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CLC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2025



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313
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It hard to believe that we are at the threshold of another year! We said goodbye to several of our parishioners (Jim Jung, Gloria Leonard, Sal Basile), added some new members, survived Helene and Milton, enjoyed the first year of musical excellence by our organist, Richard Benedum, and cancelled our Oktoberfest for the third time. Soon however, we will celebrate our recovery from Hurricane Ian on January 11 and musically baptize our new organ on February 16.

We approach the new year with hope grounded in the promises of the holy scriptures. As a young teenage Christian in the fifties, I joined the whole country worrying about the atomic bombs we were afraid Russia was about to hurl at the U. S. The nightly sirens of our small city reminded me constantly of the “red threat.” Later, at college, I experienced the anxiety clouding our whole small campus during the Cuban missile crisis. I reflected later in life upon the spiritual growth I experienced during my college years encouraged by my excellent religion professors.

The truth of the matter is, anxiety about the future never goes away. Each global and/or national crisis is followed by another. Hopefully, peace will come soon to the Middle East and to Ukraine. But new harbingers of Armageddon will no doubt rear their ugly heads. Even as a young Christian raised in an inspiring religious environment in a small country church, I find myself constantly having to grip to faith every day. Thanks be to God, there is that bedrock of faith that sustains me. A European theologian put it this way:

Men and women are called to enduring hope. True hope is not based on the ebb and flow of our feelings. Nor does it come from success in life. True hope—which means the hope that endures and sustains—is based on God’s call and command. We are called to hope. It is a command: a command to resist death. It is a call: the call to divine life. (Juergen Moltmann, EXPERIENCES OF GOD, Fortress, 1980, p. 19)

Sometimes when we sense that hope and optimism are taking a powder in our minds, it might be good to remember that God commands us to hope. Hope helps us get through post-Christmas depression. It is the weapon of the spiritual soldier who looks eagerly to the next day and to next year. Hope helps us to look beyond illness, the loss of friendship, financial loss, and the inevitable moment of death. We stand in the light of hope not because we are “hopeful” about a good year but because we envision a grand and wonderful finale to the end of history. No human effort could bring about a happy end of history.

Our three-session mini-course on “End of the world Scripture” starting on January 6 will remind us about the “real reason for the season” called “Christmas” and will help us to look above and beyond the barn of Bethlehem. Without the child born in the manger, there would be no reason for hope. “Any tenable hope for the future thus cannot rest on us but must be affirmed by the God who created the world, does sustain it, and will eventually redeem it.” (Hans Schwarz) We cannot save ourselves and neither can Elon Musk. I just found an old business card on the back of which I once wrote, “Alles Ding waeht seine Zeit; Gottes Lieb in Ewigkeit.” (“Everything has its time; God’s love is eternal”) The prophet Isaiah put it this way: “All flesh is grass...the grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.” (Isaiah 40:8) The word of God will stand forever and so will his creation. Happy New Year!

Your fellow traveler on the way,
Pastor Ken

ADULT EDUCATION

January-March 2025

Book of Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature (In sanctuary)

January 5, 2025

Apocalyptic Literature in the Bible
Definition of "Revelation"
Book of Daniel
Book of Revelation

January 12, 2025

St. Jerome, Augustine, Luther, Calvin
Bultmann and Barth
Hal Lindsay, Beth Moore

January 19, 2025

"Armageddon Now! Rev. 16:16
Dispensationalism: John Nelson Darby
The Rapture: I Thess 4:16f and Matthew 24:40
Jesus' Answer to the Lawyer

Our Lutheran Heritage (in sanctuary)

January 26, 2024

Quick overview of pre-reformation history
Major themes of the early and medieval church

February 2, 2025

Events leading to the reformation
Martin Luther and the Reformation
Major themes of Luther's theology: sola gratia, sola
fide, sola scriptura
Other Reformers

February 09, 2025

What is the Bible
Interpretive vs. literal use of the Bible

February 16, 2025

What is a sacrament?
What is Baptism?
Issues about Baptism
Infant vs. Believer's baptism

February 23, 2025

What is the Sacrament Holy Communion?
Different views about Holy Communion
Practices of different expressions of the church

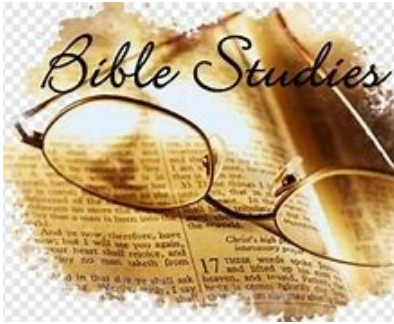
March 2, 2025

Overview of Lutherans in America
Lutheran Church today
Various traditions

March 9, 2025

Lutheran worship today (optional)





APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

When will the end of the world occur? What does the Bible say about the end time? Who will survive and what will the new world look like? Starting on Sunday, January 5, Pastor Ken will host the first lesson on apocalyptic literature. Current books like Hal Lindsey's "The Great Planet Earth" and other literature and evangelists introduce popular themes at a time when the world seems to be going crazy. Global warming, more and more natural disasters, and autocratic world leaders seem, to some, to be harbingers of imminent judgment day. The first of three lessons will take place after services, at 11 a.m. in the front of the sanctuary. Be there or be square!

OUR LUTHERAN HERITAGE

Who are Lutherans? Who was Martin Luther? Why did Germans, Danes, and Swedes risk the voyage across the ocean to an unknown future in the American colonies? Why are baptism and holy communion called "sacraments?" Why were there no fewer than 65 Lutheran groups at the end of the 1800s? Come and find out on January 26 when Pastor Ken begins his short 7-session course in the front of the sanctuary at 11 a.m. Members, lifelong Lutherans as well as those new to the Lutheran faith, can review and learn the main principles of the Lutheran expression of the universal Christian church.



Music and Worship



The Music and Worship did not meet in Dec.

All things "Christmas" were put in place however. The Advent wreath was in place and lighted each Sunday and "O Come Emmanuel" was sung.

Christmas Eve service at 7 PM was a service of beauty complete with a sanctuary adorned with poinsettias and lighted torches lining the center aisle. Wonderful music with our organist Richard put the joy in the evening as he accompanied our Trumpeter Cheryl Clougher.

An inspiring message from Pastor Ken brought Christ into our hearts as we went home to join our families with love.

MERRY CHRISTMAS to my very special loving Christ Lutheran friends.



On February 16th Richard Benedum, our organist, will hold an Organ Concert in the sanctuary at 3:00. Many volunteers are needed to distribute publicity posters in the neighborhoods of Englewood, North Port, Venice, etc. Pastor has offered to take charge of the printing, and advertising in the newspapers. There will be a reception with food and drink in the Fellowship Hall provided by the Social Committee and Men's Group. Donation baskets will be provided in the Hall and in the Sanctuary. Proceeds yet to be determined. This concert is designed to introduce our beautiful new organ and our organist. Let's make this a huge success and pack the Sanctuary.

Next Music and Worship Committee will be January 9th (Thursday) at 11:00 in the office. This is a change from January 8th

Lois Greene, Chair Music and Worship



**"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'we'll tattoo ya!'"**

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM



CAROLS AND POINSETTIAS - On Monday, December 23rd carolers visited 6 of our homebound members. Thank you Pastor Ken, Kathy and David Fogt, Jeanie Patterson, Brenda Sahlstrom and Paula Virlee! It was a time of JOY!

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 Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00^{am}-1:00^{pm} and new hours on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, from 4:30-6:30. Thank you to December volunteers, Joyce Hanisits and Brenda Sahlstrom. If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol Rice or 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.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS - On Sunday, January 19, at our 9:30 service, the sanctuary will be filled with quilts, prayer shawls and lap robes that have been lovingly made this past year. These gifts will be blessed. The quilts will then be packed for shipping to Lutheran World Relief to begin their journeys of hope, love and peace wherever they are most needed. Please join us in celebrating this service ministry.



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 - Throughout Advent and the Christmas Season, we have been collecting NEW SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, SWEATSHIRTS and JACKETS for kids, ages 5-18. January 5 is the last day for this project. These gifts of comfort help local families provide for their children. Thank you, Paula Beehler, for securing a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant to support this project! Thank you to ALL who have helped by donating!

We continue all year long to collect gently-used clothing for Englewood area elementary, middle and high school students. These used, but useful 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 Troshuk family on Saturdays for interaction and English lessons. Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for PEACE!

*The next Outreach Ministry Team will be on Thursday, January 16, at 11:00^{am} in the office meeting room.

Peace and Joy!

Carol Rice for the Outreach Ministry Team

Pastor Ken, Ellen Novotny, Moira Ehlers, and Pastor Linda Fernandez



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 Men

A New Day, New Month and A New Year!

MEN'S MINISTRIES,

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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

1 Thessalonians 5:11

*"Encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing"*

The Men's Group will meet Thursday, 9am at the Church Conference Room. There will be some special events, held on different dates; TBA

Up-coming Schedule:

Jan. 2nd, no meeting—Happy New Year

Jan. 9th Meeting 9am, at church. Volunteers needed for Devotions,
Donuts and coffee

Jan. 11th, Recovery Gathering, men needed for set-up
Rick Valenti coordinating

Jan. 16th No meeting. Preparing for Jan. 17th Gathering

January 17th: Congregational Event; Thrivent Presentation.

**A free, learning program about Retirement,
Long-term Care and Investments. Also, about
Charitable giving: "Choice Dollars."**

Sign-up and let us know you will join us.

**Friday Jan. 17th, 10am for coffee and fellowship
Followed by presentation.**

Sunday Feb. 16th, Organ Concert, more info to follow.

Mark Baker, Facilitator



Ruth	Hancock	01/04
Jack	Henry	01/07
Larry	Johnson	01/13
Nancy	Berry	01/15
Suzanne	Michaleski	01/23
Dan	Christensen	01/26
Toni	Newton	01/26
Rebecca	Lentz	01/28
Isaac	Santos	01/29



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



December	Attendance	Giving
12/01	70	\$2,188.50
12/08	76	\$4,394.00
12/15	71	\$996.00
12/22	65	\$6,564.26
12/24	72	\$683.00
12/29	55	\$804.00
		\$0.00
	464	\$15,629.76



“How much of Robin Hood’s money went to operating expenses and overhead and how much actually went to the poor?”

January



NEW
NEW

1	New Year's Day NO Quilting
2	NO Mens Group / Country Line Dancing 9:00^{am}-12
3	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00am / Bridge Club 12 - 5
4	Saturday - no activities
5	Worship Service 9:30^{am} / Bible Study to follow service
6	Dance 2 B Fit 9:30-10:30^{am} / Adv. Tai Chi 2-3^{pm} / Venetian Harmony - 6:30
7	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS
8	QUILTING 9:00-2:00^{PM} / WORSHIP COMMITTEE 11^{AM} / FORKS & FELLOWSHIP 4^{PM}
9	9:00^{AM} MENS GROUP / COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00^{AM}-12
10	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
11	MENS'S GROUP - RECOVERY SET UP / RECOVERY PIZZA PARTY 4PM
12	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE
13	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30
14	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS
15	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00^{PM}
16	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / NO MENS GROUP / OUTREACH COMM 11AM
17	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / THRIVENT PRESENTATION 10-2PM / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
18	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
19	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} W/QUILT BLESSING / BIBLE STUDY AFTER SERVICE
20	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30
21	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / CHURCH COUNCIL 1:00PM
22	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00^{PM}
23	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / MENS GROUP 9:00AM
24	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
25	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
26	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / CONG. MEETING AFTER SERVICE / BIBLE STUDY
27	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30
28	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS
29	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00^{PM}
30	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12
31	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5^{PM}

Thank you for the music

**CLASSICAL & SACRED
ORGAN CONCERT**

FEATURING

RICHARD BENEDUM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

3:00 PM

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 NORTH INDIANA AVENUE

ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223

LITE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

