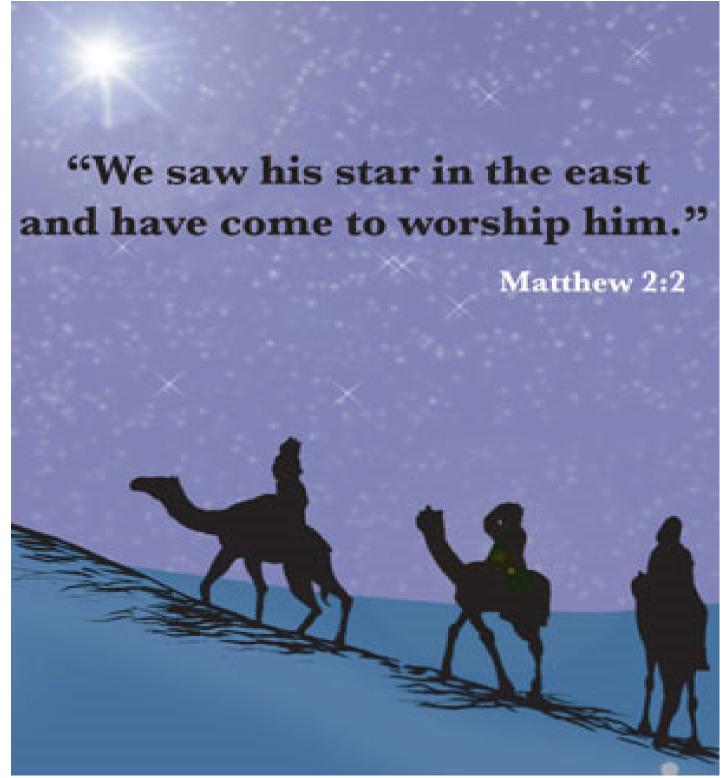
## Christus Victor Lutheran Church JANUARY 2022



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





Hello Christus Victor Family and Friends.

Christmas day has come and gone, but the season of Christmas has a few days left. In the church calendar, the Christmas season runs from December 24/25, through Epiphany which is on January  $6^{th}$ . The day of Epiphany is the day we honor when the wisemen from the East are able to meet Jesus. Just as the light of a star guided the Wisemen to where the child, Jesus was, Jesus is the guiding light that draws us to God, shows us how to live as children of God, and brings to undeserving people (all people) the way of Eternal life.

There are many symbols, secular and sacred, that are connected to Christmas. There are Christmas trees, and Santa Clause and Christmas ornaments and wreaths. For Christians, there is probably no greater symbol for this Holy day than the scene of Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus in a stable. Often, the Holy family is joined by a cast of characters such as animals, shepherds and even wisemen (though the wisemen did not find Jesus in the stable. He was likely in a home and about a year old). Always, there is the Holy Family. This year I saw a picture of a manger scene that took me by surprise in a good way.



I love the reality of this picture. Joseph isn't much more than a blip in scripture and seems to be there to explain how Jesus had a family. However, the role that Joseph played in the life of Jesus and Mary is so important. Everything Joseph does is behind the scenes. Yet, just like Mary embraced the message she received from the angle, Joseph did as well. Joseph was willing to raise Jesus as his son, knowing that he was not his biologically. He was willing to love and care for Mary even though her pregnancy was likely to cause some talk around town. He loved Jesus and raised him as the carpenter's son. That is something to be celebrated! I love how this image shows the deep love Joseph must have had for both Mary and Jesus, and for that I am grateful.

So many things in the church as well as any other ministry that happen because, like Joseph, there are people who are giving of their time, talents and treasures that most people never notice. Perhaps they are noticed, but the significance of their humble and quiet work is seldom acknowledged. As 2022 begins, I want us all to start looking for the gracious, yet quiet servants around us. As you go through a store, and you see someone stocking shelves or cleaning the floors and they stop to graciously help someone who, like me, that can't reach a shelf, or someone who is struggling to find just what they need, take a moment to tell them thank you for being so kind or in some way, acknowledge that you notice them.

I am a bit annoyed that when we go to grocery stores or places like Wal-Mart or Target that it is expected that people will use the self-check lanes while there are few cashiers to provide full service. What I have appreciated, and even taken the time to let them know, are those workers in these self-check lanes who are more than willing to help with the issues that come about while you check. These are the ones who help with a smile and make a joke or lets you know that you are not alone in the struggle. They make the fact that I am having to check my 300 items out by myself a bit more tolerable and keep me from becoming very cranky. There are 100s of people around us every day who are doing work we don't want to do, and often forget those who have to do them and do them with grace!

Start in the church. The people who help provide leadership in worship: the musicians, sound and video techs, the person who moves the slides along, the assisting ministers and readers and the altar guild. Make sure they know how much they help us keep our focus on our God when it is easy to be distracted by the world around us.

I could go on for pages listing people that are so important and often forgotten or taken for granted. You know who they are. As 2022 begins, pay attention to the little things around you and thank those people who work so hard and make what we do from day to day just a little bit easier.

Here's to a wonderful 2022!

God Bless you all, Pastor Tammy



Happy New Year. This is the time for new year's resolutions. I would like to ask that you make a new year's resolution to become part of the worship servants at Christus Victor. We need more assisting ministers, altar guild, audio/ visual people, users, and members of our musical groups. Because of COVID we have been getting by with a skeleton crew, but I would like you to pray about what you can do to be a part of our worship ministry. The more people in the group, the less often you have to serve. Please let Sandie know if you are interested in one of these ministries and she can schedule for everything except the musical groups. Trish handles the bell choir and the chancel choir and Marianne handles the Main Street Messengers. Do not be afraid to join one of these groups because you will be taught everything you need to know.

I am amazed at what our musical groups can do with the people they have. Let's see if we can make these groups bigger in 2022. If we had more bell choir members, we could play more harmonies with our melodies. If you are at all musically inclined, Trish can teach you what you need to know. If you think you can't carry a tune in a bucket, she can help you sing in the chancel choir. The more people of different voices we have the more we can harmonize with each other. Marianne will help you learn the songs for the Main Street Messengers. Most of them are usually on KSBJ on any given day. I might even be inspired to get my guitar out again and do a few solos myself. If you want to do solos, let Trish know. She can schedule you in whether they be instrumental or singing. Mary and Karl Klug did a great job with instrumental guitar last month. It made me want to cry. Don't wait for someone to ask you. Find out where you can make a difference in the church. If worship is not your thing, there are other areas in the church where your talents can be used. Make this year the one that has you share your talents with the church because that is what we need right now.

Yours in Christ,

Stacey Keener Worship Committee Chair

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### **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

# "Surround yourself with music in life. Not negativity."

At this Christmas time, I always like to look back at the year and celebrate God's blessings. I continue to be grateful for Christus Victor Lutheran Church in my life. I feel so at home here and embraced by the members. I am thankful for Pastor Tammy who always gives the best moral support and the best sermons to guide my life. I also could not do what I do without the marvelous help from Sandie. She definitely helps this church in more ways than you ever know. In addition, I am very proud of the Handbell Choir and the Chancel Choir. They have faced quite a few Covid obstacles, but they have been determined that God's musical gifts should continue. I especially enjoyed hearing how pretty the Christmas cantata was. Another blessing in my life is the Messengers Praise team. I am honored they have embraced me joining in at the piano. I love practicing and playing with you. We also cannot forget about our audio/sound team. I appreciate your talents and your patience. Thanks to all of our soloists throughout the year. Each one of you has unique gifts to share. Finally, a big thank you to Jason and the youth. The church should be proud of how they brought such a beautiful caroling performance to the Crossing on Egret Bay. Something special is always happening among us! Please consider joining the magic in 2022. I love you all!

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"Music mends what's broken, heals what hurts, and is the light www.musiciansunite.com in the darkness that will help show you the way back home."



The youth group and choirs had fun caroling at The Crossing in December. The residents joined in and



On Christmas Eve, the youth group set up luminarias around the church. Luminarias are a New Mexican tradition where sand and a lit candle are place in a paper bag on Christmas Eve to light the way for the baby Jesus. It was a beautiful sight!



Our next Women, Wine, and Wisdom gathering will be a planning party with someone else's treasures! Join us on Saturday, January 30. Bring a treasure you have been gifted that you would like to share with someone else, like a candle you received that isn't your favorite scent, or the really cute cup, but you have enough. We will also come up with ideas for things our group can do in the coming months. Time and location TBD.



Bell Choir

Christmas Eve





Christmas Eve

Cantata



Ani reading one of the Nativity stories







## **Christus Victor Children's School**



On December 5th, the children participated in the Christmas program, made crafts, and enjoyed a visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause. Thank you to all the teachers for their hard work with the students and thank you to our families and friends for supporting the children!

This month, our children will be learning about winter, pets, and nursery rhymes.

With the ever-changing Texas "winter," please make sure your child has appropriate clothing in their cubby.

Bible verse of the month: "I am the Lord your God" Psalms 81:10

**Tebertha Henderson** 

**CVCS** 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





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



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

Doris Coury Mary Ann Davis Penny & Tom Dougherty Trish Fowzer Wendy Gram Mary Ann Headley Patty Parker Sandie Price Rick & Tammy Sharp Paula & John Towner Offering Envelopes



# JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year
2 9:00Praise Team Prac- tice 10:30 am Lessons and Carols	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 Praise Team Prac- tice 10:30 am Worship Ser- vice	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:00 Praise Team Prac- tice 10:30 am Worship Ser- vice	17 6:00 pm Bell Choir	18 6:00 pm Chan- cel Choir	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 Praise Team Prac- tice 10:30 am Worship Ser- vice 30 9:00Praise Team Prac- tice 10:30 am Worship Ser- vice	24 6:00 pm Bell Choir 31 6:00 pm Bell Choir	25 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	26	27	28	29



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Health Concerns (removed after 30 days)	Serving in our Military	Long Term Care/Medical <u>Treatments</u> (remains until requested to be re-
Ruby Hinton (12/21) Kelly Baker (12/21) Michelle Campbell (1/22)	Michael Bredeson Brandon Geiger Noah Keener Alysa Mann Meyer	<i>moved)</i> Earl Armstrong Al Alter (11/21)
	Blake Meyer Zach Wood	Peggy Basset Steve Bivens Diana Bredeson
<u>Personal Needs</u> (removed after 30 days)		Ashlynn Coury-Moseley Letha Frederick Bobbie Gibson Elissa Gould-Schaudt
<b>Bereavement</b> (removed after 2 weeks)		Carolyn Hannum Alyssa Manchester (12/21) Merl Matthewman
The Family of Gary Coury		Ray Mitchell Kathy Pulliam (03/21) Irene Richmond
		Theresa Rios (10/21) Marjorie Schaefman Patricia Meyer Schalla
		Carol Schaudt Ken Schaudt 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

### **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

2021 Offering Needed: \$210,475.00

Current Offerings Received: \$150,805.00

Shortfall: \$ 59,670.0

Building Fund Offerings ytd: \$10,266.00

Building fund loan balance: \$21,497.53 (as of December 12, 2021