

Voice of Victory

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Volume 27, Issue 1 January 2024

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

Recharge Service 7:30pm



Following Jesus Means Fishing...for people!

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

Mark 1: 16-17

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! Are you ready to learn how to fish with Jesus?

It turns out that if you are going to follow Jesus you are going to learn how to fish... for people that is. Yes, Jesus wants you to follow him, to shape your lives to be like his, to learn from him about the Kingdom of God, but also to learn to fish for people. To bring more and more people into the Kingdom of God!

Jesus is counting on you for this heavenly net-working plan, emphasis on NET! Remember that most famous Bible verse, “For God so loved the world, that he sent his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life”? How are people going to come to believe in Jesus and receive the hope and promise of eternal life unless someone tells them about Jesus, shows them the love and light of Jesus? In other words, Jesus is counting on you to “fish for people.”

Let’s go fishing!

Yours in Christ’s Service,
Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud

happy new year



BASKETS OF LOVE – JANUARY 28, 2024

Baskets of Love



On Sunday, January 28, 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 both

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 the Mlowa parish in Tanzania.

We are again asking the generous members and ministry teams of Christus Victor to volunteer to fill a basket with special stuff for auction. Please bring donated baskets to the church by Sunday, January 21. We are also inviting you to come and bid on these wonderfully creative baskets the following Sunday, January 28.

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

Winter Walking at CV!



Get out of the house and come walk around our beautiful, warm, church! Meet up with some friends to walk and talk together, while getting your steps in.

Starts on Monday, January 8.

Mondays – 11am – 2pm

Wednesdays – 11am – 2pm

MILESTONES at CHRISTUS VICTOR



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

Baptism:

December 31: Alaina Christie Beehler

Parents: Matt and Taylor Beehler

Sponsors: Kayley Indrehus and Nathan Beehler

South Metro Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Feb. 5 – 10, 2024

HOSANNA! Church is hosting this year’s FMSC Mobile Pack event. This is the 10th year of this community-wide partnership.

For **Faith Formation for All**, on **Sunday, January 7**, we will be hearing stories, taste testing, and more, as well as have an opportunity to Register and Give Generously to feed hungry kids! Start saving your extra change and money, as you will be packing \$50 worth of food, and we must pay our grocery bill!!





Annual Meeting

February 25, 2024 – 10:45am

All confirmed, active members of Christus Victor Lutheran Church are cordially invited to attend the Annual Church Meeting. All active members are encouraged to participate in and support the decision-making process of the church as we work together to answer God’s call to ministry and mission: “Serving Christ and Community with Faith, Love, and Open Arms.”

Some Items for the Meeting:

- CV Committees’ Ministry Accomplishments and Goals
- 2024 Budget Proposal
- Election of New Council Members
- *Constitution Updates – including changes that allow for the change for the date of the annual meeting
- Update on the Capital Campaign and Projects
- Season of Renewal Update

You will be receiving the official notification letter in January and hearing the announcements during church.

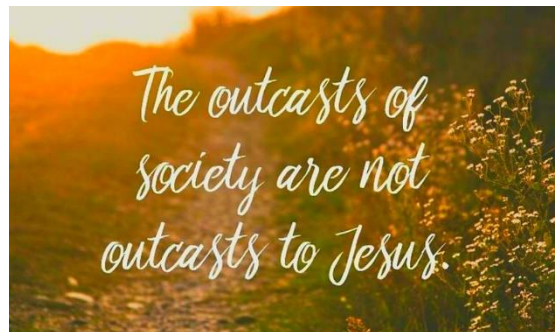
In addition to the business of new council member elections and approval of the budget, you will be asked to vote to approve an updated Christus Victor Constitution and Bylaws. The ELCA held its every-three-year assembly in 2023 and the Model Constitution for Congregations was updated. This requires an update to the Christus Victor Constitution. You will receive a congregational notification of the Constitution vote with the Annual Meeting notification and the details of the changes. A full copy of the updated Constitution will be available in the church office and to download from the church website.

[Click here to download a copy of the Constitution.](#)

FROM THE WELCOMING TEAM...

The Church should be a community where messed-up people are welcome, outcasts are loved, underdogs find a champion, the hopeless find hope, and the friendless find a friend.

Jesus treated no one as an “outcast”; not only did He tolerate these “unacceptable” people – He actually welcomed and ate with them! Part of our mission is to reach out in compassion to the outcasts in our world so they might feel welcomed, accepted, seen, and heard. Most people have a desire for community and need to know that they matter. It is our hope that they might come to know Christ’s love as shown through us!





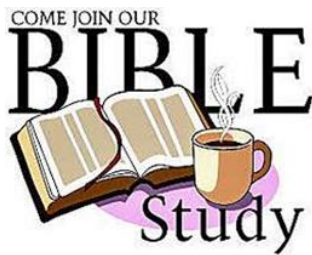
FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS

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

- **First Sunday** – all ages forming faith together.
- **January 7** - Learn more about **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN** and the kids and many countries they serve. Hear from a speaker about how you can help feed hungry kids. And sign up to help with the Feb. 5-10 South Metro Mobile Pack Event!
- **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!

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 is underway.



WEDNESDAY FOODIE FELLOWSHIP NIGHT – JAN 17 CAMP WAPO NIGHT

Our next "Foodie Fellowship" Night will be on

Wednesday, January 17,
with a special guest from Camp WAPO, who will be talking about summer camp with parents and the kids.

The February 7 Foodie Fellowship Night parent discussion with Adrian and Mike Olsen will be on "LOVE." Upcoming topics:

- February - Love
- March - Perseverance
- April - Identity

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>

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



FROM SOCIAL MINISTRIES

The first Mobile Food Pantry was held December 21, 2023, at Christus Victor in partnership with The Open Door Food Pantry. This mobile pantry will be held at Christus Victor the third Thursday of each month from 12:00 to 2:30pm. The Open Door will bring food to Christus Victor for their clients to come and shop. This is a new volunteer opportunity for Christus Victor members.



After the first event we received the following message from The Open Door:

Just wanted to extend another thank you for all that you have done to prepare for a successful food distribution today! As I mentioned when we were finishing up today, this was our largest appointment-based mobile distribution to date and minus a little tippy cart it went off without a hitch. We were able to provide food to 42 families at a crucial time of the year! Each family on average received a little over 60 pounds of food, bringing food handed out today to over 2,500 pounds total!

The Open Door is a hunger relief organization dedicated to ending local hunger through access to healthy food. Through its collective programs, The Open Door serves more than 14,000 Dakota County residents each month, and distributes over 2 million pounds of food annually, 70% of which is fresh and/or perishable. The Mobile Pantry travels to designated sites on a pre-arranged schedule, one neighborhood at a time, eliminating transportation and mobility barriers.

Please consider becoming a volunteer at this monthly event. Each month 8-10 volunteers will be needed to help at Christus Victor. The Open Door has a convenient signup system that volunteers can use to sign up for the Christus Victor site. Follow the link below and create an account and you will then use that account to access their volunteer calendar. Select Christus Victor On-Site Distribution Helper on the 3rd Thursday of the month for the date you would like to volunteer. You will receive email confirmations and reminders. Keep this link and your account information so you can volunteer for the Christus Victor site and for any other of the many volunteer opportunities that The Open Door has.

[Volunteer Application Form - The Open Door \(volgistics.com\)](https://volgistics.com)

This is a great new opportunity we have at Christus Victor to serve our local community. If you have any questions or want more information about The Open Door please contact Barb Damlo bdamlo@gmail.com or Peggy Sunwall sunwall@charter.net



A very heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in Social Ministries Cookie Express. Just over \$1,200 was raised at this event. Homemade cookie donations, cookie purchases, and prayers helped ensure much needed donations can be given from Christus Victor to Feed My Starving Children, Every Meal and March Food Share.



FROM THE GREEN TEAM



Do You Know? Minnesota has a state recycling goal of 75% by the year 2030. Current rates are around 45%.

What Can You Do To Help?

Reduce = Don't create waste if you don't have to.

Reuse = Reuse, share, sell or give away still usable items.

Repair = Fix stuff before tossing it and buying new. Dakota County holds Fix-It Clinics each month. Get items fixed or mended for free and learn useful repair skills. Find out when and where here: <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/Residential/Reduce/Pages/fix-repair.aspx>

Rot = Compost your food scraps. It makes a great soil amendment!

Recycle = If you absolutely cannot do something else with your stuff, find a way to recycle it. The Dakota County Recycling Guide is a great source for answering your questions on where to recycle. <https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/RecyclingDisposalGuide/Pages/default.aspx>

Remember... Aluminum and Steel can be recycled an infinite number of times. Glass can be recycled almost infinitely. Plastic can only be recycled 1-2 times.

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>

Screen, Stream, and Sound Team Members Needed! 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 God through Jesus Christ with people across the state and country who would otherwise not be able to attend worship. It takes three people to ensure we have the sound, the words for worship, and are able to stream worship to our wider, online community. Contact Pastor Kent for more information regarding training and signing up to help - pastor.kent@christusvictor.org.





RACIAL JUSTICE

Happy New Year! As you look back on the past year and have dreams for the new year, we hope your dreams include plans with actions to learn and grow in your faith. We invite you to join us with new opportunities in 2024 to grow in faith and understanding with action for the sake of justice in our communities!

New Books in the CV READS Library Check out new/additional books and resources that have been added to the CV READS for Racial Justice Library in the narthex.

- Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann
- The Quiet Strength and Faith of a Woman Who Changed a Nation: Reflections by Rosa Parks
- My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menakem
- Jesus and John Wayne by Kristin Kobes Du Mez
- White Too Long, The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity by Robert P. Jones
- Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- White Privilege by Paula S. Rothenberg
- Dear Church by Lenny Duncan
- The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James Cone
- A Time to Kill (DVD)
- Mississippi Burning (DVD)

New Childrens' books:

- God's Dream by Desmond Tutu and Doug Abrams
- Children of God Storybook Bible by Desmond Tutu
- Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race by Megan Madison, Jessica Ralli, and Isabel Roxas

Happy New Year and may God's Peace be yours!
The CVLC Racial Justice Committee:

Diana Buffie, Elizabeth Manning, Alice McCammon,
Kevin Philpy, Kristin Schulz, Alana Thureen

Five-week study on Traditional Dakota Spirituality

This study will begin January 9 and will be held weekly through February 6, 2024, at Easter Lutheran Church in Eagan, along with members of several other local churches. The class will be an opportunity to look at, reflect on and have conversation about how traditional Dakota spirituality and culture shaped the Dakota people, and will explore how our own spirituality and culture shapes us. The class will be led by Jerry Friest, a retired ELCA pastor and member of Easter Lutheran Church in Eagan.

This learning series is based on Charles Eastman's book, The Soul of the Indian. Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa) is a significant author, activist, lecturer, and one of the first Native American physicians. He was educated at Dartmouth and sought to bring understanding between Native and non-Native Americans.

There are two time options and both sessions/all classes are on the following Tuesdays: January 9, 16, 23, 30 and February 6, 2024. For more information, select the time that works best for you and complete your registration with the appropriate link below.

Option 1: Daytime classes, 12:00-1:30 pm, will be held at Easter on the Hill (located at the corner of Pilot Knob and Diffley Roads in Eagan). [Register here for the daytime session:](https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/signups/2024322)
<https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/signups/2024322>

Option 2: Evening classes, 7:00-8:30 pm, will be held at Easter by the Lake (located at the corner of Pilot Knob and Cliff Roads in Eagan). [Register here for the evening session:](https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/signups/2024786)
<https://registrations.planningcenteronline.com/signups/2024786>. If less than 10 participants register for the evening session, it will be cancelled. Thank you for understanding.

Please reach out to Alana Thureen with any questions. Thank you!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Faith Formation For ALL upcoming events:

Faith Formation's Feed My Starving Children Sunday

Sunday, January 7, is our first large group Faith Formation For ALL of the year! Members from the FMSC team will be at church with food to taste, stories to tell, and activities for ALL ages!



Leadership Training Refresh

Wednesday night, January 10, there will be a leadership training for all SWAT Teamers, FFFAll helpers, and any CYF leadership. We will start with pizza at 6 and end by 8 PM.



JUST Move Lock-In

On Sunday night, January 14, there is an overnight lock-in for 6-8th graders. It is being hosted by Woodlake Lutheran Church in Richfield, and we are partnering with them and a few other congregations for a night of music, storytelling, inflatables, midnight pizza, night games, movies, and more! PLUS, special guests Joe Davis and Dave Scherer (AGAPE*!).

It is from 7 PM - 7 AM Monday morning (MLK Day, so no school). [Sign up here](#). \$40 per youth (as always church is able to help cover costs so please just ask Josh).



WAPO Wednesday

Wednesday programming resumes on January 17 with a Foodie Fellowship Night of classic "summer" hot dogs, potato salad, and picnic fixings. We will also have a member of the Camp Wapo staff visiting us that evening to promote camp and summer sign-ups and activities for ALL ages!

