

# Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

## Chronicles December 2014

### Message from the Pastor

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

The year of the Lord 2015 is still a month away, but for the Christian Church a brand new year began on November 30 – the first Sunday of Advent. As much fun as we have with holiday decorating and gift-giving, this is a time for us to contemplate the Son of God's birth on that first Christmas, and to prepare for our Lord Jesus' promised return in glory to establish His kingdom fully.

During Advent and Christmas, we'll hear many familiar Scripture verses such as the prophecies of Isaiah ("The virgin will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."), the Annunciation ("The angel went to Mary and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you!'",) and the beautiful Nativity story.

In addition to the familiar Christmas verses, I would like to add another section of Scripture for you to meditate during these weeks leading up to Christmas.

*Jesus and His disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way He asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah; and still others one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ." (Mark 8:27-29)*

The world has all sorts of ideas about what Christmas is about and who Jesus really is. Increasingly, this holy day and season is being secularized and Jesus is just another holiday character along with Santa and Rudolph. Christians are not immune from losing focus on the true meaning of the coming of Christ. We must remind ourselves that Christmas is more than a cute manger scene or words about peace or decorations or gifts. That little baby was born so that He would eventually go to the Cross and suffer and die for the sins of the world, and rise again for our salvation.

Who is Jesus? To much of the world, He is only a great holy man or a cute baby remembered once a year. But Jesus asks you again, today and everyday - "Who do you say I am?"

By the power of the Holy Spirit through the wondrous gift of faith, may all of us proclaim boldly with Peter, "You are the Christ."

May God bless you and your families with the gift of Christ throughout Advent and Christmas.

**+Pastor Russ Craig**

#### Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.

Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.

Holy Communion

#### Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

11:00 A.M. Holy Communion

7:00 P.M. Candlelight Service

#### 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](mailto:church@clcalbany.org)

[www.clcalbany.org](http://www.clcalbany.org)

## CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

### + Church Decorating Party: December 6 at 5:00 P.M.

All are invited to help get the church ready for Christmas on Saturday, December 6. Due to many requests, this event has been scheduled for 5:00.

### + Guilderland Advent Celebration: December 7 at 4:00 P.M.

Get into the spirit of the season at this annual gathering area Christians at Christ the King Catholic Church.

### + Advent and Christmas Eve Worship Services

*Wednesday Worship* – 11:00 A.M. *Holy Communion* – Sermons will have a special Advent focus.

*Christmas Eve Worship* – 11:00 A.M. *Holy Communion* and 7:00 P.M. *Carols & Candlelight*.

## WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

Please use good sense and error on the side of caution when deciding to attend any church event.

**Wednesday worship:** The 11:00 A.M. service will be canceled if either the Guilderland or Voorheesville schools are delayed or closed. Make sure you check the status of both school districts.

**Sunday worship:** Pastor Craig will send out an email message (please share with friends) and post the closing on the system used for the local TV announcements. Not every channel lists every closing, so check several stations.

## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS NEEDED

### Homeless Shelter at First Lutheran Church

Cereal, Coffee, Dry Creamer, Plastic Wrap  
Paper Goods (towels, plates, cups, napkins)  
13-gallon Trash Bags

### Guilderland Interfaith Food Pantry

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper  
Toothpaste, Shampoo  
Peanut Butter

## FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – OCTOBER 2014

Income \$ 81,544.92

Expenses \$ 81,228.15

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Difference \$ 316.77

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Fike

Pastor Arthur Gerhardt

Hilda Griessel

Herta Haupt

Joe Henstenberg

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)

Joe & Norma Kafer

(relatives of Della & Joe Henstenberg)

James Kniskern

(brother of Judy Bliven)

JoAnn Kniskern

(sister-in-law of Judy Bliven)

Harold Mathis

(brother of Carol Fike)

Peter Noonan

(nephew of Joe & Della Henstenberg)

Vicky Quay

(daughter of Joan Long)

Angela Riordan

(friend of Davia & Michael LaChapelle)

Robert Way

(WWII brother of James Way)

Susan Welsh

(daughter of Virginia Bradt)

Our Armed Forces, especially those in Afghanistan

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Jeff LaPorte

7 John Zamurs

25 Michael Halbrend

**DECEMBER 2014**

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

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>7</b>	Pat Spolyar	Linda Halbrend
<b>14</b>	Sandy Smith	Lorraine Urbano
<b>21</b>	Joe Fahd	Joe Fahd
<b>28</b>	Alan Fike	Alan Fike