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# CLC NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY, 2025



**Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313**  
*Published by Christ Lutheran Church, Office Administrator*



Our CLC community has been busy for almost 5 years turning a ministry facing extinction into a viable faith presence in the Englewood community. We will celebrate CLC's recovery from Hurricane Ian on Saturday, Feb. 8, in the Fellowship Hall and we will celebrate the gift of a new organ on Sunday, Feb. 16 when we attend a concert on the new organ by Richard Benedum.

We need to gratefully acknowledge that the Spirit has blessed us but, sadly, many congregations of the ELCA are struggling to stay open. Many have closed their doors. The larger picture is not hopeful. I mentioned in my sermon on December 22 that church attendance in America has declined from 42 percent to 30 percent since 2000. And the 30 percent that attend church do not attend every Sunday. Today we enjoy school extracurricular activities on Sunday, more options due to affluence, cheaper and easier mobility, more social opportunities, more technology offering more options for pastime, and perhaps a cultural optimism that rules out a feeling for dependence on a supreme being. One mother of two young children recently expressed her view that "millennialists no longer go to church." As I mentioned on Jan. 19, one comedian (Roy Wood Jr.) laments the tendency of Americans to lose connection with one another. Going quickly are conversations with cashiers in Home Depot or Publix thanks to touchscreen, automated ordering, and DoorDash-ing. (TIME, 1-27-24, p.80)

Where are we going? God knows. But I know that we should not throw in the towel. Thanks to the encouragement of their prophets, the people of Judah in exile in Babylon were encouraged not to throw in the towel. They had to wait patiently for 50 years but they were freed from their bondage when a new world leader, Cyrus of Persian, conquered the Babylonian empire and freed the Jewish prisoners. They seized the moment, returned to their homeland, and began to rebuild their temple and their beautiful Jerusalem. They also reclaimed their ancestral faith. They were summoned to a rally in front of the city water gate to hear the reading of God's law and message by their leader, Ezra. (Nehemiah 8)

American Christians need to reclaim their faith and their values without insisting that America be white and "Christian" again. There's nothing "Christian" about demanding that all American be white and Christian. A Christian nation will invite all who seek freedom to come to our shores, Christian or not. The faith of Christianity is won not through coercion, but through witness and we will celebrate the freedom and our "recovery" in order to witness in the following weeks.

The church has faced obstacles and dead ends before. Our present study of the apocalyptic literature in the Bible, including the book of Revelation, is a study of the endurance of the faith. The church has a reputation for becoming stronger in the face of persecution (or cultural drift). Our commitment to our ministry at CLC is an act of faith. The apocalyptic books of the bible constitute a statement about the victory of Christ. His death was a victory over sin, death, and the devil. It was also a victory over secularism, the distraction of technology, and loss of cultural curiosity about deeper questions concerning origin, destiny, and purpose. What is the purpose of human life? No purpose? Hedonism? Accumulate wealth? Get more "stuff" than anyone else?

I recently presided over a "celebration of life" for Conrad Andrzejewski, the husband of Ilse, who died after a number of years as a faithful member of CLC. Conrad was a good-natured man who dedicated his life not only to work for the government but also to work in the community. He helped his neighbors prepare their IRS returns and loved family life. He was called to be a follower of Christ on the day of his baptism in a Polish-Catholic Church in Baltimore and manifested that call in his life. There are many "Conrad's" and "Ilse's" in our congregation. Let us keep the faith. Let us rejoice in the victory of Christ.

Your fellow traveler on the way,  
Pastor Ken

# ADULT EDUCATION

February-March 2025

## Book of Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature

(In sanctuary)

## Our Lutheran Heritage

(in sanctuary)

### February 9, 2025

Quick overview of pre-reformation history  
Major themes of the early and medieval church

### February 16, 2025

Events leading to the reformation  
Martin Luther and the Reformation  
Major themes of Luther's theology: sola gratia, sola  
fide, sola scriptura  
Other Reformers

### February 23, 2025

What is the Bible  
Interpretive vs. literal use of the Bible

### March 02, 2025

What is a sacrament?  
What is Baptism?  
Issues about Baptism  
Infant vs. Believer's baptism

### March 09, 2025

What is the Sacrament Holy Communion?  
Different views about Holy Communion  
Practices of different expressions of the church

### March 16, 2025

Overview of Lutherans in America  
Lutheran Church today  
Various traditions

### March 23, 2025

Lutheran worship today (optional)

## APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE

When will the end of the world occur? What does the Bible say about the end time? Who will survive and what will the new world look like? Starting on Sunday, January 5, Pastor Ken will host the first lesson on apocalyptic literature. Current books like Hal Lindsey's "The Great Planet Earth" and other literature and evangelists introduce popular themes at a time when the world seems to be going crazy. Global warming, more and more natural disasters, and autocratic world leaders seem, to some, to be harbingers of imminent judgment day. The first of three lessons will take place after services, at 11 a.m. in the front of the sanctuary. Be there or be square!

## OUR LUTHERAN HERITAGE

Who are Lutherans? Who was Martin Luther? Why did Germans, Danes, and Swedes risk the voyage across the ocean to an unknown future in the American colonies? Why are baptism and holy communion called "sacraments?" Why were there no fewer than 65 Lutheran groups at the end of the 1800s? Come and find out on January 26 when Pastor Ken begins his short 7-session course in the front of the sanctuary at 11 a.m. Members, lifelong Lutherans as well as those new to the Lutheran faith, can review and learn the main principles of the Lutheran expression of the universal Christian church



# Music and Worship

This meeting was primarily to discuss the upcoming Organ Concert and the Lenten season.



A Free Organ Concert, held by our organist, Richard Benedum, will take place on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the Sanctuary. Posters are being distributed to all members with a request to post them locally. Ads are being run in the local newspapers and free periodicals, as well as our outdoor church sign. All the churches in the district have been notified. A program will be printed and distributed at the door.

A reception after the Concert will be held in the Fellowship Hall with refreshments provided by our Hospitality Committee. Free will donation baskets will be placed in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** service – March 5<sup>th</sup> 3:00 – Ashes will be distributed. Easter Lily donation envelopes will be distributed on March 30<sup>th</sup>. It was decided to limit the potted flowers to be white Easter Lilies only. The “Gloria” will be omitted during Lent, and the Alleluia between the Kyrie and the Lessons will be an appropriate Lenten response.

**LENT** - There are five Wednesdays in Lent and a repeat of the social Wednesday evening Soup and Bread suppers will take place at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Hospitality Committee. Five persons will present a short talk of their “faith journey”.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** service, April 17<sup>th</sup>, will be held at 3:00 in the Sanctuary.

**GOOD FRIDAY** service, April 18<sup>th</sup>, will also be held at 3:00.

**EASTER SUNDAY** service will be celebrated at 9:30. Soloist, Joyce Bailey.  
The next Music and Worship Committee will be held at noon on February 12<sup>th</sup> in the office.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Greene,  
Chair Music and Worship*



## OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

**ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND (EHH)** - Thank you for donating food and personal care items to EHH! Located on the campus of Englewood Methodist Church, EHH is open to clients on W and TH, 8am-1pm and on the 1st and 3rd W each month, from 4:30-6:30. Thank you to January volunteers, Joyce Hanisits and Brenda Sahlstrom. If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol Rice know.



**QUILTING AND KNITTING** - Please join us for a time of Christian fellowship, fun and service...no skills necessary. We meet in the Fellowship Hall and have expanded our hours to 9-2 every Wednesday. The expanded time allows for flexibility to come when you can and stay as long as you are able. All willing hands and hearts are welcome. Most of our quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief. Beautiful knitted and crocheted Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes are donated locally. If you know someone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl or lap robe, please let Pastor Ken or Carol Rice know..

**BLESSING OF THE QUILTS** - - On Sunday, January 19, the sanctuary was filled with quilts, prayer shawls and lap robes that have been lovingly made this past year. These gifts were blessed. The quilts were then packed for shipping to Lutheran World Relief to begin their journeys of hope, love and peace wherever they are most needed. The Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes are made to be given away locally. Do you know someone who would be blessed to receive such a gift? If so, please take whatever you need. We give thanks for all who are involved in this ministry! A special thanks to Mary Anne, who has been a longtime leader for us and who recently moved to Stuart, FL.



**THRIVENT** - Are you a Thrivent member? Please remember to direct your Choice Dollars each quarter. Christ Lutheran is blessed to receive these gifts. Also, please consider applying for a Thrivent Action Grant (value of \$250) to support a special project for our church and/or the community. Grant requests can be initiated by calling Thrivent or by going online. Need a project idea? The Outreach Ministry Team will help.



**KIDS' NEEDS of ENGLEWOOD** - Throughout Advent and the Christmas Season, we collected NEW SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, SWEATSHIRTS and JACKETS for kids, ages 5-18. These gifts of comfort help local families provide for their children. Thank you, Paula Beehler, for securing a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant to support this project! Thank you to ALL who helped by donating! It was a bountiful intake! We continue all year long to collect gently-used clothing for Englewood area elementary, middle and high school students. These used, but useful donations can be placed in the Kids' Needs collection box in our narthex. Pastor Ken enjoys volunteering monthly with Kids' Needs during their TH evening shopping nights. Thank you, PK!

**TROSHUK FAMILY** - Pastor Ken and Ellen Novotny visit our Troshuk family on Saturdays for interaction and English lessons. Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for world PEACE!

\*The next Outreach Ministry Team will be on TH, February 13, at 11am in the office meeting room.

*Peace and Joy!* Carol Rice for the Outreach Ministry Team  
Pastor Ken, Ellen Novotny, Moira Ehlers, and Pastor Linda Fernandez





If you are planning to bring baked goods to church for fellowship after service, please text or call Angie Ziegler at 941-525-7829

*Joyce Hanisits, council rep to Fellowship Ministry*



NEW CLC PHONE directories (green cover) are available. Again, please let us know, via e-mail, a note, phone call, or carrier pigeon, etc. if your information needs updated. PLEASE, if you have changed or there is an error, please let us know. We can't express how important it is to keep us up to date by sending us any NEW info at [office@christlutheranfleng.org](mailto:office@christlutheranfleng.org) telling us to add or correct your e-mail. And remember, *penmanship counts* ... if I can't read it . . .

guaranteed it will be 100% incorrect.

#### **Christ Lutheran Church Privacy Statement . . .**

The Church Directory of Christ Lutheran Church is provided to the members for the purpose of conducting church business only. The church Directory is not for sale and use of the information; including names, telephone numbers, emails or web addresses for purposes other than church-related business is strictly prohibited.

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## **Note from our Treasurer**

The 2024 Giving Statements will be arriving via e-mail on February 1, 2025.

If you do not get one, check your spam file.  
If necessary e-mail Gina at [treasurer@christlcfl.org](mailto:treasurer@christlcfl.org)



# Christ Lutheran Men

## Exciting Changes and New Opportunities to Serve !

MEN'S MINISTRIES,

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men of Christ Lutheran Church meet in Christian Fellowship to share and serve our Lord and our Church. All Men are welcome and encouraged to join with us.

Proverbs 16:9

*"In their heart's humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps"*

**New Meeting Dates and Times.** The Men's Group will meet bi-weekly on Thursday (twice a month) at 2pm in the Church Conference Room. There will be some special events, held on different dates; TBA

Next Meetings: Thursday Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2pm at church.  
Thursday Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 2pm at church

### New Opportunities to Serve:

**Roadside Clean-up:** CLC Men, through the leadership of John Gronski and Bob Cosler, will be facilitating roadside clean-up on 776 and invites the entire congregation to join us in this important community service event. We will meet at 9am, at church on the following dates to accomplish this mission.

Saturday Feb 15<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup>

**Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Recovery Party:** 2pm set-up in the Fellowship Hall. Tear down following.

**Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> Organ Concert.** 1:30 set-up in Fellowship Hall. Tear down following

**Mark Baker, Facilitator**



Connie	Fowler	02/08
Herb	Dixon,	02/20
Mark	Bailey	02/21
Brenda	Sahlstrom	02/23
Dennis	Beehler	02/28



If your birthday is not listed, and you would like it to be,  
please contact the office, via e-mail at . . . [office@christlutheranfleng.org](mailto:office@christlutheranfleng.org)  
to share your special day.

*Another adventure filled year awaits you.*



# Church Attendance



January	Attendance	Giving
01/05	80	\$4,488.50
01/12	82	\$2,456.00
01/19	79	\$2,973.00
01/26	81	\$1,817.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
	322	\$11,734.50



I'D LOVE ALL OF HUMANITY IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE PEOPLE!



1	<b>Saturday - no activities</b>
2	<b>Worship Service 9:30<sup>am</sup> / Bible Study to follow service</b>
3	<b>Dance 2 B Fit 9:30-10:30<sup>am</sup> / Adv. Tai Chi 2-3<sup>pm</sup> / Venetian Harmony - 6:30</b>
4	<b>9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5</b>
5	<b>QUILTING 9:00-2:00<sup>pm</sup> / CALVARY CHAPEL CHURCH BIBLE STUDY 7-8<sup>pm</sup></b>
6	<b>COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00<sup>am</sup>-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5</b>
7	<b>TAI CHI 10:00-11:00<sup>am</sup> / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5</b>
8	<b>MENS'S GROUP - RECOVERY SET UP / RECOVERY PIZZA PARTY 4PM</b>
9	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30<sup>am</sup> / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE</b>
10	<b>DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30</b>
11	<b>9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5</b>
12	<b>QUILTING 9-2<sup>pm</sup> / WORSHIP COMM. - NOON / BOOGIE CHAIR PARTY 1-4 / CCCBS 7-8PM</b>
13	<b>COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / OUTREACH COMM. 11AM / BRIDGE 12-5 / MENS GROUP 2PM</b>
14	<b>TAI CHI 10:00-11:00<sup>am</sup> / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5</b>
15	<b>9:00<sup>am</sup> ROAD SIDE CLEAN UP</b>
16	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30<sup>am</sup> / BIBLE STUDY AFTER SERVICE / ORGAN CONCERT 3PM</b>
17	<b>DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30</b>
18	<b>9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE / CHURCH COUNCIL 1:00PM / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5</b>
19	<b>QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00<sup>pm</sup> / FORKS &amp; FELLOWSHIP 4<sup>pm</sup> / CCCBS 7-8PM</b>
20	<b>COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5</b>
21	<b>TAI CHI 10:00-11:00<sup>am</sup> / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5</b>
22	<b>9:00<sup>am</sup> - ROAD SIDE CLEAN UP</b>
23	<b>WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30<sup>am</sup> / BIBLE STUDY</b>
24	<b>DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30</b>
25	<b>9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5</b>
26	<b>QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00<sup>pm</sup> / CCCBS 7-8PM</b>
27	<b>COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / MENS GROUP 2PM</b>
28	<b>TAI CHI 10:00-11:00<sup>am</sup> / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5<sup>pm</sup></b>

*Thank you for the music*

**CLASSICAL & SACRED  
ORGAN CONCERT**

**FEATURING**

**RICHARD BENEDUM**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025**

**3:00 PM**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**701 NORTH INDIANA AVENUE**

**ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223**

**LITE RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

**DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

