

The Victorious Voice

December 2021

CHRISTUS
VICTOR
Lutheran Church

The logo consists of the words 'CHRISTUS' and 'VICTOR' stacked vertically in a large, black, serif font. A red cross is superimposed over the text, with its vertical bar passing through the center of the 'I' in 'VICTOR'. A grey sword is positioned behind the text, with its hilt at the top right and its blade pointing towards the bottom left.

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

First of all, Happy Advent and Christmas to each and every person at Christus Victor. We will be holding four Advent Mid-Week Services on December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd at 11:00a.m. with our theme being this year, "Wait Upon The Lord." Don't miss out on these inspiring worship opportunities. If you can't make it at 11:00a.m. on these Wednesdays, each of these services will be livestreamed so you can watch them at your leisure.

I am very excited to be holding a "History of CVLC" on Sunday, December 12th from 9:30-10:30a.m. in the large gathering area of the Educational/Office building. I will share some of my memories of my 25+ years of ministry here at Christus Victor.

Come and hear about the stories of the past, present, and the wonderful future that God has in store for the faithful disciples here at CVLC. It should prove to be a fun morning of stories and questions. See you there!

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Tom



New Members

We will be receiving New Members on **Sunday, January 23rd** at all three services. If you are interested in joining Christus Victor at this time, please fill out an Application Form that can be found on the blue table in the lobby. We will hold an Orientation Meeting on Sunday, January 16th at noon for those who are interested.

Council President's Message

As we embark on a new church year, we also move forward with our process of finding a new Shepard to lead our flock. Our Long Range Planning Committee, under the capable leadership of Phyllis Nichols has laid the ground work in our process of calling a new Pastor. The Committee has completed many of the documents that are required by Synod when calling a new Pastor. We are in the process of completing those documents. In the near future you will be receiving a survey that we would ask you to complete and return to us. This is another of the documents required by Synod.

The Council has received the names of those candidates that have been recommended to serve on the Call Committee. These names are currently being reviewed and ranked by Council to come up with seven individuals and two alternates to lead in the search for a new Pastor. This process will take approximately another month with the names being decided upon at the December 20th Council Meeting. At that time the individuals will be informed of their selection by the Council to serve on the Call Committee. An installation of the Call Committee Members will take place on January 16th.

We ask for your prayers and God's guidance as the Council moves forward with this important endeavor. On behalf of the Council, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With God's grace we look forward with anticipation to this New Year in the life of our church.

John Butcher
President
Christus Victor Lutheran Church Council



**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

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., thru January 2nd. Christus Victor will return to three services on January 9th, 2022, 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

Transition Time-Line Dates to Remember

October 31st, November 7th: Call Committee Nominations announced and received (Nominations closed November 10th)

November 15th: Council Reviews Council/Call Committee Names

December 5th: Congregational Meeting (Budget/Elections). The Long Range Plan has been approved by the Congregation Council and will be presented at this meeting for the congregations consideration.

December 12th: CVLC History Day 9:30a.m.—10:30a.m.

December 20th: Council appoints Call Committee.

January 16th, 2022: Call Committee Installed.

January 17th, 2022: Council/Call Committee meet with Synod Representative.

January 23rd, 2022: Congregational Retreat with Kim Heindl.

February 2022: Call Committee begins to put together Mission Site Profile.



Long-Range Plan 2021-2025

The CVLC Long Range Plan is available to view within the CVLC weekly email that was sent out on October 29th. If any one has a problem viewing the CVLC Long Range Plan, please contact the church office, 239-597-1043, and a copy can be emailed to you or you can come in and pick up a hard copy.

CVLC Transition Retreat, Sunday January 23, 2022

You are invited to an afternoon of listening, seeking, discerning, and planning!

Transition in a congregation is rarely easy or smooth. Congregations are organized around relationships and Christus Victor has been blessed with Pr. Tom for over 25 years. That is a lot of relationship. Each of you has a Pr. Tom story and these stories have been woven together into a tapestry that is unique and beautiful.

The great news is that we have a God that is in this. Christ is our rock and our salvation that will be with us in and through it all – and provides shalom – the peace that brings hope.

The hope and plan for our ½ day retreat will be creating space to explore who and where you are as a community of faith in this moment – and lay out some dreams for the future. In preparation for the retreat, early in January you will be electronically sent a couple of short surveys to complete. These surveys will provide a picture, or view of this unique tapestry, for dialogue.

The product from the day is to bring you to a common understanding and goal as you approach Pr. Tom’s retirement and laying out priorities for the important work of seeking a shepherd for Christus Victor’s next phase of ministry.



Updates - Planning for Pastoral Transition

Council and the Planning Committee have been completing the Florida-Bahamas Synod Transition Checklist for Congregations. All the Administrative and Financial items are scheduled to be completed by December 20, 2021. The required documents will be sent to the FL-BH Synod in late December. Completion of this part of the Pastoral transition process is necessary prior to installing the Call Committee. The only remaining item on this checklist is conducting a Ministry Focusing Retreat.

Kim Heindl, ELCA Deacon, will conduct our **Ministry Retreat on Sunday, January 23**. The Retreat will be held at the church following the second service, tentatively scheduled from 12 – 5:00pm.

The story of who we are as a community of faith continues to be written. As we look forward and seek who God is calling to serve our community as Senior Pastor it is crucial that we are clear about who we are and what our priorities are. We have scheduled a ½ day retreat to engage in scripture, prayer, dialogue, and discernment to help us all feel confident in the next most faithful step of identifying the best leadership for us at this time. The Call Committee will use the outcomes of the Ministry Retreat as they prepare our Ministry Site Profile.

Please mark your calendars now and save this date. It is important to hear all voices during this part of the planning process. Your participation and support are important.

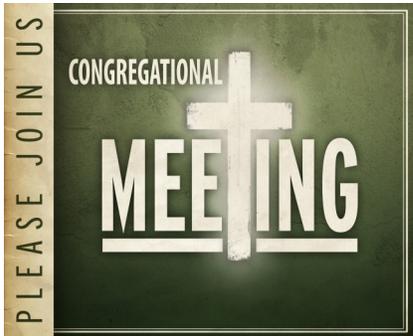


Congregational Survey

One of the next steps in planning for Pastoral Transition is to conduct a congregational survey. Your feedback on the survey will help us discern the Top 5 Ministry Tasks and Gifts for Ministry that our new pastor will need to lead us into the future of God's calling for our congregation and the community we serve.

You will receive an email with the link to the survey. The link can only be used once. If there is more than one person in your household, we ask you to pick up additional paper copies of the survey, which are available on the credenza in the Narthex. If you are worshiping with us remotely, you can call the church office and request the number of copies you need for your household.

Surveys can be returned in the box in the Narthex or at the church office by mail or dropped off M-Th from 8-2p no later than Sunday, December 5. We hope to have a high return rate. Thank you for your participation as we continue planning for Pastoral Transition.



Congregational Meeting Notice

Sunday, December 5th after the 8:30 and

10:45 services we will hold our Congregational Meeting to vote on the 2022 Program and Spending Plan, elect people to serve on our Church Council and discuss and approve CVLC's Long Range Plan.

Copies of the Program and Spending Plan and Long Range Plan have been emailed via the Weekly e-mail. Hard copies are available for your review. Call the church office to pick up a copy if you didn't get one via the weekly email. Don't miss this important meeting!



CVLC History Day December 12th 9:30a.m.—10:30a.m.

“What a congregation becomes in the future is related to what it was in the past. The time of pastoral change is a good time for a congregation to reflect on and learn from its history and past behavior patterns under the tenure of its former pastors.” (Florida Bahamas Synod Transitions Manual).

Did you ever wonder what it was like in the early days of Christus Victor? Do you know how we were started and what the first building on the property was? Come to this exciting event to hear the answers to these questions and so many more. Come and look at pictures and get a sense of where God might be calling us in the future.

In this relaxed atmosphere, we as a congregation, will be able to reflect on the past, share the enjoyment of the present, and dream about the future.

Don't miss this informative event which is part of the transition process for calling our next Pastor.

Advent Mid-Week Services

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, please join us this year during our **Mid-Week Advent worship services on Wednesdays, December 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd at 11:00 a.m.** Don't miss these thought-filled worship opportunities as we wait for the Day of the Lord to come! If you can't make it at 11:00a.m. on these Wednesdays, each of these services will be livestreamed so you can watch them at your leisure.



Pastor Tom's Christmas Gift

If you would like to participate in a Christmas gift for Pastor Tom, please put your gift in a pew envelope, labeled "Christmas Gift for Pastor Tom" and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!



Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 19th 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Join us for our annual Hanging of the Greens Service! Congregational members will read stories about different decorations and other members will bring the decorations forward into the sanctuary. It's a beautiful service not to be missed. **Sign up sheets and readings are in the narthex!**



Christmas Celebrations

Our **Christmas Eve Services** will be held on **Friday, December 24th at 7:00p.m.** with candle lighting and communion. Come and experience the gift of God that came down at Christmas.

Then on **Saturday, Christmas Day**, we will combine to have one worship service at **10:00 a.m.** Join with the entire congregation as we marvel at the miracle of the Word made flesh who dwells among us, Jesus Christ.



Christmas Giving Tree

It's hard to believe it is Christmas! The Giving Tree is in place in the narthex. Here's how it works. First, select an ornament from the tree. They are labeled according to age and gender. Choose a gift and place the gift under the tree. The suggested value for all gifts is approximately \$10.

Please do not wrap children's gifts as they will be displayed in Guadalupe's "Christmas Store" where parents will select the gifts they want. Adult gifts should be wrapped.

Gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 5th, to be sorted and delivered to the Immokalee Friendship House and the Guadalupe Center.

The Christmas of someone needing a helping hand will be brightened, and so will yours!

SUGGESTED GIFTS FOR THE GUADALUPE CENTER (CHILDREN):

Action Figures

Arts and Crafts

Dolls

Stuffed Animals

Learning Toys

Pretend Play and Dress Up clothes

Sporting Goods

Gift Cards for Children Age 13-17 Years (Target, Wal-Mart, Best Buy)

SUGGESTED GIFTS FOR IMMOKALEE FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (ADULTS):

Disposable Razors, Shaving Cream

Towels, Washcloths (both bath and dish)

Men's, Women's, and Children's Underwear and Socks, especially sizes 32 through 36 waist for the men

Men's jeans, sizes 32-36 waist

Men's and women's shoes

Bibles, especially in Spanish

Blankets, Sheets, Pillowcases (mostly twin size)

Phone Cards

Baseball Caps

Watches





From the Desk of the Synod Parish Deacon

I cannot believe, I am writing the December newsletter article. Carol and I will be returning on November 28th from celebrating our 51st anniversary on a Viking River cruise. I hope and pray everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and I am looking forward to seeing you at the first mid-week advent service on Wednesday December 1st. We will live stream the 11:00a.m. service on YouTube. The archived service will be available after 1:00p.m. We will continue to live stream the early service starting at 8:15. The service will be archived and available after 9:30.

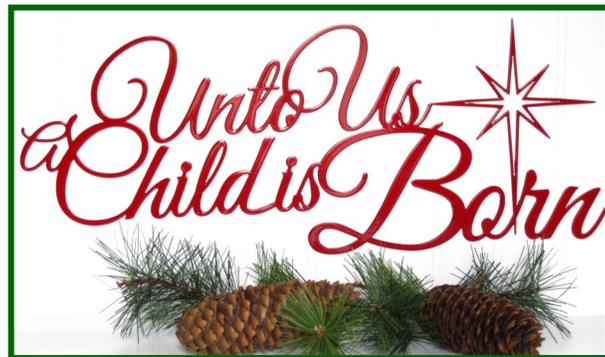
I pray to God to keep everyone safe and ask him to send the Holy Spirit to guide everyone to get vaccinated and wear a mask.

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



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



We are now entering the season of Advent and the beginning of our church new year. I want to thank Al Zipperle for filling in for me on November 28th and also December 5th while I visit my nephew and family and enjoy some time off. I also want to thank Deb Burdick for her lovely solo she will perform during communion on the 28th.

We welcome the Children and Youth program on December 12th and the Hanging of the Greens Service on December 19th. These are two of our favorite services this time of year as we get excited for the birth of our Lord and Savior.

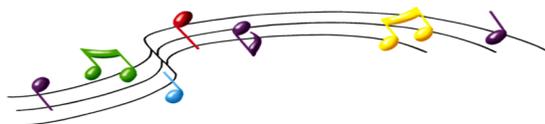
Greg and Kim Olson are organizing the bell choir members that will be here for Christmas to play Silent Night as the congregation sings it on Christmas Eve. It is a lovely addition to the service.

We may have a small group sing during the service Christmas Eve, depending on who will be here. A lot depends on how the numbers of Covid go and it will be in bulletins or weekly emails if we are able to sing something special.

Looking forward to having Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in person this year as well as online for those who are unable to attend due to illness or travel to visit their families.

May God Bless us this Advent and Christmas Season and once again, I cannot thank you enough for all your prayers and concerns. I can feel it! Merry Christmas!!!

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.



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 December is **Jesus: Celebrating God's greatest gift**. *God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. —John 3:16*

Date	Bottom Line	Bible Story
Dec 5	Celebrate because God can do anything.	Elizabeth & Zechariah, Luke 1:5-25, 57-66
Dec 12	Join us at 8:30a.m and 10:45a.m., via video, our Sunday school aged children will be presenting a Christmas program in which they will tell what Christmas means to them. Come celebrate the season of Christ's birth with our CVLC Kids!!	
Dec 19 & 26	**No Sunday School, but you can watch the video on the CVLC YouTube channel**	

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. *"Whatever happens this season, look for real opportunities to demonstrate the peace, forgiveness, and grace that Jesus came to give you."* Reggie Joiner

Breakfast Club: Sundays 9:30-10:30am This new group for parents gathers for fellowship, a lesson, and a light continental breakfast. Our very own "Brain Lady", Deb Burdick, has been presenting. Deb is a retired psycho-therapist, author, and creator of games for those with ADHD, as well as an expert in mindfulness. The final topic is:

Dec 5 Mindful Parenting—Learn about mindfulness and how our children benefit when we practice mindful parenting. You will learn 10 ways to be a more mindful parent and practice evidence-based mindfulness skills you can use to be more present with your child, improve mood, worry less, concentrate better, stress less, and experience contentment.

Dec 12 The congregation is invited to CVLC History Day in the Large Gathering Room.

Adult Bible Fellowship: Sundays 9:30-10:30am Join other adults for interesting discussions on a variety of topics. The December discussion is:

Dec 5 *The Gospel According to Job* led by June McCarthy

Dec 12 The congregation is invited to CVLC's History Day in the Large Gathering Room.

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.

No Sunday School Dec 12, 19, and 26

Adult Bible Fellowship 9:30 –10:30am

**Dec 5 — *The Gospel According to Job*; led by
June McCarthy**

No Adult Bible Fellowship Dec 12, 19, and 26



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 Dec 12, 19, and 26

Breakfast Club

Dear Parents of Sunday School Aged Children,

Please join us for a light Continental Breakfast at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. We are currently meeting in the Cafe'.

As we move forward, we will be entertaining many avenues of Christian Sunday School Programs. We will be studying books, dissecting Christian Contemporary Music and relating them to scripture, having guest speakers, TED talks, and many more avenues for learning.

Our December 5th Breakfast Club schedule will include a guest speaker. Our own BRAINLADY, Deb Burdick, will speak to the Breakfast Club on Mindfulness Skills for Parenting. Deb is a retired Psycho-therapist, a Best Selling Author, an Expert in ADHD, and an Expert in Mindfulness Skills. So, don't miss this opportunity to glean some information regarding these mentioned subjects.

Any comments or questions are welcome. Please contact me at either kimaolson56@gmail.com or 239-776-1655.

Hugs and Prayers,

Kim Olson



Education Team Meeting

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

Volunteering



...is a work of heart

Come or Zoom into the next Education Team meeting on Jan. 13th at 6pm
Or contact Susan O'Brien susanobrien@cvcfl.org or 239-597-1043



CVLC Youth



Our high school youth will be traveling to Minneapolis, MN in 2022 for the ELCA's National Youth Gathering. This is a time for our youth to be affirmed and challenged in their faith, experience new perspectives, ponder their vocation, bond with our congregational group, and learn more about the ELCA.

As part of our fundraising efforts, the youth will be holding a craft fair on **December 5th at 9:30am, during the Sunday School hour.** We welcome crafts from our incredibly talented congregation! Thank you to those who have already donated crafts.

Please mark December 5 on your calendar as a time to pick up some unique gifts for your loved ones and support the youth at the same time!

SENIOR MINISTRY ...Live BETTER to Live Longer!

As we head into the blessed season of Advent & Christmas there are many who view this time of year with great dread. Either for social or economic reasons, many people – not just seniors – feel lonely & isolated...*too much unrealistic expectations come with the holiday.* What can we all do to help? **STOP – TAKE SOME**

DEEP BREATHERS – PRAY - BE NICE – BE A BLESSING TO SOME-ONE ELSE.

Being part of a community means awareness of our actions & how we interact with those we meet. People have a great deal on their proverbial “plates”, so when you’re out and about this season remember to smile more and

complain less and remember to leave all you meet with a very heart felt expression of **“MERRY CHRISTMAS”** – *that helps to leave “Christ” in the mix.*

I write this as my last Newsletter submission in my current job as the CVLC Director of Senior Ministries. I have so thoroughly enjoyed what I have learned in this job and been extremely grateful for the opportunity to delve into an area I wasn’t overly familiar with... it’s been enlightening and fulfilling. Thank you for supporting this ministry and the many branches we extended out to: we have learned, we have feed the community, and we have enjoyed some really fun social events...

May your holiday be filled with God’s peace in all you do! ...Sherry Slater



**You're
Invited!**

**JOIN ME and other CVLC Women
for my last...**

Women's Christmas Program - Tuesday, December 7th 10:00 am

A Light Brunch of will be served.

**It's a great way to get in the
"SPIRIT OF THE SEASON."**

We will again be holding a "BABY SHOWER" at the event to help young mothers in our community through the Café of Life. Please bring with you any Baby Item you'd like: Diapers, Wipes, Toys, Baby Washcloths, Bottles, Clothing, Rattles, Blankets, and the like.

Signup sheets are now in the church narthex or e-mail Sherry!





CVLC PRAYER CHAIN

For the last 20 + years I have happily made sure that those who have volunteered to be part of the CVLC Prayer Chains – of which we have three – are sent at least monthly, if not more, a list of individuals, both from inside our church family and beyond, who need intercessory prayer.

With my retirement, a new person is needed who is willing to volunteer to take over this responsibility.

If you are interested in finding out more about how this happens, please don't hesitate to contact me at seniorministry@cvlcfl.org, or by phone 239-597-1043.

If we don't get a volunteer to continue this ministry, as of December 31st this ministry will be on hold...

Please prayerfully consider if this is a gift or passion you might be willing to pursue here at the church.



The Shelter for Abused Women:

We will again be filling up left over bags from the yard sale with full size items for the women in the Shelter. Please bring your items in and **put them in the Outreach Room in the box marked “Shelter Items”**.

Here’s what we need...

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- New makeup items
- Brushes / combs



If you would prefer to bring a gift certificate for the Women, please consider getting a gift certificate from Publix, Walmart, or the Dollar Tree. These are always greatly appreciated!



 **AND the winner is...Bob Roach**

YAY!! Bob was the winner of the beautiful handmade quilt donated by CVLC Member, Nancy Linzmeyer. →

We thank you, Bob, for serving our country in this way, as well as the others who entered this giveaway: Norm Schleif, Gerry Benjamin, Roger Hammer, Chris Bent, Judd Mason, Joseph Cofield, David Hengel, Kermit Setterlund, John Butcher, Paul Bartholomew, Jim Jolly, Gary Kottman, and Bruce Engelbert – THANK YOU!!

A large thank you to Nancy for her time and effort in finding a way to honor a veteran who has served our great country!

Congratulations Bob!



YARD SALE AFTERMATH...

Thank you to all who came out on November 1st to help put together the variety of items that we wrapped and bagged for Christmas Gifts for the Immokalee Friendship House Christmas Store. It was so wonderful getting together again after all this time and doing a project to help so many!!



YARD SALE AFTERMATH...

These items were all repurposed from wonderful selections received at the yard sale. **It's a project that just keeps on giving...**

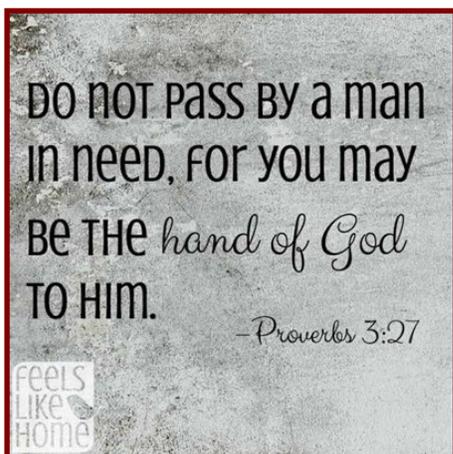
We raised over \$2,300 for the Babcock Ranch Mission Start up and then gathered large amounts of items for other charities.

God Multiplies our efforts...

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed!!



SENIOR MINISTRY FOOD PROJECTS



MONDAY, DECEMBER 20th 10:30 am

SENIOR MINISTRY

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY DAY!

We are still helping the senior population of our community by working with the Café of Life to provide a Peanut Butter & Jelly meal once a month.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP??

You could take a loaf of bread and turn it into your own group of Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches and bring them to the church BY 11:00 am on

December 20th for distribution. OR JOIN US ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 20th @ 10:30 AM in the Social Hall of the Education Building and help us make sandwiches!



Thank you to John and Kyle Kraft, and Sharon Vic for providing the meal for our November Senior Food Project. The extra Thanksgiving touches were so wonderful to include for our community seniors – they'll love them - THANK YOU!





**THE 2 SENIOR MINISTRY
FOOD PROJECTS on the previous page are in
NEED OF A LEADER.**

COULD IT BE YOU??

**With Sherry's retirement, December will be the last month for
these programs if new leadership does not step forward.
Sherry would be happy to help teach someone the ropes of these two very
important community projects, and introduce you to the
appropriate contacts...**

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.**



Stewardship It's the thought that counts'

Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you." -Luke 6:38

Why is it so hard to find that all-too-elusive "perfect gift" for the loved ones in your life? For many of us, it's because they already have everything they need and most of what they want.

It sometimes feels impossible to find a gift that won't be banished to that closet for unwanted, unneeded, and unused presents -- alongside the loud ties, the strong perfumes, the unread books, and the garish sweaters.

When it comes to gift-giving, it's often said, "It's the thought that counts." If that's true, why do we still put so much emphasis on the gift?

This year focus on the thoughts behind your Christmas gifts. Thoughts in keeping with the season. Thoughts of meeting real needs and giving where it will be much appreciated. With so many disadvantaged people in the world, at least some of our Christmas budget would be well spent helping our needy neighbors.

If you are buying for a loved one who has everything, consider instead giving a monetary donation in their honor to a worthy charity that helps the poor. Some charities, such as Heifer International and ELCA Good Gifts, let you buy a specific item – such as a goat or pig for a family, or a water well for a village – to help people in the developing world.

Make the gift in your loved one's name or honor, and then describe it in a card attached to a low-cost "token" gift, such as a small box of chocolates or a bottle of wine. The better part of your gift will go to someone who truly needs it, and your loved one will share the joy of loving and helping your neighbors in need.

Just remember, 'It's the thought that counts!'

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BOOK CLUB

A colorful cartoon illustration of a diverse group of people, including a parrot, reading books. The people are drawn in a simple, friendly style with various skin tones and hairstyles. One person is holding a book, and another is holding a small green alien-like figure. The parrot is perched on the head of one of the people.

GET STARTED READING NOW FOR THE CVLC BOOK CLUB!

December – No Book Club

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

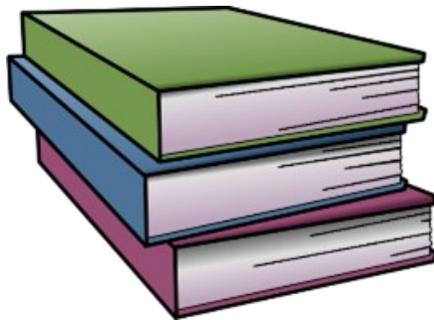
January's Book:

THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY by Rachel Joyce

February's Book:

SURVIVING SAVANNAH by Patti Henry

March's Book: *To be determined*





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 Thursday, December 9th 3:30p.m.

Come to the Christus Victor Lutheran Church computer class. Our classes are open to the public and are part structured and part open forum. Bring your questions and challenges and we will try to provide the answers.



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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 !



Thank you Linda Hanson for the beautiful bulletin boards in the entrance hall of church and in the Large Gathering Room in the Administration/Education Building!!



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.



December		 Happy Birthday
1	Mark DiSarro	
3	Joyce Sederburg	
7	Gerri Engdahl	
9	Joseph Cofield	
	Carson Ruhl	
12	Charles Penrose	
13	Edgar Roseberry	
15	Carolyn Halbach	
	Steve Perez	
18	Tudy Riddle	
19	Annette Swanson	
	Dorothy Friendenreich	
21	Eugene Harris	
25	Elizabeth Ivanovich	
25	Carol Benjamin	
26	Susan Tinkel	
27	Peggy Dunfee	
	Scott Rynchek	
28	Ryan Brinser	
31	Irene Scherber	

<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 October 2021

General Operating Donations (Income) vs Operating Expenditures				
	Operating Contributions	Operating Expenditures	Net Operating Income	Dedicated Contributions
October 2021	\$48,515.51	\$34,293.99	\$14,221.52	\$6,110.00
Year-to-Date	\$484,034.30	\$380,869.65	\$103,164.65	\$100,753.46
Previous YTD	\$524,241.74	\$403,682.08	\$120,559.66	\$51,518.75
YTD 2021/2020 (%)	-7.7%	-5.7%	-14.4%	95.6%

Selected Dedicated Fund Contributions

	October 2021	2021 YTD	2020 YTD
ELCA Hunger	\$650.00	\$11,750.00	\$18,282.50
Additional Pastor	\$180.00	\$2,305.00	\$2,982.50
Victory Park	\$180.00	\$1,985.00	\$2,925.50
Missionary Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,067.25
Disaster Relief	\$550.00	\$6,040.00	\$5,175.00
Memorials	\$0.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,680.00
God's Work Our Hands*	\$1,370.00	\$17,086.00	\$4,415.00
Fund for Leaders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Endowment Principal	\$75.00	\$51,400.00	\$850.00
Bells and Bell Choir	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Senior Assistance	\$0.00	\$1,945.00	\$3,735.00
Youth Related	\$0.00	\$1,311.46	\$330.00
*Babcock Ranch			

In Christ, Richard H. Dougherty, Treasurer

CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES



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SHARING CHRIST THAT ALL MIGHT LIVE VICTORIOUSLY!!

Sunday Worship Services – 8:30a.m & 10:45a.m.

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

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