

The Victorious Voice

February 2021

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

In the month of February we will begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 17th. Our theme for this upcoming Lenten Season will be, "The Places of the Passion." We will "visit" such places as Jerusalem, Bethany, The Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, The Courtyard, The Judgment Hall, Bethphage, The Upper Room, Golgotha, and the Empty Tomb.

Our Lenten Services will take the place of our Wednesday messages. We will also have more opportunities for Drive-Through Communion in February. Our regular Drive-Through Communion will be held on Monday's, February 8th and 22nd from 10-11a.m. We will also hold a Drive-Through Communion on Monday night, February 15th from 6:30-7:30p.m. for our members and friends that work.

Then on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, we will have Drive-Through Ashes from 1:00-2:00p.m and then again from 6:00-7:00p.m. that night.

As the virus numbers continue to rise, we will try new ways of staying connected. It is my prayer that we all will be blessed by "walking" in the places that Jesus walked as He chose the path of suffering and death for our salvation.

Let the Lenten Journey begin in all of our hearts.

In Christ,

Pastor Tom

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.

Cancellations

The decision has been made to cancel all Worship Services at the church until further notice. **Please watch your emails for information regarding CVLC Worship Services on Christus Victor's YouTube channel.**

Please watch your emails for further information regarding other activities that are happening via Zoom or otherwise.

If you are planning to come to the church office please call and make an appointment first and masks are required.

Please watch your emails for any further developments. May God's peace surround us all during this time of uncertainty and tension.

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).

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 the CVLC Treasurer (Doc) at 509-595-7399.



Watch your emails for
CVLC's on-line
Ash Wednesday Service
February 17th

Drive-thru Ashes will be available
Wednesday, February 17th
1:00 – 2:00p.m. & 6:00 – 7:00p.m.

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



On-line Mid week Lenten Services
Wednesdays
February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, & 24th

Our theme for this year's Lenten Pilgrimage is
"The Places of the Passion".
Our Lenten Services will take the place of our
Wednesday messages.
Watch your emails for these services!



From the Desk of the Synod Parish Deacon

I pray for all of you to remain healthy and safe.

The month of February brings the start of the season of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection and soul searching. It is also a time of preparation for Easter. This year like last will be different for us with devotions, mid-week and Sunday services on YouTube. During these trying times continue to be hopeful and believe that God the Father is watching over each and everyone of us.

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

Thank you for your kind words during the Communion drive throughs. I pray for guidance and look forward to continuing to serve the members of Christus Victor Lutheran Church.

Blessings,

Gerry Benjamin
Synod Parish Deacon



Music Notes by Joyce Reitz, Director of Music

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

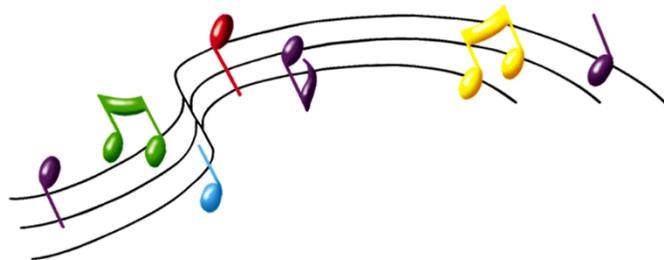
ECCLESIASTES 3:20

It seems like only yesterday we were saying Happy New Year and now we are approaching the more solemn season of Lent, but at the same time, we know we are following a path to the cross and resurrection of our Lord in April. The Sextet will be singing some very lovely Lenten anthems that express our feelings of gratitude remembering why we celebrate this season as we head toward Easter.

Thank you to Greg, Kim, Al, Deb, Pastor Tom, and Sherry for making beautiful music this past month. I so appreciate your dedication to helping make our services so special. It still amazes me how our services, although virtual, have touched so many lives. I thank you all for your support of my music ministry

We will continue on and do our best to keep bringing you special music this year.

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



Stewardship Snippets

February 7, 2021 (Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany)

“He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.” – Isaiah 40:29

Yes, loving one’s neighbors can be difficult, but it is not impossible. God is with us and gives the strength and power we need to love others, even our enemies. Stewardship of relationships matters!

February 14, 2021 (Transfiguration Sunday)

“For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.” – 2 Corinthians 4:5

Like the Apostle Paul, we sometimes need to remind ourselves and others that what we do as disciples isn’t about us but about the crucified and risen Christ. Following Jesus makes us responsible toward and accountable to both God and neighbor.

February 17, 2021 (Ash Wednesday)

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.” – Matthew 6:19-20

Our lessons for Ash Wednesday remind us that love is the currency in which God deals. Storing up earthly treasures at the expense of our own wellbeing and that of our neighbors is not faithful stewardship. Followers of Jesus are called to greater love of God and neighbor.

February 21, 2021 (First Sunday in Lent)

“All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.” – Psalm 25:10

God’s commandments and Jesus’ teachings are not optional for Christians; they are given for the purpose of our growth in Christ. In turn we share Christ’s love with our neighbors and steward carefully all of God’s good gifts.

February 28, 2021 (Second Sunday in Lent)

“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” – Mark 8:35

Jesus is pretty clear that we are not to spend our time on earth amassing stuff and seeking to extend our lives and capital but rather to give ourselves away in grateful response to the gospel. Saving one’s life is about loving and giving instead of fortifying one’s own status and economic condition.

Sunday School

Children and Youth: 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. The theme for February is "Kindness". *You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient..* —Colossians 3:12
Follow us on Facebook for more fun!

Feb 7: Be kind to others because God is kind to you.

Feb 14: Be kind to your family and friends.

Feb 21: Be kinder than you have to be.

Feb 28: Be kind to people who are different from you.

Adult Bible Fellowship: 9:30-10:30 via Zoom **January 31—March 7**

We ask the congregation to join us as we start planning for the next 5 years at CVLC. A 6-week discussion on *Listen, Look, Respond, Forgive, Love, and Go* led by Richard Dougherty will provide a time for congregational reflection and conversation. Weekly discussion material will be sent in the CVLC weekly email. Please read the scripture and answer the questions even if you cannot attend the Sunday Zoom discussions to prepare your hearts for the upcoming congregational survey.

Youth Group: Middle and High School youth meet on **Wednesday nights 6:00-7:30**

We are meeting via Zoom or in the park. Stay tuned to your texts to find out what we're doing each week!

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 Feb 11 at 6pm
Face masks are required for those who attend.

Contact Susan O'Brien susanobrien@cvlcf.org or 239-597-1043

Long Range Planning

Our committee has been meeting since October to develop a five-year long range plan. A congregational survey will be mailed in March. Prior to completing the survey, it is important for everyone to take time for discernment, to discover God's will for our congregation.

God's mission is to redeem the world, and God so loved this world, that God sent his only Son, Jesus, to accomplish that mission. Jesus' mission is most clearly summed up in John 10:10, "I have come so that you may have life and have it abundantly." The goal is to discover and put into words how our congregation will join in God's mission to redeem the world so that all might have the abundant life.

This process will be informed by prayer and Bible study. Seeking God's will is a humble process. It is being open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. It is being open to creative and new ways of being the church, because the Holy Spirit is by nature a creative force. It is a humble process because we seek to do God's will; not my will, not your will, but God's will.

The committee has identified a time for congregational discernment, a season of prayer and renewal over 6 weeks. The sessions are intended to facilitate prayer, reflection and conversation in a spirit of attentiveness as we seek fresh visions for living out a sense of purpose in God's mission.

Each of the six Bible study discussions, lead by Richard Dougherty, will be held on consecutive Sunday's at 9:30a via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent in the Friday email prior to each study. If you have never used Zoom, just click on the link provided. You will be instructed to download the application. Then you can proceed to enter the passcode. Please consider joining our discussions.

The first study is scheduled on Sunday, January 31. Dates and topics are listed under the Adult Sunday School schedule in this newsletter. For those not attending the Zoom discussion, you can access a copy of the study in the weekly email. Everyone is encouraged to set aside time to complete each of the studies.

We ask that you pray for the work of the planning committee over the coming months.

Almighty God, your mission is to redeem the world. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit with passion and courage so we can join you in that work. Open our eyes to see you moving in our community. Open our ears to hear your call. Open our hearts to love our neighbors. Open our minds to imagine new ways of sharing the good news about Jesus in the world. AMEN.

SENIOR MINISTRY HAPPENINGS...Live BETTER to Live Longer!

“Life can be hard at times, and sadly, many of us often make it worse by being hard on ourselves. We waste precious time beating ourselves up, wallowing in guilt, or chastising ourselves for what we could have or should have done. Somewhere along the path of seeking perfection we lose touch with our accomplishments. We fail to recognize the significant progress that we have made. My advice...***Be Gentle With Yourself!***”

Being gentle with yourself allows you to shift your focus to the journey rather than the destination.

Being gentle with yourself means giving yourself permission not to be the best that’s humanly possible, but rather to do the best you can right now.

Remember, your goals and successes will look different than anyone else’s.

Being gentle with yourself every day means giving yourself credit for what you’ve already accomplished and gives you a path to your own unique version of health and happiness.”

...Misty Tripoli

**As we celebrate this “LOVE” month – make it a point to remember
“self-care” in all that Love!**



SELF CARE IDEAS: Take time to stop and do something fun

- Spend an hour with a good Puzzle
- Spend some time with a good Book
 - See *Book Club Reading Suggestions*
- Spend some time on Zoom or Face Time with a friend or loved one
- Spend some time in prayer and meditation
- Spend some time walking, ride a bike, do some Yoga...
 - See *Meditation in Motion Option*
- Spend some time playing a game on the internet
- Spend some time doing a great craft
 - See *Wreath Class Option*
- Spend some time cooking something healthy, then...
 - Invite a friend over for lunch
 - See *6 week Healthy Living Discipline Option*



JOIN US....

**YOUR INVITED TO A
6-WEEK LENTEN PROGRAM/Discipline TO LOSE WEIGHT +
Join us for - “BE FITT” (Friends in this Together)**

Starting **Wednesday, February 17th** at **1:00 PM** and continuing for 5 more consecutive weeks [2/17 – 2/24 – 3/3 – 3/10 – 3/17 – 3/24] **Join us** for a 6-week Lenten Program to **lose weight** and live a healthier life **with God’s Help**.

Join us on Zoom or attend the meetings in person...let us know which option you prefer when you register.

These 30–60-minute programs will help you identify food challenges, God’s plan for living a healthier more meaningful life with a better relationship with the foods we eat.

We’ll conclude our program on March 24th when we’ll have all the participants be our guest in the pavilion in Victory Park for fellowship and a lovely healthy salad lunch.

This program will be led by Judy Butcher, a member of Christus Victor with the guidance and assistance from Sherry Slater, Director of Senior Ministry. Judy has succeeded in losing 60 pounds and is pleased to share her journey with us. She is currently a member of Weight Watchers and has been a lecturer for Think Thin, a weight loss group from Long Island, N.Y.

SO, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN YOU, AND US, for this wonderful FREE opportunity to restart your weight goals with fun, fellowship, and spiritual direction. **YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT:** Before our first class give some thought as to what motivates you to want to “Live a Healthy and Happy Lifestyle with God’s Help” ...it will make a difference. **INTERESTED IN JOINING, OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?** Call Sherry at 597-1043 or e-mail her at seniorministry@cvcfl.org!

A WREATH CLASS is...

Fun

Uses our Brains

Keeps us Connected

So...LET'S MAKE A VALENTINE WREATH!

KIM OLSON WILL BE OUR INSTRUCTOR...

WHERE: In the CVLC Large Gathering Space

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd AT 1:00 PM

WHO: The 1st 8 people to sign up! We will practice social distancing with each individual having their own table. **Masks must be worn.**

COST: \$20 per person – Cost includes all materials + Instructions:

Which is a buy because most of these wreaths cost \$50. and above!!

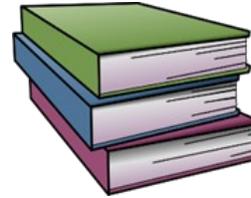
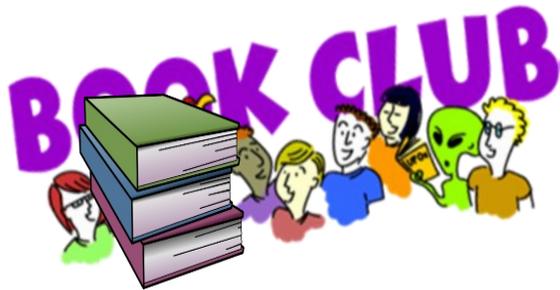
It's a bargain and you'll make it.

SEE THE PICTURE BELOW FOR WHAT IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE!

Call the church at 597-1043 or e-mail Sherry at seniorministry@cvlcfl.org

JOIN US – IT WILL BE FUN!!





February's Book: *The Book of Woman of Troublesome Creek*
by Kim Michele Richardson

February's book club date is: Monday, February 22nd @ 1:00 pm !!

If you haven't started reading this wonderful book, it's still not too late. Pick up a hard copy, or an electronic version for your Kindle from amazon, and join us for some great discussion about this very interesting book.

Dates for the March Session will be selected closer to the time, but you can get started reading now...

March's Book: *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brené Brown



MEDITATION IN MOTION with Yvette

Every Monday in February from 9:15am – 10:15am

Join us **Monday's** at 9:15 am in the Large Gathering Room in the **Education Building**. Bring a towel or mat. All fitness levels welcome! This enjoyable class will help you focus on stretching, meditating, and "being" AS Yvette takes us through postures and exercises that are good for clearing the mind and stimulating the senses. **Join us...you'll be glad you did!! CURRENTLY – RSVP'S ARE REQUIRED.** Call 597-1043 or write Sherry, seniorministry@cvlcfl.org



Mary Martha Circle

We are currently meeting by Zoom on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30a.m. We'll meet next on February 9th. If you would like to join us, please contact me, Phyllis Nichols at 815-545-4771. Our study is printed in the *Gather* magazine.

In January we started a four part study "Journeys with angels" in which we will shake those biblical branches, watch for angels and listen for God's calls to action. Angels are not a major focus of holy Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up frequently and at pivotal moments in both Old and New Testaments.

Session topics:

February: Repentance and route-changing angels

March: Loneliness, abandonment and holy comfort

April: Feasting angels



CAMPERSHIP FUND

Dear Christus Victor Church Family,

Well, it isn't too soon to be thinking about the youth of our Church going off to Luther Springs Church Camp this summer. If you would like to help our Elementary, Junior High and Senior High youth attend Camp this summer at Luther Springs, you can.

Just make out a check to Christus Victor Lutheran Church and put Campership Fund on the commentary line at the bottom of your check.

Thank you all in advance for adding a great opportunity to form Christian Lives within our Church Family.

Virtual Hugs,
Kim Olson



Thank you Stephen Stidinger for the wonderful and informative postings on the Christus Victor Facebook page!!! Now all the



AND



You Tube™ Visit Christus Victors YouTube channel to view our worship services and Mid-Week Pastoral Messages. 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>



Hopefully, you've been watching your blood pressure. Remember to watch your salt and sugar intake – Get up and move around more.

Watch your STRESS LEVELS - Stay positive...pray often!



<h2>February</h2>		
2	Rev. Thomas Slater Ingrid Clauson Darwin Garlinghouse	
8	Betty Avant	
9	Kim Moe	
12	Marilyn Mayer Danielle Disarro	
13	Ann Knitt Jay Oberman	
15	Jan Arnett	
16	Elmer Bauers, IV	
19	Valerie Miller	
20	Richard Hanson	
22	Nia Soléne Iyumva	
24	Nancy Linzmeyer	
27	Randy Brinser	
		 Happy Birthday

<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>
--	--

CVLC FINANCIAL REPORT

thru December 2020

General Operating Donations (Income) vs Operating Expenditures				
	Operating Income	Operating Expenditures	Net Operating Income	Dedicated Income
December 2020	\$91,224.31	\$41,205.91	\$50,018.40	\$6,870.00
Year-to-Date	\$659,884.03	\$528,601.81	\$131,282.22	\$68,125.75
Previous YTD	\$674,201.30	\$561,486.79	\$112,714.51	\$172,093.47
YTD 2020/2019 (%)	-2.1%	-5.9%	+16.5%	-60.4%
Selected Dedicated Fund Contributions				
	December 2020	2020 YTD	2019 YTD	
ELCA Hunger	\$1,375.00	\$21,597.50	\$17,351.00	
Additional Pastor	\$385.00	\$3,542.50	\$4,915.00	
Victory Park	\$430.00	\$4,040.50	\$9,820.00	
Missionary Support	\$0.00	\$2,067.25	\$4,558.07	
Disaster Relief	\$200.00	\$5,375.00	\$20,368.00	
Memorials	\$125.00	\$1,905.00	\$175.00	
God's Work Our Hands	\$490.00	\$6,185.00	\$1,530.00	
Fund for Leaders	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,826.00	
Endowment Principal	\$550.00	\$1,375.00	\$79,765.00	
Bells and Bell Choir	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	
Senior Assistance	\$585.00	\$4,370.00	\$4,426.00	
National Youth Gathering	\$205.00	\$5,737.00	\$3,884.00	
In Christ, Richard H. Dougherty, Treasurer				



for March
is
February 18th

CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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



SHARING CHRIST THAT ALL MIGHT LIVE VICTORIOUSLY!!

Sunday Worship Services – January through April 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
May through December 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Church Office Hours – Monday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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