

# Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

## Chronicles March 2011

### **Worship**

Sunday 10:30am  
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00am  
Holy Communion

### **Lent Worship**

Ash Wednesday, 7:00pm  
Thursday Evenings, 7:00pm

### **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**

The sun is moving higher into the sky, the snow is finally melting, birds are heard chirping. Can you guess what has arrived? That's right ... March Madness ... NCAA basketball tournament mania ... the sure sign that winter is on its way out. All over the country sports fans will be watching round-the-clock games, filling out bracket sheets for office pools, and rooting for favorite teams. To be honest, I don't get all that into the tournament until it gets down to the last 16 or so teams.

There is another March Madness that I'd like all of us to take seriously this year – Lent. Even with our annual rite of “giving up something”, too often we take this season for granted. We change the church colors to purple, the Sunday service is more somber, and we take extra time to worship during the week. But do we really appreciate the “madness” of what Lent is all about.

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

*“But God showed His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8)

Now THAT is madness. It makes no sense to us selfish humans. It is divine madness. Because of our sinful nature, men and women were lost and heading to eternal destruction. But in His great, unfathomable love, God came to our rescue. The Father sent His Son to be one with us and to take upon His holy body the penalty we deserve.

Martin Luther writes that Jesus “assumes not only my sins but also those of the whole world, from Adam down to the very last mortal”. Yes, even the sins of you and me. To those who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, this is crazy, it is madness. For those who have been born again in Christ through water and the Spirit, this is divine grace and love.

So, go ahead and enjoy some basketball. Also take extra time over the coming weeks to thank God for the forgiveness, the life and blessing He has given You in Jesus. *All are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday services (11am & 7pm) and Thursday evening services (7pm beginning March 17).*

**+Pastor Russ Craig**



## CHURCH NEWS

### Lent 2011 Worship Opportunities

- + *Ash Wednesday* (March 9): Holy Communion & Distribution of Ashes: 11:00am and 7:00pm
- + *Thursday Evening Worship with Holy Communion*: 7:00pm (beginning March 17)

### New Adult Bible Studies Begin in March

- + Sunday, March 13 at 9:15am: *Epistle of James*.
- + Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00pm: *Study of Sunday's Lectionary Readings*
- + Wednesday, March 16 at 9:45am: *Epistle to Hebrews*
- + Monday, March 21 at 7:00pm: *God in the Media, The Dark Knight* (monthly at Deacon Tom's home)

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### Christ Our Savior Preschool to Close March 11

As had been reported last month, Our Savior's Lutheran School will close the preschool that has operated at Christ Lutheran since September. Please pray for the children, their families, and the staff.

### First Lutheran Homeless Shelter Needs Our Help

From now until the middle of March, we are collecting the following items: coffee, plain coffee creamer, paper goods, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, men's tee shirts (size xl, xxl, xxxl) and men's socks. Place your donation in the marked box in Narthex.

### Daylight Savings Time Begins March 13th

Don't forget to Spring Ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

### St. Patrick's Day Luncheon: Saturday, March 19

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 19th, at the Inn Town Restaurant (5180 Western Ave., Guilderland). We will meet there at Noon for a lunch consisting of corned beef, cabbage, shepherd's pie and scone. The cost will be \$10 to \$12 per person. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex.

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Josephine Baker	<i>Family &amp; Friends</i>	
Betty Jane Casatelli	Erin Carhart	(niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Carol Fike	Keith Cole	(friend of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)
Hilda Griessel	Jean Davis	(sister of Anne MacIntosh)
Herta Haupt	Daniel Dingley	(friend of Carly DiSanto)
George & Harriet Klotz	Teresa Grice	(mother of Judy Zamurs)
Marie Lynch	Laura Henstenberg	(Aunt of Joe Henstenberg)
George Pomakoy	Jimmy Knappman	(friend of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Dorothy Siebert	Jerry Lonn	(friend of Brian Maki)
Bob White	Evan Kimmerer	(friend of the Fahd Family)
Dorothy Van Deusen	Laura Langabeer	(niece of Judy Zamurs)
	Teresa Langabeer	(sister of Judy Zamurs)
	Pastor Derek Lecakes	(Immanuel Lutheran, Niskayuna)
	Vicky Quay	(daughter of Joan Long)
	Doris Shumway	(mother of Joe Fahd)
	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	



### Resting in Christ's Peace

On January 29, long-time church member and dear friend, Richard Griessel was called home to be with his Lord. Please keep Hilda and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in your prayers.



### Connections

The next *Connections* is *Thursday, March 3rd* at 6:00pm. See you all there!



### Pizza and Guitar Hero Night

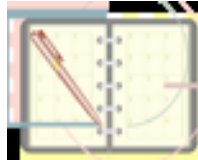
Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm, will be the first Pizza and Guitar Hero Night (cuz Rockband just ain't all that). We will be joined by youth from BLC for a night of pizza, Guitar Hero (World Tour and GH 5), and snacks. Let Deacon Tom know if you plan to rock out!

### Upcoming Events

March 3 – Connections

March 12 – Pizza and Guitar Hero Night

March 13 – Youth Sunday planning



## **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 March 12<sup>th</sup> (8:00-9:30am).**

### **From the Music Director 🎵**

The Hymn of the Month for March, 2011 is "Near the Cross", another of the thousands of hymns written by Fanny Crosby.

Fanny Crosby was born in Putnam County, New York in 1820, and was blinded in infancy through the malpractice of a doctor. In 1835, she enrolled in a school for the blind in New York City, staying there twelve years, first as a student, then as a teacher. Her remarkable poetry brought widespread acclaim to the school and she frequently recited her work for visiting dignitaries.

In 1850, Fanny attended a revival meeting at New York's Thirtieth Street Methodist Church. During these services, she felt something was missing in her life. On two occasions during the meetings, she prayed with counselors, but without gaining assurance of a personal relationship with God. On November 20, 1830, as the altar call was given Fanny went forward and found Christ as her Savior. The congregation was singing Issac Watts' great hymn about the cross: "At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, And the burden of my heart rolled away, It was there by faith I received my sight, And now I am happy all the day."

Shortly thereafter, Fanny turned her poetic skills to hymn writing, and many of her songs focused on the theme of the cross, including this one, "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross." It was composed after Cincinnati businessman William Doane gave her a melody he had written. Fanny, listening to it, felt it said, "Jesus, Keep Me Near the cross," and she promptly wrote the words.

Fanny Crosby wrote approximately 8,000 hymns. We aren't surprised, then to discover that many of her later hymns were little more than rewritten versions of earlier ones. In 1893, she and Phoebe Knapp published a gospel song similar to "Near the Cross."

*Sharon Calka*

## FINANCIAL REPORT: December 31, 2010

Income	\$ 7,484.00
Expenses:	\$ 13,454.16
Checkbook Balance:	
12/31/10	\$ 10,020.54
1/31/10	\$ 4,050.38

### Winter Weather

*According to the groundhog, winter should be over soon, but just in case ...*

In the event of inclement weather on Sunday morning, a cancellation notice will be broadcast on local television. Our Wednesday morning Holy Communion service will be cancelled if the Guilderland School District is closed.

### Community Caregivers

Could you use a helping hand? Call **Community Caregivers** at 456-2898 to see if we can be the "help" you need. On the other hand, if you're willing and able to be a "helper," **Community Caregivers** may be the organization for you, too. Call to find out about the next Volunteer Orientation. Or go to our website, [www.communitycaregivers.org](http://www.communitycaregivers.org), to see what we do!



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

**MARCH 2011**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Communion</b>
<b>6</b>	Alan Fike	Ben Duell	Bea White
<b>13</b>	Linda Halbrend	Austin Laverty	Pat Spolyar
<b>20</b>	Len Ahders	Vinny Demoor	Joe Fahd
<b>27</b>	tba	Ben Duell	Alan Fike

**ALTAR FLOWERS DONATED**

**MARCH 2011**

<b>6</b>	Anne & Earl MacIntosh	In memory of Parents
<b>13</b>	Joe & Della Henstenberg	In memory of Pastors Curry, Behling, and Graser
<b>20</b>	Alan & Carol Fike Judy Bliven	In memory of Carol's brother Bob In memory of loved ones
<b>27</b>	Joan Long	In memory of husband Cliff

The cost of altar flowers is \$27.00 a week.

If you are interested, please contact Anne MacIntosh or the church office.

***HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS***



- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Harriet Klotz    | 19 Joseph Henstenberg |
| 6 Arthur Gerhardt  | 26 William Spolyar    |
| 12 Jean Alheim     | 27 Kimberly Fahd      |
| 14 Debra Schildt   | Louise Nickerson      |
| 15 Denis Zunon Jr. | 29 Carol Fike         |
| 18 Larry Bohn      |                       |

## March 2011

<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>2</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>3</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Confirmation Connections <b>6:30pm</b> Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>9:15am</b> No Christian Education <b>10:30am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>7</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Council	<b>8</b> <b>9:00am</b> Pastors Circuit Meeting <b>12:00pm</b> Christ Women	<b>9</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i> <b>7:00pm</b> <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	<b>10</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Festival of Workshops, Bronxville</i> <b>8:00am</b> Men's Breakfast <b>6:00pm</b> Youth: Guitar Hero Night
<b>13</b> <i>Daylights Savings Begins</i> <b>9:15am</b> Christian Education <b>10:30am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i> <b>Noon</b> Youth Sunday Planning	<b>14</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Deacon meeting	<b>15</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Bible Study <i>(Sunday Readings)</i>	<b>16</b> <b>9:45am</b> Bible Study <i>(Hebrews)</i> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>17</b> <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> <b>6:30pm</b> Choir <b>7:00pm</b> <i>Lent - Holy Communion</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Noon</b> St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
<b>20</b> <b>9:15am</b> Christian Education <b>10:30am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>21</b> <b>7:00pm</b> God in Media (at Deacon Tom's home)	<b>22</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Bible Study <i>(Sunday Readings)</i>	<b>23</b> <b>9:45am</b> Bible Study <i>(Hebrews)</i> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>24</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Choir <b>7:00pm</b> <i>Lent - Holy Communion</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>9:15am</b> Christian Education <b>10:30am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Bible Study <i>(Sunday Readings)</i>	<b>30</b> <b>9:45am</b> Bible Study <i>(Hebrews)</i> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Holy Communion</i>	<b>31</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Choir <b>7:00pm</b> <i>Lent - Holy Communion</i>		