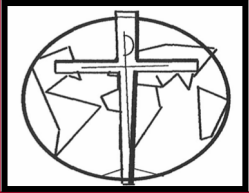


Christus Victor Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2021

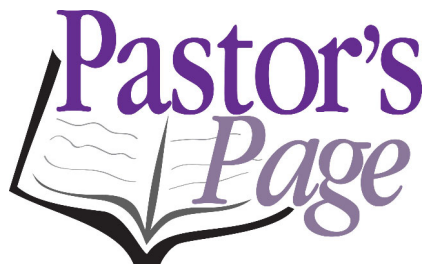


**"To bring the Life, Love and Teachings of Jesus
Christ to today's world"**



Advent

The Season of Advent



I started this morning off talking with and making coffee for a homeless man who found a place to rest under the roof of our front entrance. As I pulled up I saw something on the patio. I was annoyed thinking someone had dumped a bunch of junk on our doorstep. But as I pulled into my lovely parking spot, I saw the bicycle full of grocery bags filled with who knows what, and a gentleman quietly sleeping on the bench. He woke as I was unlocking the door, so we talked for a bit. I offered to bring him some coffee and he was appreciative and said that would help him get going this morning. I told him he could sleep for another hour and a half at least (it was 6:30 at the time) but he assured me he would be on his way soon. He was working his way to Pasadena. I offered one of our quilts, but he explained that he had a sleeping bag but didn't feel like getting it out last night. I offered to go and get him some groceries or what he might need. He said a woman had paid for his groceries yesterday and given him a \$100 gift card so he had plenty to be able to eat for a while. We talked a bit more and I asked what else I could do for him. He said he was just fine and thanked me for the coffee again. I came in to prepare things for worship and to get my mind focused on the sermon and eventually he packed up his things and moved on. I felt so blessed to be able to spend a bit of time with Donald. I will never see him again I am sure. And yet, today I am blessed having met him! A man who has so very little yet feels he has enough.

The reality was that there simply is no more room on his bicycle for anything more. I am sure on the extra cold nights, an extra blanket would be nice, but where would he put it? I am sure he could have used a few more groceries but again, where would he put it. His bicycle was so packed down already with the essentials he needs from day to day that adding any luxuries like an extra blanket simply wasn't possible. He was grateful for what he had.

As the Advent and Christmas season approaches, I will be thinking of Donald so that I can keep my attention on what matters most. Every person on my Christmas list doesn't have enough. They have a great deal more than enough as do I. Keeping this thought in mind and remembering how content Donald was to have a covered place to sleep and a fresh cup of coffee, maybe, just maybe, I will be able to do my Christmas shopping knowing that whatever I purchases for those on my list, I will simply be adding to the abundance and sharing my love for them

I want to take a week off of work and go absolutely nowhere. I want to be at my home and go room to room getting rid of the massive amounts of abundance that I have. Trust me, if you go to my house right now you will think I have been vandalized, we had the girls all day yesterday. Rick and I can never seem to keep the house looking remotely clean. Why? Because we have so much, (I will use the word **STUFF**, but I want to say something else) that we will never use but one of us thought we needed to have. Rick and I are both guilty of this. So this year, I want to find the time to let go of the unnecessary and unused in our lives. That is what I want for all of us this holiday season. I want all of us to take the time to think about all that we have in our lives and begin to declutter. I am not talking about just our homes and the extra stuff we have that will never be use. I am talking about all the things that get in the way of being a part of worship, or keep us from making time to pray and read scripture. What have we cluttered our lives with that keep us from serving our Lord and savior? These are things I want us to consider moving to a different priority in our lives to make a little more time for the Savior we are anxiously awaiting.

The Savior is coming and is with us now. Let us be reflections of His love, sacrifice and forgiveness in ways that will change the world.

God bless you all,

Pastor Tammy



I am so excited that we are doing Soup Suppers in Advent again. I had such a great time at the Reformation Dinner seeing everyone and talking to people I haven't had a chance to talk to in a while. I am looking forward to doing the same during the Advent Soup Suppers. We will have Holden Evening Prayer for the Advent services. I love Holden Evening Prayer. The music is so melodic and the Magnificat makes me tear up. What a way to start the new church year by socializing and worshipping.

All of our musical groups are preparing for Christmas. The Bell Choir is working on Away in the Manger and Infant Holy. It is not too late to join if you would be interested in playing bells. Right now we have four dedicated people to this group, but for us to expand our musical repertoire, we need more people. We haven't even used any of the lower bells we have because we don't have enough players. If you are worried about COVID, you can practice as far as you want to in the sanctuary because the acoustics are so good you can hear everyone no matter where you are located. Also the bell choir members wear gloves, so you are extra protected. All you need to know is how to count up to six and color your notes.

The Chancel Choir is practicing their cantata which will be performed during a worship service in place of the sermon. They have been really working hard on this, so you will not want to miss it. The Chancel Choir could also use new members and Trish, our choir director, will teach you what you need to do to sing with the group.

Main Street Messengers are doing a great job with the contemporary music. They created their own liturgy which is easy to sing and inspirational. They could use more people as well.

Here are the schedules for each group:

Bell Choir – Mondays at 6PM

Chancel Choir – Tuesdays at 6PM

Main Street Messengers – Sundays at 9AM

I know some of you do not feel comfortable coming to worship in person. I get that. We miss you, but you know what is right for you. Just know that we are taking precautions to keep you as safe as possible. We are still doing communion packs for those that do not want to take communion at the railing. We still have a lot of seating where you do not have to sit close to anyone. Masks are optional, but you can wear them at any time. The communion assistants use hand sanitizer before serving. Just know that we want you back as soon as you feel you are ready to be back with us.

Stacey E Keener
Worship Committee Chair



Upcoming Events

Christus Victor Children's School will have their Christmas program on Sunday, December 5th at 2:00. All are welcome to attend! There will even be a visit from Santa and an opportunity to take pictures with him and Mrs. Clause.



Women, Wine, and Wisdom will meet on Saturday, December 11th at 1:00 at the Clubhouse at the Village at Tuscan Lakes. We will paint the "Contemporary Nativity" pictured. It is \$25 per person. Bring whatever you would like to drink and a snack to share. Please let Marianne Citraro know if you plan to attend by Dec. 5- jmccitraro@gmail.com. Friends are welcome to join us!

The Youth Group will meet on Saturday, December 18th. We will leave church at 10:30 to go Christmas caroling at The Crossing on Egret Bay Blvd. Join us at the church to go as a group, or meet us at The Crossing at 10:50. Adults are welcome to join us!



The Unwind retreat will be March 4-6 at Lutherhill. It is a retreat designed for women to renew body and spirit. Cost is \$160 per person. You can register at Lutherhill.org/retreats/unwind.

VBS will be June 5th – 9th! We are already planning and preparing. Mark your calendars and spread the word to friends and family. The children (and adults!) always have such an amazing experience at VBS. Thank you for supporting this awesome ministry!





Upcoming Events



Lutherhill registration is now open! CVLC youth will be going July 17th – 22nd. You can register at Lutherhill.org. **YOU DO NOT NEED A GROUP NUMBER.** Please let Pastor Tammy or Lisa Kutinac know if you are registering your child(ren).

ELCA Youth Gathering is July 24-28 in Minneapolis. It is open to youth in 8th through 12th grade. We will leave on July 23rd and return on July 28th or 29th. More information will come soon. If you have any fundraising ideas, let Pastor Tammy know.

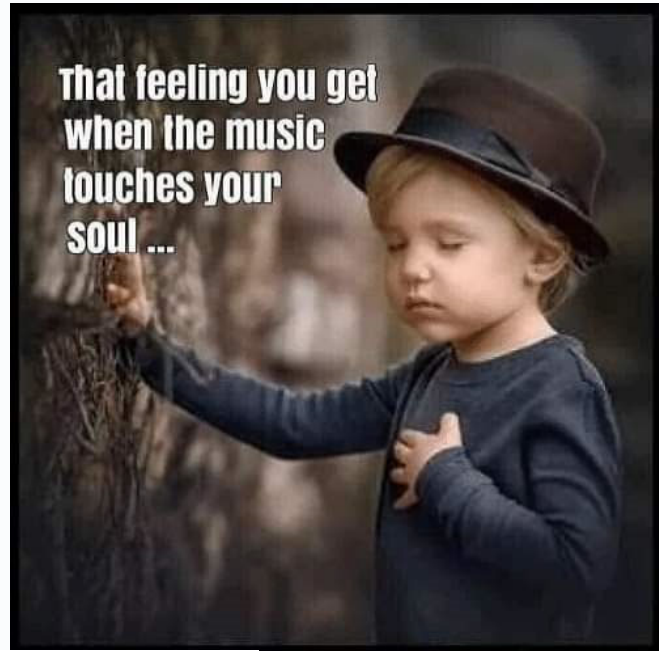


Music

Happy holidays everyone!

I always enjoy this season of the year and the beautiful music that comes along with it. Please take note that the Chancel Choir will be presenting their Christmas cantata, "Heaven Has Come" on Sunday morning, December 19th. The Main Street Messengers will be bringing the morning's contemporary carols and sung liturgy as well. So it will be a music-filled Sunday worship service designed for praise and joy to celebrate the season. Prayerfully consider joining us in worship on that day.

Trish



“Music is one of life’s most important survival tools. It nourishes us, it gives us hope, helps us heal, and gives us the strength to keep going even in the toughest of times.”

www.musiciansunite.com



Christus Victor Children's School

CVCS is getting ready for our Christmas program! You can hear singing throughout our halls as the children practice. Please join us on December 5th at 2:00. After the children perform, we will have craft stations, cake for Jesus's birthday, and Mr. and Mrs. Clause will visit.

Our classes will celebrate Christmas on December 17th with class parties.

If you have friends or family looking for childcare, we have a few openings. Please share our information with them!

CVCS will be closed on Dec. 24th for Christmas and Dec. 31 for New Year's.

December Bible Verse:

"A Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord."

We at CVCS will you a Merry Christmas and a new year filled with love and laughter. Thank you for your support of our children!

Tebertha Henderson, Director
Lisa Kutinac, School Board President



Jesus is Better than Santa!

Santa lives at the North Pole.
Jesus is everywhere!

Santa rides in a sleigh
Jesus rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year
Jesus is an ever-present help!

Santa fills your stockings with goodies
Jesus supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited
Jesus stands at your door and knocks....and then enters your heart!

You have to stand in line to see Santa
Jesus is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap
Jesus lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is
"Hi, little boy or girl".

Jesus knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads!

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.
Jesus has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is Ho! Ho! Ho!
Jesus offers health, help and hope!

Santa says "You better not cry"
Jesus says "Cast all your cares on me for I care For you"!

Santa's little helpers make toys
Jesus makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions!

Santa may make you chuckle but
Jesus gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree
Jesus became our gift and died on the tree!



December Anniversaries!

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Jon & Robin Hall | 12/3 |
| Peggy & Ron Bassett | 12/27 |



Advent Service:

Advent services will be on Wednesday, December 2nd, 9th and 16th, service with Holden Evening Prayer at 7 pm. In person and Live Streamed

Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm

Please observe silence when entering the Sanctuary. Come join us as we prepare for our Savior's birth!

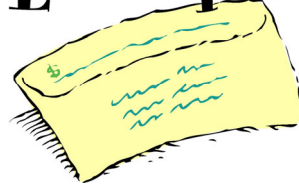


December Birthdays!

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Michael Bredeson | 12/3 |
| Braden Vykukal | 12/7 |
| David Seal | 12/12 |
| Elizabeth Del Toro | 12/14 |
| Amanda Vykukal | 12/14 |
| Shawn Keesler | 12/14 |
| Elizabeth DelToro | 12/14 |
| Rod Huber | 12/15 |
| Diana Bredeson | 12/18 |
| Terry Mossburger | 12/21 |
| Curt Gonzalez | 12/23 |
| Doris Coury | 12/24 |
| Jesus Christ | 12/25 |
| John Vykukal | 12/28 |
| Carol Vykukal | 12/29 |
| Linda Myers | 12/31 |
| Marvin Parker | 12/31 |



Offering Envelopes






The 2022 Offering Envelopes will be ready for pickup in the Narthex by December 12th.

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

The office and the school will be closed on December 24, to celebrate Christmas! And December 31st to celebrate the New Year



DECEMBER 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 7 pm Advent service | 2 6:00 pm Bible Study | 3 | 4 |
| | | |  | | | |
| 5 9:00 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service 2nd Sunday of Advent 2:00 pm School Christmas Program | 6 6:00pm Handbell Practice | 7 6pm Chancel Choir | 8 7 pm Advent Svc.  | 9 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 Worship Committee | 10 | 11 1:00 pm Women, Wine and Wisdom Painting Event |
| 12 9:00 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service 3rd Sunday of Advent | 13 6:00pm Handbell Practice | 14 6pm Chancel Choir | 15 7 pm Advent Svc.  | 16 6:00 pm Bible Study | 17 | 18 11:00 am Youth Caroling at The Crossing |
| 19 9:00 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service 4th Sunday of Advent | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service | 24 Merry Christmas Office Closed | 25 |
| 26 10:30 am Lessons and Carols | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Office Closed | |



Health Concerns

(removed after 30 days)

Karl Klug (12/21)

Personal Needs

(removed after 30 days)

Bereavement

(removed after 2 weeks)

Serving in our Military

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

Long Term Care/Medical Treatments

(remains until requested to be removed)

Earl Armstrong
Al Alter (11/21)
Peggy Basset
Steve Bivens
Diana Bredeson
Ashlynn Coury-Moseley
Letha Frederick
Bobbie Gibson
Elissa Gould-Schautd
Carolyn Hannum
Merl Matthewman
Ray Mitchell
Kathy Pulliam (03/21)
Irene Richmond
Theresa Rios (10/21)
Yvette Rushing (10/21)
Marjorie Schaeffman
Patricia Meyer Schalla
Carol Schautd
Ken Schautd
Tom Sharp
Brie Skelton (11/21)
Wanda Toedter
Nate Tupper
Cathy Vaughn
Kathleen Womansong (10/21)

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...directorcvcs@comcast.net

OFFERING REPORT YEAR-TO-DATE (11/30/2021)

2021 Offering Needed: \$ 192,935.38

Current Offerings Received: \$ 127,059.90

Shortfall: \$ 65,875.48

Building Fund Offerings ytd: \$ 9,566.00

**Building fund loan balance: \$ 22,048.86
(as of November 10, 2021)**

Church Council Members:

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