

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles

May 2010

Worship

Sunday 10:30am
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00am
Holy Communion

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig

Secretary

Ruth Anders

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Custodian

Fritz Herzog

Office: (518) 456-1530
church@christlutheran.cc

A Message from the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Think back to when you were a young child. Remember the night you had a bad dream or the crash of loud thunder shook your room or you just ached all over with the flu. Do you remember the fear? The sense of being all alone? What comforted you? I was glad to hear my parents tell me everything was alright. Their words helped, but only a little. What gave me true comfort? My Mom or Dad coming into my room, sitting on my bed, and giving me a hug. THEN I knew everything would be alright. Words only went so far. It was their presence, their touch that calmed and assured me.

What about today? Earthquakes kill thousands, volcanoes bring world travel to a halt, terrorists threaten our country, we send our sons and daughters to fight wars in distant lands. Life can still be pretty scary for adults. We can still feel afraid and alone. What comforts us?

God's Word lifts me up, especially during this Easter season. How wonderful it is to hear again about God's love that was so great that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins and then rise again so that I need not fear death or the devil. That is awesome, but ... words only go so far for me. I still need that presence, that touch that makes me know everything is okay.

Thankfully, our loving God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – does not stop at words. He does come among us. He does touch each of us personally. God loves us so much that He comes and abides with and in us.

This happens in the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion, Sacrament of the Altar, the Eucharist). In this sacred meal, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, gives us His true Body and Blood – in, with and under the bread and wine. Here Jesus really does touch us and gives us His forgiveness, His life and the promise of salvation.

In the face of life's trial, temptations and challenges, I need to hear God's Word and I most definitely need the comfort of His touch in His Supper. And I need Jesus' healing presence more than just a couple of Sundays each month, but as often as possible.

May our blessed Lord abide with you and give you His peace.

+Pastor Russ Craig



CHURCH NEWS

May 1-2: *The Church has Left the Building*

The Guilderland churches are organizing a weekend of activities that will provide our members opportunities to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our community. Your participation is needed – please contact Pastor Craig if you are interested.

Christ Lutheran Church will sponsor two events:

Saturday, May 1st: Sort & pack clothes for Orphan Grain Train

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Niskayuna (9:00-11:00am)

Sunday, May 2nd: Hymn singing & worship at Good Samaritan, Delmar

2:00pm Nursing Home

3:00pm Adult Home

Evening Course Begins May 19th: *The Gospel of Matthew* (Wednesdays, 7:00pm)

The apostle Matthew writes his gospel to proclaim to the world that its promised Savior has come. Pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophesies, Matthew proclaims the universality of Jesus' love. All are invited to join this journey through the Gospel According to Matthew.

Weekday Morning Course: *Introduction to Lutheran Teachings* (Wednesdays, 9:45am)

Are you curious about what the Lutheran Church teaches? Has it been a long time since your confirmation and you need a refresher? Interested in becoming a member of Christ Lutheran Church? All are invited to attend this six-week study that will investigate ...

- Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions,
- The Nature of God: One Essence, Three Persons,
- Sin and Free will
- Jesus Christ: Son of God, Savior and Only Redeemer
- Salvation By Grace Through Faith
- The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- The Church as the Body of Christ and Assembly of Believers

Bible Study Continues: *St. Paul's First Letter to Corinthians* (Tuesdays, 10:30am)

The Christians in Corinth faced many of the conflicts that we encounter as we seek to live our faith in a culture that often contradicts Christian beliefs and principles. God continues to speak to us today through 1st Corinthians. Participants of this course come from four area churches. All are welcome.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY: May 23rd

On Pentecost, we will celebrate the rite of Confirmation during our morning worship service. Please keep Victoria MacIntosh in your prayers as she prepares to publicly profess the faith she received in Holy Baptism.

It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Tom and Ndy Okure on the birth of their son, Jason.

Pastor Craig on vacation May 5-10

Pastor will be out of town from Wednesday afternoon through Monday afternoon. Tom Craig will lead worship that Sunday. In case of an emergency, call Tom at 939-6006.

Deacon Commissioning Scheduled for June

Tom Craig is nearing completion of the two-year Atlantic District Deacon training program.

A graduation ceremony will be held at Village Lutheran Church, Bronxville, on Saturday, June 5th. Tom will be commissioned as a Deacon during our 10:30 worship service the next day, June 6th.

Please keep Tom in your prayers as he prepares to begin serving the Lord and the Church as a commissioned Minister of Word and Service.

FELLOWSHIP

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 *May 8th* and will be discussing "Acts".

New Photo Directory

Portraits for the new church directory will be taken on Tuesday, May 4th and Wednesday, May 5th from 2:00 to 9:20 pm. Reservations are required. See Judy Bliven if you have any questions.



On **Mother's Day, May 9th**, all youth will pass out flowers to the women of our congregation after the service.



Congratulations to Vicky MacIntosh on confirming her baptism and faith on May 23rd!



On **July 9th**, CLC will be hosting a **Youth Worship Night**. All youth are encouraged to attend and worship our Lord through contemporary music with other youth from around the area. One of the bands is from Bethlehem Lutheran and was asked to perform at the National Youth Gathering later this summer in New Orleans. Please speak with Tom Craig if you are interested in attending.

Youth Sunday Recap

Our young people did a wonderful job on Sunday, April 18th, as they served as acolytes, lectors, ushers and presented the message during the 10:30am service. Special thanks go to Vinny Demoor, Ben Duell, Austin Laverty, Victoria MacIntosh, Ariel Sprunger, and to their faithful teacher, Tom Craig.

Congrats to Ben Duell for successfully completing the New York State hunter safety course.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

April 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Long, Minutes read and approved. Opening devotions by Anne MacIntosh. Judy Bliven reported she had no trouble getting volunteers for Sunday coffee hour. She thanked everyone for a job well done.

We will be taking a luncheon trip to the Boat House for our last meeting of the season. Sandy will handle reservations.

L.W.M.L. Bea reported the Spring Rally will be Saturday May 22nd. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board in the narthex.

Old Business: The date for the Strawberry Festival will be June 12th. Same price as last year \$3.50.

Sang happy birthday to Bea and Judy. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be May 11th at noon.

Anne MacIntosh

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Karen Laverty | 23 William Boomhower |
| 4 Doris Pleydle | Vinny Demoor |
| 9 Steven Benedetto | 31 Arlene Giroux |
| 17 Beverly Lenox | |
| 19 Linda Sickler | |



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Jean Alheim	<i>Family & Friends</i>	
Josephine Baker	Charles Ahlers	(friend of Larry Bohn)
Betty Jane Casatelli	Ed Berry	(uncle of Joe Fahd)
Herta Haupt	Erin Carhart	(niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Ruth & Alan Kenyon	Keith Cole	(friend of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)
George & Harriet Klotz	Jean Davis	(sister of Anne MacIntosh)
Beverly Lenox	Daniel Dingley	(friend of Carly DiSanto)
Marie Lynch	Loretta DeRuvo	(friend of Judy Bliven)
Ottolina Maki	Rhonda Duell	(daughter of Len & Ruth Ahders)
John Scherer	Loretta Flanders	(sister of Phyllis Mattice)
Dorothy Siebert	Teresa Grice	(mother of Judy Zamurs)
	Evan Kimmerer	(friend of the Fahd Family)
	JoAnn Kniskern	(sister-in-law of Judy Bliven)
	Laura Langabeer	(niece of Judy Zamurs)
	Teresa Langabeer	(sister of Judy Zamurs)
	Art Ogden	(friend of Pastor Russ & Carole)
	Vicky Quay	(daughter of Joan Long)
	Tim Spielman	(son-in-law of Linda Halbrend in Korea)
	William Sorensen	(nephew of Phyllis Mattice)



Thank You!!!

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the soup suppers so delicious during the Lent Season. We have some excellent cooks in the congregation. Judy Bliven

Volunteers Needed

The Pastoral Care department of Our Lady of Mercy Life Center, Guilderland, is looking for volunteers to help transport residents (push wheelchairs) on weekdays for our Catholic and Protestant chapel services. Time commitment is about 1 ½ hours per service. It is most helpful if people volunteer for a particular day and come each week on that day. Volunteers of any denomination are welcome. All volunteers must complete St. Peter's Healthcare screening (wellness check, TB test, etc.). To volunteer, contact Rev. Laurel Phillips at 464-8161 or lphillips@sphcs.org.

Volunteers are needed for the following times:

Mondays	10:00 – 11:30 am (Catholic worship)
Tuesdays	9:45 – 11:15 am (Catholic worship)
1st & 3rd Wednesdays	1:15 – 2:45 pm (Protestant worship)
Thursdays	9:45 – 11:15 am (Catholic worship)
Fridays	10:15 – 11:45 am (Protestant worship)

FINANCIAL REPORT: March 2010

Income	\$ 7,024.00
Expenses:	\$ 8,566.07
Checkbook Balance:	
2/28/10	\$ 10,617.08
3/31/10	\$ 9,075.01

♪ From the Music Director ♪

In honor of Mother's Day, I'd like to tell you about the hymn *Tell Mother I'll be There* written by Charles M. Fillmore in 1898 and based on Isaiah 66:13.

"I cannot subscribe to the idea that luck had very much to do with making me President of the United States," William McKinley once said, "I have never been in doubt since I was old enough to think intelligently that I would sometime be made President." That may be, but it isn't what his mother had intended.

William was born in 1843, in Ohio 7th of the nine children of William and Nancy McKinley. His father ran a pig-iron foundry and his mother devoted her time to serving the Lord in her local Methodist church. She taught a Bible class and served as superintendent of the Sunday school. She boasted to friends that her son, William, would one day be a Methodist bishop. (When he became the 25th President of the United States, she said, "Well, that's all right too.")

There was always a special bond between William and his Mother, and during the winter of 1897, she became seriously ill. President McKinley installed a special telegraph wire connecting the White House to his Mother's home in Canton, Ohio. He also kept a special train ready for the trip. One night, the elderly woman called for her son, and the nurses wired, "Mr. President, we think you had better come." He flashed back the answer, TELL MOTHER I'LL BE THERE. He arrived in time, and Mrs. McKinley died in his arms.

When the story was reported in the newspapers, a Midwestern hymn writer named Charles M. Fillmore was deeply touched. He felt those words expressed the perfect sentiment for wayward children who needed to one day meet their mothers in heaven. "Tell Mother I'll Be There" became one of the most popular invitational hymns of the early 20th Century, and evangelist Charles Alexander once claimed it had "converted more men than any other song."

Four years later as he lay bleeding from an assassin's bullet, President McKinley managed to tell his guards not to hurt the assassin and to be very careful how they broke the news to his wife.

Sharon Calka

A Special Note from Pastor Craig: *The Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day*

For the past year or more, I have advocated for increasing the frequency of celebrating the Lord's Supper, with the goal of offering Holy Communion every Sunday. We have added the Sacrament of the Altar to worship services on 5th Sundays and special holy days, in addition to the Wednesday morning service. The feedback that I have received indicates that a significant majority of worshipers enjoy and desire having Communion offered frequently. Another group has no strong opinion on the issue, but is not opposed to doing this weekly. I have heard only two or three negative comments and I hope that these concerns can be adequately addressed.

Given the blessings our congregation will receive by making the Lord's Supper a focal point of our worship, the general support among worshipers, and the reasons listed below, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated every Sunday at Christ Lutheran Church beginning May 16th. To avoid confusion about the Sacrament and the pastoral office, Holy Communion will be administered only when I or another pastor is presiding at the service. Deacon or layperson led services will be Services of the Word.

Why have the Lord's Supper every Sunday?

It is a Lutheran practice. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession (1531), one of the confessional writings to which Christ LC subscribes, states: "*For among us masses [Lord's Supper] are performed every Lord's Day and on other festival*". Word and Sacrament are at the core of the Lutheran life. I've been told that Communion was offered every Sunday at CLC back when there were two services.

It is encouraged by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the Atlantic District. The 1995 Convention of the LCMS passed a resolution that the pastors and congregations should move "*toward recovering the opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day*". Our Atlantic District passed similar resolutions.

No one is to be coerced into receiving it each week, but if is not offered, we are in fact denying it to those people in need of the sacrament's blessings.

Weekly Communion should not make it mean less. Martin Luther teaches us in the Small Catechism that "*These words, 'Given and shed for you for forgiveness of sins', show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation*". I pray that I never stop desiring to receive these gifts from God.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Two discussion forums will be held after Sunday worship on May 2nd and May 16th.



SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE ON SUNDAY

MAY 2010

Date	Usher	Lector	Acolyte	Communion
2		Duane Stenzel	Victoria MacIntosh	Joe Fahd
9		Lorraine Urbano	Vinny Demoor	---
16		Len Ahders	Austin Laverty	Alan Fike
23		Tom Craig	Ariel Sprunger	Tom Craig
30		Alan Fike	---	Bill Spolyar

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATED FOR THE MONTH

2	Joe & Della Henstenberg	Memory of loved ones
9	Lois Gerhardt	Memory of sister Grace
16	George & Janet Pomakoy	Memory of departed loved ones
23	Christ Lutheran Women	Memory of departed loved ones of our congregation
30	Bea & Bob White	Memory of loved ones

Cost of flowers is still \$27. Envelopes for your donation can be found in the tract rack in the Narthex. Please call Anne MacIntosh at 355-8570.

May 2010

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 9:00am Orphan Grain Train at Immanuel LC
2 9:00am Confirmation 10:30am <i>Holy Communion</i> 2:00pm Good Samaritan hymns, worship	3 7:00pm Council Meeting	4 10:30am Bible Study	5 9:45am Lutheran Teachings 11:00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	6 6:30pm Choir	7	8 8:00am Men's Breakfast
9 9:15am Confirmation 10:30 <i>Worship</i>	10	11 10:30am Bible Study 12:00pm Christ Women	12 9:45am Lutheran Teachings 11:00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	13 6:30pm Choir	14 6:30pm Wedding Rehearsal	15 4:00pm Scisci- Boomhower Wedding
16 9:15am Confirmation 10:30am <i>Holy Communion</i>	17	18 10:30am Bible Study	19 9:45am Lutheran Teachings 11:00am <i>Holy Communion</i> 7:00pm Bible Study	20 6:30pm Choir 6:30pm Deacon class (Shepherd Room)	21	22
23 Pentecost 10:30 <i>Holy Communion & Confirmation</i>	24	25 10:30am Bible Study 1:00pm AARP	26 9:45am Lutheran Teachings 11:00am <i>Holy Communion</i> 7:00pm Bible Study	27 6:30pm Choir	28	29
30 10:30am <i>Holy Communion</i>	31 Memorial Day Office closed					

Pastor Craig will be away on vacation from May 5 (late afternoon) until May10. In case of emergencies, please contact Tom Craig (937-6006).