

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles August 2014

A Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Martin Luther had an impact on more than just the Church. Long before Thomas Jefferson used the phrase “a wall of separation between church and state” in commenting on the First Amendment, Luther developed his doctrine of Two Kingdoms – the kingdom of grace (the Church) and the kingdom of power (civic government). Both are established by God, with their own distinct roles and realms of authority. James Madison even credited Luther for the American handling of church and state. Below is an overview of the authority and purpose of government from *Lutheranism 101*.

+*Pastor Russ Craig*

Lutheranism 101, pages 98-100 (Concordia Publishing House)

Authority Given to the Government

The Scriptures tell us that God has also given authority to the civil government. Instead of forgiving sin as the Church does, the government rules for the sake of order, safety, and peace in the world. God tells us to obey those who are in authority over us unless they command us to sin.

Purpose of Government

Since the fall of Adam and Eve into sin, humanity’s relationship with God has been disrupted. By means of civil government, God works to provide for security and peace. Governments, therefore, are to protect the lives, property, honor, and reputation of the people. Those in civil authority are to preserve order and discipline and are to safeguard the people as they pursue their occupations and enjoy their liberties. God wields the sword of God’s justice as “God’s servant for your god” (Romans 13:4).

Rights of Government

To fulfill its purpose, the government has the right to enact suitable laws (1 Peter 2:13), to enforce these laws, to judge people in accordance with these laws (John 18:31), and to impose penalties on those who break laws. To support these activities and other purposes, the government has the right to levy taxes (Matthew 22:17-21; Romans 13:7). The government has the right to wage war for the protection of its citizens. Some churches teach that Christians should not be involved in politics or government. But not so Lutherans! Our Confessions encourage us to be as involved as possible so that our Christian lives can witness to and shape society.

The Basic Principle of Government

God appoints the governing authority, but this does not mean that the authority must govern according to the Scriptures or make the Bible the fundamental law book of the land. The Roman emperor Nero certainly did not rule according to the precepts of the Bible. However, the authority he represented was appointed by God. The Bible is the sole authority in the Church or the kingdom of grace. It is not the sole authority in those institutions that, like civil government, belong to the kingdom of power. The basic principle in civil government is human reason, which turns natural knowledge of God into the organization and laws that promise and promote the achievement of the purpose of government. It is by the structures and laws that government rules, and government enforces these laws by the power of the sword.

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
8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.*

Pastor

*Rev. Russell Craig
(518) 369-7631*

Secretary

Madison Burrell

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Office: (518) 456-1530

*church@clcalbany.org
www.clcalbany.org*

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

+ TSL After School Program to Start September 4th

TSL Adventures' after school program will begin on Thursday, September 4th, and will operate Monday-Friday, 2:00-6:30 P.M. An open house for parents will be held on August 18 at 7:00 PM. To meet local and NYS codes, a fire alarm system and new lighted exit signs have been installed, the boiler room was cleared of flammable materials, and items on the stage reorganized. TSL is paying more than half of the fire alarm cost and almost all of the cost for the exit signs.

+ Pastor Craig On Vacation August 15-18

Pastor Russ and Carole will be out of town for 4 days. Deacon Donald Matthews, from The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Glens Falls, will lead worship on Sunday, August 17.

+ Sharon Calka On Vacation August 3-17

Sharon will be on vacation the first three Sundays in August. Michael Shirk will be playing the organ.

+ Bible Study to Begin September 8: Genesis

A study of the first book in the Bible, Genesis, will be held on *Monday mornings, 9:45 A.M. to 11:15 A.M.*, beginning September 8th. Bring a friend (and your Bible).

JOB WELL DONE!!

The opening of TSL Adventure's after school program required quite a bit of work to be done to get the church building up to code. A *Big Thank You* goes out to Brian Maki and Joe Fahd. Brian renovated and cleaned out the boiler room, reorganized items on the stage, and replaced old ceiling tiles above the stage. Joe coordinated the installation of the fire alarm system and the emergency exit signs. Joe and Brian's efforts ensured that the needed work was done quickly and cost-effectively. The parking lot has been seal-coated and outdated circuit panels are being replaced.

If You Will Be On Vacation ...

With the coming of summer, we all look forward to enjoying the good weather by traveling and spending time with our families. If you will be away, remember that the ministries of our congregation go on. Please continue to provide your financial and prayer support even if you will not be able to attend Sunday or Wednesday worship.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – JUNE 2014

Income \$ 56,364.37

Expenses \$ 45,431.96

Difference \$ 10,932.41

Income reflects \$10,000 from the Witte Fund for property expenses

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Fike

Hilda Griessel

Herta Haupt

George & Janet Pomakoy

Richard Smith

Family & Friends

Ed Beutel (brother of Bea White)

Erin Carhart (niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)

Shirley Curry (widow of Pastor Kenneth Curry)

Jean Davis (sister of Anne MacIntosh)

Erma Fike (mother of Alan Fike)

Kathy Grice (sister of Judy Zamurs)

Harold Mathis (brother of Carol Fike)

Heather Mires (granddaughter of Loretta Flanders)

David Morey (friend of Carole & Pastor Russ Craig)

Peter Noonan (nephew of Joe & Della Henstenberg)

Vicky Quay (daughter of Joan Long)

Sharon Walsh (daughter of Phyllis Mattice)

Susan Welsh (daughter of Virginia Bradt)

Robert Way (WWII brother of James Way)

Our Armed Forces, especially those in Afghanistan



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Michael Hoffstetter

6 Patricia Spolyar

11 Ann MacIntosh

14 Victoria MacIntosh

17 Tom Okure

Susan Schildt

28 Virginia Bradt

Betty Jean Casatelli

Phyllis Mattice

AUGUST 2014

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 7:00pm AA	2
3 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	4	5 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA	6 11:00am Communion 7:30pm GA	7	8 7:00pm AA	9
10 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Micronesians 7:30pm GA	11	12 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA	13 11:00am Communion 7:30pm GA	14	15 1:00pm Micronesians Bible Study 7:00pm AA	16 4:00 Micronesians Special Service
17 10:30am Service of Word 2:30pm Micronesians 7:30pm GA	18 7:00pm TSL Open House	19 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA	20 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>deadline</i> 11:00am Communion 7:30pm GA	21	22 7:00pm AA	23
24 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	25	26 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA	27 11:00am Communion 7:30pm GA	28	29 7:00pm AA	30
31 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Micronesians 7:30pm GA						

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

Date	Communion Assistant	Lector
3	Bill Spolyar	Lois Ruppert
10	Pat Spolyar	Alan Fike
17	No communion	Linda Halbrend
20	Sandy Smith	Lorraine Urbano
27	Joe Fahd	Lois Ruppert