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CLC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2024



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313
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I recently picked up a leaflet at a restaurant entitled “Are You Going Somewhere?” distributed by a local Baptist Church. The leaflet explains that Jesus is the only way to heaven. John 14:6 is quoted, “I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” We Christians all agree (I hope) that Jesus has shown us the way to salvation.

The pamphlet assumes that Jesus was referring to heaven. According to the leaflet, in order to get to “heaven,” one has to admit his/her sins and thereby avoid the “lake of fire,” (Rev. 20:14) and “trust in Jesus Christ alone.” By believing in Jesus Christ as Savior, “you can have everlasting life.”

I see the matter a little more broadly. In seminary (50 years ago), my professors suggested that the road to “salvation,” might be a little different for Jews, for example, who lived in a tight-knit community in New York City where, for practical reasons, would never hear about salvation through Jesus alone. We should not give them up as “lost.” Already, even in a theologically conservative teaching institution, the “believe in Jesus or you will endure the fires of hell” teaching was interpreted more broadly, albeit with just a nudge.

I think we can all agree that Jesus is the way to salvation. But what is “salvation?” I think that the bible is talking about more than eternal life. Salvation is life itself, life now and whatever life is in our personal futures. Salvation means the enlightenment that the spirit receives. It means that there can be an “aha” moment in our lives when we discover that life is about giving to others rather than taking for ourselves. Jesus said that the great commandment (the guideline for our lives) is to love God and then to practice that love by loving others as we love ourselves. “Heaven” is something that is existential; it is among the gathered community in the here and now. I am not so quick to think of heaven as something up there beyond the clear blue sky. Heaven is our destiny but first century language may not communicate for us in the 21st century its depth and breath.

John 3:16 is often used as the proof passage which, to most Christians, insists that those who will receive “salvation” have to hear or believe the message (“that soever believes in him shall not die but have everlasting life”) and then confess one’s sins and then “accept the Lord Jesus Christ as one’s personal savior.” I know a Lutheran pastor who has left the ELCA flock because he refuses to believe that his Jewish friend is going to hell.

A broader understanding might be helpful: Jesus is the son of God; that means, at the very least, that he represents God or perhaps preferably he is “the incarnation of God.” God is love; Jesus is love. When one refuses to acknowledge the authority of God (Jesus), one denies God and therefore is separated from God. It is not God’s decision but a human decision done in the context of free will. Even then, if a believer is certain that hell is the destiny of wretched, obstinate sinners, the believer has not been given the authority to act as judge in God’s behalf.

The leaflet is right when it states, “Jesus said, ‘no man (human) cometh unto the Father, but by me,’” but I dare to suggest that the way through Christ to the Father is more inclusive than many of us may think. To reject Jesus (God) is to reject the principle of love, not self-service. The Jew or the Buddhist or the Hindu may have entered the dimension of love without knowing the name of Jesus. Our task is simple: we proclaim Christ as Lord and let the cookie crumble or the mop flop. We don’t judge. We do what Christ commands us to do: we proclaim the resurrected Lord who died for the sins of humankind. A broader understanding of the way to heaven does not let us off the hook. We are Jesus’ disciples who are the faithful followers who proclaim Jesus as Lord. Then we let go: we let God.

Pastor Ken

Music and Worship



There are two changes in the liturgy to take place now and continue until the beginning of Lent.

- 1st - The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) on page 108 in the red book
- 2nd - The Hymn of Praise on page 149 in the red book

Several times it was mentioned that the congregation enjoys hearing the piano every so often and Richard has agreed to play occasionally...at his discretion.

The potential for reinstating a Bell Choir and an Adult choir was discussed. Pastor mentioned that he has two names of church members who are considering taking this task on. A follow-up with these people will take place in season.



Pastor Ken will be off Sunday, October 13th and Pastor Joe La Du will preside.

On February 16, 2025 at 3:00^{pm} a Gala Organ Concert by our organist, Richard Benedum is being planned. Richard is preparing his program to last approximately 45 minutes. We anticipate that heavy advertising will be required for this memorable event. As we are making this a fund-raising event, there will be a free-will donation opportunity provided. Many volunteers are needed to make this concert a successful fund-raising event as well as a marketing tool for attracting new members. After the concert a reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall. An early suggestion, (of course, as the date gets closer, this could change) some of the volunteer positions needed are;

- someone to handle newspaper advertising,
- making posters and distribution,
- for the reception, snacks/finger food, beverage, setup/cleanup.

If someone would like to take charge and guide of this group volunteers, please see me. The next Music and Worship Committee meeting will be held on October 2nd.

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 grounds of Englewood Methodist Church, EHH is 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. Volunteers are needed to help sort donations, make up bags of groceries and organize the pantry on W, 10/23 and TH, 10/24. 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, Brenda Sahlstrom, Carol Rice and Joyce 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. If you know someone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl or lap robe, please let 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! Looking ahead to Christmas, our team decided to collect new shoes, socks, undies, sweatshirts and jackets again during Advent. These gifts of comfort help local families provide these necessities for their children

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 celebrated this special ELCA day of service. Our selected project this year was making Care Kits to donate to Lutheran World Relief. This is the 10th year that our church has participated in ELCA's special day of service. Doing so highlights the emphasis on serving others; following Christ's example. Needed for each Care Kit were: 1 lightweight, dark colored bath towel, 2 bath-size bars of soap, 1 adult toothbrush, 1 sturdy comb and 1 metal nail clipper. Donations of these items piled up throughout the month of August. Mary Anne DiGrazia also secured a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant to help us purchase kit items. On September 8, several members joined together after church and assembled the kits. Many HANDS made light WORK. We completed 80 Care Kits and were finished in less than 45 minutes! 17 more kits were made up from donations received that day, for a grand total

of 97 Care Kits! All of our kits will be sent by Lutheran World Relief to bless people in war-torn and disaster-stricken areas of the world.

Thank you to all who donated items and helped to make the Care Kits! Thank you, also to Thrivent for their generous support!

*Our next Outreach Ministry Team meeting is on Thursday, October 24 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 Hanisits, 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!

Due to hurricane Helena we had to postpone our September 26 dinner. We will try to get together again in October and a date will be announced later. As fall arrives we often refocus on family activities and meals. In early Christian times meals were symbols, or stories of faith. Several generations would get together, sharing their experiences, and teaching the younger members. We have the opportunity to do that through Oktoberfest, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. So this year, what can you do to bring faith and meals together? What stories need to be shared with younger generations? And how can prayer break barriers and make us One in Christ? We will be able to discuss this and more! Please join us!

See you then!
Pastor Linda+



"Well, thanks for the box of raisins, but we can't promise you a very good Trick or Treat rating on Yelp."

Christ Lutheran Men

MEN'S MINISTRIES

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men of Christ Lutheran Church meet in Christian Fellowship to share and serve our Lord. This is not the "Properties Committee" but we do offer to use "our-hands" to do God's Work. All Men are welcome and encouraged to join with us.

The Men recently met on September 19th to "brain storm" and start planning for our fall/winter meetings and activities. Some new and very exciting ideas were offered.

Sponsor CLC BBQ,
Host Saturday Breakfast,
Host Guest Speakers
Represent CLC at Community Events,
Host Men's Christmas Party,
Support and assist with CLC events

December 15th - Church Decorating
January 9, 2025 - Recovery Party
February 16, 2025 - Organ Concert

Schedule: Meeting weekly, on Wednesday at 9am
Where: The meetings will primarily be held at church; Office Conference Rm.
Why: We will meet for coffee, fellowship and program/Bible Study.
If there are some tasks that need attention, we will help.

Up-coming Schedule:

Wednesday, October 9th - 9^{am} at Church Office Conference Room
Coffee, Donuts
Bible Study

Wednesday October 16th - 9am Church Office Conference Room
Coffee, Donuts
Guest Speaker; TBA

➤➤➤ **Friday, October 25th - 5pm**, Oktoberfest Set-up, decorations in Fellowship Hall

➤➤➤ **Saturday October 26th - 4pm** Oktoberfest assistance and 7^{pm} tear-down and clean-up

Mark Baker, Facilitator

October



Janet	Singer	10/01
Virginia	Anderson	10/03
Carl	Nicholson	10/05
Julie	Erickson	10/09
Gail	Pedersen	10/11
Andy	Egeland	10/19
Larry	Rutkowski	10/25
Paula	Virlee	10/26
Kendal	Cohen	10/28
Linda	Mele	10/28
Gerald,	Konrad	10/29



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
09/01	47	\$1,276.00
09/08	47	\$3,868.00
09/15	54	\$1,916.00
09/22	61	\$3,331.00
09/29	46	\$698.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
	255	\$11,089.00



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.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

IN HINDSIGHT USING
TRICK OR TREAT AS A
OUTREACH EVANGELISM
GIMMICK PROVED
UNSUCCESSFUL FOR THE
DIMWITTY INTERFAITH CHURCH





1	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM}
2	QUILTING 9:00 ^{AM} - 2:00 ^{PM} / WORSHIP COMMITTEE 11:00 ^{AM} / 6:30 ^{PM} CONF C LASS
3	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00 ^{AM} - 12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5:00 ^{PM}
4	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
5	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
6	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}
7	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
8	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5:00 ^{PM}
9	QUILTING 9:00 ^{AM} - 2:00 ^{PM} / No CONF. CLASS
10	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00 ^{AM} -12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5:00 ^{PM}
11	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
12	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
13	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}
14	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
15	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM}
16	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / No CONF. CLASS
17	LINE DANCING 9-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM} / OUTREACH 11 ^{AM} / MENS GROUP 5:30 ^{PM}
18	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
19	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
20	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}
21	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
22	BRIDGE CLASS 9:30-11:30 / BRIDGE CLUB - 12 - 5:00 ^{PM} / CHURCH COUNCIL 1:00 ^{PM}
23	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / 6:30 ^{PM} CONF. CLASS
24	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5:00 ^{PM} / OUTREACH 11:00 ^{AM}
25	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
26	OKTOBERFEST 4:00 ^{PM}
27	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}
28	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
29	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 ^{PM}
30	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / 6:30 ^{PM} CONF. CLASS
31	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 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