

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

Church office 941-474-1989
E-mail: office@christlutheranfleng.org
Website: www.christlutheranfleng.com

CLC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2026



Happy Valentine's Day

Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313
Published by Christ Lutheran Church, Office Administrator



In my sermon on Epiphany II, January 18, I expressed my concerns related to what I believe is the decline of morality in our nation. According to the account in the Gospel of John, John the Baptist declared that Jesus was the Lamb the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) On the following day, the disciple John and some friends went to find Jesus. When Jesus asked why they were looking for him, they answered that they wanted to find the “teacher.” (Rabbi)

For two millennia in the Western world, even those who had doubts about the divinity of Jesus, frequently acknowledged that he is the teacher who gifted the world with values that could undergird a moral based civilization. Following the thoughts of the English statesman, Lord Herbert of Cherbury (died 1624), the founders of our American republic grafted into the reasoning and foundational justification for our democracy values and moral guidelines taught by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Jesus based his guidelines for living upon the Ten Commandments in the Jewish scriptures but declared that he was the fulfillment of the law and explained in great detail precisely how the commandments were to be applied in the daily lives of believers.

The same theme was underlined in our Gospel lesson on Epiphany IV on January 25 embedded in the theme of “righteousness.” When Jesus preached his list of beatitudes, he spoke of “righteousness” twice (5: 6 and 10). In the epistle lesson assigned for the same day, St. Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth that Jesus is wisdom and **righteousness**. (I Corinthians 1: 30)

Righteousness and foundational human values are moral guidelines embedded in God’s Word, and officially and unofficially have been acknowledged to be the standards and moral bedrock upon which our nation was planted and, surely not coincidentally, are the same guidelines to which pastors and priests refer their parishioners. They are not only the guidelines for Christian believers but they are the directives for life also for Deist Christians (who do not believe in the divinity of Christ), the non-believers who call themselves “humanists,” and any citizen, whether liberal or conservative. My friend, Ted Peters, who teaches at General Theological Union in California, recently lamented that “America is losing its culture, a culture aerated with love, care, and compassion.” (Ted’s newsletter of Jan. 7, 2026)

Our Christian and American culture (which includes non-Christians and a plethora of races, non-Christians and ethnic groups) is a culture rich in justice for all, leniency, freedom of speech, free elections, careful application of laws that are just, and “love, care, and compassion.” We believers are called to be beacons of hope, optimism, and “advocates for peace and justice.” (ELCA Presiding Bishop Curry’s recent plea)

For me, my thoughts these days are thoughts about righteousness and morality. How about you?

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ken



"Look, Mom. A Valentine theme."

Music and Worship

A prayer was offered by Pastor in which he noted the death of our dear committee member Gail Pedersen. She will be sorely missed in so many areas of our worship life, not the least of which as former organist of 30+ years and choir director.



CONCERTS

A discussion was held regarding the upcoming free concert performed by Tom Renaud named "Hymns and Their Histories" to be held in the Sanctuary on Feb. 8th at 3:00. A "love-donation" will be available. A small reception will be held on the patio after the concert. Advertisements will be done by Tom and Pastor. Tom is providing a poster for the Narthex, and there will be a page in the Sunday bulletins 3 weeks prior.

On March 8th at 3:00 our Organist will present his second free concert demonstrating his incredible talent and our wonderful new pipe organ. A donation basket will be placed in the church. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall by Angie and Louise Glose and helpers. A printed program will be provided at the door. Richard will be compensated.

RETIREMENTS

Joyce Hanisits has resigned as Leader of the Altar Guild and Jodie Rock has taken it on. Going forward, church secretary Nancy Frey will order supplies for the Guild when informed by Jodie.

Lois Greene announced that at the end of December 2026 she will be retiring from her position of Leader of Music and Worship after 6 years. She has offered to train a replacement for the entire year of 2026 to make a smooth transition. Members are encouraged to find a replacement

CHANGES IN LITURGY

It was decided that on the first Sunday in Lent we will reinstate the "Passing of the Peace" during worship. You are requested not to leave your seat, but simply acknowledge those directly near you with a gesture of your choice.

1. Starting on **Ash Wednesday**, February 18th, there will be a communion service at 3:00 with distribution of ashes. The liturgy changes are as follows until Easter Sunday:
2. February 22 the Kyrie will be on page #138 (Lord Have Mercy).
There is no Gloria during Lent
The gospel versicle will change to page 142(b)
The Sanctus (holy, holy, holy) will change to page 144(b)
The Lamb of God will remain the same as presently sung.

On Easter Sunday, April 5th these changes will revert back to the original.

LENTEN DINNERS

On each Wednesday during Lent (5) soup and bread and butter will be provided by various teams at 5:00 during a brief prayer and devotion by Pastor. When all have eaten, volunteers have been asked to speak of their religious journey.

EASTER1. Palm Sunday is March 29th. Nancy will order the palms and Greeter will distribute to each person entering the church for service.

2. Holy Thursday April 3rd, there will be a communion service at 3:00 at the end of which the altar will be stripped reverently by volunteers and the processional cross draped in a black veil in preparation for Good Friday the following day.
3. Good Friday – April 4th – there will be a non-communion service at 3:00 with appropriate hymns and devotions.
4. **EASTER SUNDAY** – April 5th, 9:30 communion service. “Hallelujah, he has risen indeed!!!”

The next Music and Worship meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 31st and subject to change.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Greene
Leader Music and Worship

© Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



**"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

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND (EHH) -- Thank you for donating food and personal care items to EHH! It is wonderful to see our Little Red Wagon full! EHH is located on the campus of Englewood Methodist Church, 700 E Dearborn St. and is open to clients on W and TH, from 8am-1pm. It is exciting to see the building addition progressing.



Thank you to our December and January volunteers: Joyce Hanisits, Carol Rice, Brenda Sahlstrom and Kat Smith. If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol 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 from 9-noon every Wednesday. All willing hands and hearts are welcomed and needed. Our quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief and sent throughout the world at times of disaster. To celebrate Lutheran World Relief's 80 years of service, our quilters set a goal to complete 80 quilts

before February. 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. Most Thrivent members can qualify for 2 grants per year. 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 - ENGLEWOOD-Thank you, again to all who made our Kids' Needs Christmas Project a BIG success!! New SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, JACKETS and SWEATSHIRTS overflowed from the gift boxes in the narthex. 424 new items of clothing were donated! These gifts will bless local families in the weeks and months to come. Thank you, Paula Beehler and Mary Anne DiGrazia, for securing Thrivent Action Grants supporting this project!



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.

TROSHUK FAMILY - Pastor Ken and Ellen N. visit the Troshuks on many Saturdays for stories, games and language lessons. Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for immigration relief and world PEACE!??



Greeting Cards-We thank Ellen Novotny for continuing to send notes and cards to our members.

*The next Outreach Ministry Team will be on TH, March 12, at 11am in the office meeting room. There will be no team meeting in February.

Peace and Joy!

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



80 Quilts for the
Lutheran World Relief



Some of the ladies who work all year to create these beautiful quilts.
If you are interested in joining the quilters, they meet each Wednesday in the fellowship hall for fun and service...no skills necessary. All willing hands and hearts are welcomed and needed. Our quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief and sent throughout the world at times of disaster.



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.

*Hymns and their history - February 8th, 3:00pm
Concert by Tom Renaud*



Musician Tom Renaud will be providing a unique presentation at Christ Lutheran Church, 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 8: "Hymns and Their Histories". The greatest Christian hymns draw light from darkness, beauty from tragedy, wisdom from sorrow. Some were written out of dramatic circumstances that add to their inspirational power. Tom will use his voice and guitar to bring these songs and their stories to life. All are welcome to this free concert.

Christ Lutheran Men

February 2026

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.

Romans 8:28

“And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into His plans”

Meeting Dates and Times. The Men's Group will meet bi-weekly on Thursday (twice a month) 9am in the Church Conference Room. There will be some special events, held on different dates; TBA

**Next Meetings: Thursday Feb. 5th, 9am at church.
Thursday Feb. 19th, 9am at church**

An Opportunity to Serve:

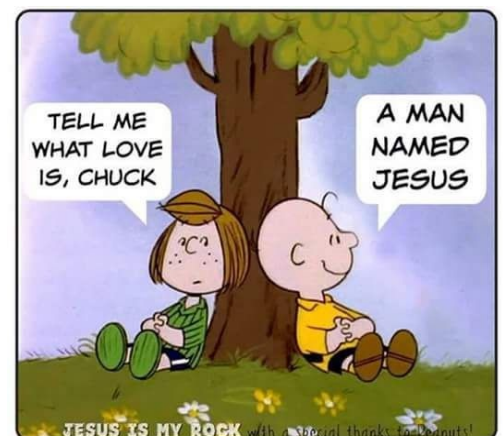
Roadside Clean-up: CLC Men, will be facilitating roadside clean-up on 776 and invites the entire congregation to join us in this important community service event. We will meet at 9am, at church on the following date to accomplish this mission.

Saturday February 28th

Facility Project:

Painting: Paint the exterior of Fellowship Hall doors
Date TBA

Mark Baker, Facilitator



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

February		
Connie	Flowler	02/08
Marjorie	Rutkowske	02/10
Linda	Strychowski	02/13
Herb	Dixon,	02/20
Mark	Bailey	02/21
Brenda	Sahlstrom	02/23
John	Ross	02/24
Dennis	Beehler	02/28

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT **BIBLE GATEWAY**



02-14-2000

Church Attendance



<u>December</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
1/04	64	\$3,705.00
1/11	74	\$4,339.00
1/18	79	\$2,388.00
1/25	96	\$1,533.00
		<u>\$0.00</u>
	313	\$11,965.00

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!

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Sorry, our finances aren't as good as I thought. I had the chart up-side-down."

BIBLE SYMBOLS

E	L	A	H		A	B	A	C	U
B	A	B	E		R	E	M	A	P
B	U	R	N	I	N	G	B	U	S
			C	N	O	T	E	S	
W	O	M	E	N		O	R	I	O
I	C	E						N	U
G	A	L	L	S		S	S	G	T
		T	A	M	A	L	E		
O	L	I	V	E	B	R	A	N	C
M	A	N	I	L	A		L	E	O
A	N	G	E	L	S		S	H	O

**TIME &
TALENTS**
Survey



2/01	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM}
2	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30^{AM} / ADVANCE TAI CHI 2-3:00^{PM} / VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30^{PM}
3	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
4	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00^{PM}
5	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-12:00 ^{PM} / MEN'S GROUP 9:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00^{PM}
6	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
7	VENETIAN HARMONY 10:00-3:00^{PM}
8	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / CONCERT 3:00^{PM}
9	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30^{AM} / ADVANCE TAI CHI 2-3:00^{PM} / VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30^{PM}
10	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
11	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00^{PM}
12	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
13	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
14	
15	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM}
16	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30^{AM} / ADVANCE TAI CHI 2-3:00^{PM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30^{PM}
17	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10^{AM} /BRIDGE CLUB 12 -5 ^{PM} /ENG. COMM. COALITION 5:45^{PM} /CHURCH COUNCIL 2^{PM}
18	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00^{PM} / ASH WED SERVICE 3:00^{PM}
19	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / MEN'S GROUP 9:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
20	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
21	
22	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM}
23	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30^{AM} / ADVANCE TAI CHI 2-3:00^{PM} VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30^{PM}
24	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
25	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00^{PM}
26	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
27	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
28	MENS GROUP ROAD CLEAN-UP 9:00AM

BIBLE SYMBOLS

ACROSS

1. Where David met Goliath
(1 Samuel 17)
5. Beaded calculator
11. "...you will find a ___
wrapped in swaddling
clothes" (Luke 2:12)
12. Edits an atlas
13. Miraculous symbol (Exodus
3)
15. Franklin bills, slangily
16. Alcott novel, "Little ___"
19. Constellation with a "belt"
22. "From whose womb did the
___ come forth...?" (Job
38:29)
23. Cashew or pecan
24. Bothers a lot
27. Some noncoms, briefly
29. Cantina wrap
31. Peace symbol derived from
the dove and leaf in Genesis
8:11
36. Capital of the Philippines
37. Fifth-century pope called
"the Great"
38. Messengers of God
39. Beyond repair

DOWN

1. Recede, as a tide
2. Charlie of baseball lore
3. Shortened: Abbr.
4. From this time forward
5. Cartoonist Peter
6. "I ___ differ!"
7. Fossil preserver
8. Resulting in
9. Bullish times
10. Librarian's warning
14. "... there was no room for
them in the ___" (Luke 2:7)
16. Halloween hairpiece
17. Edible tuber of the Andes
18. Like the Wicked Witch, in
the end
20. No longer in fashion
21. Some Bible versions: abbr.
25. C'est ___: that's life
26. "...noses have they, but
they ___ not" (Psalm 115:6)
27. 35mm camera initials
28. Shuts securely
30. Desert robes
31. Grandma, in Germany
32. Chile's main airline
33. Book after Ezra: Abbr.
34. Dove sound
35. Huge success



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13				14						
			15							
16	17	18				19			20	21
22								23		
24			25	26		27	28			
		29			30					
31	32							33	34	35
36							37			
38							39			

Thank you for the music

**CLASSICAL & SACRED
ORGAN CONCERT**

FEATURING

RICHARD BENEDUM

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

3:00 PM

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
701 NORTH INDIANA AVENUE
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223**

LITE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED