

Christ Lutheran Church, Inc., of Englewood, Florida
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CLC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

2026



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313
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The blue hope of Advent has now become the white hope of Joy.

Senator John McCain once told about the Christmas Eve he celebrated in 1971 as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. His POW officer asked him to lead services that evening and the guards allowed McCain to look at a Bible for only a few minutes. He copied some verses down quickly and then read those verses to his men and the entire group sang Christmas carols from memory. Tears of joy streamed down many faces. The angel spoke to them that night, "I bring you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior." McCain later recalled, "Suddenly we were 2,000 years and a half a world away in a village called Bethlehem. And neither war, nor torture, nor imprisonment, nor the centuries themselves had dimmed the hope born on that silent night so long ago."

I remember that many people were glad to leave the year 2001 in the rearview mirror on New Year's Day 2002. Any delusions about a better century at the door on January 1, 2000 were gone like the wind. The 9/11 events were a bitter reminder that the human propensity for self-destruction was not left behind in a former century. The new century also ushered in a smaller world. Terrorists could strike in any neighborhood in the world. I joined my sister at the end of 2001 for a trip to EPCOT Center to attend the Christmas concert in front of the American Pavilion. We watched and listened to the choirs made up of fresh-faced high students who were gathered to sing Christmas hymns. At the end of the concert, Gary Sinise offered a final "prayer." He prayed, "God bless America!" but then quickly added, "God bless the world!"

We are all tightly connected in the world of the 21st century. We must attempt to be instruments of God's saving grace in a smaller world because we have to. We do not have the convenience of shoving a terrorist attack in Israel or the violent deaths of 65,000 men, women, and children in the Gaza Strip under the rug. If the Soviets attempt to annex Ukraine with military force, we have to be concerned. Recent weather events in America's north are not harbingers of what could happen in a national weather change but in a global change in weather. My nephew in Ohio just reported that unseasonably cold weather in Ohio has suddenly been replaced by temperatures in the 60s. Where is God in all of this? He remains close. He reminds us that we humans must suffer the consequences of our decisions and mistakes. But the color of hope turned white also reminds us that God's will shall prevail. His grace will abound in 2026. In light of the victory of Christ in behalf of the whole world, may we take a few pages from the future and learn to live in peace and harmony. Let us share earth's space and let us share earth's resources.

Your fellow traveler along the way,
Pastor Ken

BEGINNING RIGHT



"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."—Matthew 6:33

Music and Worship

Although we announced this in our last newsletter, it is definitely worth repeating. Our organist, Richard Benedum will present an organ concert tentatively set for March 8, 2026, at 3:00pm. A reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the concert. Volunteers will be needed to help with the reception. More info to come.



Please remember that the greeters are to ask new visitors to sign the guest book in the Narthex. If a member does not wear their name tag, ask them if they would like one made for them. There is a small clear plastic tray to leave your request for a name tag in the Narthex, near the existing tags. Greeters are now requested to remain in the Narthex until the end of the first hymn.

All Worship Assistants will be asked to be Lectors as well during the summer months.

The choir will meet at 8:30 every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall and will sing on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month with some exceptions. Choir Director is Joyce Bailey.

We will **“undeck” the Halls** on January 11th immediately following the service.

The next Music and Worship Committee meeting will be held on January 13th at 11:00.

*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! It is wonderful to see our Little Red Wagon full! Located on the campus of Englewood Methodist Church, 700 E Dearborn St., EHH is open to clients on W and TH, from 8am-1pm. Thank you to our November volunteers: Joyce Hanisits, Carol Rice, and Kat Smith. If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol 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 from 9-noon every Wednesday. All willing hands and hearts are welcomed and needed. Our quilts are donated to Lutheran World Relief and sent throughout the world at times of disaster. To celebrate Lutheran World Relief's 80 years of service, our quilters set a goal to complete 80 quilts before February.

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.

Our QUILT and PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING SUNDAY will be on January 25. Hoping you will be there to see the beautiful quilts and shawls that will bring love and comfort to people in need.



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. Most Thrivent members can qualify for 2 grants per year. 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 - Thank you to all who have made our Kids' Needs Christmas Project a BIG success!! New SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, JACKETS and SWEATSHIRTS are overflowing from the gift boxes in the narthex. These gifts will bless local families in the weeks and months to come. We also thank Paula Beehler and Mary Anne DiGrazia for securing Thrivent Action Grants supporting this project. Our clothing drive runs through January 5.



We continue to collect new and gently-used clothing for Englewood area elementary, middle and high school students, ages 5-18. These donations can be placed in the Kids' Needs collection box in our narthex.

TROSHUK FAMILY - Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for immigration relief and world PEACE!??



"CAROLS AND POINSETTIAS" - On December 22, we visited 7 of our Homebound members. At each stop, we sang a couple of Christmas Carols and delivered cards and poinsettias. It was a time of true JOY! Thank you to our carolers-Barbara DeBoer, Kathy and David Fogt, Pastor Ken, Pastor Linda Fernandez, and Carol Rice

*The next Outreach Ministry Team will be on TH, January 8, at 11am in the office meeting room.

Peace and Joy!

Carol Rice for the Outreach Ministry Team Pastor Ken, Ellen Novotny, Moira Ehlers, Pastor Linda Fernandez and Kat Smith



Englewood Helping Hand, Inc.

October 26, 2025

Christ Lutheran Church
Carol Rice
701 N. Indiana Ave.
Englewood, FL 34223

Carol Rice:

Thank You! During these unprecedented times, we are grateful for your support of the pantry. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Englewood Helping Hand, Inc., and the people we serve, thank you for your recent donation of \$160 from your Oktoberfest Celebration 50/50!

Contributions to organizations with 501(C)(3) status may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor to determine if this contribution qualifies. This letter is your receipt for income tax purposes, if applicable.

The need for our services continues to grow, due to the current economy, the affordable housing crisis and Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of many needy people in our area.

We could not do this important work without the help from groups like yours. We deeply appreciate your support of our mission to feed the hungry and prevent residents from becoming homeless.

Sincerely,

Karen W. Harvey
President,
Board of Directors

700 E. Dearborn Street, Englewood, FL 34223 Email Address: info@englewoodhelpinghand.org
P.O. Box 791 Englewood, FL 34295 Website: www.englewoodhelpinghand.org
Phone: (941) 474-5864

IN ACCORDANCE WITH IRS REGULATIONS, YOU HAVE RECEIVED NO GOODS OR SERVICES IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS GIFT. ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND, INC. IS A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION REGISTERED WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA (CH41659). A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE, OR VIA THEIR WEBSITE (WWW.800HELPFLA.COM). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY

ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



Things you need to know!

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



NEWCLCPHONE directories (yellow 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 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.



12-31-1997

THIS YEAR, FOR NEW YEARS, I AM RESOLVING TO DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS SINCE I NEVER EVER STICK TO MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Christ Lutheran Men

2026, A New Day, New Month and A New Year!

MEN'S MINISTRIES, MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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

Isaiah 43:18-19

"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing"

The Men's Group will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday, 9am at the Church Conference Room. There will be some special events, held on different dates; TBA

Up-coming Schedule:

Jan. 1st, NO meeting — Happy New Year



Jan. 15th Meeting 9am, at church.

Volunteers needed for Devotions, Donuts and coffee

Feb. 5th Meeting 9am, at church

Feb. 19th Meeting — time and place to be announced

March 8th, Organ Concert, reception set-up.
More info to follow.

Mark Baker, Facilitator

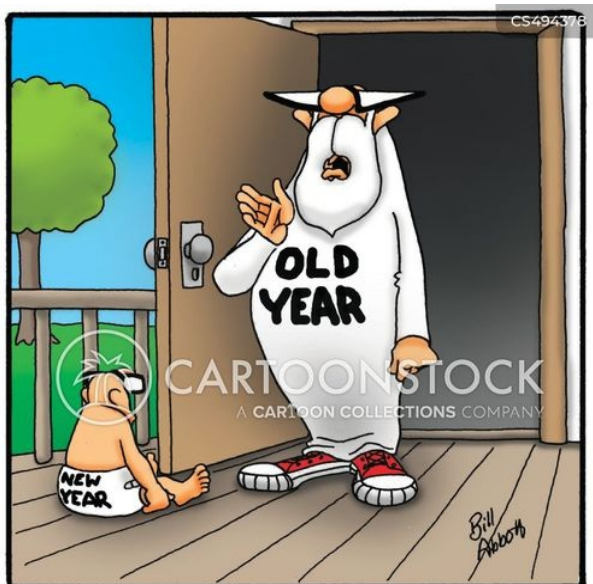


"Hurry! Our New Year's resolutions start in ten minutes."



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

January		
Ruth	Hancock	01/04
Jack	Henry	01/07
Jeff	Dillon	01/12
Larry	Johnson	01/13
Nancy	Berry	01/15
Dave	Fultz	01/17
Charles	Host	01/19
Susanne	Michaleski	01/23
Dan	Christensen	01/26
Toni	Newton	01/26
Rebecca	Lentz	01/28
Isaac	Santos	01/29



“Before you go inside, give me
a chance to explain the mess...”

SAMSON (page 30)

E	D	O	M		S	T	A	F	F	S
S	A	R	A		A	E	R	I	E	S
P	H	I	L	I	S	T	I	N	E	S
				E	C	H	O	E	D	
C	U	R	S	E		N	L	E	R	S
A	D	A						R	A	P
M	O	I	R	A		D	U	S	T	Y
		M	I	S	S	A	L			
T	W	E	N	T	Y	Y	E	A	R	S
H	E	N	S	O	N		E	L	E	A
U	T	T	E	R	S		S	I	D	E

Church Attendance

December	Attendance	Giving
12/07	59	\$3,448.00
12/14	70	\$4,139.00
12/21	67	\$3,822.00
12/24	84	\$1,238.00
12/28	48	\$578.00
	328	\$13,225.00



Please assist the church by completing a survey for each member in your household. The information in the survey is a very valuable tool to Christ Lutheran Church. It allows us to know which of our members would be good on which committees, who is willing to serve in which areas, and which of our members have talents that can be shared with the church. This may involve education, training, and practice in various fields, always with the intent of glorifying God. It's been many years since we did our last survey and it is important to have up-to-date information about the gifts God has given to each of us to use for His glory. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. This survey can be picked up in the Narthex and returned at your earliest convenience. Forms are available in the church office. Thank you!



TIME &
TALENTS
Survey



01/01	NO COUNTRY LINE DANCING / NO BRIDGE CLUB
2	NO TAI CHI
3	
4	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE CHURCH 10:00 - 1:00 ^{PM}
5	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
6	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
7	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00 ^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE 7:00-8:00 ^{PM} / FELLOWSHIP DINNER
8	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9-12:00 ^{PM} /OUTREACH COMMITTEE 11:00 ^{AM} /BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00P
9	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
10	
11	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE CHURCH 10:00 - 1:00 ^{PM}
12	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
13	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM} / CHURCH COUNCIL 2:00 ^{PM} 2pm
14	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM
15	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
16	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
17	
18	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE CHURCH 10:00 - 1:00 ^{PM}
19	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
20	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM} / ENG. COMM. COALITION 5:45PM
21	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE STUDY 7:00 ^{PM} /
22	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
23	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
24	
25	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE CHURCH 10:00 - 1:00 ^{PM}
26	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
27	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
28	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL BIBLE STUDY 7:00 ^{PM}
29	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
30	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}

SAMSON

ACROSS

1. Esau's other name (Genesis 25:30)
5. Hires a work force
11. Cakedom's ___ Lee
12. Eagles' homes
13. Samson's captors (Judges 16:21)
15. Reverberated
16. "You shall not revile God, nor ___ a ruler of your people" (Exodus 22:28)
19. Giants and Pirates, e.g.
22. Dentist's org.
23. Knock on wood
24. Fate, in Greek myth
27. Like neglected furniture
29. Prayer book
31. Samson was a judge for this long (Judges 16:31)
36. Muppets' creator
37. Greek philosopher, Zeno of ___
38. "Every one ___ lies to his neighbor" (Psalm 12:2)
39. White, in chess
4. Roughly half of us
5. Cummerbund, e.g.
6. Grand ___ mountains
7. Israeli Prime Minister ___ Sharon
8. "___ keepers..."
9. Membership cost
10. Sizzling sound
14. Drink cubes
16. Machinery part
17. Japanese veggie
18. "His appearance was like lightning, and his ___ white as snow" (Matthew 28:3)
20. Mouse cousin
21. "Moses sent them to ___ out the land of Canaan" (Numbers 13:17)
25. Run under water
26. Fur trader John Jacob ___
27. "God called the light ___" (Genesis 1:5)
28. "___ Gold" (Peter Fonda film)
30. Roget entries, briefly
31. Almost time for TGIF
32. More than damp
33. Baba, of Forty Thieves fame
34. Warning flag color
35. Motor oil letters

DOWN

1. Paranormal claim
2. Morse dash
3. "Either he goes, ___ do!"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13				14						
			15							
16	17	18				19			20	21
22								23		
24			25	26		27	28			
		29			30					
31	32							33	34	35
36							37			
38							39			