



Voice of Victory

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

7510 Palomino Drive • Apple Valley, MN 55124

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VOLUME 11 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2008



Sundays

8:30 & 11:00 am

Education Hour 9:45 am

Fellowship Hour 9:45am

Alternating between Traditional and Contemporary services.



Family Worship

5:00 PM

Candlelight Worship

11:00 PM



2	Stewardship
3	Adult Activities
4	Choir News/Financials
5	Munchkin Minute
6-8	Youth News
9-10	Ideas for Parents
11	Calendar

Peace in Our Hearts for Christmas

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4: 6-7

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I used to think prayer was asking for what you want, and then waiting for God to answer my prayer the way I wanted. But I need this daily reminder from the Apostle Paul, that when I pray and give thanks to God, I am not given what I want, I am given what God knows I really need, namely His peace in my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

During our Stewardship Drive, "Running the Race," I was praying that in spite of the economic crisis, we would continue to grow in our giving. Anxiety and concern about the future is strong. People in our church family have lost their jobs, have had their salaries cut, and their hours cut. Retirees have had to reassess their retirement after seeing their savings for the future get slashed. And while the election is over (thank the Lord, no more political ads!), there are still large local, national, and international challenges to deal with, that will not be quickly or easily fixed. It is at such a time as this that we need to increase our prayers and our seeking after God in our lives. We need a Messiah, and not one of our own making or design.

Over 2,000 years ago Israel was a little territory called Judea, occupied by the Roman Army, and governed by King Herod, a puppet of the Roman Empire. The Jewish people had been praying to God for a Messiah to come save them and deliver them from their oppressors. They knew what they wanted, but God surprised them by giving them what they really needed, in the form of a little baby born to a virgin named Mary, and they named him Jesus. This baby, whom they called Emmanuel, which means, "God with us," grew up to give his life for the salvation of the whole world. He is Jesus Christ, my savior and Lord. God has already answered our prayers and has given us the Messiah we need, if we will welcome Him into our hearts and lives.

As we prepare to celebrate the greatest gift God has ever given us, please join me in praying for Christ Jesus to come into our hearts and lives anew this Christmas season. I believe God has already given us everything we need to accomplish our ministry and mission of Serving the Lord, with Faith, Love, and Open Arms. With the leadership of the church council, we will together seek to discern God's Will for our church and the next steps we need to take to continue our Gospel work here at Christus Victor (which means, "Christ the Victor!").

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud

RUNNING THE RACE – Stewardship Update!

Huge “THANK YOUS” go out to all of the “coaches” who helped us run the race and get their pledges to the finish line! THANK YOU to everyone who has made a pledge for 2009! If you haven’t turned your pledge in, we would really appreciate that as soon as possible. Thanks to Shane Colin and Matthew Kreutzmann for their hard work and leadership putting this all together!

A little review...In 2007 we committed ourselves to stepping out in faith and stretching in our giving for the next four years. We voted to approve deficit spending in order to Call our new Associate Pastor, Laura Duffee, who came on board over a year ago. The plan was to shrink those deficits down to ZERO by 2010, and get back to balanced budgets. That was the plan.

We knew that with the current economic situation we probably would not see much if any growth in pledging. With about 90% of pledges in, we are estimating that our pledge total for 2009 will be \$456,313. That is compared to \$484,900 in 2008.

Now before you groan, you need to remember that the church council has been very good stewards of your money, putting money aside for future property and capital needs, as well as refinancing our mortgage to make major improvement to our church (THANK YOU LOIS and the Property Committee!!!). Even with a planned budget deficit in 2008 of \$22,435, we will still end the year with savings that can be used for 2009, without touching those funds for capital and property improvements.

At the writing of this article the Church Council is already working on a budget plan for 2009 that we believe, in spite of the economic slump and lower pledges, will shrink our deficit for 2009 while at the same time keeping us on track to continue moving forward with our ministry and mission goals. There will be Town Hall forums in the next two months, prior to our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009** to discuss our proposal and get feedback for our budget in 2009. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of the Church Council members or myself (Pastor Kent).

SABBATICAL – What is Pastor Kent going to do?

“Sabbatical” is rooted in the word “Sabbath,” the day on which the Creator rested from labor, which literally means, “Stop.” “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy,” say the Lord our God, in the Third Commandment.



Sabbath/Sabbatical is a time for Rest, Renewal, Re-Creation, and Devotion. It is a time away from the day to day demands of work. It is a time to “fill up the tank” – of mind, heart, body, soul, and relationships.

THE PLAN... My plan is to begin my Sabbatical in late May 2009 focusing on the topic of “Passing on the Faith.” This topic is of deep personal concern to me and the ministries of not only Christus Victor, but the Christian Church in America. We are not doing a good job of passing on the faith to the next generation, let alone to those who are not Christian.

There are two major pieces of my sabbatical. The first is attending the Male Rites of Passage, led by the Center for Action and Contemplation, in late June. The second is attending the Rocky Mountain Theological Institute’s family camp at Christikon in Montana in late July.

In between I will be attending a variety of other churches worship services to learn what else is being done out there to connect with young people and the un-churched. I will also be meeting with church leaders doing cutting edge research and ministry for young adults, men, and how best to pass on the faith. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me! Call me at 952-454-6927, or email at youthrev@pro-ns.net, or schedule a time to meet with me.

Sabbatical Forum: Sunday, January 18 at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall.



Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study
10:00am 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: Ephesians



Men's Ministry – Holy Band of Brothers
Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 13 8:30am

Please join us for a great breakfast and a time to connect with other men at CV. We will be focusing on a segment from John Eldredge's "EPIC" series. Bring a family member or friend with you! Please sign up at the information desk by Wednesday, Dec. 10! There will be a requested \$5.00 donation cost to cover the food.



Men's Retreat! – Save the dates: Feb. 20-22 at WAPO!!!

Save the date on your calendar and start inviting your friends and brothers in Christ, young and old, to join us for a fun, faith-filled weekend! We will be putting together some broomball teams for the **WAPO Broomball Tournament** that weekend.

*****\$50 deposit can be paid at the Dec 13th breakfast*****

Can you benefit from Care Coordination, a service Lutheran Social Service offers to Minnesota families and individuals?

Are you facing difficult decisions about life without trusted family members to help? ***LSS Care_Coordination brings a trusted decision-maker into your living room to hear your concerns and help you sort through the options.*** When your choices are made, the trusted decision-maker helps make them happen in the way that was planned. Would you like more information? Please call LSS at 651-310-9407.

Can you benefit from the LSS Pooled Trust, a service Lutheran Social Service offers to Minnesota families and individuals?

Is a family member disabled and receiving public benefits? Do you know a disabled person who would benefit from a trust account able to purchase goods and services not provided by the public benefit? ***The LSS Pooled Trust, enables adults of any age with disabilities, their parents, their guardians or the court to set aside money in a low cost pooled trust account to fund the special or supplemental needs of the individual. Trained staff is available to provide social services when necessary to achieve the wishes of the individual.*** Would you like more information? Please call LSS at 651-310-9407.

SCRIP... Are you planning to shop for the Holidays? Scrip is a great way to budget your spending. Order cards for your favorite stores today and enjoy the holiday with family and friends worry free. Please contact Samantha Matthys at 952-431-6128 if you have ?'s.

Choirs at MOA

On **Sunday, December 21st at 4:00 PM** the Senior Choir and Upward Call will be performing at the Mall of America. We have two pastors soloing with the choirs this year, Pastor Laura and Rev. Smith with the AME Church. Come and hear wonderful music from the choirs!



TIME FOR CHRISTMAS BAND!!!!!!!

Attention all current band members or former band members who still own a horn! It's time to get set for "Christmas Band." We play on **Sunday, Dec. 21st at the 8:30 A.M. service**. We will practice two times for this wonderful event and then we'll play. Practice times are as follows:

- Sunday, Dec. 14th: noon (or whenever church lets out) - 1:15 P.M.
- Saturday, Dec. 20th: 10:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Both practices will be held in the sanctuary. If you have a fold up stand at home, bring it along! You need to attend at least one practice, coming to both would be even better!

Music will be available on Sunday, Nov. 28th between services and on Sunday, Dec. 7th between services. See me.

You need to be in at least 7th grade to be able to play the music we are playing. If you are an amazing 6th grade player you can try it, but most of it is pretty hard for 6th grade.

I'd like to see, and hear the LARGEST church band ever, so plan on coming. I have music for everyone if it's a band instrument. Plan ahead!

Happy Holidays!
Anne



Food shelf items for the month of December are
Spaghetti sauce and noodles



October month-end
Financial Statement

<u>Balance Sheet</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Current Assets	\$163,978.79	Total Budgeted Receipts	\$397,710.30
Fixed Assets	\$1,442,790.50	Total Actual Receipts	\$396,874.22
		Difference	-\$836.08
		<u>Expenses</u>	
Current Liabilities	\$49,298.37	Total Budgeted Expenses	\$428,133.80
Long Term Liabilities	\$351,112.07	Total Actual Expenses	\$428,794.18
		Difference	\$660.38

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

A VERY EXTRAORDINARY MERRY CHRISTMAS MISSION

Sunday, December 21st 11:00 am

What is the true meaning of Christmas? A group of children learn the answer to this question in this year's play featuring Faith Trek, JIFY and the preschool and kindergarten classes. Please join us on Sunday, December 21st at the 11:00 am service for music, laughs, and fun. Mark your calendars and come to support our talented children as they share the Christmas message.

Calling all children, parents and grandparents

We are having an intergenerational family event! Please join us for a presentation of "Peef, the Christmas Bear". This wonderful children's book has been turned into a play and is being held at Stages Theater in Hopkins, a theater of amazing child actors. We are planning to go on **Saturday, December 6 at 1pm**. We will meet at church earlier and carpool to the theater. This is a family event, so if your child is going, a parent must go with. Tickets are \$10.50. Please sign up at the information desk by Sunday, Nov. 30. Feel free to invite family and friends that don't go to CV, as well.

Munchkin Minute

This Munchkin Minute will be more fun being read to the tune of *Santa Clause is Coming to Town!*

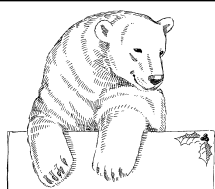
Oh, you'd better watch out
 You may be asking "Why?"
 Get out your Sponge Bob bibs
 'Cause the cute is gonna fly
 Seeing angels in the Christmas Program.

On December 21st
 At eleven O clock
 The Pre's and the K's
 Will be wearing white smocks
 Being angels in the Christmas Program

They might seem kind of little
 But love isn't measured in feet
 Just watch them as they sing and smile
 And see that goodness is just within reach.

Oh, Christmas time is great
 Christmas time is fun
 Our God has shown His love
 By what He has begun
 Giving angels in the Christmas Program!

Merry Christmas, Everyone!
 Doug



2nd Annual Polar Express Movie Night
@ CV Cinema

Friday December 5th 6:30pm -9pm
 (maybe a little later to finish the movie)

Lots of popcorn and refreshments "Hot... Hot Chocolate!!!"

All kids welcome ages 4yrs – 5th grade
 Parents feel free to drop yours kids off and get some shopping done or stay & enjoy the movie too.

Good will offering and/or food shelf donation encouraged

Confirmation - *Wednesdays at 6:00pm, in the Youth Room*

Dec 3rd - Class

Dec 10th - Class

Dec 17th - Small Group Fellowship Events

Dec 24th - No Confirmation/Christmas Eve

Dec 31st - No Confirmation/New Year's Eve

DeKaf - *Sundays at 9:45am, in the Youth Room*

Dec 7th - Class with Dawn

Dec 14th - Class with Warren & Dawn

Dec 21st - Christmas Party

Dec 28th - No Class/Christmas

Up Coming Events

Lock-In - January 16th & 17th

Minnesota Wild Game - February 6th

Birthdays

No December Birthdays

High School Information

Up Coming Events

Lock-In - December 5th & 6th

Minnesota Wild Game - February 6th

WAPO Broomball Tournament - February 21st

Youth Group - *Wednesdays at 8:00pm, in the Youth Room*

Dec 3rd - Dog & Bone

Dec 10th - Rocket Race

Dec 17th - Link Tag

Dec 24th - No Youth Group/Christmas Eve

Dec 31st - No Youth Group/New Year's Eve

Birthdays

Dan Berg	December 1 st
Lynnae Hedin-Kuster	December 7 th
Colleen Reutter	December 26 th

Bible Study - *Sundays at 9:45am, in the Office*

Dec 7th - Breakfast @ The Original Pancake House

Dec 14th - Revelations Bible Study

Dec 21st - Revelations Bible Study

Dec 28th - No Bible Study/Christmas Holiday

SWAT TEAM

Next Gatherings

Sunday, December 14th @ 12:00pm in the Youth Room (Group Bonding)

Sunday, January 18th @ 12:00pm in the Youth Room (Distractions)

Monthly Tip

Many people feel excluded in groups because of their personalities or their social skills. It's important to identify ways that included everyone in your specific ministry. Find ways to discover and make the most of everyone's individual gifts and abilities in order to create a strong group. Often, people in your ministry are waiting for an opportunity to serve God and all they need is a chance to shine. Even though we are all different in personality and bring different gifts to the table, we can come together to accomplish great things for God! Besure to go out of your way this month to include all the kids that you minister to. It may be the difference they need in their lives.

Images from the High School Halloween Party!



Reflections from the WAPO Service Retreat

Splitting, Hauling, and Stacking Oh My!





ideas for parents

Easy Ways to Build Assets for and with Your Child

FAST FACTS

ASSET #40: Positive View of Personal Future

Youth are more likely to grow up healthy when they are optimistic about their personal future.

74%

of youth surveyed by Search Institute have this asset in their lives.*

What Are Assets?

Assets are 40 values, experiences, and qualities that help kids succeed. "Positive view of personal future" is one of four positive-identity assets.

* Based on Search Institute surveys of 217,277 6th- to 12th-grade youth throughout the United States during the 1999-2000 school year.

A Reason to Hope

Viktor Frankl is a man who could have lost all hope.

During World War II, Frankl was imprisoned in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz. His father, mother, brother, and wife all died in Auschwitz or similar camps. But after living through three degrading years of torture, Frankl was released at the end of the war.

Frankl wrote *Man's Search for Meaning* based on his experience. In that book, he tells why he continued to be optimistic about the future despite the horrible, inhuman conditions he lived in.

His book continues to provide a source of hope for people in difficult, seemingly hopeless situations. His words of wisdom include:

- "There is nothing in the world, I venture to say, that would so effectively help one to survive even the worst conditions, as the knowledge that there is meaning in one's life."
- "He [or she] who has a *why* to live for can bear with almost any *how*."
- "Everything can be taken from a [person] but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

Although very few if any of us will ever experience the horrifying life of a concentration camp, Frankl's experience reveals the importance of hope. An optimistic, hopeful attitude gives children the courage to venture forward, to make plans, to dream, and to live with the belief that they can accomplish their dreams.



time together

Three ways to help your child become more optimistic about the future:

1. React positively when your child tells you her or his dreams—no matter how far-fetched or unreachable they may seem. Together choose one way to make a dream a reality.
2. Point out hopeful signs that you see when you're out and about, watching the television or a movie, or reading the newspaper. Encourage your child to do the same. One family clips articles about good things people are doing to improve the world.
3. Think about your own hope and manage your own mental health. You'll be a role model for your child.

Think and Do

At home focus on solutions instead of problems. Identify areas of hope in difficult situations. Be creative, adjust, and be flexible as you create new ways to deal with old problems.

A Checklist for Developing a Positive Outlook



People who have hope are people willing to tackle new challenges. They keep moving forward because they expect good things to happen. Dr. Ann Kaiser Stearns, professor of psychology and the author of *Coming Back: Rebuilding Lives after Crisis and Loss*, says there are four important ways of thinking in order to have a positive attitude:

1. When things don't go your way, that's okay.
2. You can have control over most of the circumstances in life that can cause you unhappiness.
3. You can depend on yourself.
4. The past doesn't define you, but your attitudes, actions, and values do.

In research on people who overcome difficult odds and have hope for the future, she found they have a number of traits. Check those your child has:

- Your child looks for inspirational role models.
- Your child takes advantage of opportunities.
- Your child dares to dream but is realistic about those dreams.
- Your child can search relentlessly for answers when obstacles appear.
- Your child thinks about the future more often than about the past.

Quick Tip:
Make a conscious choice to be optimistic.

talk together

- Questions to discuss with your child:
- What excites you about the future? What scares you?
 - What age do you think is the perfect age? Why?
 - Why does it matter how we feel about the future?

More Help for Parents

The Optimistic Child by Martin E. P. Seligman et al. This book provides useful information and good examples for teaching children to think positively. (Published by Harper Perennial.)

FINAL WORD

“In the presence of strong values and of ambition, [optimism] is the tool that makes both individual accomplishment and social justice possible.”

—Martin E. P. Seligman, Ph.D.

DECEMBER 2008 CALENDAR

Monday, December 1, 2008

9:30AM Women's AM AA Mtg.
7:00PM Valley Big Book Mtg.

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

6:00PM Casa de Oracion
Bible Study

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
3:00PM Senior Connection
5:30PM Youth Choir
6:00PM JIFY
6:00PM Confirmation
7:00PM Upward Call
8:00PM Sr. Choir

Thursday, December 4, 2008

10:00AM Adult Bible Study
6:00PM Adult Class
7:00PM AA Mtg.
7:00PM AME Bible Study
7:00PM Alanon Mtg.

Friday, December 5, 2008

8:00AM AA Group Mtg.
6:00PM High School Lock-In
6:30PM Polar Express Night

Saturday, December 6, 2008

7:30AM Spanish Leadership
Training
9:00AM High School Lock-In
(Ends)
1:00PM AME Church Quarterly
Mtg.

Sunday, December 7, 2008

Spare Change
8:30AM Worship
9:45AM Coffee Hour
9:45AM Education/Fellowship
11:00AM Worship
12:15PM Sunday Brunch Guide/
SWAT Team Huddle
1:00PM Casa De Oracion
3:30PM AME Sunday School
4:45PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church
6:00PM Troop 298 PLC Mtg.
6:30PM Spirit Bound
7:00PM Troop 298 Mtg.

Monday, December 8, 2008

9:30AM Women's AM AA Mtg.
4:00PM Girl Scout Troop 50933
7:00PM Girl Scout Troop 52737
7:00PM Valley Big Book Mtg.

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

8:00AM Life Line Screening
6:00PM All Staff Mtg.
7:00PM All Committee Night
7:00PM Troop 345 Parent Mtg.

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
5:30PM Youth Choir
6:00PM JIFY
6:00PM Confirmation
7:00PM Upward Call
8:00PM Sr. Choir

Thursday, December 11, 2008

10:00AM Adult Bible Study
6:00PM Adult Class
7:00PM AA Mtg.
7:00PM AME Bible Study
7:00PM Alanon Mtg.

Friday, December 12, 2008

8:00AM AA Group Mtg.

Saturday, December 13, 2008

7:30AM Spanish Leadership
Training
8:30AM Men's Breakfast

Sunday, December 14, 2008

8:30AM Worship
9:45AM Education/Fellowship
11:00AM Worship
12:00PM Church Band Rehearsal
1:00PM Casa De Oracion
3:30PM AME Sunday School
4:45PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church
6:30PM Spirit Bound

Monday, December 15, 2008

9:30AM Women's AM AA Mtg.
7:00PM Tanzania Partnership Mtg.
7:00PM Valley Big Book Mtg.

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

6:00PM Casa de Oracion
Bible Study
7:00PM Council Mtg.

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Confirmation – Small Group Fellowship
Events
9:30AM MOM's Club of AV
10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
6:00PM JIFY Christmas Party
7:00PM Upward Call
8:00PM Sr. Choir

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Newsletter Deadline

10:00AM Adult Bible Study
6:00PM Adult Class
7:00PM AA Mtg.
7:00PM TEC
7:00PM AME Bible Study
7:00PM Alanon Mtg.

Friday, December 19, 2008

8:00AM AA Group Mtg.

Saturday, December 20, 2008

7:30AM Spanish Leadership
Training
8:30AM Children's Christmas
Program Rehearsal &
Church Band

Sunday, December 21, 2008

8:30AM Worship
9:45AM Coffee Hour
9:45AM Education/Fellowship
11:00AM Children's Program
1:00PM Casa De Oracion
3:30PM AME Sunday School
4:45PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church

Monday, December 22, 2008

9:30AM Women's AM AA Mtg.
7:00PM Girl Scout Troop 52737
7:00PM Valley Big Book Mtg.

Tuesday, December 23, 2008

6:00PM Casa de Oracion
Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

10:00AM Women's Reflection AA
5:00PM Traditional Family
Christmas Eve Worship
11:00PM Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Church Office Closed
7:00PM AA Mtg.
7:00PM Alanon Mtg.

Friday, December 26, 2008

8:00AM AA Group Mtg.

Saturday, December 27, 2008

7:30AM Spanish Leadership
Training

Sunday, December 28, 2008

8:30AM Worship
9:45AM Education/Fellowship
11:00AM Worship
1:00PM Casa De Oracion
3:30PM AME Sunday School
4:45PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church

Monday, December 29, 2008

9:30AM Women's AM AA Mtg.
7:00PM Valley Big Book Mtg.

Tuesday, December 30, 2008

6:00PM Casa de Oracion
Bible Study

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

No Confirmation
10:00AM Women's Reflection AA

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Contemporary Worship Accompanist.....	CASSI McMAYER	
Senior Choir Accompanist.....	JULIE McDONALD	
Custodian.....	BRAD LUND	

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