# The Victorious Voice
# March 2022

**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

A blessed March to each and everyone of you. March is the month that we begin the Season of Lent this year. March 2nd is Ash Wednesday and we will gather together at 11:00am to hear God's Word, to share the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and to come forward to have the sign of the cross marked on our foreheads with ashes.

This year's Lenten Theme will focus on "God's Mercy". The title of our series is "In view of God's Mercy". We will hear sermons on mercy in ashes, mercy in temptations, mercy in suffering, mercy in betrayal, mercy in relationships, and mercy in service.

Please make these Lenten Wednesdays a part of your commitment as we make our way to Holy Week and Easter.

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of His Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for Him, displaying our devotion to Him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see the richness of God's mercy in His life, death and resurrection. The services in this worship series for Lent will focus our eyes of faith on the meaning behind God's mercy made manifest in Christ.

See you in church!

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Tom

## No Bake Sale Sunday, March 27th

This is your opportunity to contribute to the **ELCA World Hunger** without having to bake anything. Please refer to page 8 of this newsletter for ways to contribute to CVLC when we are unable to attend services. Thank you!

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

## Worship Times & Protocol Changes
## 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Starting on Sunday, March 13th we will designate the 8:00a.m. and 9:30a.m Sunday services as **"Mask Optional"** and the 11:00a.m. Sunday service as **"Mask Required".** This way the Council felt that those needing and wanting to wear masks could come to the 11:00a.m service as those who prefer not to wear a mask could come to either the 8:00a.m. or 9:30a.m. service. Let's give it a try as we look to open things up as the number of cases goes down**.**

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. I will contact the individuals that expressed an interest to be on the property committee on the time and talent sheet and set up an organizational meeting. One person has expressed an interest in being **one** of several volunteers to Live Stream our services. 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.

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

**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

I am happy to announce that our small Ensemble will be singing weekly, at the 11:00 service, unless Covid #'s increase. We are hopeful that we will be able to have at least some musical anthems for you to enjoy. I hope you have enjoyed what they have been singing. They have been so dedicated these past couple years and I feel it adds a lot to our service.

As we look ahead to Lent beginning, music will continue and hopefully for Easter we will have more of the choir join us. We will continue to sing anthems that all of you have enjoyed in the past. We all appreciate the wonderful response from the congregation. More to follow in the April Newsletter.

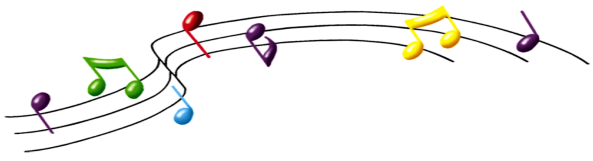
I want to say thank you to Linda Eckenbrect for playing for the ensemble in February. Also, thanks to Patrick McRoberts for sharing his blessed voice with the group for those few weeks that he and Linda were here.

Thank you to the Victorious Ringers for their music on February 27th, they will also be playing special music for us for Easter at the 11:00 service.

As always, thank you for 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



# Ash Wednesday Services

March 2nd 11:00 a.m.

May your Ash Wednesday
be a time of reflection and promise.

Mid-Week
Lenten
Worship

**Mid week Lenten Services - Wednesdays**
**March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th and April 6th**
**11:00 a.m.**

This year's Lenten Theme will focus on "God's Mercy". The title of our series is "In view of God's Mercy". We will hear sermons on mercy in ashes, mercy in temptations, mercy in suffering, mercy in betrayal, mercy in relationships, and mercy in service.

## Easter Flowers

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 13thand 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.**

## 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!!

You can help make a GRAND REMEMBRANCE OF LOVE for Pastor Tom and Sherry.

We have created three bulletin boards filled with pictures of their 25+ years at CVLC!! We continue to need your help to do it. We need pictures of Baptisms, Christmas, Confirmations, Easter, Sunday School events, Picnics, Weddings, or anything you may have.

As most pictures are saved on phones now, you can send your pictures to Dawn at christusvictor@cvlcfl.org and she will print them. If you have prints to share, put your contact info on them (for returning) and drop them off at church or the office.

Pictures will be added when received. Keep your pictures coming and remember to stop and enjoy the memories!

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

*Jeremiah 29:11*

Confirmation is not the culmination of Sunday School, but rather the beginning of a life of faith. Our students are making the personal decision to become full members of our church on March 27th at the 11am service. From this point on, they take ownership of their faith: choosing how to serve, learning things that weren't taught in Sunday School, and exploring God's call at an adult level. Please join us in congratulating Charlie Bevan, Joey Camacho, Presley Hanson, Isaac Perez, Carson Ruhl, and Tyler Ruhl on choosing to continue their faith journey with our church.

# *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!

# 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 March is **Cooperation: working together to do more than you can do alone.** *Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. —Ecclesiastes 4:9*

| Date | Bottom Line | Bible Story |
|---|---|---|
| Mar 6 | God wants us to work together | Building the Tabernacle; Exodus (various passages) |
| Mar 13 | Work together to help someone succeed. | Joshua Wins Battle Over the Amalekites; Exodus 17:8-13 |
| Mar 20 | Work together to help someone in need. | Jesus Heals a Man Who Could Not Walk; Luke 5:17-26 |
| Mar 27 | Make a habit of working together. | Early Church Works Together; Acts 2:42-47 |

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. *""We choose to help one another where we are weak and encourage each other where we are strong." —Chajay Wise*

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

The month of **March**, 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 March, 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****

## Volunteering is a Work of Heart!

*Are you ready to have your efforts echo into the future?*

We are looking for dedicated volunteers for 2022-2023 who would like to help our CVLC children learn more about their Lutheran faith.

If you would like to teach, help, or be a substitute, please contact Susan O'Brien susanobrien@cvlcfl.org or 239-597-1043

## 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
March 10th at 6pm
Or contact Susan O'Brien susanobrien@cvlcfl.org or 239-597-1043

# Christus Victor

**Tuesday, March 29th**
**1:00p.m.**
**In the Adult Classroom**
**All are welcome!!**

**The March selection for the Christus Victor Book Club is**

***The Snow Child*** **by Eowyn Ivey**

## 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.

**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?

# Peanut Butter & Jelly Day
# Monday, March 28th 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.

Along with the Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches we are asking for **donations of macaroni and cheese and canned green beans** this month to also give to Café of Life to pass out with already donated canned hams for those that are in need for Easter. Thank you!

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 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.

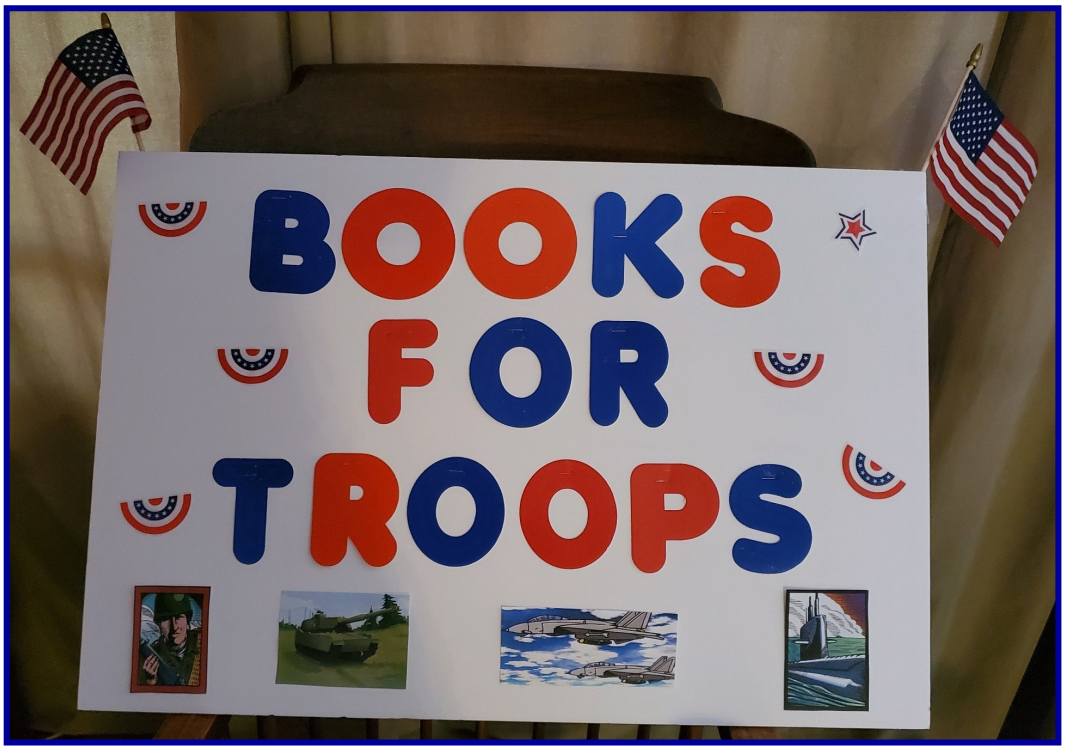
## Take a Bible, Share a Bible

What better way to show love than to share a Bible with someone! Take a Bible and share a Bible. Bibles are located in the narthex. Please take and share!

## Caring & Sharing Room  (across from the Café)

### Books for Troops

You can help send books and magazines to our Armed Forces throughout the world. Drop off your unwanted books or magazines in the Books for Troops bin in the Caring and Sharing Room located across the hall from the Café. Christus Victor is partnering with Faith Lutheran in Naples to help send reading material to the troops. Any and all books and magazines are welcome. Thank you!!



## Caring & Sharing Room (across from the Café)

**Help the Environment** We can all help with the environment with recycling. Bring in your used eye glasses, empty ink jets, can lids, cell phones and beverage lid tabs and place in bins in Caring & Sharing Room.

### Donate Clothing

Have you been thinking of cleaning out your closets? You can donate your used clothes to the needy. Just place your donations in the Clothing Drop Box located in the Caring & Sharing Room. Thank you!

## Caring & Sharing Room  (across from the Café)

### Puzzle Exchange

Do you love puzzles? The church has a wonderful selection for you to choose from. Pick from 300-1,000 piece puzzles. They are located in the Caring & Sharing Room.

***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***

## Sunday School area February Bulletin Board

## Narthex February Bulletin Board Board

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**

**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/UCGS9TN9p5QWOIMlE0mGCCdw**

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 March is peanut butter and jelly. Please leave your donations in the grocery cart in the Caring & Sharing Room and thank you for your continued support.

# March

| | |
|---|---|
| 10 | Karin Feist |
| | Charles Mayers |
| 11 | Barbara Winterstein |
| 12 | Dianne Halling |
| | Gabrielle Camacho |
| 13 | Devyn Dennis |
| 15 | Darwin Sederburg |
| 16 | Anna Myers |
| 17 | Joyce Reitz |
| 20 | Mary Rynchek |
| 22 | Joshua Engler |
| | Ansley Pascucci |
| 24 | Chase Brinser |
| | Judie Pavlovic |
| | Zeke Perez |
| 26 | Robert Ferguson |
| | Bette Swanson |
| 29 | Andrew Ferguson |
| | Melody Gregory |
| | Shawn Ruhl |
| 30 | Stephen Stidinger |

**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 January 31, 2022

### General Operating Donations (Income) vs Operating Expenditures

| | Operating Contributions | Operating Expenditures | Net Operating Income | Dedicated Contributions |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January 2022 | $54,800.40 | $34,868.87 | $19,931.53 | $2,326.00 |
| Year-to-Date | $54,800.40 | $34,868.87 | $19,931.53 | $2,326.00 |
| Previous YTD | $59,081.01 | $35,664.65 | $23,416.36 | $7,471.00 |
| YTD 2021/2020 (%) | -7.2% | -2.2% | -14.9% | -68.9% |

### Selected Dedicated Fund Contributions

| | January 2022 | 2021 YTD | 2020 YTD |
|---|---|---|---|
| ELCA Hunger | $710.00 | $710.00 | $870.00 |
| Additional Pastor | $250.00 | $250.00 | $159.00 |
| Victory Park | $796.00 | $796.00 | $243.00 |
| Missionary Support | $0.00 | $0.00 | $10.00 |
| Disaster Relief | $0.00 | $0.00 | $5.00 |
| Memorials | $100.00 | $100.00 | $0.00 |
| God's Work Our Hands* | $35.00 | $35.00 | $0.00 |
| Fund for Leaders | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Endowment Principal | $25.00 | $25.00 | $60.00 |
| Bells and Bell Choir | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Senior Assistance | $0.00 | $0.00 | $0.00 |
| Youth Related | $100.00 | $100.00 | $330.00 |
| *Babcock Ranch | | | |

In Christ, Richard H. Dougherty, Treasurer

**CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**John Butcher**
fdccollect@aol.com
*President*
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hellejim@gmail.com
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**Pastor Tom Slater**
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**Paul Bartholomew**
poja2@aol.com
*Associate Member Rep.*

**for April is is March 24th**

CHRISTUS VICTOR
Lutheran Church

***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
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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**