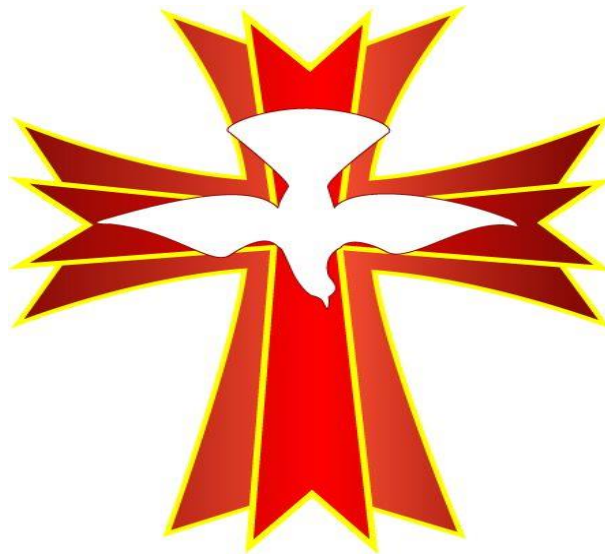


# CLC NEWS

## April 2021

*A newsletter from Christ Lutheran Church  
Englewood, Florida*



*Published by Jeannie Caporaso, Office Administrator*



## **FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KEN**

Message from the Pastor  
April 2021

Let's face it. Easter is about life but it is also about death. Without death, there can be no Easter because the resurrection of Jesus is about victory over death, sin, and the devil. It's tough to face a person who is close to the door to eternal life. They are people with terminal illnesses, for example, people with bodies no longer recognizable, people waited upon by friends or relatives who care for them while traumatized themselves by the presence of an unyielding power. But death is a component of life. One might tear a page from Ecclesiastes (3:2-9) and be comforted by the words:

There is a time to be born, and a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh  
A time to mourn and a time to dance

And so there is a time to die; it is not a bad thing to die. Who wants to live forever, especially when one grows weary tending to bones that easily crumble, to a heart that wants to call it quits, to aches and pains that only get dull when pills are administered? Yes, I have seen death come like a friend. I have heard those who love say, "Grandma passed away last night. It was a blessing."

But I have seen death come as the enemy. I have never had to fight in a war but I listen closely when those, who have, tell me about the carnage. I once spoke to a friend about the graphic carnage in the movie, *SAVING PRIVATE RYAN*. He said, "Yes, it was real. But one thing was missing: the stench." In my years of ministry, I confronted death the enemy in some funerals I conducted, funerals I will never forget. The young girl in her early twenties who was senselessly shot to death by a couple of thugs who broke into her home. The young mother who was destroyed by melanoma within just a couple of months. The other mother in her late 30s, the victim of months of suffering at the mercy of lupus.

Is death the thing that permeates life with senselessness and mindlessness? Or is it the great friend? It is neither. It is both. It is a power that can no longer threaten us because of God's greater power of love. There are weapons with which we can contend: faith, hope, and love. To commend a young mother to mother earth can destroy those left behind only when faith, hope, and love are missing. The tragedy of death is mediated when we fight death with love and faith, the gifts of Easter. Once a little boy who, when asked about Enoch, the son of Cain (Genesis 4:17f), replied. "Enoch was a man who went on walks with God—and one day he didn't come back." (Hebrews 11:5)

Easter means a lot but one of its messages is that one day we shall go on a walk with God and not come back. Not a bad thought.

### ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIALS

February 28, 2021	62	\$	51,967.50
March 7, 2021	60	\$	8,277.00
March 14, 2021	58	\$	1,950.00
March 21, 2021	69	\$	1,520.00
March 28, 2021	67	\$	2,471.50
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>66,186.00</b>
Income		\$	66,186.00
Expenses		\$	6,885.09
<b>Balance</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>59,300.91</b>

*The monthly breakdown is available in the office.*

### **COUNCIL KEY POINTS / MARCH 2021 COUNCIL MEETING**

Two Council Officer vacancies were filled with the election of **Dotty Berner** as the 21-22 Council President and **Barbara McAlister** as the 21-22 Council Treasurer, however as a non-voting member. **Louise Glose** was welcomed as a new Council member.

As CLC needs to grow and achieve financial stability, a Stewardship Plan for 2021-2022 was discussed in detail along with a "List of Priorities" for a growing reserve fund. Approximately \$2,200 is needed each week to grow reserves. Stewardship opportunities should be presented to inform the congregation of projects/repairs in need of attention. Most Council members felt that the parking lots are of major concern, thus the priority.

The logo for the CLC Letterhead stationery has been redesigned. Additional identifying information will be added to the stationery along with the ELCA emblem.

Another "New Member" Orientation will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. New Members will be received on April 18<sup>th</sup> during the service.

Submitted by Charlene Seltz, Congregation Council Secretary

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY (CCM) TEAM UPDATE**

Plans are almost complete for the first CCM Event of 2021, "Healing Thru the Arts Fair," inspired by a very generous donation of the artistic talent of our belated member, VERNON GUSTAFSON. The event will be held on the first Saturday after Easter, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 2PM. Despite following the CDC Guidelines of social distancing, the CCM Team has managed to host 17 vendors in and directly in front of the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds from the suggested donations of Vern's paintings and plates will directly benefit Christ Lutheran Church, as this was his wish. Additional artists and crafters will also be displaying their works of arts which include quilting, pottery, and paintings in various medians, along with jewelry, pottery, photography and more. Chance drawings will also take place during the fair. Please join us for a spiritual uplifting afternoon.

The CCM Team is always available to visiting anyone who may want a visit. Pastor Lentz will continue to give the sacrament to those who remain at home.

Prayers for a meaningful Easter season,  
Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader

**SOCIAL MINISTRYTEAM UPDATES**  
**QUILTING and KNITTING**

Christ Lutheran Church Comfort Quilters and Knitters gather in the Fellowship Hall every 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, from 9-12. We enjoy a time of Christian fellowship and service. All willing hands and hearts are welcome...no previous experience or skills are necessary. Please plan to join us.

Masks are worn and stations are set up for social distancing. A prayer and snack break is held at 10:30. Each person is invited to bring their own snack. We hope to get back to shared snacks again when it is safe. Looking forward to seeing YOU soon!

**THRIVENT MEMBERS HAVE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

If you are a Thrivent member, please direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars every time period. Also, please plan to request and use your Thrivent Action Grants...2 per year, each valued at \$250. That is \$500/ year of outreach opportunities in the community.

Christ Lutheran Church members and friends recently have led four very successful Thrivent Action Grants. If you have ideas for an Action Grant or if you need more information, please speak with Carol Rice, Mary Anne DiGrazia or Dorothy Gramstad.

Peace and Joy!  
Carol Rice for the Social Ministry Team

**WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES**

The Music and Worship Committee did not meet in the month of March.

Palm Sunday was well attended and palms were purchased and distributed to all. Holy Thursday services were held at 7 p.m. at the conclusion of which the altar was stripped in preparation for Good Friday.

Good Friday service at 7 p.m. was a Tenebrae service. A very moving service sometimes referred to as "Service of the Shadows" denoting Christ's suffering. The latter part of the service was held in darkness with the light of only a single candle. A soloist sang "Were You There" in darkness from the rear of the church, at the conclusion of which a loud clash was heard denoting Christ's victory over death. The congregation exited silently.

Easter Sunday services found the sanctuary adorned with beautiful Lilies. Pastor Robert Firby held a short service at the gazebo in remembrance of loved ones.

Guest organist Pastor Larry Froemming inspired us with a moving arrangement of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus.

Early April historically will see us saying "Goodbye and God Bless" to many of our seasonal members until they return to us in the late fall. They will be sorely missed until we meet again.

Lois Greene for Music and Worship

**CLC MINISTRY TEAMS NEEDED**

*According to the Constitution, the following ministry teams are also required and are not currently active at CLC:*

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Audit</i>                 | <i>Memorial Garden</i> |
| <i>Christian Education</i>   | <i>Nominating</i>      |
| <i>Evangelism (Outreach)</i> | <i>Personnel</i>       |
| <i>Fellowship</i>            | <i>Property</i>        |
| <i>Financial</i>             |                        |

*If you would like to volunteer to be on any of these ministry teams, please contact any Council member or Pastor Ken.*



Pastor Ken  
Ron Bishop

4/3  
4/19



Rudy and Barb Kludt on April 2

Please contact the office to share your birthday / wedding anniversary



# Thank You

**A BIG THANK YOU to Steve Nielsen!**

Did you notice the fountain is repaired and running again? Steve paid for the replacement of the pump and the electric parts and DID ALL THE WORK!

**THANK YOU to Steve Plumley** for maintaining the grounds daily and always lending a helping hand!

**THANK YOU to Dick Krueger** for power washing the walkway to the Gazebo!

**THANK YOU Angie Ziegler** for faithfully providing the patio coffee after our services!

*A very special thank you to all our volunteers for all you do!!!*

*Remember,  
If you have an interesting story, an inspiration article, a moving experience, or a touch of humor to share, we would love to hear from you.*

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