

Voice of Victory

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Volume 26, Issue 9 September 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)

Fellowship Time 10:30 am in the
Gathering Space



Spiritual Renewal: Building Connections with God and Loving One Another

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another
as I have loved you."
John 15: 12*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have been given a clear command from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ: "Love one another." That means to "AGAPE one another," love one another with Godly love. The Apostle Paul repeats Jesus' command throughout his letters to the early Christian churches. *"Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor"* (Romans 12: 10). Evidently they needed to be reminded to love one another a lot!

We need to be reminded to love one another with Godly love as well. And I don't mean the friends and "church family" we already have, I mean the whole church. All of us together. The old guard and the newbies. The young and the old and the middle aged. I believe Christ is calling us to come together in Godly love as an entire congregation in ways that we have not done before. Not only for our own sake. Not only to build connections with one another, but more importantly through loving one another with Godly love, we will need to focus more and more and more on what God's love really looks like through Jesus Christ.

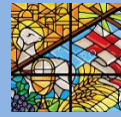
Christus Victor is in need of a Spiritual Renewal, and it starts with learning how to love one another.

If you feel this calling from God, I have some suggestions...

- Come to worship and stay afterward to connect with new people.
- Participate in Faith Formation for All and get to know the younger parents and kids of our congregation.
- Sign up for the Wednesday night meals at 6pm and get to know even more people, make even more connections and relationships.
- Check out the Spiritual Renewal Small Groups starting on Sunday, Sept. 17, after worship.
- Pray about how God may be calling you to reach out and connect with others, building relationships of Godly love here at Christus Victor, and spreading out to our whole community and the world!

How is Christ calling you to build connections with the other members of the church, and together fulfill Christ's command to love one another?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud



UPCOMING SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

A note from Albert and Nikki Jordan...

As we return from summer schedules, Nikki and I have been reflecting on the amazing community and the feedback we received both last spring and over the summer about Wednesday nights. We have been involved in GLOW and Confirmation & Recharge with our family and know that there is so much great energy associated with that. We also have been aware of the space constraints for the Senior Choir and Recharge team.

We have had wonderful support from the whole community! We spoke to Pastor Kent about the possibility to update the rehearsal time for the choir and how that could be accomplished. We have found some space that we will use for Wednesday night choir rehearsals outside the sanctuary. This eliminates the space overlap issue with Recharge. It also allows us to adjust the start and end time of rehearsals. We will make this change starting with our rehearsals in September.

The Senior Choir will rehearse from 6:30-7:30 on



Wednesdays! This will allow anyone who would like to attend the Wednesday Night meal with our youth and families and also then to attend Recharge.

CHOIR REHEARSAL BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13!!

For visibility, Wednesday Nights will look like this.

- 6:00-6:30 - Community Meal Time – Gathering Space
- 6:30-7:30 - Senior Choir Rehearsal – Classroom 116
- 6:30-7:50 - GLOW – Fellowship Hall
- 6:30-7:50 - Confirmation – Youth Room
- 7:30-7:50 - Recharge - Sanctuary
- 8-9: Senior High – Youth Room

MILESTONES at CHRISTUS VICTOR



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

DEATH:

August 7: Pastor Michelle Gawienowski

[Pastor Michelle's Obituary](#)

From THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE



A church funeral service honors the faith life of a loved one and is an

outreach to friends and family who may not have been in church for a long time, if ever.

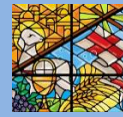
The funeral reception provides an opportunity to offer condolences to the family and celebrate the life of the departed. This emotional support is very important after a loss and allows people to deal with their grief and process their feelings.

Our CV Family often opens its arms to receive grieving families. A large group of CV volunteers has repeatedly come forward to assist with the receptions - to set up, bake treats, serve, and clean up. They show compassion and caring by creating a welcoming environment with warm hospitality.

With love and compassion, we will host a funeral and reception for our dear friend and former interim pastor, Michelle Gawienowski, on Saturday, September 2. Pastor Michelle died on August 7 after a long battle with cancer.

We will open our arms wide to a large number of grieving family and friends. We'll need lots of volunteers and baked goods. **PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS** to indicate our love and support.

It is our hope that everyone grieving for Pastor Michelle and her family would leave our church warmed by the reflected love of God.



EMBRACING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN **CONSTRUCTION LOAN PAY OFF AND NEXT PROJECTS**



Thanks to your faithful and generous giving, we have paid off the

construction loan for the Opening Our Arms Wider Campaign! Thanks be to God; we are truly ***embracing our future together!!***

THANK YOU, CORE 2!

We would like to thank the Core 2 Team, who led our second appeal: Craig Doeden, Kristi Manning, and Connie Orman. They did a fantastic job leading us through the second capital campaign. When you see them in church, please thank them for all of their hard work.

“PAY AS YOU GO”...

We have committed to a “pay as you go” process. As funds come in and we have enough to complete a project, we will move forward. So, thank you for your continued faithful giving to get these needed projects completed. Keep those pledges and gifts coming in!

PROJECTS COMPLETED...

The **flat roof** has been replaced. The **HVAC updates** for the offices and classrooms have been accomplished as well. **Thanks** to Charlie Colin, Scott Thureen, and the property committee for overseeing these projects!!

NEXT PROJECT - SANCTUARY TASK FORCE...

Thank you to our Sanctuary Task Force members who will be working on refreshing our sanctuary seating and lighting, among other items. Our task force members are: Jody McDermott-Baty, Kira Dobberman, Rich Jorgenson, Megan Klein, Paula Nierengarten, Jake Schulz, Scott Thureen, and Brian Vollbrecht.

BENEVOLENCE...

Thanks to your generosity, we are able to make the first donation to the St. Paul Synod “**PLANTING HOPE**” Campaign! One of the major projects of this campaign is a partnership with Lutheran Social Services on a therapeutic pre-school on the East Side of St. Paul. With your support, work on remodeling the pre-school space will begin in earnest.



SACRED SITES TOUR Sunday, October 1, 2023, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

The Sacred Sites Tour offers an opportunity for adults and older youth to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence, meditation, and reflection. The tour is led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs. Sites visited are around the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, which the Dakota refer to as Bdote, or “meeting place of rivers.” These include Fort Snelling State Park, Dakota Internment Camp following the Dakota-U.S. War, and Pilot Knob Hill - a traditional burial ground.

The tour meets at Church of St. Peter ([1405 Sibley Memorial Highway, St Paul 55120](#)). Attendees will follow each other to the sites (using personal transportation). Bring your own drinks and snacks. The \$30 cost includes everything but a \$7 daily admission fee per vehicle at Fort Snelling (waived if you show proof of annual state park pass). All physical abilities are invited (wheelchair accessible) as sites are on or near trails. Logistical information will be provided to those registered as the event date nears.

The Sacred Site Tour is a collaboration between Christus Victor, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of the Lake, and Shepherd of the Valley.

Cost is \$30 per person. Registration limited to 50 people.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)



FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS

The adult class will be following the Faith Formation for All schedule!

- **First Sunday** – all ages forming faith together.
- **Second and Third Sundays** – adults only class (sounds provocative!) We will be going deeper into the scripture readings from each Sunday and adding other topics as we go.
- **Fourth Sunday** – fellowship in the Gathering Space.

THURSDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



Bible Reflections on the CV FACEBOOK page at 9AM – tune in at 9am for a Bible Reflection on the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday's

worship. These reflections help you go deeper in your own study and reflection and help make the entire worship service more meaningful and impactful. It helps you pay attention to what God is saying to us in every aspect of worship, not just the sermon.

Thursday Morning Bible Study at the Villas at 10am in the basement meeting room!

Bring your Bible and join us for an always interesting and fun conversation about scripture and our life and faith. All are welcome!



WOMEN'S RETREAT 2023 – SAVE THE DATE – NOV. 10-12 AT CAMP WAPO – MORE DETAILS TO COME

WEDNESDAY FOODIE FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS ADULT TOPIC

Our first "Foodie Fellowship" Night will be on Wednesday, October 4, with special guests and CV members, Adrian and Mike Olsen. They have a podcast called, "Connections," about relationships with family, kids, and spouses, sharing stories, experiences, wisdom, and insights – real talk about real issues by people of faith!

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL SMALL GROUPS

Sunday, Sept. 17, during FFFA at 10:40 in Room 112

Are you desiring more in your relationship with God? Are you yearning for richer



connections with fellow Christians, for mutual support and care? Do you want to go deeper in your faith and learn how you can both grow closer to God and at the same time make a difference in other people's lives and faith?

Join us for an information session after worship on Sunday, September 17, during Faith Formation for All. Put this on your calendars to attend! God may be calling you to a further journey of faith.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SEMINAR – Saturday, October 21, from 9am to 4pm

You are uniquely created by God with gifts from the Holy Spirit! What are your gifts? How can you use your gifts to be a blessing to others and grow into your full-self as a beloved child of God?

Put this on your calendar! More details to come!



RACIAL JUSTICE

Do you have a passion for racial justice?

The CVLC Racial Justice committee exists to fulfill our mission and to live more fully as members of the body of Christ as stated in the ELCA Race, Ethnicity and Culture statement:

“In daily life, cultural, ethnic, and racial differences matter, but they can be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be – blessings rather than means of oppression and discrimination. We are a church that belongs to Christ, which means we are to be a place for everyone as Christ is for everyone. Christ’s church is not ours to control, nor is it our job to sort, divide, categorize or exclude.”

If you are interested in joining us as we continue to learn, grow, gain confidence to speak out against racism and work to integrate racial justice into our regular practices and culture, we’d love to hear from you. We meet monthly on the first Monday of the month and would like to answer any questions you may have. Please contact any of the current members with your interest, questions, or concerns.

Diana Buffie
Alice McCammon
Kevin Philpy
Kristin Schulz
Alana Thureen

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

Keep garden hoses, chains and cords out of the recycling. When items such as hoses, cords, wires, chains, ropes and plastic bags are placed in the recycling, they end up tangled around recycling sorting equipment.



Every day, people working at recycling facilities spend hours cutting out “tangles” from

equipment, which creates an unnecessary safety hazard for workers and forces the facility to shut down, wasting time that could be spent sorting our recycling.

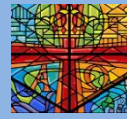
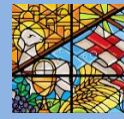
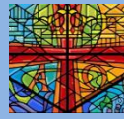
Help workers and keep recycling equipment tangle-free by leaving these troublemakers out of your recycling. Find the right location to take these materials for recycling or reuse in the [Recycling Guide](#).

Get rid of vaping devices safely

As concerns rise over the [risks of vaping](#), people are ditching their vaping devices. Vape devices are



hazardous waste and cannot go in the trash or recycling because they have lithium-ion batteries which can cause a fire. The devices also contain lead that can pollute the soil and water, and the nicotine pods include harmful toxins. Bring vaping devices to [The Recycling Zone](#) in Eagan for free and safe disposal. Make sure all vape devices are turned off for safe storage as well as drop-off.



FROM SOCIAL MINISTRIES

GEAR UP FOR SCHOOL



Social Ministries is collecting school supplies for Greenleaf Elementary School. They can be placed in the collection bin in the church entry. Monetary donations also can be brought to the church office. Thank you for your generosity!

Items Needed:

Large Backpacks, earbuds from the Dollar Store, thin and thick markers in basic colors, boxes of Kleenex, Clorox wipes, hi-lighters in yellow, dry erase markers (fine tip in black, broad tip in black or blue) Post-It Notes (3x3), calculators from the Dollar Store

“EVERY MEAL” BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

Social Ministries will again partner with Lily of the Valley to contribute funds and volunteers so students will have weekend food through the “Every Meal” program. Any monetary donation is greatly appreciated. Please make checks to Christus Victor with “backpack food” in the memo line and drop it in the church office. More information on volunteer opportunities will be coming later. CV Contact: Cindy Baubie (Cindybaubie@charter.net or 952-715-2080)



THANK YOU!

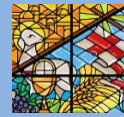
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We cannot express enough how grateful we are for your generosity during the garage sale. Whether it was helping with set-up, during the week, with clean-up, donating items, or shopping, this year's garage sale would not have been possible. The total raised this year was \$13,800. 10% will be given to our community partners. At the end of the sale, donations were made to Bridging, giving them all of the furniture, bedding, and towels. Kaitlyn's Kloset got all of the kids' clothes and shoes and baby toys, and Birthright of St. Paul got all of the infant clothes. All the other items were donated to Savers. Praise God for all the blessings throughout the week.
-- The 3 Js (Jennie, Jody, and Julie).



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED!

- **Please sign up to help with worship on Sunday mornings!**
- 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>



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Welcome to Fall! Children, Youth, and Family Ministries kick into high gear in a few weeks! Here is some important information and some dates to put on your calendars:

Sunday Faith Formation For ALL will start with a meeting on Sunday, September 17, following worship. We'll be chatting about the year, what Faith Formation is all about, who it's for (EVERYBODY!), and what milestones and events we help put on.

Every Sunday we have Faith Formation following worship, starting at 10:30 AM. Typically, on the first Sunday of each month, we have a large group, all ages activity (like Bible Sunday or the Advent Festival). In the middle of the month Sundays, we have small group time for all ages (including adults!), and on the last Sunday of each month, we have open fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday, October 1, will be Bible Sunday!

Wednesday, September 20, will be our parent meetings for all of our Wednesday evening ministries, including GLOW, Confirmation, and High School Youth Group. We will have pizza dinner starting at 6 PM, with the Confirmation and GLOW parent meetings to follow. The Youth Group meeting will be at 8:30 in the Youth Room, and we will talk about the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer.

Every Wednesday we have dinner at 6:00 PM, which ANYONE can come to! Typically, on the first Wednesday of the month, we try something other than pizza (HyVee Catering, Raising Cane's, etc.). We do announcements at 6:20 all together, then break off for Confirmation, GLOW, adult ministries, and Choir rehearsal around 6:30. At 7:30, we have ReCharge worship in the sanctuary for everyone. Following all that, High School Youth Group meets in the Youth Room from 7:50 - 9:00.

Wednesday, September 27, will be our first night of lessons.

FUN AT WAPO!!!!

