

Voice of Victory

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Volume 26, Issue 11 November 2023

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"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." – Ephesians 2: 8-10

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Dear Friends in Christ,

Paul reminds us that we have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as a free gift from God. Your life is a gift. Everything you have is a gift. The creation is a gift. Your salvation is a gift. It's all a pure gift of God's love in and through Jesus Christ.

What do you do when you are given a gift? GIVE THANKS!

How do we give thanks to God? GOOD WORKS AS A WAY OF LIFE!

In mid-October a woman from a local church came to see me, to ask if we would consider supporting the food shelf they host with donations and volunteers. It turned out her church was not able to meet all of the needs on their own, and she was going around asking local churches to help. After I explained to her all of the ways Christus Victor not only supports the food shelf at the Rosemount Family Resource Center, and the EveryMeal backpack food program at Greenleaf Elementary School, and the Open Door Food Pantry, and many other programs to help our neighbors in need, both in our local community, and through Feed My Starving Children, around the world, she was stunned. Then it was her turn to stun me, when she told me the number of local churches (of all denominations) who DO NOT DO ANYTHING to help and serve their neighbors in need! Nothing! Nada! Zip! Zilch!

I want to thank all of you who give generously to support our outreach and service ministries to our neighbors. I want to thank all of you who give extra donations of food and goods to help others. I want to thank all of you who volunteer to help our local ministry partners, serving our neighbors in need. You are living examples of giving thanks to God for all of your blessings by doing good works as a way of life! Thank you for your faithful service and living example to all!

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

Recharge Service 7:30pm



In Deep Gratitude for Your Faithfulness and Generosity,
Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud



COMMITMENT AND CONSECRATION SUNDAY

November 19 at 9:30am!

Watch your mail and listen to the announcements at church for how you can make your pledge to support the ministry and mission of Christ Jesus, here at Christus Victor Lutheran Church.



Upcoming Holy Day Worship Services

Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Fest – Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00pm!

Join us for worship as we give thanks and praise to the Lord for all of our many blessings. How has God blessed you this past year? How can you be a blessing to others in the year ahead?

Looking ahead to Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

9:30am Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

2023 BKB FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 11 – 8am – 12 noon



Everyone is invited to the Bega Kwa Bega Fall Festival on Saturday, November 11, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (700 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul). A time to ponder, pray and celebrate our community.

Schedule:

- 8:00 am Registration & Refreshments
- 8:30 am Affiliate Presentations
- 9:40 am Update on the Companionship
- 10:30 am Breakout Sessions
- 11:15 am Closing Worship

[REGISTER HERE](#)

MILESTONES at CHRISTUS VICTOR



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

Ordination:

October 14: Lydia Svenulski

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SEMINAR

Saturday, November 4, 9am to 4pm



Have you ever wondered what you should be when you grow up? All joking aside, God has called us to live our life to the fullest and to realize that every day is a gift for us to love and to serve.

God grants us all specific gifts that empower us to do the work of the kingdom every single day. You are gifted! Spiritual gifts are part of your DNA and we want to help you uncover your gift package in a way that makes sense.

This retreat will provide you with an opportunity to look deeply at who you are and how God has uniquely blessed you with certain gifts. Using spiritual gift inventories, conversation, and other tools, you'll go home with a better sense of who you are and how you might best serve your faith community and the world!

Registration is \$30 per person to cover the cost of materials and lunch.

REGISTER at - <https://spaselca.regfox.com/spiritual-gifts-retreat>



Stewardship 2024 – CHRISTUS VICTOR'S MISSION and VISION

We, the members of Christus Victor Lutheran Church, have been called by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to serve our community with Faith, Love, and Open Arms.

We are a community of faith that is being transformed by the love of God in Jesus Christ to become the Christ-centered people we have been saved, called, gathered, and equipped to be for the sake of a hurting world.

As we begin to reflect on our stewardship, our financial support of the ministry and mission of the church, we invite you to reflect on how the ministries of the church have impacted you and your family. ***"In what ways has God, through the ministry of our church, impacted you and your family?"***

We have asked a cross section of church members for their responses to this question, perhaps their stories resonate with you:

- ***God touches me in the worship services, through the preaching and the beautiful music of the choir and special music, in the Bread and the Wine***
- ***Being the hands of Christ in our community in so many ways, especially volunteering to help at the food shelf, packing meals for Feed My Starving Children, and the Thanksgiving Baskets***
- ***Seeing our kids growing in faith, excited about church and their church friends, building connections between all ages***
- ***Growing in my faith through Bible studies and small groups, like the Dwelling Place, and the Women's Retreat***
- ***Seeing our church make a difference in our community and around the world through our partnerships with the Mlowa Parish and Kids Alive, our relationships with Lily of the Valley and Casa de Oracion, the education and work we've been doing with Racial Justice***
- What would you add to these stories of how God has impacted both you and your family through the ministries of the church?

As you reflect on the ways God has impacted you and your family through the ministries of Christus Victor, we want to share with you the key areas of ministry focus for the coming year. This is not a complete list but highlights areas where we are needing your support to grow the ministry that God has entrusted to us.

Our Ministry Focus in 2024...

GROWING IN FAITH – Children, Youth, and Family Ministry on Wednesday Nights and Sunday Mornings is a vital and growing part of our ministry. We need to provide support and resources for our staff, Josh and Stacey, and our wonderful lay leaders who faithfully design curriculum and create meaningful faith forming experiences for our children, youth, and families. This also includes monthly Young Adult Dinner Church, Bible study and fellowship events for Seniors, retreats, and Spiritual Renewal Small Groups for adults of all ages.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES, SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS – Christus Victor continues to reach out with love and service to our community through our partnerships with 360 Communities and the Food Shelf, Greenleaf Elementary School and Every Meal, Feed My Starving Children, Thanksgiving Baskets, Blood Drives, and now hosting a once-a-month Food Shelf Pop-Up with the Open Door Pantry.

We also support our partnerships with the Mlowa Parish in Tanzania and the Kids Alive Ministry in the Dominican Republic, through student sponsorships and projects, such as the Sunflower Oil Press.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP – Under the leadership of Albert and Nikki, the choir is growing as we transform our Sunday morning worship services, blending both traditional and contemporary elements together. Recharge Worship continues to connect with the kids and families who participate in Wednesday night ministries, and all who are needing a mid-week Recharge.

SUPPORTING OUR STAFF – we are committed to supporting our staff with appropriate levels of compensation, benefits, and funds for continuing education and the fulfilling of their ministries.



SACRED SITES TOUR REFLECTIONS



On Sunday afternoon, October 1, a group of CV members joined with 36 others from ELCA churches

in our community for the SACRED SITES TOUR, led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs. We went to three sites from Mendota to Fort Snelling State Park. It was a powerful, informative, and challenging afternoon, learning about the tragic history and continuing struggles of indigenous peoples, specifically the Dakota people on whose land our church and homes now stand.

In the coming months, we will be sharing the personal reflections of those who went on the Sacred Sites Tour, in the hopes that others would be interested in participating in a tour next spring or summer.

“For me, the Sacred Sites Tour was an informative experience. I learned a lot of stuff about Native American history that I doubt I would've learned if I hadn't gone. Being able to see some of the remaining sites and learn their stories was both enlightening and revealing and helped me learn the full extent of their treatment. I feel like what I learned on that tour are things every Minnesotan should learn, and if I had to choose one way for everybody to learn, I'd have to choose this tour. Jim Bear's storytelling was amazing and wasn't sugarcoated in the slightest and has already gotten me to want to learn more about Dakota history. All in all, it was an unforgettable experience.” –Nola

“I have had to take some time to think and reflect on the Sacred Sites tour that I attended and try to put my thoughts, emotions, and reactions into words. Emotions are hard to verbalize. I went to this tour thinking it would be about Native American sacred sites and rituals so I could learn about them and possibly compare and find the areas they and my beliefs are

alike. The tour was very different from my expectations, but so much more. The narrator, Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs from the MN Council of Churches, took us to three of the most sacred sites to the native Dakota people of Minnesota and through storytelling walked us through the historical events of these sites. I quickly came to realize that we have not been taught the real history of MN and the treatment of the native people.

We started in Mendota Heights at the now site of a catholic church, but the site that was originally occupied and very sacred to native people. We traveled to Fort Snelling State Park, the area below the bluffs where Fort Snelling sits and the site that for the Dakota people is their most sacred site. The site where they believe the first human steps were taken by their ancestors; the site where pregnant women would travel for days to give birth so their child would be born at this sacred place. And tragically the site that became an internment camp for the Dakota people when soldiers and settlers moved west to claim Minnesota lands. The site where hundreds died from starvation and mistreatment. And we ended at the top of Pilot Knob in Eagan which is a sacred burial ground for the Dakota people. An area that almost became expensive condominiums. Rev. Jim Bear told the most tragic and heartbreaking stories that we all need to know about. After telling us the stories, he ended with the question "What do we do with this?" And his answer: "we talk about it!" Every one of us needs to educate ourselves about the actual history and talk about it. We need to educate our children and pass this on to future generations. We need to be part of the healing process for native people; we need to acknowledge and respect their culture and beliefs.

I was left with a heavy heart and hard emotions from hearing the stories that I had never heard before but also with hope that we can be part of the healing process. So, let's talk about it...” -Barb D.



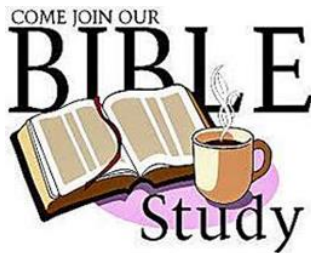
FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

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!

WEDNESDAY FOODIE FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS ADULT TOPIC

Our next "Foodie Fellowship" Night will be on



Wednesday, November 1, with special guests and CV members, Adrian and Mike Olsen, talking about "TRADITIONS." 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

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?



Interested in signing up or getting your group involved? Contact Pastor Kent at pastor.kent@christusvictor.org or 952-454-6927.

CV YOUNG ADULT DINNER CHURCH



Join other young adults from CV for Dinner Church! We prepare a meal together and eat together while having

worship and discussions about a topic led by a member of the group. Please rsvp on the CV Young Adult Facebook page and invite your friends to come with you!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3188421811449041>



RACIAL JUSTICE

Voting in a country with a democratic government is a blessing, and one of the most important responsibilities we have as Christians and as citizens.

As posted on our ELCA website, “We are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all.”

Sources of information to be an informed voter may be found on candidate webpages, local newspaper interviews, League of Women Voters, and the MN Secretary of State website [Voter Information Portal \(mn.gov\)](https://www.sos.state.mn.gov) where you can find a sample ballot, polling place information, and register to vote.

For resources specific to the south metro area ballots, check out the “Informed Voter Election Resources for 2023,” as compiled by South of the River Coalition for Equity (SORCE-ELCA). [Election 2023 Voter Resources - Google Slides](#).

YOUR VOTE MATTERS! If you haven’t already voted early, please be sure to get out and vote on or before Tuesday, November 7. Take this opportunity to research issues and candidates, make a personal commitment to vote, and prayerfully consider the following in making your choices.

- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- Dignity, compassion, and justice
- Inclusion and diversity
- Courage and openness to change
- Faithful stewardship of God’s creation and gifts

Happy Thanksgiving, and God’s Blessings to each of you as we give thanks for this privilege to do our part to promote dignity and respect for all citizens of the United States.

CVLC Racial Justice Committee: *Diana Buffie, Elizabeth Manning, 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:

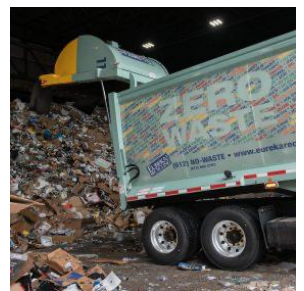
[RACIAL JUSTICE | Christus Victor Lutheran Church](#)

FROM THE GREEN TEAM

America Recycles Day November 15

Here are 5 ways you can participate.

1. **Review the recycling guidelines from your hauler.** It is important not only to recycle, but to do it right. Guidelines can change from time to time, and even if they don’t, it’s still useful to have a refresher. Remember, although good intentioned, wish-cycling is counter-productive.
2. **Seek out products that are made from recycled materials.** Often the reason certain materials aren’t accepted in a recycling program, is because there is no market for that recycled material. This means the recycling facility has no one who wants to buy the material once it is collected and sorted.
3. **Keep it simple.** If you are not sure about something, don’t recycle it. A recycling code or the universal chasing arrows logo on a material is an explanation of what the material is, **not** an automatic indicator that a material is recyclable.
4. **Share your story.** If you learn something new or have an experience about recycling, tell someone else.
5. **Attend the virtual tour of the Eureka Recycling Center** being offered by Dakota County. Here are the details:



[Tour a Recycling Center \(online\)](#)

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6:00 p.m.

[Register](#)



FROM SOCIAL MINISTRIES

THANKSGIVING BASKETS – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18



Thanksgiving is a time to thank God for all of our blessings. It is also a time to reach out to families who otherwise might not be able to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

The Social Ministries Committee is organizing Thanksgiving Baskets for those in our community who are in need. Our goal is to provide 120 families with a \$50 Cub card and grocery items.

How can you help?

- Prayers for those who will be participating in this great event.
- A donation of any amount is welcome. Donations can be put in an envelope located at the Welcome Desk then placed in the offering baskets during the worship service. Checks should be made payable to Christus Victor with Thanksgiving Baskets noted on the memo line.
- Volunteer on Saturday, November 18. This is where the action happens.
Start time: 8:30 AM
Volunteers are needed until baskets are distributed. We are also asking for 3 strong individuals to stay until the end to carry out bags and help with clean-up.
A volunteer signup sheet is located at the Welcome Desk.

Thank you for making this a successful event and helping families in our community know God's love.

Holiday Cookie Express

Sunday, December 10 - After the service

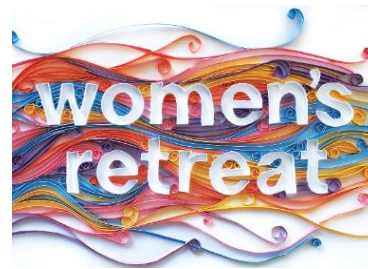


\$15.00 buys a container to fill with a variety of homemade



cookies. *This event will benefit Social Ministries projects to feed others in need.*

WOMEN'S RETREAT



The Women's Retreat will be **November 10-12** at Camp Wapo. All women are welcome to join us for this time of Bible study, relaxation, and

fellowship. We will be studying the book of Matthew, focusing on the Beatitudes. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the beautiful setting at Wapo and have fun too! Retreat leaders are Elizabeth Manning, Sarah Youngner and Kristi Manning. The cost for the retreat is \$126 for the weekend or \$35 for just Saturday. The full cost includes 2 nights stay and 4 meals; the day cost includes 3 meals. An additional \$10 will be asked to cover the cost of a book that will be used. The signup sheet is on the Information Desk or call the church office to register.

WELCOMING

Using Our Blessings by Raymond A. Foss

**We are to use our gifts
our blessings from God
the riches we have received
to be shared as we are able
given away in his name
offered to others
in love, by grace
serving in his name**



**All of us together
each to do their part
using what we have been given
to do our master's work
going to the ends of the earth
heeding his call for our lives
sharing all that we have
nothing left behind**

Happy Thanksgiving from the Welcoming Team



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Faith Formation For ALL upcoming events:

Faith Formation For All's Gratitude Sunday!

Our large group event for November 5 is all about Gratitude. EVERYONE is invited to join in the gathering space after worship for some activities, games, and video lessons on thankfulness and gratitude. We'll also be making cards for the Thanksgiving Baskets together.

Advent Wreaths

4th graders will learn about and assemble their own Advent Wreaths following worship on Sunday, November 26. Youth and parents are encouraged to meet together in the Art Room at 10:30 AM and will take their Advent Wreaths home.





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!

TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's time to order Christmas poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary! The plants come in two colors: red and white. Cost is \$15 per 6.5-inch pot and \$25 per 8-inch pot. The deadline for ordering is 5:30pm Thursday, November 2. Order forms are available at the information desk or in the church office.



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.



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>