

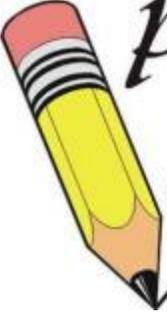
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CLC NEWSLETTER

June/July 2021



Published by Jeannie Caporaso, Office Administrator



Pastor's Message

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KEN

Message from the Pastor
Newsletter, Christ Lutheran, Englewood
June, 2021

I mentioned in my sermon on May 30 that the present political climate in America is rife with finger pointing, name calling, conspiracy theories, accusations and counter-accusations. There seems to be a "deep divide" between parties and those who support them. Several friends of mine have recently lamented, "there aren't any honest politicians on either side." The stereotypical politician is flashy, cool, self-confident, pompous, and condescending. I remember, however, my first close encounter with a politician. It was a dowdy retired congressman from Ohio. He was invited to teach a short course at Capital University, where I, as a student, majored in political science. He and his wife lived in a large, old house close to the college. The members of his class were invited to visit him. We walked just a few blocks and were entertained by him as he showed us objects on display which he had collected from the four corners of the earth. He wasn't wealthy and he seemed as honest as the day is long. He shared the fact that he, as a member of the U.S. Congress, was immune from the inconvenience of traffic tickets. (I briefly entertained the urge to run for Congress.) He was a Republican.

Years later, while serving a congregation in Northern California, I became a friend of a California State Legislator, who stopped in my office one day to ask if I would conduct a funeral for his deceased Lutheran immigrant father. The young legislator took instruction at my church and became a faithful member who did a poor job as lector from time to time reading the lessons of the day. He and another state legislator invited me to go to the movies together with them. I enjoyed the "inside stories" they told me at several lunches. They were both dedicated politicians and men of modest means. They were Democrats.

Of course, I can be fooled by politicians just as easily as the next citizen who naively believes that one can trust politicians. Whatever the case, it is time to appeal to our elected leaders to take a stand for civility, integrity, and honesty. Be courageous enough to lose an election if the voters don't agree with their political agendas. Just do the right thing. Carlyle once advised, "Make yourself an honest man, and then you may be sure that there is one rascal less in the world."

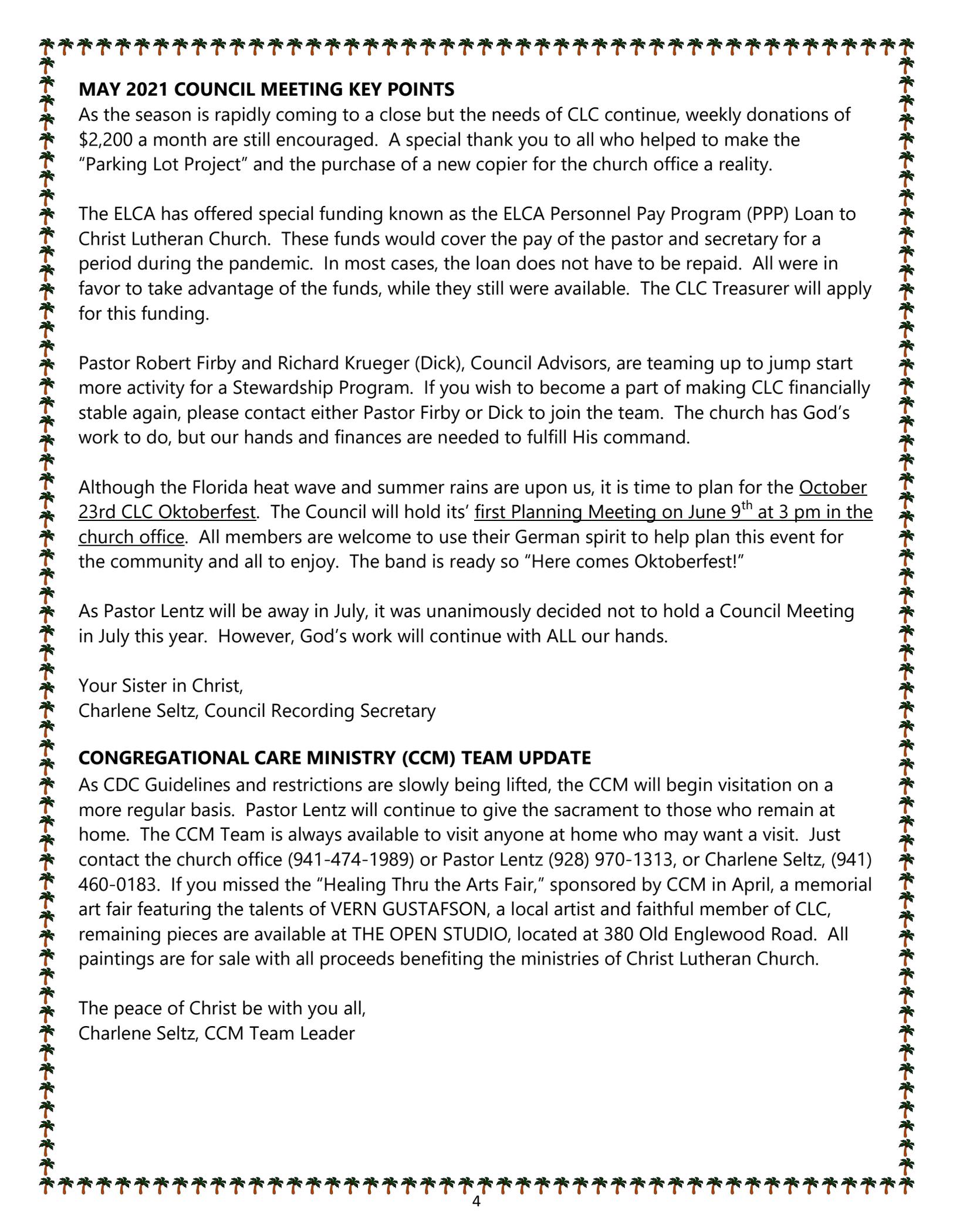
We all have the responsibility to endorse the cause of democracy and do what we can to preserve the rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" for all people in the land. Take a stand on abortion (one way or the other), define what gun rights mean, and acknowledge the fact that many people who come to our borders seeking refuge are victims of poverty, hunger, violence, and lawlessness in their countries of origin and encourage your representative to figure out a fair way to manage immigration. Sure, we live in a country where young entrepreneurs, anyone who works hard, can make a fortune but perhaps it might not be so bad to share a little more with those who endure "brutally, prosaic circumstances" and who do not have the mental aptitude or opportunities to turn hopes and dreams into success. (Carl A. Rubino, American Magazine, Nov., 1987)

The politicians and we as well would do well to ask Bonhoeffer's question, "Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine. Whoever I am, thou knowest, O God, I am thine." We belong to God. We live for others. We belong to God. And so do the politicians.

Yours faithfully,
Pastor Ken

ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIALS

| | | | |
|---|----|-----------|-----------------|
| May 2, 2021 | 52 | \$ | 2,360.00 |
| May 9, 2021 | 44 | \$ | 2,719.00 |
| May 16, 2021 | 37 | \$ | 460.00 |
| May 23, 2021 | 42 | \$ | 1,744.00 |
| May 30, 2021 | 49 | \$ | 2,515.00 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | \$ | 9,798.00 |
| Income | | \$ | 9,798.00 |
| Expenses | | \$ | 9,535.88 |
| Balance | | \$ | 262.12 |
| <i>The monthly breakdown is available in the office</i> | | | |



MAY 2021 COUNCIL MEETING KEY POINTS

As the season is rapidly coming to a close but the needs of CLC continue, weekly donations of \$2,200 a month are still encouraged. A special thank you to all who helped to make the "Parking Lot Project" and the purchase of a new copier for the church office a reality.

The ELCA has offered special funding known as the ELCA Personnel Pay Program (PPP) Loan to Christ Lutheran Church. These funds would cover the pay of the pastor and secretary for a period during the pandemic. In most cases, the loan does not have to be repaid. All were in favor to take advantage of the funds, while they still were available. The CLC Treasurer will apply for this funding.

Pastor Robert Firby and Richard Krueger (Dick), Council Advisors, are teaming up to jump start more activity for a Stewardship Program. If you wish to become a part of making CLC financially stable again, please contact either Pastor Firby or Dick to join the team. The church has God's work to do, but our hands and finances are needed to fulfill His command.

Although the Florida heat wave and summer rains are upon us, it is time to plan for the October 23rd CLC Oktoberfest. The Council will hold its first Planning Meeting on June 9th at 3 pm in the church office. All members are welcome to use their German spirit to help plan this event for the community and all to enjoy. The band is ready so "Here comes Oktoberfest!"

As Pastor Lentz will be away in July, it was unanimously decided not to hold a Council Meeting in July this year. However, God's work will continue with ALL our hands.

Your Sister in Christ,
Charlene Seltz, Council Recording Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY (CCM) TEAM UPDATE

As CDC Guidelines and restrictions are slowly being lifted, the CCM will begin visitation on a more regular basis. Pastor Lentz will continue to give the sacrament to those who remain at home. The CCM Team is always available to visit anyone at home who may want a visit. Just contact the church office (941-474-1989) or Pastor Lentz (928) 970-1313, or Charlene Seltz, (941) 460-0183. If you missed the "Healing Thru the Arts Fair," sponsored by CCM in April, a memorial art fair featuring the talents of VERN GUSTAFSON, a local artist and faithful member of CLC, remaining pieces are available at THE OPEN STUDIO, located at 380 Old Englewood Road. All paintings are for sale with all proceeds benefiting the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church.

The peace of Christ be with you all,
Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader

EVANGELISM TEAM UPDATE

C13.07.C17 The *Evangelism Team* shall pursue activity within and outside this congregation to "Make Christ known." As of May, 2021, Christ Lutheran Church still has no Ministry Team Leader. However, the CLC Church Council continues our "Invitation Postcard Project," by inviting new members to the community by mail and placing ads in the local newspapers. A special thank you to Council Member **Fran Kulak** for her diligent devotion to this project. Approximately 50 postcards are sent monthly, requiring time for addressing and stamps for mailing. If you wish to give of your time, or stamps or know of a new neighbor in your area, please contact Charlene Seltz at (941) 460-0183 or the church office at (941) 474-1989.

In service to Christ, Charlene Seltz / Interim Evangelism Team Leader

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND

Thank you for the weekly donations of food and personal care items in our "Little Red Wagon"! These items help to provide critical needs for people in our community.

Englewood Helping Hand (EHH), our local food pantry, is located on the grounds of Englewood United Methodist Church. Recently, they have moved into temporary quarters and await a new pantry building.

Christ Lutheran volunteers worked in the EHH pantry on Wednesday, May 26, and Thursday, May 27. Thank you to Joyce Hanisits, Cindy Whitmer, Dotty Berner, Carol Rice, Brenda and Jim Sahlstrom, and Mary Anne and Tom DiGrazia. Christ Lutheran is one of 7 partnering community churches that provide volunteers on a revolving schedule. Sorting donations, stocking shelves, filling grocery bags, and shuttling grocery bags into clients' car trunks...all of these actions tremendously help toward feeding our neighbors in need. God's Work. Our Hands!

Our next scheduled opportunity to help in the EHH pantry is August 1st and 2nd. Are you interested and able to help? Please call Carol Rice (941)475-1017.

KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD

Kids' Needs of Englewood is seeking the help of Christ Lutheran Church members and friends. Underwear is needed for boys and girls in all sizes (think children and teens, from ages 4-18). During June and July, we will celebrate "Undies Sundays". Please help by donating as you are able.

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. 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.

Peace and Joy!
Carol Rice for the Social Ministry Team

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

In Gail's absence, while she recuperates from surgery, we have had two guest organists...Priscilla Fullerton and Larry Froemming. So grateful to have these two accomplished musicians until our Gail can return to us once again.

The Committee did not meet in May, but were sorry to have to bid farewell to our long time member and helper, Dorothy Gramstad, as she moves up north to be with family. Dorothy has been a member for over 25 years and served on many different committees in many capacities. She was the leader of the Altar Guild and did a fabulous job for us. Dorothy is a hard, dedicated worker. She will be sorely missed. The church gave her a lovely cake and lots of cards and hugs for her send-off!

Worship attendance has dropped considerably as usual during the summer months with all of our northerners gone until the late Fall, but we are happy to see more people attending the summer services.

Masks are no longer mandatory, however several feel more comfortable wearing one. The assistants are still gloved and masked during the distribution of communion for now.

Lois Greene for Worship & Music Ministry Team

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.



June Birthdays

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Ruth Wyant | 6/06 |
| Dick Krueger | 6/26 |
| Linda Yaro | 6/29 |

July Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Barb Sturrock | 7/06 |
| Melissa Brew | 7/09 |
| Tom Milazzio | 7/10 |
| Heidi Flebbe | 7/14 |
| Carmen Mallipudi | 7/16 |
| Jean Caporaso | 7/19 |
| Carolyn Kohlbeck | 7/22 |
| Becky Hangsleben | 7/23 |
| Jim Hogan | 7/24 |
| Gordon Deutscher | 7/27 |
| Dali Cmiel | 7/30 |

There are no Anniversaries at this time.

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



**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE THAT HELPED WITH JACK STURROCK'S
CELEBRATION OF LIFE LUNCHEON!**

THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE PARKING LOT RENOVATION!!

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.
