

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles *January 2013*

Worship

Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 a.m.
Holy Communion

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig

Secretary

Madison Burrell

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Custodian

Fritz Herzog

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A Message from the Pastor

Dear Fellow Saints of Christ,

Happy New Year to you all! It is amazing to realize that we are starting the year of our Lord 2013. This is a wonderful time of year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and then Epiphany – the revelation of Jesus as King of kings, our great High Priest, and our Savior.

This is a festive season...but, for me and maybe you also, the joy of December 25 and January 6 is muted because of two other dates: October 29 which saw Superstorm Sandy devastate New York City, Long Island and New Jersey; and December 14, a day of horror when 20 little children and 6 teachers were brutally murdered in Connecticut.

Immanuel ... God With Us. Jesus ... God Saves.

We believe, teach, confess, and sing these truths. But we still can find ourselves wondering, "Where were You, Jesus, as homes washed away, lives were lost, and bullets flew?"

I want to encourage and assure you that our Lord God was not absent. He did not turn His back to these people at their time of greatest need. God was and is with them all. Our loving, merciful, sacrificing Savior continues to promise us, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20).

Our God is not remote, distant and uncaring. He loves and cares so much for us that He became flesh and dwelt among us. He loves and cares so much for us that He went to the Cross in our place. At the death of His friend Lazarus, "Jesus wept", and I am absolutely sure that He wept on October 29 and December 14.

And He is still with us and He is still saving us. How do I know? I know because I have seen Him in action. On December 1, I traveled to the Rockaways and there I saw Jesus bring His love through the labor, the kind words, the hugs, of 100 college students and staff. I see Jesus bringing hope to the hopeless through the donations and prayers from you, the saints of Christ Lutheran Church. And I see Jesus with the people of Newtown. He was there that horrible morning, giving courage to those women who gave their lives for their students, calming the fears of children hidden in closets, and enabling first responders to charge into that building and thus save many lives. And I saw Jesus in the words of faith and hope spoken by a grieving father.

We can never understand why these tragedies happen. But we can be certain that our God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is always with us. Instead of asking "Why", let us pray that the Lord will empower us by His grace and Spirit to ask "What will You have me do to Help?" and "How, O Lord, may I bring You to those who need You most?"

May Christ be in the center of our lives this coming year. And may we bring the love, forgiveness, and hope of our Savior to all we meet.

+Pastor Russ Craig

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

+ 2013 Annual Congregation Meeting: January 20

Please plan on attending the annual meeting after worship on January 20th. The main agenda item will be the 2013 budget.

+ New Bible Studies

Sundays, 9:15 a.m.: *The Gospel of Mark* (first class January 27)

Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.: *Isaiah 40-55* (first class January 29)

+ Donations for Downstate Relief

Monetary donations are still needed. Make checks payable to "Christ Lutheran Church" and write "Storm relief" in the memo line. The Atlantic District is committed to providing long-term support and has established several centers for organizing aid and volunteers. *If you donated items to the relief of Hurricane Sandy, please call the church with an estimated value, so that credit can be put on your financial statement.

+ 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.

THANK YOU!!

+ To Earl & Ann MacIntosh for donating the beautiful Christmas tree for our chancel.

2012 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia plants which beautified the sanctuary this Christmas season were given by the following members and friends.

To the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Henry, husband, father, and grandfather, and Mary Flood, by Lois Ruppert and the Flood family

Wallace Smith and Mark DeMoor, by Sandra Smith

Husband Bob, and my parents, by Bea White

Wilfred J. Giroux, by Arlene B. Giroux

Wilfred Giroux, and Olav, Elsa, and Martha Halbrend, and Arthur and Edna Nottke, by the Halbrend family

Mother, father, and brothers, by Phyllis Mattice and Loretta Flanders

Christopher T. Snyder, by Mom, Dad, and Brother Bob Snyder, and Clifford and Susan Medick and Edwin and Olive Snyder, by the Snyder family

Pastor Alfred Graser and grandson, by Jean Graser and family

Departed loved ones and friends, by the Henstenberg and Timmers families

Ronald Wilke, by Lois Gerhardt

Departed loved ones, by Nancy and Joe Fahd

Departed loved ones, by Sharon Calka

Husband Don and loved ones, by Goodie Scherer

Harry and Delores, by the Schildt family

David and Doris Kniskern, by Judy Bliven

Our loving parents, by Catherine and James Way

Our grandfather Robert Murphy, by Aubrey and Brianne Bobo

All departed family and friends, by Jeff and Mary LaPorte

John Scherer, loving father and grandfather, by Karen, Mike, and Steven Benedetto

Ottolina Maki, by Earl Naas

Our parents, by Mr. and Mrs. Allan Bentsen

Departed Parents and loved ones, by Carol and Alan Fike

Other Designations:

In honor of Christ Lutheran Church choir, by Sharon Calka

In thanksgiving to God for the gift of a Savior and for the gift of our children and grandson, by Pastor Russ and Carole Craig

To the Glory of God! by Catherine and James Way

For all our many blessings, by Nancy and Joe Fahd

For Richard and Kayleigh, and for joy and family bonds, by Sandy Smith

In thanks for the love of Molly, Timmy, and Henry, by Carol and Alan Fike

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY 2012 TO NOVEMBER 2012

Income \$ 80,921.31

Expenses \$ 80,645.59

Difference \$ 275.72

Madison Burrell
Betty Jane Casatelli
Carol Fike
Hilda Griessel
Linda Halbrend
Herta Haupt
Alan Kenyon
Barbara Kunkel
Richard Smith



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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)
Roy Davies (friend of Pastor Russ & Carole Craig)
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
The families of Newtown, CT

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Earl MacIntosh III
5 David Klingstrom
8 Linda Halbrend
11 Lori Zeh
13 Madison Burrell
15 Earl MacIntosh Sr.
16 Della Henstenberg
18 Herta Haupt
26 Nicole Gardner
Hilda Griessel
Hazel Lanza

JANUARY 2013

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA	3	4	5 1:00-8:00pm Micronesians Wedding
6 Epiphany 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	7 7:00pm Council	8 12:00pm AI Anon 8:00pm AA	9 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA	10 12:00pm AlAnon	11 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA	12
13 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	14	15 12:00pm CLC Women 12:00pm AI Anon 8:00pm AA	16 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA	17 12:00pm AlAnon	18 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA	19
20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 10:30am Communion 12:00pm Annual Meeting 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	21 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday</i> 6:30pm Deacon Meeting	22 12:00pm AI Anon 8:00pm AA	23 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA	24 12:00pm AlAnon	25 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA	26
27 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	28	29 9:45am Bible Study	30 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA	31 12:00pm AlAnon		

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS			ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS	
Date	Lector	Communion		
6	Madison Burrell	Joe Fahd		
13	Vinny DeMoor	Sandy Smith	Sandra Smith Vinny DeMoor	In loving memory of Berdella Smith and husband, Wallace Smith & in celebration of Madison's birthday today.
20	Linda Halbrend	Linda Halbrend	Judi Terraciano	In loving memory of husband, Carmine W. Terraciano and step-son Michael R. Terraciano
27	Susan Lawton	Bill Spolyar	Linda Lambert	In loving memory of departed loved ones.

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