

Christ Lutheran Church

1500 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203-3525

Chronicles

July 2017

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

Message from the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A couple of weeks ago, Atlantic District Bishop Derek Lecakes sent out an email informing everyone about a health issue he was battling. His epistle began with one of my favorite Bible verses: *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice”* (Philippians 4:4)

How and why can we be joyful every day, all day, as St. Paul encourages? Because the Lord Jesus was born, died and rose again so that you and I *“may have life and have it abundantly”* (John 10:10).

Paul was not preaching that believers are guaranteed health, wealth, and a problem-free life. During his ministry he was harassed, threatened, imprisoned, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, and eventually executed. Paul had times of gloom, exhaustion, loneliness and trial. Yet even during the worst of times, he rejoiced in the Lord.

How could Paul maintain such an attitude? By knowing that true life is found in being a child of God the Father united to Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. He knew that Jesus died and rose again for him. He knew that Jesus came down from heaven to save him from sin, death and the power of the devil. Paul recognized every day the steadfast love of God and trusted Jesus’ promise to never forsake him.

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything” (Philippians 4:5-6). Too often we worry and fret about anything and everything, but in doing so we allow a lack of trust in God to gain the upper hand. Paul learned to trust the Lord completely and his constant trust allowed him to receive genuine contentment, peace, and joy. He still had fears, tears, and difficult times, but he faced these in the context of Christ’s never-ending love. We, too, are called by Christ to trust Him and really believe that He is our Savior and Lord. Jesus died for all sinners and through the gift of faith gives us His forgiveness and eternal life. We need not fear anything because our future is secure in Him. Because of Jesus, we are free to be content with what we have or don’t have. Because of Jesus we are free to appreciate and enjoy all the blessings God gives us.

Somewhere in my readings, I came upon these wonderful words of encouragement from a pastor: *“There is nothing you can do that will make God love you more and there is nothing you can do that will make God love you less”*.

In the midst of your daily struggles, God loves you completely. As you grapple with temptation and sin, God loves you completely. In sickness and in health, God loves you completely. In times of loss and in times of plenty, God loves you completely. So ...

“Rejoice in the Lord always; I will say it again, Rejoice”.

+Pastor Russ Craig

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

PASTOR CRAIG ON VACATION AUGUST 7-13

Pastor Russ & Carole will be out of town Monday to Friday of that week and then relaxing at home over the weekend. Contact Deacon Tom if you have any emergencies. He will lead a non-communion Service of the Word on Sunday, 8/13.

FRIENDSHIP SERVICE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 & 19 (3:30 P.M.)

These relaxed services are designed for special needs individuals and their caregivers – *yet all who attend have found the experience enjoyable and spirit-lifting regardless of abilities.* Everyone is welcome – as a volunteer or worshipper. Contact: Deacon Tom Craig.

TRI-CITY VALLEYCATS BASEBALL GAME: AUGUST 6

The outing to watch the ValleyCats play the Aberdeen IronBirds will be on Sunday, August 6th at 5 p.m. The ValleyCats play at the Joseph Bruno Stadium in Troy. If you signed up, Linda Halbrend will have your ticket..

NO WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE ON AUGUST 9

The 11:00 A.M. service will not be held because of Pastor Russ' vacation.

POMAKOY MEMORIAL SERVICE AUGUST 19

A memorial service for George Pomakoy will be held at the church on Saturday, August 19th at 11:00 A.M., followed by a reception in the fellowship hall. George entered his eternal rest on June 9.

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.

TSL PLAYGROUND COMPLETE

TSL's new playground has been installed and being enjoyed by the children. The childcare program paid for the equipment and installation. The church contributed the fence that surrounds the area.

SUPPORT LWML WITH YOUR MITES

Save your pennies! Christ Lutheran Women have distributed "mite boxes" to collect donations to support the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Boxes may be found in the narthex.

STRAWBERRY FEST SUCCESS

This year's Strawberry Fest raised a net \$1,410 after expenses. The support and participation of the ladies and congregation is greatly appreciated.

CHRIST LUTHERAN WOMEN MEET MONTHLY

All women of CLC are invited to be a part of Christ Lutheran Women. The ladies' group meets September to June *normally* on the second Tuesday of the month at 12:00 noon in the Shepherd Room (see September change, below). This a time for fellowship and discussing how to support the Gospel ministry at our church, the community and beyond. Due to a schedule conflict, the next meeting will be on **September 19th**, which is the third rather than second Tuesday. For more information, please speak with Sandy Smith.

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 3:00 PM. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Colonie. Atlantic District Bishop Derek Lecakes will preach.

FINANCIAL REPORT: JANUARY - JUNE 2017

Income	\$ 78,093.77
Expenses	\$ 74,156.73

Difference	\$ 3,937.04

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)
Erin Carhart	(niece of Della & Joe Henstenberg)
Jennylee Carman	(sister of Loretta Flanders)
Robert Carman	(brother-in-law of Loretta Flanders)
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)
Rev. Derek Lecakes	(our Atlantic District President/Bishop)
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)

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Michael Hoffsteter
6 Patricia Spolyar
11 Anne MacIntosh
14 Victoria MacIntosh
17 Susan Hendricks
Tom Okure
Susan Schildt
28 Virginia Bradt
Phyllis Mattice

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES: AUGUST 2017

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (6 August 2017)

Isaiah 55:1–5 + Romans 9:1–5 (6–13) + Matthew 14:13–21

Christ Jesus, the Living Bread from Heaven, Feeds the Children of God

By the Gospel of “*the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever*” (Rom. 9:5), we are “*the children of God*” (Rom. 9:8), “*not because of works but because of him who calls*” (Rom. 9:11). Therefore, “*listen diligently*” and “*hear, that your soul may live.*” By His sacrificial death in His flesh and blood, He has made “*an everlasting covenant*” for us. Since He now calls us to Himself, we come to Him “*and eat what is good, and delight ... in rich food*” (Is. 55:2–3). He has come with divine compassion to save us from sin and death and to feed us with Himself. As our Lord Jesus once took bread, “*said a blessing,*” broke the loaves “*and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds*” (Matt. 14:18–19), He also now takes bread, blesses it by His Word to be His very body, and distributes it to His Church by the hand of His called and ordained servants. Just as “*they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces,*” there is more than enough for His whole Church to eat and to be satisfied (Matt. 14:20).

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (13 August 2017)

Job 38:4–18 + Romans 10:5–17 + Matthew 14:22–33

Christ the Crucified Comes to Save Us by the Word of Faith

The Lord who “*laid the foundation of the earth*” (Job 38:4) is the Author and Giver of life who governs all things by His Word. His wisdom and power are beyond our understanding, except as He reveals Himself in the incarnate Word, Christ Jesus. He has “*entered into the springs of the sea*” and “*walked in the recesses of the deep*” (Job 38:16), and He draws near to us in mercy. We have been “*a long way from the land, beaten by the waves*” and tossed about by hostile winds (Matt. 14:24). In our mortality and sinful unbelief, we do not always recognize the Lord Jesus. But as we cry out in fear, He speaks tenderly to us, “*Do not be afraid,*” and He reaches out His hand to save us (Matt. 14:27, 31). “*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*” (Rom. 10:13), and now we call upon Him in faith, because we have heard “*through the word of Christ*” (Rom. 10:17). “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (Rom. 10:8).

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (20 August 2017)

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8 + Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32 + Matthew 15:21–28

The Church Lives Under the Cross of Christ and Prays in the Hope of His Mercy

By her persistent prayer that Jesus would have mercy and help her (Matt. 15:22, 24), and even in the face of His initial silence and apparent rejection (Matt. 15:23–26), the Canaanite woman boldly confessed her faith in Him (Matt 15:27–28). Her beautiful example encourages us to cling to the words and promises of the Gospel, even in the face of the Law that accuses and condemns us. “*For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*” (Rom. 11:29), and His Law “*has consigned all to disobedience*” for the very purpose “*that he may have mercy on all*” (Rom. 11:32). Hence, the woman’s faith and hope were not disappointed, but her prayers were answered in the mercy of Christ. Not only does He grant us the crumbs from His table, but He also feeds us with “*the children’s bread*” in the house of His Father (Matt. 15:26–27). He has brought us to His “*holy mountain,*” and He makes us joyful in His house, where He hears our prayers and accepts our sacrifice of praise upon the altar of His cross (Is. 56:7).

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (27 August 2017)

Isaiah 51:1–6 + Romans 11:33–12:8 + Matthew 16:13–20

The Lord Jesus Christ Is the Son of the Living God

Jesus asked His disciples: “*But who do you say that I am?*” (Matt. 16:15). The question is also put to us: Who do you say that He is? Flesh and blood do not reveal this to us, but by the ministry of the Gospel, the Father in heaven reveals His Son to us on earth, who has become flesh and suffered death for our salvation. Thus, we believe and confess that He is “*the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (Matt 16:16). As He died for our transgressions and was raised for our justification, He looses us from all our sins and preserves our life within His Church, against which even “*the gates of hell shall not prevail*” (Matt. 16:18–19). His salvation is forever, and His righteousness “*will never be dismayed*” (Is. 51:6). He comforts us with the Gospel in His Church, so that “*joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song*” (Is. 51:3). Therefore, “*according to the measure of faith that God has assigned*” (Rom. 12:3), we also offer ourselves “*as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God*” (Rom. 12:1) through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

AUGUST 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
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 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	5 3:30pm <i>Friendship Service</i>
6 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	7 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	8 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	9 7:00am TSL All Day NO Morning Service Today	10 7:00am TSL All Day	11 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	12
13 10:30am <i>Service of the Word</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	14 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	15 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	16 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	17 7:00am TSL All Day	18 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	19 11:00am <i>Pomakoy Memorial</i> 3:30pm <i>Friendship Service</i>
20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	21 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	22 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	23 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	24 7:00am TSL All Day	25 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	26
27 10:30am <i>Communion</i> 4:00pm Apostolic Church	28 <i>Office closed</i> 7:00am TSL All Day	29 7:00am TSL All Day 12:00pm Al Anon	30 7:00am TSL All Day 11:00am <i>Communion</i>	31 7:00am TSL All Day	1 7:00am TSL All Day 7:30pm AA	2 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
6	Alan Fike	Alan Fike
13	No Communion	Linda Halbrend
20	Sandy Smith	Deacon Tom Craig
27	Bill Spolyar	Lorraine Urbano