

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles February 2016

Message from the Pastor

Fellow Saints of Christ,

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a period of 40 days during which God calls us to reflect on our sins and on God's gift of a Savior, Jesus Christ.

Every Sunday and Wednesday, at the beginning of the Divine Service, we confess "that we are by nature sinful and unclean" and deserve God's "present and eternal punishment". In making this confession, we admit to God – and to ourselves – that we really are sinners who are unable to save ourselves, no matter how many good deeds we do or how many people think we are nice. We admit that we need a Savior. We admit that we need God to "forgive us, renew us, and lead us".

On our own we would be lost, but our loving Father has been gracious and merciful to us. Because of His absolute love, He gave His Son to die for us and for Jesus' sake forgives us all our sins. And as incredible as that is, there's even more Good News! Not only are we forgiven because Jesus died on the cross in our place, He rose victoriously from the grave so that we need never fear death again. Jesus defeated, once and for all, sin, death and the devil for you and me. By grace through the Holy Spirit's gift of faith, we have received life in Jesus – both now and for eternity in His kingdom.

During this Lenten season, I urge you to daily think and pray about how merciful and loving God the Father is in sending His only begotten Son to suffer, die and rise for you. Take a look in the spiritual mirror and honestly admit your failings. Then remember and trust that God's forgiveness is still yours, and ask for the Holy Spirit's help to so you may delight in God's will and walk in His ways. Every day may we pray with the Psalmist,

Create in me a clean heart of God, and renew and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
(Psalm 51:11-13).

+Pastor Russ Craig

PS: It is a common practice to "give up something for Lent", which usually means abstaining from a favorite food or beverage. For Lent 2016, I suggest that you give up some of your free time and spend an extra 15, 30, 60 minutes each day reading the Bible and praying to God.

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Holy Communion

Ash Wednesdays Services

Holy Communion &
Imposition of Ashes
11:00 A.M & 7:00 P.M.

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig
(518) 369-7631

Secretary

Madison Murray
(518) 456-1530

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Church Office (518) 456-1530

Closed Monday & Friday
Open 9:00 A.M to 12:00 P.M
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

church@clcalbany.org
www.clcalbany.org

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: FEBRUARY 7

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 (payable to "Christ Lutheran Church") and extra cash.

2015 ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

CLC held its annual voters meeting on Sunday, January 17th. In addition to reviewing our various ministries, the congregation approved the 2016 budget and held elections for Church Council and Parish Relations Committee. Those elected to the Council are Lisa Brickman, Pat Spolyar, Lorraine Urbano and Judy Zamurs. Jeff LaPorte and Lois Gerhardt were re-elected to the Parish Relations Committee.

STATUS OF THE BUILDING PROJECT

In late October the application for Planning Approval was submitted to the Town of Guilderland. Since the project is located on a State Highway, the application was forwarded to the Albany County Planning Board. The Albany County Board's advisory recommendation to Guilderland was to disapprove the project and require two actions before moving forward: (1) a traffic impact study and (2) a study to look at soil and water issues.

These studies would add approximately \$10,000 to the cost of the design phase. TSL became concerned about the amount of money they would have pay and the project still might not be approved. The project is now "on-hold" and it is hoped that a decision to move forward or not will be made soon.

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE, TEACH & CONFESS: BEGINS MARCH 6

Are you new to Christ Lutheran Church? Are your confirmation classes a distant memory? If so, this 6-session course will provide you with the basics of Lutheranism. Classes will be led by Pastor Craig and will meet after Sunday worship, during the coffee hour.

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 10

We will mark the beginning of Lent with Services of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes at 11:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Pastor Craig will preach a special series of sermons on Sunday and Wednesday mornings.

The theme of the Sunday sermons will be "*God's Gift of Forgiveness*". We will meditate on the Passion and death of our Lord Jesus in light of the penitential psalms and see how our own daily journey of faith is sustained through Confession and Absolution, where God's gift is given to the sinner for comfort and for life.

On Wednesday mornings, we will explore "*Places of the Passion*". The focus will not be on the physical locations of our Lord's Passion but on the spiritual wonders of His work: the places where He demonstrates His strength in the midst of our weakness, His timeless love in the midst of temporal darkness. Jesus never leaves a place as He found it. The most troubling places of our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them.

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 Murray: 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2015

Income \$ 111,248.28

Expenses \$ 107,689.77

Difference \$ 3,558.49

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 and post the closing on the system used for the local TV announcements. Not every channel lists all closings, so check several stations. If you receive a closing email message, please share the information with friends who do not use email.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Carol Fike
Pastor Arthur Gerhardt
Hilda Griessel
Herta Haupt
Joe Henstenberg
Hazel Lanza
Dorothy Van Deusen



Family & Friends

Ed Beutel (brother of Bea White)
Christopher Bombardier (relative of Dell & Joe Henstenberg)
Elizabeth Brickman (US Navy, Camp Lemmonier, Djibouti, Africa)
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)
David Dilloway (uncle of Matthew Woehlke)
Kenny Holsopple (friend of Sandra Smith)
JoAnn Kniskern (sister-in-law of Judy Bliven)
Kim Krizan (friend of Davia LaChapelle)
Bob Kushner (friend of Lorraine Urbano)
Brian LeBuis (friend of Jeff & Mary LaPorte)
Heather Mires (granddaughter of Loretta Flanders)
Harold Mathis (brother of Carol Fike)
Peter Noonan (nephew of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Vicky Quay (daughter of Joan Long)
Nicole & Alex Rodrigious (relatives of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Diane Schwegler (cousin of Sandy Smith)
Jerry Sutherland (brother-in-law of Sandy Smith)
Robert Way (WWII brother of James Way)
Kyle Zindell (friend of the Bentsen Family)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Joan Long
5 Karen Benedetto
11 James Way
15 Matthew Woehlke
25 Goodie Scherer
27 Joseph Fahd
16 Della Henstenberg
26 Hilda Griessel
Hazel Lanza

FEBRUARY 2016

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:00pm Council	2 2:30pm TSL	3 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	4 2:30pm TSL	5 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	6
7 <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Micronesians	8 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	9 9:00am Circuit Pastors 12:00pm Christ Women 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL 8:00pm AA	10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 2:30pm TSL 11:00 am <i>Ash Wed</i> Service 7:00 pm <i>Ash Wed</i> Service	11 2:30pm TSL	12 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	13
14 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Micronesians	15 <i>Presidents Day</i> <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	16 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon 8:00pm AA	17 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am Communion	18 7:00am TSL All Day	19 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	20 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i>
21 10:30am Communion 2:30pm Micronesians	22 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	23 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL 8:00pm AA	24 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	25 2:30pm TSL	26 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	27
28 10:30am Communion 2:30pm Micronesians	29 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL					

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

Date	Communion Assistant	Lector
7	Bill Spolyar	Lois Ruppert
14	Pat Spolyar	Jeff LaPorte
21	Sandy Smith	Alan Fike
28	Lorraine Urbano	Lorraine Urbano