

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

APRIL 2021





Hello Christus Victor Family and Friends.

This is Holy Week.

In most of our Lutheran Churches you will see a cross as a focal point for worship. That cross may have designs or symbols on them, but there are only a few Lutheran churches that I know of that are a crucifix; Jesus on the cross. The empty cross is a reminder that Christ was raised from the dead and the cross and death have no power. We love the celebration that comes in recalling the empty tomb. Easter, with all of its festivities, is something we look forward to.

Just a little fun fact. The season of Lent is 40 days long, excluding Sundays. Sundays are excluded in Lent because when we gather together for worship, we always worship the risen Christ. So technically we could sing songs with Alleluia in them but..... don't look for that any time soon.

I don't ever want to change the fact that we worship a risen Christ. It is central to our Christian faith and without the empty tomb, our faith would be lost. However, it is important that we don't worship the risen Christ by excluding the life and death of Jesus. We cannot whitewash our story of faith, and we cannot pretend that what happened to Jesus really wasn't our fault. After all, we weren't alive when the crowd cried out "CRUCIFY HIM!"

Our life of faith should be one in which we embrace all of Christ, not just the grand finale. For our faith to be one that pushes us to truly follow in the footsteps of our Lord, we must dig deep to understand why Jesus did the things he did and how those things can be reflected in our lives. Why would Jesus choose common, hardworking people to be his disciples rather than people with power and prestige in the community? Consider what it takes in politics for someone of prestige to support someone? Usually there is some sort of trade off. When the first disciples were called, they simply dropped their nets and followed. Can you imagine that a person of power would walk away from their place of status to follow Jesus?

Consider Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin; a man of status for sure. While he certainly was a follower of Jesus, he did so by sneaking around so that others would not see him and question his commitment to the faith. He was not willing to drop everything to follow. Power and status are hard to let go of. We are quick to proclaim our faith with Biblical Facebook posts or "Jesus Saves" t-shirts. But what is keeping you from dropping everything to live the way that Jesus did? Who might question you if you did?

Why would Jesus go out of his way and into a community that the Jewish faith deemed unworthy of their attention, to talk to a woman that that same faith considers unclean? Jesus went into Samaria to sit a well and ask an outcast woman for a drink. This is something the disciples didn't understand. Jesus also goes out to be with the Leppers and the "Sinners and tax collectors". Jesus goes out of his way to show that the love of God has no boundaries. There are sorts of reasons for us to not go to places where people are hurting the most. Some of those places can be dangerous. Good sense says that we should not put ourselves in a dangerous situation. But isn't it possible that we SHOULD be asking, what can I do to be as safe as possible but still go into these communities? And then, step out in faith, taking a risk? It is also possible, I would say even likely, that time and/or resources to those who need it the most: the homeless, very poor, those who are imprisoned, we could be taken advantage of or not appreciated. But do we do the will of God; follow in the footsteps of Jesus to be safe and be sure to keep what is ours?

That brings us back to Holy week. To celebrate the risen Christ, we must first live out Holy Week. We must wrestle with the way that Jesus was betrayed, tried, convicted and sentenced to death, not because of a crime he may have committed but because the sin of the world was a price that the people of the world could not pay. We want to believe that we would be the ones in the crowd trying to get people to understand that Jesus did nothing to deserve death. I am willing to say that most of us actually believe that on some level. So the next time you see or hear about someone being ridiculed or made fun of for something they have no control over, will you stand up for them and say “This is not right?” or will you watch from a distance and critique everyone who does step in to try to help?

The point is that as we look to the celebration of Easter, it is important for us not to forget about the Christ suffering betrayal and physical pain and death. We must remember that we too are why Jesus is on the cross. We to continue to live our own ways, justifying every time we do not do things the way that Christ would have us do, and again, nail Jesus to the cross.

Take time to live in the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday moments. Be present with Christ and feel the responsibility. And then, just when the weight of this reality gets to us, Easter comes and the true power of God’s amazing grace will be renewed in us.

God bless your entire Holy Week. I can’t wait to see you on Easter!

Pastor Tammy



Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, hallelujah! The Worship Committee has tried to make sure that our church services are meaningful with the limited people we have that are willing to be in church in person during this pandemic. Most of our congregation are getting their vaccinations. By the time you read this I will already have had my second shot. We are still using masks in the pews, but all pews are eligible to be used in the sanctuary. We are following CDC guidelines as much as we can. I would like to encourage you all to think about coming to worship in person. We will still live stream the service and we want you all to get comfortable in how you worship, but think about what it would take for you to come back to worshipping in person so that we can accommodate that for you within reason.

We are starting Bell Choir and Chancel Choir again. Bell Choir meets on Mondays at 6PM. We just finished a recording for Palm Sunday, so the Bell Choir does not perform in person during the service, yet, but we meet and then record our performance so that those that do not feel comfortable in the sanctuary can still participate. One of our bells is being sent off to be repaired, but when it comes back, we will start back up again. We are already practicing pieces that we will perform in the future. If you would like to participate in the Bell Choir, please just show up. We have five people now and we could use more to perform more interesting pieces, so please join us.

The Chancel Choir is practicing on Tuesdays at 6PM. We have invited the singers from the Praise Team as well to participate so we will have a mix of styles to sing. We are also using pieces from our new hymnal, "All Creation Sings." Trish is really helping us learn how to sing so that we sing louder and stay in tune. I recommend coming to this so we can build up more song leaders.

We need you as worship assistants. We especially need Assisting Ministers, Audio/Visual people, song leaders, Praise Team singers, Bell ringers, Choir singers, Altar Guild, and pew warmers. I want to share the experience of singing during the service. I want to hear from other people and I am sure other people would like to hear from you as well. Let me, Sandie, or Pastor know that you would like to be a worship assistant and in what capacity you would like to serve. It is so nice to just see your smiling face during worship. Be safe out there and come back when you are able.

Ways to raise funds for the church – I am a member of Thrivent and Thrivent provides choice dollars to give to a charity of your choice. Christus Victor Lutheran Church can be chosen as a charity. Christus Victor received \$733.00 choice dollars last year. This is one way that Thrivent members can donate extra money to the church without increasing your donation. Another way is to use Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) when you are ordering items from Amazon. You can make Christus Victor Lutheran Church a recipient of donations received from Amazon this way. That gives the church extra money without it coming from your pocket.

Kroger and Randalls have programs for donating a percentage of your purchases to a charity. We are going to see what we can do to start that backup again. If you know of other ways that we can get free money from companies, let the Pastor or Sandie know.

Stacey Keener
Worship Committee Chair

Music Department

I am so joyful that our church musicians have found ways to be safely together to worship and praise. The handbell choir has been the first to come back to play and visit on Mondays at 6. Their first musical offering will be shown as the prelude on Palm Sunday.

Then some very brave singers have come forward on Tuesdays at 6 to do warmups, discuss breathing techniques, and encounter new music. From spirituals to new hymnal selections, we have found that sitting in our own specially chosen distances apart seat has made for some beautiful acoustic singing in our sanctuary.

Coming back to rehearsals has been exactly what I needed. I have missed the interaction and the sound of music. We are so glad to see each other, and I truly believe as we close each rehearsal that we all feel better. Music is so good for the soul, and we are proving that.

I will end by saying we have a chair available for all. Bring that amazing voice that you use to sing in the shower or the car. You know it would be great to get out and serve the Lord in song!

Musically yours,

Trish

**“The greatest
healing will take
place when live
music comes back.”**



Important Dates



On Saturday, April 3rd at 11:00, we will have our annual Easter egg hunt and the Flowering of the Cross. Children and youth of all ages are invited to come hunt for eggs! After the Easter egg hunt, we will have flowers available so that the children can participate in the Flowering of the Cross. All the children need to bring is their Easter baskets and mask. This even is open to friends and family, as well.

If you would like to donate prefilled eggs, please drop them off at the church by Wednesday, March 30th. Thank you!

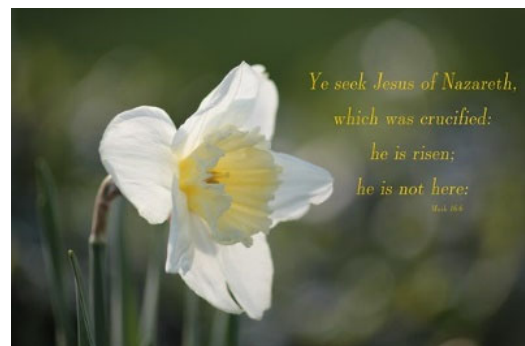
VBS will be in person July 11th-15th (if all goes as planned)! If you would like to volunteer, we would love to have you! We will need people to help at church that week being the leader of a group (you take them from station to station), arts and crafts leader, and someone in charge of the kitchen. We will also need help leading up to VBS with decorating the church and getting things set up. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please let me know!



Christus Victor youth will be attending Lutherhill July 18-23. If your child would like to attend, please sign them up online at Lutherhill's website. You do not need to pay right now, just get them signed up. **We do not have a group number.** Please let me know if your child will be attending camp. Right now, we have 9 children that will be going!

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

Have a great week!
Lisa Kutinac



SCOUT NEWS

Pack 615 is getting excited about preparing for their previously delayed Pinewood Derby and a Spring Clean of the gardens at CVLC.

Troop 615 has been active working on Eagle Projects, with two Scouts completing their projects in March and on their way to the final steps in achieving their highest rank. During Spring Break, a group of Scouts got to camp as a Unit at Camp Karankawa in Sweeney, while a separate group training for Philmont Scout Ranch this summer backpacked 4 days and 24 miles in the rocky terrain of Caprock Canyon. An outdoors Court of Honor is planned for the first time in almost a year to award Merit Badges and Ranks earned over the Pandemic period.

Crew 615 spent two weekends teaching Adult Leaders how to properly pack and prepare for backpack camping during the Woodbadge Training Course at Camp Karankawa in March. In April, they will host an "Altoids Tin" survival-style campout for the Troop.

Morgan Guajardo	04/01
Victoria Geiger	04/05
Brandon Geiger	04/06
Grayson Zambrana	04/07
Walker Jones	04/07
Jackson Birkelbach	04/08
Michelle Campbell	04/08
Mary Ann Headley	04/09
MaKayla Dunn	04/17
Jay Bredeson	04/18
Deidra Dittmar	04/22
Tammy Sharp	04/25
Lisa Kutinac	04/25
John Towner	04/30



Happy Anniversary!

Ken & Margie Schafman 4/15



Spring has arrived and we are moving right along in the school year at CVCS. During the month of April, the children at CVCS will be learning spring, recycling and Easter. Our Monthly Bible verse for April is Isaiah 35:4 "Be strong, do not fear".

CVCS will be closed on Good Friday, April 2nd. Our classes will be having their Easter celebrations on Thursday April 1st. There will be a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today." ~Stacia Tauscher

Have a Blessed Month,

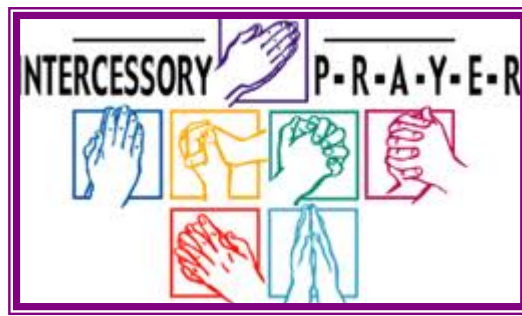
Tebertha Henderson





April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 pm Maundy Thurs- day Serviuce	2 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	3 11: am Easter Egg Hunt & Flow- ering the Cross
4 915 AM Main St Messengers Prac- tice 10:30am Worship Service	5 6:00 pm Bell Choir practice	6 6:00 pm Chan- cel Choir PRac- tice	7	8 6:00 pm Bible Study	9	10
11 915 AM Main St Messengers Prac- tice 10:30am Worship Service Church Council Meeting after church	12 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	13 6:00 pm Chan- cel Choir PRac- tice	14	15 6:00 pm Bible Study	16	17
18 915 AM Main St Messengers Prac- tice 10:30am Worship Service	19 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	20 6:00 pm Chan- cel Choir PRac- tice	21	22 6:00 pm Bible Study	23	24
25 915 AM Main St Messengers Prac- tice 10:30am Worship Service	26 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	27 6:00 pm Chan- cel Choir PRac- tice	28	29 6:00 pm Bible Study	30	



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

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 (6/19)
Steve Bivens
Diana Bredeson
Ashlynn Coury-Moseley
Letha Frederick
Bobbie Gibson
Elissa Gould-Schaudt
Carolyn Hannum
Warren Harris
Victoria Jungnickel
Jeff Mallios
Merl Matthewman
Ray Mitchell
Irene Richmond
Marjorie Schaefman
Patricia Meyer Schalla
Carol Schaudt
Ken Schaudt
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.

Answers to the March Crossword puzzle

ACROSS

- 2 fasting
- 5 HolySaturday
- 8 GoodFriday
- 9 repent
- 10 Sunday
- 11 prayer

DOWN

- 1 Lent
- 3 AshWednesday
- 4 Fridays
- 6 almsgiving
- 7 sacrifice

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.comcast.net

Council President: Sara Smart

Council Vice President:

Council Secretary: Lisa Kutinac

Church Treasurer: Carol Vykukal

Property:

School Board President: Lisa Kutinac

Outreach:

Education:

Worship: Parish Life

Stewardship: Brad Loucas

OFFERING REPORT YEAR-TO-DATE

2021 Offering Needed: \$52,618.80

Current Offerings Received: \$ 37,382.20

Shortfall: \$15,236.60

Building Fund Offerings ytd: \$2,409.00

Building fund loan balance: \$26,351.95
(as of March 11, 2021)