

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles February 2017

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Holy Communion

First Saturday Celebration
February 4th at 3:30 P.M.

Ash Wednesday March 1
Communion & Ashes
11:00 A.M. & 7:00 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,

Last month, I shared an article from *Lutheran Witness* that highlighted the benefits of frequent worship attendance. Along with worship, Christians are encouraged to spend time in prayer. If you struggle with maintaining your prayer life, you are not alone -- even Martin Luther did. Below are a few of his thoughts on how to get through a spiritual drought. My small book of psalm (the "psalter" he mentions) is a wonderful help. Also among my prayer resources are CPH's prayer book *Treasury of Daily Prayer* and the mobile device app, *Pray Now*. The quotation cited below has been taken from these.

+Pastor Russ Craig

When I feel that I have become cool and joyless in prayer because of other tasks or thoughts (for the flesh and the devil always impede and obstruct prayer), I take my little psalter, hurry to my room, or, if it be the day and hour for it, to the church where a congregation is assembled and, as time permits, I say quietly to myself and word-for-word the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and, as I have time, some words of Christ or of Paul, or some psalms, just as a child might do.

It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last at night. Guard yourself carefully against those false, deluding ideas which tell you, "Wait a little while. I will pray in an hour; first I must attend to this or that." Such thoughts get you away from prayer into other affairs which so hold your attention and involve you that nothing comes of prayer for that day ...

Finally, mark this, that you must always speak Amen firmly. Never doubt that God in his mercy will surely hear you and say "yes" to your prayers. Never think that you are kneeling or standing alone, rather think that the whole of Christendom, all devout Christians, are standing among them in a common, united petition which God cannot disdain. Do not leave prayer without having said or thought, "Very well, God has heard my prayer; this I know as a certainty and a truth." That is what Amen means.

- Martin Luther

(*Treasury of Daily Prayer*, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis. 2009)

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

FIRST SATURDAY CELEBRATION: FEBRUARY 4

Our next 1st Saturday Celebration will be held on Feb. 4, 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 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 and materials for funeral planning. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: FEBRUARY 5

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.

“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. [Ticket information is available at church.](#)

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS FEBRUARY 13

Since 2009, sisters and brothers in Christ from different denominations have been gathering together at CLC to explore our shared faith in Jesus Christ. Next, our ecumenical Bible study will discuss St. Paul’s Epistle to Galatians and the Epistle of James. A review of these two books is especially appropriate as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation during 2017. Are we saved by faith or by works? Do James and Paul oppose each other? Come to the class and find out. There will be two class sessions on Monday at 10:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. No classes on the 1st Monday of each month. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to invite a friend.

ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 1

We begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday services at 11:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. The services will include the imposition of ashes and holy communion.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2016

Income	\$ 127,588.70
Expenses	\$ 124,368.91

Difference	\$ 3,219.79

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.

AN INVITATION FROM CLC WOMEN

Christ Lutheran Church 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.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

William Faulkner	Carol Fike	Arlene Giroux	Hilda Griessel
Herta Haupt	Joe Henstenberg	Fritz Herzog	Gloria Maki
Reggie Jakubec	Hazel Lanza	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)
Jackie Gregory	(friend of the Bliven family)
Mary Kelly	(sister-in-law of Tom Urbano)
JoAnn Kniskern	(sister-in-law of Judy Bliven)
Bob Kushner	(friend of Lorraine Urbano)
Scott Marshall	(brother-in-law of Tom Urbano)
Harold Mathis	(brother of Carol Fike)
James Mathis	(nephew of carol & Alan 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)
Dee Yates	(sister of Lorraine Urbano)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Karen Benedetto
11 James Way
15 Matthew Woehlke
25 Goodie Scherer
27 Joseph Fahd

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: FEBRUARY 2017

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (5 February 2017)

Isaiah 58:3–9a + 1 Corinthians 2:1–12 + Matthew 5:13–20

The Righteousness of Christ

Jesus warns that “*unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven*” (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people “*the salt of the earth*” and “*the light of the world*” (Matt. 5:13, 14). That’s because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the Prophets “*but to fulfill them*” (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. Since He does and teaches all of God’s commandments, He is “*called great in the kingdom of heaven*” (Matt. 5:19). God manifests His “*demonstration of the Spirit and of power*” in “*Jesus Christ and him crucified*” (1 Cor. 2:2–4) and through the preaching of the Gospel gives His “*secret and hidden wisdom*” (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true fasting, which is “*to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free*” (Is. 58:6) and “*to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house*” (Is. 58:7).

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (12 February 2017)

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 + 1 Corinthians 3:1–9 + Matthew 5:21–37

Christ Sets Life before Us so that We Can Walk in His Ways

The God who reveals Himself in His incarnate Son promises life and blessing to all who obey His commandments “*by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules*” (Deut. 30:16). However, we are “*people of the flesh*” and “*infants in Christ*” (1 Cor. 3:1) among whom “*there is jealousy and strife*” (1 Cor. 3:3). Jesus must instruct us against the human ways of anger, adultery, divorce and false witness (Matt. 5:21–37), because all who live in these ways “*shall surely perish*” (Deut. 30:18). On the cross He died to forgive our sins and free us from the ways of curse and death. Since Jesus Christ is our “*life and length of days*” (Deut. 30:20), we can be reconciled to our brother, live in chastity and marital faithfulness, and speak with honesty. He who serves from His cross also offers His gift of reconciliation at His altar, and we can be at peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are “*God’s field, God’s building*” (1 Cor. 3:9).

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY (19 February 2017)

Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18 + 1 Corinthians 3:10–23 + Matthew 5:38–48

God Manifests His Perfect Holiness in Christ through Compassion and Forgiveness

God reveals His perfect holiness in compassion as “*he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust*” (Matt. 5:45). By His grace in Jesus Christ, we are holy just as He is holy (Lev. 19:2) and we are “*God’s temple*” in whom “*God’s Spirit dwells*” (1 Cor. 3:16). This gift of holiness begins with fearing, loving and trusting God above all things, and it leads us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Lev. 19:18). No longer should we practice “*injustice in court.*” No longer should we “*be partial to the poor or defer to the great.*” No longer should we “*go around as a slanderer*” among God’s people. No longer should we “*take vengeance or bear a grudge*” (Lev. 19:15–18). Though we were His enemies, our Lord Jesus Christ has loved us and forgiven us. Nourished and sustained by His holy body and blood under the bread and wine of His holy Supper, we “*shall be holy*” (Lev. 19:2) even as the Lord our God is holy.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (26 February 2017)

Exodus 24:8–18 + 2 Peter 1:16–21 + Matthew 17:1–9

God Manifests His Glory in the Body of Christ Jesus, Transfigured for Us by His Cross

The transfiguration confirms “*the prophetic word ..., to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place*” (2 Peter 1:19). The divine glory of Jesus is manifested in the word of His apostles, who were “*eyewitnesses of his majesty*” (2 Peter 1:16). “*He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun*” (Matt. 17:2). Moses and Elijah witnessed the fulfillment of the Old Testament in this Lord Jesus, and the Father testified concerning Him: “*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased*” (Matt. 17:5). By His own blood, shed on the cross, Jesus makes and seals the new covenant with us. Hence, “*the appearance of the glory of the LORD*” is no longer “*like a devouring fire*” (Ex. 24:17), but it is graciously revealed in His own body. As “*Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel*” went up the mountain with Moses and “*beheld God, and ate and drank*” (Ex. 24:9, 11), we also behold the Lord our God in Christ Jesus, and we abide with Him as we eat and drink His body and blood at the altar.

FEBRUARY 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
29 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	30 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	31 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	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
5 10:30am Communion 11:45am Lunch & Learn 4:00pm Apostolic Church	6 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:00 pm Council	7 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	8 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	9 2:30pm TSL	10 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	11
12 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	13 <i>Office closed</i> 10:00am Bible Study 2:30pm TSL 6:30pm Bible Study	14 12:00pm CLC Women 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	15 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	16 2:30pm TSL	17 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	18
19 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	20 <i>Presidents Day Newsletter Deadline Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Bible Study	21 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	22 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am Communion	23 7:00am TSL All Day	24 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	25
26 10:30am Communion 12:30pm Tallman/Pogoda Baptism 4:00pm Apostolic Church	27 <i>Office closed</i> 10:00am Bible Study 2:30pm TSL 6:30pm Bible Study	28 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	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
5	Joe Fahd	Joe Fahd
12	Alan Fike	Alan Fike
19	Mark Hendricks	Mark Hendricks
26	Lorraine Urbano	Lorraine Urbano