

The Victorious Voice

February 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"
(I Cor. 15:57)
Don't just live...live victoriously!



Pastor Tom's Page

On Sunday, January 16th, we installed our Call Committee and Congregational Council and here are some of the words used to describe their mission and each one of ours as well.

[P] You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect Him in whose name we gather.

You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world.

You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully carry out these duties? If so answer yes, by the help of God.

Each one of us are called to be a part of the mission that God has for Christus Victor.

During the next few months this church needs your gifts and talents to be shared in many ways. Please step forward into that call of God so that our strong ministry that is done here may continue, as we reach out in love to those around us.

In Christ's Name,

Rev. Tom Slater

**Christus Victor will return to three services
on January 9th, 2022
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**



Just a Reminder Worship Times & Protocols
Christus Victor has returned to three services
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

All of our other protocols will stay in place as far as the requirement of wearing a mask, sanitizing our hands, and individual communion packets. I look forward to seeing you in church or online.

- No registration is required. Just show up! We are happy to see you!
- We have opened all rows in the sanctuary to create a greater opportunity for social distancing if desired, or for larger groups to sit together.
- Masks will be required in the church building during worship so that we can continue to provide the greatest safety for all our members and visitors and so that we can continue to sing along with the hymns.

As a community of believers, we are called to watch out for one another and to keep the most vulnerable among us as safe as possible. We are grateful for your patience during these difficult and uncertain times. We come on Sundays to worship and praise the Lord, and the “how” we must worship is not as important as the call to focus on the “reason” we worship. JOIN US EACH WEEK and PRAY OFTEN!

Blessings,

Pastor Tom



From the Desk of the Synod Parish Deacon

I hope and pray everyone is taking the necessary precautions to stay healthy. Starting in May, I will be stepping back from live streaming our services and my role as property chairperson. Our congregation needs volunteers to attend and live stream the early service. Live Streaming is not complicated. There is a written procedure and I will work with the volunteers to learn the process. **I am planning a Property Committee Meeting on February 16th at 4:00pm to organize the committee. I am looking forward to working with the volunteers for a smooth transition.**

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

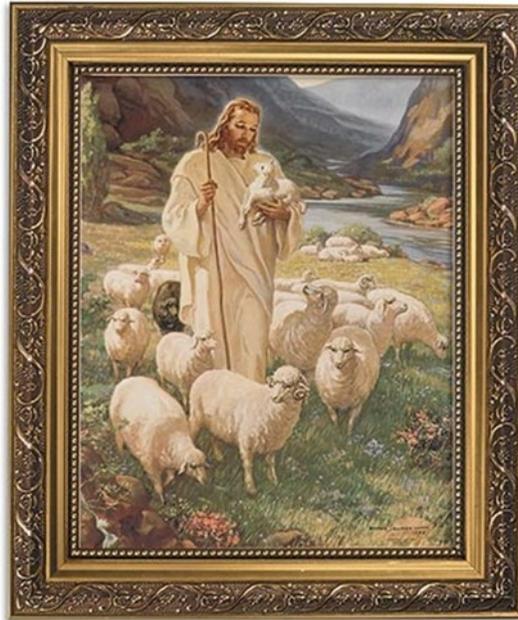


Please join us Sunday, February 6th immediately after the 11:00 Worship Service to review the year 2021.

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

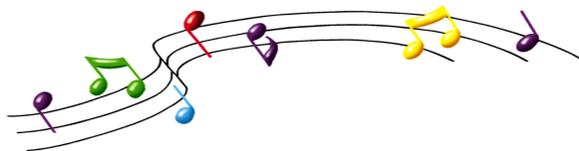


Welcome back to our snow bird associate members and visitors. We are so happy you are back in Sunny Florida and joining us in person or virtually.

We are now back to three services on Sunday and most have had good attendance. I am happy to announce that our small Ensemble will be singing weekly, at the 11:00 service, unless Covid numbers increase. We are hopeful that we will be able to have at least some musical anthems for you to enjoy. The Victorious Ringers will be playing on February 27th, but not sure at what services at this time. Be sure and check the weekly emails for updates.

I am on a new treatment for my cancer, and thus far no side effects and I continue to feel fine. That is due to the many prayers of this wonderful church family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Until next month, keep a song in your hearts!!! Joyce



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.



WANTED!!

Your Pictures

As part of the remembrance of Pastor Tom's 25+ years at CVLC we will be creating a bulletin board filled with pictures of Pastor Tom and Sherry and their family with activities from the past years. Baptisms, Christmas, confirmations, Easter, Sunday School events, picnics, weddings, or anything you may have.

As most pictures are saved on phones now and not printed, you can send your pictures to Dawn at christusvictor@cvcfl.org and she will print them. If you have prints you would like to share, please put your contact information on them (for returning) and drop them off at church or the office anytime.

We will be starting the board in January, but pictures can be added anytime. Let's make this a "grand remembrance of love" for Pastor Tom and family for all their dedicated years at CVLC.

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 February is **Compassion: Caring enough to do something about someone else's need.** *The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.* —Micah 6:8

Date Bottom Line

Feb 6 Following Jesus means caring about others.
Feb 13 Show others that they matter.

Feb 20 Use what you have to help others.
Feb 27 Make time to help others.

Bible Story

Jesus' Mission Statement; Luke 4:14-24, 28-30
Jesus Talks With a Woman From Samaria;
John 4:1-30, 39-42
Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand; John 6:1-13
Jesus Heals Bartimaeus; Mark 10:46-52

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. *"Little eyes are watching. They see when we give up something that benefits us in order to benefit someone else."* —Mike Tiemann

Breakfast Club: Sundays 9:30-10:30am This new group for parents gathers for fellowship, a lesson, and a light continental breakfast.

The month of **February**, 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 February, we will use a guided Bible study put out by the ELCA.

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@cvlcfl.org for more information or to be included in the text group.

****Masks are required inside all CVLC buildings****

Sunday Learning Opportunities

Masks are required inside all CVLC buildings at this time.

Our Church Council is monitoring safety guidelines, so adjustments to classes may be made as more information is available.



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.

Adult Bible Fellowship 9:30 –10:30am

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



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!

Education Team Meeting

Our team works best with a lot of different voices.
Teachers, helpers, planners, and supporters are all welcome!!!



Come or Zoom into the next Education Team meeting on February 10th
at 6pm

Or contact Susan O'Brien susanobrien@cvlcfl.org or 239-597-1043



amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Support Christus Victor every time you shop on Amazon, at no extra cost to you! When you shop at AmazonSmile, it doesn't cost you any more and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Christus Victor!

Use this link to make sure that you are donating to us:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1721010>

Or you can go to smile.amazon.com, click "Get Started", and search for Christus Victor Lutheran Church. There are several churches with our name, so please make sure that you look for the one in Naples, Florida.

THANK YOU !

Christus Victor



Tuesday, February 22nd 1:00p.m.
In the Adult Classroom
All are welcome!!

The February selection for the Christus Victor Book Club is
***Surviving Savannah* by Patti Henry.**

Here is what one reviewer had to say...

When Savannah history professor Everly Winthrop is asked to guest-curate a new museum collection focusing on artifacts recovered from the steamship *Pulaski*, she's shocked. The ship sank after a boiler explosion in 1838, and the wreckage was just discovered, 180 years later. Everly can't resist the opportunity to try to solve some of the mysteries and myths surrounding the devastating night of its sinking.

Everly's research leads her to the astounding history of a family of eleven who boarded the *Pulaski* together, and the extraordinary stories of two women from this family: a known survivor, Augusta Longstreet, and her niece, Lilly Forsyth, who was never found, along with her child. These aristocratic women were part of Savannah's society, but when the ship exploded, each was faced with difficult and heartbreaking decisions. This is a moving and powerful exploration of what women will do to endure in the face of tragedy, the role fate plays, and the myriad ways we survive the surviving.

Stewardship

Love Yourself as Your Neighbor

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." –Matthew 22:37-39

Does this happen to you? When I make a mistake or do something dumb, I mentally beat myself up. But when OTHER people mess up, I'm Mr. Understanding and Forgiveness. Clearly, I've got work to do, but doesn't everyone struggle to balance love of neighbor and love of self? If we are to be good stewards of our lives, we **have** to get this right. That's the genius of the second-greatest commandment – that we have to love our neighbor AND ourselves if we are to become the people God wants us to become and have the lives God wants us to have.

This "month of love" provides an opportunity to focus on loving ourselves, which is too often the forgotten side of the "love thy neighbor and self" equation.

We live in a culture of criticism, so many of us fall into the trap of downplaying and denigrating ourselves, leaving us restless, discontent, depressed, empty, forever searching. The secret is learning to love ourselves so we can love everyone and everything else, too. Here are some ideas.

- Pray! Ask God to help and guide you (Psalm 139:23-24).
- Pray! Ask God for friends who will walk with you (Proverbs 17:17).
- Remember that nothing can separate us from God's unconditional love (Romans 8:38-39).
- Strive to treat yourself with the tenderness and care you want to give others (Luke 6:31).
- Find a counselor who can help you work through past hurts and ingrained ways of thinking.

It may be hard to walk at first, but the prayerful path of greater self-love will enrich your life, open you to new people and experiences, and help you truly to follow Jesus' second greatest commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself.

--Rob Blezard

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.

February 8 9:30a

Mysteries of the kingdom: Parables, banquets and children – This month we will consider “kingdom parables” and ask how the kingdom of God is like a net or a treasure or a pearl or whatever. We will also look at an “acted parable” in which Jesus dramatizes the “kingdom” as a banquet where honored guests include misfits and outcasts. And then we will discover (or recall) who we should regard as the greatest in the kingdom and the most important members of any church.

(continued on next page)

March 8 9:30a

Eternal life in the Gospel of John – In the fourth Gospel Jesus uses the expression “eternal life” to talk about what he calls the “kingdom of God” in the other Gospels. The phrase does not just refer to life that is eternally long, but also (indeed, especially) to life that is eternally deep—life that is endless in value and meaning. We will look at some popular passages, including John 3:16 and the story of Jesus and the woman at the well to discover how our lives can be marked by love and purpose.

April 12 9:30a

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?





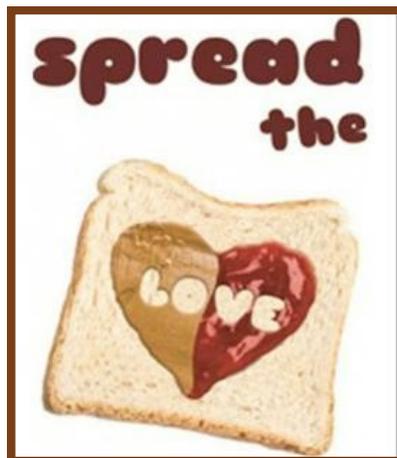
PB & Jelly Day Co-Leader Needed

We have a member that has volunteered to lead the Peanut Butter & Jelly Day to help the senior population of our community by working with the Café of Life to provide a Peanut Butter & Jelly meal once a month.

She would like a Co-Leader!

Won't you consider volunteering in this way?

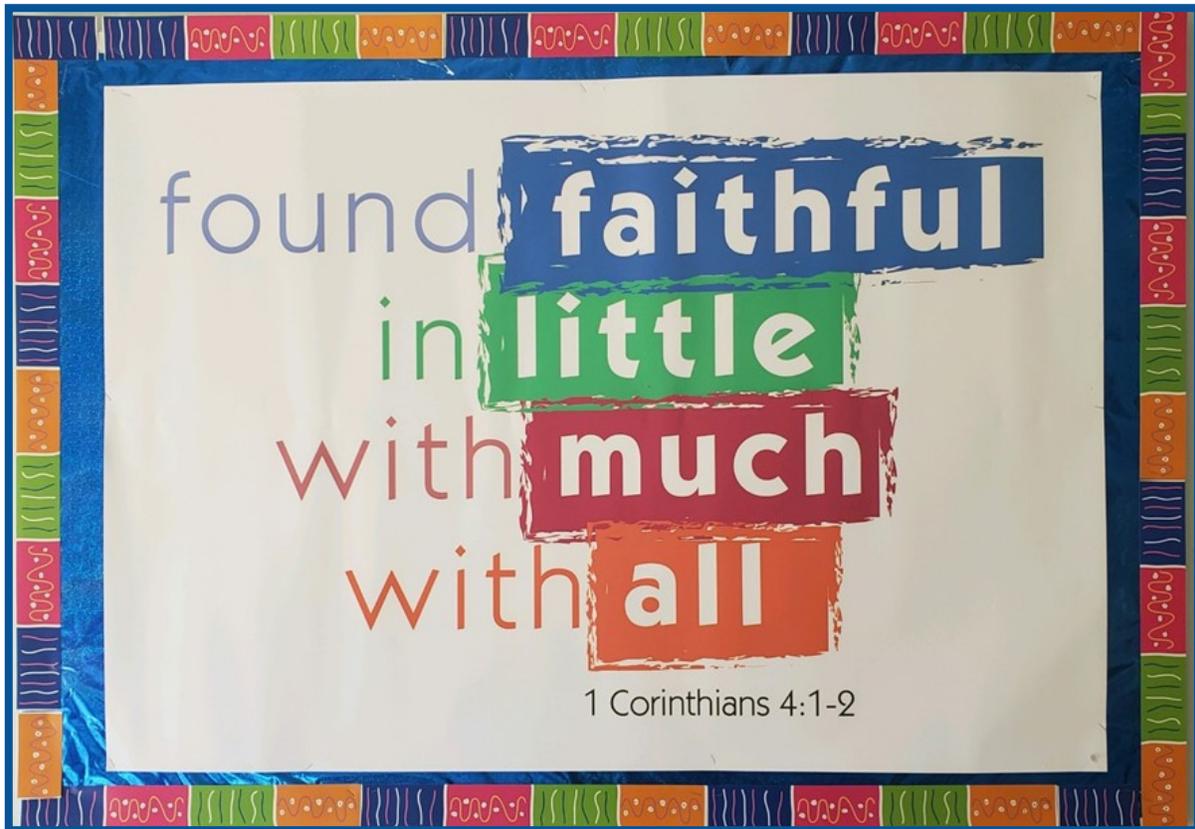
**If you are interested, please call the church office at 239-597-1043
as soon as possible. Thank you!**



Sunday School Bulletin in Large Gathering Room in Administration Building.
Thank you Linda Hanson!!!



CVLC's Stewardship bulletin board!
Thank you again to Linda Hanson!!



**Bulletin board celebrating Pastor Tom and Sherry's 25+ years at CVLC!!
Be sure to check it out in the hallway of the narthex.**

**There is a second board of pictures started as well!!! Thank you to all that
have submitted photos!**

**A BIG thank you to Linda Hanson and Sandy Goddard for creating both of
these bulletin boards!! They and the boards are AWESOME!!!**





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 2 days a month January through April. If this sounds like a way you would like to serve the Lord's people, contact me, Dannee Barkow at 239-498-1667.



**Computer Group Thursdays, Feb. 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th
1:30-3:00pm(2/3, 10, 17 & 24) & 3:30-5:00pm (2/10 & 2/24)**

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 Thursday afternoon sessions from 3:30 pm until 5 pm.

At the request of a few, we are going to have four Windows Basics Classes each of the four Thursdays in February, February 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. These classes will be held from 1:30 pm. to 3:00 pm. I will send an email weekly indicating which of the basics we will cover with each session. All are welcome, including any friends you wish to invite. We will meet in our usual Fellowship kitchen area. If anyone has an specific items they wish to touch upon, please do not hesitate to let me know.

If interested, or any questions about our bi-monthly meetings, please contact Jim Dupre, jfdupre@comcast.net or by cell phone 239-250-3629.



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 Carts in the Outreach Room...

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.



<p>February</p> <p>2 Rev. Thomas Slater Ingrid Clauson Darwin Garlinghouse</p> <p>8 Betty Avant</p> <p>12 Danielle Disarro</p> <p>13 Jay Oberman</p> <p>15 Jan Arnett</p> <p>16 Elmer Bauers, IV</p> <p>19 Valerie Miller</p> <p>20 Richard Hanson</p> <p>22 Nia Soléne Iyumva</p> <p>24 Nancy Linzmeyer</p> <p>27 Randy Brinser</p>		 <p>Happy Birthday</p>
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<p>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.</p>	<p>If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact the church office (597-1043) so we can change or update our records. Thank you.</p>
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CVLC FINANCIAL REPORT

thru December 2021

General Operating Donations (Income) vs Operating Expenditures

	Operating Contributions	Operating Expenditures	Net Operating Income	Dedicated Contributions
December 2021	\$95,025.19	\$41,401.06	\$53,624.13	\$19,425.00
Year-to-Date	\$638,180.48	\$511,135.12	\$127,045.36	\$128,362.24
Previous YTD	\$659,884.03	\$529,293.47	\$130,590.56	\$68,125.75
YTD 2021/2020 (%)	-3.3%	-3.4%	-2.7%	88.4%

Selected Dedicated Fund Contributions

	December 2021	2021 YTD	2020 YTD
ELCA Hunger	\$1,540.00	\$15,820.00	\$21,597.50
Additional Pastor	\$350.00	\$2,815.00	\$3,542.50
Victory Park	\$1,260.00	\$4,322.75	\$4,040.50
Missionary Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,067.25
Disaster Relief	\$2,800.00	\$9,040.00	\$5,375.00
Memorials	\$50.00	\$1,975.00	\$1,905.00
God's Work Our Hands*	\$30.00	\$17,276.00	\$6,185.00
Fund for Leaders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Endowment Principal	\$2,000.00	\$53,500.00	\$1,375.00
Bells and Bell Choir	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Senior Assistance	\$100.00	\$2,145.00	\$4,370.00
Youth Related	\$1,250.00	\$2,567.21	\$5,737.00
*Babcock Ranch			

In Christ, Richard H. Dougherty, Treasurer

CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES



for March is
is February 17th

John Butcher
fdccollect@aol.com
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Jim Helle
hellejim@gmail.com
Vice President

Richard Dougherty
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Ginny Engler
vme913@aol.com
Administrative Liaison

Nancy Linzmeyer
linz@centurytel.net
Secretary

Teaker Harris, Jr.
Property

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