

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles *December 2012*

Worship

Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 a.m.
Holy Communion

Advent Services

Thursday 7:00 p.m.
December 6, 13 & 20

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig

Secretary

Madison Burrell

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Custodian

Fritz Herzog

Office: (518) 456-1530

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www.clcalbany.org

A Message from the Pastor

Dear Fellow Saints of Christ,

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

And so was announced the birth of God's long-awaited Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One, who would free people from bondage to sin and reconcile them with God. We are all familiar with the Nativity story and most of us love this festive season of Christmas, even if things do get a bit hectic. But for many of our neighbors this can be a depressing time of year. The decorations, gift-giving, and family celebrations highlight their losses, sadness, and struggles.

The shepherds tending the flocks outside of Bethlehem had a hard life. They were paid little, spend long hours away from their families, and were often looked down upon by others. Yet to these lowly folk God sent one of His angels to give them the most wonderful news possible – the good news of great joy that the Savior had been born. Into their dark, drab lives came the glory of the Lord and true joy that is found only in Jesus.

People still need this good news. Our neighbors still need the joy that comes when you know that God loves you, forgives you, cares about you, and wants you to be with Him eternally.

Now we might prefer to for an angel to tell them, but that's not what our Lord wants us to do. After His resurrection, right before He ascended to heaven, Jesus told His disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) You and I have been charged by Jesus Christ Himself to "*bring good tidings of great joy*" to all who God puts in our lives.

You do not have to be a learned theologian, or a great preacher, or a super-spiritual evangelist. God has already provided you everything you need to give someone the gift of true joy.

Are you baptized? If so, then you know the joy of being joined to and loved by God. Have you confessed a sin and received absolution? If so, then you know the joy of divine, total forgiveness. Have you received the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper? If so, then you know the joy of being spiritually fed and rejuvenated through this mystical union with Jesus. Have you been comforted by the sure promise of eternal life in heaven for all who believe? If so, then you know the joy of being confident that your departed loved one rests with the Lord and that one day you will be with Him, too.

Let's not wait for angel, but instead go to that neighbor, relative friend, or stranger, and tell them, "I bring you good tidings of a great joy. For to you is born Christ the Lord."

+Pastor Russ Craig

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

+ Operation Christmas Child: Thank You!!

Thank you to everyone who participated this year. Christ Lutheran collected 31 boxes.

+ Hurricane Sandy Relief

Thank you to all who so generously donated clothing, blankets, and other items. Relief efforts continue and the Atlantic District is committed to providing support for as long as necessary. Currently, the most pressing needs are for cleaning supplies, including buckets. These are distributed to residents and volunteers to help clean homes damaged by seawater, sand and mold. Monetary donations are also welcome. Checks should be made out to "Christ Lutheran Church" with "Hurricane Relief" written on the memo line. The church will then forward a check to Lutherans C.A.R.E.

+ Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate the altar flowers in memory of a loved one, to honor an event, or to praise God, please sign-up on the flower chart posted in the narthex. There are openings in December and the 2013 Flower Chart has been posted.

+ Bible Study

No Bible studies will be held during December.

THANKSGIVING AND ADVENT EVENTS

+ Weeknight Advent Worship

All are invited to attend our weeknight Advent services on *Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. (Dec. 6, 13, 20)*.

Our theme will be "Savior of the Nations", focusing on God's Word from the prophet Isaiah.

+ Guilderland Advent Celebration: December 2 at 4:00 p.m.

Get into the spirit of the season with this beautiful, annual event held at Christ the King Catholic Church. Local pastors and choirs share in joy of the coming Savior in Scripture and music.

+ Church Decorating Party: December 8 at 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy a fun evening decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m..

+ Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 7:00 p.m.

All are invited to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, with our annual Service of Scripture, Carols and Candlelight.

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

*Drop off donations by **December 16th**. 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)
- Slipper socks (with soles that grip)
- Photo albums
- Cardigan sweaters
- Scarf & hat sets
- Sweatshirts (large, 2x to 4x)
- 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

CHRIST CHURCH WOMEN

+Stamps

Christ Lutheran Women are still collecting cancelled postage stamps sponsored by the Atlantic District Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The stamps are sold to a dealer and the money collected will go to the Interpreter's Fund for the deaf. They will accept any commemorative stamps, stamps with a value larger than 37 cents, foreign or overseas, and holiday stamps. These stamps should be cut from the envelope and have at least 1/4 of an inch of envelope left around it. Stamps should be dropped in the box in the Fellowship hall or placed in the envelope (plastic bag) on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please help us make this effort a success.

+ In Addition...

In addition to what we do in church, we will donate to:

\$100- Capital City Rescue Mission

\$100- Guilderland Food Pantry

\$100- First Lutheran Homeless Shelter

\$200- Storm Relief

Last year we also gave to the Grain Train and the LWML Water Project in Africa.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY TO OCTOBER

Income \$ 76,076.81

Expenses \$ 74,093.71

Difference \$ 1,983.10

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Betty Jane Casatelli
Carol Fike
Hilda Griessel
Linda Halbrend
Herta Haupt
Alan Kenyon
Richard Smith



Family & Friends

Melissa Bernard (sister of Madison Burrell)
Ed Beutel (brother of Bea White)
Ethan Bradt (grandson of Virginia Bradt)
Erin Carhart (niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Rylee Cavins (goddaughter of Sue Lawton)
Keith Cole (friend of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)
Shirley Curry (widow of Pastor Kenneth Curry)
Jean Davis (sister of Anne MacIntosh)
Alicia Diegel (friend of Madison Burrell)
Dustin Donovan (grandson of Virginia Bradt)
Bennett A. Faso (grandson of Joan Long)
Erma Fike (mother of Alan Fike)
Richard Freehling (brother of Judy LaHart)
Teresa Grice (mother of Judy Zamurs)
Barbara Kline (friend of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)
Laura Langabeer (niece of Judy Zamurs)
George Lipani (friend of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Carl Madresse (brother-in-law of Bea White)
Harold Mathis (brother of Carol Fike)
Peter Noonan (nephew of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Vicky Quay (daughter of Joan Long)
Dan Urbano (grandson of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)
Ruth Varney (friend of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Nathaniel Wasson (brother of Sarah Halbrend - in Afghanistan)
Sharon Willet (friend of Larry Bohn)
Our Armed Forces, especially those in Afghanistan
All who are recovering from Hurricane Sandy

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Jeffrey LaPorte
7 John Zamurs
11 Hannah Gardner
15 Valerie Morales
21 Judy LaHart
25 Michael Halbrend

DECEMBER 2012

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA | 3 7:00pm Council | 4 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA | 5 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA | 6 12:00pm AlAnon 7:00pm Advent Worship | 7 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA | 8 5:30pm Church Decorating |
| 9 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA | 10 | 11 12:00pm CLC Women 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA | 12 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA | 13 12:00pm AlAnon 7:00pm Advent Worship | 14 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA | 15 |
| 16 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA | 17 6:30pm Deacon Meeting | 18 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA | 19 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA | 20 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i> 12:00pm AlAnon 7:00pm Advent Worship | 21 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA | 22 |
| 23 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA | 24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA | 27 12:00pm AlAnon | 28 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA | 29 |
| 30 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA | 31 | | | | | |

All newsletter articles and announcements must be submitted to Madison by the 20th of each month.

| WORSHIP ASSISTANTS | | | ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Date | Lector | Communion | | |
| 2 | Madison Burrell | Bill & Pat Spolyar | | |
| 9 | Lorraine Urbano | Joe Fahd Lorraine Urbano | | |
| 16 | Lois Ruppert | Sandy Smith Bea White | | |
| 23 | Linda Halbrend | Joe Fahd Linda Halbrend | Christmas Poinsettias | |
| 30 | To be decided | To be decided | | |

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