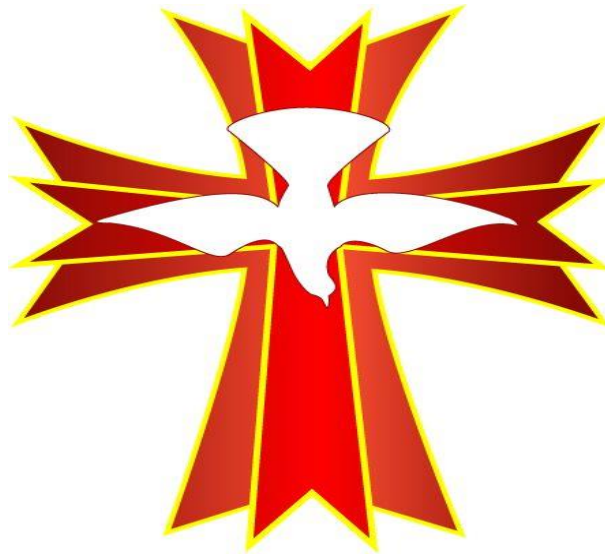


CLC NEWS

February 2021

*A newsletter from Christ Lutheran Church
Englewood, Florida*



Published by Jeannie Caporaso, Office Administrator



Pastor's Message

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KEN

"Message from the Pastor"

In a few weeks, we will kick off the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service at 5 p.m. on February 17.

Many Christians, in one way or another, celebrate the season of Lent. The origins of this pre-Easter season are not entirely clear but it seems that they have to do with a day-long fast before Easter (the Pascha) in the primitive church. Also, the early church began to assign the weeks before Easter as a time to prepare candidates for baptism, which took place on Saturday night.

Eventually, in the western church, the Lenten season became 40 days (excluding Sundays), the time that Jesus took to prepare himself, in the wilderness for his earthly ministry. By the fifth century, all Christians observed Lent by fasting, breaking away from sinful habits, focusing on virtues, giving alms, getting right with their neighbors, and forgiving those who had offended them. But rightly understood, Christianity has always insisted that the most important observance of Lent is one's preparation for the celebration of Easter.

In other words, Lent is a season dedicated to a happy ending. The solemnities of Lent have no meaning apart from the joy to which its days advance. Easter is the solution of a problem. The satisfaction that comes from the discovery of a solution cannot be savored without an appreciation for the riddle.

Lent's intention is to give the Christian the opportunity to reflect upon the problem. Most of the time, we call it sin. The New England Puritan primer put it this way, "In Adam's fall we sinned all." Honest folk will recognize their state of separation from that which we call God, and if we put much stock in the Bible, then it is separation from a loving, caring, merciful God.

The days of Lent are days to reflect upon our need to be nourished spiritually, our need to give instead of to take, our need to ask God for sustenance, our need to anticipate the joy of His victory over our pride, self-reliance, apathy and the relentless search for the good life. The operating principle here is the joy of giving, not the joy of taking. We do not **take** but we **receive** unmerited grace upon grace, what Paul calls the “abundance of grace.” (Romans 4).

Our season of Lent this year will be an opportunity to reflect upon the years of Christ Lutheran Church’s ministry, to confess the mistakes that may have been made, to re-dedicate ourselves to the task of proclaiming the gospel of Christ, and begin to put together a new vision of service to the Englewood community. Blessings upon your Lenten journey.

Your fellow traveler, (signed) Pastor Ken

ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIALS

January 3, 2021	51	\$	2,275.00		
January 10, 2021	55	\$	798.00		
January 17, 2021	53	\$	7,808.00		
January 24, 2021	52	\$	2,578.00		
TOTAL		\$	13,459.00		
Income		\$	13,459.00		
Expenses		\$	5,546.14		
Balance		\$	7,912.86		

The monthly breakdown of expenses for January 2021 is available in the office.

Many that have returned for the season have noticed and asked where our faithful member, **GORDON “DUTCH” DEUTSCHER**, is. Sadly, early last year (2020) shortly after COVID masking rules went in to place, Dutch’s family decided to move him back to the Atlanta, GA area, where some of his family lives.

You may write to Dutch at the following address:
 Gordon Deutscher c/o Andy Deutscher
 795 Ellsborough Court
 St. John’s Creek, GA 30005
 470-233-3960
 Dutch123@comcast.net

COUNCIL KEY POINTS
JANUARY 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) continues to function with a deficit budget. Our year to date (December 2020) figures showed approximately an \$11,000 deficit. A Stewardship Campaign is planned to take place by February 2021.

A New Member Orientation will take place on February 19, 2021, where Council Members and Team Ministry Leaders will be present to share an overview of their responsibilities. New members will be received during the service on February 21, 2021.

The Congregation Annual Meeting will be held on February 14, 2021 immediately following the service. Two new Council Members will be needed. Please consider taking an active part by serving on your church Council, which represents the congregation.

All functioning Team Ministries are hard at work planning community outreach projects and events to do "God's work with our hands," time and talents. The Worship and Music Ministry Team have made plans for meaningful services for the Easter season. Donation blue envelopes for Easter Lilies will soon be available in the pews.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

Congregational Care Lay Ministers (CCM) are still unable to do many home visits until the Pandemic CDC Guidelines are less restrictive. Pastor Lentz continues to do all communion visitations. Other than calls, or cards, CCM activities have remained limited throughout 2020.

The CCM's monthly "closed" meetings resumed January 2021. with an update on the remaining seven (7) "in home" congregants. Pastor Lentz announced the passing of **JOHN FAZEKAS** in November 2020. His ashes were placed with his beloved wife, Dawn's ashes in the CLC Memorial Garden on Monday, February 1, 2021. He will now also remain in the Lord's eternal care.

The CCM Ministry Team Charlene Seltz, Ursula Hiller, Kurt and Ines Kallmeyer, along with Pastor Lentz will now focus on a donation-structured event initiated by a very generous donation of the artistic talent of our belated member, **VERNON GUSTAFSON**, who went home to our God in December 2020. This event, titled "*Healing Thru the Arts Fair*" will be held on Sat. April 10, 2021, in the Fellowship Hall of Christ Lutheran Church. The 1st Planning Meeting followed where a list of potential artists, artisans and crafters was developed. More details will be available in February 2021.

In service to Christ,
Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM

The January Thrivent Grant for Family Promise is over. It was a huge success and I really want to thank all of our members and friends of Christ Lutheran for their participation.

Mary Anne



We are sponsoring a new "Thrivent Grant Project" from February 7th through the 28th for the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office. They are assisting homeless people to find housing. They need many items to set up housekeeping. The committee will be putting up hearts in the narthex with an item listed that you can bring. Take as many hearts as you wish to.

If you are a Thrivent member, you can apply for 2 - \$250 grants per year. We thank Thrivent for their continuing generosity.

Dorothy Gramstadt, Thrivent Member

SOCIAL MINISTRY

BLESSING of the QUILTS and PRAYER SHAWLS

On Sunday, January 31st, the sanctuary was adorned for the Blessing of the Quilts and Prayer Shawls. 34 quilts and 12 prayer shawls were blessed. Prayer shawls are available to be given on request to anyone experiencing illness, loss or in need of a prayerful "hug." Most of the quilts are being boxed and readied for shipment to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR sends quilts...gifts of love and hope...all over the world as part of disaster response.

The Christ Lutheran Church Comfort Quilters and Knitters meet in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Wednesdays each month, from 9-noon. Please come and join us in making these gifts of love. New members are always welcome. This is a wonderful outreach ministry that has been a Christ Lutheran Church tradition for over 40 years.

Peace and Joy!
Jeffrey and Carol Rice, Social Ministry Team

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

The Committee met in January and the following issues were addressed and resolved:

All members are asked to wear masks during all services. Masks must be worn while singing.

The Altar Guild is asked to wear gloves while preparing the communion elements. The Pastor and Assistant will also be gloved during distribution.

Ushers will be mindful of 6' distancing when ushering members to receive communion.

There will be no further congregating in the center aisle after service. The last pew will exit the church first followed by each row in succession being mindful of 6' distancing. Pastor Ken will greet members outside the entry - weather permitting.

Ash Wednesday service will be at 5:00 p.m. on February 17th. Ashes will be applied via the use of Q-tips.

Envelopes will be available to purchase Easter Lily plants.

Palm Sunday, March 28th...palms will be distributed.

Maundy Thursday - April 1st - service will be at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2nd, will be an inspirational Tenebrae service at 7:00 p.m. prepared by Pastor Ken with a tutorial provided to explain the various aspects of this very moving service.

Easter Sunday, April 4th, celebrating the Resurrection at 9:30 a.m.

Lois Greene for Music and Worship

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR ARE TO THE GLORY OF GOD

If you would like to purchase flowers for the Altar, please add your information in the "Flower Book" in the Narthex. The cost is \$15. Use an envelope in the pew and mark ALTAR FLOWERS on it. Thank you for contributing to our worship.

CLC MINISTRY TEAMS NEEDED

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

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

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



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Clenora Hoversten	2/13
Ron Tessmer	2/13
Louise Glose	2/19
Rudy Kludt	2/25

Please contact the office to share your birthday / wedding anniversary.