

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles January 2017

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Holy Communion

First Saturday Celebration
January 7, 2017 3:30 P.M.

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

Message from the Pastor

Dear Saints of Christ,

Happy New Year! It is that time when many people resolve to do certain things during the next 12 months. If you are looking for a resolution, let me suggest one: *During 2017, devote more time to reading the Bible and attending worship. If you have drifted away from these practices, reconnect with church and His Word. If you are faithful with these, encourage loved ones to do the same.*

Below is an article that provides several good reasons for attending worship as often as possible. May the Lord bless you throughout 2017.

+Pastor Russ Craig

The Lutheran Witness, December 2016 (Rev. Brian Thorson, author)

Question: Some of my relatives come to church only on Christmas and Easter, but my pastor always urges them to come each week. Isn't it enough for God that they're there twice a year?

Answer: God welcomes everyone to church, even when they come only on Christmas or Easter. At these high feasts, the Church celebrates some of the most important – and joyous – events in the life of Christ. If someone is only able to attend church a couple of times a year, these are some of the best days to be there.

Going occasionally, however, prevents God's people from receiving so much good. First, faith is not our work, but it is worked by God through the Word. "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:7).

Second, in our confirmation vows, we promise faithfully to hear the Word and receive the Sacrament. Because we make these promises before God and desire to be honest, we want to fulfill our confirmation promises.

Next, the Third Commandment teaches us to "Fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but gladly hear and learn it." It is a joy to enter the house of God and receive His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Plus, there's much more to hear throughout the rest of the Church Year!

Following Christmas is the Epiphany season, in which we learn who the Christ Child is and why His birth is so important. During Lent, we hear the reason why God needed to come. During Holy Week, we hear about our Lord's bitter Passion. After Easter Sunday, the joy of the Resurrection continues for six weeks. During the remainder of the year, we have a time of growth in which we focus on the works of Christ in the Church ...

Finally, the Divine Service itself offers many gifts. God is present and blesses us through the Word, the Absolution and the Lord's Supper. We respond to God's gifts through song, prayer and thanksgiving. When God's people gather, we share one another's joys and sorrows ...

Because we are sinners, we need the gifts of God far more than once or twice a year. We don't earn salvation by going to Church. Instead, God the Holy Spirit works saving faith in us through the Word and sacraments. And for that, we are privileged to come before His presence every week.

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

CHURCH UNDECORATING PARTY: JANUARY 8

What goes up, must come down. We will remove the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 8, right after the morning service, during the fellowship hour.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING: JANUARY 15

Our annual voters meeting will begin right after morning worship. The main agenda items are the election of Council members, the 2017 budget, and updates on church ministries. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held the next Sunday, January 22.

CPR & AED TRAINING: JANUARY 7

A CPR & AED training class will be held at church at 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, Jan. 7. Up to 10 people may be trained and there are still a few openings. If interested in this free training, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Joe Fahd.

FIRST SATURDAY CELEBRATION: JANUARY 7

Our next 1st Saturday Celebration will be held on Jan. 7, beginning at 3:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome – either to serve as a volunteer or to sit and enjoy a special time of worship. Contact Deacon Tom Craig for more information.

LUNCH & LEARN: FEBRUARY 5

Our attorney, Jay Jakovic, will discuss wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies, and other legal matters that are important to keeping our affairs in order. Pastor Craig will share ideas for funeral planning.

CHURCH REPAIRS & CLEANING COMPLETED

The Shepherd Room has a new floor, fresh coat of paint, new cupboards and new tables. The floors in the fellowship hall, kitchen, hallway and narthex have been rejuvenated.

AN INVITATION FROM CLC WOMEN

CLC Women invite all women of our congregation to join the Women's Group. CLC Women meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 12:00 Noon in the Shepherd Room. Please contact Sandy Smith or Judy Bliven.

“CELEBRATE IN SONG”

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of his *95 Theses*, the beginning of the Reformation. The Jubilate Singers & Orchestra will present a program of sacred music sharing the Gospel in Song. This will be held at The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Money raised will benefit the Guyanese and Pakistani ministries in our area. More information will be provided in the near future. **Save the date: Sunday, April 30, 2017, 4 PM.**

THANK YOU!!

I would like to thank the members of the congregation, the Christ Lutheran Church Women members for their kind wishes and gifts during this holiday season. It has been a pleasure to work and to worship here with all of you.

Sharon Calka

Thank you to the congregation and ladies group for your Christmas gifts. You are all a blessing to me. May the Lord be with you and your families, and Christ Lutheran Church throughout 2017.

Pastor Russ

Thank you to the congregation and to CLC Women for your kind and generous gifts this Christmas season. I wish everyone a happy & healthy 2017!

Madison Murray

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – NOVEMBER 2016

Income \$119,785.70

Expenses \$ 110,958.30

Difference \$ 8,827.40

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.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

William Faulkner	Carol Fike	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)
Mary Kelly	(sister-in-law of Tom Urbano)
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 Congregation)
Diane Schwegler	(cousin of Sandy Smith)
Lee Schwegler	(cousin of Sandy Smith)
Wayne Smith	(brother-in-law of Sandy Smith)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Earl MacIntosh III
5	David Klingstrom
8	Linda Halbrend, Herta Haupt
11	Lori Zeh
13	Madison Murray
15	Earl MacIntosh Sr.
16	Della Henstenberg
26	Hilda Griessel, Hazel Lanza

2016 Poinsettia List – Christ Lutheran Church

Poinsettia plants which beautify the sanctuary this Christmas season have been given by the following members and friends. Donors may receive their plants at the conclusion of the 7:00 Christmas Eve candlelight service.

To the glory of God and in loving memory of:

The Saints Triumphant, by Mark and Susan Hendricks

Wallace Smith, Mark DeMoor and the many loved ones gone before, by Sandra Smith and family

Wilfred J. Giroux, by Arlene B. Giroux

Wilfred Giroux, and Elsa, Martha, and Olav Halbrend, by The Halbrend Family

Of my departed family and friends, by Phyllis Mattice

Christopher Snyder, Clifford & Susan Medick and Edwin & Olive Snyder, by Carol & Bob Snyder and Betty Pomakoy

Jim Sr. & Vincentia Murray, Wallace C. Smith, Rebecca Burrell Lackie, Karen Neale, Joan Long and Pastor Alfred Graser, by Jim & Madison Murray

Pastor Alfred Graser and departed loved ones, by Jean Graser

Departed loved ones and friends, by the Henstenberg and Timmers families

Departed loved ones, by Nancy and Joe Fahd

Husband Don, by Goodie Scherer

Harry and Dolores Schildt, by the Schildt family

Departed loved ones, by Nancy, Bruce, Sarah, Ruthie, Matt, and Ariel

Bob White and my parents, by Bea White

Departed loved ones, by Mary and Jeff LaPorte

Departed loved ones, by Linda and Ed Sickler

Departed loved ones, by Lorraine and Tom Urbano

Loved ones, by Sharon Calka

Our parents, by Mr. and Mrs. Allan Bentsen

Our parents and Pastor Gerhardt, by Jim and Kay Way

My parents Arthur & Edith, my sister Grace, and my husband Ronald Wilke, by Lois Gerhardt

To the Glory of God in memory of Rev. Arthur & Edith Gerhardt

My husband Roy, by Virginia Matthews

Other Designations:

In loving gratitude to our wonderful family, by Joe & Nancy Fahd

Our wedding anniversary, Mark Hendricks

Thank you, God, for the gift of our Savior, by Pastor Russ and Carole Craig

In honor of Florence Knighton, by Reggie Jakubec

In honor of the CLC choir, by Sharon Calka

A grateful heart for my 4 blessings, Cooper, Harper, Libby and Miles by Lois Gerhardt

The wreaths which decorate the church entrance have been given by Carol and Alan Fike and family,
in loving memory of Erma Fike and Ida Mathis.

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: JANUARY 2017

THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS (1 January 2017)

Numbers 6:22–27 + Galatians 3:23–29 + Luke 2:21

The Lord Jesus Comes in the Flesh to Fulfill the Law for Us and Save Us from Our Sins

Circumcision is the covenant God made with Abraham and his seed. It sealed God's promises and blessings in the flesh, but it also signified the burden of the Law. When the Lord Jesus came in the flesh to redeem His people, He subjected Himself to the Law in order to fulfill the Law and release all men from its captivity. "*He was called Jesus*" (Luke 2:21) because He came to save His people from their sins. He would shed His blood on their behalf, as He did already when "*he was circumcised*" (Luke 2:21). As He also sacrificed Himself upon the cross, you are "*justified by faith*" in His blood (Gal. 3:24). Therefore, "*you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise*" (Gal. 3:29), not by the circumcision of your flesh, but in the flesh and blood of Christ Jesus, the true seed of Abraham. "*Baptized into Christ,*" you belong to Him and are clothed and covered by His righteousness (Gal. 3:27). Holy Baptism is the true circumcision made without hands, by which the Lord Jesus puts His name on you and blesses you (Num. 6:22, 27).

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (8 January 2017)

Isaiah 42:1–9 + Romans 6:1–11 + Matthew 3:13–17

The Holy Triune God Is Manifested and Reveals Himself to Us in Holy Baptism

The Baptism of our Lord is an "epiphany" of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus. He is the chosen servant of the Lord, anointed with the Spirit for the rescue of God's people and to "*bring forth justice to the nations*" (Is. 42:1). Thus, He makes all things new, and He is given "*as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations*" (Is. 42:6). In the waters of the Jordan, He takes His place with sinners and takes all the sins of the world upon Himself. He undergoes the Baptism of repentance in order to "*fulfill all righteousness*" for us (Matt. 3:15). He submits Himself to the curse of sin and death in order to redeem us. We are baptized with a Baptism like His, thereby dying and rising with Him, so that "*we will also live with him*" (Rom. 6:8). Indeed, all of us who are baptized into Christ Jesus are anointed with His Spirit and named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (15 January 2017)

Isaiah 49:1–7 + 1 Corinthians 1:1–9 + John 1:29–42a

God Reveals His Glory in Christ and His Cross

"*The LORD, the Redeemer of Israel*" calls forth "*his Holy One*" (Is. 49:7), Jesus, the Christ, "*from the womb*" of His mother (Is. 49:1). The incarnate Son of God is revealed as the Savior, not only for Israel but also "*as a light for the nations*" whose salvation reaches "*to the end of the earth*" (Is. 49:6). John came "*baptizing with water*" (John 1:31) to reveal Jesus as "*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29) and who glorifies His God and Father by His atoning sacrifice upon the cross. When Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended "*from heaven like a dove*" and "*remained on him*" (John 1:32). By our Baptism, we are anointed by the same Spirit, adopted by God the Father and "*called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ*" (1 Cor. 1:9). Therefore, we "*are not lacking in any gift,*" but we can trust Him who promises to sustain us to the end, "*guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Cor. 1:7–8).

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (22 January 2017)

Isaiah 9:1–4 + 1 Corinthians 1:10–18 + Matthew 4:12–25

The Lord Manifests His Glory through His Office of the Holy Ministry

By His coming in the flesh and by His preaching and miracles, the Lord Jesus shines the light of His Gospel upon "*the people who walked in darkness*" and "*who dwelt in a land of deep darkness*" (Is. 9:2). He has also "*multiplied the nation*" and "*increased its joy*" (Is. 9:3) by calling disciples to Himself from the ends of the earth. For this purpose, He calls Peter and Andrew, with James and John, to follow Him and be "*fishers of men*" (Matt. 4:19). As Jesus did, they also go forth "*proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people*" (Matt. 4:23). They preach the foolishness of the cross of Christ as the very power and wisdom of God. This word and preaching of the cross divides "*those who are perishing*" from "*us who are being saved*" (1 Cor. 1:18), but it unites the Church, the one Body of Christ, "*in the same mind and the same judgment*" (1 Cor. 1:10).

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (29 January 2017)

Micah 6:1–8 + 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 + Matthew 5:1–12

God Manifests His Glory in the Humility and Weakness of Christ Crucified

The Lord tells His people, "*I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery*" (Micah 6:4). By the sacrifice of His beloved Son, He has redeemed us from our slavery of sin and death; He has forgiven our transgressions by the shedding of His blood. His great mercy and salvation lead us "*to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly*" with our God (Micah 6:8). We boast only in the incarnate and crucified Lord Jesus. He is "*the power of God and the wisdom of God*" (1 Cor. 1:24). He is our life and salvation, our "*wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption*" (1 Cor. 1:30). Now He opens His mouth and teaches us His wisdom. By His cross and Passion the kingdom of heaven is ours, we receive mercy and are satisfied, we see God, and we are called sons of God in Christ. "*Blessed are you,*" therefore, "*when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely*" on account of Christ (Matt. 5:11).

JANUARY 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 10:30am Communion 11:45am Church Decorating 4:00pm Apostolic Church	2 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	3 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	4 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	5 2:30pm TSL	6 The Epiphany of the Lord <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	7 9:00am CPR-AED Training 3:30pm First Saturday Celebration
8 10:30am Communion 11:45am Undecorating 4:00pm Apostolic Church	9 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:00 pm Council	10 12:00pm CLC 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 CLC Annual Meeting 4:00pm Apostolic Church	16 <i>Martin Luther</i> <i>King Jr Day</i> <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	17 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	18 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	19 2:30pm TSL	20 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i> <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	21
22 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	23 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	24 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	25 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	26 2:30pm TSL	27 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	28
29 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	30 <i>Office closed</i> 7:30am TSL All Day	31 7:30am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	1 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	2 2:30pm TSL	3 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	4 3:30pm First Saturday Celebration

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

Date	Communion Assistant	Lector
1	Linda Halbrend	Linda Halbrend
8	Judy Zamurs	Judy Zamurs
15	Bill Spolyar	Joe Fahd
22	Pat Spolyar	Mark Hendricks
29	Sandy Smith	Jeff LaPorte