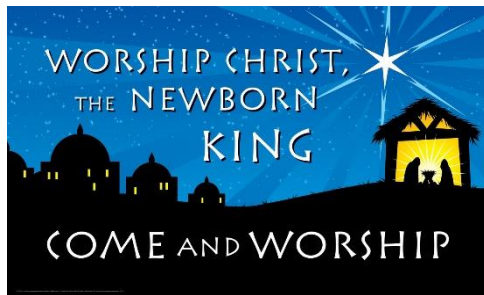


# Voice of Victory

# Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Volume 25, Issue 12 December 2022

7510 Palomino Drive  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
952-454-6927 [www.christusvictor.org](http://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)

Faith Formation for All

10:30 am

Fellowship Time 10:30 am in the  
Gathering Space

## WEDNESDAY

CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

6:00 pm GLOW & Confirmation

7:20 pm ReCharge Worship

7:50 pm Youth Group



## Advent is following the example of Mary

*"The angel said to [Mary], 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High...' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'" (Luke 1:30-32a, and 38)*

To the Beloved Children of God at Christus Victor,

The season of Advent is upon us, when we prepare to celebrate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, into the world and into our hearts and lives. Advent means coming. We celebrate the coming of Immanuel, God with us. Because God is in fact with us, with you, and within you; whether we pay attention and acknowledge God, or not.

I would like to encourage you to spend time this Advent season reflecting on the reality that Christ has already come and is already in your life, eagerly waiting to be born in you, to come alive in you.

When you were Baptized, you were marked with the cross of Christ, and God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit not only washed you clean from sin but came into your life and into your heart. As Jesus prayed for the disciples on the night of his betrayal, "[Father] *the glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be completely one*" (John 17: 22-23). The Spirit of Christ Jesus is already within you, waiting for you to follow the example of faith and trust given to us in Mary.

I invite you to use Mary's response to the angel's announcement as your Advent prayer. ***"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."*** Immanuel is already with you and within you. Invite and welcome Christ to become fully alive in you this Advent and Christmas season. Open yourself to the presence of Christ in your heart and your life. Listen to the Spirit, listen to Jesus, and let it be with you according to God's Word.

Do not be afraid, dear children of God, for you have found favor with God!

In Eager Expectation of Christ's Coming,  
Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud



## CV Young Adults Dinner Church –



**Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30pm!** Good food, real faith discussions, and building Christian friendships. Watch Facebook Messenger and the weekly e-blast for more info, or contact Pastor Kent at [pastor.kent@christusvictor.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastor.kent@christusvictor.org).

## MEN'S MINISTRY

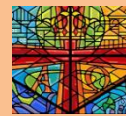
### Men's Ministry Survey

A survey has been sent out to the men of CV asking for your input and interest for various ministry opportunities for the coming year. Please take time to fill out that survey. If you did not receive a link to the survey, please contact Scott Thureen at [scottalanat@gmail.com](mailto:scottalanat@gmail.com). Stay tuned for what's next in 2023!

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT**



Thank you to everyone who has turned in your stewardship pledges and capital campaign commitments of financial support for the ministry and mission of God here at Christus Victor Lutheran Church! Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in sharing your blessings from the Lord to support our ministries as we continue to serve Christ and our Community, with Faith, Love, and Open Arms, Embracing Our Future Together! If you have not yet turned in or made your pledge or commitment, please mail your pledge cards to the church office, or you can safely and securely make your pledge online at <https://christusvictor.org/give/> - fill out the online pledge form and commitment form. Thank you!



## **CHRISTMAS BAND**

Christmas band will be playing on Sunday, Dec. 18. Practice will be that morning before church - 7:45am. Packets of music and instruction sheets will be available for pick-up on Sundays right after church beginning on Sun, Dec. 4th, and any time after 5 PM on Wednesdays. We could use some more low brass players, clarinets, and anything else but flutes. We have lots of those. Dust off your horn and come play!! Easy music. Any questions, talk to Anne Nyquist. Music will be EASY. Yay band!!



## **ADVENT FESTIVAL –**

**Sunday, Dec. 4 at 10:30am** in the Gathering Space! An all-ages Faith Formation event.

## **CV CHRISTMAS BAND –**

**Sunday, Dec. 18** during the 9:30am worship service!

## **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

**Saturday, December 24**

Family Friendly Candlelight Worship at 5:00pm  
Candlelight Worship with Hymns and Songs led by the Senior Choir at 10:30pm

## **CHRISTMAS MORNING**

**Sunday, Dec. 25 at 9:30am**

PJ Christmas Worship with Lessons and Carols in the Gathering Space– kids of all ages are encouraged to wear their Christmas PJs to worship.

## **Holiday Cookie Express**



Join us on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> after our church service for Holiday Cookie Express. We did this once before prior to Covid and it was a huge success. First we need

cookie bakers! Sign up to be a baker at the Welcome desk. Please bring your fresh home-baked cookies, bars, or candies in bulk in a large container. Do not individually plate or wrap. Have cookies to church by 8:30 on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Label the cookies with the name of the cookie and indicate if the ingredients are gluten-free or if it includes a common allergen (i.e., nuts, or peanut butter). If you bring bars please cut into small squares.

We will set up a cookie assembly line. For \$15 you will receive a large clam shell container to fill with cookies of your choice. You will get gloves to wear while filling your container.

All proceeds will go towards our projects to help feed others: Every Meal, March FoodShare, Feed My Starving Children, Thanksgiving Baskets, and Armful of Love.

If you have any questions contact Peggy Sunwall at [sunwall@charter.net](mailto:sunwall@charter.net) or ask a member of Social Ministries.



## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

### Faith Formation Help

We are in desperate need of some extra adult volunteers to help with Faith Formation small groups on Sunday Morning. It is low commitment, low prep, and very fun! Please contact [josh@christusvictor.org](mailto:josh@christusvictor.org) if you are available to help.

### “ 'Twas the Weekend Before Christmas”

#### > GLOW Movie “The Star”

GLOWsters are all invited to church on Saturday morning, December 17 to watch the Christmas Classic, “The Star” together. We’ll meet from 11 AM - 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall, and invite everyone to come in their PJs, bring a blanket, stuffed animals, and lunch. Hot cocoa will be provided. Younger siblings and preschoolers are invited to join, but parents need to stay with them.

#### > Christmas Light Caravan

It’s back! On Saturday, December 17 we will be caravanning around Apple Valley and the south metro to look at Christmas Light displays. Hot cocoa, treats, and a fire pit outside at the south side of church before we leave from 4:30- 5:30, then we will caravan out together at 5:30.

#### > High School Holiday ABCs

Arby’s, Board Games, and Christmas Movies. Could there be a better combination? Sunday, December 18 after Faith Formation from 12 - 4 PM, the Youth Group will have a Christmas Party in the Youth Room. We’ll play board games, go get Arby’s (bring a few bucks for lunch), make some popcorn, and snuggle up with a Christmas classic.

### Baby Svenulski Celebration



Our Director of Children, Youth and Family, Josh, and his wife Lydia are having a baby! Please join us for snacks and fellowship in the gathering space following the service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate.

If you would like to get them a gift, Josh and Lydia are [registered at Target](#).

## MILESTONES at CHRISTUS VICTOR



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

### BAPTISM:

10-23-2022: Aaronneil Folefac Nkem  
Parents: Clarisse Nkengfac and Protus Nkem  
Sponsor: Nancy Colin

## THIS MONTH’S HAPPENINGS AROUND CV...

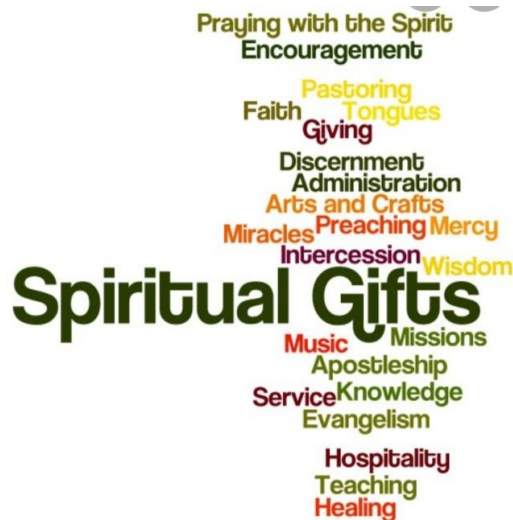




## From the WELCOMING TEAM:



So, it's the Christmas season and we're thinking about GIFTS. It's also Advent when we prepare for the birth of Jesus and a good time to think about SPIRITUAL GIFTS.



SIMPLE GIFTING FOR EVERYONE  
*The gift of prayer*



These gifts are a means of serving in the Body of Christ for God's purpose. The world is desperate for the grace of God, and you have an unending supply of it just waiting to come out through your gifts. We encourage you to focus on and share your spiritual gifts during Advent and every day in the New Year!

## From SOCIAL MINISTRIES TEAM:



**ARMFUL OF LOVE THANK YOU** .... On behalf of 360 Communities, a heartfelt thank you to all who donated to the 2022 Armful of Love Program. This program would not be possible without generous giving like yours – which this

year totaled \$4,500 in gift cards and monetary contributions!

Distribution of gift cards will be made to families on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in November giving them time to shop in time for Christmas. These cards will enable parents the opportunity to choose and purchase gifts for their children and food for their families. Let us thank God for our blessings and for being a blessing to our neighbors in need.

### THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered for our basket project. Once again we met our goal of 150 baskets for families in the Dakota County area. Each family received a \$50 gift card for Cub and a bag of non-perishables for their holiday meal. 360 Communities was thrilled with our participation because giving has been down at the local food shelves. Our 21<sup>st</sup> year of Thanksgiving Baskets was once again a blessing we share with others.



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Bwana asifiwe! Praise the Lord!  
The Missions Team and the Mlowa Parish in Tanzania are grateful for your generous support of the student scholarship program. This year we raised \$4,600 which will enable us to continue supporting the current students enrolled and add some new students.



## RACIAL JUSTICE



### **Rosa Parks – Civil Rights Activist and the Montgomery Bus Boycott – Diana Buffie**

A few weeks ago, I traveled to Montgomery, AL, to experience for a second time in 10 weeks the Equal Justice Initiative sponsored Legacy Museum and The Peace and Justice Memorial. These two sites are new to the rich historical city of Montgomery, Alabama. However, Montgomery has been the center of the Civil Rights Movement since the early 1950's. There, one can tour the Dexter Street Baptist Church and Parsonage where Martin Luther King Jr began his ministry and was instrumental in the formation of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other civil rights organizations. You can also visit the Montgomery State Capitol, the ending place of the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965. There is also a marker at the bus stop where Ms. Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat. On December 1, 1955, Ms. Rosa Parks rejected bus driver James F. Blake's request that she give up a seat in the "colored" section of the bus she was riding for a white patron as the "white's only" section was filled. She later recalled that her refusal wasn't because she was physically tired, but that she was tired of giving in. She was arrested that day then released on bail. Thus began the momentum for the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

On December 5, 1955, the day of Parks' trial, members of the African American community formed the Montgomery Improvement Association, electing then a very young Martin Luther King Jr. (age 26) to lead this endeavor. Over 500 people appeared at the courthouse to support Ms. Parks. In addition, all were asked to stay off the buses that day in protest of her arrest. Rosa Parks was found guilty of violating a local ordinance after only a 30 minute "trial" that day and was fined \$10 and a \$4 court fee. Parks' trial triggered the Montgomery Bus Boycott which lasted 381 days, ending with a Supreme Court ruling declaring segregation on all public transit systems to be unconstitutional.

Although a symbol of the Civil Rights Movement, Ms. Parks lost her job at a local department store and her husband was fired from his job as well. Eventually, they moved to Detroit, Michigan, where Rosa became employed as a secretary and receptionist for US Representative John Conyer. In 1992 Rosa Parks published her memoir *Rosa Parks: My Story*, an autobiography recounting her life in the segregated south. In 1995 she published *Quiet Strength* which includes her memoirs and focuses on the role that religious faith played throughout her life.

On October 24, 2005, Rosa Parks died in her apartment in Detroit at age 92. She had been diagnosed with progressive dementia in 2002.

**\*\*If you are interested in learning more about Rosa Parks or other prominent players in the Civil Rights and Racial Justice Movement, check out the new Racial Justice Library in the narthex. There is even a children's book in the collection about Rosa Parks.**

Diana Buffie, Kevin Philpy, Kristin Schulz, Alana Thureen, Sarah Youngner

As identified in our constitution,

***"The Racial Justice Committee of Christus Victor commits to listening, informing, and empowering our community to serve Christ by working for justice across racial boundaries. We will educate ourselves and our community about how God's Word and Christ's teachings will lead us to better understand and interrupt systems of racism."***

For further information, please see the Social and Racial Justice Statement as posted on our website:

[RACIAL JUSTICE | Christus Victor Lutheran Church.](#)



## FROM THE GREEN TEAM

This month the topic is Plastic bags.

### **A plastic bag's second life doesn't start in the cart**

Most plastic bags can be made into new products, yet they will never have a second life if they go in your recycling cart. Reuse them at home or take your clean and dry plastic bags to one of the many drop-off sites found in the [Recycling Guide](#).

The plastic bags are sold to a business that melts them into pellets to sell to manufacturers. Plastic bags are most often used to make low-maintenance lumber.

Start a collection area in your home for:

- Plastic retail and grocery bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Dry cleaning bags
- Wrap from household products like paper towels and toilet paper
- Zip-top food storage bags
- Cracker and cereal box liners (no paper or metallic liners)
- Plastic shipping envelopes, bubble wrap and air pockets
- Water softener and sidewalk salt bags

Remove anything inside the bags. Leave out compostable bags, salad mix and frozen food bags, candy wrappers, chip bags and six-pack rings.

Enjoy! —The Green Team



## FROM THE MISSIONS TEAM

You may have heard of Bega Kwa Bega or BKB and that we sponsor students in Tanzania and that we have an event called Baskets of Love to support travel to Tanzania (and the Dominican Republic). But would you like to know more about BKB and our relationship with the Mlowa parish? In the next months we will try to answer your questions and provide information about BKB.

**Bega Kwa Bega (BKB)** (Shoulder to Shoulder in Kiswahili) is the Companion Synod relationship of the St. Paul Area Synod and the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania. It is a network of relationships that links congregations and communities of faith across continents.

**Affiliate Partners** – Independent organizations that engage in development work within the Iringa Diocese and work with BKB. In future articles we will highlight the Affiliate Partners

**Clusters** – Groupings of congregations involved with BKB for the purposes of networking and administration. We are part of the Southern Cluster.

**DIRA** – Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (Dayosisi ya Iringa in Kiswahili)

**Karibu** - a word of welcome...

Our partner parish is Mlowa. It is a rural village located 135km (84 miles) from Iringa. Next month more details on Mlowa and their parish and preaching points.

### **BASKETS OF LOVE!**

Returning in 2023... Baskets of Love! Our annual celebration of our global missions. Save the Date and start gathering your basket ideas.

**Sunday, February 26, 2023,  
after the service  
in The Gathering Space.**

