

Voice of Victory

Volume 25, Issue 8 August 2022

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

7510 Palomino Drive
Apple Valley, MN 55124
952-454-6927 www.christusvictor.org



SUNDAY WORSHIP

In-Person

OR

Live Stream on Facebook

9:30 am

[https://www.facebook.com/
ChristusVictorChurch](https://www.facebook.com/ChristusVictorChurch)

Fellowship Time 10:30 in the
Gathering Space



Seeking the Kingdom of God

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

Luke 11: 9-10

Dear Friends in Christ,

Jesus is talking to his disciples about the importance of prayer, the importance in seeking the Kingdom of God, and God's guidance for our lives. This is not about asking Jesus for a pony, or a raise, or a new Cadillac. It is about the heart-felt yearning and seeking after God. Which got me thinking about church camp.

Church camp is a place and a time for kids (and adults too) to "Ask, Seek, and Knock" in their faith and relationship with God. When I listen to kids share their experiences of church camp, I often hear them say something like, "I feel closer to God at church camp." The kids went away to a special place, a community of faith, to be surrounded by and focusing on God. So, what is it about the rhythms of church camp that can help all of us be more intentional in our seeking after God?

First is the word "INTENTIONAL." If you are going to "Ask, Seek, and Knock," you need to be intentionally focused on seeking God. Another way of saying that is to be "paying attention" to God in your daily lives.

Second, church camp is designed to help you "pay attention" to God. You are surrounded by a community of fellow disciples and seekers, which is a huge help when most of the time we think we are the only ones even thinking about God, let alone believing in God. We need a community of faith-filled people and fellow seekers.

Third, church camp is about daily faith practices. You are praying multiple times a day at every meal, in small group time, and even during field games. You are also worshipping God throughout the day during indoor chapel and outdoor campfire worship. There are daily Bible study and discussions, both formally in small groups, but also in one-one conversations throughout the day.

Fourth, you are immersed in Christian community, which means that loving your neighbor as yourself and taking care of creation, serving, helping, are core values and practices.

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My wondering has been how can we, at Christus Victor, be more intentional about how we together seek the Kingdom of God? How can we all be involved in learning faith practices at church that we can take with us into our daily lives? How can we be more intentional in “paying attention” to God at church together and then in our daily lives?

Church Camp hints that we need to be regularly part of the large group gatherings like worship and fellowship, but also part of small groups for study, prayer, and service. How might God be calling you to “Ask, Seek, and Knock” growing in your faith this coming fall?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud

Worship and Music Ministry Task Force

During this time of transition with the resignation of Courtnie DeGrand, the Church Council and Mutual Ministry Committee are forming a Task Force to review our worship and music ministry needs, as well as reviewing where we need to be salary wise to be competitive and offer our staff a fair and competitive wage for their work and talents.

We are currently gathering names of people to potentially serve on this Task Force, if you are interested in serving or have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Diana Buffie, who will be gathering names of potential members – dkbuff@hotmail.com.

ADULT SPIRITUAL/FAITH GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES...



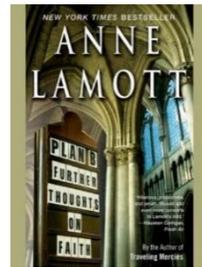
9am Bible Reflection on the CV Facebook Page.
Have your Bibles and morning beverages ready as we dig into the scriptures for the coming Sunday worship.

10am Bible Study at the Apple Valley Villas Due to the ongoing Covid situation, this is only open to residents of the Villas.

Regrouping on August 11 - 1pm Seniors Bible Study We’re starting our weekly Bible study on Thursday, August 11 at 1pm in the Gathering Space. Join us for a rousing and interesting discussion of the Bible texts and the intersections with our own faith and life journey.

ADULT SPIRITUAL/FAITH GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Morning Book Study – Our next book will be



“Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith” by Anne Lamott. Join us for weekly reflections Monday mornings at 9am on Facebook, starting Monday, August 8. We will also be having a Zoom Book Discussion Group at 9:30am for those who are interested.

Contact Pastor Kent for the Zoom link – pastor.kent@christusvictor.org

Men’s Ministry Meetings – It is time to plan for the fall and coming year! Men’s Breakfast? Bible and Brew? Men’s Retreat? What is God calling the men of CV to do next? If you are interested in being part of the men’s ministry at CV, plan on attending one of the following meetings - Sunday, August 21 after worship, or, Wednesday, August 24 at 7pm. Contact Pastor Kent for more information – pastor.kent@christusvictor.org.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

Every Sunday we rely on a team of worship assistants to make everything happen. People of all ages can help with worship. A great way for families to serve together!

Greeters, Ushers, and Communion Assistants - Sign up Genius Link
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094faba92aa5f58-sunday>

Lectors and Prayer Assistants - Sign up Genius Link
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094faba92aa5f58-scripture4>

Coffee Crew Sign Up (coffee set up and clean up) - Sign up Genius Link
- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094faba92aa5f58-coffee>

Screen, Stream, and Sound Team needs your help. We need your help sharing the Good News of the Gospel with streaming our Sunday morning worship! Help us share the hope, grace, and love of the Gospel with people across the state and country who would otherwise not be able to attend worship. Contact Pastor Kent for more information regarding training and signing up to help
- pastor.kent@christusvictor.org.



MILESTONES at CHRISTUS VICTOR

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

BAPTISM:

July 10 - Marco James Pontrelli

Parents: Erica and Jim Pontrelli

Sponsors: Taylor Ghere and Kelley McDonald



Sunflower Project Update

The building for the sunflower press project is almost complete! The next phase is the doors and windows before installing the press sometime in August. Thank you for your generous contributions and support! Please continue to pray for the next steps in this project, that this would be a blessing to the Mlowa Parish and all of the surrounding communities!

ASANTE SANA (Thank You) for your support and prayers!!





From THE WELCOMING TEAM

Whether you are at the lake or in the pew, we can be in fellowship together with our Lord. We are blessed to have online worship services accessible so that we can stay connected.



INVITE your family, friends, and neighbors at the cabin to join you in worship. It's always

fun to see your location in the comment section! We're grateful for the team that makes online services available. We also appreciate all the in-person worship volunteers and music folks. Looking forward to continuing to "see" you at worship!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

VBS Host Family Needed!!

Vacation Bible School is coming up, and we are in need of a family to house our three hired counselors from Sunday - Friday, Aug. 7-12. If you have availability please contact <mailto:josh@christusvictor.org>

VBS Prep Week

We need help the first week of August prior to VBS for setup and decorating. If you have time and a volunteering heart, please sign up below!

VBS Sign Up

Vacation Bible School will be the week of August 7, Sun - Thursday, 5:30 - 8 PM. Camp Counselors from Good Earth Village will be joining us this summer to help lead VBS with the theme "Created Good" from Genesis 1:31. VBS is for PreK through 6th grade children and friends are all welcome to sign up. There will also be a class for parents and adults focusing on "Relationships, Identity, and Purpose in Genesis 1" led by Pastor Kent.

We also need lots of volunteers! Help is needed with prep, decorating, snacks, music and tech, shepherding children from station to station, and tearing down.

Whether a volunteer or a child (or friends!) please register here:

<https://forms.gle/QxVHBapb9fxw7DsHA>





RACIAL JUSTICE

By Diana Buffie

Have you ever wanted to wander in an ethnic restaurant somewhere in our area, but didn't know where to go or what to try? One of the best ways to start to experience a different culture can be through food. I would not call myself a "foodie" by any stretch of the imagination, but I do like to venture out, meet the people who run some amazing restaurants and try their cuisine. So, this month I hope you enjoy reading about some of my favorite places to dine, and that you too will consider checking them out. All of the restaurants I have listed will include their website information or phone number. Bon Appetite!

Afro Deli (www.afrodeli.com) is a wonderful place to "Taste Africa". The two main locations are: 720 Washington Ave SE near the U of M, and 5 W. 7th Place in St Paul. There is counter service, with dine in seating. The dishes are prepared Halal (meaning the protein is butchered in a specific way which meets Muslim standards). My favorite dish on their menu is the Chicken Fantastic or the Gyros. Of course, I cannot go to any African restaurant without trying the Sambusa (think of it as an African eggroll stuffed with meat, chick peas and spices and deep fried.)

Tawakal Restaurant (952.500.8954) located at 12609 Nicollet Ave in Burnsville, is a Buffie family favorite. Whenever Karin is back in town, a stop to Tawakal is always required to dine on their Sambusa and a side of Somali Rice. They also have a wonderful watermelon juice with which to wash down the Sambusa. They offer breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is an adventure if you go for breakfast. Lunch and Dinner recommendations are Chicken Kay Kay and Beef Sugaar. They also offer succulent goat meat options as well. Every meal includes a whole banana for dessert.

Ted Cooks 19th Hole BBQ

(www.tedcooks19thholebbq.com) was started in 1968 by Louis "Ted" Cook on 38th Ave just west of Hiawatha Ave in Minneapolis. This is a take out only venue, and you can smell the BBQ for blocks as the meat is smoked all day with hickory and cherry woods. My favorite is the pulled pork, or sliced beef with mild bbq sauce. If you are into the heat then go for it! It will make you sweat! Included in every meal are Jo Jo Potatoes and a slice of white wonder bread. They have many additional sides to choose from. Pick it up, find a picnic table near Minnehaha Falls and enjoy eating outdoors.

Pimento Jamaican Kitchen (www.pimento.com) has two locations: in St Paul at 902 7th St W in the Keg and Case warehouse location, and a sit down option at 2524 Nicollet Ave South on "Eat Street". The Minneapolis location is formally called the Pimento Jamaican Kitchen and Rum Bar. The owners are committed to providing an authentic Jamaican experience. The story is that the restaurant began as a pop up tent in 2012, and in 2013 they entered and won the Food Network Food Court Wars competition. They have received national attention on various food channels and written reviews. Go for the "Jerk Chicken" and stay for the atmosphere.

Quang Restaurant is also on "Eat Street" located at 2719 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis (www.quang-restaurant.com) and serves authentic Vietnamese cuisine. Please note they are closed on Tuesdays. My favorite item on the menu is #407. Com Ga Xao (Lemongrass Chicken with Caramelized Onions) and the fresh shrimp and pork spring rolls. In the colder months I order the Pho Ga (Chicken) Soup. Talk about comfort. The dining area is quite large. You may have to wait a short time for a table during busy times, but it is well worth the wait. They also have a robust carry out business if that is your preference.

These are just a few ideas for you to consider. Stay tuned for more dining options throughout our wonderful Cities, and also south of the river in our own community. Give it a shot. Try something different and watch your tastebuds burst!