

# The Victorious Voice

## October 2021



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

To the CVLC Council and Congregation:

After much prayer and discernment, Sherry and I have made the decision to retire from our respective calls at Christus Victor.

The changes that we see happening in the world, our community, and in the church, led us to discuss what will need to be relaunched here at Christus Victor as we continue to make our way out of the pandemic. Our Long-Range Planning Committee has gotten off to a great start in creating a new vision with the help of the congregational survey. That relaunching will need a leader that is highly motivated and has the energy to undertake that process.

Sherry will be retiring from her position as Director of Senior Ministry at the end of December 2021, and I will be retiring as your Pastor on April 30, 2022. This gives us the ability to celebrate the two greatest festivals in the church, Christmas and Easter, one more time with you.

Our decision was not reached lightly, but with consideration of what is next for Christus Victor. It is with complete conviction that I feel it's time to step aside and allow different leadership to create a new vision for the ministry here at Christus Victor.

These last 25+ years have been filled with the highs and lows of a really great ministry, and I have enjoyed serving side by side with all of you, the members, the various councils, and with the staff of this great church.

God has a wonderful plan in store for Christus Victor and its next shepherd. It has been our honor to serve God for so long in this dynamic congregation of loving disciples. God's blessings be with you as you move forward in service to build God's kingdom and share God's love with all people.

In Christ's Name,

Pastor Tom & Sherry

## **Just a Reminder New Worship Times**

**Starting October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will move to two services, 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.,** so that we can provide enough space for everyone to worship safely.

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



## 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](http://www.christusvictorfl.org)).

Click on "Give" (upper right)

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

Then indicate the amount you wish to contribute

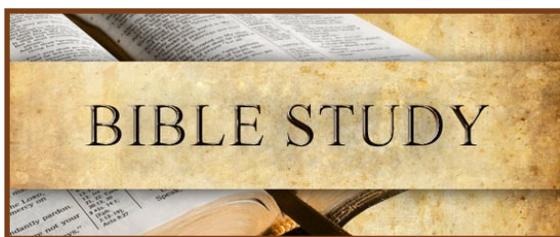
Choose the frequency using the drop-down

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.



## Pastor Tom's Online Bible Study Book of John Tuesdays through Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

It's not too late to jump in and join the weekly Bible Study on the Gospel of John being led by Pastor Tom. I will go through chapter by chapter digging into the meaning of the words of John. Each week the Bible Study will be online by Tuesday morning. All you need is your Bible. If any questions arise in your heart, send them to [pastorslater@cvlcfl.org](mailto:pastorslater@cvlcfl.org) to be dealt with before the next week's session. The Bible Study will run through the month of October. See you online!



## From the Desk of the Synod Parish Deacon

October 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a busy day at Christus Victor, we will have two services (8:30am and 10:45am) and we will start Sunday School and adult forum at 9:30am.

The adult forum will be in person and available on Zoom. We will live stream the early service starting at 8:15am. The service will be archived and available after 9:30am.

I pray to God to keep everyone safe and ask him to send the Holy Spirit to guide everyone to get vaccinated and wear a mask.

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



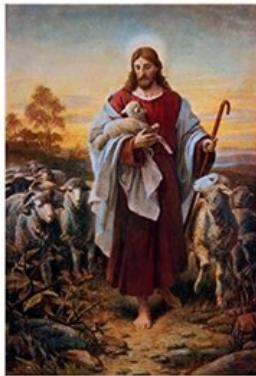
Monday,  
October 18<sup>th</sup>  
**10:00a.m.—11:00a.m.**

We will not be doing the evening Drive-Through anymore. If 10:00-11:00a.m. does not work for you, please call the church office, 597-1043, and we can set up a time for you to pick up Communion that is convenient for 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**



As we continue our journey through this Pandemic, may we feel the Spirit of our Lord, the Good Shepherd, watching over us.

It is hard to believe that October is here and we will now be worshiping at two services and also continue to live stream. We will still need to wear masks and social distance in protection of ourselves and others.

We still will not be able to have the choir. I know you all miss their music as much as I do, so let us pray that soon we can get back to normal.

Thank you, Greg for sharing your talents in our duet last month. The congregation loved it.

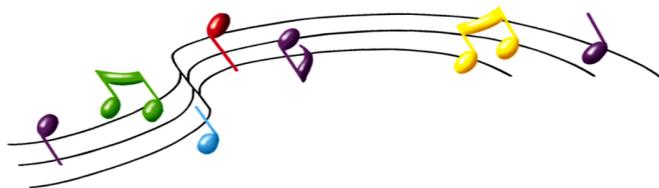
I will be on vacation two weeks in October. On the 24<sup>th</sup> a student from Ave Maria will be playing piano for the service. Her name is Susanna O'Herron. Please make her feel welcome. She is a student of Dr. Alexandra Carlson who had played for us a couple years ago. She will be playing some classical music for us.

I continue my cancer treatment and I continue to feel fine. With your prayers and God's Grace I will surmount this bump on the road. I do want to thank you all for your prayers and love. It is helping!

May God bless our congregation as we continue to move forward!

Until next month, keep a song in your hearts!

Joyce





## **CVLC YARD SALE – IS HAPPENING NOW! COME ONE, COME ALL!**

**From Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, MEMBERS, their friends, and family members can come to the church during the week MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, 9:30 am until 1:30 pm, or after church each Sunday, and check out all the good items we've collected.**

**Masks must be worn.**

After October 24<sup>th</sup>, any items still remaining will be donated to various charities throughout the community.

This effort was to raise funds for The Community Church in Babcock Ranch, a new ELCA Mission congregation. If you prefer to donate directly to this cause, please write a check out to Christus Victor and indicate your preference in this regard.

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**I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see.  
I sought my God, but my God often eluded me.  
I sought my brother and I found all three.**  
...Anonymous

## Mary Martha Circle

Our fall Bible study series is titled “The gift of the spirit”. Celtic Christians likened the Holy Spirit not to a dove, but to a goose. In our fall Gather Bible study, the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith, associate pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa, leads us on our own divine Wild Goose chase. We’ll track the Holy Spirit’s actions throughout the Bible and throughout our lives. We’ll explore how the Spirit moves God’s people into adventures and lives we would never dare risk on our own.

Session 2: Breath of God: Reviver and reformer      October 12, 2021

The Holy Spirit is the breath of God, giving life and building community. Beginning with the breath God gave that first human, continuing with the breath that made dry bones dance, God's Spirit continues to revive us. We will see the ways that the Spirit gives life—not just to us as individuals, but to our communities, reconciling us and forming us into life-giving communities, even in our diversity.

Session 3: Wind of God: Refiner and Re-router November 9

The Holy Spirit is the wind of God, moving us into deeper faithfulness and more authentic love. We'll see the ways in which God's Spirit moves us to bear good fruit in the world and refines us into our truest selves. We will also follow the Spirit's movements through the early church to see how the Spirit re-routes God's people, guiding us into transformed lives and renewed communities of faith.

Join us via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84690901121?pwd=cCtoU0V3RUROZnNSbzBTTPdpZk5wZz09>





**October 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>** have been designated as the Annual “Undy Sunday” Drive by the Catholic Charities of Collier County. This supplies necessary new underwear and socks to needy school kids. Collection boxes will be in the narthex for you to deposit your gifts. All children’s sizes of underwear and socks are needed. Cash donations may be placed in pew envelopes marked “Undy Sunday” Let’s help out the needy kids with our gifts. Thank you!



**LIFE LINE SCREENING...Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>  
at Christus Victor**

Informational posters are available in the narthex of the church,  
through Dawn, or e-mail Sherry...  
Stay healthy and get the appropriate checkups!

# 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 October is "Individuality: Discovering who you're meant to be so you can make a difference". *How You made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise You for that. What You have done is wonderful. I know that very well.* —Psalm 139:14

**Date      Bottom Line**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Bottom Line</b>	<b>Bible Story</b>
Oct 3	You were made in God's image.	Image of God, Genesis 1:26-28
Oct 10	Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.	Matthew, Matthew 9:9-13
Oct 17	Use your gifts to help others.	Lydia, Acts 16:13-15
Oct 24	You can make a difference right now.	Timothy, 1 Timothy 4:12
Oct 31	We can use our gifts together to make a great difference.	One Body but Many Parts, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

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. *"When kids believe they are made in the image of God, they recognize their God-given potential and worth."* —Reggie Joiner

**Breakfast Club:** Sundays 9:30-10:30am Meet with other parents for lessons, devotions, coffee, and fellowship while children are in Sunday School. This is a new group. The members of the group will decide on topics and focus as we move forward. The topics for October are:

Oct 3	Can You Sense the Old Testament?
Oct 10	In Our Home – Devotional
Oct 17	Christian Contemporary Song with Scripture
Oct 24	Chit Chat Hour – Plan for November
Oct 31	Faith Lens – Compare Scripture with Current Events

**Adult Bible Fellowship:** Sundays 9:30-10:30am Oct 3—Nov 7 ***Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name*** Spend some time in conversation with other adults as Deacon Gerry Benjamin leads the group through this 6 session class designed by Max Lucado.

**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**

**October 3, 2021      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**

**Oct 3—Nov 7    9:30 –10:30am**

### ***Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name***

Spend some time in conversation with other adults as Deacon Gerry Benjamin leads the group through this 6 session class designed by Max Lucado.



## **Breakfast Club Kickoff**

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>    9:30—10:30am**



This parenting group will meet weekly to discuss topics interesting to the parents in the group. Please join us to help determine the topics and flow as we make plans for the year.

## 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 Oct 14 at 6pm  
Or contact Susan O'Brien [susanobrien@cvlcfl.org](mailto:susanobrien@cvlcfl.org) or 239-597-1043



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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](https://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 !



## CVLC SENIOR CORNER...

**Yeah – October is here and here are some interesting Facts about this beautiful month:**

- Tourmaline and opal are the official birthstones of October.
- The birth flower of October is the bright orange calendula, also known as the marigold.
- The star sign of everyone born in October is either a Libra or a Scorpio.

October and January always start on the same day of the week in common years. In leap years, October doesn't start on the same day of the week as any other month. October and February always end on the same weekday!



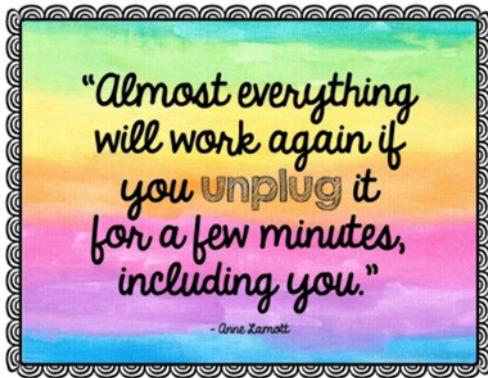
Here's something for your morning devotions...

Take a piece of paper and write at the top:

**A List of the things I love**

And then start writing...see how many items you can come up with.

These are the things that you “delight” in – the things you love. Most of us should have quite a list. Do you delight in the same way, in God? Where is God on that list? We are blessed just to be alive. God gives us the desires of our heart – Life is good. Don't forget to say “thank you” !



### **Under the article: “Blue Zones Project: Good Health is a Community Effort” the following was reported...**

“We see it in the news every day: America’s health care is in crisis; we spend way more on health care than other developed nations; we are unsuccessfully battling epidemics of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and dementia.

Our current approach to health care is “really sick” care—it starts when a person goes to the hospital, emergency room, or doctor’s office because he or she has a problem. **But health starts at home**—in our kitchens, our workplaces, our schools, our roads, and our cities.

We make hundreds of decisions every day, and we make most of them without thinking. Unfortunately, our food environments are designed so that **the easiest choice is to consume low-quality, high-calorie food**. Similarly, our built environments—our roads, building, and towns—are designed so that **the easiest choice is to be sedentary** (to drive instead of bike or walk).

**TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF IS WORTH THE EFFORT!** As the weather gets less humid remember to get out there and walk OR ride your bike, watch what you eat, and stay hydrated. Just a few changes in your habits can lower healthcare costs, improve your productivity and improve the quality of your life. Good stewardship starts with taking care of YOU!





***Senior Ministry – Senior Food Project: Thank you Fran Chinn for  
making the main meal and to Lavinia Hall for her  
very special assist!!***

**Thank you to EVERYONE who continues to bring in food, prepare  
food, and help organize for this very important community project.  
What you do is greatly appreciated by many.**

**NEXT PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY DAY IS...**

**Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Make your sandwiches at home and bring them to church by  
11:15 am**

**Or join us in making the sandwiches – CVLC Kitchen Area starting  
@ 10:30 am**



## **CALLING ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN ANY BRANCH OF THE MILITARY...**

Well...our very own quilter extraordinaire, Nancy Linzmeyer, has once again donated an amazing quilt to CVLC to honor one of you who has served in any branch of our United States Military!

This quilt is currently on display in the church narthex, and by the quilt is a box with registration forms for any veteran to fill out and enter to win this fantastic gift. Not joining us at church yet – no worries, e-mail Sherry and she'll get your name in for you!

On Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – a few days before Veterans Day [Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>] – Pastor Slater will draw one of the names in between the services to see who has won. All veterans will be honored during the service. So, get your name in to win as soon as possible!





## **GET STARTED READING NOW FOR THE CVLC BOOK CLUB!**

**October 26<sup>th</sup> [Tuesday] @ 1:00 pm – Please read:  
THE PARIS LIBRARY by Janet Skeslien Charles**

**November & December – No Book Club**

***START READING FOR SEASON...Dates to be determined...***

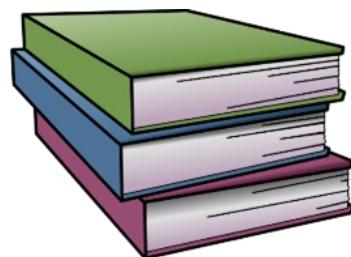
**January's Book:**

THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY by Rachel Joyce

**February's Book:**

SURVIVING SAVANNAH by Patti Henry

**March's Book: *To be determined***



# 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. . .



Like Us On  
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AND

Find us on  
**Facebook**



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.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## October

1	Haley Bevan
4	Kenneth Kosbab
5	Anna Sweet
6	Kay Helle
9	Kay Anderson
10	Anita Gooderum
13	John Kraft
14	Kenneth Engler
15	Cheryl Davis
16	Corie Gessler
	Charlie Bevan
	Gerry Benjamin
	Connie Schuster
	Richard Arnett

17	Carol Phillips
21	Isaac Perez
22	Cindy Ferguson
23	Barbara Reyes
24	Miatta Harris
	Kim Heindl
	Samantha Sweet
	Peggy Pick
	Luke Iyumva
	Betty Wilson
	Kyle Kraft
25	Armand Linzmeyer
28	Betty Wehling



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 August 2021**

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

	Operating Contributions	Operating Expenditures	Net Operating Income	Dedicated Contributions
August 2021	\$36,501.98	\$42,116.11	(\$5,614.13)	\$56,457.46
Year-to-Date	\$401,636.89	\$310,571.88	\$91,065.01	\$90,417.46
Previous YTD	\$446,600.29	\$321,358.37	\$125,241.92	\$39,383.75
YTD 2021/2020 (%)	-10.1%	-3.4%	-27.3%	229.6%

### **Selected Dedicated Fund Contributions**

	August 2021	2021 YTD	2020 YTD
ELCA Hunger	\$820.00	\$10,610.00	\$16,667.00
Additional Pastor	\$190.00	\$2,025.00	\$2,562.50
Victory Park	\$625.00	\$1,735.00	\$2,780.50
Missionary Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,067.25
Disaster Relief	\$3,545.00	\$4,145.00	\$1,555.00
Memorials	\$825.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,280.00
God's Work Our Hands*	\$60.00	\$13,995.00	\$110.00
Fund for Leaders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Endowment Principal	\$50,000.00	\$51,325.00	\$825.00
Bells and Bell Choir	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Senior Assistance	\$110.00	\$1,835.00	\$3,335.00
Youth Related	\$6.46	\$1,311.46	\$330.00
*Babcock Ranch			

In Christ, Richard H. Dougherty, Treasurer

### CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES



<b>John Butcher</b> fdccollect@aol.com	<b>Teaker Harris, Jr.</b> <i>Property</i>
<b>President</b>	<b>Janice Lorimer</b> janice@keystosuccess1.com
<b>Jim Helle</b> hellejim@gmail.com	<b>Spiritual Ministries</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Pastor Tom Slater</b> pastorslater@cvlcfl.org
<b>Ginny Engler</b> vme913@aol.com	<b>Paul Bartholomew</b> poja2@aol.com
<b>Administrative Liaison</b>	<b>Associate Member Rep.</b>
<b>Carol Benjamin</b> cabenja46@gmail.com	
<b>Secretary</b>	



**SHARING CHRIST THAT ALL MIGHT LIVE VICTORIOUSLY!!!**

**Sunday Worship Services – 9:30a.m.**

**Church Office Hours –** Monday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Friday Office closed

Phone (239)597-1043 Fax (239) 597-6028  
Web page: [www.christusvictorfl.org](http://www.christusvictorfl.org)  
E-mail: [ChristusVictor@cvlcfl.org](mailto:ChristusVictor@cvlcfl.org)

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

**Dawn King**  
**Office Administrator**

**Joyce Reitz**  
**Director of Music**

**Susan O'Brien**  
**Director of Education & Youth**

**Sherry Slater**  
**Director of Senior Ministries**

**Gerry Benjamin  
Synod Parish Deacon**