

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles January 2011

Worship

Sunday 10:30am
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00am
Holy Communion

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig

Deacon

Thomas Craig

Secretary

Ruth Ahlers

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Custodian

Fritz Herzog

Office: (518) 456-1530
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Christ Our Savior

Preschool

Amanda Richards

A Message from the Pastor

What happened? Where'd it go? Christmas ... 2010? We're into 2011 and the season of Epiphany begins on January 6th.

The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek word that means a manifestation or sudden revelation. For Christians, the Epiphany season is a time to focus on the how Jesus Christ is revealed to be the Son of God and Savior of sinful humankind. The traditional Scripture readings for the Feast of Epiphany include the story of the Wiseman visiting the Christ child in Bethlehem.

And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)

The Magi knew that this no ordinary infant, but probably did not understand who Jesus truly was. Their gifts, though, reveal to us that He is the Son of God and Savior of the world.

Gold – a gift for a king. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Frankincense – a gift for a priest who offers up prayers for the people. Jesus is our great High Priest through whom we have access to God the Father.

Myrrh – a gift mixed with incense, but also used to anoint a body after death. Jesus is the promised Messiah of God who would go to the Cross for our sins.

On Christmas, many of us exchanged gifts with family and friends. What gifts do we bring to Jesus Christ?

During 2011, let us offer up sacrifices of our money, skills and time to Jesus our King; our prayers in good times and bad to God the Father in the name of Jesus our great High Priest; and our humble repentance and thanksgiving to Jesus our Savior.

May Jesus Christ be revealed in your hearts and may He be revealed to others through your lives.

+Pastor Russ Craig



CHURCH NEWS

Pastor Russ & Carole On Vacation Jan 2-16

Pastor and Carole will be out of town for a two weeks. During this time ...

- + Deacon Tom will be available for any pastoral emergencies (937-6006). Pastor Jacob Heine will provide support as needed.
- + If you have a non-pastoral concern, please contact Alan Fike, Joe Fahd or Ruth Ahders.
- + Deacon Tom will lead services of the Word on Jan 2 and 16. Pastor David Dietsche will preside at the Jan 9 service of Holy Communion.

Wednesday Morning Worship Cancelled Jan. 5 & 6

Because of Pastor's vacation, the Wednesday 11:00am Holy Communion service will be cancelled for January 5 & 6. The service will resume on January 13.

Un-Hanging of the Greens: January 8th (9:30am)

Your help is needed to take down the Christmas decorations on Saturday, Jan. 8, right after the Men's Fellowship. Bagels and coffee will be provided.

Children's Sunday School

No Sunday school classes on January 2nd. Classes will resume Jan. 9th.

Adult Bible Study to Resume in February

Deacon Tom will lead a Sunday morning Bible study (Pastor will take over the Confirmation class). Pastor's weekday Bible study will begin in mid-February.

Annual Congregation Meeting: Sunday, January 23

Please plan on staying after worship for the annual voters' meeting. The major agenda items will be the 2011 budget and election of Council members.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Josephine Baker

Betty Jane Casatelli

Dick Griessel

Herta Haupt

Fritz Herzog

George & Harriet Klotz

Marie Lynch

George Pomakoy

Dorothy Siebert

Bob White

Dorothy Van Deusen

Family & Friends

Erin Carhart

Keith Cole

Jean Davis

Daniel Dingley

Dustin Donovan

Teresa Grice

Laura Henstenberg

Jimmy Knappman

Jerry Lonn

Evan Kimmerer

Laura Langabeer

Teresa Langabeer

Vicky Quay

Doris Shumway

Tim Spielman

William Sorensen

Richard Stoller

Jim Thoman

Our Armed Forces, especially in Iraq & Afghanistan

(niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)

(friend of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)

(sister of Anne MacIntosh)

(friend of Carly DiSanto)

(grandson of Virginia Bradt)

(mother of Judy Zamurs)

(Aunt of Joe Henstenberg)

(Friend of Joe & Della Henstenberg)

(friend of Brian Maki)

(friend of the Fahd Family)

(niece of Judy Zamurs)

(sister of Judy Zamurs)

(daughter of Joan Long)

(mother of Joe Fahd)

(son-in-law of Linda Halbrend in Korea)

(nephew of Phyllis Mattice)

(grandson of Jean Alheim)

(friend of Larry Bohn)



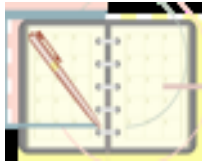


For those of you who did *EZ Give*, keep an eye on your emails. You will receive an email from *Samaritan's Purse* with updates on where your box is (so don't delete it).



Confirmation Connections will resume on January 6th at 6pm. See you all there!

Cabin Fever Night : Join us for a night of games, fellowship, and fun. Keep an eye out for the date and time.



Upcoming Events

- January 6 – Connections
- January TBD – Cabin Fever
- February 3 – Connections
- February 13 – Bowling

FELLOWSHIP

The trip to MacIntosh's tree farm had to be postponed until 11/11/10 due to the weather. A group of six traveled out on one of the most beautiful Fall days we have had. Earl took us out on his tractor and wagon and we think we found a perfect tree. A delicious lunch followed at the Home Front Café in Altamont.

The "Hanging of the Greens" Christmas decorating party was held on Saturday, December 4th. Approximately 25 people attended. We certainly thank Earl and Anne MacIntosh for such a beautiful tree which certainly graces our sanctuary. We had an abundance of snacks to eat while decorating the church, then sang Christmas carols and lastly, had some delicious desserts and coffee in the Social Hall.

The committee will be planning a "cabin-fever" night sometime in either January or February.

Our "un-decorating" get-together will be held on Saturday, January 8th starting directly after the men's Bible breakfast (approximately 9:30am). Bagels and coffee will be provided *Judy Bliven*

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Led by Len Ahders, the men's group meets every 2nd 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 **January 8th (8:00-9:30am)**.

CHRIST WOMEN

No Meeting for December. Twelve ladies gathered at Lois Ruppert's home for the annual Christmas Tea. A great time was had by all. Delicious food and games were enjoyed by all.

Anne McIntosh

FINANCIAL REPORT: November 30, 2010

Income	\$ 13,532.00
Expenses:	\$ 10,776.91
Checkbook Balance:	
11/30/10	\$ 6,034.55
11/30/10	\$ 8,789.64

From the Music Director 🎵

The Hymn of the Month for January, 2011 is “There is a Balm in Gilead” which is based on Jeremiah 8:22.

The first Africans on American shores arrived in chains. Their hellish voyage aboard slave ships was only the beginning of their sorrows. The breakup of their families, the oppression of bondage, the whips and shackles, their loss of dignity . . . it all combined to kill both body and spirit.

But the souls of the slaves found release through singing, and a unique form of music evolved called the “Negro Spiritual.” Spirituals differed greatly from other hymns. The classics of English hymnody were largely written by pastors like Isaac Watts and John Newton out of their studies of scripture. African-American slaves, on the other hand, composed their songs in the fields and barns, the words dealing with daily pain and future hope.

Often the slaves were allowed to sing while working. If, for example, they were hauling a fallen tree, they would combine muscles and voices, using the musical rhythms for a “heave-ho” effect. Other times, risking the lash or branding iron, they’d slip into torch-lit groves to worship the Lord. With swaying bodies, they would stand, eyes half-closed, singing, “Go Down, Moses,” “Roll, Jordan, Roll,” “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands,” and the classic “There is a Balm in Gilead.”

Fisk University, in Nashville, Tennessee, was established after the Civil War, and the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers popularized these Negro spirituals around the world. Composers began arranging spirituals in a way that appealed to the larger population and this gave rise to another type of Christian music, tagged by composer Thomas A. Dorsey as “Gospel songs.” Few Negro spirituals can be precisely dated, nor are many specific authors known, but they have mightily influenced American Christian music.

Sharon Calka

Thank You

Bob White wishes to thank all the members of the church for their many prayers and Get Well wishes.

A big THANK YOU to Earl & Anne MacIntosh for donating the beautiful Christmas tree and two wreaths.

Carole & I want to thank our Christ Lutheran family for your Christmas gifts, cards and prayers. +*Pastor*

Thank you all for the Christmas gifts. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated +*Deacon Tom*



SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE ON SUNDAY

JANUARY 2011

Date	Usher	Lector	Acolyte	Communion
2		Len Ahders	Ben Duell	---
9		Deacon Tom	Vinny Demoor	Len Ahders
16		Alan Fike	Austin Laverty	---
23		Linda Halbrend	Ariel Sprunger	Alan Fike
30		Lois Ruppert	Vinny Demoor	Joe Fahd

ALTAR FLOWERS DONATED FOR JANUARY 2011

2	Fritz Herzog	In memory of his wife Shirley
9	Sandy Smith	In celebration of the birthdays of Madison, and Beshella Smith
16	Earl & Anne MacIntosh	In memory of departed loved ones
23	Goodie Scherer	In memory of husband Don
30		

Starting January 2, 2011 Emil J. Nagengast Florist, located in Stuyvesant Plaza, will be delivering our Altar flowers. The cost is \$27.00 a week.

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



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

January 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 <i>NEW YEAR'S DAY</i>
2 10:30 <i>Service of the Word</i>	3 7:00pm Council	4	5 11:00am <i>No morning worship this week</i>	6 <i>EPIPHANY</i> 6:00pm Confirmation Connections 6:30pm Choir	7	8 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Un-Hanging of Greens
9 9:15am Christian Education 10:30 <i>Holy Communion</i>	10	11 12:00pm Christ Women	12 11:00am <i>No morning worship this week</i>	13 6:30pm Choir	14	15
16 9:15am Christian Education 10:30 <i>Service of the Word</i>	17	18	19 11:00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	20 6:30pm Choir	21	22
23 9:15am Christian Education 10:30 <i>Holy Communion</i> 11:45am Annual Meeting	24	25	26 11:00am <i>Holy Communion</i>	27 6:30pm Choir	28	29
30 9:15am Christian Education 10:30 <i>Holy Communion</i>	31					

Pastor Craig will be on vacation Jan. 2-16.

If you have an illness, hospitalization or other pastoral concern, please call Deacon Tom Craig at 518-937-6006. For all other issues, please contact Alan Fike, Joe Fahd or Ruth Ahders at the church office (456-1530).