

The Victorious Voice

April 2022

CHRISTUS
VICTOR
Lutheran Church

15600 North Tamiami Trail
Naples, Florida 34110-6245
(239) 597-1043
Rev. Thomas J. Slater, Pastor

Thanks Be To God, who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ"
(1 Cor. 15:57)
Don't just live...live victoriously!



Pastor Tom's Page

How can I even begin to say "thank you" to this amazing congregation for all that you have meant to me and my family. After 26 years, it is time for me to move into my retirement years and see what God might have in store for me there.

Thank you for the wonderful retirement party held on Sunday, March 20th. It was incredible to finally be able to be together and share in that glorious day.

Special thanks to Judy and John Butcher, Kim and Greg Olson, Deb Burdick and Al Zipperle, Paul Todd and Sherry and all the Intern's for your love and support.

Thank you for going above and beyond in your gifts not only to Sherry and I personally but also to the Rev. Tom & Sherry Slater Scholarship Fund that you set up in our honor. It is a dream come true to know that others will be supported in their efforts to share God's love as they continue in their training to become pastors of the ELCA. What a gift!

Sherry and I will forever cherish our ministry among and with you for all these wonderful years. You have all made a deep impact on our lives, and for that we are eternally grateful.

God has an incredible plan for this Christ-Centered Church that is filled with awesome disciples who gladly use their gifts and talents to share God's love with people in this community and throughout the world.

We love you and will miss you all tremendously and we can't wait to hear what God has in store for you next.

All our love and the rich blessings of God be with you as you continue to spread God's love for all in this Spirit-blessed place.

Doing God's Work with our hands and remember, Don't just live, live victoriously in Christ!

In Christ's Holy Name,

Pastor Tom and Sherry Slater



**Christus Victor has returned to three services
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**



Worship Updates

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Church Council met on Monday, March 21st and the following worship updates were approved:

- Masks are optional at all worship services starting immediately.
- We will begin using Ushers and Communion Assistants beginning Sunday, April 10th (Palm Sunday). **Sign up sheets are in the lobby.**
- Beginning on Sunday April 10th (Palm Sunday) we will offer bread / wine the way we used to, with the option to use the pre-packaged communion sets if you so choose.
- **We will go back to two Worship Services starting on Sunday, April 24th (8:30 & 10:45)** and the Café will open for the first time as well.





From the Desk of the Synod Parish Deacon

The theme of our Lenten services this year is “in view of God’s Mercy”, the weekly messages have been meaningful and I hope everyone has benefitted from the messages. As I have indicated in my newsletter articles since January; starting May, I will be stepping back from Live Streaming our services and my role as property chairperson. One person has expressed an interest in being **one** of **several** volunteers needed to Live Stream CVLC services. Our congregation needs volunteers to attend and live stream one of the Sunday and other services. Live Streaming is not complicated. There is a written procedure and I will work with the volunteers to learn the process.

The property committee has reorganized and Greg Olson is the chair person.

We will continue to live stream the early service starting at 7:45. The service will be archived and available after 9:15. I pray to God to keep everyone safe and ask him to send the Holy Spirit to guide everyone thru the transition process.

M.E.L.S, ((M)en (E)ating (L)earning and (S)upporting), our men’s ministry group is cancelled until further notice.

I pray for guidance and look forward to continuing to serve the members of Christus Victor Lutheran Church.

Blessings, Gerry Benjamin, Synod Parish Deacon



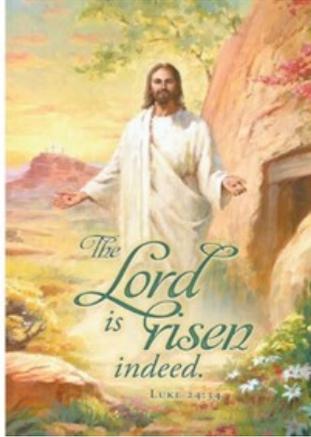
Live Stream Training Friday, April 8th 1:00p.m.

We are in need of volunteers to sign up to Live Stream CVLC’s worship service. There will be a training session as mentioned above. It is not complicated! There is a Live Stream Training sign up sheet in the narthex on the table in front of the large bulletin board for anyone interested in the training session. We will then have a sign-up sheet for those who have had the training to sign up for a Sunday that you will be attending church and wish to live stream! Thank you!

Sick or Hospitalized?

Please tell us if you or someone you know in the congregation will be hospitalized or in need of a visit as we are not routinely notified by local hospitals when members are admitted. The office number is 597-1043. Prayer for one another is understanding love.

Music Notes by Joyce Reitz, Director of Music



Hello everyone, what an exciting time we had at Pastor Tom's party. So good to see interns that I had the privilege to work with in the past and to hear the great testaments to our Dear Pr. Tom. The entertainment was super and I loved the duet between Paul Todd and Sherry. Brought tears to my eyes, but mostly happy tears. Kim, Greg, Deb, and Al were so much fun to watch and listen to. A great time was held by all.

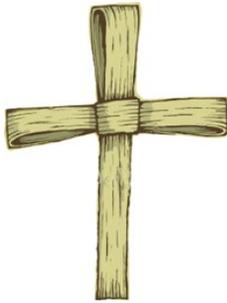
Now we face the end of an era. But, as Pr. Tom said, we need to look ahead to the new era. It will be hard for me as I will need to learn how to work with someone new, but I know I have the support of this great congregation!

Now, I must say we do have special music for Easter. The Victorious Ringers will play an arrangement of Crown Him with Many Crowns during our offering time. The choir will sing a call to worship and also an anthem during communion. This will all be at the 11:00 service and will be live streamed so you won't miss anything if you prefer to attend an earlier service.

We have special music planned for Pr. Tom's last Sunday with us and I hope you and he will enjoy one number that will be a bit of a surprise. It is a familiar tune, but I changed and wrote some new words for it. We can't let him leave without a good sendoff!

I must also mention the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 11:00 and will be live streamed in case you can't make it at that time. The choir will have special music for those services.

So, until next month, keep a song in your hearts!



Making of Palm Crosses Wednesday, April 6th 9:00 a.m.

We are looking for people to help make palm crosses. It takes "Many hands to do God's Work." We encourage men to join us in helping cut the palms.

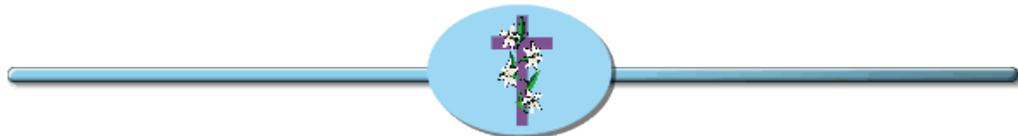
We will be making the palm crosses at Christus Victor in the kitchen in the Administration Building. Bring your scissors! Anyone can come and learn how to make palm crosses and join in this social time.

Please join us! **Sign up sheet is in the narthex!**



Mid Week Lenten Service Wednesday, April 6th 11:00a.m.

This years Lenten Theme will focus on "God's Mercy."



Holy Week Schedule for Worship

- April 14th - Maundy Thursday Service 11:00 am
- April 15th - Stations of the Cross 10:00 am
- April 15th - Good Friday Service 11:00 am
- April 17th - Easter Day Services with Communion
6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am



Easter Flowers

**Help is needed to set out Easter flowers,
Saturday April 16th at 9:00a.m. Thank you!**

A Victory garden of spring flowers and Easter Lilies will decorate the altar on Easter Sunday, April 17th.

The cost of each plant will be \$15.

To memorialize or to honor someone with a plant and/or lily please fill out a order form that will be in the narthex by March 13th and place it in the basket.

You can make a check out to Christus Victor Lutheran Church or place cash in a pew envelope and put it in the offering plate with a memo indicating Easter Flowers.

Ordering deadline is April 10th. Thank you.

Easter Stewardship: Resurrection Reset

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. -Romans 6:3-4

Christ is Risen! Risen, indeed! Alleluia! The triumphant words we cherish every Easter signal more than just Jesus' victory over the grave. They announce for us the end of deadness and the start of a new life, a fresh beginning, in our earthly pilgrimage. Jesus was raised from the dead so that we, too, might walk in newness of life.

From Jesus' resurrection, our lives take on a new trajectory, a turn away from the values and precepts of the world and toward the kingdom of God. As we journey, our lives progressively align with the purposes and mission of God.

For a steward-disciple of our Lord, the implications are many. As we walk in newness of life, we might find ourselves re-examining our relationship to "stuff" – our money, our possessions, the things that might have given us a sense of security or worth. Jesus is our security and our worth.

Drawing closer to family and friends. True wealth is measured by the love we give and receive. Our lives effervesce with the love we receive from God.

Contributing more to church and charity. Jesus frees us from the grip that possessions have upon us. We can more freely give.

Gathering into our lives what Paul calls the fruits of the spirit: "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

May your lives as steward-disciples take a resurrection reset. Christ is risen! Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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Online Giving

We have had a number of questions about opportunities to continue contributing to CVLC when we don't attend services. One option is to mail your checks to the church (we have a secure mailbox) **15600 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34110**. Another option is to use our E-Giving program as follows:

Go to the CVLC website (www.christusvictorfl.org).

Click on "Give" (upper right)

Under "Two Ways to Enroll" click on "online"

Then indicate the amount you wish to contribute

Choose the frequency using the drop-down

Create your Online Profile so that you can easily return to your online account

Click on "Continue" at bottom left and follow the prompts.

You have the option of having the contributions come directly from your checking account (our preference), or you can make contributions via credit card (this option deducts at least 2.5% from your contribution before it gets to us).

If you have any questions or need assistance with setting up the account, please contact CVLC Treasurer (Doc) at 509-595-7399.



Calling All Crafters!

Christus Victor is continuing to provide items for nursing and memory care homes. You can help to bring kindness and happiness to someone's sunset years.

Are you handy at sewing, knitting or crocheting, or quilting? You can help the less fortunate. Not a crafty person? Your donation of a monetary gift for supplies would also be greatly appreciated.

Items requested by the facilities are neck pillows, adult bibs, lap blankets, shawls, and memory activity mats. Materials (already cut for you) and directions are available in the Caring and Sharing Room for your convenience. There is also a nice selection of yarn.

Your finished projects can be returned to the Carin and Sharing Room located across from the Café. Thank you for helping the less fortunate with your time and talents. Happy Sewing/Knitting/Crocheting/Quilting to all!!

For more details contact Linda Hanson lhesell@yahoo.com 239-777-1128 or Sandy Goddard sandygoddard@aol.com 231-388-4377.



Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast

We will be hunting for eggs in Victory Park that the children have colored. The eggs will be on stakes and the children will give their guess for how many they found. All children will get a bag of candy at the end.

Please bring pre-packaged "breakfast snacks" (muffins, Pop-tarts, etc.) to share for Breakfast in the Pavilion.

April 10, 9:30am



Sunday Learning Opportunities



Sunday School

9:30-10:30am

Children and youth will start and end their class in the Large Gathering Room before being dismissed to their classrooms.

Sunday School videos will also be available online each week.

No Sunday School April 17

Adult Bible Fellowship

9:30 –10:30am

Faith Lens: a guided Bible study from the ELCA to read and discuss as a group.



No Adult Bible Fellowship April 17



Breakfast Club

9:30—10:30am

This parenting group will meet weekly to discuss topics interesting to the parents in the group. Please join us for interesting discussions, fellowship, and yes, some breakfast items!

No Breakfast Club April 17

Sunday School

Children and Youth: Sundays 9:30-10:30am Come in person or watch online! Online Sunday School can be found on our church YouTube channel. Please join us as we learn about God's love in a fun and vibrant way. Follow CVLC on Facebook for talking points about the theme throughout the week.

The theme for April is **Hope: believing that something good can come out of something bad.** *In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.*

—John 16:33b

Date	Bottom Line	Bible Story
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April 3	Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.	Lazarus Raised; John 11:1-45
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April 10	Whatever happens, remember God is still working.	Palm Sunday; John 12:9-16
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April 17	Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.	Crucifixion and Resurrection; John 18:1-20:18
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April 24	Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.	Jesus Appears to Thomas; John 20:19-29
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****There will be no Sunday School on April 17, but you can watch the videos online. Happy Easter!!!****

Remember to take time throughout the week to talk to your children about the bottom line. Ask questions, listen to their answers, and be prepared to share your own personal story. *"But Easter is the reminder that no season lasts forever and to hang on. The story will get better."*

—Sarah Anderson

Breakfast Club: Sundays 9:30-10:30am This group for parents gathers for fellowship, a lesson, and a light continental breakfast in the Parent Resource Area.

The month of **April**, we will continue reading the book *The 5 Love Languages of Children* by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell. Books are available in the new classroom (the old Narthex, by the Sunday School classrooms). We will be reading one chapter each week with discussion to follow. This is a great opportunity to learn how to fill your child's "love bucket", building a solid foundation for them to trust you and flourish as they grow.

Adult Bible Fellowship: Sundays 9:30-10:30am Join other adults for interesting discussions on a variety of topics. For the month of April, we will use a guided Bible study put out by the ELCA.

There will be no adult classes April 17

Youth Group: Wednesdays 6-7:30pm Youth in 6th to 12th grade gather for a lesson, food, fellowship, and fun! Contact Susan O'Brien susanobrien@cvcfl.org for more information or to be included in the text group.

There will be no Youth Group April 13

Mary Martha Study February - April
The kingdom of God by the Rev. Mark Allan Powell
The kingdom of God: What does it mean for God to be in charge?



New Testament scholar Mark Allan Powell looks at a widely used biblical image and invites us into a discussion of what it might mean for Lutheran women today. The phrase “kingdom of God” and similar expressions turn up repeatedly in sayings of Jesus, so understanding what that expression means helps us to make sense of numerous parables and popular Bible passages (including the Lord’s Prayer). There may be some surprises: the phrase refers to an activity, not a location—and it has nothing to do with God being a “king,” at least so far as that image suggests a (usually male) tyrant who gives orders and dominates the lives of his subjects.

April 12 9:30 a.m.

Looking to the future: Life forever with God – Most of the time that Jesus talks about the kingdom of God or eternal life, he is referring to something we experience here and now—not later in heaven. But sometimes, he does talk about that future life and in this final session we will learn as much as we can about “the glory that awaits us.” What will it be like to be perfect people in a perfect world, living forever with God and one another?





**Life Line Screening Is Coming to Christus Victor Lutheran Church
Monday, April 25th 8:00a.m.**

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on Monday, April 25th at Christus Victor Lutheran Church.

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke

Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body

An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke

Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral arterial disease

Ultrasound of the shin bone to identify risk for osteoporosis

These 5 screenings are offered for only \$159 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 member discount.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6450, visit <https://lsa.social/HSC> or text the word "circle" to 797979.



Peanut Butter & Jelly Day Monday, April 25th 10:30am

Please join us however you are able!!

You can make sandwiches at home and drop them off at the CHURCH any time before 11:30am this same day or if you'd like to join us in making the sandwiches, we start at 10:30am in the kitchen area of the Education Building. Bring 2 loaves of bread! Currently we have donations for peanut butter and jelly, so, we'll provide those items.

Any questions please do not hesitate to contact Paige Giannetti (paigegiannetti@gmail.com), Lavinia Hall (lhall99940@aol.com) or Jo Almond (jea919@gmail.com). Thank you!



Christus Victor



The book club will continue to meet in April.

The group will meet on Tuesday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m.
in the fellowship area of the church.
All readers are welcome!

The selection for reading will be
The Book of Longings
by acclaimed author, Sue Monk Kidd.

This is a fictionalized account of the life of a first-century wealthy
and scholarly young woman and the people in her life.
It is meticulously researched.





Christus Victor will be serving for Cafe of Life again this year. As a result of Covid, the meals will be less elaborate. They will be boxed and handed out as opposed to being on site. Therefore, if you would like to participate, you can furnish part of the meal and drop it off or stay and hand them out.

We will be serving two days a month January through April. If this sounds like a way you would like to serve the Lord's people, contact the church office, 239-597-1043.

Computer Group Thursday, April 28th, 1:30p.m.



Christus Victor Computer User Group welcomes anyone interested in discussing topics, problems, or difficulty related to the Windows PC to our bi-monthly 2nd and 4th Thursdays. **We will not be meeting the second Thursday of April.** If interested, or any questions about our bi-monthly meetings, please contact Jim Dupre, jfdupre@comcast.net or by cell phone 239-250-3629.



Victorious Ringers Wednesdays, 4:00pm

We will meet at 4:00 pm for practice. Please contact Kim Olson if you may be interested in joining the Victorious Ringers. Phone number: 239-776-1655 email: kimaolson56@gmail.com.



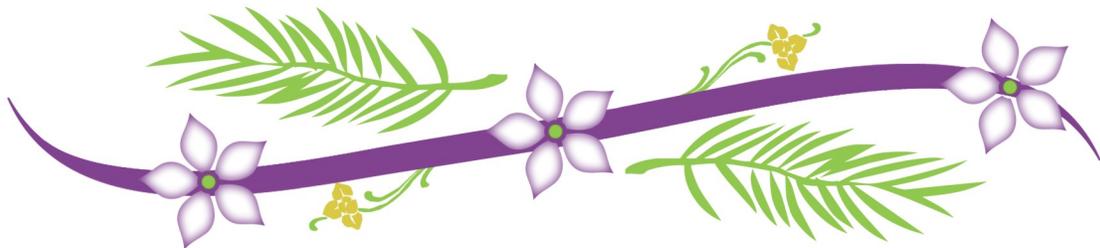
Christus Victor Campership Fund

Remember how much fun it was to attend Church Camp in your youth? Remember packing your sleeping bag, pillow, clothes, and Bible for the week? Remember coming home and writing to other campers? (These days they will text!) Remember coming home and singing new Christian songs that you learned while you were away? If you have these memories then this article will be of interest to you.

The Christus Victor Campership Fund is a way in which our Youth will afford to attend Church Camp. If you would like to see our Youth go to camp, please drop a monetary donation in an envelope and mark it Campership Fund. Our Mary, Martha Circle has already committed to start the fund with a generous donation once again this year.

Please note that Campership Scholarships are available to any age individual that is going to Church Camp. This includes adults, college students, senior high students, middle school students, and elementary students. If you would like to apply for a scholarship you may call the church office or speak to Susan, our Director of Education and Youth. Or you may email Susan at susanobrien@cvlcfl.org.

Let's help our Youth enjoy a week of fellowship, faith and fun at Church Camp this summer and many summers to follow. Thank You!



HELP

*Great opportunities to help others seldom come,
but small ones surround us every day. ...Sally Koch*

LET'S HELP THE COMMUNITY!

There are many organizations we donate to that are in need of unexpired **canned food** items of any type!! Vegetables, Fruits, Soups, Meats, and Complete Meal Cans like Spaghetti or Beefaroni.

They could also use any type of full-size **Cleaning and Personal Care Products** you could donate.

Likewise, paper products like **Kleenex, Toilet Paper, and Paper Towels**.

Items can be brought into the church during the week, or feel free to bring them on Sunday Mornings and put them in the Grocery Cart in the Caring & Sharing Room across from the Café.

Thanks so much for anything you can contribute!

*The meaning of life is to find your gift.
The purpose of life is to give it away. ...Pablo Picasso*

Thank you Stephen Stidinger for the wonderful and informative postings on the Christus Victor Facebook page!!! Now all the congregation has to do is . . .



AND



You Tube™ Visit the Christus Victor YouTube channel to view our worship services. Please copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGS9TN9p5QWOIMIE0mGCCdw>



Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by signing up for a daily email message. Please copy and paste the link below into your browser. You can also download the newly updated app for your IOS and Android devices. <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace>



Blood pressure is no joke!

We encourage **EVERYONE** to monitor your blood pressure. Make sure to get some exercise in your day and strive to eat as healthy as possible!

God wants us to treat our bodies like the temple they are.



THE FOOD COLLECTION for the month of April is canned fruit. Please leave your donations in the grocery cart in the Caring & Sharing Room and thank you for your continued support.

April		
1	Steve DiSarro	27 James Myers
4	Peggy Yeager	28 Ruth Keller
7	Lee Morrison	29 Jane Dougherty
9	Diane Horman	Ellen Koziol
13	Jenny Tomlinson	
	Sharon Vik	
13	Richard Dougherty	
15	Bob Avant	
19	Judy Berger	
20	Frances Chinn	
	Sylvia Hengel	
24	Troy Gerber	
26	Linda Wallace	

Happy Birthday

A very Happy Birthday to each and every one of you! May the year ahead be filled with wonderful memories to cherish, and opportunities to serve God wherever He places them.

If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact the church office (597-1043) so we can change or update our records. Thank you.

CVLC FINANCIAL REPORT

thru February 28, 2022

General Operating Donations (Income) vs Operating Expenditures				
	Operating Contributions	Operating Expenditures	Net Operating Income	Dedicated Contributions
February 2022	\$52,001.20	\$35,858.58	\$16,142.62	\$38,822.75
Year-to-Date	\$106,801.60	\$69,522.13	\$37,279.47	\$41,148.75
Previous YTD	\$107,744.57	\$68,722.50	\$39,022.07	\$7,492.28
YTD 2022/2021 (%)	-1.0%	+1.2%	-4.5%	N/A
Selected Dedicated Fund Contributions				
	February 2022	2022 YTD	2021 YTD	
ELCA Hunger	\$1,040.00	\$1,750.00	\$1,260.00	
Additional Pastor	\$130.00	\$380.00	\$280.00	
Victory Park	\$432.75	\$1,228.75	\$220.00	
Missionary Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Disaster Relief	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	
Memorials	\$50.00	\$150.00	\$600.00	
God's Work Our Hands*	\$1,517.00	\$1,552.00	\$1,425.00	
Fund for Leaders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Endowment Principal	\$325.00	\$350.00	\$25.00	
Bells and Bell Choir	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Senior Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,060.00	
Youth Related	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	
*Babcock Ranch				

In Christ, Richard H. Dougherty, Treasurer

CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES



John Butcher
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President

Jim Helle
hellejim@gmail.com
Vice President

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Ginny Engler
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Nancy Linzmeyer
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Teaker Harris, Jr.
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Pastor Tom Slater
pastorslater@cvlcf.org

Paul Bartholomew
poja2@aol.com
Associate Member Rep.



SHARING CHRIST THAT ALL MIGHT LIVE VICTORIOUSLY!!

Sunday Worship Services – 8:30a.m & 10:45a.m. through January ^{2nd}
8:00a.m.; 9:30a.m. & 11:00a.m. beginning January 9th

Church Office Hours – Monday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Friday Office closed

Phone (239)597-1043 Fax (239) 597-6028

Web page: www.christusvictorfl.org

E-mail: ChristusVictor@cvlcfl.org

THE REV. THOMAS J. SLATER, PASTOR
cell - 239-450-0699

Gerry Benjamin
Synod Parish Deacon

Dawn King
Office Administrator

Joyce Reitz
Director of Music

Susan O'Brien
Director of Education & Youth