

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles December 2013

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Holy Communion

Church Office Hours

Tuesday to Thursday
9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Friday
8:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 P.M.

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig

Secretary

Madison Burrell

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Custodian

Fritz Herzog

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www.clcalbany.org

A Message from the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Carole and I enjoyed a wonderful seven days cruising the Caribbean Sea aboard the *Oasis of the Seas*. This ship is absolutely amazing in size, design, and amenities. There is room for up to 6,000 passengers and 2,200 crew ("only" 4,000 passengers on our trip). It is the largest ship in the world. This floating city has different "neighborhoods", including "Central Park" with trees and plants, and "Boardwalk" which has a large merry-go-round. There are dozens of places to eat, 4 swimming pools, and on and on and on. We were entertained with a Broadway musical, an amazing diving/swimming/acrobatic show, as well as comedians and musicians in various lounges. This ship will make your jaw drop in awe.

With all the astounding surroundings, the most fun part of the trip was the people. There were passengers and crew from all over the world, and our favorite activity was to "people watch". As I observed all these individuals and families, I was reminded of just how much all of us are alike. We speak different languages, have different skin colors, come in all shapes and sizes, but there is so much more that we share in common. Our love of family, how we interact with others, even those idiosyncrasies that we think are unique in us can be seen everywhere

This led me to consider a few other things all people share. First, all of us were created by the same God, who loves each and every one of us. Second, we are all sinners, no matter how kind and patient or grumpy and nasty. Third, Jesus Christ was born, died on the cross, and rose from the dead for all of us – for Carole, me, the Jamaican bartender, the Indian waiter, and the chubby British couple in the hot tub.

"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) That Gospel truth was made so real to me on the cruise ship. God loves all these people and Jesus died for their sins, just as he did for mine. That is so much more awe-inspiring and amazing as any mega-ship. Now, as good Lutherans, we know that we receive the benefits (forgiveness of sins, eternal life) that Christ earned for us through the gift of faith in Jesus. As I watched the passengers and crew, I prayed that the Holy Spirit would bring this saving faith to all who did not yet believe.

This Advent and Christmas we will celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus, through whom we have eternal life. To help us prepare for Christmas (and for Christ's second coming), the sermons during the Wednesday morning communion services in Advent will focus on John 3:16, *"The Gospel in a Nutshell"*. The topics will be: God Loves Us, God Keeps His Promises, God Makes His Will Our Will, and God Gives Eternal Life.

During Advent and Christmas, let us give thanks to the Lord daily, because *"God so loved the world [and you!] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."* (John 3:16-17)

May the Lord bless you and your families with Christmas joy!

+Pastor Russ Craig

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

+ Hanging of the Greens: December 7th

We will be decorating the church on Saturday, Dec. 7, beginning at 12:00 p.m. Enjoy an afternoon of food and fellowship.

+ Advent Lessons & Carols: Get Into the Christmas Spirit

December 1, 7:00 P.M.: Lutheran Churches at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Albany.

December 8, 4:00 P.M.: Guilderland Churches at Christ the King, Guilderland.

+ Mid-Week Advent Worship: Wednesdays, 11:00 A.M. (*no evening services*)

Our Wednesday morning worship will focus on the theme, *The Gospel in a Nutshell – Advent Meditations on John 3:16*. Evening Advent services will not be held this year.

+ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Give glory to our newborn King!!

On Dec. 24, at 7:00 P.M. we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a special service of Scripture, Carols & Candlelight..

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

+ Homeless Shelter at First Lutheran Church

Donations for the shelter may be dropped off anytime during *November and December*.

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

+ Good Samaritan: Bag It – Tag It Gift Program

Good Samaritan Village will distribute to congregations gift tags for specific items (i.e., men's sweatshirt, size large). CLC members select a gift tag, purchase the item, place it in a bag with the tag attached (*no wrapping or gift boxes*), and drop it off at church. The gift tags will be available by **December 1st** and gifts must be dropped off at church no later than **December 15th**.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – OCTOBER 2013

Income \$ 74,524.02

Expenses \$ 75,311.80

Difference \$ -787.78

The income for October reflects a \$5,000.00 withdrawal from the Witte account for property expenses

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Madison Burrell
Sharon Calka
Kim DeMoor
Carol Fike
Hilda Griessel
Herta Haupt
Kenyon Family
George & Janet Pomakoy
Shirley Sheridan



Family & Friends
Melissa Bernard (sister of Madison Burrell)
Ed Beutel (brother of Bea White)
Jim Beutel (brother of Bea White)
Ethan Bradt (grandson of Virginia Bradt)
Erin Carhart (niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Shirley Curry (widow of Pastor Kenneth Curry)
Jean Davis (sister of Anne MacIntosh)
Dustin Donovan (grandson of Virginia Bradt)
Erma Fike (mother of Alan Fike)
Landon Greene (grandson of Janice Benson)
JoAnn Kniskern (sister-in-law of Judy Bliven)
Laura Langabeer (niece of Judy Zamurs)
George Lipani (friend of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Harold Mathis (brother of Carol Fike)
Heather Mires (granddaughter of Loretta Flanders)
Peter Noonan (nephew of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Vicky Quay (daughter of Joan Long)
Dan Urbano (grandson of Lorraine & Tom Urbano)
Sandra Van Horn (sister of Alan Fike)
Ruth Varney (friend of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Sharon Walsh (daughter of Phyllis Mattice)
Sharon Willet (friend of Larry Bohn)
Our Armed Forces, especially those in Afghanistan

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Alan Kenyon entered eternal rest on November 18. We pray that the Lord will comfort Diane, Doug & Ginger.

DECEMBER 2013

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	2 7:00pm Church Council	3 Bible Study 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA	4 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA	5	6 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA	7 12:00pm Hanging of the Greens
8 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	9	10 Bible Study 12:00pm Christ Women 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA	11 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA	12	13 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA	14 5:00pm Ruppert Family
15 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	16 6:30pm Deacon meeting	17 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA	18 11:00am Communion 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:30pm GA	19	20 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i> 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA	21
22 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	23	24 Christmas Eve No bible study 12:00pm Al Anon 7:00pm Candlelight Service 8:00pm AA	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Slavic Church	26	27 7:00pm Slavic Church 7:00pm AA	28
29 10:30am Communion 2:00pm Slavic Church 6:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	30	31 9:45am Bible Study 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA				

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS			ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS	
Date	Lector	Communion		
1	Alan Fike	Alan Fike	Gloria & Brian Maki	In loving memory of departed loved ones.
8	Lois Ruppert	Joe Fahd		
15	Linda Halbrend	Linda Halbrend		
22	Lorraine Urbano	Bea White	Goodie Scherer Michael, Karen & Steven Benedetto	In loving memory of Don Scherer, a wonderful Husband, Father & Grandfather.
29	Lois Ruppert	Joe Fahd		

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