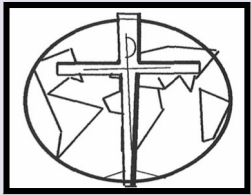


Christus Victor Lutheran Church

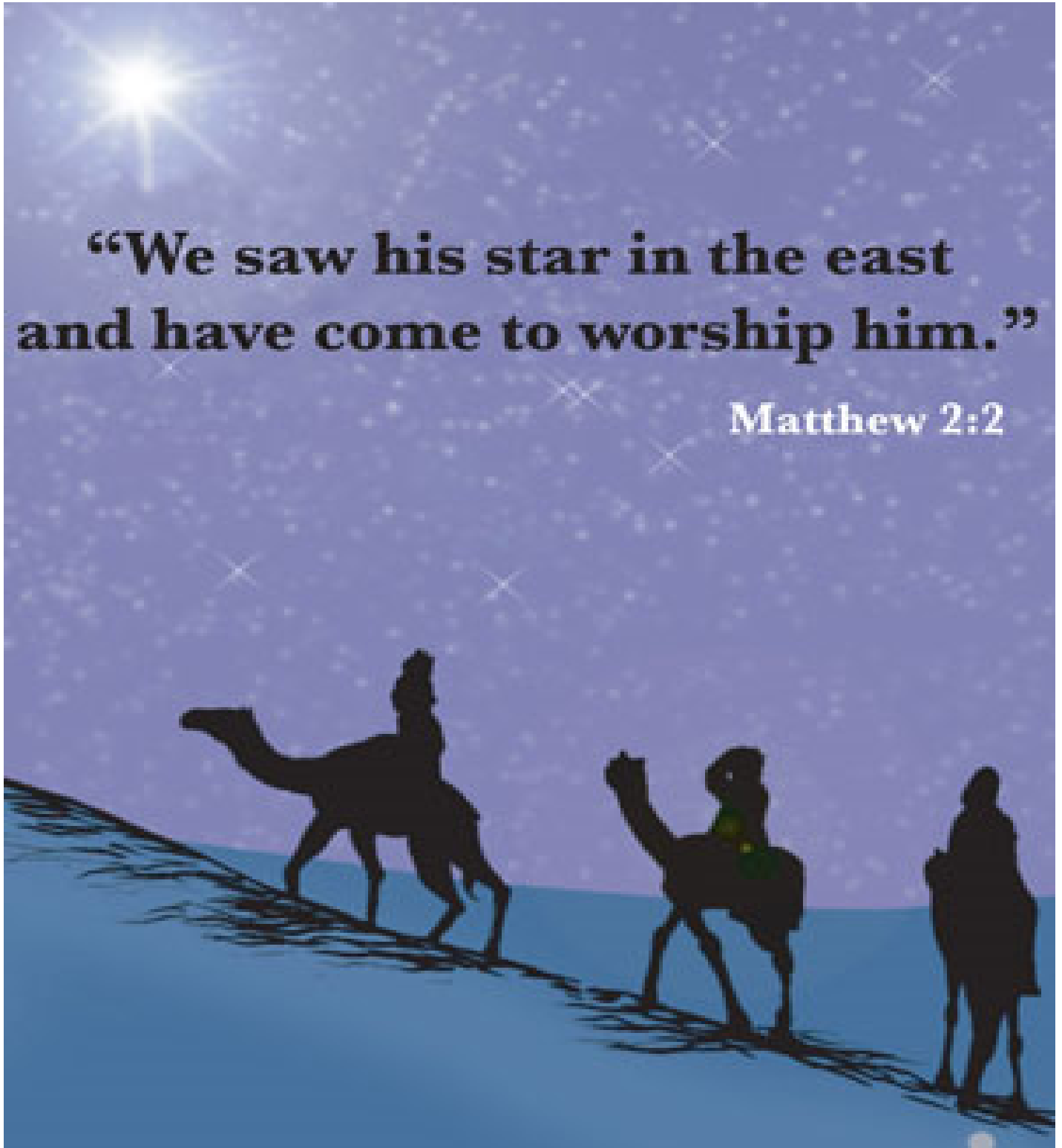
JANUARY 2021



**“To bring the Life, Love and Teachings of Jesus
Christ to today’s world”**

**“We saw his star in the east
and have come to worship him.”**

Matthew 2:2





Hello Christus Victor Family and friends:

Let me begin by saying thank you! For what you ask? Well, there is a list. Thank you for the generous Christmas gift that I received from this congregation! With all that has happened and the financial struggles so many have had in our community, I did not even consider that the church would, or could be so generous. So thank you for this wonderful gift.

I am also thankful for individuals who have a vision for the church that goes beyond the here and now. I have heard so many comments like “the government is not allowing us to worship” and that concerns me. While there is a great need to truly be present together for worship, in this struggle through the pandemic, we have realized that worship can happen in many ways. TV preachers have been around forever, and many of them have a much different understanding of who God is and what it means to worship. I believe Lutherans (and maybe others as well) have hesitated to provide tv/video worship because we do not want to appear to be “salespersons for Jesus” in a matter of speaking. This pandemic has given us no choice. No one has taken away our ability to worship. What has been done, right or wrong, by shutting things down has been done in an effort to protect the most vulnerable among us. It has been hard, and become quite a political issue, but, no one is trying to keep us from worship. Truth be told, no one could ever keep us from worshipping if we as the children of God are serious about worshipping. In the early days of the church, Christians, in fear for their lives, found hidden caves to gather for worship, most certainly praying that they would not be discovered. When the Christian faith grew, yet had so few clergy to provide continuous services to any one church, the pastor traveled and the lay people led when they were absent. In 2020, we realized that we could come together as the people of God virtually until it is safe for all of us to be together again. I am grateful for those who have worked so hard to ease my burden by working with the video production and livestreaming resources. We are the church together weather it is in our sanctuary, or through the internet!

I am thankful to a wonderful office administrator (Sandie Price) who has done more than this congregation will ever know. Yes, she puts a bulletin together for those at home which she sends out weekly, and prints for those who are unable to print for themselves. She manages the church records. She keeps me moving on this article when I am less than motivated so that you are given the Newsletter at the appropriate time! But that is only a scratch on the surface of what Sandie has been doing these last several months. It is Sandie who puts together the slides for worship. My contribution to this is simply to sit with her in the sanctuary as we read through the service from the bulletin and make sure the screens match. She does all the tough stuff and makes it look easy. It is not! Sandie has been a support for worship in a huge way. I can't tell you how many times Sandie has stepped up to read or sing or do whatever else needed to be done for worship to be more than me yacking at you for an hour! On top of all that, she manages my crazy! This pandemic, and having the way we can do ministry change so much, has been more difficult on me than I expected. I have been able to bounce ideas off of Sandie as well as just sit and whine because I can't do the things I want to be doing! She has done all of this without judgement, and with great compassion. If you have not had the chance to thank her for all she does for this congregation, please do what you can to do so!

I am thankful for Trish who has worked hard to provide the music for our worship services. I know how difficult it has been to not have the choir singing together or the bell choir not able to practice until very recently. The bell choir being together took a good deal of creativities on Trish's part and I appreciate her willingness to figure it all out. Not only do they provide nice music for our worship, I believe that the fact that they can come together to make music has been healing for all of those involved!!!! Trish has provided music from home when we were really locked down and has been eager to work with individuals who wanted to work hard to provide special music. I am grateful for Trish's spirit of service!

This list could go on for quite some time. As I have often become overwhelmed by the uncertainty of how to get through the pandemic, I realized how important it is to stop and look at what is good in the midst of the struggle. I have so much to be grateful for that whining about the things I most dislike seems very petty: It does not keep me from whining but being thankful keeps me from simply sitting in my frustrations! As 2021 arrives, look forward to the ways in which God will use you to touch the lives of others as you have so graciously touched mine. Know that God is using you even when you don't realize. As the grace you know through faith is shared with others, they will know the great God we serve! Just imagine how great the world will be when all know of God's amazing grace!

God's greatest blessings for you as we ring in 2021,
Pastor Tammy



Here is my Worship Committee Article:

The year 2020 is over, and 2021 has begun. I hope this year will be better for you than last year. The Worship Committee has had to come up with new ways to worship during this pandemic. I hope you all have been keeping up with the live streaming or have seen the recordings afterward. We will continue to do that in the foreseeable future. This is also a time to check out worship services in other churches to see if we can use some of their ideas for our services. My mom's church, Trinity Lutheran in Sparta, WI, has drive-in services and then records them on their Facebook page. They get communion in their cars. I will admit that I enjoy being in the sanctuary at our church with the new chairs, carpet, and sound system. I want to thank everyone who donated to make this a reality. We could not have done the live streaming without the new equipment.

Here is my monthly request for worship assistants. We need everyone to pitch in so that those who have been holding down the fort can get some needed rest. We need Audio/Visual technicians to run the live streaming video feed, the slideshow, and the sound system. Just about everything is automated, so it is not difficult to do. You get to sit in the A/V booth and act important. The people in charge will teach you all you need to know.

We need Assisting Ministers to read the responses so that they can be heard on the video. If you don't want to sing, we can arrange for cantors to sing the liturgy that the Assisting Minister usually sings. We can also use people that are comfortable singing but don't want to be up in front for too long reading the responses and prayers. If that is something you want to do, we can sign you up as a cantor. We need ushers that keep track of where people are sitting to keep the social distancing going. We also need help with the Altar Guild when changing the paraments. It is really a two-to-three-person job, so I could definitely use some people for this. This job is outside of the church service, so that it will be minimal contact. Tracey Campbell, Pastor Tammy, and I changed the paraments for Christmas in about an hour. If you do not mind attending church in person, we could really use you in these positions.

Bell Choir will start meeting on Mondays at 6:00 PM. Check the bulletin on when the first day back will be. The Bell Choir is practicing in the sanctuary with social distancing and videotaping the performance for use in the church so that the Bell Choir is not present during the service because some of our members have health issues. We can always use more members so that we can do pieces that have more notes in them.

The Main Street Messengers will be meeting on January 3rd 9:15 AM to practice for the service on January 17th. The leader of the group can send you the music ahead of time to practice at home. She even has YouTube links to listen to the music. That is always helpful.

Here is to a better year in 2021 than we had in 2020. I am hoping that I will get to see more of you in church in the very near future.

Yours in Christ,

Stacey Keener
Worship Committee Chair

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it, is your gift back to God.

Happy 2021!

I find myself filled with gratitude for actually making it through 2020. I am grateful for all the church musicians who have stepped up to sing, to play violin, and to those who ran the sound and screens in order that we could be heard and oftentimes sing together. I am also grateful to those who have dared to come to church in person and to those who have followed faithfully online. From where I see, this is a church of deep faith and something like a pandemic is not going to stand in anyone's way of worshiping and celebrating our Lord and Savior. Kudos also go out to Pastor Tammy who has kept us all going. Please know that I love being a part of the ministry of Christus Victor. I adore all the new friends that I have made, and I look forward to bringing more musicians into the fold into the future. Remember just when you think singing is too hard to try, just ask for a voice lesson and allow me to show you your special gift.

Love and blessings to you all!

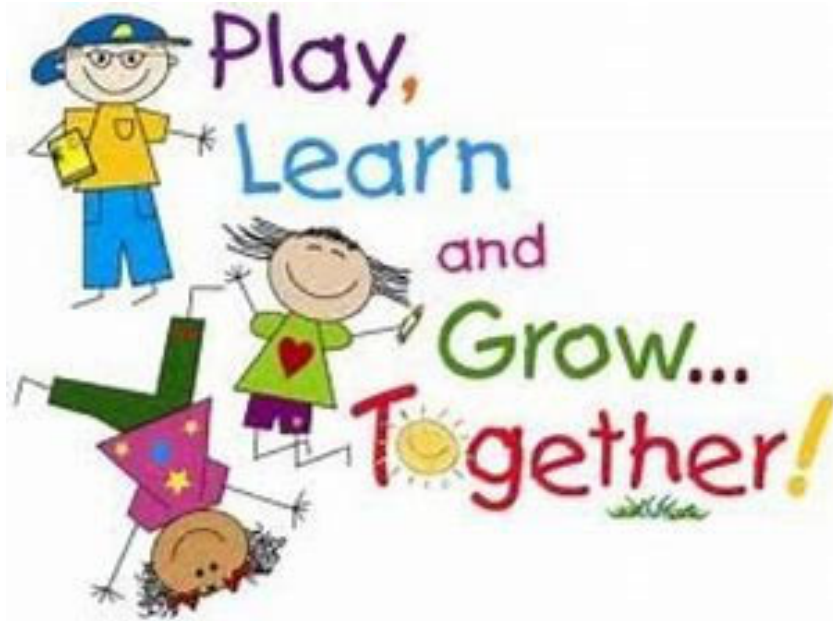
Trish

Christus Victor Children's School

Now that the New Year has arrived the teachers and children at CVCS are transitioning right along into the second part of the school year. During the month of January the children at CVCS will be learning about winter and Texas. The monthly Bible verse for January is, Psalms 81:10, "I am the Lord your God"

Happy New Year & God Bless !!!

Tebertha Henderson
CVCS School Director



January Birthdays!

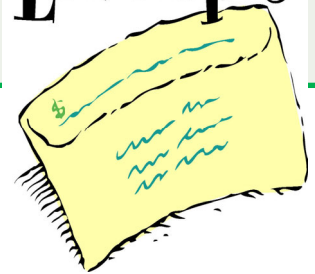
Gary Coury	1/2
Martin Danielson	1/3
Karen Hernandez	1/11
Andrew Duffield	1/13
Emily Vykukal	1/16
Parker Campbell	1/19
Amy Myers	1/20
Ken Schafman	1/30

*Happy
Birthday*

The 2021 Offering Envelopes are ready for pickup in the Narthex!

Thank you for your generous support of the ministries of Christus Victor Church!

**Offering
Envelopes**



Thank You!
to the following for our
Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

Michele Bower
Penny & Tom Dougherty
Mary Ann Headley
Patty Parker
Tammy Sharp
Paula & John Towner

The office and the school will be closed on
January 1, 2021.



JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year	2
3 9:15 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Lessons and Carols	4	5	6	7 11:00 am Virtual Memorial Service for Sylvia Coursen	8	9
10 9:15 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	11 6:00pm Bell Choir	12	13	14 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor in the Sanctuary 7:00 pm Worship Committee	15	16
17 9:15 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	18 6:00 pm Bell Choir	19	20	21 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor in the Sanctuary	22	23
24 9:15 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	25	26	27	28 9:30 am Coffee with Pastor in the Sanctuary	29	30
31 9:15 Praise Team Practice						



Health Concerns

(removed after 30 days)

Personal Needs

(removed after 30 days)

Bereavement

(removed after 2 weeks)

Serving in our Military

Michael Bredeson
Brandon Geiger
Spencer Karkosky
Noah Keener
Alysa Mann Meyer
Blake Meyer
Zach Wood

Long Term Care/Medical Treatments

(remains until requested to be removed)

Earl Armstrong
Marvin Bailey
Steve Bivens
Ashlynn Coury-Moseley
Letha Frederick
Bobbie Gibson
Elissa Gould-Schautd
Carolyn Hannum
Warren Harris
Victoria Jungnickel
Bill Koch
Jeff Mallios
Merl Matthewman
Ray Mitchell
Irene Richmond
Marjorie Schaeferman
Patricia Meyer Schalla
Carol Schautd
Ken Schautd
Tom Sharp
Wanda Toedter
Nate Tupper
Cathy Vaughn

Due to HIPPA regulations and pastoral confidentiality issues, we do not give specific details of prayer concerns in the bulletin. Please pray, however, for those who ask for our prayers for God knows and understands their needs. We pray that God's will be done.

When a prayer request arrives marked confidential it is not placed on the prayer list. Pastor Tammy will pray for the request.

Please obtain permission from the person or the family before adding them to the list.

Christus Victor Lutheran Church....281-332-6847

Vision Statement: "To bring the Life, Love, and Teachings of Jesus Christ to Today's World"

Sunday School: 9:00 am Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Church and School Contact Information :

Contact info for Pastor Tammy Sharp - Cell # 281-924-1667

Tammy's E-mail: pastortammy@comcast.net

Tammy's Office Hours: 9 am until 4pm Monday thru Thursday. [Friday...out of office.]

Church Office Hours: 8:30 am until 3:00 pm M—T Office closed on Friday

Church Secretary, Sandie Price Office# 281-332-6847

Church Office E-mail - cvlctx@comcast.net

Website- www.christusvictor.us

Choir Director, Patricia Fowzer

Worship Committee Chairperson, Stacey Keener 281-797-6775

Children's School Director, Tebertha Henderson...281-332-2821 E-mail...directorevcs@comcast.net

Church Council Members:

Council President: Sara Smart

Council Vice President:

Council Secretary: Lisa Kutinac

Church Treasurer: Carol Vykukal

Property:

Outreach:

Education:

Worship:

Parish Life:

Stewardship: Brad Loucas

School Board President: Sara Smart

OFFERING REPORT YEAR-TO-DATE

2020 Offering Needed: \$ 195,123.00

Current Offerings Received: \$ 143,085.88

Shortfall: \$ 52,037.12

Building Fund Offerings ytd: \$ 15,685.51

**Building fund loan balance: \$ 27,932.65
(as of December 13, 2020)**