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CLC NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

2025



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313
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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 with 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. The COVID crisis, followed by Hurricanes like Ian and Milton, are 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 traveler along the Way,
Pastor Ken



"They say they are three kings."

Music and Worship

Although we announced this in our November newsletter, I think it is worth repeating. Our organist, Richard Benedum will present an organ concert tentatively set for March 8, 2026, at 3:00. A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the concert.



Please remember that the Greeters are to ask new visitors to sign the guest book in the Narthex. If a member does not wear their name tag, ask them if they would like one made for them. Sign up for that is in the Narthex. Greeters are now requested to remain in the Narthex until the end of the first hymn.

All Worship Assistants will be asked to be Lectors as well during the summer months.

The choir will meet at 8:30 every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall and will sing on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month with some exceptions. Choir Director is Joyce Bailey.

The Advent Wreath will be placed on the altar before service on Nov. 30th, the first Sunday in Advent.

Poinsettias Plants - Envelopes to order Poinsettias for Christmas have been placed on the Baptismal. Last Sunday to order will be Dec. 7th. There will be a few extra if you miss the deadline.

We will **Deck the Halls** immediately after service on Dec. 7th. Many volunteer hands are needed for this job. Volunteers are needed to distribute Poinsettias in the Sanctuary, The plants will arrive on Dec. 18th. Many hands make light work.

Christmas Eve service, Dec. 24 will be a Candlelight service at 7:00 PM.

Joyce Bailey will be the soloist.

The Center aisle will be adorned with our gorgeous candles provided by Joyce and Bill Hanisits. Each attendee will be given a small candle for the ceremony.

Christmas Day - There will not be a service on Dec. 25th.

We will **“undecK” the Halls** on January 11th immediately following the service.

The next Music and Worship Committee meeting will be held on January 13th at 11:00.

*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! It is always a JOY to see our Little Red Wagon full! Located on the campus of Englewood Methodist Church, 700 E Dearborn St., EHH is open to clients on W and TH, from 8am-1pm.



Thank you to our November volunteers: Lois Greene, Joyce Hanisits, Carol Rice, Brenda Sahlstrom, Rick Valenti and Kat and Lee Smith. If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol Rice know. Our support is especially timely as the recent government shutdown impacted SNAP and other programs causing greater food insecurity for families and many seniors.



QUILTING AND KNITTING - Please join us for a time of Christian fellowship, fun and service...no skills necessary. We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9-noon every Wednesday. All willing hands and hearts are welcome. Our quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief and sent throughout the world at times of disaster.

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, ages 5-18. These donations can be placed in the Kids' Needs collection box in our narthex. Pastor Ken enjoys volunteering each month with Kids' Needs during their TH evening shopping nights. Thank you, PK! We know the kids and parents love your magic tricks.



It was decided to once again focus on Kids' Needs for our Christmas outreach project..collecting new SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, SWEATSHIRTS and JACKETS. Please help us fill the giant gift box with these much needed items for kids, ages 5-18.

TROSHUK FAMILY - Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for world PEACE!??



"CAROLS AND POINSETTIAS" - Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Monday, December 22, as we visit our Homebound members. At each stop, we sing a couple of Christmas Carols and deliver poinsettias. It is a time of JOY! We will meet at the church office at 10am and carpool.

* The next Outreach Ministry Team will be on TH, January 8, at 11am in the office meeting room.

Peace and Joy!

Carol Rice for the Outreach Ministry Team Pastor Ken, Ellen Novotny, Moira Ehlers, Pastor Linda Fernandez and Kat Smith



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 (yellow 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

December, a month of Anticipation and Celebration!

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.

Psalm 19:1

***"The heavens declare the glory of God, and
the sky above proclaims His handiwork"***

Up-coming Meeting Schedule:

Thursday Dec. 4th, 9:00^{am} at Church Conference Room
Coffee, Devotions, Donuts
Bible Study, planning for Holiday Event

Thursday Dec. 18th, 9:00^{am} at Church Conference Room
Coffee, fellowship, Devotions
Year-end review and reflections

Dec. 25th *Merry Christmas to All!!*

SPECIAL DATES: Please mark your calendars

Sunday Dec. 7th, Church Decorating. After worship—help needed

Thursday Dec 11th, Dining Under the Stars of Bethlehem
Boca Royale Club House, 4:30^{pm}
Reservations required

Happy New Year! Welcome 2026

No Meeting Thursday Jan. 1st

Mark Baker, Facilitator

Dining Under the Stars of Bethlehem

Inside, private dining in the library

Thursday Dec. 11th

Boca Royale Country Club

1601 Englewood Rd

4:30pm Social time, 5pm seating

Join us for this fabulous, fun filled Holiday/Advent gathering. All of Christ Lutheran is welcome, as well as guests, family and friends/neighbors. It will be an evening of laughs, entertainment and Christmas Bingo. Holiday attire suggested.

This event is being coordinated by CLC Men's Group.

Pre-paid Reservations will be required to get an accurate attendance so the Elves know how many to plan for. There will also be the opportunity when making your reservation, to choose from a pre-selected menu; Chicken Marsala, Glazed Salmon or Beef Sirloin. Includes, potato, vegetable, rolls, butter, salad, coffee, tea, soft drinks. Cash Bar. **\$30.00 per person inclusive.**

Reservations need to be made no later than Dec.7th.

For reservations and more information please contact

Mark Baker 518-669-2018 mbaker16p@gmail.com

Deck-the -Halls

Fla-la-la



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

December		
Elizabeth	Warring	12/04
Diane	Martin	12/07
Val	Egeland	12/27
Donna	DeFiore	12/13
Ravin	Wolfgram	12/18
Larry	Froemming	12/25
JoAnn	Sterzinger	12/28
Carol	Kirby	12/29
Jim	Hogan	12/30



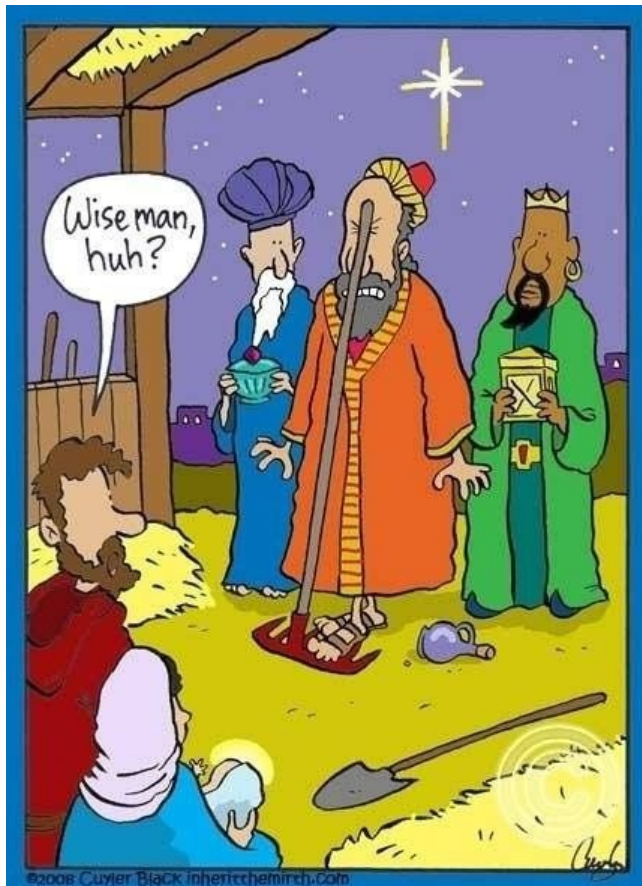
*You two quit it or I'm turning
this caravan right around!*

Church Attendance

<u>September</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
11/02	61	\$2,464.00
11/09	68	\$2,655.00
11/16	67	\$3,654.00
11/23	54	\$3,733.21
11/30	70	\$1,648.00
	320	\$14,154.21



Please assist the church by completing a survey for each member in your household. The information in the survey is a very valuable tool to Christ Lutheran Church. It allows us to know which of our members would be good on which committees, who is willing to serve in which areas, and which of our members have talents that can be shared with the church. This may involve education, training, and practice in various fields, always with the intent of glorifying God. It's been many years since we did our last survey and it is important to have up-to-date information about the gifts God has given to each of us to use for His glory. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. This survey can be picked up in the Narthex and returned at your earliest convenience. Forms are available in the church office. Thank you!



**TIME &
TALENTS**
Survey



12/01	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
2	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
3	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL CHRISTIAN BIBLE STUDY 7:00-8:00 ^{PM}
4	MEN'S GROUP 9:00 ^{AM} /COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} /BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
5	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
6	
7	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE CHURCH 10:00 - 1:00 ^{PM}
8	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
9	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
10	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / WORSHIP COMMITTEE 11:00 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE 7:00-8:00 ^{PM}
11	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} /OUTREACH COMMITTEE 11:00 ^{AM} /BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 -
12	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am}
13	
14	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE CHURCH 10:00 - 1:00 ^{PM}
15	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
16	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM} / CHURCH COUNCIL 1:00 ^{PM}
17	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM
18	MEN'S GROUP 9:00 ^{AM} / COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
19	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
20	
21	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE CHURCH 10:00 - 1:00 ^{PM}
22	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
23	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
24	CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE STUDY 7:00 ^{PM} / CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00PM
25	CHRISTMAS DAY
26	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
27	
28	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE CHURCH 10:00 - 1:00 ^{PM}
29	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
30	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
31	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE STUDY 7:00 ^{PM}

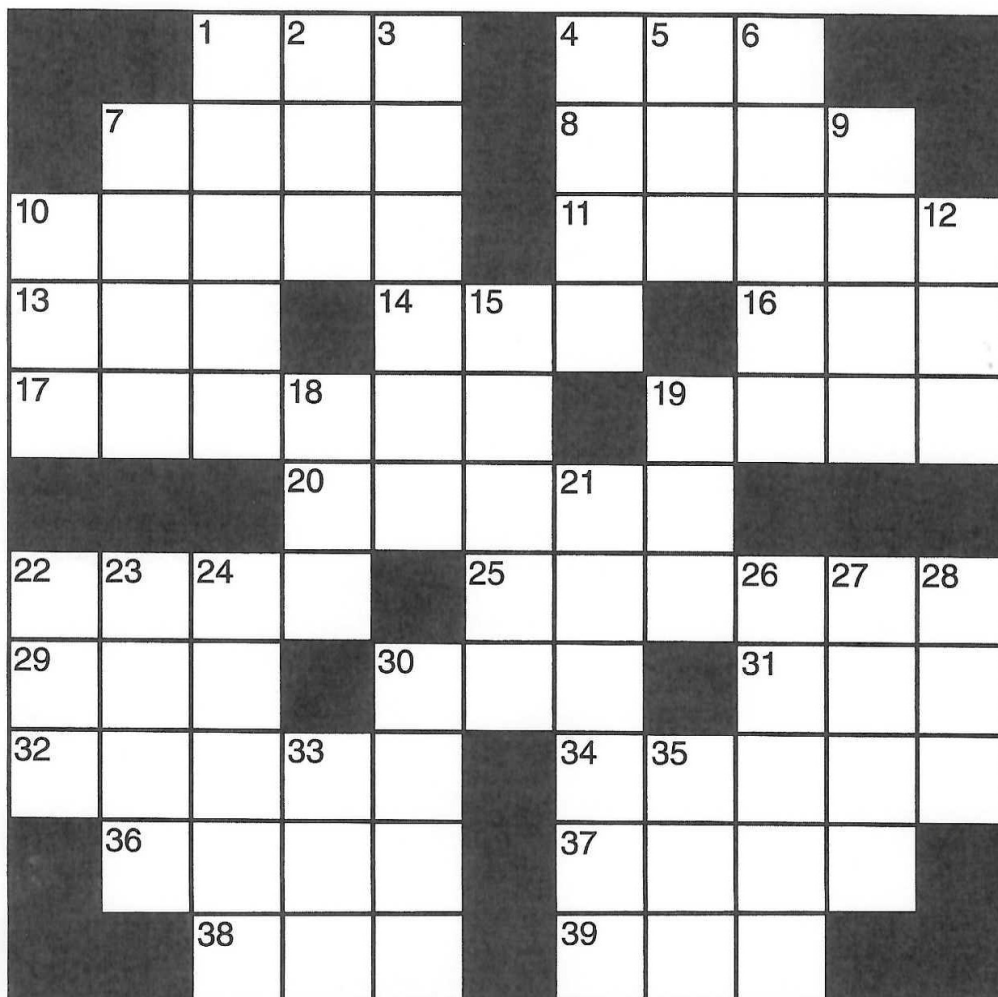
PROPHETS, TOWERS, AND PLACES

ACROSS

1. Jughead
4. Poorly lit
7. Biblical wise men
8. Devil's doings
10. Biblical tower
11. Maple product
13. Ready when you ____!
14. Noah's boat
16. ____ out (barely get by)
17. Whirl around
19. Earthly paradise
20. One of the disciples
22. "The ____ Supper"
25. Old Testament prophet
29. Lyric poem
30. Wager
31. Run out of gas
32. Slender candle
34. Christmas greenery
36. Collect ore
37. Female sheep
38. Say further
39. Primary color

DOWN

1. Cavalryman's sword
2. Grow old
3. Infamous hand-washer
Pontius
4. Cubicle furniture
5. Clinging vine
6. Stuck in the mud
7. Mother of Jesus
9. Gospel writer
10. Sack
12. Livestock enclosure
15. Knot anew
18. Exactly suitable
19. Memorable period
21. Old Testament book
22. Sodom survivor
23. First man
24. Brown pigment
26. Ran in neutral
27. Feels unwell
28. Yo!
30. Reproduced
33. Bring to a halt
35. Be indebted to





POINSETTIA PLANTS ... As we have done in years past, we will support The Englewood Lions Club Fund Raising Project of selling Poinsettias. This project provides vision screening, hearing services, diabetes screening and donations to areas of need in the Englewood area and your poinsettia purchase helps fund these projects to which their members donate their time.

Please consider helping adorn the church with poinsettia plants this Christmas. This year, Poinsettia plants are in a 6.5"

pot (sleeved) with 2 stems and 12-15" tall at a cost of \$13.00 each (same as last year). Please use the order blank below and place it in the collection plate on Sunday. *You will also find these forms on the Baptismal.*

HELP ADORN THE CHURCH WITH POINSETTIA PLANTS

YOUR NAME: _____

☐ *IN MEMORY OF* ☐ *IN HONOR OF*

YOU MAY TAKE YOUR PLANT HOME AFTER CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP.



PROPHETS, TOWERS, AND PLACES (page 26)

	S	A	P		D	I	M	
	M	A	G	I		E	V	I
B	A	B	E	L		S	Y	R
A	R	E		A	R	K		E
G	Y	R	A	T	E		E	D
			P	E	T	E	R	
L	A	S	T		I	S	A	I
O	D	E		B	E	T		D
T	A	P	E	R		H	O	L
	M	I	N	E		E	W	E
		A	D	D		R	E	D



Christmas Eve
welcome to our service

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
701 N. INDIANA AVE.
ENGLEWOOD, FL

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DECEMBER 24TH AT 7:00^{PM}

EVERYONE IS WELCOME