

Christus Victor Lutheran Church March 2021

**"To bring the Life, Love and Teachings of Jesus
Christ to today's world"**



Spring Forward!



March 14th Daylight
Savings Time begins



Hello Christus Victor,

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

During the month of March we will hit the 1 year mark of the time our lives have been altered due to Covid-19. It has been a challenging time for all of us as individuals and within our families as well as a community of faith. Through it all, the community of faith at Christus Victor Lutheran Church have adapted in order to continue in the ministry God has called us to. There are things that need improvement for sure, but those who worship here have done all they can to assure that we have the personnel and equipment to assure that we could worship together as a community despite the fact that we could not be together physically. By the closing of the year it felt like we may never find our way back to something that felt normal; not just in the church, but in our daily lives. However.....

There is a light shining before us. With the development of several different vaccines to combat Covid-19, we can finally see that it will be possible for us to come back into the sanctuary and sit next to each other, walk forward, and receive communion at the altar, and even gather without wearing masks. We are not there yet, and it will likely be the fall before the masks are taken off, but, there is a light shining in this darkness. But will church ever be what it was before that Pandemic?

As I heard that the vaccines were available to the most vulnerable in our communities, I began to get excited knowing that people would be able to come together and feel safe. I imagined what it would look like as more and more of our members started filling up the church again. But I quickly learned that for some, getting the shots is simply not the fixer of all things Covid for some individuals. There is still a concern about strains of the newer strains of the virus the reality that you could still get covid but the symptoms will likely not be severe. Once again I found myself worried about our congregation and it's ability to sustain itself with a lower number of people in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, and the reality that many have appreciated the convenience of being able to worship in their living rooms, probably in their pajamas. How will the church continue to be the church? How can we provide support and ministry if people are not coming to the church for worship or programs? And again, a light shined in the darkness.

The clergy in our Synod have done a lot of communicating with each other as all are learning as we go when it comes to being the church when we cannot gather. These conversations range from how to work a video camera to live streaming and if we should have communion over the airways and if so, how does that work? To have these colleagues as resources and a support system has been invaluable. I also began reading "The Virtual Body of Christ in a suffering world" by Deanna Thompson.

In what I have read so far (I am so bad at making time just to read), I am reminded of how significant the connection that we make on-line or Virtually, are. She talks about her experience of using the “Caring Bridge” website to disseminate information about her journey with stage IV cancer journey. I was reminded of how important my daily emails to more people than I count became when we were going through our daughter’s cancer journey. Not only was I able to share the details of what was going on with her treatment to a vast number of people and relieve the burden of having to actually tell so many people the same information; this email provided a way for me to share my struggles in this journey, and then receive support and encouragement from more people than I could have imagined. That support was not less than in person support. It truly was a lifeline to me on many occasions.

In the description of the book on Amazon it says: “This book begins with a conversion story of a non-cell phone owning, non-Facebook using religion professor judgmental of the ability of digital tools to enhance relationships.” While I feel lost when I can’t find my cell phone and, I cherish the way Facebook has provided me with a way to reconnect and stay connected to people who are very important to me but do not live near me, I have always been a skeptic of the “Televangelists” of the world. As every pastor has become a sort of Televangelist of sorts, I have worried more than I care to admit that online worship was “worship light”. Surely people cannot worship as deeply from their living room as they can when we gather in-person. I have always believed that there is great value in recording worship so our shut-ins can “at least” see the service. I had never considered that this resource would allow our “Shut-in” to WORSHIP not just watch the service. And so, now I have to begin to learn, discover, and develop ways in which our church can thrive in this digital age. At the end of the day, there are two things I want to say about where we are as a church and where we are going.

First, it is important that every person who comes to Christus Victor Lutheran Church knows that we are doing whatever is necessary to take care of everyone. Even as more and more individuals are able to get their vaccines, we will continue to wear masks and keep social distance in place until everyone has had the opportunity to receive the vaccine. This may be as late as the fall, but that is all dependent on the availability of the vaccines and the distribution, both of which we have no control over. In the end, we know that there will never be 100% certainty that you will not get the virus. There will always be a measure of balancing living life and being safe. Only you can decide what that means for you. At some point we won’t wear masks in church and we will begin to sit next to each other and even hug. Each of us will need to decide what we are comfortable with and what we feel is unsafe. Also, each of us will have to be mindful of everyone else in the room and not assume it is okay to hug. Before we make any physical contact with someone it will be important we know what they are comfortable with. We cannot be offended if we are told that someone prefers that we not hug them. I know this will change our sharing of the peace, but at least we will be able to share the peace more closely.

Last but not least, we need to be mindful that the church will never be the same. This will be challenging and uncomfortable. Isn't that true whenever things change? BUT..... This is not bad. I know that the inclination is to lament that things are different. The fact that what is familiar and provided us comfort are not the same will likely make us feel a bit disconnected to the church and/or the church community. These are reasonable INITIAL reactions to the big changes that are happening in the church and the world. Then, when we have acknowledged our discomfort and disconnectedness, it is time for us to come together and figure out how the sense of being connected to one another and God can happen in this digital age. I have some ideas of which I have no concrete plans yet, but I want you to be thinking about ways we can be the church together. It is going to be a process that takes all of us who are called as Children of God, to embrace the way life is in 2021 and beyond, and use the wonderful technological resources in ways that share God's love and grace with the world. I truly pray that you will go with me on this journey as we move forward from the darkness we have felt for the last year and move to the light that Christ provides to help us through the darkness. Put your virtual tennis shoes on and walk with me as we move forward!

God bless you all!



I hope everyone has recovered from Snowpacolypse last month. Let the church know if you have any issues. The church was not immune, as you found out through email. We now are having services in the church again, so you can come in person as well as online. We will also have Wednesday evening services for Lent starting 2/24/2021 through 3/24/2021 at 7:00 PM. These will be in person and online as well. The Lenten services will feature dialogs and a liturgy that goes with them that you won't want to miss.

We need Assisting Ministers, so if you would like to be one, please let me or Pastor Tammy know. This would be an in-person position during the service. You do not have to sing for this position.

The Main Street Messengers will be performing on 3/21/2021 and will also feature a song on Easter. They practice at 9:15 AM on Sunday morning if you are interested in joining them.

Maundy Thursday Service will be on 4/1/2021, and Good Friday will be on 4/2/2021 at 7:00 PM. Easter Sunday service will be at 10:30 AM on 4/4/2021.

The next Worship Committee Meeting will be held on 3/11/2021 at 7:00 PM. Let me know if you are interested in attending and I will put you on the distribution list.

Yours in Christ,

Stacey E. Keener
Worship Committee Chair

Pastor and Members,

Thank you so much for your prayers, texts, and phone calls after my knee surgery. I never felt alone in this process. I truly felt the Holy Spirit working to bring healing to my ability to walk strong. I have truly missed every single one of you, and I am ready to return to the piano and to worship services. Many thanks to Mary Ann Headley for filling in for me. You played beautifully. I believe it is time for another duet.

Handbells, we will begin to meet again on Monday, March 8 at 6 p.m. to prepare Lenten bell selections. We will still be playing from the corners of the sanctuary to be safe. Be sure to wear your masks and invite others to join us!

I find myself missing choir so much that I think it is time to try coming together on Tuesday, March 16 at 6 p.m. Wear your mask. Sit anywhere in the sanctuary you feel safe, and we will sing, sing, sing. We will also be exploring the wonderful new selections in our new hymnal addition. Please do not leave me by myself on this Tuesday. I really believe you want out of the house as much as I do!

I would like to invite the Praise Team singers to come join us as well. We will have warmups, vocal teaching moments, and a combination of hymns and praise. This would be a magnificent way to keep your voice in shape all week long.

You know I really love this church and all its musicians!! See you Sunday!

Trish

It's just music they say. But,
it's not *just music*. It's
family. It's how people feel
alive. It's their safe haven,
where they go to escape the
world, even for a little while.
**Music is so much more than
people realize.**

Important Dates and INFORMATION



We had a VBS planning meeting in February. If all goes as planned, we will be holding VBS in person July 11-15. If you would like to volunteer, we would love to have you! We will need people to help at church that week, but we could also use support from those at home. If you would like to help, please email me at lisakutinac@hotmail.com. We can't wait!

Lutherhill will be open this summer! Christus Victor will be attending July 18-23. If your child would like to attend, please go online and sign them up. You do not need to pay yet, just get them signed up. Please let me know if you have signed them up so that I can communicate that information with Lutherhill. My email is lisakutinac@hotmail.com, and my cell is 225-236-6786. Just email or text me.

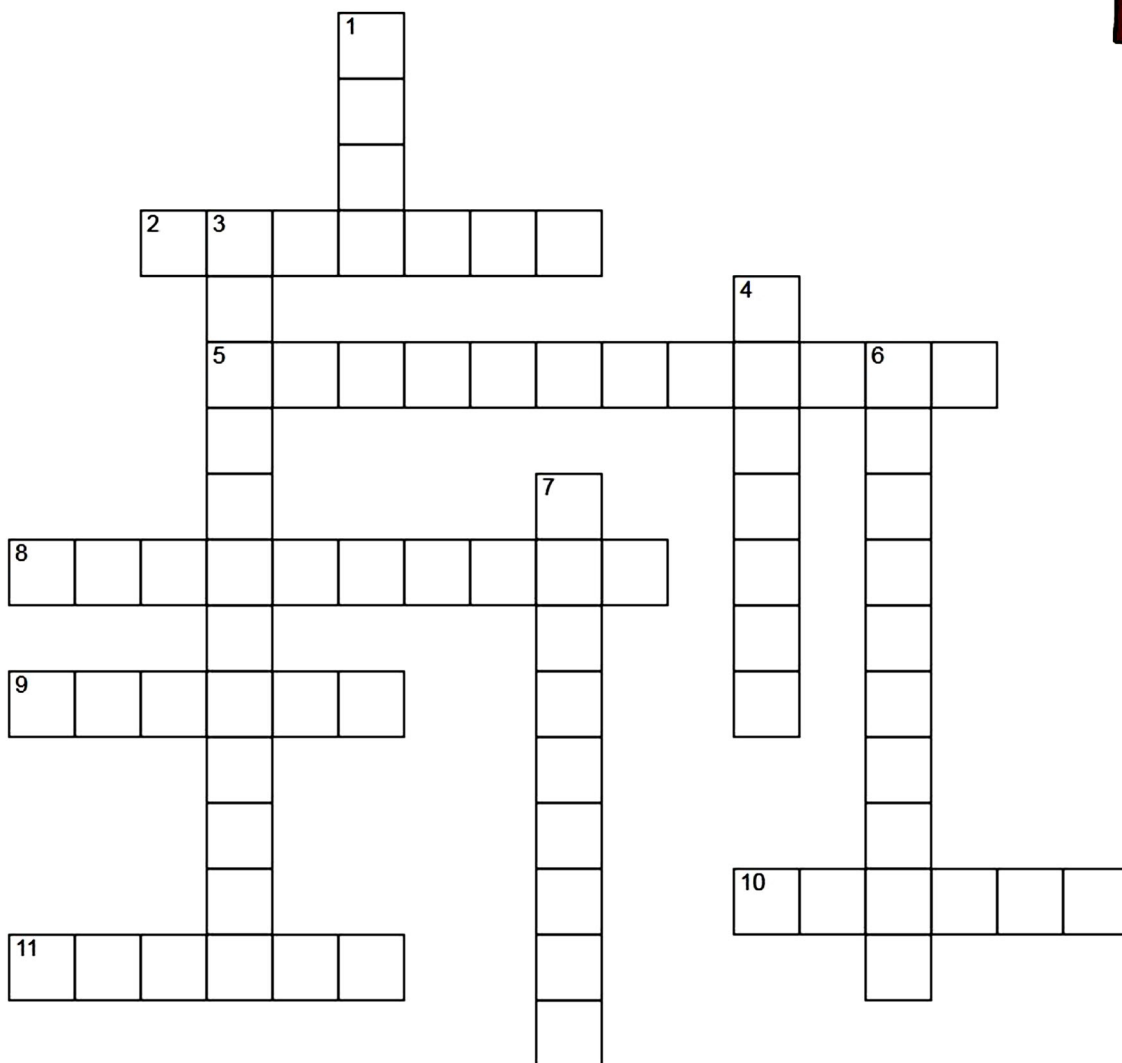


On Saturday, April 3rd at 11:00, we will have an Easter egg hunt and the Flowering of the Cross for any kids that want to participate. Children are invited to bring their Easter baskets and masks and come hunt eggs! We will also have flowers so that the children can participate in the Flowering of the Cross after the Easter egg hunt. Even though we can't do all our traditional Easter activities (like our breakfast- man, I miss that!), we want to do what we can. If you would like to donate individually wrapped candy for the Easter egg hunt, please drop it off at the church.

If you have questions about any of these activities or any ideas for activities in the future, please call or email me- lisakutinac@hotmail.com, 225-236-6786.

I hope you have a great day!
Lisa Kutinac

Lenten Crossword

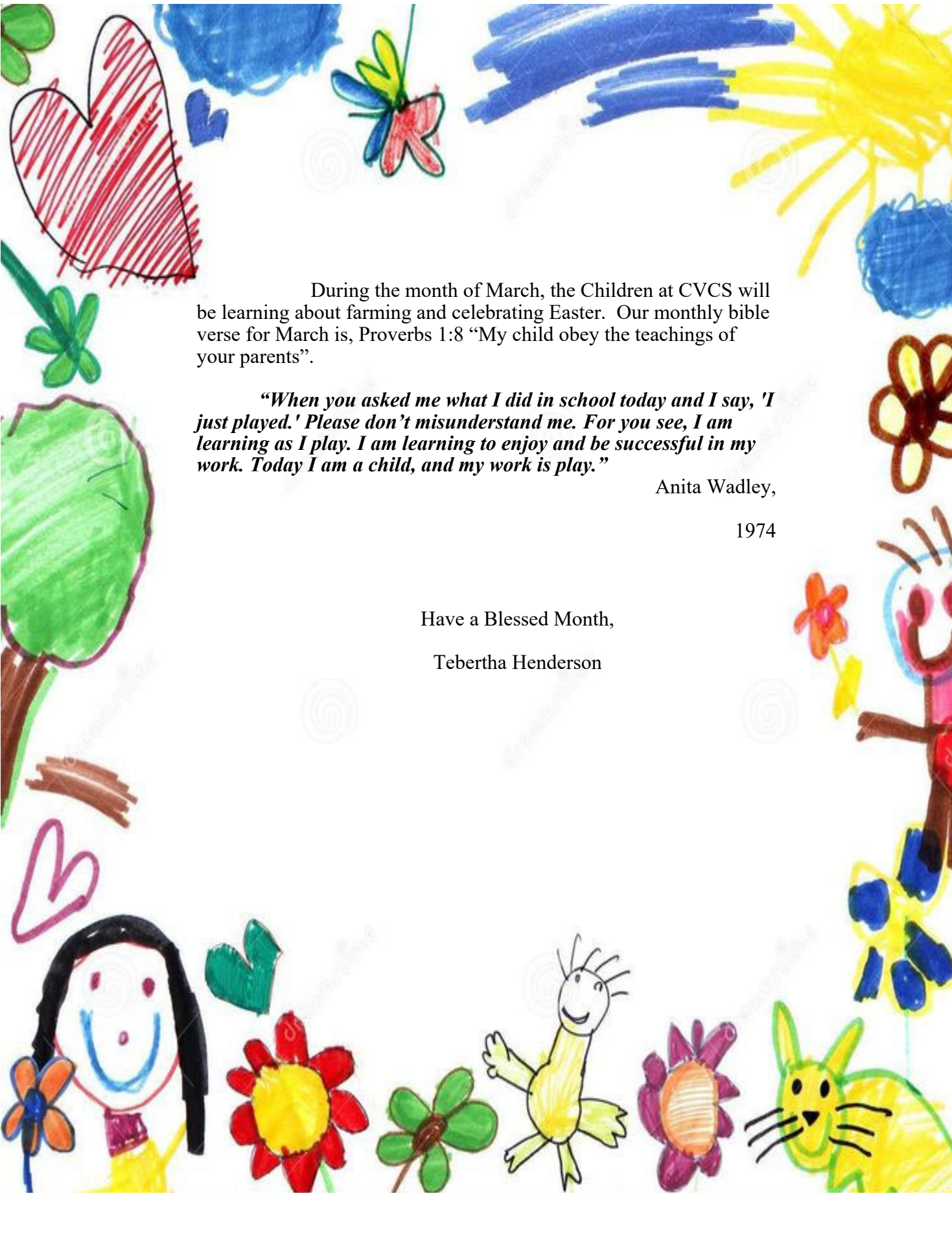


ACROSS

- 2 Restricting the food that we eat
- 5 The last day of Lent
- 8 The day Jesus was crucified
- 9 On Ash Wednesday when you get your ashes: "_____ and know the Gospel"
- 10 Mini-feast days or days you do not have to fast or sacrifice during Lent
- 11 Talking to God or the saints

DOWN

- 1 The 40 Day period of preparation before Easter
- 3 The first day of Lent
- 4 One day a week during Lent when we fast and pray extra
- 6 Giving of ourselves, money, time, or materials for those less fortunate
- 7 Offering/ giving up something 'good' on earth to focus on our relationship with God



During the month of March, the Children at CVCS will be learning about farming and celebrating Easter. Our monthly bible verse for March is, Proverbs 1:8 "My child obey the teachings of your parents".

"When you asked me what I did in school today and I say, 'I just played.' Please don't misunderstand me. For you see, I am learning as I play. I am learning to enjoy and be successful in my work. Today I am a child, and my work is play."

Anita Wadley,

1974

Have a Blessed Month,

Tebertha Henderson

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

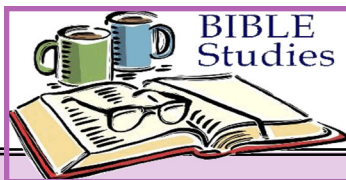
Penny Dougherty	03/01
Jason Kutinac	03/03
Brad Loucas	03/10
Evey Hernandez	03/10
Jay Rollins	03/13
Scott Short	03 /19
Tina Hernandez	03/20
Stacey Keener	03/27
Christina Sapp	03/27
Isaac Guajardo	03/30



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS**

MARCH 14, 2021

**BE SURE AND SPRING FOR-
WARD!**



Bible Study Thursday Evenings 6:00 pm
“Grace Alone”

Everyone is welcome!

We will have a limited number of Hydrangeas ordered for Easter. If you wish to order one please let the office know. The cost is \$15.00 each.



March 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3 7:00 pm Len- ten Service	4 6:00 pm Bible Study	5	6
7 9:15 am Main St Messengers Practice 10:30 am Wor- ship Service Council Meeting	8 6:00 pm Bell Choir practice	9	10 7:00 pm Len- ten Service	11 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Wor- ship Commit- tee	12	13
14 Daylight Sav- ings Time 9:15 am Main St Messengers Practice	15	16 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	17 7:00 pm Len- ten Service	18 6:00 pm Bible Study	19	20
21 9:15 am Main St Messengers Practice 10:30 am Wor- ship Service	22	23	24 7:00 pm Len- ten Service	25 6:00 pm Bible Study	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 9:15 am Main St Messengers Practice 10:30 am Wor-	29	30	31			



CHRISTUS VICTOR'S PRAYER LIST - FAMILY AND FRIENDS.....*List is updated weekly*

Health Concerns

(removed after 30 days)

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)

Personal Needs

(removed after 30 days)

Earl Armstrong
Marvin Bailey (6/19)
Steve Bivens
Diana Bredeson
Ashlynn Coury-Moseley
Letha Frederick
Bobbie Gibson
Patrick Geistman
Elissa Gould-Schautd
Carolyn Hannum
Warren Harris
Victoria Jungnickel
Jeff Mallios
Merl Matthewman
Ray Mitchell
Kathy Pulliam
Irene Richmond
Marjorie Schaefman
Patricia Meyer Schalla
Carol Schautd
Ken Schautd
Tom Sharp
Wanda Toedter
Nate Tupper
Cathy Vaughn

Bereavement

(removed after 2 weeks)

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 - HM# 832-632-2303 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: 9 am until 4 pm

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...**director@cvcs.cc

Council President: Sara Smart

Council Vice President:

Council Secretary: Lisa Kutinac

Church Treasurer: Carol Vykukal

Property:

School Board President: Sara Smart

Outreach:

Education:

Worship: Parish Life

Stewardship: Brad Loucas

OFFERING REPORT YEAR-TO-DATE

2021 Offering Needed: \$35,079.16

Current Offerings Received: \$24,627.20

Shortfall: \$10,451.96

Building Fund Offerings ytd: \$1,553.00

**Building fund loan balance: \$26,889.50
(as of February 8,2021)**