

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles

March 2017

Worship

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

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

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

*Ash Wednesday March 1st
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,

What exactly is Lent?

Lent is a 40-day season in the Church year that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at the Great Vigil of Easter (Saturday night before Easter morning). Sundays are not included in the 40-day count because every Sunday is a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. You won't find Lent mentioned in the Bible, but it has long been a tradition in the Church. The season may have developed as a time to recall the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by Satan.

Lent is a solemn and subdued period for the Church, a time of penance and spiritual discipline. The liturgical color is somber purple. In the Divine Service, we do not sing songs of praise such as "Glory to God in the Highest", the Gospel "Alleluia", and the post-communion canticle, "Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise". Many congregations remove the decorative features from the worship space. At Christ Lutheran, we remove the larger candelabra and the flowers from our altar. This is all done to help us to contemplate our Lord Jesus' suffering and death for our sins.

Ash Wednesday is a day for us to focus on our complete sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to insure our salvation. Ashes are placed on our foreheads as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility, and repentance. They also remind us of our mortality ("you are dust, and to dust you shall return", Genesis 3:19).

Palm Sunday begins the last week of Lent, known as Holy Week. During this holiest time of the church year, the worship services relive the final week of our Lord's earthly ministry and life. We walk with the disciples and our Lord into Jerusalem, to the Last Supper in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday, and on to His Cross on Good Friday.

I pray that we will use Lent to reflect upon our sins and our continued need for our Savior, who went to the cross for you and for me. Think about the forgiveness Jesus won, the forgiveness given to you as a gift of God through faith. Realizing that God is willing to forgive you, may you be willing to forgive others – freely, without demanding an apology or anything in return – just as Jesus did for us. Take to heart the words of Jesus, "*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*" (Matthew 6:14-15)

May our merciful God create in us new and contrite hearts that we may receive His full pardon and forgiveness – and share His forgiveness and love with everyone we meet.

+Pastor Russ Craig

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

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.

FIRST SATURDAY CELEBRATION: MARCH 4

Our next 1st Saturday Celebration will be held on March. 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.

COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE: MARCH 5

The Church Council will hold its regular monthly meeting after worship on Sunday, March 5.

LENTEN SERMON SERIES: WORDS OF LIFE

Throughout Lent, the Sunday and Wednesday sermons will focus on the last words Christ spoke from the Cross. Sunday worship, during the coffee hour.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON: MARCH 18

Everyone's Irish for a few days in March, so let's celebrate at O'Toole's Restaurant on Saturday, March 18 at 12:30 P.M. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex. See Judy Bliven if you have any questions.

CELEBRATE IN SONG: APRIL 30

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of his *95 Theses*, the beginning of the Reformation. On Sunday, April 30, the Jubilate Singers & Orchestra will present a program of sacred music sharing the Gospel in Song at The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. Money will benefit the Guyanese and Pakistani ministries in our area. Ticket order forms are available at church. Checks payable to "Bethlehem Lutheran Church".

WELCOME TO THE CLC FAMILY

On February 19, we received Lindsay Tomaszek into membership. Lindsay is a doctoral student at UAlbany and transferring her membership from Christ Lutheran Church, Oak Park, IL.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 12

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 A.M on March 12. Set your clocks AHEAD one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 11.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY 2017

Income	\$ 7,614.00
Expenses	\$ 13,899.15

Difference	\$ -6,285.15

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

Vinny DeMoor	William Faulkner	Carol Fike	Arlene Giroux
Hilda Griessel	Herta Haupt	Joe Henstenberg	Fritz Herzog
Gloria Maki	Reggie Jakubec	Hazel Lanza	Dorothy Van Deusen
Lori Zeh			

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)
Niko DiNovo & Family	(friends of Madison Murray)
Kevin Fahd	(son of Joe & Nancy Fahd)
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)
Wayne Smith	(brother-in-law of Sandy Smith)
Dee Yates	(sister of Lorraine Urbano)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

7 Regina Jakubec
14 Debra Schildt
18 Larry Bohn
19 Joseph Henstenberg
20 Reegan Smith
26 William Spolyar
27 Kimberly Fahd
 Louise Nickerson
29 Carol Fike

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: MARCH 2017

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (5 March 2017)

Genesis 3:1–21 + Romans 5:12–19 + Matthew 4:1–11

The Lord Jesus Christ Is Our Champion against Satan

Following His Baptism, Jesus is *“led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil”* (Matt. 4:1). As He takes upon Himself the curse of our sin and sets Himself against our enemy, He trusts His Father’s voice and waits upon His Father’s hand for all things. The devil questions His sonship, but the beloved and well-pleasing Son remains faithful and lives *“by every word that comes from the mouth of God”* (Matt. 4:4). Jesus patiently suffers hunger in His mortal flesh and returns to the dust whence man was taken, and by His pain He brings forth food for all the children of men (Gen. 3:18–19). By the sweat of His brow, we eat the fruit of His cross, even as our nakedness is covered by His righteousness. Although all people live in bondage to death through the trespass of the first man, Adam, all the more *“have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many”* (Rom. 5:15). His righteous obedience *“leads to justification and life for all men”* (Rom. 5:18).

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (12 March 2017)

Genesis 12:1–9 + Romans 4:1–8, 13–17 + John 3:1–17

The Word of the Gospel Opens the Eyes of Faith and Fixes Them on Christ Jesus

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram *“a great nation,”* to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to *“all the families of the earth”* (Gen. 12:2–3). *“Abram went, as the LORD had told him”* (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan *“he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD”* (Gen. 12:8). He *“believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”* (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He *“justifies the ungodly”* (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord’s promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which *“gives life to the dead”* (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, *“that whoever believes in him may have eternal life”* (John 3:14–15).

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (19 March 2017)

Exodus 17:1–7 + Romans 5:1–8 + John 4:5–26 (27–30, 39–42)

We Worship the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Spirit and Truth of His Gospel

Though the Lord had brought them out of Egypt, *“all the congregation of the people of Israel”* grumbled against Him because *“there was no water for the people to drink”* (Ex. 17:1). Despite their quarreling, the Lord graciously provided for them. He did not strike the people for their sins, but by the hand of Moses He struck the rock instead and brought forth water for the people. In the same way, living water flows from the pierced side of Christ at *“about the sixth hour”* (John 4:6, 19:14), when He is lifted up on the cross for the sins of the world. He is *“the gift of God”* (John 4:10), the well from which the Holy Spirit is poured out and becomes in His people *“a spring of water welling up to eternal life”* (John 4:14). By this grace in which we stand, being at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, we *“worship the Father in spirit and truth”* (John 4:23). *“We rejoice in hope of the glory of God”* because *“God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us”* (Rom. 5:2, 5).

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (26 March 2017)

Isaiah 42:14–21 + Ephesians 5:8–14 + John 9:1–41 or John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

By His Word of the Gospel, Jesus Calls Us Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. *“For his righteousness’ sake,”* He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns *“the darkness before them into light”* (Is. 42:16) because He is *“the light of the world”* (John 9:5). The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh *“while it is day,”* until that night *“when no one can work”* (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though *“at one time you were darkness,”* now *“you are light in the Lord”* (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to *“awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead”* (Eph. 5:14).

MARCH 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 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 11:00am <i>Ash Wed</i> Worship 2:30pm TSL 7:00pm <i>Ash Wed</i> Worship	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 12:00pm Council 4:00pm Apostolic Church	6 <i>Office closed</i> No Bible Study Today 2:30pm TSL	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 <i>Set Clocks</i> <i>Ahead 1 Hour at</i> <i>Bedtime</i>
12 <i>Daylight Savings</i> <i>Time Begins</i> 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>St. Patrick's</i> <i>Day</i> <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	18 12:30pm St. Patrick's Day Lunch
19 10:30am Communion 4:00pm Apostolic Church	20 <i>Newsletter</i> <i>Deadline</i> <i>Office closed</i> 10:00am Bible Study 2:30pm TSL 6:30pm Bible Study	21 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	22 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	23 2:30pm TSL	24 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	25
26 10:30am Communion 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	29 11:00am Communion 2:30pm TSL	30 2:30pm TSL	31 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	1 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	Judy Zamurs	Judy Zamurs
12	Mark Hendricks	Mark Hendricks
19	Pat Spolyar	Jeff LaPorte
26	Lorraine Urbano	Lorraine Urbano