

Voice of Victory

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Volume 26, Issue 2 February 2023

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)

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



HGR: High Grace Required

"But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also...But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...Do not store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal...You cannot serve God and wealth...Do not judge, so that you may not be judged."

(Various teachings of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount,
Matthew chapters 5 and 6)

Dear Followers of Jesus Christ,

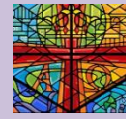
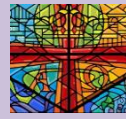
Loving the Lord and loving our neighbors as Christ has loved us is not easy. In fact, it is really hard, if not impossible for me to accomplish on my own. You can read above snippets of the teachings and admonitions from Jesus that are found throughout the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. I encourage you to take a little time to read all of chapters 5, 6, and 7. Read Jesus' words slowly, taking in the meaning and implications for your life, and for the world.

I am painfully and sometimes humiliatingly reminded every day that I am a sinner. I fail. I screw up. I have to fall back again and again on God's grace and mercy. My mantra is the **Jesus' Prayer** – *"Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner."*

When you read through Jesus' teachings, perhaps you will begin to feel the same way. On our own, we can try to live up to Jesus' moral and ethical teachings. We need to give it our best shot. But at some point we come to realize and admit to ourselves and to God that we cannot do this on our own. We require God's grace. It is an **HGR: HIGH GRACE REQUIRED** way of life.

Jesus wasn't kidding. He was and is telling us what it means, what it looks like to live in the Kingdom of Heaven. What is it going to take for us to live as people in God's Kingdom? God's grace given to us through Jesus Christ. And then, maybe we can say with the Apostle Paul, *"It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me"* (Galatians 2:20).

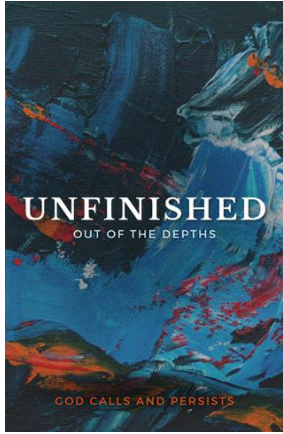
Your Fellow Sinner in Need of God's Grace,
Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT –

“UNFINISHED: Out of the Depths”

Between trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger and empathy, rebellion and obedience; we find ourselves in the story of Jonah, God, and the hated Ninevites.



Ash Wednesday, February 22 –
God Calls and Persists

Lent 1, March 1 – Intercepted
and Redirected

Lent 2, March 8 – God in the
Depths of Chaos

Lent 3, March 15 – Obedience
and Preservation

Lent 4 – March 22 – Faithful
and Unfinished

Lent 5, March 29 – Jesus, a
new Jonah



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.

Director of Music Ministry Update

Thank you to the task force that did a survey of the church and developed a new job description for our new Director of Music Ministry position. Thank you to task force members Julie Colin, Andrea Dobberman, Claudia Glinski, Doug Klein, Stephanie Lundquist, David McMayer, Jen Radke, and Sarah Youngner for all of your good work!

The new job description has been finalized, and a Search Task Force has been formed to review applications and hold interviews. The Search Task Force members are: Jody McDermott-Baty, Steve Glinski, Pam Luginbill, Trudy Matthys, and Kevin Philpy. The job has been posted and as applications are received, they will be reviewed, followed by interviews.

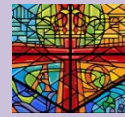
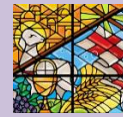
Senior Connection

A Big Thank You to all who so generously gave to the “ELCA GOOD GIFTS” project. We are including (see below) the Thank You from “ELCA GOOD GIFTS” for our generous \$1,150 donation, which will purchase a computer, a share of the safe water project, and 10 blankets.

“Thank you for your donation to support the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through ELCA Good Gifts.

Your generous gifts are making a difference in the world -- responding to hunger and poverty, sharing the gospel, equipping leaders, and growing the church. Thank you for all that you have graciously given so that others may experience God's love.”

Watch for further news on a Valentine’s Day Potluck. Any questions, please contact Darlene Newman (612-450-9329) or Marlene Leick (952-890-4411).



FAITH FORMATION AND EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

MONDAY MORNING FAITH REFLECTIONS

Start the week out with Pastor Kent on Facebook at 9am for a **Monday Morning Faith Reflections** with thoughts, reflections, and faith practices that can help you in growing closer to God. Pastor Kent will be sharing wisdom and



practices from the book, **Armchair Mystic: How Contemplative Prayer Can Lead You Closer to God**, by Mark E. Thibodeaux, S.J., as well as other materials and resources. The Monday Morning Book Group will be reading and discussing this together on Zoom at 9:30am.

Monday Morning Book Group on Zoom – 9:30am on Zoom

We will be reading and discussing **Armchair Mystic: How Contemplative Prayer Can Lead You Closer to God**, by Mark E. Thibodeaux, S.J. Contact Pastor Kent for the Zoom Link – email him at pastor.kent@christusvictor.org



THURSDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUPS



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.

1pm Seniors Bible Study Weekly Bible study on Thursdays 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.

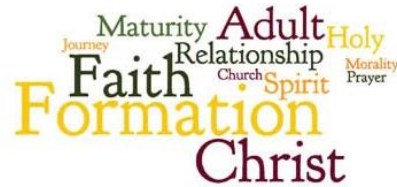
A BOOK FOR YOUR SMALL GROUP

Is your small group needing some new material to read and discuss? Maybe your group needs to regroup and get going again in 2023? If so, consider reading **Armchair Mystic: How Contemplative Prayer Can Lead You Closer to God**, by Mark E.

Thibodeaux, S.J. You can listen to Pastor Kent's MONDAY MORNING FAITH MINUTE as a kick starter for your own conversation. Talk to Pastor Kent if this is of interest to you and your small group.



SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL ADULT SCHEDULE AND TOPICS



Sunday, February 5 – All Ages Together for “WELLNESS SUNDAY”! What does wellness look like in all of the various aspects of our lives?

Sundays, Feb. 12 and Feb. 19 – “Listening, Affirming, and Inviting” learning ministry skills and practices for daily life.

ADULT/PARENT TOPICS FOR WEDNESDAY “FOODIE FELLOWSHIP” NIGHTS

We want to discuss topics that are important to us, but we also want time to talk amongst ourselves and get to know each other better, so that we can support and encourage one another. So, here is the format and the topics for the first Wednesdays of the month, our Foodie Fellowship Nights...

FORMAT

- 15-20 minutes presentation and discussion on the topic of the night
- 20 minutes for parents to talk and get to know one another
- Join Recharge Worship at 7:20pm

NEXT TOPIC:

FEBRUARY 1 – How to keep our kids active and connected with the church and their faith after confirmation?

MEN'S MINISTRY SURVEY RESULTS!

The results are in! Thanks to the 23 men who responded.

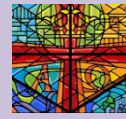
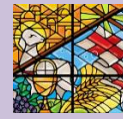
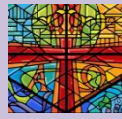
Top Two Nights of the Week to Gather – Thursday and Tuesday

Best Format – Some Large Group time and then break into Small Groups

Service Projects – Yes!

Breakfasts or Dinners – Yes!

Next steps are to come up with a plan and implement. Stay tuned!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

GREETINGS FROM THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMITTEE!

As you have likely heard, the biggest news from our ministry is that we welcomed our littlest member, Freya, on Christmas Eve. We are all so happy for Josh and Lydia and wish them well through this special time in their family. Though Josh will be on paternity leave through February, there are still many exciting things going on and we invite you to participate!



As of January 15 - Summer Camp Registration (for Wapo Seeds, Wapo Weeklong and Wilderness Canoe Base) Opened!

Get signed up to guarantee a spot with other CV youth!

<https://lakewapo.org/sites/camp-wapo/#register>

or scan:



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

February 1 - Wednesday ministries Foodie Fellowship Night; Recharge at 7:20

February 5 - Faith Formation For All: All Ages Wellness Sunday - Join us for a number of activities that will engage you in considering your own spiritual wellness through tapping into many dimensions of caring for yourself.

February 8 - Wednesday ministries; Recharge at 7:30

February 12 - Faith Formation For All: Age Group lessons

February 15 - Wednesday ministries; Recharge at 7:30

February 15 - LAST DAY for priority registration for summer camp (Wapo Weeklong, Seeds and Wilderness Canoe Base)

February 19 - Faith Formation For All: Age Group lessons

February 22 - Ash Wednesday service; no regular Wednesday ministries

February 26 - Faith Formation For All: Fellowship; no formal lesson/gathering – Baskets of Love Missions Event

March 1 - First Wednesday in Lent: Wednesday ministries Foodie Fellowship Night; 6pm Dinner, 6:30pm - GLOW, Confirmation, and parent groups, 7:30pm Lenten Worship

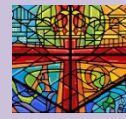
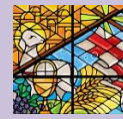
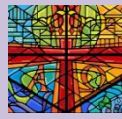
March 5 - Faith Formation For All: All Ages "Love Your Neighbor" Sunday

Plan ahead for summer:

June 11-15 VBS with Camp Green Lake counselors
June 23-25 Wapo Seeds weekend (1st-3rd graders)
 Week of July 16 Wilderness Canoe Base trip (high schoolers)

August 6-11 Wapo Weeklong (4th-9th graders)
 Thursday Summer Stretch (6th-8th graders)

We look forward to seeing you at church!



RACIAL JUSTICE



February is Black History Month, a month to hold up and celebrate the central role of Black citizens in the U.S. As we continue to hold up our mission to “Serve Christ and community with faith, love and open arms,” we have recently opened the new CV READS (Reads to Encourage, Acept, Discuss, and SeeK) for Racial Justice Library to help us listen to the voices, experiences, and expertise of others. Along with a variety of resources to help us learn and grow, there are several books in our library (identified below) that are specifically related to the experiences and history of Black people. Stop by the library and learn more of our history as citizens and our responsibility as Christians to love with action.

Books for Adults

- *Dear Church: A Love Letter From a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US* by Lenny Duncan
- *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
- *How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice* by Jemar Tisby
- *Kindred* by Octavia Butler
- *Lift Your Voice: How My Nephew George Floyd's Murder Changed the World* by Angela Harrelson with Michael Levin
- *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *The Wanderer: The Last American Slave Ship and the Conspiracy that Set Its Sails* by Erid Colonius

Children's Books

- *I Have a Dream*, w/CD by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- *I am Jackie Robinson* by Brad Meltzer
- *I am Martin Luther King Jr.* by Brad Meltzer
- *I am Rosa Parks* by Brad Meltzer
- *Who Is Michelle Obama?* by Megan Stine
- *Who Is Barack Obama?* by Roberta Edwards
- *Who Was Rosa Parks?* by Yona Zeldis McDonough

Community Event: Continuing the Racial Justice Journey – From “Me” to “We”

Please join members of the Racial Justice Committee and others in our community at Shepherd of the Valley (SOTV) for a light breakfast and great conversation with Pastor Kent, Rev. Audrey Smith and Rev. Bill Smith from Lily of the Valley on **Saturday, February 18, 2023 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

Pastor Kent, Rev. Audrey Smith and Rev. Bill Smith will be guest speakers about ongoing racial justice work in our communities. The focus will be moving from individual education and growth to a community-wide response to knowing and loving our neighbors who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) through authentic relationships.

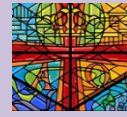
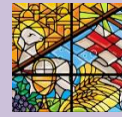
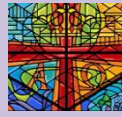
This community event is open to people of all ages. The cost is \$10, including breakfast. The address of Shepherd of the Valley is 12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd, Apple Valley, MN 55124.

Learn more and register with the following link:

[FROM “ME” TO “WE”](#)

(scroll down to the **Community Event: Continuing the Racial Justice Journey - From "Me" to "We"** Event Listing)





Baskets of Love - February 26, 2023



Members and Ministries of Christus Victor,

On Sunday, February 26, we will once again hold our Annual Baskets of Love where we will celebrate our connections with our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic and Tanzania during our worship service and at 10:30 am in the Gathering Space with a silent auction.

Proceeds from the silent auction will support Christus Victor's partnership with Kid's Alive in the Dominican Republic.

We are again asking the generous members and ministries teams of Christus Victor to volunteer to fill a basket with special stuff for auction. Please bring donated baskets to the church by Sunday, February 19. We are also inviting you to come and bid on these wonderfully creative baskets the following Sunday, February 26.

Thank you for your help! If you have any questions, ask a member of the CV Mission Committee (listed below) or contact Deanna Luke at the church office, 952-454-6927 or dluke@christusvictor.org

Your CV Mission Committee,

Barb Damlo, Diana Buffie, KC Claussen Gubrud, Jody McDermott-Baty,
Pam Luginbill, Deanna Luke



Baskets of Love - Donation Form

DUE February 19, 2023

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 **2/19/2023**.
5. Come celebrate with us on **2/26/2023**.

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? Contact Deanna Luke at the church office, 952-454-6927 or dLuke@christusvictor.org. THANK YOU!