

CLC NEWS

November 2020

*A newsletter from Christ Lutheran Church
Englewood, Florida*



The Season of Pentecost

Published by Jeannie Caporaso, Office Administrator



Pastor's Message

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR KEN

Already our thoughts are beginning to turn toward the celebration of the holidays. Thoughts in that direction came to me when I recently visited Home Depot and Wal-Mart to get some supplies for my house. I could not believe it. Thanksgiving and Christmas already? I remembered my return from a visit to Europe in September a few years ago. I went to Wal-Mart to buy an alarm clock. My attention was caught by the familiar strains of "Frosty the Snowman." I was amazed by a large display of Christmas items prominently positioned to catch the eye of any shoppers entering and clearing the checkout area. I saw "Precious Moments" angels, Santa-capped Winnie the Pooh's, and three-foot straw reindeer in an aisle I entered in my search for the alarm clock department.

I was so incensed by what I saw that I decided to write a letter to David Glass, the president of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. I opined that it was insensitive to confront shoppers with Christmas "supplies" so many weeks before Christmas. I noted that C.S. Lewis accused the shopkeepers of the England of his day of encouraging "profane attempts to keep up some superficial connection with the Nativity." I asked Mr. Glass to consider some sensitive restraint. I received a reply from Wal-Mart assuring me that Wal-Mart "always strives to serve the best interests of its customers." It was a form letter. I wrote a second letter to Mr. Glass and did not receive a reply to that letter. I published my letters and my thoughts in the Venice Gondolier and took the matter as President to the Venice Ministerial Association. I encouraged my fellow clergy and my readers to express their feelings to their local retailers. There was little or no reaction to the expression of my concerns. The mighty outcry I envisioned never happened. I failed to raise up the hue and cry of the rabble.

Oh well, here we go again. The truth of the matter is that neither I nor you can do much to check the secular tendency to exploit religious holidays for the sake of hedonistic self-indulgence. But we can observe the holiday season in accordance with our religious and spiritual traditions and beliefs. The celebration of Thanksgiving will occur in just a few weeks. No matter the outcome of the presidential election, we will give thanks for the democracy in which we live. Soon thereafter, the liturgical season of Advent will begin on the first Sunday in Advent on November 29. We will dedicate ourselves to preparation to receive the coming of Jesus in three epiphanies: the coming of Jesus to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, the coming of Jesus into our hearts and minds in the present, and the coming of Jesus again at the end of time upon the clouds of Glory. The liturgical color of Advent is blue, the color of the sky whence our Savior will come again.

And then, beginning on Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior. The Christmas season begins on December 25 and continues for twelve days until Epiphany on January 6, the celebration of the visit of the wise men in Bethlehem.

There is little we can do about the trivialization of our religious holidays except to celebrate in our hearts the great glad tidings that "Jesus is the reason for the season." Well, happy holidays. Next month I plan to express some thoughts about Christmas in the 21st century.

Your fellow traveler in the faith,
Pastor Ken

ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIALS

October 4	18	\$2,590
October 11	21	\$1,715
October 18	30	\$617
October 25	42	\$675
October 27	Donation	\$1,000
	Income	\$6,597.00
	Expenses	\$5,809.08
	Balance	787.92

The monthly breakdown of expenses for October 2020 is available in the office.

COUNCIL KEY POINTS

OCTOBER 2020 COUNCIL MEETING KEY POINTS

C12.01 of the CLC Constitution states that "the voting membership of the congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), deacon(s), the officers of this congregation, and at least one (1) member (a total not fewer than five or more than nine members)." Current Council members (5) made a decision to invite two more year round CLC members to become a part of the Council bringing the number up to 7 for the remainder of this term. Dottie Berner and Fran Kulak will be installed on the first Sunday in November.

Although no Fellowship Team Leader is in place, thanks to Angie Ziegler, the Fellowship Coffee Time after the service will resume in November. Simple bakery items will be available. All donations for supplies (either monetary or culinary) are always appreciated.

Council member and Worship and Music Team Member, Dorothy Gramstad has graciously offered to purchase a new 24" Advent Wreath for the altar. There will be no Advent services this year, but plans for a beautiful Christmas Eve Service are under way. Anyone wishing to purchase a \$10.00 poinsettia to brighten the church with the

color of the season should place an order into the church office by December 11. The Christmas tree will be set up on December 13 immediately after the service. Many hands make light work for the celebration of His birth.

Submitted by Charlene Seltz, Council Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to remain in effect, Pastor Ken Lentz continues to do all in home visits at this time. Those in assisted living facilities still prefer limited visitation. Congregants continue to receive greeting cards and calls. The CCM Team has also provided "Our Daily Bread," available to all for free. This publication of daily devotions is provided to CLC free of charge, to help us talk to God and trust in Him during this time of uncertainty. However, a small donation is always appreciated, as periodically a donation from CLC is sent to this ministry. The CCM Team is hopeful that a care related event can be sponsored in the coming year.

Charlene Seltz
CCM Team Leader

SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

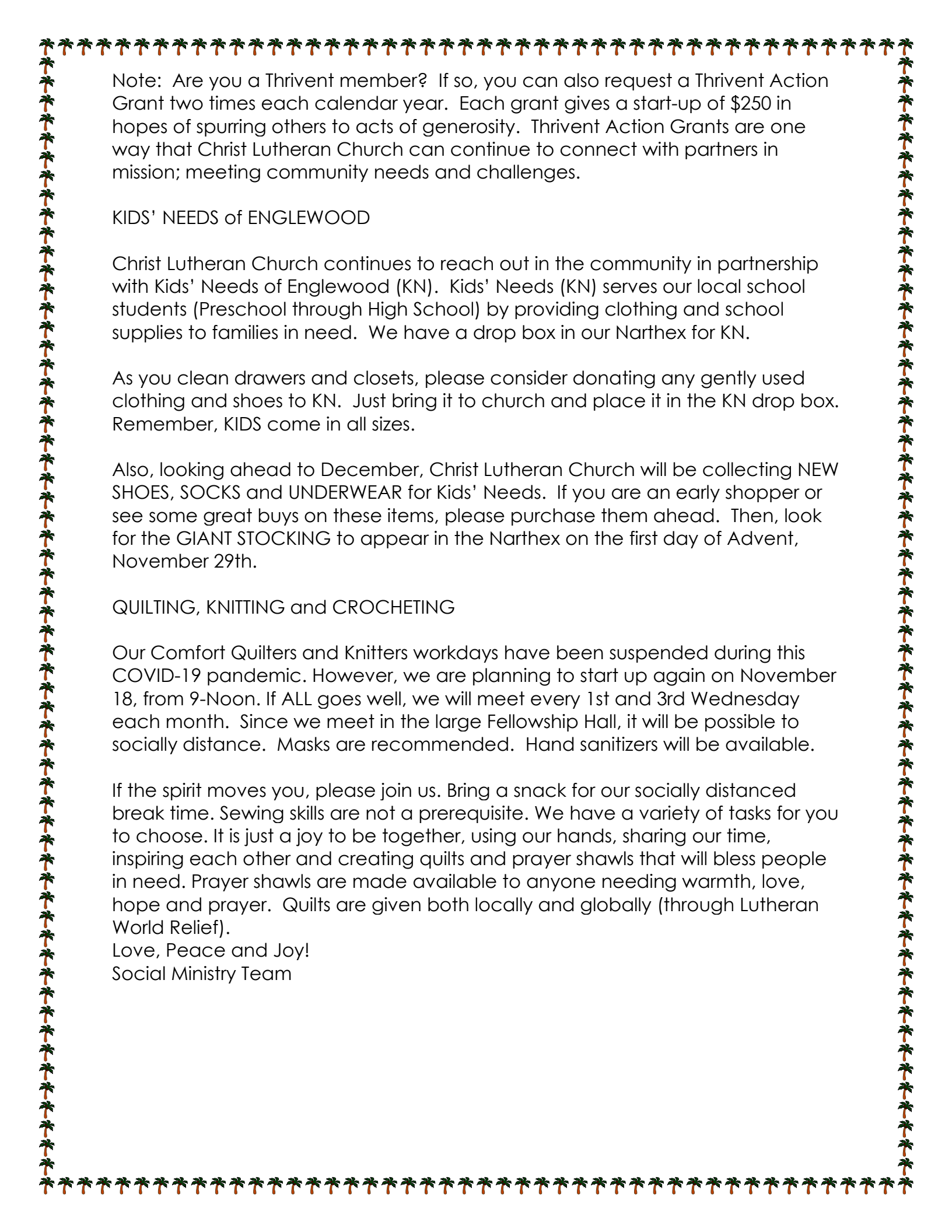
The Social Ministry Team did not meet in October. However, there are outreach items and opportunities to share...

THRIVENT ACTION GRANT to PROVIDE TOILETRIES

A Thrivent Action Grant was secured by Dorothy Gramstad to collect and donate much needed toiletry items to Englewood Helping Hand (EHH). Approximately 1000 people in our community are currently being served by EHH.

Please help as you are able to by donating any of the following items: Bars of Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Tooth Brushes, Deodorant, Feminine Hygiene Products, and Laundry Detergent Pods.

Please bring your donations to church, NOVEMBER 1-22. Place them on the table in the Narthex. The generosity of Thrivent 's Action Grant helps to sow seeds of love and encourages each of us to give as we are able. Thank you for "Living Generously"!



Note: Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you can also request a Thrivent Action Grant two times each calendar year. Each grant gives a start-up of \$250 in hopes of spurring others to acts of generosity. Thrivent Action Grants are one way that Christ Lutheran Church can continue to connect with partners in mission; meeting community needs and challenges.

KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD

Christ Lutheran Church continues to reach out in the community in partnership with Kids' Needs of Englewood (KN). Kids' Needs (KN) serves our local school students (Preschool through High School) by providing clothing and school supplies to families in need. We have a drop box in our Narthex for KN.

As you clean drawers and closets, please consider donating any gently used clothing and shoes to KN. Just bring it to church and place it in the KN drop box. Remember, KIDS come in all sizes.

Also, looking ahead to December, Christ Lutheran Church will be collecting NEW SHOES, SOCKS and UNDERWEAR for Kids' Needs. If you are an early shopper or see some great buys on these items, please purchase them ahead. Then, look for the GIANT STOCKING to appear in the Narthex on the first day of Advent, November 29th.

QUILTING, KNITTING and CROCHETING

Our Comfort Quilters and Knitters workdays have been suspended during this COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are planning to start up again on November 18, from 9-Noon. If ALL goes well, we will meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month. Since we meet in the large Fellowship Hall, it will be possible to socially distance. Masks are recommended. Hand sanitizers will be available.

If the spirit moves you, please join us. Bring a snack for our socially distanced break time. Sewing skills are not a prerequisite. We have a variety of tasks for you to choose. It is just a joy to be together, using our hands, sharing our time, inspiring each other and creating quilts and prayer shawls that will bless people in need. Prayer shawls are made available to anyone needing warmth, love, hope and prayer. Quilts are given both locally and globally (through Lutheran World Relief).

Love, Peace and Joy!
Social Ministry Team

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM KEY POINTS

The Music and Worship Committee met briefly in October and discussed the various aspects of the events of the future.

On October 25, Reformation Sunday, a marvelous portrayal of Martin Luther was presented by Pastor Ken, complete with authentic garb and a German accent. There were over 45 people in church for this delightful event.

November 1, All Saints Sunday, the names of those deceased in the past year were presented, a bell rung, and a candle lit.

A new wreath for the Advent Candle was purchased by Dorothy Gramstad. Christmas plans were discussed and will be reported in a later newsletter.

The new communion railings were donated by Lois Greene and installed. They were made by Artistry Woodworks who donated their labor and will be dedicated on All Saints Sunday.

Angie Ziegler has joined the Altar Guild Committee.

Greeters and Ushers are in need of volunteers.

Respectfully,
Lois Greene, Chair

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
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.



Becky Nielsen	16
Raymond Strich	26



Robert and Jackie Schalitz	29
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*If you would like to share your birthday / wedding anniversary,
please contact the office.*

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Remember,
if you have an interesting story,
an inspirational article,
a moving experience, or a touch of humor
which you would like to share, we would love to hear from you.
