

# Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

## Chronicles December 2010

### **Worship**

Sunday 10:30am  
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00am  
Holy Communion

Thursday 7:00pm  
Advent Evening Prayer

### **Pastor**

Rev. Russell Craig

### **Deacon**

Thomas Craig

### **Secretary**

Ruth Ahlers

### **Music Director**

Sharon Calka

### **Custodian**

Fritz Herzog

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

### **A Message from the Pastor**

Advent and Christmas Blessings to All.

*"It's the most wonderful time of the year"*, as we decorate our homes, shop for gifts, and gather with family and friends. As we go about our busy holiday schedules, let us encourage one another to remember "the reason for the season", the birth of Jesus Christ, Son of God and our Lord and Savior.

The Gospel of Luke provides us the beautiful details of Christ's birth. We are also given insights that help us appreciate the true joy of His coming.

*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2:15-20)*

This year, I encourage you to follow the lead of the shepherds. Like them, you have heard the Good News of great joy. Now seek to be with Jesus as often as possible. Use this season to devote more time to reading God's Word. In the face of all the things that need to be done, commit to being faithful in attending Sunday worship. Consider attending our Wednesday morning Eucharist, Thursday evening Advent services and the Guelderland Advent Celebration.

Like the shepherds, also praise God by sharing the news of Jesus with others. Especially, encourage those family and friends who have drifted away from the church to reconnect with the Lord and His people.

And don't forget to follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Treasure the precious gift of your Savior, Jesus Christ, in your heart and in your life.

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* In this Good News, let us rejoice and be glad throughout Advent, Christmas, and every day.

**+Pastor Russ Craig**



THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT  
LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

## CHURCH NEWS

### Thursday Evening Advent Services Begin December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Prepare your heart for the coming of the Jesus. Our Evening Prayer services will be held at 7:00pm on Dec. 2, 9 and 16.

### Hanging of the Greens: December 4<sup>th</sup> (6:30pm)

Enjoy a fun evening as we decorate the church for Christmas. Please bring a snack or dessert to share. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

### Guilderland Advent Celebration: Sunday: December 5<sup>th</sup> (4:00pm)

All are invited and encouraged to this beautiful service of Scripture and song. Clergy, singers and musicians from the area churches participate, including Pastor Craig and our choir. This event will be held at Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, 20 Sumter Ave.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24<sup>th</sup> (7:00pm)

Let us rejoice in the coming of the Lord! All are invited to worship and celebrate our Savior's birth.

### Annual Christmas Tea December 14<sup>th</sup> (12:00pm)

Lois Ruppert will hold a Christmas Tea at her home. All women are welcome.

Bring a grab bag gift of \$5-\$7 value. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

### Sunday School for All Ages (9:15am)

*Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. + Confirmation/Middle School + Adult Bible Study*

*No Sunday school or adult classes on December 26<sup>th</sup>*

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Josephine Baker	<i>Family &amp; Friends</i>	
Betty Jane Casatelli	Erin Carhart	(niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Dick Griessel	Keith Cole	(friend of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)
Herta Haupt	Jean Davis	(sister of Anne MacIntosh)
George & Harriet Klotz	Daniel Dingley	(friend of Carly DiSanto)
Marie Lynch	Dustin Donovan	(grandson of Virginia Bradt)
George Pomakoy	Teresa Grice	(mother of Judy Zamurs)
Dorothy Siebert	Laura Henstenberg	(Aunt of Joe Henstenberg)
Bob White	Jimmy Knappman	(Friend of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Dorothy Van Deusen	Jerry Lonn	(friend of Brian Maki)
	Evan Kimmerer	(friend of the Fahd Family)
	Laura Langabeer	(niece of Judy Zamurs)
	Teresa Langabeer	(sister of Judy Zamurs)
	Vicky Quay	(daughter of Joan Long)
	Doris Shumway	(mother of Joe Fahd)
	Tim Spielman	(son-in-law of Linda Halbrend in Korea)
	William Sorensen	(nephew of Phyllis Mattice)
	Richard Stoller	(grandson of Jean Alheim)
	Jim Thoman	(friend of Larry Bohn)
	Our Armed Forces,	especially in Iraq & Afghanistan



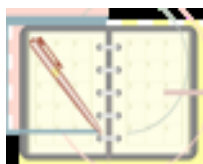


**Operation  
Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

48 shoeboxes were collected this year! If you did the "EZ Give" option, keep an eye on your tracking code online. Deacon Tom also has the tracking codes and will keep track of where those shoeboxes go. Thank you to everyone who completed a shoebox!

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will go to one of the malls and go Christmas shopping for those who still need to get some Christmas presents. After that we will catch a movie. Don't forget money for lunch! Sign-up sheet is in the Shepherd Room.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, BLC will be hosting a Lock-in. To sign-up, speak to Deacon Tom.



#### Upcoming Events

December 2: Advent Service, 7pm

December 14: Christmas Shopping & Movie (after worship)

December 31-January 1: Lock-in at BLC

January 6: Connections

## FELLOWSHIP

Approximately 30 people attended the hayride at VanEtten's on October 9<sup>th</sup>. We finally lucked out with beautiful weather! The food was delicious and the fellowship was great.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> a small group ventured out to the MacIntosh Tree Farm to select a Christmas tree for our church. It was a beautiful day and, thanks to Earl and his dog, we found the perfect tree. Lunch at the Home Front Café in Altamont followed.

Our annual Christmas decorating party will be held on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

*Judy Bliven*

## MEN'S SATURDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Led by Len Ahders, the men's group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 8:00-9:30am, for relaxed fellowship over a home cooked breakfast, prayer, praise, and Bible study. All men are welcome and encouraged to join us on this exciting journey as we study and become inspired by the Spirit-filled disciples of the early church in "The Acts of the Apostles". The next gathering will be on **December 11<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-9:30AM.**

## CHRIST WOMEN

Meeting called to order by Pres. Bea White. Secretaries report read and approved.

Old Business: Judy Bliven and Carol Fike have been looking for a new florist. They checked with Classica and Nagengast. A vote decided we would go with Nagengast. Will start in January.

We will be putting a box in the narthex to collect gifts for the Lutheran Home. No perfume or powder please.

Dorothy Van Deusen suggested we donate monetary gifts the Grain Train, Tanzania, Africa, and the St. John's City Mission and shelters in Albany. A \$100.00 gift will go to each.

Sang Happy Birthday to our November Members. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

*Anne McIntosh*

## FINANCIAL REPORT: AUGUST 31, 2010

Income	\$ 10,233.00
Expenses:	\$ 14,320.66
Checkbook Balance:	
9/30/10	\$ 10,122.21
10/31/10	\$ 6,034.55

### ♪ From the Music Director ♪

The Hymn of the Month for December is *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, written in 1739 by Charles Wesley and based on Luke 2:10.

Upon his conversion, Charles Wesley immediately began writing hymns, each one packed with doctrine, all of them exhibiting strength and sensitivity, both beauty and theological brawn. He wrote constantly, and even on horseback his mind was flooded with new songs. He often stopped at houses along the road and ran in asking for “pen and ink”.

He wrote about 6,000 hymns during his life, and he didn’t like people tinkering with the words. In one of his hymnals he told people that they were welcome to reprint his hymns, provided they were printed just as they were. But one man did the church a great favor by polishing up one of Charles’ best-loved hymns. When Charles was 32, he wrote a Christmas hymn that began:

*Hark, how all the welkin rings, “Glory to the King of kings; Peace on earth  
And mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies; Universal nature say, “Christ the Lord is born to-day!”*

The word “welkin” was an old English term for “the vault of heaven.” It was Charles friend, evangelist George Whitefield, who, when he published this carol in his collection of hymns in 1753, changed the words to the now-beloved, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”

Sharon Calka

### UNANSWERED PRAYER

The pastor's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

"Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."

"How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

### Time for a Faith Check

This was written by Russell Bedford, a farmer living in Jefferson, NY and a leader in the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International. It is a nice reminder that all of us need to be connected to God every day.

*As the harvest season comes to the end and we assess how good it was, we should think back to spring, when we planted that seed. We planted in faith that we would get a harvest. And we knew full well that the fields include rocky, weedy and poor soil.*

*We also need to assess how well our faith grew this year. We do yield checks, crop fertility checks, even cow pregnancy checks. But a faith check is even more important.*

*Just like crop fertilization to help crops grow, our faiths must be fed or they'll diminish from the stress and lack of spiritual nourishment.*

*That's why reading the Bible, praying and taking time to be still and hear from God is vital. As the Apostle Peter warns his followers: "... since you know these things beforehand, beware, lest you fall from your own steadfastness ..." (2 Peter 3:17). And he went on to urge them to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

*So as another year comes to a close, take time to do a faith check. Is your faith growing? Does it need building up? Then by all means fertilize it! Your reward will be great!*



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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion</b>
5		Linda Halbrend	Vinny DeMoor	Lorraine Urbano
12		Deacon Tom	Ben Duell	Tom Okure
19		Deacon Tom	Austin Laverty	Bea White
26		Tom Okure	Ariel Sprunger	TBA

**ALTAR FLOWERS DONATED FOR NOVEMBER**

5	Steven & Doris Pleydle	In memory of Timothy Warren
12	Beverly Lenox	In memory of beloved husband Bill
19		
26	Christmas Plants	

Cost of flowers is \$37.00. Envelopes for your donation can be found in the tract rack in the Narthex.

***HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS***

5 Ellen Zunon  
6 Jeffrey La Porte  
7 John Zamurs  
11 Hannah Gardner  
15 Michael LaChapelle  
21 Judy LaHart  
25 Michael Halbrend



## December 2010

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			<b>1</b> <b>9:30am</b> Bible Study <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i> <b>7:00pm</b> Bible Study	<b>2</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Choir <b>7:00pm</b> Advent Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>6:30</b> Hanging of the Greens
<b>5</b> <b>9:15am</b> Christian Education <b>10:30</b> <i>Holy Communion</i> <b>4:00pm</b> Guilderland Advent Celebration	<b>6</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Council	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>9</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Choir <b>7:00pm</b> Advent Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>8:00am</b> Men's Breakfast
<b>12</b> <b>9:15am</b> Christian Education <b>10:30</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Christ Women	<b>15</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>16</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Choir <b>7:00pm</b> Advent Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>9:15am</b> Christian Education <b>10:30</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>23</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Choir	<b>24</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9:15am</b> No classes today <b>10:30am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**Poinsettia Orders 2010**

Each Christmas we decorate the chancel with beautiful poinsettia plants. This year plants may be ordered at the cost of \$10 each. To order, complete this form, enclose it in an envelope marked "Plant Order" along with your payment (checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church), and place the envelope in the offering plate by Sunday, December 12, or mail it so that it will arrive at the church office no later than Saturday, December 11. These deadlines are final, as the plants will be delivered on Saturday, December 18. You may list as many memorials or other designations as you like with even a one-plant order. Plants may be taken after the Christmas Eve service.

\*\*\*\*\*

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant preference: # red \_\_\_ # white \_\_\_ # pink \_\_\_ Total Plants Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Other designation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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