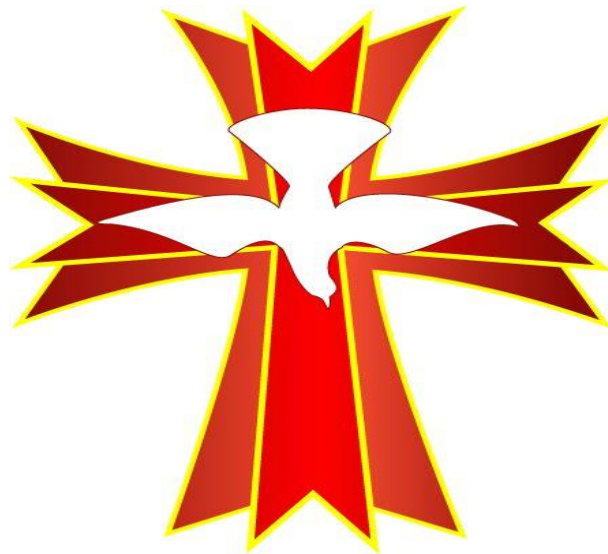


Christ Lutheran Church, Inc., of Englewood, Florida
701 North Indiana Avenue
Englewood, FL 34223
Church Office: 941-474-1989
Email: office@christlutheranfleng.org
Website: www.christlutheranfleng.com
Pastor Lentz: 928-970-1313

CLC NEWSLETTER

May 2021



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Pastor's Message

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KEN

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

In a few weeks we will finish the Easter season and on May 23 we will celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church presided over by Peter 50 days after the Passover (Acts 2).

Twice I have stood in the (so-called) House of John-Mark in Jerusalem. The building seemed as old as the hills but somehow it didn't seem to be as old as it should have been. Our little group of (mostly Lutheran) pilgrims were ushered up an interior staircase to an "upper room" where our guide explained that, according to tradition, Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples. In the same room, according to tradition, Peter gathered a large number of Jewish brothers and sisters (3,000 according to the account in Acts?) to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost, the annual event marking the end of the barley harvest and the giving of the law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

But something about the room didn't seem right. The roof of the room was supported in place by stone arches that were distinctly Gothic in style, something you would see in a medieval castle in Europe somewhere. The guide explained that the Gothic arches were placed there by the Crusaders in the 12th or 13th century but the site itself could be dated back to the time of Jesus.

Well, Gothic or first century Jewish, I think that all of us were convinced that we were at least near the "upper room" of last supper fame and also "near" the site of the first "Christian" Pentecost. Peter explained to the crowd that the crucified Jesus was, in fact, the Messiah foretold by the prophets and accomplished his messianic mission by offering himself upon the cross as the expiation for the sins of the whole world. The people believed Peter and stepped forward (all 3,000 of them) to be baptized. The baptismal waters employed that day sealed their confession of faith and dispatched them into the mission field to broadcast to all the salvation proclaimed by Peter.

I remember our stop at the house of John-Mark on my first trip in 1985 vividly because our Jewish guide, an older man named Moshe, read resonantly and reverently from the Acts account. I suspected that Moshe was a Christian believer who had not yet come out of the closet.

On May 23, we will celebrate the festival of Pentecost. We will wear red in order to remind ourselves of the flames of fire which appeared above the faithful that day. The tongues of fire announced the presence of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. The Spirit's power on that day signified the beginning of the Christian Church. Naturally, the account of the coming of the Spirit announced by Luke in (probably) the late 70s of the first century, was an event reflected upon for over 40 years. By the time Luke took pen to paper, the idea of the Trinity had begun to be formulated in the minds of the first converts to Christianity. The doctrine of the Trinity was officially "signed into law" by the four ecumenical councils of the fifth and sixth centuries which incorporated the person and work of the Spirit into the third articles of the Apostles' and Nicene creeds.

But the Spirit is more of a description of the work of God than it is a person. God has revealed Himself in three great divine works: Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Pentecost is the celebration of the coming and the contemporary presence of God's work and "enlightenment" in today's world. I like to think of the Spirit as the ongoing presence of the power of Jesus in present-day life experience. Jesus announced that he was going to have to sacrifice himself but he also promised that he would still be with us eternally. That is the Spirit. Christ with us. The Spirit is the answer to the question of destiny. What will happen to us? We are baptized into the death of Christ in order that we may be raised with him in his resurrection. Easter is the answer and Pentecost is the beginning of our new journey of hope.

Yours faithfully,
Pastor Ken

ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIALS

April 1, 2021	40	\$	1,701.00
April 2, 2021	40	\$	171.00
April 4, 2021	80	\$	6,088.18
April 11, 2021	70	\$	6,663.00
April 18, 2021	75	\$	5,329.50
April 25, 2021	58	\$	1,623.00
TOTAL		\$	21,575.68
Income		\$	21,575.68
Expenses		\$	6,378.62
Balance		\$	15,197.06
<i>The monthly breakdown is available in the office</i>			

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE PARKING LOT RENOVATION!!
We have collected \$12,495.18!



COUNCIL KEY POINTS / APRIL 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Due to the end of the season, and other factors, many of our ministry teams are lacking in team members. Council is still lacking in one more voting member, also. Council is hopeful that more members will take on an active role to help CLC serve the community better.

The Venetian Harmony Chorus will be occupying the Fellowship Hall again along with storing their trailer behind the Hall. There will be future discussion concerning raising donation rates for the Hall and plans to improve the Hall flooring.

Council also approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by the Englewood Helping Hand Board on a monthly basis (unless there is an opportunity to rent the Hall).

Three bids were received to resurface all parking areas and correct root issues in the CLC front parking area. As bids came in at approximately \$10,000, approval by the congregation's voting members is required, before any work can take place. There was a "Special" Congregation Meeting on Sunday, April 25th immediately after service.

Our 23 New Full-Time Members and Friends of CLC were received on Sunday, April 18th, during the service.

Submitted by Charlene Seltz, Congregation Council Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY (CCM) TEAM UPDATE

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 was held on Saturday, April 10, 2021, in the Fellowship Hall with all CDC guidelines in place. Sixteen additional vendors participated to provide a very successful fair, with all proceeds from Mr. Gustafson's contributions benefiting the church's outreach. The display of fellowship and interaction between vendors and those attending was truly inspirational as many shared their stories. A huge thank you to all who participated and volunteered to make this event a memorable one.

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. CCM visitations will increase as restrictions are lifted.

Yours in Christ,
Charlene Seltz, CCM Team Leader

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

EASTER GREETINGS and LILIES to HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

On April 3rd, Easter greeting cards and lilies were delivered to our members who are homebound. This was a joyful way to share our Love, Peace and Joy! He is risen. He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!

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. Also, a big "Thank You" to Lois Greene, Roseanne/Larry Froemming and to Brenda/Jim Sahlstrom for recent help in the pantry!

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 are needed to help in the EHH pantry on Wednesday, May 26, and Thursday, May 27, from 9:30am-2:30pm. We are one of 7 partnering community churches that provide volunteers on a revolving schedule. Would you like to help sort donations, stock shelves, fill grocery bags, and/or shuttle grocery bags into clients' trunks? If so, please call Carol Rice (941-475-1017).

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.



In the last month we have been blessed to receive some wonderful fabric donations from 2 community members. One of our regulars, Ruth Magee, who has been quilting with Christ Lutheran Church for 40+ years, used a Thrivent Action Grant to purchase much-needed quilt batting for our use. Linda Strychowski returned from PA with 6 ready-to-tie quilt sets. Also, a friend in the community used some of our precut quilt squares to complete 5 quilt tops at home. We are THANKFUL for all these gifts and

generous hearts! On May 5th, we celebrated 2 special birthday gals, Dorothy Gramstad and Ruth Magee. It was also an opportunity to express our love and appreciation to Dorothy before her journey back up north. We look forward to her coming back for visits. 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. 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

Name tags are being made for every member of the congregation. Members will be encouraged to wear one on Sunday morning and return it to the Greeter after service is concluded.

Visitors are encouraged to sign the Guest Book in the Narthex. Please include your phone number.

In the fall, Lois Greene will hold a training class for all worship volunteers (Worship Assistants, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, and Altar Guild).

Worship Assistants will continue to be gloved. Please continue to wear a mask during services.

More hymns will be chosen from the blue hymnal for more appealing modern selections.

Pastor Ken will be visiting local schools with an eye towards finding talent to take part in the Sunday services such as singers, instrumentalists, etc.

Our sound system has been "tweaked" to achieve a pleasing result. We are looking for a volunteer who is proficient in electronic sound equipment to oversee our equipment and perhaps make suggestions for improvement and to monitor the sound board each Sunday.

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.



<i>Dorothy Berner</i>	<i>5/02</i>
<i>Sharon Tessmer</i>	<i>5/03</i>
<i>Dorothy Gramstadt</i>	<i>5/04</i>
<i>Deborah Seliski</i>	<i>5/12</i>
<i>Barbara McAlister</i>	<i>5/14</i>
<i>Elizabeth Tanner</i>	<i>5/17</i>
<i>Patricia LaPierre</i>	<i>5/17</i>
<i>Jeff Rice</i>	<i>5/20</i>
<i>Henry Miller</i>	<i>5/21</i>
<i>Katherine Fogt</i>	<i>5/21</i>
<i>Thomas Flebbe</i>	<i>5/25</i>
<i>Katie Egeland</i>	<i>5/25</i>
<i>Lois Greene</i>	<i>5/26</i>

There are no Anniversaries this month!

Please contact the office to share your birthday / wedding anniversary



THANK YOU Dorothy Gramstad for guiding our altar guild
and providing our weekly communion!

THANK YOU Lois Greene for guiding our weekly music and worship

THANK YOU Barbara McAlister for faithfully leading our church as president during our transition time and continuing to lead us in her office as treasurer of the congregation. She is our "Go-To" person for everything!! Words cannot express the gratitude we all feel for Barbara's commitment and devotion to the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church.

THANK YOU Sydney Sturza, our 15 year-old soloist!!!!

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.