

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles

December 2011

Worship

Sunday 10:30am
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00am
Holy Communion

Advent Evening Prayer
Thursday 7:00pm
(December 1, 8, 15, 22)

Christmas Eve
Fellowship 4:00pm
Candlelight Service 5:00pm

Christmas Day
Holy Communion 9:00am

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig

Deacon

Thomas Craig

Secretary

Ruth Anders

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Custodian

Fritz Herzog

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A Message from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Prayer of the Day for three of the four Sundays in Advent begin with the words, "Stir up". These are wonderful prayers from us to God, asking Him to be active in His world and in our lives.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy.

And our Lord God hears our prayers and comes with power to stir our hearts in Jesus Christ. The baby born of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the only-begotten Son of God, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity made flesh, and our Savior from sin, death and Satan.

I've noticed quite a few people urging others to "keep Christ in Christmas" – and we should strive to keep Jesus at the center of this festive season. On our own, by our own willpower, we will succumb to the pressures of our ever-secularized society. Jesus will be pushed out of the way. But with God all things are possible. With God the Holy Spirit and the Father's gift of faith, Jesus can be the warm heart of Christmas for you.

May each of us pray "Stir up your power, O Lord. Bring me to repent my sins and lift me up by Your forgiveness in Christ."

May each of us pray "Stir up my heart, O Lord. Create in me a clean heart and fill me with Your Spirit. Abide in Me, Jesus, and help me abide in You. May I hunger to receive Your Word and Sacrament frequently."

May each of us pray, "Stir up my heart, O Lord. Grant me a compassionate heart that sees the needs around me and the strength to serve You and others."

In Jesus Christ, God comes to give us the gifts of forgiveness and His kingdom. May the Lord bless all of you this Advent and Christmas. May He stir up your hearts so that you may keep Christ in Christmas and every day.

+Pastor Russ Craig



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

CHURCH NEWS

Advent Evening Prayer

All are invited to attend our weeknight Advent services on *Thursdays at 7:00pm (Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22)*. Our theme will be “The Stories of Christmas: Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary & Joseph”.

Guilderland Advent Celebration

Get into the spirit of the season with this beautiful, annual event. Local pastors and choirs share in joy of the coming Savior in Scripture and music. Sunday, December 4th, 4:00pm, at Christ the King Catholic Church.

Christmas Decorating Party

Saturday, December 10th at 6:00pm. 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 (*no 7:00pm service*)

Christmas Day: 9:00am Holy Communion (*no 10:30am service*)

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.

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

*Drop off donations by **December 14th**. Place items in boxes in narthex.*

Good Samaritan Lutheran Care Center (Do not wrap gifts + *Everything must be washable – no wool*)

- Large Print books and magazines
- Door wreath holders
- Perfume (no powder or talc – these set off the fire alarm)
- Fragrant hand lotion (no glass bottles)
- Aftershave (no glass bottles)
- Lipsticks – New, unopened (pick, rose, red)
- Stockings (knew high, thigh high)
- Cotton ankle socks (large diabetic)
- Socks
- Photo albums
- Cardigan sweaters
- Scarf & hat sets
- Sweatshirts (large, 2x to 4x)
- Slipper socks (with soles that grip)
- Telephone with large numbers
- Radio/cassette/CD players

Albany Maritime Ministry “Christmas-at-Sea” Boxes (*Place items in shoebox and wrap it.*)

- Knit hat and gloves, warm socks
- Writing paper, pens
- Travel board games, playing cards, puzzles
- Paperback books
- Toiletries – razor, shaving cream, tooth brush and paste, comb, hairbrush
- “AA” batteries

Homeless Shelter at First Lutheran Church

- Cereal, coffee, dry creamer
- Paper goods (towels, plates, cups, napkins, etc.)
- Aftershave (no glass bottles)
- 13-gallon trash bags
- Plastic wrap

FELLOWSHIP

A group of nine people from church ventured down to the State Capitol on October 20th for a “haunting” tour followed by a lunch at the 99 Restaurant. On October 22nd several members went to Earl MacIntosh’s Christmas tree farm to pick out the church tree which Earl and Anne donate each year. He also took us on a tour of the tree farm. We then went to the Home Front Café for lunch. A good time was had by all. Please see the pictures on the bulletin boards.

♪ HYMN OF THE MONTH ♪

The Hymn of the Month for December is not sung as a hymn in most churches. *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* is usually done as a choir anthem or an organ solo. Most people believe that it was written by Johann Sebastian Bach but that isn’t quite true. It was actually composed by another Johann, a German musician named Johann Schop. Born about 1590, Schop was a musical prodigy, a gifted youth and accomplished instrumentalist who became one of 17th Century Europe’s best known composers, conductors and performers.

In 1614, Schop was appointed probationary musician in the Hofkapelle, the national or royal orchestra of Saxony. His performances on the lute, cornet and trombone were lauded, but he was exceptionally gifted on the violin and in 1615, was invited to become a permanent member in 1615. However, he received a “better” offer and left Saxony for Copenhagen where he joined the musical staff of King Christian IV. He returned to Germany in 1619 and became the leading musician in Hamburg. Johann took charge of the choirs and orchestras, and planned church music for civic occasions. Many of his melodies found their way into Lutheran hymnals. *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* is a good example, accompanied by words written by Martin Janus in 1661.

It was Johann Sebastian Bach who “borrowed” this work and rearranged it into the beautiful piece it is today. Bach began working on this arrangement during the Christmas season of 1716, but it wasn’t performed publicly until July 2, 1723, when it appeared as the final choral selection in one of his cantatas. Bach ended up with the credit, but remember: behind one Johann stands another. Behind every famous person is a host of faithful, gifted souls, and, in the end, *Soli Deo Gloria: To God Alone Be the Glory!*

My very best wishes for a Blessed Advent and Christmas season and a Healthy, Happy New Year!

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

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)
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)
Robert Mosall (friend of Sandy Smith)
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

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

5 Ellen Zunon 11 Hannah Gardner
6 Jeffrey LaPorte 21 Judy LaHart
7 John Zamurs 25 Michael Halbrend

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY - OCTOBER 2011

Income \$ 78,001.46
Expenses \$ 82,850.92

Difference - \$ 4,849.46

Thank You to everyone who supported Operation Christmas Child

We collected 32 shoeboxes which are now on their way around the world.

Catskill Area Flood Relief

Christ Lutheran continues to collect monetary donations that will be forwarded to the Atlantic District. Funds are still needed to support ongoing cleanup and rebuilding efforts. Last month we collected \$735 and this amount was matched by LCMS World Relief. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church and write "Flood Relief" on the memo line.

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Poinsettia Orders 2011

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 11, or mail it so that it will arrive at the church office no later than Saturday, December 10. These deadlines are final, as the plants will be delivered on Saturday, December 17. 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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December 2011

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 7:00pm <i>Advent Service</i>	2	3
4 9:15 Bible Study 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 7:00pm Guilderland Advent Service at Christ the King	5 7:00pm Church Council	6 9:45am Bible Study 6:30pm Bible Study	7 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	8 7:00pm <i>Advent Service</i>	9	10 6:00pm Christmas Decorating Party
11 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am <i>Communion</i>	12	13 12:00pm Christ Women	14 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	15 7:00pm <i>Advent Service</i>	16	17
18 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am <i>Communion</i>	19	20	21 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	22 7:00pm <i>Advent Service</i>	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:00pm Fellowship 5:00pm <i>Candlelight Service</i>
25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 9:00am <i>Communion</i>	26	27	28 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	29	30	31



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS			ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS	
Date	Lector	Communion		
4	Lois Ruppert	Alan Fike Linda Halbrend		
11	Len Ahders	Bill Spolyar Pat Spolyar		
18	Alan Fike	Lorraine Urbano Bea White	Bev Lenox Christmas Plants	In memory of beloved husband Bill Given by members of the congregation
25	TBA	TBA	Christmas Plants	Given by members of the congregation

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