

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

MAY, 2025



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



This year 2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. A friend of mine asked me to travel with him and his wife to Turkey and visit the ruins of Nicaea to celebrate the council called by Constantine in 325 AD to address the question about Jesus' identity. But we found out that accommodations would not be very good so we gave up the idea.

Constantine was only one of several contenders for the office of Emperor of the Roman Empire. Before the deciding battle, he had a vision instructing him to paint a cross on the shields of his soldiers. He won the battle and the office of emperor and became a champion for the Christian faith. Upon hearing about two clerics in Alexandria debating the issue, he invited 300 church leaders to come to the resort town of Nicaea to formulate a statement about the person of Jesus which all Christians might adopt.

The two main positions were voiced by Arius and Athanasius, both from Alexandria. Arius maintained that Jesus, in fact, came from God but was a creature sent by God to save humankind. Athanasius argued that Jesus was not a creature sent by God but was the incarnation of God himself. He said, "Jesus as my redeemer cannot be less than God." Arius responded by shouting that Athanasius was a heretic watering down the monotheistic biblical belief that there is only one God. Out of the debates came an early formulation of the Nicene Creed in which we confess, "Jesus is eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God...of one Being with the Father."

Constantine banished Arius but his powerful friends convinced Arius to apologize to the emperor and Arius was restored to his office in Alexandria. Arius and his supporters then embarked upon a campaign to get even with Athanasius and succeeded in getting him banished five times before the dust settled and Athanasius enjoyed one decade of peace before he died at the age of 75 in 373 AD. But the debate continued and most lay Christians supported the position of Arius until three more ecumenical councils (the last one at Chalcedon in 451 AD) won the day. Today the Arian position lives on in the teachings of the Jehovah Witnesses. Most Christians agree that real Christians are only those who confess the doctrine of the Trinity.

Today there is less concern about the proper way to define the work and mission of Jesus. No doctrine can take the place of a personal experience of Jesus. Our Easter season focuses upon the resurrection of Jesus which means that Jesus is alive and well and confronts us in a way that human words and doctrines cannot express. "To know Jesus and his presence" transcends human language. Perhaps we feel his presence and his comfort when we celebrate holy communion or when we pray or when an event in our lives leads us to faith in him. The statements of the ecumenical councils so long ago still dictate for theologians the human language needful for witness but how does one express "faith?" Faith that moves mountains is more powerful than words. Faith in action speaks louder than words. May the faith of Easter fill all of our days and keep the darkness of doubt at bay.

Your fellow traveler along the way,
Pastor Ken

Music and Worship

There was no Music and Worship meeting in April.

Joyce Bailey took on the role of Choir Director and with 6 stalwart members sang during two services in April. We are so grateful to Joyce and her choir members. She, and the choir will take a summer hiatus as she returns north to arrive back in the Fall and resume.



The piano in the Fellowship Hall was tuned by Mark Bailey.

Jim Buchanan has volunteered to accompany the choir for Sunday rehearsals in the Hall, as well as services. Jim was recently installed as a new member, and he is an accomplished pianist and organist. We are delighted to welcome him on board CLC.

Holy week was celebrated at 3:00 with a communion service on Holy Thursday and devotions on Good Friday with a celebration of Easter on April 20th, the church being adorned with beautiful lilies. Joyce Bailey sang a solo and Richard played festive Easter organ selections.

The next Music and Worship meeting will be held on May 7th at 11:00 in the office.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lois Greene,
Chair Music and Worship*

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



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 April volunteers, Joyce Hanisits, 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 -- Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for world PEACE!??



HOMEBOUND MEMBERS- On April 22, at 10am, when we visited our Homebound members and shared Lilies, Prayers 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!



LENT SOUP and BREAD SUPPERS- The Outreach Team provided the soups, breads and drinks on April 2. It was a wonderful time of worship and fellowship. Each week someone shared their personal "faith journey." These were special messages from the heart.

*The next Outreach Ministry Team will be on TH, May 15 at 11am 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)



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



NEWCLCPHONE 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.



Women's circle News

On Sunday May 11 The Women's Circle will one again provide their Annual Mother's Day brunch after church.

Pastor Linda will provide the sandwiches and quiche. Please feel free to bring goodies and drinks to go along with it. Also, please stop by for a few minutes even if you have family plans later. It's a great time to celebrate ALL the women in the parish. See you there

Pastor Linda would also like to thank all the women who brought food for the Lenten program. We had a bounty of soups, breads and delicious desserts!

Pastor Linda Fernandez+



We'd better get to church early if we want to get the last row pew.

Christ Lutheran Men

May—Happy Spring!
Safe travel/ fight to all of our “Snow-bird”

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.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

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

Next Meetings: 9am at church.

May:

Thursday, May 8th

Thursday, May 22nd

The Men will take a break from meeting during the months of June-August and will reconvene in September. Watch for your notices.

New Opportunities to Serve Coming this fall:

September: Roadside Clean-up

October: Halloween Safe-Walk Booth

Octoberfest Community Event; TBD

Fish Fry event date to be determined

December: CLC Holiday Dinner Gathering

Mark Baker, Facilitator





Dorthy	Berner	05/02
Sharon	Tessmer	05/03
Phillis	Rohidoux	05/04
Kathy	Sidebottom	05/06
Kenneth	Warring	05/07
Steven	Fernandez	05/09
Darrel	Sterzinger	05/09
John	Patterson	05/10
Deborah	Seliski	05/12
Ray	Addison	05/16
Dennis	Johnson	05/16
Patricia	LaPierre	05/18
Elizabeth	Tanner	05/17
Richard	Lentz	05/19
Rosie	Wile	05/19
Henry	Miller	05/21
Paul	Rugg	05/22
Richard	Valenti	05/23
William	O'Neill	05/23
Robert	Cunningham	05/24
Thomas	Flebbe	05/25
Gail	Johnson	05/25

Frances	Regan	05/26
Lois	Greene	05/26
Fern	Durham	05/28
Robert	Cosler	05/31
Larry	Wile	05/31



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



April	Attendance	Giving
04/06	90	\$2,585.50
04/13 (Palm)	90	\$14,247.00
04/17(M.Thur)	33	\$110.00
04/18 (G.Fri)	23	\$632.00
04/20 (Easter)	122	\$4,276.00
04/27	70	\$961.00
	428	\$22,811.50

FORM ON PAGES 11 & 12

TIME & TALENTS Survey



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.

Please return survey to the church office at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM By Mike Peters



05/01	Country Line Dancing 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
2	Tai Chi 10:00-11:00 ^{am}
3	
4	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE - (LAST ONE)
5	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30
6	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
7	QUILTING 9-2 ^{PM} / WORSHIP COMMITTEE 11:00AM / CCCBS 7 ^{PM}
8	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-12 / MEN'S GROUP 9:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
9	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
10	
11	WORSHIP SERVICE / MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
12	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
13	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / CHURCH COUNCIL 2:00 ^{PM}
14	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / CCCBS 7-8PM
15	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / OUTREACH COMMITTEE 11:00AM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
16	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
17	
18	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / LAST DAY TO GIVE RESV. TO MURIEL FOR FORKS & FELLOWSHIP
19	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
20	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
21	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / FORKS & FELLOWSHIP 5:00 PM / CCCBS 7-8PM
22	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / MENS GROUP 9:00AM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
23	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
24	
25	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}
26	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
27	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
28	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / CCCBS 7-8PM
29	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
30	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
31	

Christ Lutheran Church
Time and Talent Opportunities

Instructions

Please assist the church by completing a survey, check all that apply. The information in the survey is a very valuable tool to CLC. 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.

Administration

- ☐ Assistance with bulletins (folding)
- ☐ Assistance with mailings (folding/labeling)
- ☐ Website Maintenance
- ☐ Update & maintain front sign
- ☐ Fill in during secretary's vacation

Skills

- ☐ Carpentry
- ☐ Plumbing
- ☐ Electrical
- ☐ Painting
- ☐ Lawn / Yard Care
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Sound System

Special Events / Hospitality

- ☐ Bake for Bake Sales or Dinners
- ☐ Funeral Lunches
- ☐ Provide meals for those in need
- ☐ Cook for special events dinners
- ☐ Decorating special events
- ☐ Oversee fund raising functions
- ☐ Organize receptions
- ☐ Church picnic / Oktoberfest, etc.

Misc.

- ☐ Errands / Medical appointments
- ☐ Coffee Hour
- ☐ Quilting
- ☐ Prayer Chain
- ☐ Spring and Fall Clean up
- ☐ Driver / Transportation Assistance

Music Opportunities

- ☐ Sing in choir
- ☐ Soloist
- ☐ Choir Directing
- ☐ Pianist / Organist

☐ Instrumentalist _____

Finance

☐ Counting

Synod/Conference Delegate

☐ Attend conf in June with Pastor

Teaching

☐ Sunday School

☐ Youth Group - activities & service

Leadership Opportunities

☐ Stewardship

☐ Outreach

☐ Building & Grounds

☐ Committee chair

☐ Usher

☐ Lector

☐ Greeter

☐ Altar Guild

☐ Worship Assistant

Anything we missed

☐

☐

☐

I am also willing to help the church in the following unlisted areas:

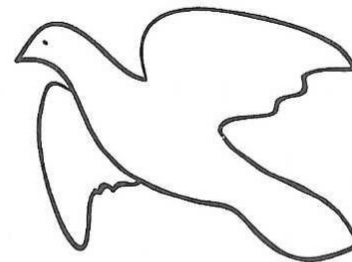
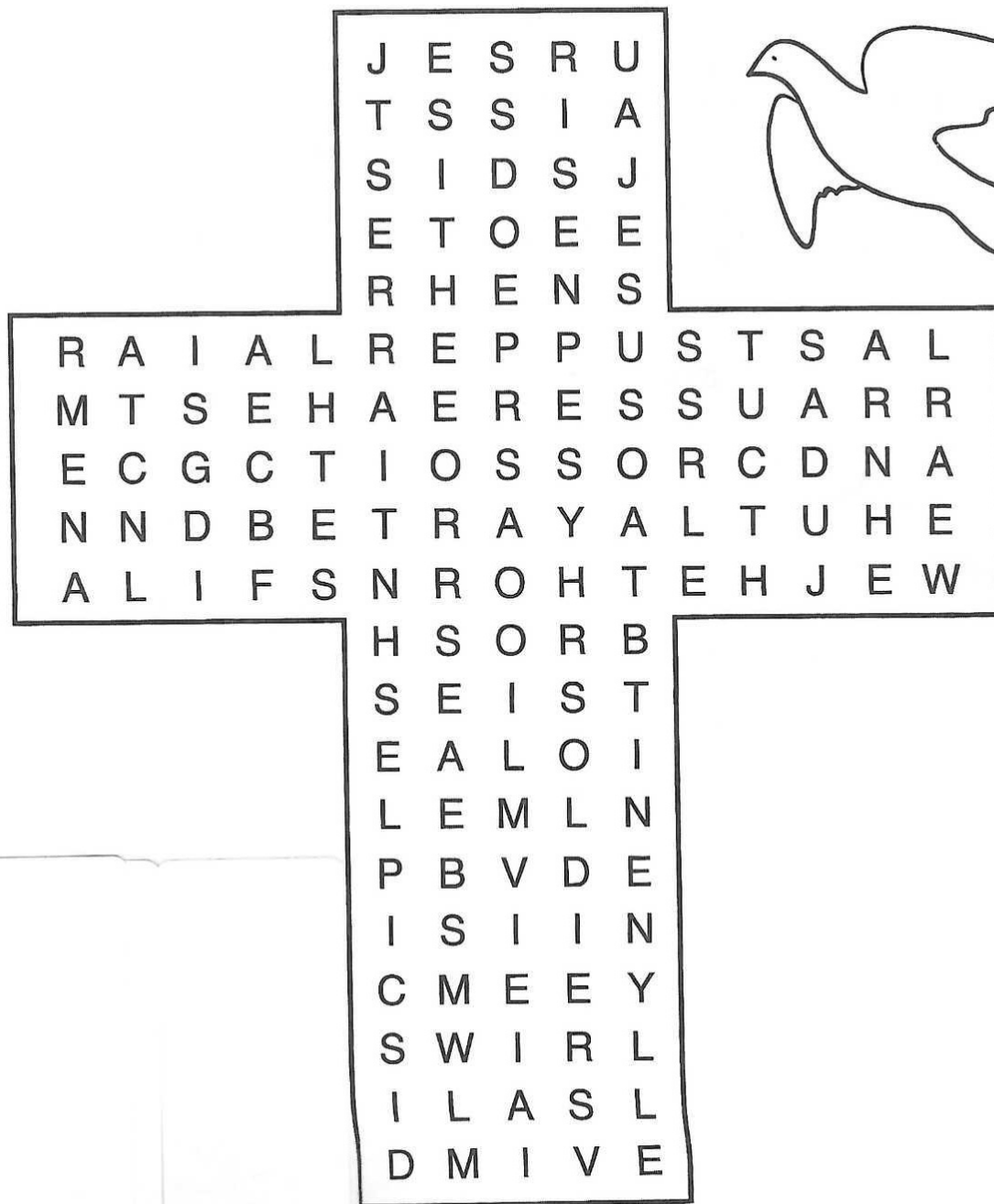
Comments:

Things I would like to see happen at CLC

What wealth do you possess? There is a long-standing tradition for Buddhist monks to rise each morning very early and set out to collect alms bowls, and go out into their community to collect donations of food, usually merely rice or a simple curry. Surprisingly though, none of this food is eaten, as the monks are typically well-stocked at their monastery. Why you might ask? This age-old tradition is still in existence simply to allow the nearby townspeople to experience the joy of giving. Do you have resources or talent that you can use to help others? Hoarding what you have wastes opportunities and fails to leave a positive mark on the world. Whether you have money, talent, time, knowledge, or energy, each should be shared. No one is better off by keeping wealth - tangible or intangible- to him or herself.

Name: _____

Phone: _____



The Story of Easter

In all the fun of the Easter celebration, it's important to remember what is being celebrated: the resurrection of Jesus. Words relating to the Easter story can be found in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. They may be read forward or backward. Leftover letters reveal a relevant Bible verse.

ANGEL

LAST SUPPER

ARREST

MARY

ASCENSION

RISEN

BETRAYAL

SOLDIERS

CROSS

THORNS

DISCIPLES

TOMB

JESUS

TRIAL

JUDAS

Hidden verse: _____
