

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles April 2017

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Holy Communion

First Saturday Celebration
April 1st at 3:30 P.M.

Maundy Thursday April 13th
Communion 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday April 14th
Passion of the Lord 12:00 P.M.
Tenebrae Service 7:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday April 16th
Communion 10:00 A.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 Forgiven Saints of Christ,

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin ... Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow ... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
(Psalm 51:2, 7, 10)

When I was ministering with SonRise Lutheran Church, I learned that people in the Adirondacks have their own names for the seasons. What we call Spring was more frequently referred to as Mud Season, which was soon followed by Black Fly Season. During Mud Season, I'd watch worshipers cross Camp SonRise's dirt parking lot, carefully trying to walk around or hop over the puddles and muddy spots. As hard as each tried, though, few ever made it into the building without wet or dirty shoes.

Our own lives can often look a lot like this can't they? I'm not talking about muddy shoes, but about how we keep on stepping into puddles of temptation and get covered with the mud of sin. We try to clean ourselves off, but we can never remove all of the stains – and we can never stop ourselves from giving into temptation and falling into sin. On our own, we're stuck in an endless and hopeless cycle of sin and guilt that leads only to separation from God and eternal death.

But we are not alone in this struggle. Our loving and merciful God comes to save us from our dire predicament. The Father sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to jump into the mud of our sinful lives. Jesus faced all the temptations that we face and He did not give in, but lived the perfect life of submission to the Father in our place. Jesus took our sins upon Himself and bore them all the way to the Cross. Jesus rose again to life and came out of the tomb, defeating for us, the chains of sin and the bondage of Satan. And then Jesus gives us His victory, His perfection and His life. Through God's gracious gift of faith, in the saving water and Word of Baptism, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are washed clean of sin and now stand before God forgiven, unstained and pure.

Mud puddles will continue to dirty our shoes and pants, but sin can no longer leave lasting stains on the souls of those who have been reborn into Jesus Christ, our resurrected Lord and Savior. As we celebrate Easter, pray to the Lord, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9) And hear Jesus declare to you, *"Already you are clean because of the Word I have spoken to you."* (John 15:3)

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Rejoice in Jesus and the new life that is yours through Him.

+Pastor Russ Craig

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

FIRST SATURDAY CELEBRATION: APRIL 1

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

This outreach ministry is connecting with our special needs neighbors and their families. The March 4th service was attended by 20 target individuals/family/staff, along with 13 CLC volunteers – a total of 33 people celebrating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All are invited to attend the next 1st Saturday Celebration and enjoy an uplifting, relaxed worship experience.

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. Bus transportation is available – leaving from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Delmar; Zion Lutheran Church, Schenectady; and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Saratoga. Ticket order forms are available at church. Checks payable to "Bethlehem Lutheran Church".

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY: MONDAYS, 10:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

We will finish the Epistle of James by mid-April. On May 8, we will move on to Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Morning and evening sessions meet in the Shepherd Room.

LUNCH & LEARN: DOWNSIZING – MAY 21

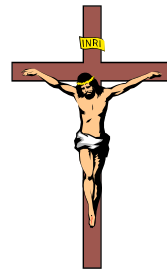
Our next Lunch & Learn will focus on tips for downsizing – how to enjoy life more with less.

SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 10 – ANNUAL STRWBERRY FEST

Christ Church Women will be holding their annual Strawberry Fest on Saturday, June 10th from 12:00 to 4:00 PM.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

<i>Palm Sunday</i>	10:30 A.M.	Holy Communion
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7:00 P.M.	Holy Communion
<i>Good Friday</i>	12:00 P.M.	Passion of the Lord
	7:00 P.M.	Tenebrae Service
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion



2017 CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

President	Joseph Fahd
Vice President	Patricia Spolyar
Treasurer	Nancy Fahd
Endowment Secretary	Lorraine Urbano
Financial Secretary	William Spolyar
Recording Secretary	Judy Zamurs

Directors

Education & Youth	Deacon Tom Craig
Fellowship	Linda Halbrend
Finance & Stewardship	Sharon Calka
Outreach & Missions	Lisa Brinkman
Property	Jeff LaPorte (<i>appointed to complete Brian Maki's term</i>)
Spiritual & Worship Life	Sandy Smith

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2017

Income \$ 14,164.00

Expenses \$ 25,041.07

Difference \$ -10,877.07

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	Carol Fike	Arlene Giroux	Hilda Griessel
Hazel Lanza	Herta Haupt	Joe Henstenberg	Fritz Herzog
Reggie Jakubec	Gloria Maki	George Pomakoy	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)
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)
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)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2	Marilyn Pier
	Kufre Okure
5	Barbara Kunkel
14	George Pomakoy
19	Linda Lambert
20	Judy Bliven
	Bea White
26	Carole Craig

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: APRIL 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (2 April 2017)

Ezekiel 37:1–14 + Romans 8:1–11 + John 11:1–45

Jesus Christ Is the Resurrection and the Life

The illness and death of Lazarus happened “that the Son of God may be glorified through it” (John 11:4). Jesus’ miracle of raising Lazarus prompted His arrest and crucifixion, whereby He would die “for the nation” and gather “into one the children of God who are scattered abroad” (John 11:51–52). As He called Lazarus from the tomb and commanded others to “unbind him, and let him go” (John 11:44), Jesus also calls us and releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We would not “submit to God’s law,” nor could we “please God” (Rom. 8:7–8), but “he condemned sin” in His own flesh so “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us” (Rom. 8:3–4). Now through the Gospel, “the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells” in us (Rom. 8:11). His Word breathes His Spirit into our mortal flesh, animating us with His own life. As His ministers preach according to His divine command, the Lord Jesus calls us from the grave into the good land that He gives us (Ezek. 37:12, 14).

PALM SUNDAY (9 April 2017)

Isaiah 50:4–9a + Philippians 2:5–11 + John 12:12–19

Now Is the Hour When the Son of Man Is Glorified

“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming.” He comes in gentle humility, “sitting on a donkey’s colt,” yet also as the King of Israel “in the name of the Lord” (John 12:13, 15). His royal glory is faithful obedience and self-sacrificing service “to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8). The love of God is manifested in the cross and Passion of His Son for the salvation of sinners. Since He has borne our sins and suffered our death, “God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:9), and He exalts us in His resurrection. Our Lord did not hide His face “from disgrace and spitting” (Is. 50:6), but He trusted His God and Father, who raised Him from death and the grave and exalted Him to His right hand. This same King Jesus now comes to us in gentle humility in His Supper, where He feeds us with His body and cleanses and covers us with His blood, so that “after his resurrection” we also shall rise and enter the holy city (Matt. 27:52–53).

EASTER SUNDAY (16 April 2017)

Acts 10:34–43 + Colossians 3:1–4 + Matthew 28:1–10

The Victory of Christ Crucified Is Given to You in the Preaching of His Resurrection

Every Sunday is the Lord’s day, the day of His resurrection, “after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week” (Matt. 28:1). In the Divine Service, the Church enters upon the eternal “eighth day.” The Lord Jesus, “who was crucified,” who “has risen, as he said” (Matt. 28:5–6), is the firstborn from the dead and the firstfruits of the new creation. Because “you have died” with Him in Holy Baptism, “you have been raised with Christ” and “your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:1, 3). The Lord Jesus has become our God, as surely as He is “the God of all the clans of Israel,” and we now belong to His people (Jer. 31:1). In this, He “shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34), but “everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:43). As “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power” and “raised him on the third day,” He also raises us up and pours out His Spirit upon us through the Gospel (Acts 10:38, 40).

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (23 April 2017)

Acts 5:29–42 + 1 Peter 1:3–9 + John 20:19–31

Christ Jesus Breathes His Spirit and His Life into Us by the Ministry of the Gospel

The crucified and risen Lord Jesus establishes the ministry of the Gospel in order to bestow His life-giving Holy Spirit and His peace upon the Church. To those who are called and ordained to this office, and to those whom they serve in His name, He grants the Holy Absolution of all sins. By the fruits of His cross, He replaces fear and doubt with peace and joy, and thus gives “repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31). Through the preaching of His sent ones, He calls us to believe that He “is the Christ, the Son of God,” so that by such faith we “may have life in his name” (John 20:31). In His resurrection, we have the “living hope” to which we have been “born again” and by which we are guarded “for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:3, 5). Until then, “though you have not seen him, you love him,” and by the mercies of God “you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory” (1 Peter 1:8).

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (30 April 2017)

Acts 2:14a, 36–41 + 1 Peter 1:17–25 + Luke 24:13–35

The Risen Lord Jesus Is with Us in Holy Baptism and in ‘the Breaking of the Bread’

From “before the foundation of the world” until heaven and earth pass away, “the word of the Lord remains forever” (1 Peter 1:20, 25). This “living and abiding word of God” is the preaching of Christ Jesus, namely that God “raised him from the dead and gave him glory” (1 Peter 1:21, 23). By this living word, we “have been born again” to eternal life (1 Peter 1:23) and ransomed from our sinful and mortal life “with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18–19). This living word also calls us to repentance, to dying and rising in Holy Baptism “in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38). In this, we receive the Holy Spirit “for you and for your children and for all who are far off” (Acts 2:39). Through the preaching of His cross and resurrection, Jesus draws near to bring us “into his glory” (Luke 24:26). As He opens the Scriptures, He opens our minds to comprehend “the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27), and He brings us to know Him “in the breaking of the bread” (Luke 24:35).

APRIL 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
26 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	27 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	28 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	29 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 2:30pm TSL	30 2:30pm TSL	31 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	1 3:30pm <i>First Saturday Celebration</i>
2 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	3 <i>Office closed</i> No Bible Study Today 2:30pm TSL 7:00pm Council	4 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	5 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 2:30pm TSL	6 2:30pm TSL	7 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	8
9 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	10 <i>Office closed</i> 10:00am Bible Study 2:30pm TSL 6:30pm Bible Study	11 12:00pm CLC Women 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	12 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 11:45am TSL Half day	13 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:00pm <i>Communion</i>	14 <i>Good Friday</i> <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm <i>Lord's Passion</i> 7:00pm <i>Tenebrae</i> 7:30pm AA	15
16 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	17 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 10:00am Bible Study (if needed) 6:30pm Bible Study (if needed)	18 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	19 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	21 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	22
23 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	24 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL	25 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	26 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 2:30pm TSL	27 2:30pm TSL	28 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	29
30 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church 4:00pm Jubilate Concert	1 <i>Office closed</i> No Bible Study Today 2:30pm TSL 7:00pm Council	2 12:00pm Al Anon 2:30pm TSL	3 11:00am <i>Communion</i> 2:30pm TSL	4 2:30pm TSL	5 <i>Office closed</i> 2:30pm TSL 7:30pm AA	6 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
2	Joe Fahd	Joe Fahd
9	Mark Hendricks	Mark Hendricks
16	Sandy Smith	Pastor Craig
23	Lorraine Urbano	Lorraine Urbano
30	Judy Zamurs	Judy Zamurs