



# Voice of Victory

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church**  
**7510 Palomino Drive • Apple Valley, MN 55124**  
**P: 952-454-6927 • F: 952-454-0300 • www.christusvictor.org**

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2008

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the Pastor
- 2 Ash Wednesday/Lent
- 3 Adult Forum/Faith Stories
- 4 Faith Stepping Stone
- 6 Baskets of Love
- 7 Events / News
- 8 Financials/Marriage Retreats
- 9-11 Middle/High School News
- 12 Sunday School Service Project
- 13-14 Ideas for Parents
- 15 Calendar



**Sunday Worship  
Services**  
**8:30 & 11:00 am**  
**Education Hour 9:45 am**  
**Fellowship Hour 9:45am**

*"There once was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job.  
That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and  
turned away from evil."*

Job 1: 1

## Our Responses and God's Response to Suffering

Dear Friends in Christ,

**"Life is hard."** Those are the first words of M. Scott Peck's best-selling book, The Road Less Traveled. While this is a foundational truth of human existence, indeed all of existence, we want to believe that if we are "blameless and upright," by which we mean if we are "a good person," we will somehow avoid the hardships, pain, and suffering that life brings.

No matter how hard we try, we cannot avoid the fact that "Life is hard," so when we do experience hardships, pain, and suffering we look for answers and explanations. This is as it should be, in fact God invites us to ask our questions, look for answers, and even get sad and mad at Him. But instead our questioning often becomes a search for someone/something to blame for our suffering. We look for an easy and quick way out, we try and avoid or deny our pain and suffering, and when we try and avoid or deny suffering we in fact bring on ourselves more pain and suffering. We also cut ourselves off from comfort, relief, and healing that can only come when we do go to God with our pain, sorrow, anger, and questions.

On Wednesday nights during Lent, starting on February 6 with Ash Wednesday, we will be walking with Job and with Jesus through our struggle with suffering. I invite you to join us as we examine our responses to suffering and God's response to our suffering. Our journey will take us through Lent to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and finally Easter Sunday. Please join us for worship, learning, prayer, and the fellowship of the soup suppers!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud

February 6, 2008



Join us for the Soup Supper from 6:00 – 6:45 pm and stay for the Ash Wednesday worship service from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. We will have the imposition of Ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion. Come and experience this most powerful worship service to begin your Lenten journey to Easter.



**Come for the Soup  
Enjoy the Fellowship  
Stay for the Worship**

### Wednesday Nights in Lent

Please join us on Wednesday nights during Lent for Soup Suppers, Fellowship, Learning, Music, and Worship! Invite your friends and neighbors to come and experience the friendship, the fun (the craziness), and the joy of gathering together as the people of God here at CV on Wednesday nights in Lent.

6:00 – 7:00 pm – **Soup Supper** for Everyone! (JIFY and Confirmation too!)

6:00 – 7:15 pm JIFY Rehearsal

6:00 – 6:30 pm Confirmation Small Groups Eat

6:30 – 7:15 pm Confirmation Small Groups Meet

7:30 – 8:00 pm – **Worship** for Everyone!

#### Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study – 10:00 am in the Art Room

Bring your Bible and join us for a rousing journey into God's Word. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, just a willingness to read, ask questions, and learn. Just show up at 10:00am on Thursday mornings, we'll provide the coffee!

Current Book: 1 Kings.

Upcoming Book: 1 Corinthians.

**Holy Band of Brothers – Men's Breakfast – February 9 at 8:30am!** Sign up at the information desk! Topic: *Needing Heroes; Becoming Heroes for Others.*

WE NEED COOKS! Contact Pastor Kent (952) 454-6927 or youthrev@pro-ns.net. information desk!



## Sunday Mornings

### Christianity and World Religions

"At some point in our lives, each of us will be confronted with the claims of persons of other faiths..." so writes Pastor Adam Hamilton in his book, Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask. We will be asking questions and seeking to find answers and understanding to issues regarding our own faith and the faith of others. Join us for this honest and respectful look at other World Religions as people of the Christian faith.

#### Schedule

Sunday, February 3 at 9:45am – Guest Speaker: M. Nabeel Ashraf – "Christianity & Islam"

Sunday, February 10 at 9:45am – "Hinduism"

Sunday, February 17 at 9:45am – "Buddhism"

Sunday, February 24 at 9:45am – "Judaism"

Sunday, March 2 at 9:45am – "Christianity: Essential Nature of Being a Christian"



### Faith Stories – Bearing Witness to God in our Lives

We have been blessed over the past four months with a number of CV members who have shared part of their Faith Story with us in worship. Christians have called this practice "Testimony" and "Giving Witness" to God's work in our life. Simply put, it is sharing our story of faith.

In the coming year, we would like to continue this ancient and important Christian faith practice in our worship services. To do so, I am asking you to think of people at Christus Victor who you see as positive role models of the Christian life. Who do you see as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ? Whose story of faith would you like to hear? I am asking for your nominations of members of our CV family to invite them to consider sharing their faith story with us. Please write a brief note why you are nominating this person, and send it to me at church via mail or email ([youthrev@pro-ns.net](mailto:youthrev@pro-ns.net)). I will contact and invite them to share their story on a Sunday in the coming months. If you have any questions, please call me at (952) 454-6927. Thanks for your help!

## STONE STEPPING FAITH

### **Attention: 5<sup>th</sup> Graders and their Parents**

Pastor Laura will be leading the Faith Stepping Stone for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. We will meet for three sessions during Lent during the Sunday School hour. The dates are: **February 10, 17, and 24**. This Stepping Stone is on Holy Communion. We will all learn lots of interesting things about Holy Communion such as: what it means, why do we have it every week, and what does the wafer taste like? The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will receive communion for the first time on Maundy Thursday which is March 20<sup>th</sup> this year. We will be meeting in the Sanctuary at 9:45am. Call Pastor Laura with any questions. See you there!



### **Munchkin Minute**

*Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way, Oh, what fun it is to be a part of Christus Victor during the Christmas season! (Hey!)*

And this past season was no exception. I would like to take a trip down memory lane and recall the fun times and great events that happened here at CV this past Christmas, (using the words from “Jingle Bells”, of course).

**J** – Joy. Lots of joy around this place

**I** – Incredible joy!

**N** – New. A new tradition has begun here at CV.

Every year we will have a Movie Night presenting “The Polar Express”. We had a fabulous turnout for its first viewing. (And lots of fun before and after too).

**G** – Great! Everyone had a great time at the Advent Festival. Great food, great company, great crafts, and great gobs of snow fell that night also. But that didn’t keep Ol’ Santa away! That brings us to our next letter.

**L** – Loebrock. Thank you, Randy Loebrock, for bringing the spirit of St. Nick to the festival.

**E** – Eating. Lots of eating. Candy canes, cookies, popcorn. You name it.

**B** – Big. Big party for Jesus in Room 108 this year.

The Pre’s and K’s got to play “Four Corners” and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus before blowing out the candles on two wonderfully made cakes. (Thank you Mike. The cakes were perfect).

**E** – Everyone. Everyone did a great job at the Christmas Program. Loved the singing. Loved the acting. Bravo, kids!

**L** – Little. Speaking of kids: Did you see our little angels sing at the program? Wow! They never cease to amaze me. We have a super bunch of kids at CV. They are walking, talking miracles.

**L** - Love. Love rules here at our beautiful church. And lest we forget, God is love. So...

**S** – So let’s spend time this New Year being walking-talking bundles of love just like our kids. And Christmas, please come around again quickly. We’ll be here waiting for you!

### **E-Devotionals**

We have a daily e-devotional and announcements for the members and friends of CV. Everyday over 200 members and friends of CV receive email devotion, prayer, and short, special announcements. If you would like to get these daily email devotions which have been so positively received, please email Pastor Kent at [youthrev@pro-ns.net](mailto:youthrev@pro-ns.net). If you do not want to get this daily email, please let Pastor Kent know and he will take you off the list. This is a great way to start your day in God’s Word and with prayer! Many people have been greatly blessed by this daily devotion. You can too!



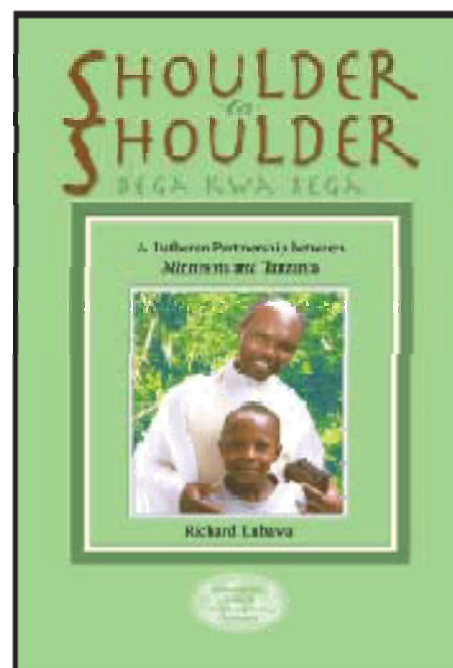
# Shoulder to Shoulder

## **BEGA KWA BEGA**

**A Companion Synod Partnership Between  
Minnesota and Tanzania**

by  
Richard Lubawa

The Saint Paul Area Synod (SPAS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) have been partners in ministry since 1987. From its beginnings as a meeting between bishops, the partnership has unrelentingly zoomed into involving people at the grassroots level—reaching sixty congregations, over a thousand travelers, over 900 scholarship recipients, establishing the country's first private university, sponsoring construction, drilling wells for safe drinking water, and undertaking the expansion of health care facilities. This relationship of prayer, friendship, and partnership continues to grow stronger and stronger as God's grace spans the distance and cultural differences from Minnesota to Tanzania.



In the diversified world, partnership is a common theme in international relations where it holds a promise of equality and mutual involvement for mutual goals. In secular as well as in religious fields, people have worked toward systems and structures, which could best facilitate the goals of both partners.

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### **RICHARD LUBAWA**

Richard Lubawa is a Lecturer at Tumaini University-Iringa University College and is also serving as acting Deputy Provost for Administration.

Lubawa attended the Arusha Institute in Tanzania, Lutheran Theological College in Tanzania, and Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, USA. Throughout the years, he has been a pastor, teacher, and principal. Most recently, Lubawa served as Assistant to the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Iringa Diocese.

In 2005, Lubawa was the first recipient of the Schlotz International Fellowship/Professorship at Luther Seminary. This program provides an opportunity for a scholar to spend time at Luther Seminary for research, writing, teaching, and interacting with the Luther Seminary faculty and students. This Fellowship/Professorship is one means by which the witness of the global church may be heard and engaged at the largest of the theological institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

ISBN: 978-1-932688-25-2 • \$12.00 • Perfectbound

Available from Lutheran University Press

Call to reserve your copy 952-835-1828

or email: [publisher@Lutheranupress.org](mailto:publisher@Lutheranupress.org)

[www.lutheranupress.org](http://www.lutheranupress.org)





## Baskets of Love Event Sunday, March 9

Join us on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> for the second annual *Baskets of Love* event where we celebrate our connection with the Mlowa parish of Tanzania with music, food and a silent auction. *Baskets of Love* will be held in the fellowship hall from 9:30 to 10:45 am and features baskets made by our sisters in Tanzania and lovingly filled with creative stuff donated by members of Christus Victor. And new this year, there will be gorgeously colored African batiks and fabrics purchased in the Iringa marketplace and brought back to Minnesota by your 2007 ambassadors (Diana Buffie, KC Claussen Gubrud, Patricia Wick and Dawn Youngner).

Proceeds from this one-of-a-kind event raises money for our Mlowa partners AND is the first official fund-raiser for the next generation of ambassadors from Christus Victor to make the journey to Africa.

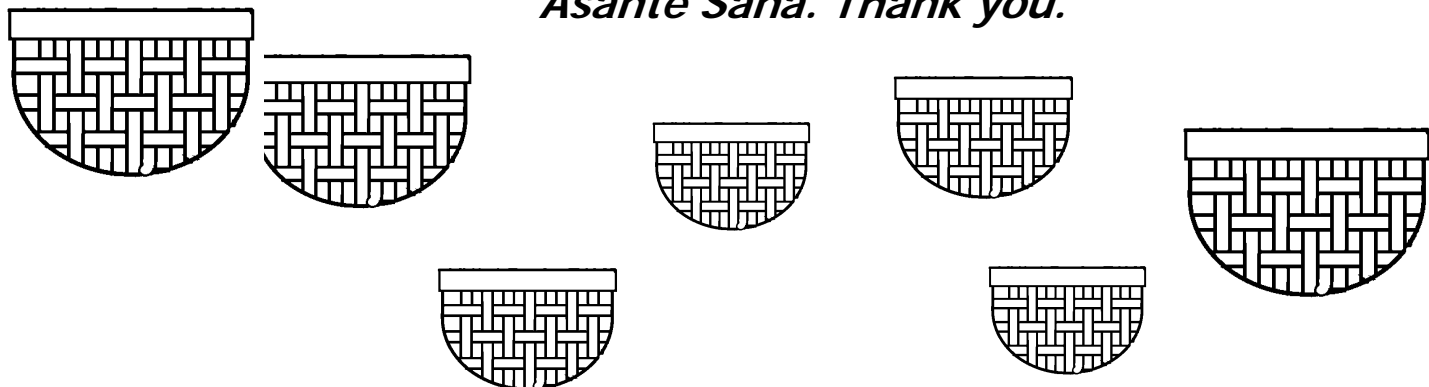
To make this event a success we need basket fillers AND basket bidders. Please consider donating a filled basket. Last year the creative juices were certainly flowing. We had baskets filled with Easter treats, Handyman with Tools, wine, chocolate, spa supplies, golf outings, jewelry, handcrafted purses, scrapbook materials, gardening and, believe it or not, a pool party!

If you are willing to fill a basket, follow these simple steps:

- (1) Pick up a basket from the CV office;
- (2) Fill it;
- (3) Return it to the CV office by Sunday, March 2; and most importantly
- (4) Join us for the fun on March 9<sup>th</sup>!

If you have any questions, please contact KC Claussen Gubrud at 612-722-2896 or email her at [kcgkcg@msn.com](mailto:kcgkcg@msn.com).

***Asante Sana. Thank you.***



## BE A HERO DONATE BLOOD!

It helps save lives...  
 it inspires others...  
 it gets you free cookies...  
 it makes a difference...  
 it makes you a hero...  
 And it all starts with YOU!  
 There is no substitute for blood.  
 It cannot be manufactured.  
 It is the "gift of life" that only human beings can  
 give to one another.



**COME BE A HERO ON**  
**Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**2 – 7 pm**  
 Sign up sheets will be  
 at the Welcome Desk

Questions? Call Michele Iaria 952-891-1303  
 Social Ministries Committee



**God Talk**

Are you in your 20's or 30's?  
 Interested in talking about God and God  
 stuff (aka "Theology"),  
 but not so interested in hanging around  
 church?

Join Pastor Kent for some God Talk on  
 Tuesday night, February 19, 7:00 pm,  
 at Old Chicago in Apple Valley.

Bring a friend  
 Questions?

Contact Pastor Kent at (952) 454-6927 or  
[youthrev@pro-ns.net](mailto:youthrev@pro-ns.net).



**Feb. 22-24**

*"The Quest for the Grail: the masculine spiritual journey"* at WAPO! Sign up today and get your deposit in (\$25) ASAP. Total cost \$100. Questions, please contact Pastor Kent at (952) 454-6927 or [youthrev@pro-ns.net](mailto:youthrev@pro-ns.net).

The Quest stories are the wisdom and truth of the spiritual journey told by Christian men for Christian men. These stories, tell the One Story of how God speaks and leads us through all aspects of our life: family, failure, trails and temptations, false answers, learning the right questions, nature, visions and dreams, sexuality and shadow: to a real encounter with God who is in all, with all, and through all. If you feel you have lost your way, are unsure of the goal, looking for the right questions instead of unsatisfying answers, unclear about the meaningful patterns, or unconvinced of God's divine purpose for your life then this retreat may be a good next step for you.



**December month-end  
Financial Statement**



**Balance Sheet**

**Income**

Current Assets	\$114,466.27
Fixed Assets	\$1,440,960.00
Current Liabilities	\$31,642.09
Long Term Liabilities	\$241,649.98

Total Budgeted Receipts	\$481,565.00
Total Actual Receipts	<u>\$474,591.42</u>
Difference	-\$7,107.36

Questions may be directed to any member of the Finance Committee: Michael Rand, Audrey Derwin, Rodney Carlson, Kerry Baubie, Kathy Wittnebel or Stephen Nierengarten

**Is Your Marriage Due For a Tune-up?**

**Weekend to Remember**

Is your timing off? Does your marriage lack spark? Attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend makes your marriage run like new. Through practical exercises and presentations in a relaxed atmosphere, you'll learn communication techniques and gain a deeper understanding of yourself and your spouse. There are no group discussions and you share only with your spouse in the privacy of your hotel room.



is a weekend marriage conference that teaches God's design for marriage and family. The environment is fun, non-threatening, and sometimes hilarious!! It's a wonderful time for couples to refresh good marriages or heal troubled ones. What an awesome experience this is!! We went last year and it had such a positive impact on our life that we decided to be small group leaders! Should you decide to attend Call 1-800-FL-TODAY (358-6329). Use the group code 12924 and it will save you \$80 off the couple price (regularly \$129/person) if you **register by Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 2008** (You have to use the phone number to get the discounted price).

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends for the Minnesota Area will be March 28-30 at the Country Inn & Suites in Duluth and April 25-27 at the Crowne Plaza in Brooklyn Center. Registration closes March 14th & April 11th, so a quick response is encouraged! For more information or registration please call Dick & Judy Dehnell at 952-432-3105 or Peter & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575.  
[www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).

If you have any questions, please feel free to call either Carla or Joe Tappainer at 952-953-0849 or visit the website. We would be happy to answer any questions you have!!

<http://www.familylife.com/conferences/marriage.asp>

March 14-16  
Minneapolis Marriott City Center  
30 S 7<sup>th</sup> St  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

# Youth Ministry

## Middle School Page

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### *Birthdays*

Jacob Perendy	February 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Alexandra Nelson	February 11 <sup>th</sup>
Justeen Rylander	February 19 <sup>th</sup>
Thomas Zuales	February 20 <sup>th</sup>
Matthew Jensen	February 22 <sup>nd</sup>

### Up Coming Events

**8th Grade Confirmation Retreat - April 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Grand Slam - April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Lock In w/FMSC - May 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**

### DeKaf - *Sundays at 9:45 am*

February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Class with Dawn & Warren  
February 10<sup>th</sup> - Class with Dawn & Warren  
February 17<sup>th</sup> - Class with Corey  
February 24<sup>th</sup> - No Class  
February 29<sup>th</sup> - Temple of Aaron Field Trip (Friday Night)

### Confirmation - *Wednesdays at 6:00 pm*

February 6<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday Worship  
February 13<sup>th</sup> - Lent 1  
February 20<sup>th</sup> - Lent 2  
February 27<sup>th</sup> - Lent 3

## News

### **WAPO**

This summer's theme is Blessed, which focuses on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. To pick up your registration booklet, contact Corey in the church office.

An excerpt from the 2008 WAPO registration booklet: "In Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount, He turns many common beliefs upside down. With bold statements like, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit...those who mourn...the meek...those who hunger and thirst...those that are persecuted,' Jesus gives hope and instruction for us to live solely for God and not for outer appearances or the world."

Through the week you'll play a lot of games, sing a lot of songs, meet a lot of great people, all while learning how to grow deeper in your relationship with the Lord.

### **Fundraising for WAPO**

There will be a WAPO fundraising meeting on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> after second service. Possible fundraising options include candy bars, Maunday Thursday dinner, Applebees breakfast, and baby sitting. Also, parents start thinking about new options that you would like to bring up at the meeting. More information will be in the bulletin.

### **New Bibles**

The Youth & Family Committee is planning on equipping all confirmation students with the Zonderzan NRSV Student Bibles We are encouraging all parents to purchase one for their son or daughter. The real asset of this bible is that it encourages kids to read it and offers easy to find stories, people, and insights to tough passages. Words cannot describe how cool this bible is. The Youth and Family Committee can get a hardcover edition into your child's hands for \$16.50 which is 50% off the retail price. A softcover NIV edition is also available.

### Bible Study - *Sundays at 9:45 am*

February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Samson  
February 10<sup>th</sup> - Elijah & The Flaming Chariot  
February 17<sup>th</sup> - David & Goliath (Youth Lead)  
February 24<sup>th</sup> - Dry Bones

### Youth Group - *Wednesdays at 8:00 pm*

February 6<sup>th</sup> - The Chocolate River  
February 13<sup>th</sup> - UNO  
February 20<sup>th</sup> - Rocket Race/Grif Ball  
February 27<sup>th</sup> - Nerf Blasters

### *Birthdays*

Brian Johnson	February 6 <sup>th</sup>
Alex Nelson	February 8 <sup>th</sup>
Samantha Johnson	February 19 <sup>th</sup>

### Up Coming Events

**30 Hour Famine - Feb 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Rock Climbing - March 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Seminary Previews (for Seniors)**

**- April 24<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>**

## News

### **Rock Climbing**

In March, you'll get a chance to brave heights and tackle the challenges Vertical Endeavors has to offer. Located in St. Paul, Vertical Endeavors provides a safe and fun climbing adventure for everyone, no matter your skill level. Experience the thrills of climbing 30 feet vertically or bouldering horizontally a few feet off the ground. Cost will be \$18. Sign up sheets will be mailed out at the beginning of February.

### **Seminary Previews**

A special opportunity awaits, for seniors, to check out Seminary. What is Seminary you ask? It is a graduate school designed to educate individuals seeking a vocation/calling in ministry. You'll get a chance to meet students there, attend a class, participate in chapel, eat, tour the campus, and see Martin Luther's death mask. If you are interested in seeing where Pastor Kent and Pastor Laura got educated or are just curious about Seminary then talk to Corey. There are two chances to attend Seminary Previews, Thursday, April 24th or Tuesday, April 29th.

### **New Bibles**

The Youth & Family Committee is planning on replacing the bibles in the youth room and we would like to encourage all parents to purchase one for their son or daughter. The Zonderzan NRSV Student Bible will be the replacement. This bible encourages kids to read it by offering three different reading tracks, easy to find stories and people, and in-text insights to help explain difficult verses. Words cannot describe how cool this bible is. Beginning in February, the Youth & Family Committee will have copies on display for you to browse through.

Hard Cover Pricing Options: Confirmation Students - \$16.50

Non-Confirmation Students - \$20.00

Adults - \$25.00

Retail Price - \$32.99

There is also a Softcover NIV edition for those interested.

## **SPOTLIGHT: BRICE DEGRAND**

Area of Service: DeKaf

Why did you join the SWAT Team?

*“To help out with Youth Ministry”*

What is your favorite part of being involved in SWAT Team?

*“Watching the kids learn and appreciate what we show them.”*

What is your favorite memory from SWAT Team?

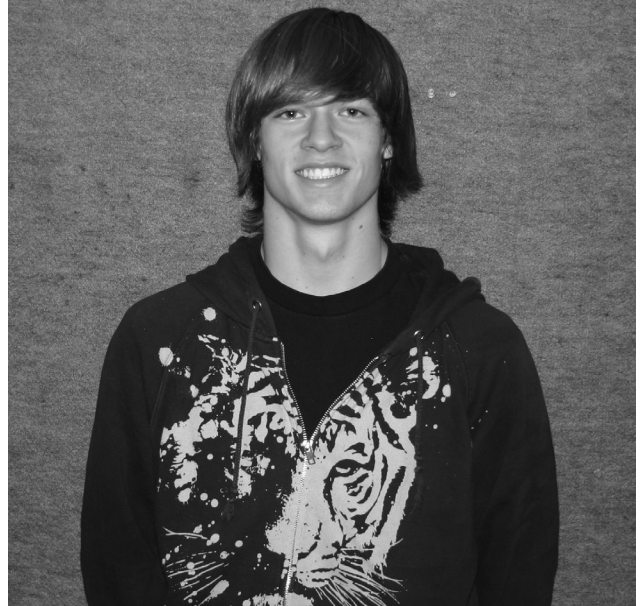
*“Watching the kids throw darts at the balloons in DeKaf was pretty funny and memorable.”*

What has been the biggest challenge being a part of the SWAT Team?

*“Sometimes dealing with the kids can be challenging.”*

What would you say to a High School or Middle School student thinking about SWAT Team?

*“Join and work hard and it will be enjoyable.”*



## News

### **Next Gathering**

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - Feed My Starving Children

### **Summer Trip Info**

This year the trip will focus more on bonding and being challenged physically. Our destination is Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp which is nestled in the mountains around Glacier National Park in Montana. Our adventure will be backpacking in those mountains. We'll be traveling by train and there is an option to go white water rafting after our backpacking adventure. Contact Corey if you want to participate.

**Monthly Tip:** When leading discussion, use prompting questions:

Could you explain to me more?

Could you help me understand \_\_\_\_\_?

What examples come to mind?

I wonder \_\_\_\_\_?

### **Feed My Starving Children – Sunday School Service project**

Our Faith Trek, Preschool and Kindergarten children will begin a special Lenten service project on February 10<sup>th</sup> for Feed My Starving Children.

A bit of information on Feed My Starving Children from their website fmsc.org:

*Feed My Starving Children is committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. Their approach is simple: Volunteers pack nutritious meals made up of rice, soy, vitamins and dehydrated vegetables, and they partner with relief organizations worldwide to distribute these meals to starving children.*

Several groups from CV have volunteered at Feed My Starving Children but they also need money for the meals. The good news is a little money can go a long way in purchasing these meals. For example, \$30 provides 20 meals and \$500 provides 3,333 meals.

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, each student will be given a tube full of M&Ms along with some information on Feed My Starving Children. Children can then participate in this special Lenten fundraiser as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> – Eat the M&Ms.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Place quarters in the container.** A full container holds \$14 which is 93 meals for hungry children.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Return tubes and quarters on March 16<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday.** A short presentation will be made with the tubes at the second service.

Thanks in advance for your participation in this special Sunday School service project.



**Food Shelf Items For February**  
Canned Fruit  
&  
Cereal

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church**  
 7510 PALOMINO DRIVE ✠ APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124 ✠ 952-454-6927  
[www.christusvictor.org](http://www.christusvictor.org)

*Christus Victor Office Staff*

Ministers.....	<b>ALL MEMBERS OF CV</b>	
Pastor.....	KENT CLAUSSEN GUBRUD	YOUTHREV@PRO-NS.NET
Pastor.....	LAURA DUFFEE	LDUFFEE@PRO-NS.NET
Youth Director.....	COREY BETCHWARS	COREY@PRO-NS.NET
Administrative Assistant.....	DAWN YOUNGNER	DYOUNGNER@PRO-NS.NET
Office Manager.....	DEANNA LUKE	CVLC@PRO-NS.NET
Nursery Care Provider.....	JILLIAN PEARSON	
Nursery Care Provider.....	CHRISTINA HOLMQUIST	
Director of Music.....	Anne Nyquist	
Children's Music.....	NANCY ERLER	
Traditional Worship Accompanist/Organist	LIZ SCHUUR	
Contemporary Worship Accompanist.....	CASSI McMAYER	
Senior Choir Accompanist.....	JULIE McDONALD	
Custodian.....	BRAD LUND	