



Voice of Victory

Christus Victor Lutheran Church
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VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011



Sundays
8:30 & 11:00 am
Education Hour 9:45 am
Fellowship Hour 9:45am
Alternating between
Traditional and
Contemporary Services

Page 3-4 Annual Meeting / Events
Page 5-6 5th Annual Baskets of Love
Page 7 Financials
Page 8 Youth
Page 9 January Calendar



Change or die: Putting the Big Rocks in First

Perhaps you've heard the story of the professor who placed a big jar in front of class, and then started filling it up with some big rocks. He asked the class was the jar full? They said, "yes." Then he put in medium sized rocks that fell between the big rocks. Again he asked the class was the jar full? Again, most of the class said, "yes," but some hesitated. Then he poured in some sand which fell between the cracks of the big and medium sized rocks. He asked the class again, was the jar full? Now most of the class hesitated. Then he took out a pitcher of water and poured it into the jar. Now, he said, the jar is full. "*The hard part is,*" he went on to explain, "*figuring out which are the big rocks (the most important things in life), from those that are of medium importance, and those many small things that distract us and take up most of our time, attention, and energy. Always put the BIG ROCKS in first!*" **Our challenge for the coming year at CV is to set budget and ministry priorities!**

When John the Baptist proclaimed, "*Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near,*" he was calling us to change our thinking/attitudes and to change our living/actions, so that our whole lives may be aligned to welcome in God's Kingdom. Jesus said, "***Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.***" Jesus calls us to answer the question: in God's Kingdom, what are the BIG ROCKS? And, are we putting the BIG ROCKS in first, through our attitudes, actions, and the use of our time, talents, and treasures? Or have we filled our lives and our church with medium sized rocks and small pebbles, pouring water over it (blessing it) and calling it good enough?

As we address another budget deficit for 2011, we will need to again ask the question: WHAT are the BIG ROCKS, and are we putting those things first, before those medium and small priority things? We will also focus on HOW are we going to put in those BIG ROCKS first in terms of the time and effort of our committees, lay leaders, the church members, and the staff? Honest reflection and feedback, evaluation and prioritizing, and finding the tools and resources will help us on the way.

A Task Force already met to start brainstorming ideas to help us address our budget deficit for 2011. Our first step was to clarify what the current situation really is, not just in terms of the budget, but in terms of the "why" we are in this situation. So, what's going on? 1) Many people are unemployed, or significantly underemployed, as well as facing other financial difficulties because of health issues and pending lay-offs; 2) Some families have moved or withheld giving because of the ELCA vote to allow congregations to bless same-sex relationships and call gay clergy in committed relationships; 3) We have seen stagnant growth for the past four to five years; 4) We have ministry areas that are not as healthy, vibrant, or effective as they should or need to be.

Continued on page two

Continued from page one

We then quickly developed a list of budget priorities and identified areas that could be reduced or cut, and then funded or accomplished in other ways, while keeping focused on our CORE MINISTRY and MISSION (the BIG ROCKS). With the committees and church leadership, we identified a number of areas to reduce or cut, made budget adjustments, and deferred some expenditures to 2012. We will be asking all the members of the congregation to make small but widespread increases in giving, and together we will reduce the deficit to a reasonable and manageable level for 2011. But what about the **BIG ROCKS** of our ministry and mission?

Well, the BIG ROCKS **are not**: specific programs or activities, committees, groups, staff, or people in the church.

The **BIG ROCKS are** the following **8 quality characteristics** of healthy, growing congregations:

- EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP
- GIFT ORIENTED MINISTRY
- PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY
- FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURES
- INSPIRING WORSHIP SERVICES
- HOLISTIC SMALL GROUPS
- NEED-ORIENTED EVANGELISM
- LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

Notice that these 8 quality characteristics describe practices, habits, and attitudes that are reflected in the programs, activities, groups, staff, and members of the congregation, not the other way around. The organization, "[Natural Church Development](#)," has been doing research and working with over 60,000 churches around the world on improving these 8 quality characteristics of their congregations, and the results have been impressive. This is not a program, but a way of reflecting, evaluating, and prioritizing the ministry and mission of the church. It is not a quick fix, but a way of seeking on-going growth, improvement, and health for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the spiritual growth to maturity of Christ's disciples.

Change is hard. Change is natural and unavoidable. Yet, we do avoid it at almost any cost, even given the ultimatum, "[Change or die!](#)" So God sends us prophets like John the Baptist, to prepare the way, "*Repent (CHANGE), for the kingdom of heaven is near!*" Or when we are confronted with another budget deficit, God uses that to wake us up for the need to change, to re-evaluate, to re-commit ourselves to improving our ministry and mission that God has given to us; because for Christus Victor, if we don't change, it will probably not be immediate "death," but a slow progression unto "death" by having to cut staff and cut ministries because we didn't change what we needed to change for the growth and health of the ministry, mission, and most importantly, the spiritual growth of the disciples of our church and community.

I much prefer playing around with "small rocks," because it gives me the illusion that I am in control, that what I want to focus my time, talents, and treasures on is ultimately important. But when circumstances make me focus on the BIG ROCKS, I realize I'm not in control, and that I need to pray, a lot, and to give control over to God, and then follow where He leads, even if that means "repenting/changing" for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, there you have it, we've got to change, we've got to repent, for the Kingdom of God has come near! Repent, change, and believe the Good News, for Christ Jesus is calling us to follow him!

Peace in Christ - Pastor Kent

CV Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 30 following the 11:00am service!

Agenda Items:

- Church Constitution Updates – Town Hall forum on Sunday, Jan. 23 at 9:45am. We need to update our Church Constitution – to be in line with the ELCA model constitution.
- 2011 Budget Approval
- Elect new Council Members
- Preview of Ministry Evaluation and Growth Process
- Committee Accomplishments and Goals

*** We will have activities, lunch, and nursery for young children and kids ***
so parents can attend the Annual Meeting!



Camp Sunday – January 30



Snow-mageddon has arrived at our door steps early this year with the recent Snow-nami. Therefore a healthy dose of the Holy Spirit is needed stat, to steer use through doldrums of winter. Kicking off the New Year and infusing more BTU’s in the Sanctuary, **Camp Sunday, January 30th**, will bring a new energy to a typical Sunday morning! We’ll have food, camp registrations, your favorite camp songs and camp activities for all ages. It’s an event worthy to pull you out of mid-winter hibernation and cure your cabin fever. If you’re pondering the specifics, you’ll just have to wait till after we’re done celebrating the hope and birth of our Lord and Savior. A stationary front is developing after Christmas waiting to dump 17+” of details. So have your “shovel” ready and prepare yourself to jump through the window so you can be a part of the warm crackling fire that is Camp Sunday!



SUNDAY ADULT FORUMS 2010-2011

Join us for the upcoming Sunday adult forums in the Fellowship Hall!

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 16 at 9:45am - \$5/person

Biology and Belief: Conversations in Faith and Science

Six Sundays with some of the best minds of science and faith research to help us unravel some perplexing and challenging issues of Faith and Science.

- Science vs. Belief?
- Ethics of stem cell research
- Intelligent Design in Biology
- Faith, Farming, and the Care of Animals
- Brain, Consciousness, and the Soul
- God After Darwin: Evolution and Divine Providence

Coming in the spring –

When the Game Is Over It All Goes Back in the Box

RECHARGE – It’s for ALL OF GOD’S CHILDREN, young and old!

On Wednesday nights starting at 7:22pm, the spiritual energy level rises as kids and adults gather in the sanctuary for a mid-week spiritual recharge. It is a time for singing, laughter, prayer, praise, reflection, learning, giving, confessing our faith, and focusing our attention on God’s presence in our lives through Jesus Christ.

If you need a spiritual boost, **come to RECHARGE!**

If you are going to be gone on Sunday, **come to RECHARGE!**

If you like to sing, **come to RECHARGE!**

If you are not sure about this whole church and God thing, but are curious, **come to RECHARGE!**

January & February RECHARGE Schedule:

Jan. 5, 12, 19, and 26

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

MEN'S MINISTRY

Monthly Saturday Breakfasts – 8:30am at church. Sign-up ahead of time so we have enough food! We also need more men to partner as the Chiefs for each breakfast. Chiefs coordinate the menu, buying food, recruit cooks, and help with the set-up and clean-up. Talk to Pastor Kent if you are willing to be a Chief.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Leaders</u>
Jan. 8	MENTORING (DVD)	Scott Thureen and Perry Lynum
	*** After the breakfast – Christmas Tree Take Down!!! ***	
Feb. 5	TBA	(_____ and _____)
Mar. 5	TBA	(_____ and _____)
Apr. 2	TBA	(_____ and _____)



LSS Ambassadors Needed!

Lutheran Social Service invites congregations to partner with LSS to serve the most vulnerable members of our communities.

What is an Ambassador? An LSS Ambassador is a member of a church who serves as a liaison between LSS and the church.

What do they do? The primary role of the Ambassador is to discover opportunities for service, advocacy, and congregational giving in support of LSS and to communicate these opportunities to the congregation.

What is the commitment? Ambassadors will attend a 2 ½ hour weekday evening orientation and a 4 hour training retreat held on a Saturday or Sunday with Ambassadors from other area ELCA congregations. After that the Ambassador will connect with an LSS staff person once every other month, by phone or in person, to provide leadership and communication in the congregation in partnership with LSS.

For more information, please contact Pastor Kent at 952-454-6927 or pastor.kent@christusvictor.org.



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 and the life of faith. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, just a willingness to read, ask questions, and learn. Just show up at 10:00 am on Thursday mornings, we'll provide the coffee!

Current Focus: the Gospel of John



TUESDAY MORNING TAI CHI

Join Pastor Kent on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall for 45 minutes of Tai Chi Exercise. Tai Chi is the oldest form of Chinese Martial Arts, focusing on stretching, balance, and deep breathing. No experience necessary. Just show up in loose, comfortable clothes, or call Pastor Kent for more information, 952-454-6927.

E-DEVOTIONALS – We have a daily e-devotional 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 pastor.kent@christusvictor.org. 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.

MEN'S WINTER RETREAT & BROOMBALL AT WAPO

Feb. 25-27

PUT THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR & INVITE A FRIEND TO COME! We have a great time at WAPO as a Holy Band of Brothers. There are discussions, movies, fun, fellowship, music, great food, and of course the Broomball Tournament on Saturday! Find your helmets or your "vuvuzelas" to cheer us on! Sign-up at the information desk!



Baskets of Love – February 6, 2011



On Sunday, February 6, we will hold our ***Fifth Annual Baskets of Love*** where we will celebrate our connections with our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic and Tanzania during both worship services and at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall with a silent auction.

New this year, proceeds will help fund the Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic March 26 through April 3. Your eleven-member DR Mission team includes: ***Brian Baty, Rick Buffie, Denny Kneller, Valerie Kneller, Jody McDermott-Baty, Julie McDonald, Cassie McMayer, Steve Nierengarten, Terry Pearson, Alana Thureen and Scott Thureen.***

We again need the generosity of our members and ministries teams of Christus Victor to volunteer to fill a basket, box, or crate with special stuff for auction. In the DR, they are very resourceful and will use anything as container, so we are using that as our theme this year!

You are also invited to come February 6th and bid on these wonderfully creative items.

If you have any questions, ask a member of the CV Mission Committee or contact KC Claussen Gubrud at 612-722-2896 or email her at kcgkcg@msn.com.

Your CV Mission Committee,

***Diana Buffie - Barb Damlo - KC Claussen Gubrud - Malisa Kruetzmann - Jody McDermott-Baty
Paula Nierengarten - Terry Pearson - Audrey Smith - Dawn Youngner***



Baskets of Love - Donation Form



Action Steps

1. Choose a theme for your donation. Contact any Mission Committee member for ideas or inspiration.
2. Fill a container or basket or box.
3. Complete this Donation Form (see below).
4. Bring your Donation and Donation Form to church by **1/30/2011**.
5. Come celebrate with us on **2/6/2011**.

Donor Name: _____

(This name will appear on the bidding form. It could be your name, your committee name, a group or anonymous.)

Description of Donation: _____

Retail Price: \$ _____

(We list the retail price on the bidding form and use it to determine the starting bid. The rule of thumb is to start bids at 50% of the retail price.)

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

(Who should we contact with questions about this donation?)

Got Questions? Call KC Claussen Gubrud at 612-722-2896 or email her at kcgkcg@msn.com.



November month-end

Financial Statement

<u>Balance Sheet</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Current Assets	\$128,860.98	Total Budgeted Receipts	\$398,334.00
Fixed Assets	\$1,555,733.34	Total Actual Receipts	\$383,249.61
		Difference	-\$15,084.39
		<u>Expenses</u>	
Current Liabilities	\$39,439.27	Total Budgeted Expenses	\$444,381.00
Long Term Liabilities	\$317,868.97	Total Actual Expenses	\$432,892.02
		Difference	-\$11,488.98

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



Social Ministries would like to collectively say “WOW” and many thanks to everyone who so enthusiastically responded and contributed their time, talents, and money to our Thanksgiving baskets project this year. We could not have reached 225 families without the help of members of Christus Victor, Lily of the Valley, Casa de Oracion, Thrivent Financial, and Cub Foods- what a wonderful team!

The morning we put together and gave out the baskets was filled with joy and truly a sight to behold. Families, friends, and tiny tots to grandparents were all there to pitch in and make a difference. Happy, shiny, smiling people were *everywhere* in a sea of movement: putting together boxes, unloading the truck, sorting and stacking mass quantities of food, filling boxes, coloring thanksgiving pictures, hauling the heavy baskets all the way down the hall, greeting basket recipients, and carrying the baskets out the door for folks. Most importantly, on the receiving end were more happy, shiny, smiling people who came to pick up their baskets and express heartfelt thanks for providing the means to make their Thanksgiving one to be truly thankful for. The loving, committed, connected atmosphere that surrounded us throughout the morning was palpable and glorious; God’s presence was truly everywhere.

We of Social Ministries feel truly blessed; our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your participation in this joyful ministry!



Food shelf items for January:
 Canned soups and vegetables

Youth Ministry

CAMP SUNDAY - JANUARY 30TH

Snowmageddon has arrived at our door steps early this year with the recent Snownami. Therefore a healthy dose of the Holy Spirit is needed stat, to steer use through doldrums of winter. Kicking off the new year and infusing more BTU's in the Sanctuary, Camp Sunday, January 30th, will bring a new energy to a typical Sunday morning! We'll have food, camp registrations, your favorite camp songs and camp activities for all ages. It's an event worthy to pull you out of mid-winter hibernation and cure your cabin fever. If you're pondering the specifics, you'll just have to wait till after we're done celebrating the hope and birth of our Lord and Savior. A stationary front is developing after Christmas waiting to dump 17+" of details. So have your "shovel" ready and prepare yourself to jump through the window so you can be a part of the warm crackling fire that is Camp Sunday!

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Up Coming Events

Minnesota Wild Game - January 14th
 Middle School Lock-In - March 18th

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

Jan 5th - Group Service Project to FMSC (5:30pm @ CV)
 Jan 12th - Class: The Passion and Resurrection
 Jan 19th - Class: The Great Commission
 Jan 26th - Class: Apostles' Creed - The Holy Spirit
 Feb 2nd - Parent & Youth Potluck/Discussion
 Feb 9th - Small Group Fellowship Events

Birthdays

Rachel Odden	January 19 th
Julie Manning	January 30 th

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

Jan 2nd - Class with Dawn
 Jan 9th - Class with Corey
 Jan 16th - Class with Warren
 Jan 23rd - Arby's
 Jan 30th - Class with Dawn

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Up Coming Events

Minnesota Wild Game - January 14th
 30 Hour Famine - February 4th & 5th

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

Jan 5th - Dog & Bone
 Jan 12th - Pictionary
 Jan 19th - In Church Scavenger Hunt
 Jan 26th - Strobe Light Party
 Feb 2nd - Relaxation Night
 Feb 9th - Night of Mario Kart (Wii/Game Cube/N64)

Birthdays

Alicia Skogen	January 6 th
Evan Mathieson	January 7 th
Natalie Hanson	January 7 th
Jerod Franciscus	January 10 th
Sabrina DiNella	January 12 th

Sunday Connections - Sundays at 9:45am

Jan 2nd - Connections
 Jan 9th - Connections
 Jan 16th - Connections
 Jan 23rd - Connections
 Jan 30th - Connections

JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR

Saturday, January 1, 2011

12:00 AM Casa de Oracion
7:30 AM Casa de Oracion

Sunday, January 2, 2011

9:30 AM Worship
1:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church
4:45 PM AME Worship

Monday, January 3, 2011

9:30 AM Women's AM AA Mtg.
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 50933
6:30 PM Pack 293/Den 5
7:00 PM Valley Big Book Mtg.

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 345
6:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

10:00 AM Women's Reflection AA Group
5:30 PM Confirmation
6:00 PM JIFY
7:22 PM Recharge Worship
8:00 PM High School Youth Group
8:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 6, 2011

10:00 AM Adult Bible Study
6:00 PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church Bible Study
7:00 PM Valley Step AA Group
7:00 PM Alanon

Friday, January 7, 2011

8:00 AM AA Group Mtg.
6:00 PM Peace of Mind NA Mtg.

Saturday, January 8, 2011

7:30 AM Casa de Oracion
1:00 PM Glewwe Baby Shower

Sunday, January 9, 2011

8:30 AM Worship
9:45 AM Education/Fellowship Hour
9:45 AM Upward Call Rehearsal
11:00 AM Worship
1:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church
4:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church
4:45 PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church Worship
5:30 PM Troop 298 Committee Mtg.
6:30 PM ROCK Band

Monday, January 10, 2011

9:30 AM Women's AM AA Mtg.
7:00 PM Valley Big Book Mtg.
7:00 PM Troop 298 ASM Mtg.

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 345
6:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church
6:00 PM All Staff Meeting
7:00 PM All Committee Night

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

10:00 AM Women's Reflection AA Group
6:00 PM Confirmation
6:00 PM JIFY
7:22 PM Recharge Worship
8:00 PM High School Youth Group
8:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 13, 2011

10:00 AM Adult Bible Study
6:00 PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church Bible Study
7:00 PM Valley Step AA Group
7:00 PM Alanon

Friday, January 14, 2011

8:00 AM AA Group Mtg.
5:30 PM MN Wild Game
6:00 PM Peace of Mind NA Mtg.

Saturday, January 15, 2011

7:30 AM Casa de Oracion

Sunday, January 16, 2011

8:30 AM Worship
9:45 AM Education/Fellowship Hour
11:00 AM Worship
1:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church
4:45 PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church Worship
6:30 PM ROCK Band

Monday, January 17, 2011

9:30 AM Women's AM AA Mtg.
6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 50933
6:30 PM Pack 293/Den 5
7:00 PM Valley Big Book Mtg.

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 345
6:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

9:30 AM AV Mom's Club South
10:00 AM Women's Reflection AA Group
6:00 PM Confirmation
6:00 PM JIFY
7:22 PM Recharge Worship
8:00 PM High School Youth Group
8:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Newsletter Article Deadline
10:00 AM Adult Bible Study
6:00 PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church Bible Study
7:00 PM TEC Mtg.
7:00 PM Valley Step AA Group
7:00 PM Alanon

Friday, January 21, 2011

8:00 AM AA Group Mtg.
6:00 PM Peace of Mind NA Mtg.

Saturday, January 22, 2011

7:30 AM Casa de Oracion Church

Sunday, January 23, 2011

8:30 AM Worship
9:45 AM Education/Fellowship Hour
9:45 AM Upward Call Rehearsal
11:00 AM Worship
1:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church
4:45 PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church Worship
6:00 PM Troop 298 PLC Mtg.
6:30 PM ROCK Band
7:00 PM Troop 298 Mtg.

Monday, January 24, 2011

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

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 345
6:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church
7:00 PM Council Mtg.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

10:00 AM Women's Reflection AA Group
5:30 PM Confirmation
6:00 PM JIFY
7:22 PM Recharge Worship
8:00 PM High School Youth Group
8:00 PM Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 27, 2011

10:00 AM Adult Bible Study
6:00 PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church Bible Study
7:00 PM Valley Step AA Group
7:00 PM Alanon

Friday, January 28, 2011

Sr. Choir Retreat
8:00 AM AA Group Mtg.
6:00 PM Peace of Mind NA Mtg.

Saturday, January 29, 2011

Sr. Choir Retreat
7:30 AM Casa de Oracion

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Sr. Choir Retreat
8:30 AM Worship
9:45 AM Education/Fellowship Hour
11:00 AM Worship
12:00 PM Annual Mtg.
1:00 PM Casa de Oracion Church
4:45 PM Lily of the Valley
AME Church Worship
6:30 PM ROCK Band

Monday, January 31, 2011

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

CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
7510 PALOMINO DRIVE ☩ APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124 ☩ 952-454-6927
www.christusvictor.org

Christus Victor Office Staff

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Nursery Care Provider.....	BRIANNA ALLEN	
Nursery Care Provider.....	Sarah Youngner	
Director of Music.....	Anne Nyquist	
Children's Music.....	NANCY ERLER	
Traditional Worship Accompanist/Organist	LIZ SCHUUR	
Contemporary Worship Accompanist.....	JULIE McDONALD	
Senior Choir Accompanist.....	JULIE McDONALD	

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