

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles

July 2017

Message from the Pastor

Dear Saints of Christ,

Many of you either use Facebook or are at least aware of this social media phenomenon. Unlike those users who post their every opinion and sharing other peoples' posts. I tend to limit my activity to posting a daily Bible verse and occasional photos of my grandsons. On June 14, our country was shocked by the horrible shootings in Alexandria, VA. While listening to the news reports, some thoughts came to mind that I wrote on my Facebook timeline. As we grapple with continuing violence in our country and around the world, and as Independence Day approaches, I would like to share my message with you.

This Sunday centered on the Holy Trinity. One God, 3 Persons - Father, Son, Holy Spirit. In our prayers and statement of faith, we celebrated "Unity in Trinity" and "Trinity in Unity".

On this sad day, in the wake of the Alexandria shootings, I pray that we, as Americans, can regain a sense of "Unity in diversity" and "Diversity in unity". Diversity not division. Respectful argument not hateful anger.

We are a diverse people. That has always been our strength. May God help us believe and say, "Even though I disagree with you, I do care about you as a fellow human, and we need each other".

May the Lord heal the wounded and heal our divisions.

On June 15, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod posted this prayer on their Facebook page:

Lord, keep this nation under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Defeat the plans of all those who would stir up violence and strife, destroy the weapons of those who delight in bloodshed, and, according to Your will, end all conflicts in our nation. Grant that we may choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

May our gracious, loving God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – be with and bless. And may God bless the United States.

+Pastor Russ Craig

Worship

Sunday 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion

Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Holy Communion

Friendship Service
1st & 3rd Saturday 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

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

FRIENDSHIP SERVICE: SATURDAY, JULY 1 & 15

Our “Saturday Celebration has been renamed “Friendship Service”, and there will be two services specially designed for special needs individuals and their caregivers. The services will be held on July 1st and July 15th 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.

GEORGE POMAKOY CALLED TO GLORY

On June 9, George Pomakoy died and now rests with the Lord. A memorial service will be held at church in August (date and time to be announced). Please keep George’s family in your prayers

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE STRAWBERRY FEST

The support and participation of the ladies and congregation is greatly appreciated. The money raised will help Christ Lutheran Women’s efforts to further the Gospel ministry within our congregation and in the world.

SUPPORT LWML WITH YOUR MITES

Save your pennies! Christ Lutheran Women will be distributing “mite boxes” to collect donations to support the work of the Lutheran Women Missionary League.

TRI-CITY VALLEYCATS GAME: AUGUST 6

Our annual outing to watch the ValleyCats play the Aberdeen IronBirds will be on Sunday, August 7th at 5 p.m. The ValleyCats play at the Joseph Bruno Stadium in Troy. If interested in attending, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex by June 25. Ticket prices will be posted.

NEW LED LIGHTS INSTALLED

If you thought it is brighter in the narthex, kitchen and fellowship, you are correct. New LED light fixtures have been installed. Not only will these provide better lighting, the electric cost will be significantly less than with the old bulbs.

NEW CHURCH SIGN

Years of weather damage resulted in severe deterioration to the sign in front of the church at the corner of Western Avenue and E. Highland Drive. A new digital sign is being installed. This will be much more visible to drivers and allows for the text to be changed so that worship services and special events may be displayed. The brickwork will also be repaired in the near future.

TSL TO INSTALL PLAYGROUND

As reported last month, TSL Adventures will install a playground near the shed. Some materials have been delivered and they hope to have it completed in time for their summer program. TSL is paying for the equipment and installation.

ALL-DAY TSL CONTINUES THROUGH THE SUMMER

TSL’s summer program will operate from 7:00 AM to 6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, until September 1st.

GUILDERLAND FOOD PANTRY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Guilderland Food Pantry will hold its first annual golf tournament to benefit GFC and its work to assist the “food insecure” in our town. Registration forms, which include costs and the submission deadline, will be posted on the bulletin board. An electronic copy can be sent by emailing Pastor Russ.

SAVE THE DATE: REFORMATION SERVICE, NOVEMBER 5

A service of commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation has been scheduled for Sunday, November 5, at 3 PM. Our Savior Lutheran Church in Colonie will be our host. Atlantic District President/Bishop Derek Lecakes will be the guest preacher.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY - MAY 2017

Income	\$ 71,752.42
Expenses	\$ 66,068.64

Difference	\$ 5,683.78

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sharon Calka	Carol Fike	Arlene Giroux	Hilda Griessel
Hazel Lanza	Herta Haupt	Joe Henstenberg	Fritz Herzog
Dorothy Van Deusen	Lori Zeh		

Family & Friends

Holly Bakes	(friend of Judy Zamurs)
Ed Beutel	(brother of Bea White)
Elizabeth Beers	(sister of Mark Hendricks)
Raymond Beers	(brother-in-law of Mark & Sue Hendricks)
Katelyn Benedetto	(niece of Mike & Karen Benedetto)
George Bradt	(husband of Virginia Bradt)
Ed Burrell	(father of Madison Murray)
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)
Niko DiNovo & Family	(friends of Madison Murray)
Linda Fitzgerald	(sister of Barbara Kunkel)
Sharon Graser	(daughter-in-law of Jean Graser)
Karen Greene	(daughter of Jan Bentsen)
Jackie Gregory	(friend of the Bliven family)
Kay Kellerman	(friend of Sandy Smith)
JoAnn Kniskern	(sister-in-law of Judy Bliven)
Ann Lawton	(mother of Sue Hendricks)
Alan Maki	(son of Gloria & Brian Maki)
Francis Mathis	(sister-in-law of Alan & Carol Fike)
Harold Mathis	(brother of Carol Fike)
Mary Poland	(friend of Deacon Tom Craig)
Vicky Quay	(friend of Congregation)
Maryann Raymond	(friend of Lois Gerhardt)
Bob Sloop	(friend of Lorraine Urbano)
Wayne Smith	(brother-in-law of Sandy Smith)
Susan Turan	(sister-in-law of Jan Bentsen)
Dee Yates	(sister of Lorraine Urbano)

JULY BIRTHDAYS

4	Alan Fike
8	Daniel Flood
20	Dorothy Van Deusen
21	Kimberly DeMoor
24	Brittany Fahd
26	Mike Benedetto
30	Bruce Huehn

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: JULY 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (2 July 2017)

Jeremiah 28:5–9 + Romans 7:1–13 + Matthew 10:34–42

The Lord Jesus Brings Division on Earth for the Sake of Peace with God in Heaven

False prophets preach what their hearers want to hear, promising peace even when the Lord has spoken “war, famine, and pestilence” (Jer. 28:8). But if “the LORD has truly sent the prophet,” he speaks what the Lord has spoken, and “the word of that prophet comes to pass” (Jer. 28:9). The preaching of God’s Law is hard, because it confronts sin, brings it to light and makes it worse, “sinful beyond measure,” thereby “producing death” in the sinner (Rom. 7:13). But through our Baptism into Christ, “we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive” (Rom. 7:6). Now we belong “to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God” (Rom. 7:4). Belonging to Him puts us at odds with the world and divides us from all earthly ties, not only from our human family, but each person from his own life. For Christ does not come “to bring peace, but a sword” (Matt. 10:34). Yet, whoever takes up his cross to follow Christ, and “loses his life” for Christ’s sake, finds new life in Him (Matt. 10:38–39).

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (9 July 2017)

Zechariah 9:9–12 + Romans 7:14–25a + Matthew 11:25–30

Jesus Christ, Our Savior, Is Our True Peace and Sabbath Rest

Though we have died with Christ in Holy Baptism, and we are raised to new life in Him, we find “another law waging war” in our body and life, that is, between our old Adam and the new man (Rom. 7:23). By the Spirit of Christ, we “desire to do what is right,” but we are not able to do so because “nothing good” dwells in our sinful flesh (Rom. 7:18). “Thanks be to God,” therefore, “through Jesus Christ our Lord,” who delivers us from “this body of death” (Rom. 7:24–25). We rejoice in Him, our gentle King, who comes “righteous and having salvation” (Zech. 9:9). He speaks peace to our embattled hearts, and by His blood of the New Testament He sets us “free from the waterless pit,” and He returns us to the stronghold of our Baptism (Zech. 9:10–12). Though we “labor and are heavy laden,” He calls us to Himself and gives rest to our souls through His free and full forgiveness (Matt. 11:28), not because we are “wise and understanding,” but by the “gracious will” of God the Father, whom “the Son chooses to reveal” in love (Matt. 11:25–27).

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (16 July 2017)

Isaiah 55:10–13 + Romans 8:12–17 + Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

The Preaching of the Word of Christ Bears the Good Fruits of Faith and Love

As “the rain and the snow come down from heaven” and “water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout” (Is. 55:10), so the Word of God accomplishes the purpose for which He speaks it, granting joy and peace through the forgiveness of sins and producing the fruits of faith and love in those who are called by His name. Christ Jesus, the incarnate Word, has established the name of the Lord as “an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (Is. 55:13). He opens our ears to hear, our minds to understand and our hearts to believe His Word, lest the evil one come and snatch it away. He thus transforms our rocky hearts into good soil, which clings to the Gospel and “indeed bears fruit” (Matt. 13:23). He is Himself the firstfruits of all who “have received the Spirit of adoption as sons” (Rom. 8:15). Thus being “led by the Spirit of God,” we are not afraid, but we cry out in faith to our Father in heaven (Rom. 8:14–15). For as we suffer with Christ, the beloved Son, so shall we “also be glorified with him” (Rom. 8:17).

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (23 July 2017)

Isaiah 44:6–8 + Romans 8:18–27 + Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ and Brings Forth Faith

The good Seed, which is “the Son of Man,” Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in “the sons of the kingdom” (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets “both grow together until the harvest” (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is “the King of Israel and his Redeemer” (Is. 44:6). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, “fear not, nor be afraid” (Is. 44:8). For “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God” (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, “the Spirit helps us in our weakness” (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom. 8:18).

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (30 July 2017)

Deuteronomy 7:6–9 + Romans 8:28–39 + Matthew 13:44–52

The Son of God Has Redeemed Us for Himself with His Holy and Precious Blood

The Lord our God has chosen us to be “his treasured possession,” not because of any strength in us, but solely “because the LORD loves” us (Deut. 7:6–8). He is faithful, and He “keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments” (Deut. 7:9). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us “great value” by the great price that He has paid on the cross (Matt. 13:45–46). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His Kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are “hidden in a field,” covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (Matt. 13:44), not for destruction, but “to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom. 8:29). Since we “are called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us “at the right hand of God” (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from “the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:39).

JULY 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
25 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	26 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	27 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	28 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	29 7:00am TSL All Day	30 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	1 3:30pm <i>Friendship Service</i>
2 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	3 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	4 <i>Independence Day</i> <i>Office closed</i> TSL CLOSED 12:00pm Al Anon	5 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	6 7:00am TSL All Day	7 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	8 12:00pm Apostolic Church Wedding
9 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	10 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	11 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	12 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	13 7:00am TSL All Day	14 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	15 3:30pm <i>Friendship Service</i>
16 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	17 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	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> 7:00am TSL All Day	25 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	26 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	27 7:00am TSL All Day	28 7:00am TSL All Day	29
30 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	31 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	1 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	2 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	3 7:00am TSL All Day	4 7:00am TSL All Day	5 3:30pm <i>Friendship Service</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	Lorraine Urbano	Lorraine Urbano
23	Judy Zamurs	Judy Zamurs
30	Jeff LaPorte	Jeff LaPorte