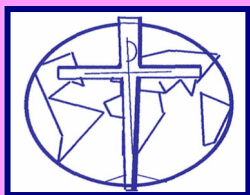


Christus Victor Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2022



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

For God
so *lo*ved the world,
that he gave his
only
be*g*otten
Son,
that *who*soever
be*lie*veth
in him should not perish,
but have *e*verlasting life.



John 3:16

Save the Date



April 23-24
Youth will
Participate in
Lutherhill's
Month of
Service



Summer Camp at Lutherhill
July 17-22

Ash
Wednesday
Service

March 2nd 7:00
pm





Christus Victor Family and Friends:

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15:12-15

As a kid growing up in the church, this image of Jesus as my friend was so comforting. In many ways, I think that being invited into a friendship with Jesus is what allowed me to feel very connected to Jesus and therefore my faith. Because of this relationship I wanted to learn more and to be with other people who also understood this invitation to friendship. Growing up in the 80's and being a part of a very large youth group, we sang the song “You’ve Got a Friend” as if Jesus were singing it to us. It is the understanding of Jesus I needed, and I am forever grateful for.

As I listen to the preachers that so many people are drawn to, they spend most of their time expressing this personal Jesus. Let’s face it. One of the most exciting things about our faith is that we are invited to be as close to God as a friend. We are encouraged to hear “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Through the good and the bad, God is with us. I know this to be true and have felt God’s presence in mighty ways when life seemed unbearable. But if our faith simply rests in the comfort of knowing Jesus as our friend, I think we are missing the point of our lives.

One of the things that was said so often during talks at my youth group was something like this: “If you had been the only person in the world Jesus would have still come down and died for you”. I know the point of that was to emphasize the fact that God wants an intimate relationship with us, but as far as I can tell, I don’t think the Bible ever says that. It isn’t that I don’t think God loves me enough to do that. It is the fact that we were never created to be isolated individuals. We were created to be in community with one another and with God. To imply that God would ever want just me is to lose sight of who we are created to be. Our faith is personal, but it isn’t private. I cannot hold on to Jesus as my friend as if Jesus is not your friend too. God came for all of us, not just one of us. And Christ came not just to save us, but to teach us how we are to live our lives as worship to our Lord.

At the birth of Jesus, the shepherds were joined by an angel proclaiming “for unto you this day, in the city of David, a Savior is born, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11 Before Jesus could do anything but coo and sleep and mess up his diapers, He was Lord of all. The shepherds felt that power and came to the manger to honor this new Lord and then went out to tell the world.

When the Wisemen came from the East, they bowed down before Jesus as they presented his family with precious and costly gifts. They understood the Greatness of this Child even though he was just a kid being a kid.

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; Romans 10:12

Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been given this gift of understanding support. We can no longer say that God is out there somewhere and doesn't really care what is happening down on earth. Jesus showed us what it is to have God be the Lord of our lives and I think that we have managed to water down what this means.

The dictionary says that the word Lord means *someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler*. It is giving Jesus the power, authority, and influence of our lives that we seem reluctant to embrace. It is this Lordship of Jesus that can not only change our lives, but it will change the world. That is, if all of us work to keep our friend Jesus as our Lord as well.

So, what do I really mean? Consider the Bible verses or poems or sayings that you are on your walls or on a desk or just in your collection of things that you draw on when you consider your relationship with God. I am willing to bet that most of them have to do with how God in Jesus Christ has come to you. *"I can do all things through Christ who Strengthens me". Philippians 4:13 The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want..... " Psalm 23* And the list could go on. The point I am trying to make is that unintentionally perhaps, we are prone to allow our faith to be "What can Jesus do for me". Of course we never think of it this way, but our lives seem to reflect that far more than reflecting that Jesus is the Lord of our lives.

For us to reflect that Jesus is Lord of our lives, our lives should be focused on others more than on ourselves. Our response to people would always be in love rather than demanding our way. We would see the hurt in others and instinctually offer what we could to help rather than considering all the reasons we shouldn't get involved. When the challenges of life come our way, our response would be more of "Lord, what would you have me do through this" rather than, "why is God doing this to me". Let's face it. Those are not the most common responses we have.

I challenge all of us to gather with other people of faith, or people who would be interested in reading the Bible with you regardless of their faith, and look for all of the instructions that Jesus gives on how to live our lives. Consider the things that are most important to Jesus like Love and acceptance and sacrifice. Then, challenge one another to hold each other accountable for living the way Jesus instructs us to. That means in the way we disagree with people, and the way we talk to people, and the way we respond to the needs of others. Take little steps each day to live into the Lordship of Jesus, allowing God's ways to be the authority, influence, and master of our lives. It won't be easy, but I do believe that as we live into this relationship with Jesus we will more fully know what is meant when we are promised to have life and life abundantly.

God bless you all,

Pastor Tammy

Music Department

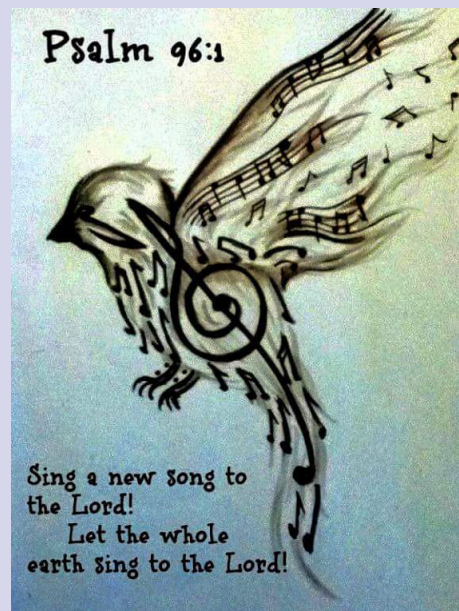
We are open for business!!

This is a sentence we continue to find joyful after experiencing a worldwide pandemic that has slowed down our daily lives. We are, however, hearing of declining numbers in places, and we see hope more today than in the past two years.

Have you noticed that our church has worked hard to keep God's word coming into the church and into our homes. I am proud that our choirs also tried their best to keep God's praises being sung. I am excited that all choirs are again open for business. We have new songs, contemporary worship songs, and some awesome hymns of the past coming up in our rehearsals for 2022. Remember the bells meet on Mondays at 6 while the Chancel Choir meets on Tuesdays at 6. We are all about praise, fellowship, laughter, and prayer in every rehearsal. Come sit in with us and feel the spirit of the Lord. We love to have visitors!!

Trish

If your music touches you, it will also touch others. None of us is an island, and music is a connection we all have **together.**





I realize many of you may not want to come to church in person because of the omicron version of COVID. I totally understand why. I hope you all are enjoying the services online because I want you to stay connected to the church as much as possible. Both Bell Choir and Chancel Choir have had to cancel practices for a bit because of the numbers of COVID cases staying up as high as they have been. Please pray that the number of cases goes down soon. I would love to see all of you back in the pews again.

I know that Lent doesn't start until March, but I want you to know that we are planning on having soup suppers then. Of course, things could change depending on what happens with COVID, but I think by then things may have calmed down enough that we feel comfortable being in person again. The church has asked all of you to wear masks during services and that is just a precaution. We still have the individual communion packs as well as the opportunity to come up front for communion. The church wants to accommodate your comfort level in taking communion so that you do not feel that you have to forgo communion because of COVID.

As always the Worship committee could use more people. We need more assisting ministers and altar guild at the present time. We can teach you everything you need to know. If you do not feel comfortable singing in front of everyone, we can get a cantor to help out or schedule you during the Main Street Messengers' Sunday. We will also need people to lead the Lenten services coming up, so if you ever wanted to do that, please let Sandie Price or Pastor Tammy know. Don't wait for an invitation because I have to admit I don't like to ask people to help out. I know I need to get better at that, but please do not be shy. We need you, we want you, we appreciate what you all do. Please prayerfully consider joining us to help keep our services going. We have had a skeleton crew so far who are trying to keep things going and some of us need a rest from time to time. We need some fresh perspectives to help us make our worship even better.

The Main Street Messengers would like to have more people help out with singing the hymns for those Sundays. If you like contemporary Christian music, this is the group for you. The Bell Choir needs more hands to ring more bells to play more complicated pieces. Please join the Bell Choir if you can count to six and keep a beat as well as color your notes. The Chancel Choir needs more voices especially alto and any male voices would be great. Trish can teach anyone to sing, so join the group. Singing in a choir has health-improving properties that you may not realize.

Practices are:

Main Street Messengers - 9AM on Sundays

Bell Choir - 6PM on Mondays

Chancel Choir - 6PM on Tuesdays

Join one of these groups or join them all. We would be glad to have you.

Stacey Keener

Worship Committee Chair

UPCOMING

The youth group will go skating at Alvin Skate N Party on **Sunday, February 13th from 2:00-4:00**. Everyone, young or young at heart, is welcome to join us! Admission and skate rental is \$9 per person. We will have snacks for everyone. Let Jason know (jasonrrt97@yahoo.com or 225-236-8533) if you plan to come!!!!



Women, Wine, & Wisdom will meet on **Sunday, February 20th at 2:00**. We are going to volunteer at The Birthday Joy Program (200 Houston Ave, Suite D, League City) to help prepare birthday bags and do some other organization tasks they need. After church, we will go enjoy lunch together at CoCo Crepes before we volunteer. Please RSVP to Sara 281-702-7075 so we can make a reservation.

The youth group will participate in Lutherhill's Month of Service! On **April 23rd and 24th**, we will be going to Lutherhill and completing a service project. There is a limited amount of people who can go due to lodging, so please let Lisa (225-236-6786 or lisakutinac@hotmail.com) know if your child plans to attend.



Join us on a quest to find five mysterious lanterns to help light the way and learn about how God's light shines in the Bible! VBS will be June 5th - 9th. If you are interested in learning more about this year's VBS, volunteering, or helping in some way, join us for a planning meeting on **Wednesday, February 16th at 6:30**. If you would like to help/volunteer but can't make the meeting, reach out to Lisa.

The theme for Lutherhill's summer camp this year is "Come as you are." We will be going the week of **Sun, July 17-Fri, July 22**. Please register your campers and pay the deposit now. **WE DO NOT HAVE A GROUP CODE**. If you have fundraising ideas, please let Lisa know. If you would like to sponsor one of the youth and/or donate to our camp fund, please let Lisa know that, as well.



Christus Victor Children's School

February 2022

This month, we will be learning about "Life on a Farm" at CVCS.

We will also be doing fun art projects and lessons about love and Valentine's Day.

Our classes will have their Valentine's celebrations on Valentine's Day.

Pastor Tammy has been doing chapel with us each week. We are learning songs and Bible stories, and we are having so much fun! You should see us dancing to the music!



We have made some updates! The restrooms in the Family Life Center have new counters, and the Pre-K classroom has new flooring.

Our Bible verse this month is:

"God is Love" 1 John 4:8

Tebertha Henderson, Director
Lisa Kutinac, School Board President

February Anniversaries!

Frank & Doris Chambers	2/11
Karen Sebung & Bill Ferreira	2/14



February Birthdays!

Bonnie Short	2/02
Spencer Taylor	2/02
Tom Dougherty	2/04
Carrie Keesler	2/06
Tom Smith	2/08
Laurie Stockstill	2/14
Josh Sharp	2/17
Chloe Njeru	2/18
Travis Wright	2/19
Ruth Osborne	2/20
Ralph Zambrana	2/22
Lynn Crawl	2/23





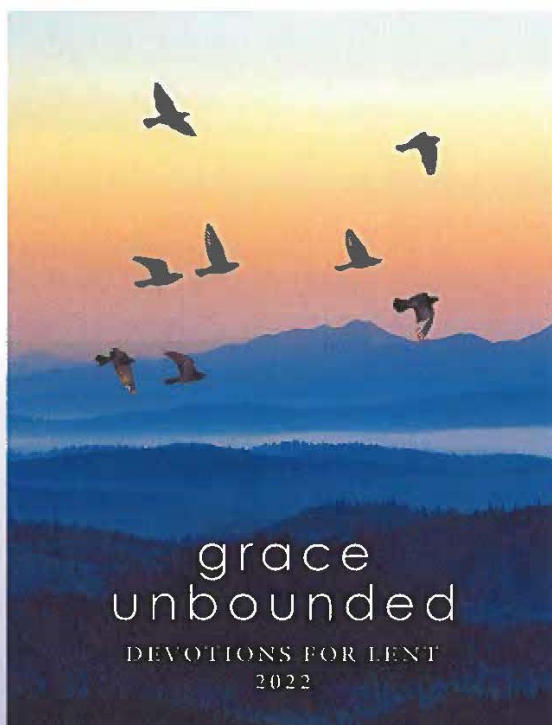
FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Scout Sunday 9:00 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	7 6:00 pm Bell Choir	8 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	9	10 6:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Worship Committee	11	12 4 PM-6PM Women, Wine & Wisdom "regifting"
13 9:00 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service Youth Skating 2-4 @Alvin Skate N Party	14 6:00 pm Bell Choir	15 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	16 VBS Planning Meeting 6:30 pm	17 6:00 pm Bible Study	18	19
20 9:00 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service Women, Wine & Wisdom After church	21 6:00 pm Bell Choir	22 6:00 pm Chancel Choir	23	25 6:00 pm Bible Study	25	26
27 9:00 Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	28 6:00 pm Bell Choir					

Please let Sandie know by February 6th if you would like a copy of this Lenten Devotional. The cost is \$3.00

grace unbounded

DEVOTIONS FOR LENT 2022



ISBN: 978-1-5064-8198-2

responds to those who want healing, welcomes time with children, shows great regard for women, shares meals with “unsavory” characters, and seeks out people who have lost their way. No limits, no restrictions, no boundaries—not even death—can stop his love and grace for all people.

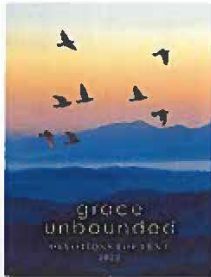
Grace Unbounded provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday). Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of Luke (the gospel focus for 2022, year C in the Revised Common Lectionary). The writers then bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus reaches out to all kinds of people. He proclaims good news—in particular, to those experiencing poverty, oppression, or captivity. Despite the tensions at the time between Jewish people and Samaritans, he tells a story about a Samaritan who shows what it means to be a neighbor. Jesus also

Order today at www.augsburgfortress.org/lent-devotion.

 AUGSBURG FORTRESS

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USING grace unbounded IN YOUR HOME EACH DAY

On your own

- If possible, light a candle and set a small bowl of water next to it. (Hint: Turn off electronic devices at this time.)
- Look at the photo for the day, read the devotion, and pray the prayer. Add to the prayer if you wish.
- Dip your fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.

With others

- If possible, light a candle and set a small bowl of water next to it. (Hint: Turn off electronic devices at this time.)
- Look at the photo for the day together. (With a child or children, ask a question about the photo, for example: What do you like about this picture? What do you think happens next? How do you feel when you look at this picture? What does this picture make you want to do?)
- With a child or children, use the Bingo card and drawing prompts provided in order to keep younger participants engaged.
- Have one person read the scripture passage and "To ponder" quote aloud, and another read the reflection. Pray the prayer aloud together.
- Dip your fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads.

Tips

- Make devotions a daily habit, like brushing your teeth. Many people find it helpful to have devotions at the same time and place every day (or most days)—at a table before or during a meal, on the bus or train to school or work, in a child's room at bedtime. Do what works best for you.
- Don't give up if you miss a day! Move ahead to the next devotion the following day.
- If you are using *Grace Unbounded* with others, consider putting someone in charge of making sure you take time for daily devotions. (Children especially may enjoy this responsibility!)

Save the Date



March 5, 2022



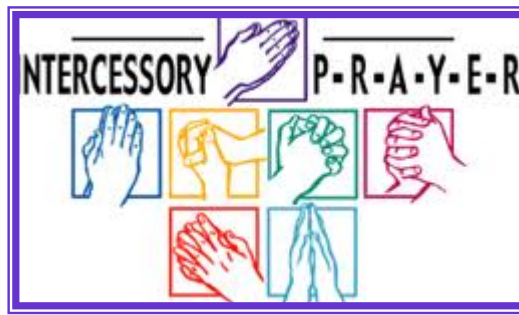
Giving Back to First Responders

We will be serving breakfast/brunch for First Responders on the first Saturday on March (March 5th). This is a ministry we would like to start once a month. If you are interested in helping by providing food or helping cook or serve - please let Sandie know. We will also have a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

If you know of a need in the community that we could become involved in, please let us know, as we plan our Mission Ministry for the next few years.

If you know of a need in the community that we could become involved in, please let us know, as we plan our Mission Ministry for the next few years.

If you are interested in participating in a Progressive Dinner please let Sandie know or sign up in the Narthex. If enough interest is shown we will pick a date.



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

Health Concerns

(removed after 30 days)

Michelle Campbell (1/22)
Joann Bonnema (1/22)

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
Alyssa Manchester (12/21)
Merl Matthewman
Ray Mitchell
Kathy Pulliam (03/21)
Bobbi Purvis (01/22)
Irene Richmond
Theresa Rios (10/21)
Marjorie Schaefman
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 Life, Love, and Teachings of Jesus Christ to Today's World"

Sunday Worship with Children's Church: 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: 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, Trish Fowzer

Worship Committee Chairperson, Stacey Keener 281-797-6775

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

Christus Victor Congregation Ministers

2021 Church Council Members:

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 As of 01/30/2022

**2022 Offering Needed: \$ 18,380.00
Current Offerings Received: \$9,561.00**

**Shortfall: \$8,819.00
Building Fund Offerings ytd: \$625.00**

**Building fund loan balance: \$ 20,946.95
(as of January 11, 2022)**