



Voice of Victory

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

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VOLUME 11 ISSUE 7

JULY 2008

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We Are Being Transformed

"And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." — 2 Corinthians 3: 18

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Trans-form:

To CHANGE markedly the appearance or form of: "A thick, fibrous fog had transformed the trees into ghosts and the streetlights into soft, haloed moons" (David Michael Kaplan).

To **CHANGE** the nature, function, or condition of; convert.

There has been a lot of talk about "**change**" in the media lately, which is a good thing, as long as somebody else has to do the changing. I'm all for change, but only a little bit at a time, and only in those areas that I think need changing, and only if it is easy and relatively pain and effort free. As a born and bred Lutheran, the word "change" is like a dirty word for me, like fingernails across a board.

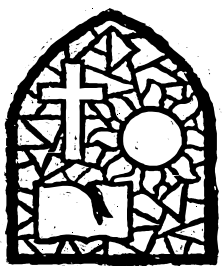
Yet the Spirit of the Living God is all about change: changing us into the very image of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. The Apostle Paul's word for the life-long process of change is *SANCTIFICATION*, which Lutherans don't talk about much, since we spend our time focusing on the first step of the journey of salvation, *JUSTIFICATION*. Salvation/Change is not something that we do, but something that the Spirit does in, with, to, and through us (like the Lutheran understanding of the Sacraments: "in, with, and under"). Notice that Paul says, we "**ARE** being transformed," which means for anyone who claims to believe and follow Jesus, change is not an option.

Think of it, the Living God became flesh so that we would see His glory, and then this same Spirit of the Living God wants to transform/change us from glory into glory, into the very image of Christ! Are you open and willing to be changed, even inviting and asking for the Lord to come into your life and transform you? Or, do you fight against the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, refusing to change, and stuck in the myth of the self-made person?

Lord, come and change me. Lord, come and change us. Transform us all into the glory of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud



Worship
Schedule
for the
Summer

Sunday Schedule

Worship Services
July 13 until Sept. 7

Two worship services at
8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.
alternating between traditional and
contemporary services.

Men's Ministry – Holy Band of Brothers

Summer is always a busy time for all of us, but with that comes a greater need to stay connected! We are offering a number of options for the men of the church to keep up their training as disciples of Jesus Christ. Some events you can just show up. Others, you will need to sign up!

SATURDAY BREAKFASTS AT CV

We need men to sign up to know how many to prepare for! And we need cooks!

July 12 – 8:30am

August 2 – 8:30am

Sept. 13 – FALL KICK-OFF – Steak & Eggs Breakfast!

MEN's MID-WEEK MORNING COFFEE – 7:00am at CV in the Art Room! This is for guys who want a time to connect with their brothers in Christ and start their day by focusing on God in scripture and prayers, as well as grab a cup of coffee, before heading to work. ****Various Tuesdays throughout the summer!*** June 17, July 1, July 15, July 29, August 12, August 26

SPECIAL EVENTS/MEN STUFF

VBS Carnival Dunk Tank – Sunday, July 20 – We need financial donations to rent the tank and then volunteers to collect tickets and keep the water flowing! Call or email Pastor Kent at youthrev@pro-ns.net.

Lake Minnetonka Fishing – Wednesday, July 16 – (6:00 am-4:00 pm) Limit 16 guys per boat! Cost TBD (\$30-50 depending on numbers signed up). Sign up at the Information desk, or email Pastor Kent at youthrev@pro-ns.net.

ALPHA is COMING! Come and see!

Have you've ever wanted more out of life? If you've been asking questions about the meaning and purpose of life, struggling with life's challenges, or just wanting to know more about Christianity, then ALPHA is for you! Do you know a friend, family member, or colleague who might be asking questions and searching for real answers, then you need to bring them to ALPHA!



Next September we will be starting up another ALPHA with Pastor Kent as the host and MC. If you have been through ALPHA and would like to be part of the team (we need 16-19 people!), please contact him right away! If you think you would be interested in checking ALPHA out, or inviting a friend, give him a call (952) 454-6927, or email him at youthrev@pro-ns.net.

ALPHA TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED!

A successful ALPHA needs a great team to make it happen each week! We need an ALPHA coordinator, table leaders and helpers, music and worship team, kitchen leader and helpers, and childcare helpers. If you would be interested in serving on any of these teams, please contact Pastor Kent!

Fall Friendship Training – “Bridge Builders” – Sept. 19-21 at CV

Bridge Builders Training is about building relationship and friendship skill.

The Welcoming Committee's ministry is to empower and equip all of our members to build relationship and friendship skills, to help make Christus Victor the friendly, welcoming, and inviting church we know we can be. We will be hosting a weekend “BRIDGE BUILDERS” Training, through Tentmakers, next September, here at Christus Victor!

In “BRIDGE BUILDERS” training, you will:

Develop skills and confidence in the art of turning strangers into friends

Learn how to listen effectively and make conversation easy

Begin to be more intentional in affirming and encouraging others

Learn what it takes to make a significant impact on someone's life

Leave training refreshed, encouraged, and motivated to impact the lives of others for Jesus Christ!

This training is limited to 40 people, from high school youth to adults. The cost will be approximately \$100, for Friday night, Saturday (including meals), and Sunday afternoon. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Pastor Kent at (952) 454-6927 or youthrev@pro-ns.net. More information coming soon!

SENIOR CONNECTION PICNIC

Sixteen of us enjoyed the Ft Benton Texas Boys choir (30 in number ranging in age from 10-14) last month. In July we are moving our connecting point to God's great outdoors--and continue our celebration of life with a picnic. The date is July 8 (Tuesday). The time is high noon. The place is Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Cliff Road and Lexington Avenue. This is a change from our earlier plans to picnic at Como Park in St. Paul. Lebanon Hills is less crowded and closer to home. We are hoping to use the shelter if it is available--otherwise we will simply make

do with the tables located on the grounds. We will have a charcoal grill hot and ready when you arrive at noon. Bring your own meat to grill and a picnic dish to share. We will have eating gear available (cups, plates, plastic ware) and lemonade to drink. If you have some outdoor games or activity ideas--bring them along. We will have a sign up sheet and directions at the narthex table. Mark your calendars, invite other shy folks to join you (whether or not they are Lutherans) and let's enjoy the gift that each can be to the other. Questions? Contact George at 952 898 0412.

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: 2 Corinthians.

E-Devotionals – Stay in touch with God's Word every day!

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. 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!

Cando

An epidemic has struck the neighborhoods surrounding CV. Hundreds of pop cans are orphaned each day- left to fend for themselves in various undesirable can situations. Lonely, half squashed and sticky-sided these cans never did anything to deserve such detrimental treatment. You may think there is nothing you can do for these seemingly hopeless can orphans, but indeed- you CAN DO! Scour your car floors, search within the innermost bowels of your garage; don't stop until every last can is collected! Next to the CV dumpster, a Redemption Center has been erected for orphaned pop cans to be given a second chance. They can be dropped off anytime during the day. Not one can will be uncared for. Proceeds from Cando will go to support Feed My Starving Children and our Youth Ministries. Together we CAN make a difference in the lives of cans. We CAN DO!

Going into College, Attending College, or Graduating from College?

When I graduated from high school, I was ready to break away and start my new life at college. I wanted to be away from home, meet new people, and begin my journey into adulthood. Although I was itching to escape, there were a lot of things I wasn't ready to leave behind. Christus Victor was one of them.

Of all the small groups and ministries I tried at Gustavus, none of them made me feel like I did at CV. As I have grown in my faith this year, my ability to adapt and change has been one of my biggest struggles. The first time I returned to Christus Victor, I was excited to be back home, to be back where I truly belonged. However, everything seemed different. I no longer felt like it was my home.

I don't think I'm alone here. I think college is a difficult transition for everyone, and I think a small group designed for the college students at CV might make that transition from BOPS, WAPO, and VBS to the real world a little easier. From graduating high school seniors to graduating college seniors, this new group is for everybody who may be struggling with major transitions and changes in their lives. ~Kate Pearson

So here are the finer details:

When: Gatherings will begin on July 2nd and we will meet Wednesdays at 9 pm throughout the summer.

Where: Locations will vary. See the youth board for updates.

What: Discussion of a variety of topics paired with a variety of activities.

Tasty Donations Needed!

It won't be long before Social Ministries will be busy at work with one of our most important and delicious fundraisers of the year! We'll be serving up tasty baked goods, hearty lunches, and a variety of thirst quenching beverages for hungry workers and shoppers alike at the Christus Victor annual garage sale. Proceeds from the garage sale concession stand are an important source of funding for several Social Ministries projects. We use the profits to continue our sponsorship of a student in Tanzania, purchase school supplies for Tanzania students, and purchase food items for our annual Thanksgiving basket ministry.



In order to make this year's concession stand fundraiser a success, Social Ministries is asking for donations of cases of pop and water, juice boxes, snack-sized bags of chips, 20 lb. bags of ice, hot dog buns, and your always popular and delicious baked goods. If you'd like to help out by donating some of these items please sign up at the Information desk in the Narthex. Thank you very much for your generous and continued support of our ministries!

Help lead summer contemporary worship

We need 4-5 people on 2nd and 4th Sundays to help lead the contemporary worship hymns. No experience required, but a good knowledge of the contemporary songs helps! Sign up at the Information desk for any Sunday throughout the summer.



Food shelf item of the month for July is cereal: cold and oatmeal.

May month-end Financial Statement

Balance Sheet

Current Assets	\$81,820.39
Fixed Assets	\$1,442,790.50
Current Liabilities	\$30,181.69
Long Term Liabilities	\$229952.39

Income

Total Budgeted Receipts	\$188,202.30
Total Actual Receipts	\$187,429.45
Difference	\$772.85

Expenses

Total Budgeted Expenses	\$219,302.00
Total Actual Expenses	\$218,474.74
Difference	-\$827.26

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

Redeemed Treasures

2008 Christus Victor Garage Sale

Friday, August 8 4 pm to 8 pm
Saturday, August 9 9 am to 2 pm

- **Early Bird Special:** Pay \$3/family and shop from 3 pm to 4 pm before the official opening on Friday.
- **Attention Volunteers:** Christus Victor volunteers who have worked two hours or more during the week are invited to shop at the Friday afternoon pre-sale from 1 pm to 3 pm.
- **Silent Auction:** A Silent Auction featuring unique items will operate from Friday at 4 pm until Sunday morning at 11 am.

When Can I Drop Off My Items?

Clothing and Small Items: August 3-5 (Sunday, Monday & Tuesday) from 10:30 am to 9 pm and August 6 (Wednesday) from 10:30 am to 6 pm.

Furniture and Large Items: August 7 (Thursday) from 8 am to 6 pm. Limited pick-up service is available. If you can't deliver your large donations, please call the church at 952-454-6927 by Monday, August 4 to make arrangements.

PLEASE NOTE: Because we begin pricing items on Thursday, August 7, we can not accept clothing or small items after Wednesday, August 6 at 6 pm. Garage Sale volunteers reserve the right to refuse any donation for any reason. Thank you for your understanding in these matters.

What Kind of CLEAN & USABLE Items Should I Donate?

Antiques, Baskets, Books, Collectables, Electronics, Furniture, House Wares, Jewelry, Linens, Office Equipment, Seasonal, Sporting Goods, Tools, Toys, Children's Clothing (dresses, two-piece outfits, winter-wear on hangers) and Adult Clothing (suits, dresses, shirts, slacks and coats on hangers.)

How Can I Help?

Please save items and encourage family and friends to contribute to and attend the garage sale. Offer to take items to the church for them. There are extra flyers in the church office – please share them with anybody and everybody! Reselling treasures requires many experts with different skills. Sign-up sheets are located at the Information Desk. Help will be needed during the week of set-up, during the actual garage sale, and during the clean-up. (Anyone who helps clean-up can take any unsold item home with them for free!)

Questions?

Call Treasure Experts Julie McDonald (952-250-1503) and Nancy Erler (952-432-8081).

News

Next Gatherings

Tuesday, August 11th @ 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. (for new SWAT Team members)

Sunday, August 24th @ 12:00 pm in the Youth Room (all SWAT Team members)

Spotlights

The SWAT Team Spotlights will continue again after the first of the year to highlight the next group of senior SWAT Team members.

Summer Trip Update

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, July 13th at 1:00 pm. We'll be meeting at Jillian Pearson's house. Also we'll have two coffee fundraisers planned for July. The first will be on Sunday, July 13th and the second will be on Sunday, July 27th. We'll need to begin set up at 7:00 am and then clean up afterwards at 11:15 am.

Monthly Tip

When leading a small group remember these two important tips:

- Lead the group. Don't let a talkative member take over and divert the conversation.
- Participation is enhanced if each person is encouraged to share something early in the discussion. Once you have heard yourself speak within a group, it is easier to continue sharing. This is particularly important for younger youth, who may be nervous or shy.

Prayer Model of the Month

Pray for Each Other: This is a simple prayer that allow's for everyone to share a prayer request and then have someone else pray for them. Begin by asking that everyone share a concern they would like to have prayed about. As an individual request is made, ask for another person to pray specifically for that request. When the requests are all made take turns praying for each other's petitions.

Brain Teaser of the Month

Two very popular and common objects carry out the same function and yet one of them has thousands of moving parts and the other hasn't any. What are the two objects? -- *Mindtrap 2*

Answer to last month's brain teaser

What is considered by many people in the Western World to be the first transplant?

Answer: Adam's Rib. The rib that the Lord God had taken from Adam he made into a woman, Eve.

Birthdays

Amber Quesenberry July 29th

Up Coming Events

WAPO - July 6th - 11th

VBS - 20th - 24th

The new Bibles are here, talk to Corey if you need to pick your copy up. There's a copy on display at the information desk for you to look at, along with a sheet to order one.

Prices are: Confirmation Students - \$16.50

Non-Confirmation Students - \$20.00

Adults - \$25.00

Retail - \$32.99

News

WAPO

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit...those who mourn...the meek...those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...the merciful...the pure in heart...the peacemakers...those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 5: 3-10 (abbreviated)

This July, 22 youth will be going to WAPO to understand being "Blessed" by God through an unique outdoor ministry experience. Keep them in your prayers as they prepare for camp. Finally a special thank you to the parents and kids who helped out with the fundraisers. Another thank you to the family, friends, and members of the congregation who have supported the kids going to WAPO through fundraising and prayer. Through fundraising, the kids were able to raise about \$2000 to help with the cost of camp.

VBS - July 20th thru July 24th - Son World

Be apart of this adventure where you will learn that making the right choices makes all the difference. This year, to learn more about making the right choices, we'll be participating in service projects in addition to movie clip bible studies and creative activities. Your week will look like this:

Sunday, July 20th - Carnival

Monday, July 21st - Normal VBS (Movie Clip Bible Study, Activity, Game, and Snack)

Tuesday, July 22nd - Host a picnic at the Rosemount Family Resource Center

Wednesday, July 23rd - Normal VBS (Movie Clip Bible Study, Activity, Game, and Snack)

Thursday, July 24th - Feed My Starving Children

More information will be mailed out this month regarding scheduling and help for VBS.

Registrations are due in the church office by Sunday, July 13th. Cost for VBS will be \$10 per child which will go to support the places we serve at.

Up Coming Events

Lock-In - August 15th

Birthdays

Brianna Allen	July 3 rd
Jessica Tappainer	July 14 th

News

Nintendo Wii Night

Even though you can't find one in stores, you can still get all your arm slinging action here at church. Christus Victor is your location for fun with the Wii. Each night will highlight a different game from the church collection including: Wii Sports, Mario Kart, Mario Party, and Super Smash Brothers Brawl. Wii nights will go from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the CV Cinema. Dates are:

Wednesday, July 16th

Wednesday, July 30th

Wednesday, August 13th

Summer Bible Study

Summer bible study will begin on Sunday, July 13th. You can sign up to host at the Youth Board.

Bible study topics have been narrowed down to: 1) The Parables of Jesus, 2) Psalms, or 3) a Book Study on Prince Caspian from the Chronicles of Narnia. Voting is still taking place on the Youth Board.

Lock - In

There will be a lock-in on Friday, August 15th. Right now the plan is to attend a Twins game and then come back to the church for famous church activities. Sign up sheets will go out this month. Cost looks to be \$20 for your Twins ticket and also food back at church.

Mission Trip to Ocean Springs

The gulf coast still needs help rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. Together we can be the hands and feet of Jesus and help the surrounding communities recover from the devastation. There is a sign up sheet located at the Welcome Desk. Youth must be 16 years of age or older to participate in the trip. College students are welcome to participate in the trip. The trip will most likely take place from December 26th - January 2nd. There will need to be at least four individuals committed for the trip to go forward.

Back Packing Trip in the Mountains of Montana - Summer 2009

It's time to sign up for this awesome experience now! We'll begin planning and fundraising in August. The trip will provide opportunities to experience amazing adventures in the outdoors. We have the opportunity to choose adventures to complement the back packing experience. White water rafting and high ropes challenges are a couple examples. Sign up at the Welcome Desk so we can begin our planning. This experience is open to high school and college students.

JULY 2008 CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 1st

6:00PM Casa de Oracion
Bible Study

Wednesday, July 2nd

10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
11:00AM AA Big Book

Thursday, July 3rd

10:00AM Adult Bible Study
7:00PM AA
7:00PM AME Bible Study
7:00PM Alanon

Friday, July 4th

Independence Day

Saturday, July 5th

7:30AM Spanish Leadership Trg.

Sunday, July 6th

Spare Change Sunday
10:00AM Worship
1:00PM Casa De Oracion
4:45PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church

Monday, July 7th

9:30AM AV Women's AA
9:30AM Staff Meeting
6:30PM Communications Mtg.
7:00PM AA Big Book Meeting

Tuesday, July 8th

6:00PM All Staff Meeting
7:00PM All Committee Night

Wednesday, July 9th

10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
11:00AM AA Big Book

Thursday, July 10th

10:00AM Adult Bible Study
5:30PM Marriage Enrichment
7:00PM AA
7:00PM AME Bible Study
7:00PM Alanon

Friday, July 11th

No Events Scheduled

Saturday, July 12th

7:30AM Men's Breakfast
7:30AM Spanish Leadership Trg.

Sunday, July 13th

8:30AM Worship
10:00AM Worship
1:00PM Casa De Oracion
4:45PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church
6:30PM Troop 298 Trailer Clean-up

Monday, July 14th

9:30AM AV Women's AA
9:30AM Staff Meeting
6:15PM Pack 298, Den 8
6:30PM Troop 298 PLC Mtg.
7:00PM AA Big Book Meeting

Tuesday, July 15th

6:00PM Casa de Oracion
Bible Study

Wednesday, July 16th

10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
11:00AM AA Big Book

Thursday, July 17th

Newsletter Deadline
9:45AM AV Mom's Club
10:00AM Adult Bible Study
7:00PM AA
7:00PM AME Bible Study
7:00PM Alanon

Friday, July 18th

VBS Retreat

Saturday, July 19th

VBS Retreat
7:30AM Spanish Leadership Trg.

Sunday, July 20th

VBS Retreat
8:30AM Worship
10:00AM Worship
1:00PM Casa De Oracion
3:00PM VBS Carnival
4:45PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church

Monday, July 21st

9:30AM AV Women's AA
9:30AM Staff Meeting
6:30PM VBS

Tuesday, July 22nd

6:30PM VBS

Wednesday, July 23rd

10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
11:00AM AA Big Book
6:30PM VBS

Thursday, July 24th

10:00AM Adult Bible Study
6:30PM VBS

Friday, July 25th

No Events Scheduled

Saturday, July 26th

7:30AM Spanish Leadership Trg.

Sunday, July 27th

8:30AM Worship
10:00AM VBS Program
1:00PM Casa De Oracion
4:45PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church

Monday, July 28th

9:30AM AV Women's AA
9:30AM Staff Meeting
6:15PM Pack 298, Den 8
7:00PM AA Big Book Meeting

Tuesday, July 29th

6:00PM Casa de Oracion
Bible Study

Wednesday, July 30th

10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
11:00AM AA Big Book Meeting

Thursday, July 31st

10:00AM Adult Bible Study
7:00PM AA
7:00PM AME Bible Study
7:00PM Alanon

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

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Director of Music.....	Anne Nyquist	
Children's Music	Nancy Erler	
Traditional Worship Accompanist/.....	Liz Schuur	
Contemporary Worship Accompanist	Cassi McMayer	
Senior Choir Accompanist	Julie McDonald	
Custodian	Brad Lund	

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