

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles

January 2010

For the second month in a row I wish you all, "Happy New Year!"

We celebrated the start of a new Church year during Advent and now 2010 is upon us. Another New Year with new hopes, new opportunities and new challenges for all of us as individuals, families and as a congregation. I wish could tell you what to expect during the coming year, but the future is known only to God. What I am able to do is encourage you to hold onto the hope and forgiveness that is yours in Jesus Christ.

God spoke through the prophet Isaiah these words which were fulfilled in Christ.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor ... (Isaiah 61:1-2)

We have received the Good News that in Jesus Christ we have forgiveness of our sins and the sure promise of eternal life with Him. We have been set free from bondage to sin, guilt and the devil through Christ's blessed suffering, death and resurrection. We do not face the troubles of today or tomorrow alone. The one, true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is with you. In Baptism, you were washed clean of sin and became a redeemed child of God. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives you His true Body and Blood for forgiveness and strengthening of your faith. In God's Word, you hear the Lord's call to turn to Him for continual forgiveness, hope and life. These wondrous gifts are yours today, tomorrow and for eternity.

For all who have been saved by God's gracious gift of faith in Jesus Christ, 2010 is the year of the Lord's favor. May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus throughout the coming year.

Pastor Russ Craig



CHURCH NEWS

Christ Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held January 24th following the worship service. Please plan on attending. All reports for the meeting must be submitted to the church office no later than January 13th.

There is a Storm. Is Sunday Worship Cancelled?

A cancellation notice will be broadcast on **channels 6 and 9**. If Christ Lutheran Church is not listed, then you may assume that there will be the regular worship service, but please use common sense and keep yourselves safe.

Men's Saturday Morning Fellowship

Led by Len Ahders, the men's group meets on the 2nd Saturday, 8:00-9:30am.

Good food, fellowship, prayer, song and God's Word are the components of this long-running ministry.

The men get together again on January 9th and will be discussing *Acts of the Apostles*.

Newsletter Reminder

If you have news and articles for *Chronicles*, please contact Ruth Ahders, Linda Halbrend or Duane Stenzel. The newsletter is distributed on the last Sunday of each month. Submissions must be received by Ruth no later than the Sunday before distribution. The deadline for the February 2010 *Chronicles* is January 24th.

Atlantic District Festival of Workshops: March 2010

On Saturday, March 6, 2010, at Concordia College, Bronxville, the next Atlantic District will host the next Festival of Workshops. Plan to bring a group to take advantage of the many strategic resources, networking opportunities and time for prayer and praise. Workshop information will be available in January.

Thank You!!

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the following people ...

- ❖ Earl & Ann MacIntosh for the beautiful Christmas tree and wreaths.
- ❖ Christ Church Women for the new blue paraments, banners, and altar book stand.
- ❖ Lorraine Urbano and Bea White for serving as our Thrivent "Care in Congregations" coordinators.
- ❖ Our Officers & Directors for giving so much time and effort on behalf of the Lord and our congregation.
- ❖ Contributors to Operation Shoebox, Maritime Ministries, Good Samaritan, Guilderland Interfaith.

An Invitation to Join the Atlantic District's "Stop, Drop and Pray" Team

"We do not make requests from you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act!" *Daniel 9:18-19*

Do you believe in God's power through prayer to dramatically increase the effectiveness of our mission and kingdom work? Are you a member of the Atlantic District Mission Society's "Stop, drop and pray" network? If not, I invite you to join our prayer team today in seeking out God's blessing and provision for all our outreach efforts. We seek to faithfully partner with the Lord in the essential work of extending the kingdom of God on earth. To enroll, simply contact me at carol.mittelstaedt@ad-lcms.org or call me at 914-337-5700, ext. 6.

When you join "Stop, drop and pray," you'll receive a free weekly E-Letter reminding you to stop what you are doing and take time out to pray for specific mission projects and events throughout the District. As you read through the weekly prayers you will add your voice to others asking God's help for our missionaries and church members so that they may Engage the World with the Gospel of Hope and bring the knowledge and love of Christ Jesus to the unchurched in their communities.

We would love to pray for your special project, too! If your congregation is engaged in an outreach initiative or has a special event planned, please let me know so that I can add it to our prayers. Blessings!

Carol Mittelstaedt
Mission Society Development Officer, Atlantic
District - LCMS

GOD'S WORD

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Continues

Our study of the Gospel of Mark continue into January 2010. Tuesday mornings, 10:30-11:30am. No class Jan. 12th due to a pastors' meeting at CLC.



FELLOWSHIP

Un-Hanging of the Greens: January 9th

What goes up must come down. All are invited to enjoy some fellowship as we remove our Christmas decorations. We will start work at 4:00pm and then those who wish to will go out for pizza. If you have any questions, please speak to Judy Bliven.

Cabin Fever Night: January 16th

The committee has planned a "cabin-fever" night for Saturday, January 16th at 5:30pm. The event will include a "chili bake-off" with prizes, a covered-dish supper and games. Please bring your favorite board and/or card games. A sign-up sheet will be posted. If you have any questions please speak to Judy Bliven.

The Wonders of Christian Hymns

Would you like to explore the stories behind the inspiration, music and meaning of your favorite hymns? If so, please join us at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Colonie for a journey through the wonders of Christmas hymns led by Dr. Ralph Schultz on three consecutive Wednesday evenings: January 20th, January 27th and February 3rd, beginning at 7:00pm. The first session will focus on hymns for Advent, Christmas and New Year. The second session will concentrate on hymns for Palm Sunday, Lent and Easter. The third session will celebrate hymns of Praise, Adoration and Comfort

CLC YOUTH



Upcoming Events

February 6-7: Movie Night/Lock-In at Church, 7pm (2/6) until after worship (2/7)

CHRIST CHURCH WOMEN

Annual Silver Tea

Thirteen ladies met at Lois Rupert's home for their annual tea. The weather cooperated - the food and hospitality was wonderful. Let's hope more ladies can attend next year.

First Lutheran Homeless Shelter

Things we can collect from now thru March for the homeless shelter are breakfast items, paper goods and laundry soap. Place in container in Narthex. Any questions see Bea White.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Josephine Baker, Sharon Calka, Betty Jane Casatelli, Carol Fike, Herta Haupt, Ruth & Alan Kenyon, George & Harriet Klotz, Gordon & Judy LaHart, Marie Lynch, Ottolina Maki, John Scherer, Dorothy Siebert, Dorothy Van Deusen, Edward Ziehm, Esther Atchinson, Ed Berry, Erin Carhart, Rhonda Duell, Loretta Flanders, Teresa Grice, Fred Hill, Evan Kimmerer, JoAnn Kniskern, Laura Langabeer, Andrew L. Scott, William Snyder, William Sorensen

From The Music Director

The Hymn of the Month for January, 2010 is "Good King Wenceslas".

This story is about two men – a Bohemian Duke and an Anglican minister—who lived nearly a thousand years apart. Wenceslas was born in Bohemia, in modern Czechoslovakia, in the early 900s. His father, the Czech ruler, Duke Ratislav, gave him a good education supervised by his godly grandmother. When his father died, Wenceslas, seeing his mother mishandle affairs of state, stepped in at age 18, seizing the reins of government. From the beginning, he proved a different sort of king. He sought good relations with surrounding nations, particularly with Germany. He took steps to reform the judicial system, reducing the number of death sentences and the arbitrary power of judges. He encouraged the building of churches and showed heartfelt concern for the poor. He reportedly cut firewood for orphans and widows, often carrying the provisions on his own shoulders through the snow. Wenceslas' brief reign ended on September 28, 929, when his pagan and rebellious brother, Boleslav murdered him as he left for church. His people venerated him as a martyr, and today Wenceslas is the patron saint of Czechoslovakia.

He would hardly be remembered, however, but for John Mason Neale, an Anglican minister with a passion for returning church architecture and music to their ancient grandeur. Neale is responsible for translating ancient Greek, Latin and Syrian hymns into English, giving us "Good Christian Men, Rejoice", "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "All Glory, Laud and Honor". "Good King Wenceslas", however, is not a translation, but an original poem written by Neale to honor a godly monarch's concern for the poor. Neale himself worked with the needy, serving as warden of a charitable residence for indigent old men.

Sharon Calka

Anytime is fine for 'Planned Acts of Christian Kindness'

Anytime of the year is a good time to do a "Planned Act of Christian Kindness" (PACK), according to Jeff Van Beaver, president of Acts 1:8 Ministry of Green Bay, Wis.

In the Fall, a PACK activity might be raking leaves for elderly residents, helping someone "winterize" their home or car, or taking a newspaper and a cup of coffee to a shut-in. Winter activities could include helping people bag their groceries, giving away loaves of bread, wrapping Christmas gifts, babysitting, or shoveling snow. The list of ways Christians can help others is endless, says Van Beaver, a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Green Bay. And it doesn't have to be expensive, he adds: "Just taking the time to reach out to someone means more to them than anything. This is a great program to do on your own or with a group of people. It's never too early to teach a child about PACK events."

The seven year-old Acts 1:8 Ministry touches hundreds of thousands of lives each year with the love of Christ. It works to carry out its mission -- "Equipping Christians to care, share, and connect people to Christ worldwide through Christian kindness" -- by providing free idea kits to congregations that commit to doing at least one PACK activity per month.

Congregations that get involved are encouraged to tell those they are helping that they are "showing them Christ's love in a practical way," and that "God's love is free, just as this gift is free." Generally, those on the receiving end of PACK activities "are shocked," says Van Beaver. "They start to ask questions, and before you know it you are sharing about your faith and what God has done for you in your life."

For more information about Acts 1:8 Ministry and its PACK program, visit www.acts18.org on the Web.

STEWARDSHIP

PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

I. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE GOD'S STEWARDS.

God's stewards are stewards by virtue of creation and their re-creation in Holy Baptism; therefore, they belong to the Lord.

II. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE MANAGERS, NOT OWNERS.

God's stewards have been entrusted by God with life and life's resources and given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing them for Him.

III. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SAINTS AND SINNERS.

God's stewards rejoice in and live out what God has declared them to be through the cross. At the same time His stewards recognize they are sinners who fight sin and its consequences each day.

IV. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE UNIQUELY SINGULAR, YET PROFOUNDLY PLURAL.

God's stewards recognize that their lives are not solo performances but are personal responses to God, lived out within the community of faith to benefit the whole world.

V. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE *IN THE WORLD*, BUT NOT *OF THE WORLD*.

God's stewards recognize that the Lord sets them apart from the world and by the transforming power of the Gospel sends them into the world to live out the Gospel.

VI. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE LOVED AND LOVING.

God's stewards recognize that their stewardship flows out of God's act of love for them in Christ which empowers them, in turn, to love others in acts of Christ-like love.

VII. GOD'S STEWARDS ARE SERVED AND SERVING.

God's stewards recognize that their stewardship involves a Gospel-powered style of life which is demonstrated in servanthood within all the arenas of life.

VIII. GOD'S STEWARDS LIVE WITH AN AWARENESS OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE, OF TIME AND ETERNITY.

God's stewards live intentionally in the light of God's eternal purpose while being firmly committed to His rule in the here and now.

FINANCIAL REPORT: November 2009

Income	\$ 8,106.02
Expenses:	\$ 6,781.83
Checkbook Balance:	
10/31/09	\$ 12,684.96
11/30/09	\$ 14,009.15



**SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE ON SUNDAY
JANUARY 2010**

Date	Usher	Greeter	Lector	Acolyte	Communion
3			Lorraine Urbano	Ariel Sprunger	Joe Fahd
10			Len Ahders	Vinny Demoor	---
17			Tom Craig	Austin Laverty	Alan Fike
24			Alan Fike	Victoria MacIntosh	---
31			Linda Halbrend	Ariel Sprunger	Bill Spolyar

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATED FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2010

3		
10	Sandy Smith	In Celebration of the Birthdays Madison & Berdella Smith
17	Earl & Anne MacIntosh	Memory of departed loved ones
24	Goodie & John Scherer	Memory of loved ones
31	Joe & Della Henstenberg	Memory of loved ones

Cost of flowers is still \$27.00. Envelopes for your donation can be found in the tract rack in the Narthex. Please call Anne at 355-8570.

BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

1	Earl MacIntosh III
5	David Klingstrom
7	Rachel Gardner
8	Linda Halbrend
11	Lori Zeh
12	Ruth Ahders
13	Madison Deon
15	Earl MacIntosh
16	Della Henstenberg
18	Herta Haupt
23	Mathew Laverty
26	Nicole Gardner
26	Hilda Griessel
26	Hazel Lanza

January 2010

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 New Year's Office closed	2
3 9:15am Confirmation 10:30am Holy Communion	4 7:00pm Council	5 10:30am Bible Study (<i>Mark</i>)	6 11:00am Holy Communion	7 6:30pm Choir	8	9 8:00am Men's Breakfast 11:00am Wedding 4:00pm Undecorating
10 9:15am Confirmation 10:30 Worship	11	12 9:00am Pastors-CLC 10:30am No Bible Study 12:00 Christ Women	13 11:00am Holy Communion	14 6:30pm Choir	15	16 5:30 Cabin Fever Night
17 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Communion	18	19 10:30am Bible Study (<i>Mark</i>)	20	21 6:30pm Choir	22	23
24 9:15am Confirmation 10:30 Worship 11:45am Annual Meeting	25	26 10:30am Bible Study (<i>Mark</i>)	27	28 6:30pm Choir	29	30
31 9:15 Confirmation 10:30 Holy Communion						