

# Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

## Chronicles

November 2011

### **Worship**

Sunday 10:30am

Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00am

Holy Communion

### **Pastor**

Rev. Russell Craig

### **Deacon**

Thomas Craig

### **Secretary**

Ruth Anders

### **Music Director**

Sharon Calka

### **Custodian**

Fritz Herzog

Office: (518) 456-1530

church@christlutheran.cc

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

Dear Saints of Christ,

Every Sunday, as our offerings are brought forward to the altar, we sing ...

*Give thanks with a grateful heart*

*Give thanks to the Holy One?*

*Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son*

We sing "give thanks", but how thankful are we for all of God's blessings? Are our hearts truly grateful? Do we appreciate the wondrous gift we have in Jesus Christ? Are we offering a joyous sacrifice of thanksgiving? Are we returning to God a significant portion - the first fruits - from the bounty received from God's gracious hand?

Or are we giving only out of habit? Are we giving just a portion of what is left over after we take care of our personal needs? Are we tossing in a few dollars because "that's what we're supposed to do"?

November is that special month when we have a day set aside for Thanksgiving. So it is fitting that we take time now to contemplate just how sincere our gratitude to God is -- and we will be doing just that each Sunday.

In Luke 21, Jesus is in the Temple with His disciples and He points to the people who are placing money in the offering box. A rich person dumps in a bagful of gold coins. Then an elderly widow, obviously poor, shuffles forward to drop in two pennies. Jesus says that this woman gave more to God than all of the rich folk. The disciples are confused because two pennies are obviously worth less than 100 gold coins. But they, like us, saw the offerings from their human perspective, not God's perspective. God the Father does care about how much we return to Him in our weekly offering. He knows that how much we give and the spirit with which we give are measures of our spiritual health and faith in Him. But it is not the dollar amount as much as it is giving sacrificially. Large donations are great (and needed!), but so are small donations, IF both are given with a heart of faith. As Jesus explains, the rich gave out of their abundance - extra cash that they would not miss. The widow gave out of her poverty, giving to God all that she had and trusting her life to His protection and blessings. She gave with a heart of faith.

Too often, we misinterpret this lesson from Jesus and say, "That widow gave only two cents, so that must be good enough". No, that is not good enough IF we are not giving sacrificially to our gracious God. May we strive this month to step out in faith and show our trust in God by returning to Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

**+Pastor Russ Craig**



A congregation of the Atlantic District + Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

## CHURCH NEWS

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship

All are invited to attend our Thanksgiving Eve service of Holy Communion on November 23 at 7:00pm.

### Operation Christmas Child: Shoeboxes are Due by November 13

Your filled boxes must be returned to church no later than Sunday, November 13 at 12:00 noon.

### Adult Bible Studies Continue

+ Sunday mornings, 9:15am: *The Epistles of Peter and John*

+ Tuesdays, 9:45am & 6:30pm: *Revelation*

### Flood Relief

Monetary donations are still being collected. Make your check out to "Christ Lutheran Church" and write "Flood Relief" on the memo line. Cash donations may also be made. Write "Flood Relief" on the envelope.

### Altar Guild Help Needed

Please see Sandy Smith if you can help with the altar.

### 2012 Flower Chart is Now Available

A new flower chart has been posted on the narthex bulletin board. Remember: (1) Two donors may sign up for any week and (2) Submit a Flower Dedication Form to the church office.

### Good Samaritan Nursing Center Needs Volunteers to provide ...

1. One-to-one visits with residents on a regular basis (once a week is ideal).
  2. Transport of residents to and from religious services (Sundays 1:30 and 2:30 PM).
  3. Supervision/interaction with residents sitting outside during the day.
  4. Assistance at meals (lunch and dinner) – distributing bibs, passing out meal trays, etc.
  5. Clerical assistance for Social Services, Rehabilitation.
  6. Playing organ or piano for religious services (Sundays 2:00pm).
- If you can provide any of these services, please call Norrine Cooke at 518-439-8116 ext. 252.

### Advent Begins November 27<sup>th</sup>

All are invited to attend our weeknight Advent services: *Thursdays at 7:00pm (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22).*

### Christmas Decorating Party

Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board.

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Schedule

Please note that worship times have changed from prior years.

*Christmas Eve:* 4:00pm Snacks & Fellowship  
5:00pm Candlelight Worship Service

*Christmas Day:* 9:00am Holy Communion

## ♪ From the Music Director ♪

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint – that's the unlike name of the author of "For the Beauty of the Earth." Folliot was born October 7, 1835 in Bath, England. After graduating from Cambridge, he taught at Sommersetshire College in his home out of Bath. One day when he was 29, Folliot found himself walking in the countryside on a beautiful Spring day. He saw the ocean of green, the blue dome of heaven, and the winding Avon River cutting through the flowery landscape. Overwhelmed with God's creative brilliance he wrote this poem. He intended it primarily for Communion services in the Anglican Church, but when it jumped the Atlantic, it quickly became associate with the American Thanksgiving holiday. Little else is known about Folliot Sandford Pierpoint. He resigned from his position at Sommersetshire, and apparently moved from place to place teaching some, writing hymns and publishing his poetry. He died in 1917.

"For the beauty of the earth is one of only a few songs devoted purely to giving thanks. One of the strange things about the "attitude of gratitude" is that we tend to exhibit it in reverse proportion to the number of blessings received. The more we have, the less thankful we are. One of the evidences of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives is a gradual reversal of that twisted pattern. God wants to make us people who exhibit a thankfulness in proper proportion to the gifts and blessings we've received. Why not take time to sing this hymn to the Lord right now?"

*Sharon Calka*

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Larry Bohn  
 Madison Deon  
 Betty Jane Casatelli  
 Carol Fike  
 Hilda Griessel  
 Herta Haupt  
 Alan Kenyon  
 Dorothy Siebert



*Family & Friends*  
 Fred Backus (brother-in law of Goodie Scherer)  
 Ed Beutel (brother of Bea White)  
 Erin Carhart (niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)  
 Rylee Cavins (goddaughter of Sue Lawton)  
 Deidre Chalkowski (daughter of Virginia Bradt)  
 Keith Cole (friend of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)  
 Jean Davis (sister of Anne MacIntosh)  
 Dustin Donovan (grandson of Virginia Bradt)  
 Wade DeBruin (friend of Benedetto family)  
 Margaret Ehrhardt (mother of Kathryn Ehrhardt)  
 Erma Fike (mother of Alan Fike)  
 Sue & Reese Frances (sister & brother-in-law of Sandy Smith)  
 Teresa Grice (mother of Judy Zamurs)  
 Vanessa Hannay (friend of Nicole Gardner)  
 Kelly Hoffman (friend of Nicole Gardner)  
 Evan Kimmerer (friend of the Fahd family)  
 Laura Langabeer (niece of Judy Zamurs)  
 Teresa Langabeer (sister of Judy Zamurs)  
 Doug Lawton (friend of Phyllis Mattice)  
 George Lipani (friend of Joe & Della Henstenberg)  
 Art Ogden (friend of Pastor Russ & Carole Craig)  
 Vicky Quay (daughter of Joan Long)  
 Cheryl Rivers (sister of Joan Long)  
 Doris Shumway (mother of Joe Fahd)  
 Jim Thoman (friend of Larry Bohn)  
 Dan Urbano (grandson of Tom & Lorraine Urbano)  
 Sharon Willet (friend of Larry Bohn)  
 All who are recovering from flooding  
 Our Armed Forces, especially those in Iraq & Afghanistan  
 Paul Almstead and missionaries in Thailand

*Harriet Klotz entered her eternal rest on July 24, 2011.  
 George Klotz joined Harriet on October 24, 2011.*

**HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Pastor Russell Craig	16 Sharon Calka	20 Alan Kenyon
7 Rachel Gardner	Judy Zamurs	28 Michael Schildt
10 Nancy Fahd	17 Virginia Mathews	Dorothy Siebert
12 Sandra Smith	18 George Klotz	
15 Michael LaChapelle		

**FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2011**

Income	\$ 68,757.25
Expenses	\$ 74,242.19
-----	
Difference	= \$ 5,484.94

## NOVEMBER 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>9:45am</b> Bible Study <b>6:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>2</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Set Your Clocks Back One Hour – Daylight Savings Ends</i>
<b>6</b> <b>9:15</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>7</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Church Council	<b>8</b> <b>9:45am</b> Bible Study <b>12:00pm</b> Christ Women <b>6:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>9</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>Veteran's Day</i> Office closed	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9:45am</b> Bible Study <b>6:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>16</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9:45am</b> Bible Study <b>6:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>23</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Communion</i> <b>7:00pm</b> <i>Thanksgiving Eve Worship</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>9:45am</b> Bible Study <b>6:30pm</b> Bible Study	<b>30</b> <b>11:00am</b> <i>Communion</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS			ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS	
Date	Lector	Communion		
<b>6</b>	Lorraine Urbano	Alan Fike Linda Halbrend	Joe & Della Henstenberg	In memory of departed loved ones and friends
<b>13</b>	Len Ahders	Bill Spolyar Pat Spolyar	Pastor Russ & Carole Craig Joan Long	In thanksgiving to God for 32 years of marriage In memory of husband Cliff
<b>20</b>	Alan Fike	Lorraine Urbano Bea White	Joe & Nancy Fahd	In memory of Joe's brother Ronald Fahd
<b>27</b>	Linda Halbrend	Len Ahders Joe Fahd		

*Flowers are provided, and part of the cost has been donated, by Emil J. Nagengast Florist*

### 2012 Flower Chart is on the bulletin board

Two donors may sign up for any week + Submit a Flower Dedication Form to the church office