



# Christus Victor Lutheran Church

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## Voice of Victory

Volume 23, Issue 4 May 2020

***“Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”***

(Joshua 1: 9)

Dear Friends in Christ at Christus Victor,

I want to start by simply saying how much I miss you all! This has been such a challenging and difficult situation for all of us, and each of us has been impacted differently. I, for one, did not imagine, as we quickly shifted our worship and ministries online, that our face-to-face worship on Sunday, March 15, was going to be our last for a long time. It seems like a year ago to me.

As the emergency Stay at Home orders went into effect across our country and state, our staff and dedicated lay leaders rapidly pooled their creativity and technical knowhow to offer excellent online worship, classes, meetings, and Bible study, as well as phone conference calls to help us **Be the Church Together** online. A Care Team was formed to regularly call on those in our congregation who may be alone and isolated, or in need of some extra support. If you, or someone you know, could use a care call, card, or some other form of help and support, please let the church office know and we will connect a Care Team member.

Now we are in a time of Staying Safe, as businesses slowly begin to reopen, people get back to work, and some of the physical distancing guidelines are relaxed. The dials are turning, slowly, and cautiously. Guidance for the Faith Community is changing as well; as both State and Church leaders work together on new protocols and guidance for congregations, synagogues, temples, and mosques to keep staff, church members, and visitors safe, while keeping our ministries going.

**PLANNING TEAM** - A Planning Team has been formed to develop procedures and best practices for when we are able to slowly and safely phase in allowing people to gather in our new building for worship and ministries (including Casa de Oracion and Lily of the Valley), and other group meetings (AA, Al-anon, Ala-teen, etc.). I ask for your patience as we navigate this ever-changing situation and be ready to pivot quickly.

**SUMMER MINISTRIES** - In the meantime, your staff and lay leaders are making plans for our online ministries this summer. As we learned that Camp Wapo would not be hosting on-site campers this summer, our incredible staff members, Josh Svenulski and Stacey Klein, have been working together to create fun faith forming opportunities for our children, youth, and families. Our excellent worship and music ministry staff, Anne Nyquist, Courtnie DeGrand, and Julie McDonald are working on plans for our Sunday worship, and I am working with the Recharge team on a mid-week worship series. And none of this is possible without the faithful service and expertise of our lay leaders, like Steve Glinski and Doug Klein!



**FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK &  
INSTAGRAM**

Sunday Worship  
Live Stream on Facebook  
9:30am

Sunday Zoom Fellowship  
10:30am  
Link & Recipe published each  
week

Wednesday Refresh  
Live Stream on Facebook  
7:30pm  
(beginning June 3)



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We are also upgrading our sanctuary computers and adding cameras to improve our ability and quality of recorded and streamed worship and music online, even after we can start gathering in person. Our average weekly online worship attendance is averaging over 480 views and even more engagements (which includes couples and families watching together), along with family and friends from 10 states joining us each week. Put another way, our weekly online worship attendance is like Christmas and Easter every week! We are also looking at other ways to share our worship services and stay connected with those who do not have online access.

I am so proud of the ways you are caring for and loving your family, friends, and fellow sisters and brothers in Christ during this time. I am so deeply grateful for your faithful support, participation, encouragement, and generosity as we continue to learn how to **Be the Church Together** in this time. We are entering into a “new land,” and much is uncertain and unknown, but we hold onto the words spoken to God’s people long ago, **“Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”** Remember that God is always with you, with all of us, through the ever-present Spirit of Truth and Love.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Kent

P.S. If you, or someone you know, is in need of help and support during this challenging time, please let me know so that we can respond with love, care, and resources.

#### THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE REFLECTION WITH PASTOR KENT:

Join in at 10:00am Thursday morning on the CV Facebook Page for a Bible reflection on some of the scriptures for this Sunday.



**THURSDAY AFTERNOON CONFERENCE CALL BIBLE STUDY:** Join Pastor Kent at 1:00pm. Dial 978-990-5000 then enter the access code: 626333 to join in.

### SUNDAY ZOOM FELLOWSHIP

Join us after Sunday online worship for Zoom Fellowship with your church friends and family! We will be posting a Zoom link each week, along with the *Recipe of the Week*, so individuals and families can stay connected, build community, and help Be the Church online.



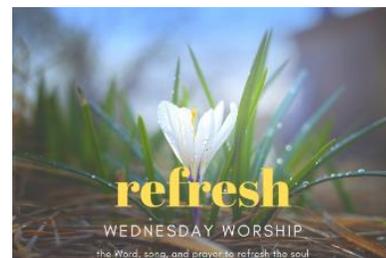
Please only ONE DEVICE per family, so we can have as many people participating as possible!

### REQUEST FOR “RECIPE OF THE WEEK”

If you have a great recipe to share with your church family for Sunday Fellowship, please email the church office: [deb@christusvictor.org](mailto:deb@christusvictor.org). We will share a different recipe every week throughout the summer.

### SUMMER MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey concerning summer mid-week worship. The results are in with over 75% wanting to have some kind of mid-week worship.



So, we are working on a plan to involve as many different people as possible for **Wednesday Night Refresh** this summer! We plan to kick off the summer on **June 3 at 7:30pm** on the Christus Victor Facebook page.

### SENIOR CONNECTIONS

Summer is almost here! Because of COVID-19, our gatherings have stopped temporarily. We miss seeing each other face-to-face.

Pastor Kent has been doing CONFERENCE CALL BIBLE STUDY every Thursday at 1:00pm. Selecting a chapter in the Bible, we take turns reading, then each of us share our thoughts on what was read.

Join us as we find new ways to stay connected! If you have ideas or questions, contact: Darlene Newman or Marlene Leick



## NEWS UPDATE FROM THE CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES TEAM

Ministries for the summer of 2020 have certainly taken a turn as we face COVID-19. Our information about the virus and our current situation continue to develop daily, and likely will throughout the summer. Sadly because of this, our much-anticipated summer highlights are not happening as planned.



Vacation Bible School, Summer Stretch, Camp Wapo, and possibly our Wilderness Canoe Base trip have all been put on hold, canceled, or taken on new forms. However, as a Children, Youth, and Family team here at Christus Victor, we have put steps together to continue to have a great summer! After receiving feedback from surveys and individual families, we have come up with a plan.

Keeping as many of our previous summer dates in mind, we will have **FOUR WEEKS OF SUMMER FUN FOR ALL AGES:**

- **The week of June 14th** will be "Summer Start" week (previously VBS week)
- **The week of June 28th** will be "Wapo Week" (our normal Wapo dates)
- **The week of July 12th** will be "Wilderness Week" (still tentatively our Boundary Waters trip)
- **The week of August 2nd** will be Vacation Bible School (new dates)

During these four weeks, we will have activities planned the entire time. Some of them will be service or art projects you can do at home. Some will be online check-ins, games, worship, or Bible studies.

Some will hopefully be small group, social distancing outdoor activities like campfires or bike tours or disc golfing. Some may be family friendly adventures like Apple Valley geocaching you

can do at any point throughout that week. Some may include coming to church to socially distance pick up a supply kit or "Camp-in-a-Box" for that week. Maybe we can even do an outdoor drive-in movie theater in the parking lot!

Some of the events will be age specific, others intergenerational. Some in the evenings, some in the mornings, some on the weekends. Specific dates and activities are still being finalized, and you will be able to do whichever events best fit your schedule, but these four weeks are good dates to keep on your calendar!

Times are uncertain right now and we know that, but what we can be certain of are the promises of God's presence, love, and grace. Our ministry and community will continue to happen this summer, even if our favorite activities take on new forms, and even if we are apart.

We can't wait!

Josh Svenulski

Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

**If you have any questions about summer activities, please reach out to Josh [josh@christusvictor.org](mailto:josh@christusvictor.org)**



**FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: Thank you for your faithful giving and financial support during this uncertain time!**

If you have not set up electronic giving, or that is not an option for you, we encourage you to continue your faithful giving through sending offerings via postal mail, or go to our website, [www.christusvictor.org](http://www.christusvictor.org), click on GIVING and make your donations via PayPal.



## MILESTONES at CHRISTUS VICTOR



*Christus Victor Congregation Members  
Birth, Death, Marriage, New Member, Faith Formation milestones*



### Meet New Members: The Ritchie Family

Luke, Rochelle,  
Eddie & Kenny

### BAPTISM:

March 15, 2020

Edward James Ritchie and Kenneth Jaxon Ritchie  
Parents: Luke and Rochelle Ritchie  
Sponsors: Joe Ritchie, Charmin and Paul Andrews

### NEW MEMBERS:

March 15, 2020

Luke, Rochelle, Eddie and Kenny Ritchie  
Sponsor: Caryl Williams

APRIL 26, 2020

Alec Running  
Sponsors: Emily Youngner,  
Warren and Dawn Youngner



### Meet New Member: Alec Running

Alec enjoys: Painting,  
Homebrew, Board Games,  
Volunteering, Exercise, Fishing



## 2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Elizabeth Allard  
Megan Beyer  
Kirsten Buffie  
Kamryn Finstad  
Hannah Edman  
Victoria Gens  
Daniel Gubrud  
Rebecca Harder  
Jason Porter  
Dylan Robens  
Kenneth Skogen  
Isabella Tatum  
Noah Wever



### HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

**Sunday, June 7, during worship, and also a drive-by parade in the church parking lot @ 1 PM.**

As in the past, we are decorating message jars for the seniors as a gift from our congregation. The purpose is for the graduates to take the jars with them wherever life goes, and when they need a bit of encouragement, they can reach into the jar and pull out a note. Think of a favorite Bible verse, an inspirational quote, a story, favorite memory, or words of encouragement. Try and keep them to one or two lines typed, so we can fit many into each graduate's jar.

**Send an email with your encouraging words for graduates to Josh:**

**[josh@christusvictor.org](mailto:josh@christusvictor.org) before June 1st**