

# **The Victorious Voice** **May 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"*  
*(1 Cor. 15:57)*

**Don't just live...live victoriously!**



### **Pastor Tom's Page**

I am so excited to finally be able to go back to in-person worship this month starting on Sunday, May 2nd at 9:30a.m. Thank you to all who have continued to worship online throughout the past year due to the Corona Virus outbreak. It certainly has been an interesting year. Thank you as well for your continued contribution towards Christus Victor and all of our outreach efforts throughout the year. We have made a huge impact with the gifts that we've been able to share.

I look forward to seeing each of you in person in May even if it might feel a little different than it has in the past. Just to be able to see each other will be a tremendous "shot in the arm" (covid vaccine reference).

Please don't forget to call or email the church office to register for Sunday church so we have a better idea of how many to expect.

God has continued to bless each of us throughout this past year with God's peace and presence as we've gone through a year unlike any other.

Come now and worship the Lord, both in person and online, as we give thanks for God's love and grace.

In Christ's name, Pastor Tom



**Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:30a.m. IS FULL!!**

We have finally been able to set the date to open for in person worship. We will open on **Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>** for our first in-person worship service since last March.

The entire office staff and worship team will finally have gotten all their shots and we will take the necessary steps to remain socially distanced. At least through the summer we will wear masks while we are inside any of the church facilities.

We will have hand sanitizing stations set up and we will provide touchless communion and no singing. All our services will be live-streamed for our members that choose to stay home. **Please email or call the church by 12:00p.m. the Wednesday before the Sunday worship service to register. [christusvictor@cvcfl.org](mailto:christusvictor@cvcfl.org) or 239-597-1043. Thank you!**

## Cancellations

The decision has been made to open for in person worship. We will open on **Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30a.m.** for our first in-person worship service since last March. **Please email or call the church by 12:00p.m. the Wednesday before the Sunday worship service to register. [christusvictor@cvlcfl.org](mailto:christusvictor@cvlcfl.org) or 239-597-1043.**

**Please watch your emails for information regarding CVLC Online 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](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 the CVLC Treasurer (Doc) at 509-595-7399.



## From the Desk of the Synod Parish Deacon

After more than a year, I thank God, that CVLC will be returning to in person worship on May 2, 2021. I look forward to seeing everyone at the service. The service will be different, the worship team wants to keep everyone safe. We will be live streaming the service and I ask everyone for their patience, as we venture into this new technology. I am also requesting that anyone interested in volunteering to work with me in operating the live stream system please contact the church office.

I pray that you continue to be safe, hopeful and remember that God the Father is watching over each and every one 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 all, for your kind words and I pray for guidance and look forward to serving the members of Christus Victor Lutheran Church.

Blessings, Gerry Benjamin, Synod Parish Deacon



**Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00a.m. –11:00a.m.**  
**6:15p.m.—7:00pm**

### **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



How blessed we were to see so many of you on Easter Sunday! It was so nice to finally see some faces.

Now we are excited to be welcoming you back to Christus Victor as we finally are opening our doors. It will take some time to get back to a normal service, but at least we will be together again. It was hard playing to an empty room, but we just kept imagining all the happy faces at their homes watching and listening.

It was so nice to hear our Handbell choir the other week and also the last anthem of this season this past week. We chose Love Grows Here, since that is how we all feel about our church!

I look forward to seeing many of you on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and hope to get a chance to greet you after the end of the service, outside, since we will not be greeting inside at this time. I will play a few songs on piano, prior to my organ prelude to welcome you back! May God continue to bless our congregation as we move forward!

Until next month, keep a song in your hearts!

Joyce



## Stewardship Snippets

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021**

*“Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.” –Psalm 22:30*

Who first told you the good news about Jesus? Chances are it was a beloved elder, either a family member or pillar of the church. We receive the wisdom of our ancestors, and then we take on the mantle of responsibility and good stewardship to pass that good news along to future generations.

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 9, 2021**

*“I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” –John 15:17*

Commandments and instruction are necessary parts of growing into adulthood and growing in the faith. While we may chafe at such stewardship, we realize that they are given in love for our good. We can give thanks to our ancestors for passing on the faith and teaching us God’s commandments.

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 16, 2021**

*“As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” –John 17:18*

Jesus prayerfully sent his disciples into the world knowing the challenges that awaited them. Likewise, our elders steward us into the world with prayer, love, and hope. They know the difficulties that await; yet they send us on as God’s beloved children first and always.

### **Day of Pentecost, May 23, 2021**

*“Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” –Romans 8:26*

We rest assured that we are covered in prayer by the Holy Spirit, and also by the prayers and love of our elders and ancestors whose job it is to steward us toward deeper faith and beloved community.

### **Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021**

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me.’ –Isaiah 6:8*

When were you first aware of God calling you to deeper faith and service? Was it through the voice and wisdom of a beloved elder or through the witness of a treasured ancestor? Steward these stories carefully and pass them on to the generations to come in the name of the Triune God.

# 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 May is "Commitment". *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.*

— 1 Timothy 4:8

Follow us on Facebook for more fun!

**May 2: Keep practicing what matters most.**

**May 9: Practice hearing from God.**

**May 16: Practice praying to God.**

**May 23: Practice talking about God.**

**May 30: Practice living for God.**

We typically finish Sunday School in May, so this is the last month that we will have Sunday School packets. But because our curriculum continues through the summer, I will still post videos for your families to watch.

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

**We are meeting at the church with masks. Our last meeting of this school year will be May 12. Please contact Susan O'Brien if you are planning on coming, so we have enough food!**



## May 2021 Senior Ministry – CVLC

I don't know about you, but it's so easy to lose perspective! Life often feels like it comes at me so fast, and sometimes I fall prey to a "treadmill" mentality – running faster and longer, but not seeming to get where I need to go. Of course, there's the "cousin" to the treadmill mentality, which is the "whack-a-mole" perspective to addressing challenges. From this perspective, I'm constantly pivoting from one challenge to the next – but new challenges pop-up faster than I can confront the old ones – and I simply become exhausted! ***Do you ever feel the same??!***

When we get into either of these patterns, scripture is the best place to direct our attention. Psalm 119:90 says, "YOUR faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures." Thank you, God, that you do not leave us alone to deal with the craziness! God is faithful and if you are experiencing any challenge in your life...*remember*, **God has a word in HIS WORD to help you through it.**

Enjoy a truly wonderful month of May – This is the "month" that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and live life in it to the fullest!





**The PEANUT  
BUTTER & JELLY  
brigade hard at  
work!**

[Cindy, Bertha,  
Lavinia, Linda,  
Lil, & Sherry]



**SENIOR MINISTRY'S: Community Senior Food Project  
PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY FOOD DRIVE!  
Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30a.m.**

Once a month we are getting together to make sandwiches for the Seniors & others in our community who are food challenged!

***Want to join us?*** Bring 2 loaves of bread, a jar of Peanut Butter, & a Jar of Jelly and enjoy some fellowship while helping the community. We always have some supplies available if you don't have time to shop, but donations are ALWAYS welcome!

**NEXT SESSION: MONDAY, MAY 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

**Can't join us but want to donate sandwiches?**

That's okay too, just make your sandwiches at home and bring them in that day!

P.S. Did you know there is a "CORRECT" way to make PB&J Sandwiches per soup kitchen standards? [me neither 😊] but *here is the process:*

Spread Peanut Butter on one side of BOTH pieces of bread, then spread 1 Tbsp. jelly in the middle...this process has the peanut butter "sealing" the bread so the jelly won't leak thru – ***It makes a perfect sandwich!***

## **SUMMER FUN...**

**PUZZLES.** We have quite a nice collection of puzzles donated by individuals who have “brought one and took one”. If you are in the market for something fun and solitary to do, make your way to the church and help yourself to one! We have all sizes from 300 to 2,000 pieces with a nice variety of picture options. *We’d love to share with you!*

**MAH JONGG.** I have deeply missed our sessions this year, but if you want to enjoy a good game online there are 2 websites that provide you with a decent game, and if nothing else will help you practice with the new card!

[www.myjongg.com](http://www.myjongg.com): -Allows you to play 8 free games per day.

[www.realmahjongg.com](http://www.realmahjongg.com): -Is a 14-day free trial website [no credit card required for the trial period] and then just \$5.99 / month.

**BOOKS.** We have started a lending library of novels and would love to continue to help it grow. If you are interested in reviewing what novels we have, come down to the church some time when the office is open, and you’re welcome to peruse them! You’ll find the start of our “**Novel Library**” in the large gathering space of the Education Building. Drop a few off [please - relatively current novels only] and take a few back!

**SEWING PROJECTS.** The Senior Resident facilities as well as other facilities, around our area are always looking for a few Adult Bibs, Lap Quilts, Sensory Pads, Soap Sacks, and regular size children’s quilts. If you have some time this summer, pull out that sewing machine and sew up a few items for our community. Contact Sherry if you need more information!

**GO FOR A WALK.** It may be a bit warm, but it’s good to get out into the fresh air and nature – walk and have a talk with God! Looking for a different place? Come over and walk around the Victory Park Lake – there’s a great deal of small animals, beautiful trees, and several places to stop, sit, and pray.

**WRITE A FRIEND OR LOVE ONE.** Who doesn’t love to get something [anything] in their mailbox that’s not a bill or an advertisement? Make some time to sit down and write a good old fashion letter – it doesn’t have to be long. Just let someone know that you’re thinking of them = it will most certainly make their day!

**START A NEW HOBBY.** YouTube is full of different things to try out. It’s the perfect time to put in a few key words and see what comes up. It could be a craft, learning about a collection, or just being interested in a new topic = regardless, it will open your mind and give you the opportunity to learn something new.

**Now that we're back to church:  
C.V.L.C. FOOD DRIVE - HELP...  
OUR COMMUNITY IS STILL IN NEED!**

If you are able to donate any unopened FOOD, CLEANING, or PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS, there is STILL a need in our community!!

**Please bring these items with you to church or drop them at the church's office door and Sherry will get them to where they can best be used!  
Any funds or items you can contribute would be greatly appreciated by many!**





**TO: PAST F.I.T.T. [Friends In This Together] MEMBERS**

We hope you are staying the course...eating well, getting plenty of exercise, watching your “party” times, keeping God in your loop, and making good choices with your meal planning. Don’t forget to **KEEP DRINKING YOUR WATER!**

Here’s another tip to consider:

**It’s always very important to keep up our Immune System. Below are 5 great “food” sources to help you maintain a healthy one. Do yourself a favor and include these items in your diet as often as possible:**



*Spinach*  
*Broccoli*  
*Garlic*  
*Green Tea*  
*Almonds*





## 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 congregation has to do is . . .



AND



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**You Tube**™ Visit Christus Victors 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.



<h2>May</h2>		 <b>Happy Birthday</b>
1	Gabrielle Gregory Karen Phillips	
4	Jose Perez	
5	Jacquelyn King Zoe Perez	
6	Bob Moe Logan Robinson	
9	Christina Ivanovich Vince Tomlinson	
10	Robert Lee Gary Tinkel	
14	Dona-Lee Hughes	
15	Mary Hawkins	
17	Sandra Grove	
18	Ken Clauson	
23	Barbara Torstad Gary Esbeck	
25	Casey Feist	
27	Jamie Kennedy Pat Johnson	
28	Yvonne Eaton Alexandra Mandell	
29	Douglas Mair	

<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p><b>If your birthday is incorrect or missing, please contact the church office (597-1043) so we can change or update our records. Thank you.</b></p>
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# CVLC FINANCIAL REPORT

thru March 2021

## General Operating Donations (Income) vs Operating Expenditures

	Operating Contributions	Operating Expenditures	Net Operating Income	Dedicated Contributions
March 2021	\$53,639.53	\$35,628.20	\$18,011.33	\$7,810.00
Year-to-Date	\$163,816.38	\$104,350.70	\$59,465.68	\$12,870.00
Previous YTD	\$186,189.96	\$128,902.21	\$57,287.75	\$8,505.25
YTD 2021/2020 (%)	-12.0%	-19.0%	+3.8%	51.3%

## Selected Dedicated Fund Contributions

	March 2021	2021 YTD	2020 YTD
ELCA Hunger	\$3,855.00	\$5,115.00	\$3,364.00
Additional Pastor	\$125.00	\$405.00	\$545.00
Victory Park	\$230.00	\$450.00	\$603.00
Missionary Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,062.25
Disaster Relief	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$205.00
Memorials	\$50.00	\$650.00	\$50.00
God's Work Our Hands*	\$2,135.00	\$3,560.00	\$0.00
Fund for Leaders	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Endowment Principal	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$455.00
Bells and Bell Choir	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Senior Assistance	\$175.00	\$1,235.00	\$0.00
Youth Related	\$350.00	\$450.00	\$330.00
*Babcock Ranch			

In Christ, Richard H. Dougherty, Treasurer

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES



for May  
is  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**John Butcher**  
fdccollect@aol.com  
*President*  
**Jim Helle**  
hellejim@gmail.com  
*Vice President*  
**Ginny Engler**  
vme913@aol.com  
*Administrative Liaison*  
**Carol Benjamin**  
cabenja46@gmail.com  
*Secretary*

**Teaker Harris, Jr.**  
*Property*  
**Janice Lorimer**  
janice@keystosuccess1.com  
*Spiritual Ministries*  
**Pastor Tom Slater**  
pastorslater@cvlcl.org  
**Paul Bartholomew**  
poja2@aol.com  
*Associate Member Rep.*



***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. - 2:00 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