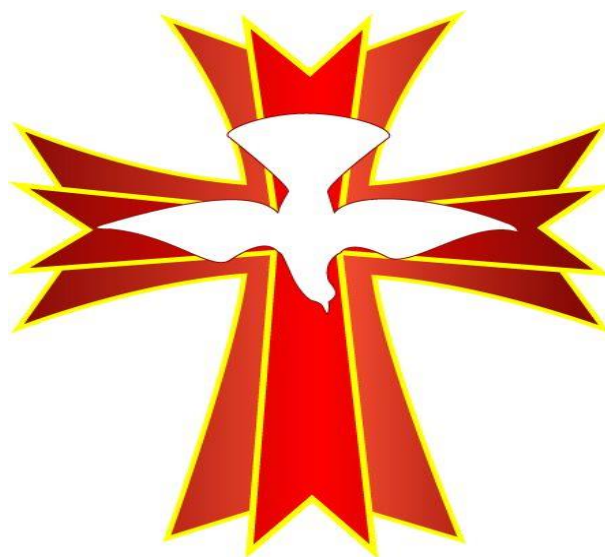


# CLC NEWS

## March 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  
March 2021

We started our new bible study, "Path through Scripture," on Sunday, February 28. We've already had our first two sessions. We will have approximately 12 more sessions covering an overview of the Old Testament before beginning to embark upon an overview of the New Testament. Each session at 11 a.m. on Sunday will be repeated at 11:30 a.m. on Monday's. A textbook by Mark Link is being used in the class and used copies are available for a \$10 donation to the church. It is never too late to join the class since each session covers a section of the Old Testament independently from the previous sessions. I believe that this study is timely because of vast ignorance in our society about the Bible.

Few people, even Christians who regularly attend worship, have a working knowledge of the Bible. Our lessons address such questions as "Where did the Bible come from?," "When was it written?," "For whom was it written?," and "How is it relevant for today?"

Our first sessions, for example, revealed that the Old Testament has its origins in the oral traditions of the Jewish people who began to record in writing the history of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the first patriarchs. The story of Abraham is about an ancient believer called by God to go forth from a place called Ur of the Chaldees to Haran, a place in northern modern Palestine from whence his God commanded him to go south to the land of Canaan, a land promised for all his generations to come "for all eternity." The story of the Jewish people began with Abraham's journey which the historians believe began about 1,900 B.C. His story was told for generations by the Hebrew people who conquered Canaan again, beginning in about 1,300 B. C. The people who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years crossed the Jordan River and "fit the battle of Jericho" and spread out to the north and the south claiming 12 areas of the promised land. They were governed by "judges" picked by God before finally becoming united into one land under the rule of kings Saul, David, and Solomon. It wasn't until David founded the new capital of the united land that priests at the new temple built by Solomon began to accumulate the various

historical accounts and began to write a comprehensive history of the Jewish people.

The traditions compiled by the learned scholars of Jerusalem were added to by the scholars in captivity in Babylon and more prophetic traditions were added until, finally, the Old Testament as we know it today was finalized by Greek speaking Jews in the diaspora in Alexandria, Egypt between 300 and 150 B.C. The Jewish scriptures in Greek were the scriptures known and read by the gospel writers. The compilation of the Jewish scriptures into one "volume" in Hebrew did not happen until 70 A.D. in a Palestinian location called Jamnia.

Come and learn more about the Old Testament in the coming weeks. Next Sunday (March 14), we will study the Creation accounts recorded in Genesis and compare those accounts with the results of scientific research about the origins of the universe. Did we all come from Adam and Eve? How long did it take God to create the world? Who is God? Where is God? What did Abraham and the patriarchs believe about God? How did their beliefs about God compare with what Jesus taught? Great questions. Come and consider some of the answers.

### **ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIALS**

|                   |    |           |                  |  |  |
|-------------------|----|-----------|------------------|--|--|
| February 7, 2021  | 52 | \$        | 3,588.00         |  |  |
| February 14, 2021 | 67 | \$        | 4,632.00         |  |  |
| February 17, 2021 | 39 | \$        | 956.00           |  |  |
| February 21, 2021 | 67 | \$        | 1,139.00         |  |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      |    | <b>\$</b> | <b>10,315.00</b> |  |  |
|                   |    |           |                  |  |  |
| Income            |    | \$        | 10,315.00        |  |  |
| Expenses          |    | \$        | 7,055.00         |  |  |
| <b>Balance</b>    |    | <b>\$</b> | <b>3,260.00</b>  |  |  |
|                   |    |           |                  |  |  |
|                   |    |           |                  |  |  |

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

**COUNCIL KEY POINTS**

**FEBRUARY 2021 COUNCIL MEETING KEY POINTS**

**FINANCES:** Approximately \$13,000 in offering envelopes and loose offerings were received in January 2021 with total expenses of approximately \$5,500. The 2021 Annual Budget has been increased to \$73,000. Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) needs to build up reserves.

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM/COMMITTEE:** A Stewardship Ministry Team/Committee is being developed. Pastor Robert Firby, Council Advisor, Jim Jung, Council Vice President, Barbara McAlister, Outgoing Council President and Financial Secretary, and Dick Krueger, Council Advisor, volunteered to be on this ministry team.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** The next Bible Study, "Path Thru Scripture," will begin on Sunday, February 28 at 11 a.m. and Monday, March 1 at 11:30 a.m. Text books are \$10 and will be available on the first day of class.

**DISPLAY OF AMERICAN FLAG:** After much discussion, a motion was made to display the American flag inside the church to the left of the altar (customary); and to raise the Christian flag on the highest flag pole and Lutheran flag on the lower flag pole outside the church. Motion carried with one abstain.

Submitted by Charlene Seltz, Council Secretary

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE**

**FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING**

Other than calls or cards, CCM activities have remained limited throughout the month of February. Pastor Lentz continues to do all communion visitations. During the month of February, CCM Team members met mostly through email to begin planning the first CCM Event of 2021, inspired by a very generous donation of artistic talent, our belated member, **VERNON GUSTAFSON**. This event, titled "Healing Thru the Arts Fair" will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2021, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. An Invitation Letter to Vendors, List of Policies and Procedures, and the Registration Form for the upcoming event were primarily developed by Ines and Kurt Kallmeyer, seasonal CCM Eucharistic Lay Ministers. Carolyn Kohlbeck of Village on the Isle will be sponsoring the fair by contributing her \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grant to the CCM Ministry Team. Due to CDC Guidelines, only 15 other vendors can be represented along with Gustafson's amazing art works. The CCM Team hopes that all who attend will experience benefits of healing mind, body and spirit through the different forms of artistic endeavors represented.

Submitted by: Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader  
"Healing Thru the Arts Fair" Chairperson

## THRIVENT ACTION TEAM

Thanks to the Congregation for their overwhelming support for our Thrivent Action Team to help the Sarasota County Sherriff's Homeless Project.



Thrivent Action Grant "Starting Anew"

Thank you to Thrivent for their continuous, generous support!  
Dorothy Gramstad



This picture is of the Thrivent Action Team and the Sarasota County Sheriff's Deputies. They picked up all of the donations from our caring and generous congregation. THANK YOU to ALL who were able to participate! The deputies responded that this collection of needed items was "over the top" and will help people transitioning from homelessness to housing through the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). May God's blessings continue to shine through for all of the recipients.

### **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

Social Ministry Team 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**

Music and Worship did not meet in the months of February or March. Our next meeting will be April 6, 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Ash Wednesday Service was held at 5 p.m. where ashes were distributed with cotton swabs. It was very well attended.

Larry Froemming, a guest organist/pianist, played at the Sunday, February 28, Service.

Palms will be distributed at the 9:30 a.m. Service on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Maundy Thursday, April 1, Service is at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2, 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 4, 9 a.m., a brief Easter Service will be held by Pastor Firby at the Prayer Garden, followed by Easter Service held by Pastor Lentz at 9:30 a.m. in the church.

Envelopes were distributed to purchase Easter Lilies for a \$10 donation.

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:

Audit  
Christian Education  
Evangelism (Outreach)  
Fellowship  
Financial

Memorial Garden  
Nominating  
Personnel  
Property

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**

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| Sal Basile  | 3/10 |
| Ella Santos | 3/17 |
| Fran Kulak  | 3/21 |



Fred and Barbara Swensen are  
Celebrating their Anniversary  
On March 31!!!!



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

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