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CLC NEWSLETTER

MAY

2026



Pastor Kenneth Lentz - 928-970-1313
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All pastors frequently are asked about God's imposition of penalty as God's response to sin. They mistakenly believe that "Do good, God rewards you; do bad, God punishes you." (Some TV evangelists with jeweled rocks adorning their fingers exploit that kind of thinking when they suggest that donations to their "ministries" will bring wonderful blessings.) Even I at times think when difficulties come, "Oh Lord, what have I done?" But Christians reject that axiom.

Even in the intertestamental period, the poem of Job was an attempt to correct the assumption that we don't always reap what we sow. Job ended up on top of the village trash heap not because he did something wrong but because that's just the way it is with God. We cannot fathom the thoughts of God. We just have to trust God to know what he is doing. We push aside the inclination to rejoice when God punishes the wicked and adopt "a relationship of personal trust and surrender" instead. (Bernard Anderson, Understanding the Old Testament)

But I think that we can at least allow ourselves to struggle with some answers to the question, "Why does God allow bad things to happen?"

Take, for example, the hypothetical case of the man who was led into a large room in an art museum. He was blindfolded and allowed to see a large tapestry only when inches away from the woven fabric. What was the message of the tapestry? "A horse's hoof," he said. Only when he backed away from the tapestry could he see its true depiction was the victorious return of Wellington to England after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo. Now we see in part but then we shall know fully. (I Cor 13:12).

Secondly, Luther may have had his doubts when he argued with Erasmus but we Lutherans favor the principle of free will over the doctrine of predestination. God surely is sad when we reap what we sow but his gift of free will trumps his intervention. Smoking will lead to lung cancer. Obesity leads to all kinds of problems. Lies can come back and bite you in the heel when the truth is revealed.

Thirdly, God can strengthen us through suffering. What would be the measure of a person who has never experienced disappointment, hardship, or struggle? Our nation is now suffering. But many have been shaken out of complacency. America will have to learn and prepare for the next threat of a pandemic. "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair." (II Cor 4:8)

Fourthly, affliction and tragedy force us to look toward the future. Why did we ever believe that earthly existence was akin to a bed of roses? Rose gardens may be a foretaste of the kingdom to come but earthly roses fade. The faded rose directs us to the next rose, perhaps lovelier than the first. Kierkegaard suggested that it is worthwhile to look backward and learn from our mistakes but, when push comes to shove, life can best be lived by living forward. Jefferson advised, "Steer our ark with hope before us and fear astern."

A black and white approach to suffering doesn't fit. Members of our own congregation who suffered damage to their homes after Ian or Milton are not worse sinners than anyone else. I can relate to the experience of William Barclay who lost his 21-year-old-daughter in a yachting accident. I resonate with his conclusion, the conclusion of an acclaimed Scottish theologian who acknowledged the futility of trying to understand God.

Barclay wrote, "Jesus does not offer us solutions to... (terrible things)... What he does offer us is his strength and help somehow to accept what we cannot understand....The one saving reaction is simply to go on living, to go on working, and to find in the presence of Jesus Christ the strength and courage to meet life with steady eyes, and to know the comfort that too is afflicted in my affliction." (A Spiritual Autobiography, p. 46)

I can't be so certain about clear-cut answers to the problem of suffering. But Paul reminds me that nothing "...will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 38f)

We will not let COVID-19 knock us down for the count. We picked ourselves up from the flood when Katrina did her best and when 9/11 revealed our vulnerability. There are moments when God speaks. It is our lot not to judge the bad guys but to listen and to respond in faith in the future and to do our best to bring that future close to the present.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Ken

Music and Worship



Music and Worship did not meet in April and the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 5th has also been cancelled. Pastor Ken, Richard and I will meet and discuss plans going forward through the Fall. There is a possibility that the Music and Worship Committee will disband and Richard, pastor, and I will meet from time to time to discuss pertinent issues. To date, there is no further Music and Worship committee meetings planned. Thank you for your prior participation and dedication.

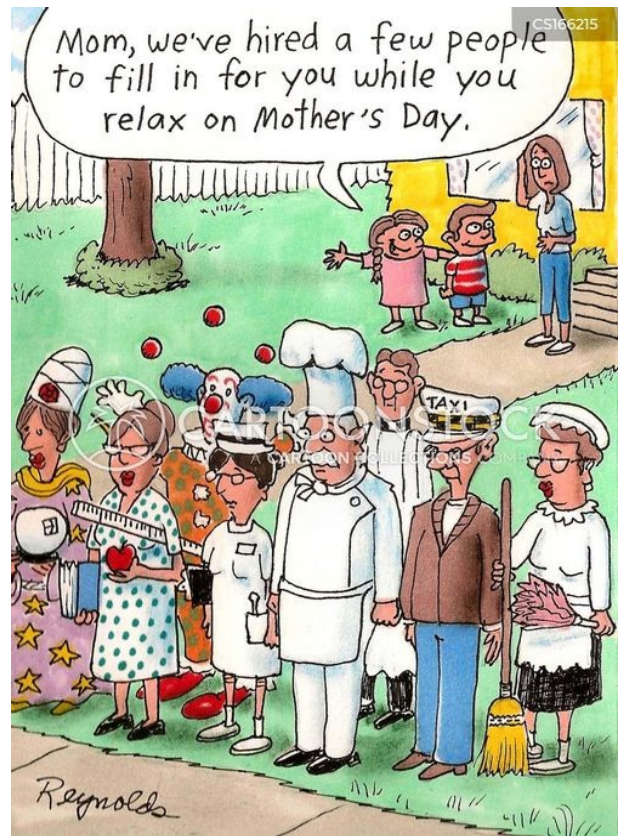
After the busy Lent and Easter season with our soup & bread dinners, Good Friday Fish Fry and the Holy Week, I for one will be happy to slow things down.

RECAPPING EASTER

- Our Lenten dinners each Wednesday averaged 20 persons
- Ash Wednesday 31
- Palm Sunday 98
- Maundy Thursday 28
- Good Friday 60
- Easter Day 150

Joyce Bailey sang on Easter Sunday as our sanctuary was adorned with beautiful lily plants and our Choir sang many times.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Greene
Leader Music and Worship



A MEMORIAL will be held for Gail Pedersen on May 12 at 2:00^{pm} at Christ Lutheran Church. A light reception on the patio will follow the service.

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! EHH is located on the campus of Englewood Methodist Church, 700 E Dearborn St. and is open to clients on W and TH, from 8am-1pm. The building addition is progressing and is expected to be completed in June. Thank you to our April volunteers: Joyce Hanisits, Carol Rice, Brenda Sahlstrom and Kat Smith.



If you would like to volunteer as a pantry worker, please let Carol know.

Greeting Cards-We thank Ellen Novotny for continuing to send notes and cards to our members.

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.

With so much beautiful fabric, a special project during March was making and donating 25 pillow cases to CARE (Center for Rape and Abuse Emergencies). Attached to each pillowcase was a verse from Matthew 11:28. "Come to me, all that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest." Special thanks to Jeanie Patterson for leading this project!

Beautiful knitted and crocheted Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes are donated locally. We need help making more prayer shawls. If you know someone who would be blessed by a prayer shawl or lap robe, please let Pastor Ken or Carol Rice know.

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 - 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. Thank you to all who have donated items recently. Pastor Ken enjoys volunteering with KN. He reports that KN has been very busy lately.



TROSHUK FAMILY - Pastor Ken and Ellen N. visit the Troshuks on many Saturdays for stories, games and language lessons. Please continue to support our Ukrainian family with your prayers, including prayers for immigration relief and world PEACE!??

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS-. Please continue to keep our homebound members in your thoughts and prayers. Their names are listed each week in our Sunday Bulletin.

*The next Outreach Ministry Team will be on TH, May 14 at 10am in the office meeting room. There will be no meeting in June

Peace and Joy!

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

TIDBITS®

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.



FROM DANIEL'S STORY

S	E	M	I	T	E	S		L	O	A
A	M	A	N	I	T	A		Y	S	L
K	I	N	G	S	S	I	G	N	E	T
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P	E	T	E	R	I	I		E	R	A
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E	U	R		S	N	O	C	O	N	E
R	D	A		M	A	R	I	N	E	R

CHRIST LUTHERAN MEN

MAY 2026—HAPPY SPRING!

PEACE AND SAFE TRAVEL TO ALL OF OUR “SNOW-BIRD”

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.

JOHN 14:27

“PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE YOU”

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW BROTHERS IN CHRIST:

WE ARE EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO OUR FELLOWSHIP AND ACTIVITIES.

RICK DARLING	DAVID DOSS	FREDRIC PETERSON
RAY ADDISON	MICHAEL ECKMAN	ERIC JACOBS
LANCE WILE	JONATHAN WIGGAN	

NEXT MEETINGS: 9AM AT CHURCH.

MAY:

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

THURSDAY, MAY 21TH

The Men will take a break from meeting during the months of June-August **BUT** we may have some special events and will reconvene in September. Watch for your notices.

JULY 4TH, 250TH AMERICAN CELEBRATION—MORE TO COME!

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE COMING THIS FALL:

SEPTEMBER: ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

OCTOBER: HALLOWEEN SAFE-WALK BOOTH

COMMUNITY OUT-REACH EVENTS—SPORTS, COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS, ARTS

DECEMBER: CLC HOLIDAY DINNER GATHERING

MARK BAKER, FACILITATOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MAY

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

DORTHY	BERNER	05/02
SHARON	TESSMER	05/03
PHILLIS	ROHIDOUX	05/04
KATHY	SIDEBOTTOM	05/06
KENNETH	WARRING	05/07
STEVEN	FERNANDEZ	05/09
DARREL	STERZINGER	05/09
JOHN	PATTERSON	05/10
DEBORAH	SELISKI	05/12
RAY	ADDISON	05/16
DENNIS	JOHNSON	05/16
RAY	ADDISON	05/16
PATRICIA	LAPIERRE	05/18
ELIZABETH	TANNER	05/17
RICHARD	LENTZ	05/19
ROSIE	WILE	05/19
HENRY	MILLER	05/21
NANCY	HALEY	05/21
PAUL	RUGG	05/22
RICHARD	VALENTI	05/23
WILLIAM	O'NEILL	05/23
ROBERT	CUNNINGHAM	05/24
THOMAS	FLEBBE	05/25
GAIL	JOHNSON	05/25
FRANCES	REGAN	05/26
LOIS	GREENE	05/26
FERN	DURHAM	05/28
ROBERT	COSLER	05/31
LARRY	WILE	05/31



Church Attendance

<u>APRIL</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>GIVING</u>
04/05	150	\$10,115.50
04/12	66	\$1,696.00
04/19	56	\$3,142.00
04/26	64	\$2,616.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
	336	\$17,569.50



P L E A S E
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!



"Thank you all for coming. Starting next year, Mother's Days will find me at the Desert Palm Spa."



WOMEN'S GROUP - we are excited to be forming a women's group for fellowship, fun, and service. There will be a meeting at Nancy Berry's house at 3:30^{pm}, May 28. Please come with ideas of what you want and need from our church family. Call 941-716-1573 for RSVP and directions.

**TIME &
TALENTS**
Survey



5/01	10:00-11:00 ^{AM} - TAI CHI
2	
3	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}
4	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} / VENETIAN HARMONY 6:30-9:30 ^{PM}
5	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
6	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM}
7	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / 9:00 ^{AM} - MENS GROUP / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
8	10:00-11:00 ^{AM} - TAI CHI
9	
10	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM} / MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH AFTER SERVICE
11	DANCE 2 B FIT 9:30-10:30 ^{AM} (LAST CLASS TILL FALL) / VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
12	BOOGIE CHAIR 9-10 ^{AM} /BRIDGE CLUB 12 -5 ^{PM} / 2:00PM - GAIL PEDERSEN MEMORIAL
13	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM}
14	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / 10:00AM - OUTREACH MEETING/ BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
15	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
16	
17	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}
18	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
19	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
20	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM} / FORKS & FELLOWSHIP 5:00 ^{PM}
21	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-12:00 ^{PM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
22	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
23	
24	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}
25	VENETIAN HARMONY - 6:30 - 9:30 ^{PM}
26	BOOGIE CHAIR 9:00-10:00 ^{AM} / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM}
27	QUILTING 9:00- 2:00 ^{PM}
28	COUNTRY LINE DANCING 9:00-NOON / BRIDGE CLUB 12:00 - 5:00 ^{PM} / WOMAN'S GROUP 3:30^{PM}
29	TAI CHI 10:00-11:00 ^{AM}
30	
31	WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 ^{AM}

FROM DANIEL'S STORY

ACROSS

1. Shem's descendants (Genesis 10:1)
8. Hawaii's Mauna ____
11. Mushroom to beware
12. DKNY competitor
13. What was put on the stone to seal Daniel into the den? (Daniel 6:17)
15. Basic school subj.
16. Spiral shapes
17. One and only
19. Letters after a proof
20. "... When you come into the land which I give you and ____ its harvest..." (Leviticus 23:10)
22. Suggestions on food labels (Abbr.)
25. End-of-word add-on (Abbr.)
27. Surrealist Tanguy
29. Czar who succeeded Catherine I
33. Ours is the Cenozoic
34. Daniel, and later his accusers, were put into this (Daniel 6:16)
36. Continent above Afr.
37. Icy confection
38. 2,300 mg, for sodium, e.g.
39. Ancient sailor, in a rime

DOWN

1. "Land ____!"
2. Easy-to-play guitar chord
3. Pressing machine
4. Suffix of gerunds
5. "The Good Cookie" author Boyle
6. "And the following," in legalese
7. Vessel with masts
8. Canadian wildcat
9. Hosea in the Douay Bible
10. Mtn. heights
14. Light-headed
18. Artist's frame
21. Insistence on precise standards
23. Fashion photographer Richard
24. Calm and unruffled
26. "Brigadoon" heroine
28. Less loony
29. Wing: Comb. form
30. "And ____ made for himself a sword with two edges" (Judges 3:16)
31. Buddhist temple, in Japan
32. "Are you ____ out?"
35. Chem. or biol., e.g.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10
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