 9-2 ^{PM} / SOUP & BREAD 5 ^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL CHURCH BIBLE STUDY 7-8PM (CCCBS)
3	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE 12-5
4	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
5	LEMON BAY PLAYHOUSE VOLUNTEER PARTY 4-9PM
6	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE
7	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30
8	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
9	QUILTING 9-2 ^{PM} / WORSHIP COMMITTEE 11:00 ^{AM} / SOUP & BREAD 5 ^{PM} / CCCBS 7 ^{PM}
10	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-12 / MEN'S GROUP 9:00 ^{AM} / OUTREACH COMM. 11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE 12-5:00 ^{PM}
11	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5 / NEW MEMBER CLASS 2:00 ^{PM}
12	
13	WORSHIP SERVICE - RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY AFTER SERVICE
14	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
15	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / CHURCH COUNCIL 1:00 ^{PM}
16	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / CCCBS 7-8PM
17	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 3:00 ^{PM}
18	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5 / GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 3:00PM
19	
20	EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY AFTER SERVICE
21	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
22	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / OUTREACH LILY DELIVERY 10:00AM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
23	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / CCCBS 7-8PM
24	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / MENS GROUP 9:00AM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
25	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM}
26	
27	FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY AFTER SERVICE
28	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
29	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 -
30	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / FORKS & FELLOWSHIP 5:00PM / CCCBS 7-8PM

Confirmation Sunday Reception



Ravin's Family at table



Ravin Martin & Andy Egeland



Andy Egeland, Pastor Ken, Ravin Martin