

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles

May 2016

Message from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are such wonderful gifts from God. As Lutherans, we hold the Lord's Supper in high regard and place it at the center of church life. All we do as a congregation and as individual Christians is to flow out from our participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion

In Luther's *Small Catechism*, we are taught and confess that the Lord's Supper is "*the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and to drink, instituted by Christ Himself.*" And the benefits of eating and drinking our Lord's Body and Blood are "*forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation*".

I sure need the forgiveness and grace that Jesus offers me and I thank Him for providing this life-saving food!

In Luther's *Large Catechism*, all Christians are urged to be faithful in receiving Holy Communion.

"In conclusion, since we now have the true understanding and doctrine of the Sacrament, there is also need for some admonition and encouragement. Then people may not let such a great treasure—daily administered and distributed among Christians—pass by unnoticed. So those who want to be Christians may prepare to receive this praiseworthy Sacrament often. For we see that people seem weary and lazy about receiving the Sacrament."

Luther warns us to not fool ourselves into thinking "*that it is a matter of liberty and not necessary*" or "*that it is enough to believe without it.*" While no one is to be forced to come to the Lord's Table, he writes,

"Nevertheless, it must be known that people who deprive themselves of and withdraw from the Sacrament for such a long time are not to be considered Christians. For Christ has not instituted it to be treated as a show. Instead, He has commanded His Christians to eat it, drink it, and remember Him by it. Indeed, those who are true Christians and value the Sacrament precious and holy will move themselves to go to it."

May the Lord give us hearts that yearn for His Supper and may we "*Do this*" in remembrance of Christ.

+Pastor Russ Craig

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find summaries of the Sunday lectionary readings. I have emailed these out before, but thought those of you without email might enjoy reading the summaries. These will be included in future newsletters if we receive them from the Synod before our monthly deadline.

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.

Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.

Holy Communion

Pastor

Rev. Russell Craig

(518) 369-7631

Secretary

Madison Murray

(518) 456-1530

Music Director

Sharon Calka

Deacon

Thomas Craig

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

STRAWBERRY FEST JUNE 11

Christ Church Women will be holding their annual Strawberry Fest on Saturday, June 11th from 12:00 to 4:00 PM.

New this year, we will be offering *hotdogs and German potato salad* as a light lunch item. As usual our highly praised *strawberry shortcake featuring Stewart's ice cream*, fresh strawberries and homemade biscuits will be served all day with takeout always available (\$3.50 each).

We will gratefully accept any donations for our bake and book tables. Any questions please contact Joan Long or Sandy Smith.

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE LORD MAY 5 (7:00P.M.)

All are invited to commemorate the ascension of our Lord at Zion Lutheran Church, Schenectady. Holy Communion will be celebrated with Bishop Derek Lecakes preaching.

SUPPORT CLC WITH AMAZON SMILE

If you shop on Amazon, consider supporting Christ Lutheran Church by using [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile). Just use the link and search "Christ Lutheran Church, Albany, NY" in the list of charities! A portion of each eligible purchase will go to our church. This is the full Amazon site and you log-in with your regular user name and password.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – MARCH 2016

Income \$ 26,192.66

Expenses \$ 26,192.20

Difference \$ 0.46

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)
Shirley Curry (widow of Pastor Kenneth Curry)
Jean Davis (sister of Anne MacIntosh)
David Dilloway (uncle of Matthew Woehlke)
Bennett Faso (grandson of Joan Long)
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)
Jack Lecakes (uncle of Bishop Derek Lecakes)
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 Rodrigous (relatives of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Diane Schwegler (cousin of Sandy Smith)
Katrina Sussman (friend of Tom Craig)
Jenise Sutherland (sister of Sandy Smith)
Robert Way (WWII brother of James Way)
Kyle Zindell (friend of the Bentsen Family)

MAY BIRTHDAYS

4 Doris Pleydle
9 Steven Benedetto
19 Linda Sickler
23 Vincenzo DeMoor
31 Arlene Giroux

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES FOR SUNDAYS IN MAY 2016

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (1 May 2016)

Acts 16:9–15 + Revelation 21:9–14, 21–27 + John 16:23–33 or John 5:1–9

We Pray to the Father in Jesus' Name

"In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus has opened the way to the Father so that *"whatever you ask of the Father"* in Jesus' name, *"he will give it to you"* (John 16:23). We pray, therefore, in the confidence that we will be heard and answered, that our *"joy may be full"* (John 16:24). We pray because the Gospel has been preached to us and the Lord has opened our hearts to believe the Gospel (Acts 16:10, 14). We pray in the name of Jesus because we have been baptized into Him, as Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:15). We have been healed, and we live and walk and pray in newness of life (John 5:8–9). For we stand upon the firm foundation *"of the twelve apostles of the Lamb"* (Rev. 21:14), and our temple is *"the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb"* (Rev. 21:22).

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (8 May 2016)

Acts 1:12–26 + Revelation 22:1–6 (7–11) 12–20 + John 17:20–26

Jesus Is with Us in His Holy Christian Church

On the night when He was betrayed, Jesus interceded for His Church — for His apostles and all who believe in Him through their word — that all of His disciples *"may become perfectly one"* in the Father and the Son (John 17:21–23). For Jesus became flesh and dwells among us in order to reveal the Father and His name, to share with us the glory of His righteousness, and to bring us to the Father in Himself. As the Father loved the Son from *"before the foundation of the world"* (John 17:24), so He loves the whole world (John 17:23, 26). Through the apostolic witness to the Baptism, cross and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 1:21–22), the Lord gathers His disciples throughout the world *"with one accord"* as one Body in Christ (Acts 1:14). And so with one voice and by one Spirit, His Bride prays, *"Come"* (Rev. 22:17). And He comes to us. He gives us *"the water of life without price"* to wash our robes and quench our thirst (Rev. 22:17); He feeds us from *"the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit"* (Rev. 22:2).

THE DAY OF PENTECOST (15 May 2016)

Genesis 11:1–9 + Acts 2:1–21 + John 14:23–31

The Holy Spirit Gives Peace

Following the flood, Noah's descendants failed to spread out and fill the earth as God had spoken. Rather, they exalted themselves; with *"one language and the same words"* (Gen. 11:1), they spoke proudly and arrogantly. The Lord humbled them by confusing *"the language of all the earth,"* dividing and dispersing the people (Gen. 11:9). That dispersal was reversed on Pentecost Day (the 50th day of Easter), when God caused the one Gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ, to be preached in a multitude of languages. *"At this sound the multitude came together"* (Acts 2:6), for the preaching of Christ is the primary work of the Holy Spirit, whereby He gathers people from all nations into one Church. The Holy Spirit teaches and brings to our remembrance the words of Jesus, which are the words of the Father who sent Him. These words bestow forgiveness and peace to those who keep and hold on to them in love for Jesus. *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid"* (John 14:27).

HOLY TRINITY (22 May 2016)

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31 + Acts 2:14a, 22–36 + John 8:48–59

The Triune God Reveals Himself in Christ Jesus

The divine Word of the Father also is the holy wisdom who *"was beside him, like a master workman,"* who *"was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always"* (Prov. 8:30). This Word became flesh and suffered death in order to bestow life by the preaching of His Gospel *"to the children of man"* (Prov. 8:4). He honors the Father, and the Father glorifies Him by raising Him from the dead, so that all who keep His Word *"will never see death"* (John 8:51). Long ago, *"father Abraham rejoiced"* in the day of Christ, for *"he saw it and was glad"* (John 8:56). Though Christ was *"crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men,"* *"God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death"* (Acts 2:23, 24). As He *"received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit"* (Acts 2:33), so it is by and through the Son that God the Father pours out the Holy Spirit upon His Church.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (29 May 2016)

1 Kings 8:22–24, 27–29, 41–43 + Galatians 1:1–12 + Luke 7:1–10

Faith Receives Good Gifts from God in the Flesh

There is only one source of life, revealed in only one saving Gospel. Corrupting that Gospel is serious business. Thus, St. Paul is amazed when the Galatians *"are turning to a different gospel"* (Gal. 1:6–7). He insists that he is not trying to *"please man"* but be a true *"servant of Christ"* as he calls down a curse on any *"gospel contrary to the one you received"* (Gal. 1:9–10), for that Gospel alone saves. It saves as it reveals God, whose kindness is manifested in Christ and who reckons among His people all who share the miraculous faith of the centurion in God's Son: *"Lord ... I am not worthy to have you come under my roof ... but say the word, and let my servant be healed"* (Luke 7:1–10). For indeed, as Solomon admits, *"the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!"* (1 Kings 8:27). Nevertheless, in our Lord Jesus' flesh and blood, He — whose mighty word is faithful to what He promises — comes to us even today in His Eucharist to dwell in us and bring to all who trust His promise the gift of everlasting life.

MAY 2016

<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 11:45am Lutheran Basics 4:00pm Micronesians	2 <i>Office closed</i> No Bible Study 2:30pm TSL 7:00pm Council	3 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	4 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	5 2:30pm TSL	6 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:30am Communion 11:45am Lutheran Basics 4:00pm Micronesians	9 <i>Office closed</i> 10:00am Bible Study 2:30pm TSL 6:30pm Bible Study	10 12:00pm Christ Women 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	11 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	12 2:30pm TSL	13 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	14
15 10:30am Communion 11:45am Lutheran Basics 4:00pm Micronesians	16 <i>Office closed</i> 10:00am Bible Study 2:30pm TSL 6:30pm Bible Study	17 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	18 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	19 2:30pm TSL	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	21
22 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Micronesians	23 <i>Office closed</i> 10:00am Bible Study 2:30pm TSL 6:30pm Bible Study	24 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	25 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	26 2:30pm TSL	27 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	28
29 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Micronesians	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office closed</i> TSL Closed No Bible Study	31 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL				

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

Date	Communion Assistant	Lector
1	Tom Craig	Tom Craig
8	Joe Fahd	Joe Fahd
15	Alan Fike	Alan Fike
22	Linda Halbrend	Linda Halbrend
29	Lorraine Urbano	Lorraine Urbano