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CLC NEWSLETTER

MARCH, 2025



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313
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As I mentioned in my sermon on February 9, our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, has notified all ELCA congregations that Ret. Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn and Elon Mush posted a comment on X (formerly Twitter) that Lutheran Service Agencies in America “are operating an illegal money laundering operation.”

That kind of rhetoric is an attack upon our tradition of ministry to others that is part and parcel of the history of Lutheranism in our country. Lutheran communities in the early 18th century on the Delaware and Hudson rivers gathered donations from the faithful for the relief of the poor. Provisions were made by Lutherans in Eastern Pennsylvania for the care of widows and a home for orphans was planned by the Swedish and Germans under the guidance of Muhlenberg. Concern was expressed for Native Americans who were encouraged to attend divine services by the Swedes and efforts were made to minister to them until the Indians began their withdrawal to the west. Muhlenberg spoke against “people who pretend to be Christians and use their fellow creatures...as body slaves.” (THE LUTHERANS IN NORTH AMERICA, Fortress Press, 1975, p. 74)

The colonial pietist concern for fellow humans was embraced by the founders of a system of deaconess hospitals in Pittsburgh in 1849 following a model from Germany and by the organization of the National Lutheran Commission for Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Welfare organized in 1917 to minister to service personnel. The National Lutheran Council, organized one year later, provided clothing, medical supplies, and food to assist European reconstruction. During the depression, the NLC coordinated the work of 300 separate Lutheran social agencies. It undertook the task of assisting refugees from Europe and created a division to co-ordinate the work of welfare agencies.

As I pointed out on February 9, in accordance with Lutheran tradition, pastors are called to preach the gospel and not tell people how to vote. But Lutherans are encouraged to follow their consciences in sync with the principles of the Gospel and apply those principles to political involvement. Lutheran Christians expect our elected officials to abide by the eighth commandment, “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” Lutheran Social Services, an agency supported by the ELCA and the Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod has assisted thousands (if not millions) of people for 85 years, providing food, shelter, and clothing to the indigent, finding foster homes for troubled teens, assisting veterans, providing counseling services to the troubled, and assisting legal refugees who, facing persecution and poverty in their countries of origin, adapt to their new home. Lutheran Services currently has 300 offices in the U.S. serving 1,400 communities.

Some Lutherans are happy about the results of the recent elections and others are concerned. We are divided politically but we are not divided about our common mandate to promote justice, peace, equality, and inclusion. As of mid-February, Global Refuge (formally Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) reported that funding for vital refugee resettlement has been frozen, currently facing 5, 870 newly arrived refugees served by Global Refuge with the prospect of eviction and food insecurity.

We can help by writing to our representatives in Congress to set the record right and consider sending checks to: ATTN: Gift Processing, Global Refuge, PO Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21298-8266

Come hell or high water, we are summoned by our Lord to share the Gospel in word and in deed. “God’s Work; Our Hands.”

Your fellow traveler along the way,
Pastor Ken

ADULT EDUCATION

March 2025

Book of Revelation and Apocalyptic Literature

(In sanctuary)

Our Lutheran Heritage

(in sanctuary)

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



The Music and Worship Committee did not meet in February. All committee items were put in place for February up until Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed at a 3:00 service in the church.

The Recovery Party was celebrated in the Fellowship Hall on February 8th. Approximately 40 people attended. Pizza was on the menu, and the Venetian Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines performed to a very enthusiastic audience.

Joyce Bailey has volunteered to launch a choir. Details will follow next month.

February 16th is the date for the Gala Organ Concert presented by our very own Richard Benedum at 3:00. There will be a free-will donation available. Details will be in next month's Newsletter.

The next Music and Worship Committee will be held on March 4th in the office in preparation for the Lenten and Easter holidays. Wednesday Soup and Bread suppers will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 for all five Wednesdays in Lent. Various members will be speaking about their faith journey.

As a recap from February Newsletter and worth repeating:

ASH WEDNESDAY service – March 5th 3:00 – Ashes will be distributed. Easter Lily donation envelopes will be distributed on March 09. 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”. The 5 Wednesdays are March 12, 19, 26, April 02, and 09.

MAUNDY THURSDAY service, April 17th, will be held at 3:00 in the Sanctuary.

GOOD FRIDAY service, April 18th, 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 12th 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 our February volunteers, Joyce Hanisits, Larry Froemming, Brenda and Jim Sahlstrom and Carol Rice. 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 - After the Quilt Blessing in January, Brenda Sahlstrom, Roseann Froemming and Carol Rice boxed 73 quilts, readied for their journey to Lutheran World Relief. On February 7, Jeanie Patterson, Paula Virlee and Carol Rice loaded 2 vehicles with quilts and 90+ Care Kits. All were delivered to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice, where they will be picked up by a semi headed to Maryland. This begins the journey of the quilts to those in need around the world. Many of the prayer shawls and lap robes were given locally for people recently released from hospital and rehab care. We are thankful for these gifts of love and for all the hands and hearts that come together to create them...God's Work..Our Hands!



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 - A lovely thank you was received for all the SHOES, SOCKS, UNDIES, SWEATSHIRTS and JACKETS donated during Advent and Christmas. Thank you, ALL, for your participation in this event! We continue all year long to collect new and gently-used clothing for Englewood area elementary, middle and high school students. These 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 the family, our adopted Ukrainian family, on most Saturdays for interaction and English lessons. Through the use of stories, verbal quizzing, games, crafts and just spending time together, Pastor Ken and Ellen have noted improving English skills and the development of special relationships. Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for world . PEACE!

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS- Please plan ahead to join us on Tuesday, April 22, at 10am, when we visit our Homebound members and share Lilies and Easter greeting cards. These visits help us to connect with members who are unable to come to regular worship services. It is a time of joy for all of us!

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

Peace and Joy! Carol Rice for the Outreach Ministry Team



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



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 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.

Note from our Treasurer

The 2024 Giving Statements have gone out and arriving via e-mail.

If you do not get one, check your spam file.
If necessary e-mail Gina at treasurer@christlcfl.org



Christ Lutheran Men

March....in like a Lion, out like Lamb.

Sounds very biblical.

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.

Philippians 4:19

"God will meet your every need out of his riches in the Glory that is found in Christ Jesus"

EXTRA, EXTRA—read all about.....New Meeting Dates and

Times. The Men's Group will meet bi-weekly on the first and third Thursday (twice a month) at 9am in the Church Conference Room. There will be some special events, held on different dates; TBA

Next Meetings: Thursday Feb. 27th, 9am at church.

March:

Thursday March 6th, 9am

Thursday March 20th, 9am

New Opportunities to Serve:

Wed. Night Lenten Bread and Soup; assist Property Committee with their sponsorship

Special Guest Speakers; dates and topic to be confirmed

Planning for a Fish Fry event; details shared in the near future

Mark Baker, Facilitator



*Another adventure
filled year awaits
you.*

David	McGhee	03/02
Tom	Maschhoff	03/05
Ingrid	Dixon	03/11
Barbara	DeBoer	03/14
Ella	Santos	03/17
Jean	Miller	03/17
George	Martin	03/18
Jenny	Warring	03/20
Mary	Addison	03/26
Thomas	Arzsz	03/28

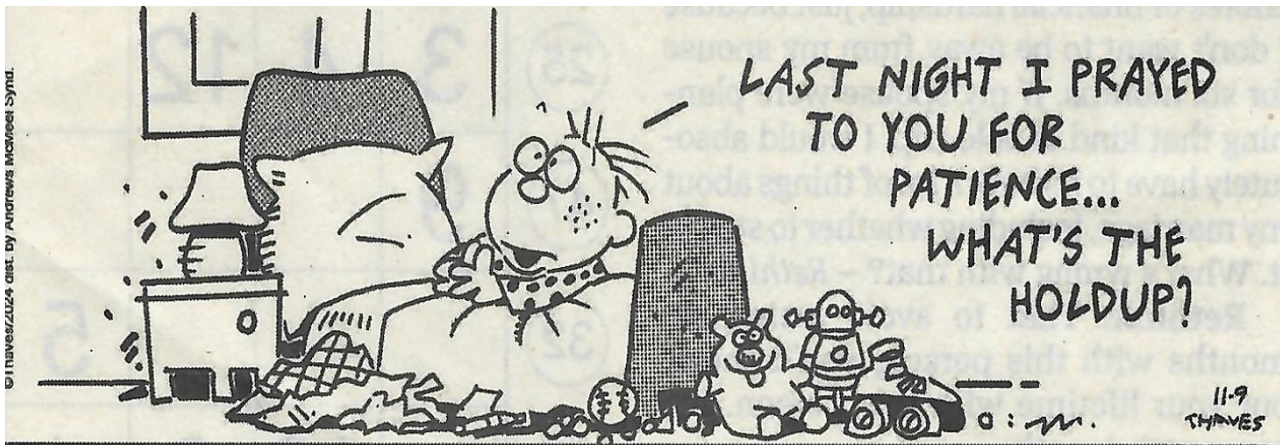
If your birthday is not listed,
and you would like it to be,
please contact the office, via e-mail at . . .
office@christlutheranfleng.org
to share your special day



Church Attendance



February	Attendance	Giving
02/02	83	\$3,036.00
02/09	94	\$4,467.00
02/16	85	\$2,383.00
organ concert	175	\$879.00
02/23	N/A	\$0.00
		\$0.00
	262	\$10,765.00



March	
1	9:00^{AM} ROAD SIDE CLEAN UP
2	Worship Service 9:30^{am} / Bible Study to follow service
3	Dance 2 B Fit 9:30-10:30^{am} / Adv. Tai Chi 2-3^{pm} / Venetian Harmony - 6:30
4	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / WORSHIP COMM. - 11^{AM}
5	QUILTING 9-2^{PM} / 2PM BRIDGE CLUB SET-UP / ASH WED. SERVICE 3^{PM} / CALVARY CHAPEL CHURCH BIBLE STUDY 7-8PM
6	BRIDGE CLUB TOURNAMENT 9:30-5:30^{PM} / MENS GROUP 9:00^{AM}
7	BRIDGE CLUB TOURNAMENT 9:30-5:30^{PM}
8	BRIDGE CLUB TOURNAMENT 9:30-5:30^{PM} / 9:00^{AM} ROAD SIDE CLEAN UP
9	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY TO FOLLOW SERVICE
10	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30
11	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / CHURCH COUNCIL 2^{PM}
12	QUILTING 9-2^{PM} / BOOGIE CH PARTY 1-4 / SOUP & BREAD 5^{PM} / CCCBS 7^{PM}
13	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / OUTREACH COMM. 11AM / BRIDGE 12-5
14	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
15	
16	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY AFTER SERVICE
17	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30^{PM}
18	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
19	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00^{PM} / SOUP & BREAD 5^{PM} / CCCBS 7-8PM
20	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 / MENS GROUP 9:00^{AM} / OUTREACH 11:00^{AM}
21	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12-5
22	
23	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY AFTER SERVICE
24	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30^{PM}
25	9-10AM BOOGIE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASS / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5
26	QUILTING 9:00 - 2:00^{PM} / SOUP & BREAD 5^{PM} / CCCBS 7-8PM
27	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12 / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5 /
28	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12 - 5^{PM}
29	
30	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30^{AM} / BIBLE STUDY AFTER SERVICE
31	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30AM / ADV. TAI CHI 2-3PM / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30^{PM}

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Lutherans have been in the news this week!

Protect Yourself!

IF YOU HAVE THESE SYMPTOMS.....

YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN!

IF YOU SERVE PEOPLE IN NEED FIRST AND ASK
QUESTIONS LATER....YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN!

IF YOU CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO
IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND ASYLUM SEEKERS...YOU
MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN!

IF YOUR "RELIGIOUS" ACTIVITIES INCLUDE FEEDING HUNGRY
PEOPLE, HOUSING THOSE IN NEED, AND SUPPORTING THOSE
WHO ARE POWERLESS...YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN!

IF YOU BELIEVE SECOND CHANCES ARE
UNLIMITED....YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN!

IF YOU THINK EVERYONE'S STORY
MATTERS...YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN!

IF YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE FOLLOWING A GOD WHO
LOVES EVERYONE...YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN!

IF YOU WANT TO BELONG WITHOUT HAVING
TO PRETEND...YOU MIGHT BE A LUTHERAN!

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED THAT YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONES MIGHT BE SHOWING SIGNS OF