

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles November 2016

Message from the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In Isaiah 43:19, God promised, “*See, I am doing a new thing.*” And God kept His promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to bring hope and forgiveness to a world in bondage to sin, guilt, and death.

Christ Lutheran Church is called to bring this Good News to our community, and God continues to “*do a new thing*” through us. On October 1, we held our initial **First Saturday Celebration**, an upbeat service with God’s Word, prayer, and song, specifically designed for our neighbors with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. This monthly worship event is the first component of a brand new outreach initiative called **Through the Roof Ministry**. Led by Deacon Tom Craig, *Through the Roof* (TTR) is inspired by this dramatic account in the Gospel of Mark 2:2-5.

So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

In that house, not everyone recognized what God was doing right in front of their eyes. Some saw only a gifted speaker or a new faith-healer or a trouble-maker. Outside, though, a group of men saw that God was “*doing a new thing*”. And among them was a paralytic. Being disabled can be difficult today, but back then was far worse. Your day would be spent laying on a hard mat begging. If that was not bad enough, you carried the burden of guilt, because your disability was viewed by many a sign of God’s punishment for being a sinner.

But this paralyzed man had something in his favor. Unlike many who were shunned, he had good friends who cared. By God-given eyes of faith, these men saw and believed that this new thing – Jesus – was their friend’s only hope. And nothing would keep them from bringing their brother to the Messiah. They climbed up, dug a hole, and lowered their friend *through the roof* to the feet of Jesus. And their paralyzed friend was healed, both in body and in soul. What friendship! What faith!

Are you struggling with a problem in your life or burdened by guilt? Come to Jesus. Dig through the layers of excuses, guilt, temptations and fear. Go through the roof and find healing at the feet of your Savior.

Do you have friend or loved one who needs the healing Word of God? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to help carry him or her to the source of new life, Christ Jesus. Don’t let anything get in your way. Go through the roof and bring your friend to the feet of our Savior.

If all is well for you and your family, praise God for His mercy. Then look around. Look for those who do not know Christ. Look for those who, like the paralyzed man, are unable to get themselves to God’s healing Word.

I urge you to prayerfully consider volunteering to help with TTR. Let’s be willing to go through the roof to bring all our neighbors and loved ones to Jesus.

+Pastor Russ Craig

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Holy Communion

First Saturday Celebration
November 5 at 3:30 P.M.

Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 P.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

FIRST SATURDAY CELEBRATION: NOVEMBER 5

Our next *First Saturday Celebration* will be on November 4 at 3:30 P.M. Help share the love of Jesus Christ with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Deacon Tom (tomcraig1980@gmail.com or 937-6006).

PIE SUNDAY: NOVEMBER 20

CLC Women will host their annual Pie Sunday on November 20. Treat your sweet tooth while supporting church ministries.

PASTOR CRAIG AWAY NOVEMBER 11-21

Pastor & Carole will be on vacation November 11-21. On those Sundays, Deacon Tom will lead Services of the Word. The Nov. 16 Wednesday morning service will not be held. Anyone with an emergency should call the church office (518-456-1530) or Deacon Tom Craig (518-937-6006).

“CELEBRATE IN SONG”

2017 is a special year because it marks the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther’s posting of his *95 Theses*, the beginning of the Reformation. The Jubilate Singers and Orchestra will present a program of sacred music sharing the Gospel in Song, an approach preferred by Luther. The program will be held at The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, a central location for Lutheran congregations in the Capital Region. Tickets will be available at our congregation with the goal of gathering funds to benefit the Guyanese and Pakistani ministries in our area. More will be shared later. Please support this exciting venture. **Save the date: Sunday, April 30, 2017, 4 PM.**

THANKSGIVING, ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 23

11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M. Holy Communion

First Saturday Celebration

Saturday, December 3 at 3:30 P.M. Hear God’s Word and enjoy Christmas carols with our neighbors.

Church Decorating Party

Sunday, December 4 at 11:45 A.M. (*right after morning worship so everyone can participate*).

Guilderland Advent Service

Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 P.M. – Christ the King Catholic Church.

Wednesday 11:00 A.M. Holy Communion Services

Sermons will have a special Advent focus.

Christmas Eve Worship

7:00 P.M. Carols & Candlelight.

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Filled boxes with a label/envelop must be returned no later than 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, **November 13.**

GUILDERLAND INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

We will be collecting donations for the food pantry during November and December. The following items have been requested:

- Cereal, Oatmeal
- Canned fruit
- Spaghetti sauce
- Ketchup, Mustard
- Canned stew, Canned meats
- Coffee, Tea
- Peanut butter, Jelly
- Dish detergent, Dish soap
- Bottled juice
- Mac and cheese

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 every closing, so check several stations. If you receive a closing email message, please share the information with friends who do not use email.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2016

Income \$ 94,950.83

Expenses \$ 86,819.37

Difference \$ 8,131.46

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joe Fahd	William Faulkner	Carol Fike	Pastor Arthur Gerhardt
Arlene Giroux	Hilda Griessel	Herta Haupt	Joe Henstenberg
Fritz Herzog	Reggie Jakubec	Hazel Lanza	Tom Okure
Sandy Smith	Dorothy Van Deusen		

Family & Friends

Ed Beutel	(brother of Bea White)
Erin Carhart	(niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Andy Chainyk	(brother of Davia LaChapelle)
Shirley Curry	(widow of Pastor Kenneth Curry)
Jean Davis	(sister of Anne MacIntosh)
David Dilloway	(uncle of Matthew Woehlke)
Linda Fitzgerald	(sister of Barbara Kunkel)
James Habib	(friend of Judy Zamurs)
JoAnn Kniskern	(sister-in-law of Judy Bliven)
Bob Kushner	(friend of Lorraine Urbano)
Sofia Lehmann	(friend of Deacon Tom Craig)
Harold Mathis	(brother of Carol Fike)
Bertie Nash	(daughter of Loretta Flanders)
Peter Noonan	(nephew of Joe & Della Henstenberg)
Diane Schwegler	(cousin of Sandy Smith)
Lee Schwegler	(cousin of Sandy Smith)



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Pastor Russell Craig
4	Loretta Flanders
10	Nancy Fahd
12	Sandra Smith
16	Sharon Calka
	Judy Zamurs
17	Virginia Mathews
28	Michael Schildt

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: NOVEMBER 2016

ALL SAINTS' DAY (OBSERVED - 6 November 2016)

Revelation 7:9–17 + 1 John 3:1–3 + Matthew 5:1–12

Saints Are Blessed in the Eternal Presence of Christ

“A great multitude ... from all tribes and peoples and languages” cry out, *“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne”* (Rev. 7:9–10). Faith-filled saints from every place and time with unified voices eternally magnify the Lamb of God. As His beloved children, we, too, *“shall see him as he is”* (1 John 3:2). Joined with the throng of angels and countless saints, we shall *“serve him day and night in his temple”* (Rev. 7:15). In our earthly tension vacillating between saint and sinner, faith and doubt, sacred and profane, we earnestly seek Jesus to calm our fears, comfort our spirits and forgive our sins. The Holy Spirit, through faith in Christ, propels us forward, fortifying us in Word and Sacrament, to our eternal home. In the midst of our constant struggle as believers, we need to be blessed. And so we are. The poor in spirit, the meek, the hungry, the thirsty, the merciful, the pure and the persecuted are all blessed, and we will most certainly inherit the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5:1–12).

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (13 November 2016)

Malachi 4:1–6 + 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13 + Luke 21:5–28

God's Plan of Redemption Trumps Earthly Destruction and Violence

There are signs of the Lord's coming all around: the cross that marks His Church, the violence and death of the sinful world, and the shaking of the natural order. *“There will be great distress upon the earth”* (Luke 21:23), but the faithful know that *“the kingdom of God is near”* (Luke 21:31). Therefore, *“straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near”* (Luke 21:28). Be awake and alert, and heed the words of Christ, which *“will not pass away”* (Luke 21:33). For you *“the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings”* (Mal. 4:2). He sends His preachers of repentance in the spirit and power of Elijah *“before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes”* (Mal. 4:5), in order to *“direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ”* (2 Thess. 3:5). Although you are often faithless, *“the Lord is faithful,”* and by the preaching of His Word *“he will establish you and guard you against the evil one”* (2 Thess. 3:3). Therefore, *“do not grow weary in doing good”* (2 Thess. 3:13). In the midst of calamity, believe upon the Lord, Jesus Christ.

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR (20 November 2016)

Malachi 3:13–18 + Colossians 1:13–20 + Luke 23:27–43

Jesus Christ Reigns, Enduring the Cross — Its Scorn and Shame

The Lord Jesus reigns in love among those who are baptized in His name. *“They shall be mine,”* He says, *“and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him”* (Mal. 3:17). Jesus' service through crucifixion for sinful men anchors us in new life. In the proclamation of His Son, God makes His justice clear, defining *“the distinction between the righteous and the wicked”* (Mal. 3:18). He truly is *“the King of the Jews”* (Luke 23:38), who governs His Church with all authority in heaven and on earth. He has come into His kingdom by His cross, and He graciously remembers us in paradise. Therefore, do not weep for Him, but with repentant faith *“weep for yourselves and for your children”* (Luke 23:28). Then the mountains and hills of Jerusalem, His holy Church, shall cover you with His righteousness and peace. For He *“is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation”* (Col. 1:15). *“All things were created through him and for him”* (Col. 1:16), and *“all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”* bodily in Him, reconciling all things to Himself *“by the blood of his cross”* (Col. 1:19–20).

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (27 November 2016)

Isaiah 2:1–5 + Romans 13:11–14 + Matthew 21:1–11

The Lord Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us Now

The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem *“humble, and mounted on a donkey,”* riding on *“a beast of burden”* (Matt. 21:5), as He Himself bears the sins of the world in His body. Now He comes by the ministry of the Gospel to save us from sin, death, the devil and hell. Therefore, we sing, *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”* (Matt. 21:9). For we are called *“to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob,”* His holy Church, *“that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths”* (Is. 2:3). By His Word, we *“walk in the light of the LORD”* (Is. 2:5). That is to live in love, which *“does no wrong to a neighbor”* (Rom. 13:10). We *“cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,”* for *“salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed”* (Rom. 13:11, 12). Hence, the entire Christian life is a time to wake and watch, *“for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming”* (Matt. 24:42).

NOVEMBER 2016

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
30 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	31 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	1 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	2 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 2:30pm TSL	3 11:30am TSL Half Day	4 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	5 3:30pm <i>First Saturday Celebration</i>
6 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	7 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:00 pm Council	8 7:30am TSL All Day 12:00pm CLC Women 12:00pm Al Anon	9 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 2:30pm TSL	10 2:30pm TSL	11 <i>Office closed</i> 7:30am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	12
13 10:30am <i>Service of Word</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	14 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	15 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	16 NO 11:00am <i>Service Today</i> 2:30pm TSL	17 2:30pm TSL	18 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	19
20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 10:30am <i>Service of Word</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	21 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	22 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	23 7:30am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 7:00pm <i>Thanksgiving Eve Service</i>	24 <i>Thanksgiving Office Closed</i> TSL Closed	25 <i>Office closed</i> TSL Closed 7:30pm AA	26
27 <i>Advent Begins</i> 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 11:45am Church Decorating 4:00pm Apostolic Church	28 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	29 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	30 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 2:30pm TSL	1 2:30pm TSL	2 2:30pm TSL	3 3:30pm <i>First Saturday Celebration</i>

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

Date	Communion Assistant	Lector
6	Pat Spolyar	Deacon Tom Craig
13	No Communion	Mark Hendricks
20	No Communion	Jeff LaPorte
27	Lorraine Urbano	Lorraine Urbano