

# Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

## Chronicles December 2016

### *Message from the Pastor*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Thursday, November 17, the Caribbean sun dimmed. That morning, while on vacation, I received a text message from a colleague informing me that Pastor Gerhardt was in the hospital. A few minutes later, I learned that he had passed on to glory. Some may complain about cell phones and technology, but I was grateful for having Wi-Fi on the cruise ship. While 3,000 miles away, wishing to be with the Gerhardt family and my congregation, I was at least able to communicate via text and email with the family, church council, local pastors, and Bishop Lecakes. All of you were in my thoughts and prayers as you grappled with this loss.

Special thanks go out to Deacon Tom Craig for helping with communications and to Pastor Adam Wiegand (St. Paul Lutheran Church, Saratoga) who met with the family.

We all were looking forward to celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2017. The Lord had other plans, so now Pastor Gerhardt has been reunited with his beloved Edith and celebrates eternal life with Jesus.

Many will want to honor Pastor Gerhardt. Cards, Facebook posts, and donations are all great. During his life, he proclaimed Jesus -- and we meet Jesus in the Divine Service. So if you really want praise the Lord for this wonderful man of God, please decide to go to church often. In doing that, you will continue Pastor Gerhardt's legacy.

May our God of grace and mercy comfort the Gerhardt family and all who mourn. May all of us rejoice and praise God for the gift of knowing Pastor Arthur Gerhardt.

*+Pastor Russ Craig*

### **Reverend Arthur H. Gerhardt**

March 6, 1917 – November 17, 2106

#### Funeral

Christ Lutheran Church  
November 28, 2016  
10:00 A.M.

*Well done, good and faithful servant. (Matthew 25:21)*

#### **Worship**

*Sunday 10:30 A.M.  
Holy Communion*

*Wednesday 11:00 A.M.  
Holy Communion*

*First Saturday Celebration  
December 3 at 3:30 P.M.*

*Christmas Eve 7:00 P.M.  
Carols & Candlelight*

*Christmas Day 10:30 A.M.  
Holy Communion*

#### **Pastor**

*Rev. Russell Craig  
(518) 369-7631*

#### **Deacon**

*Thomas Craig*

#### **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**

### **CHRISTMAS PLANT ORDER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 4**

All poinsettia orders must be received no later than Sunday, December 4.

### **AN INVITATION FROM CLC WOMEN**

CLC Women invite all women of our congregation to join the Women's Group. CLC Women meet the second Tuesday of every month at 12:00 Noon in the Shepherd Room. Please contact Sandy Smith or Judy Bliven for more information.

### **NO WEDNESDAY MORNING SERVICE ON DECEMBER 28**

The 11:00 A.M. Holy Communion Service will not be held during the week between Christmas and New Year.

### **SHEPHERD ROOM REPAIRS**

How are people and buildings similar as they age? The plumbing can spring a leak. As most church members already know, a water leak caused significant damage to the floor and cupboards in the Shepherd Room. The pipe has been repaired, new flooring installed, cupboards replaced, and the room will be back in use by the time you read this or within a short time.

### **"CELEBRATE IN SONG"**

2017 is a special year because it marks the 500<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

### ***First Saturday Celebration***

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

### ***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.

### ***Christmas Day Worship***

10:30 A.M. Quiet, short service of Holy Communion.

## **HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **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

### **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!!**

Your donated shoeboxes filled with gifts are on their way around the world.

## **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 – OCTOBER 2016**

Income	\$102,126.68
Expenses	\$ 99,091.42
-----	
Difference	\$ 3,035.26

## **REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Joe Fahd	William Faulkner	Carol Fike	Gerhardt Family
Arlene Giroux	Hilda Griessel	Herta Haupt	Joe Henstenberg
Fritz Herzog	Reggie Jakubec	Hazel Lanza	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)
DiNovo family	(friends of Madison Murray)
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)
Vicky Quay	(friend of Christ Lutheran)
Diane Schwegler	(cousin of Sandy Smith)
Lee Schwegler	(cousin of Sandy Smith)



## **DEBEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

6	Jeffrey LaPorte
7	John Zamurs
25	Michael Halbrend

## LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: DECEMBER 2016

### THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (4 December 2016)

Isaiah 11:1–10 + Romans 15:4–13 = Matthew 3:1–12

#### ***By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord***

“John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ‘Repent’” (Matt. 3:1–2). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins prepared people for the coming of Christ into the world. John’s work was historically complete with the incarnate advent of Jesus, but his vital ministry continues in preaching Law and Gospel. The Son of God has come in the flesh, “*a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots*” (Is. 11:1), and continues to bear the fruits of righteousness. His good tree of the cross is “*a signal for the peoples*” (Is. 11:10), by which He calls the nations to repentance. “*With the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips*” (Is. 11:4), He slays the wicked and brings the dead to life, making sons of Abraham out of lifeless stones. So also the “*root of Jesse*” comes to us, “*even he who arises to rule the Gentiles*” (Rom. 15:12), that “*we might have hope*” and be filled “*with all joy and peace in believing*” (Rom. 15:4, 13).

### THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (11 December 2016)

Isaiah 35:1–10 + James 5:7–11 + Matthew 11:2–15

#### ***The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross***

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see “*the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful*” (James 5:11). Therefore, in the promise of the Gospel, “*be patient*” and “*establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand*” (James 5:8). Like John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as “*the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up*” (Matt. 11:5), so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also. He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His holy Church, so that “*sorrow and sighing shall flee away*” (Is. 35:10).

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (18 December 2016)

Isaiah 7:10–17 + Romans 1:1–7 + Matthew 1:18–25

#### ***God’s Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary***

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that “*the virgin shall conceive and bear a son*” (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “*God with us.*” The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary and is thus “*descended from David according to the flesh*” (Rom. 1:3). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; He is called “*Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins*” (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately “*did as the angel of the Lord commanded him*” (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this holy Gospel.

### CHRISTMAS DAY (25 December 2016)

Isaiah 52:7–10 + Hebrews 1:1–6 (7–12) + John 1:1–14 (15–18)

#### ***The Living and Life-Giving Word of God Dwells Among Us in the Flesh***

The Lord sends out His ministers of the Gospel to make disciples “*of all the nations,*” so that “*all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*” The Lord has “*bared his holy arm*” in the incarnate Christ (Is. 52:10). The child in the manger, born of the Virgin Mary, is the very Word of God, the only-begotten Son of the Father, “*whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world*” (Heb. 1:2). As “*all things were made through him*” (John 1:3), so are all things redeemed and made new in Him. In His body of flesh and blood, we behold “*the radiance of the glory of God*” (Heb. 1:3), “*glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*” (John 1:14). He dwells among us in peace, that we might have life and light and salvation in Him. For by His Word of the Gospel, we are born again as the children of God, bearing His name and sharing His eternal life.

## DECEMBER 2016

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

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>4</b>	Joe Fahd	Joe Fahd
<b>11</b>	Alan Fike	Alan Fike
<b>18</b>	Linda Halbrend	Linda Halbrend
<b>25</b>	TBD	TBD