

# Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

## Chronicles February 2015

### *Message from the Pastor*

Dear Fellow Saints of Christ,

The celebratory season of Christmas is over and Epiphany will end soon. Next on the Church calendar is the penitential time of Lent. This 40-day period (not counting Sundays) on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the Great Vigil of Easter. Sundays are not included in the 40-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. You won't find Lent mentioned in the Bible, but it has long been a tradition in the Church. It may have developed as a time to recall the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan.

Lent is a solemn season with the somber liturgical color of purple. It is a time of penance and discipline. In the Divine Service, we do not sing songs of praise such as "Glory to God in the Highest", the Gospel "Alleluia", and the post-communion canticle ("Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise"), and we remove the larger candelabra from our altar. This is all done to make the worship area more subdued and to help us to contemplate our Lord Jesus' suffering and death for our sins.

The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, directs our focus on our complete sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to insure salvation. Ashes are placed on our foreheads as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility, and repentance. They also remind us of our mortality ("you are dust, and to dust you shall return", Genesis 3:19).

Palm Sunday begins the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week. During this holiest time of the church year, the worship services relive the final week of our Lord's earthly ministry life. We walk with the disciples and our Lord into Jerusalem, to the Last Supper in the Upper Room, and finally to His Cross on Calvary.

I pray that all of us will use this Lent to reflect upon our sins and our continued need for our Savior, who went to the cross for you and for me. To help you walk with Jesus to the cross, special Lenten worship services will be held every Wednesday at 11:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

May our merciful God create in us new and contrite hearts that we may receive His full pardon and forgiveness.

**+Pastor Russ Craig**

### **Worship**

Sunday 10:30 A.M.  
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.  
Holy Communion

**Ash Wednesday February 18**  
11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.  
Holy Communion and  
Imposition of Ashes

**Wednesdays in Lent**  
Holy Communion  
11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.

**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**

### **+ Souper Bowl of Caring: February 1**

On Super Bowl Sunday, we will collect donations as part of the national Souper Bowl of Caring. All money will be given to a local charity. Bring your checkbook and extra cash.

### **+ Bowling for Beds: February 7**

Help make a difference! On Saturday, February 7, 2015 CLC members will participate in a "Bowling for Beds" Bowl-A-Thon to raise money for the Emergency Overflow Homeless Shelter at First Lutheran Church in Albany. It will be held at Sunset Recreation Center, 1160 Central Avenue in Albany.

You can help.....

- \* Join the team – Forms on the bulletin board in the Narthex
- \* Sponsor a church member with a donation
- \* Cheer on our team on the day of the event

Contact: Pat Spolyar @ 869-4392 or Sandy Smith @ 456-0247.

### **+ Pie Sunday: February 8**

CLC Women will hold their annual Pie Sunday on Feb. 8. Treat your sweet tooth while supporting church ministries.

### **+ TSL Adventures to Hold Special Childcare Programs in February**

In addition to the regular after school program, our church will be the site of TSL's all-day vacation week program, February 16-20. TSL will also host a "Parents Night Out" on Friday, February 13. Children have fun with TSL staff while Mom and Dad enjoy a kid-free evening.

### **+ 2015 Annual Congregation Meeting**

CLC held its annual voters meeting on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition to reviewing ministries during 2014, the congregation approved the 2015 budget, approved several changes to the constitution and by-laws, and elected Council members. Those elected to three-year terms are: Sharon Calka, Brian Maki and Bill Spolyar.

*A very special "Thank You" goes to Alan & Carol Fike and Judy Bliven who are leaving the Council. They have served our congregation faithfully for many years and we appreciate all they have done for Christ Lutheran.*

### **+ AED Purchased**

An automated external defibrillator (AED) will be installed in the narthex. An AED automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias, and is able to treat them through the application of electrical therapy allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. Several church members will be trained to use this equipment.

### **+ Janet Pomakoy Called to Glory**

Our sister in Christ and longtime CLC member, Janet Pomakoy, entered eternal rest on January 14. A memorial service will be held in the Spring. We pray that the Lord will comfort George and his family.

### **+ COMING IN MARCH: Gospel of Mark Bible Study**

A study of the *Gospel of Mark* will begin on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Two class sessions will be held: Mondays at 10:00 A.M. and Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M. The same lessons will be covered at each session, so if you cannot make it to one, the go to the other.

## **LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 18**

Special Lent Holy Communion services will be held every Wednesday at 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes will be distributed during both the morning and evening services.

## **THANK YOU!!**

*From Pastor Craig:* Thank you to the congregation and Christ Church Women for your Christmas gifts.

*From Sharon Calka:* I'd like to thank the members of the congregation and Christ Church Women for their cards and gifts and best wishes during the Christmas season. Your thoughtfulness is most appreciated.

*From Madison Burrell:* Thank you to the CLC congregation and to Christ Church Women for the wonderful cards and Christmas gifts. I appreciate it very much and again thank you from the bottom of my heart. God Bless.

## 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 and some do not broadcast closings on weekends, so check several stations.

## SHOULD I CONTACT PASTOR?

It is not uncommon for people to not want to “bother” the pastor with something going on in their lives. Yet a big part of being a pastor is caring for and supporting people during the joys and sorrows of life. But that’s hard to do if the pastor doesn’t know what’s happening. Hearing from you is never a bother and is always welcomed by him.

**If you or a family member** ... is hospitalized, ill, homebound, have family or personal troubles; have questions about faith, the Bible, Church teachings; are worried about a loved one; upset about something at church; have an idea that might help the congregation; need some prayers; just want to chat ..., then, **YES, please contact Pastor.**

**Pastor is at church** Sunday mornings (of course), as well as most Monday and Tuesday mornings and is available those afternoons also (except when called away for a pastoral visit or meeting) . He is also at church for the Wednesday morning worship service. Pastor and Carole take care of their grandsons every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, but on those days he can see you after 1:00 P.M. (boys’ nap time), as well as any evening. If you should have an emergency, Pastor will rearrange his schedule to be with you. **So ... YES, please contact Pastor.**

### What’s the best way of contacting Pastor?

If you are not at church when he is there, then **call his cell phone: 518-369-7631**. Or send a text message or an email (rjcraig@gmail.com). Pastor will receive all three on his cell phone. If he doesn’t answer, leave a message, and he will get back to you as quickly as possible.

## FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2014

Income	\$ 98,905.89
Expenses	\$ 95,934.56
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Difference	\$ 2,971.33

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Fike  
Pastor Arthur Gerhardt  
Lois Gerhardt  
Hilda Griessel  
Herta Haupt  
Joe Henstenberg  
George Pomakoy & family



*Family & Friends*  
Ed Beutel (brother of Bea White)  
Erin Carhart (niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)  
Benjamin Chagnon (infant being treated for neuroblastoma)  
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)  
Greta Rehberg (mother of Nancy Huehn)  
Angela Riordan (friend of Davia & Michael LaChapelle)  
Rosemary Snyder (mother of Jeff LaPorte)  
Pastor Dien Taylor (Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bronx)  
Robert Way (WWII brother of James Way)  
Our Armed Forces, especially those in Afghanistan

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Joan Long  
5 Karen Benedetto  
11 James Way  
15 Mathew Woehlke  
25 Goodie Scherer  
27 Joseph Fahd

**FEBRUARY 2015**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>1</b> <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> <b>10:30am</b> <b>Communion</b> 4:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	<b>2</b> 2:30pm TSL <b>No Council Meeting</b>	<b>3</b> 2:30pm TSL 8:00pm AA	<b>4</b> <b>11:00am</b> <b>Communion</b> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm GA	<b>5</b> 2:30pm TSL	<b>6</b> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	<b>7</b> Bowling for Beds
<b>8</b> <b>10:30am</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>11:30am</b> <b>Pie Sunday</b> 4:00pm Micronesians 8:00pm GA	<b>9</b> 2:30pm TSL	<b>10</b> 9:00am Pastors Meeting at CLC <b>12:00pm</b> <b>CLC Women</b> 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL 8:00pm AA	<b>11</b> <b>11:00am</b> <b>Communion</b> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm GA	<b>12</b> 2:30pm TSL	<b>13</b> 2:30pm TSL 7:00pm TSL Parents Night Out 7:30pm AA	<b>14</b> <i>Valentine's Day</i>
<b>15</b> <b>10:30am</b> <b>Communion</b> 4:00pm Micronesians 7:30pm GA	<b>16</b> <i>Presidents Day</i> 7:00am All-Day TSL	<b>17</b> 7:00am All-Day TSL 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL 8:00pm AA	<b>18</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00am All-Day TSL <b>11:00am</b> <i>Ash Wed Service</i> 2:30pm TSL <b>7:00pm</b> <i>Ash Wed Service</i> 7:30pm GA	<b>19</b> 7:00am All-Day TSL	<b>20</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 7:00am All-Day TSL 7:30pm AA	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>10:30am</b> <b>Communion</b> 2:30pm Micronesians 7:30pm GA	<b>23</b> 2:30pm TSL 6:30pm Deacons	<b>24</b> 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL 8:00pm AA	<b>25</b> <b>11:00am</b> <b>Lent Service</b> 2:30pm TSL <b>7:00pm</b> <b>Lent Service</b> 7:30pm GA	<b>26</b> 2:30pm TSL	<b>27</b> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	<b>28</b>

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>1</b>	Sandy Smith	Lois Ruppert
<b>8</b>	Bill Spolyar	Alan Fike
<b>15</b>	Pat Spolyar	Jeff LaPorte
<b>22</b>	Joe Fahd	Joe Fahd