

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

DECEMBER, 2024



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



I took several of our confirmands to see the movie, “Bonhoeffer.” The movie was shown in a small theater which was almost filled with viewers who wanted to see the movie before its official starting date on Friday, November 22.

The portrayal of the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer was as fairly accurately presented as possible in a two-hour time frame. Bonhoeffer was born into an academic family, and, although encouraged to make music his profession, he decided rather to study theology and completed his doctoral degree at Humboldt University in Berlin. He went to New York and studied at Union Theological Seminary where he met a black seminary student who introduced him to the ministry of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem where he learned about the American Civil Rights movement and where he embraced the ecumenical movement and pacifism.

He returned to Germany and taught at the University of Berlin. After Hitler’s elevation to the post of Chancellor of Germany, Bonhoeffer actively opposed his role as “Fuehrer.” His opposition included instruction at a secret seminary at Finkenwalde, his participation in clandestine visits to churches and villages, his endorsement of the Barmen Declaration which opposed antisemitic measures of the Third Reich, and his participation in the underground church, the Confessing Church.

He was enlisted in the Abwehr, a government spy agency not under the control of the SS, and used his undercover role to travel to England and warn the English of Hitler’s plans and activities. He supported a plot to kill Hitler on July 20, 1944 which failed. He was subsequently arrested and imprisoned at Tegel Prison for about a year and a half before being taken to Buchenwald in Bavaria. Shortly before the end of the war, he was executed by the SS.

Two of his important books are THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP, his commentary on the Sermon on the Mount in which he urges faithful and literal obedience to the morals and values of Jesus and LIFE TOGETHER, in which he commends the life of the gathered community, a communal life he experienced on a trip to Italy and also at the seminary in New York. Millions of copies of both books have been printed.

Now we are traveling to Bethlehem during this Advent Season and, upon arrival, will behold the Christ Child, also the Prince of Peace. Bonhoeffer wrestled with his conscience. He never killed anyone but he encouraged and facilitated an attempt on Hitler’s life. He was willing to accept God’s judgment for his involvement but was also convinced that millions of lives could be spared. His parents only learned of his fate when they heard the broadcast of his memorial service from London in their home in Berlin. The Bishop of Chichester spoke at the service and said, “Wherever (Bonhoeffer) went and whoever he spoke with, ...he was fearless, regardless of himself and, with it all, devoted his heart and soul to his parents, his friends, his country as God willed it to be, to his Church and to his Master.” Metaxas, BONHOEFFER, p. 537)

Perhaps the Christmas season is a time for us all to consider how we too can fearlessly rededicate ourselves to peace and to our Master.

MERRY CHRISTMAS,
Pastor Ken

ADULT EDUCATION

January-March 2025

Book of Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature (In sanctuary)

January 4, 2025

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

January 11, 2025

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

January 18, 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 25, 2024

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

February 4, 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 11, 2025

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

February 18, 2025

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

February 25, 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)



Music and Worship



The first Sunday in Advent is Dec. 1st. Tom Renaud will play his guitar at the 9:30 service and the first candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit and the congregation will sing the first verse of "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" from the red hymnal #257.



The second week, as we light the second candle, the second verse of "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel" will be sung etc. for four Sundays.



On December 15th the Sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas after the 9:30 service. Many volunteers needed. Lois will bring the decorations over to the church. Dick Lentz has offered to erect the creche outside that he made last year. Many hands are needed to bring the Holy Family statuary to the creche, and lights installed.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 7:00PM on the 24th. Poinsettia plants in the sanctuary will be arranged. The torches will be lighted before the 7:00 service starts. They will remain in place until Jan. 12th. Joyce Bailey will be the soloist on Christmas Eve with the possibility of Tom Renaud on guitar and Cheryl on trumpet (to be confirmed).



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

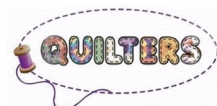


OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM



CAROLS AND POINSETTIAS - Please plan to join us on Monday, December 23rd, as we visit our Homebound members. We will meet in the church office parking lot at 10am and carpool to nearby homes and care centers. These visits are full 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 W and TH, 8am-1pm and new hours on the 1st and 3rd W each month, from 4:30-6:30. Thank you to November volunteers, Joyce Hanisits and Brenda Sahlstrom. If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol Rice or Mary Anne DiGrazia 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, Carol or Mary Anne 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 - Throughout Advent and the Christmas Season, we will be collecting NEW SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, SWEATSHIRTS and JACKETS for kids, ages 5-18; therefore all sizes are needed. Please put your donations in the wrapped gift box and large stocking in the narthex. These gifts of comfort help local families provide for their children. Thank you, Paula Beehler, for requesting a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant to support this project!

We continue to collect new and 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. 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!

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 Outreach Ministry Team will not meet in December.

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

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.

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 every Thursday, 9am at the Church Conference Room. There will be some special events, held on different dates; TBA

Up-coming Schedule:

Thursday Dec. 5th,	9am at Church Conference Room Coffee, Devotions, Donuts Bible Study
Thursday Dec. 12th,	9am Church Conference Room Coffee, fellowship, Devotions, Donuts Bible Study
Thursday Dec. 19th,	9am at Church Conference Room Coffee, fellowship, Devotions Devotions and program
No Meeting Dec. 26th	<i>Merry Christmas to All!!</i>

SPECIAL DATES: Please mark your calendars

Wed. Dec 11th, Men's Group and Forks and Fellowship
sponsoring a special Holiday Dinner Party.
Artur's Restaurant - Holiday attire encouraged
Reservations required

Sunday Dec. 15th Church Decorating. After worship—help needed.

Saturday Jan 11th Special Church Gathering—Help set-up

Friday Jan. 17th Thrivent Investment Presentation. 10am, all welcome. FREE--
Great learning opportunity; Church Sanctuary

Sunday Feb. 16th Organ Concert

Mark Baker, Facilitator



Dining Under the Star of Bethlehem

Inside, private dining Room

Wednesday Dec. 11th

Artur's Restaurant

70 N. Indiana Ave. Englewood

4pm Social time, 4:30 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 great holiday fellowship. Holiday attire suggested.

This event is being coordinated by the Forks and Fellowship Team and the CLC Men's Group.

Reservations will be required to get an accurate attendance so the Elves know how many to plan for. There will also be the opportunity to choose from a pre-selected menu; all include house salad, bread and choice of french fries, rice, mashed potato.

Beef Sirloin Steak, with demi glaze	\$28.00 +
Chicken Parm with pasta and garlic bread	\$25.00 +
Pork Chop, with mushroom sauce.	\$25.00 +
Taste of Poland, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa Pierogies, sauerkraut	\$29.00 +
Grilled Salmon.	\$27.00 +

Reservations need to be made no later than Dec.8th.

For reservations and more information please contact;

Muriel Lange 678-640-5599 engmlc@gsu.edu

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



Elizabeth	Warring	12/04
Diane	Martin	12/07
Val	Egeland	12/27
Donna	DeFiore	12/13
Ravin	Wolfgram	12/18
Larry	Froemming	12/25
Jim	Hogan	12/30



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



November	Attendance	Giving
11/03	60	\$6,748.00
11/10	77	\$5,140.00
11/17	73	\$4,935.00
11/24	72	\$1,095.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
	282	\$17,918.00





1	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY FOLLOWING SERVICE
2	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30^{PM}
3	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5:00^{PM}
4	QUILTING 9:00^{AM} - 2:00^{PM} / 12:00 - 5:00 BRIDGE CLUB
5	9:00^{AM} MENS GROUP / COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00^{AM}-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
6	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM}
7	
8	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE
9	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30^{PM}
10	BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30 - 11:30^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5^{PM}
11	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00^{PM} / FORKS & FELLOWSHIP HOLIDAY PARTY 4:00PM
12	9:00^{AM} MENS GROUP / COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00^{AM}-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
13	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / NEW MEMBER CLASS 2:00PM
14	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
15	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE
16	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30^{PM}
17	BRIDGE CLASS 9:30-11:30 / BRIDGE CLUB - 12 - 5^{PM} / CH COUNCIL 1^{PM}
18	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00^{PM}
19	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
20	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM}
21	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
22	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE
23	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM
24	7:00^{PM} CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE / BRIDGE CLUB CLASS 9:30-11:30^{AM} / BRIDGE
25	WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!
26	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
27	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM}
28	SATURDAY - NO ACTIVITIES
29	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE
30	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM
31	NO BRIDGE CLUB CLASS / 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.

