

# Voice of Victory

Volume 28, Issue 5 May 2024

# Christus Victor Lutheran Church

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

Recharge Service 7:30pm



## The One Who Walks Alongside Us – the Holy Spirit

*“When the Advocate/Comforter/Befriender comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.” - John 15: 26*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you ever feel that God is far away? Feeling that you are all alone, and God has forgotten you? Or when God doesn't seem to answer your prayers, or feels so distant? Have you ever caught yourself saying, “well, I guess God has more important things to deal with than insignificant me”? You are not alone in feeling that way sometimes. But let me help you see that you are not alone, because the Holy Spirit of God is with you.

I hope it comes as good news to you, that Jesus has promised to send you the Holy Spirit to be with you always!

Sometimes the Bible uses the word “Advocate” or “Comforter” or “Befriender.” But the word for the Holy Spirit [“paraclete”] literally means, “the one who walks alongside you.”

Jesus has given you, and everyone who believes and follows Jesus Christ, this wonderful gift and relationship with God through the Holy Spirit who walks alongside of us always. Teaching you about God and Christ. Guiding you into holiness, what it means to live as forgiven and forgiving people of God. Empowering you to be God's loving people in the world, shining the light of Christ that is in our hearts for all to see, through your words and your actions. Walking alongside of us to help and care for us, even in the darkest times.

Now you may be thinking to yourself, “*the Holy Spirit has never walked alongside me. I've never had such a mystical experience in my life.*” Well... try this. Answer the following questions that are based on the previous paragraph:

- Who has taught you about God and Jesus Christ?
- Who has guided you in living as a forgiven and forgiving person?
- Who has empowered and encouraged you to be a loving person?
- Who has helped you shine the light of Christ that is in your heart?
- Who walked alongside of you and showed you love and care, even in the darkest times of your life?

Did you come up with a list of people in your life? Family, friends, faith leaders, etc.? That's the Holy Spirit, the “one who always walks alongside of you,” embodied in and through God's people, whom the Apostle Paul calls, “the Body of Christ.” You have experienced the Holy Spirit in your life many, many times, you just didn't know it!

*Continued on page two...*



Continued from page one...

Open your mind. Open your heart. Open your eyes to the Spirit of God that is always with you, in and through the lives of other Christians. And you, beloved of God, are also called and sent to be and do the same for others who come into your life every day. Pay attention! The Spirit of God is with you, always!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Kent Claussen Gubrud

## Introducing our New Office Manager Kristin Haines!



Kristin comes to Christus Victor most recently from Carleton College, previous to that she was the Office Administrator/ Employee Relations at the Northfield Retirement Community, and before that as Office Administrator at Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield.

Kristin has been married to her husband, Eric, for 30 years. They have two kids: daughter Dani (23) & son Mack (20). Dani & her partner Michael live near St. Cloud with their 2 fur babies. Mack is a sophomore at Connecticut College in New London, CT studying physics. Eric is a self-employed General Contractor and also does construction consulting as well as IT work on the side.

My interests include anything that involves my family! The MN Wild, playing Bingo and I'm an avid reader. I'm looking forward to joining the CV team, meeting the members of the congregation and being of service to all. If you need to email me, my church email is [kristin@christusvictor.org](mailto:kristin@christusvictor.org).

Please welcome Kristin and make her feel at home!

## **MILESTONES at CHRISTUS VICTOR**



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

### **2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:**

Kayla Case, Dora Colin, Ian Hanson, Hailie Holman, Christian Klein, Meyer Kreutzmann, Katelyn Radke

**RECOGNITION SUNDAY, MAY 19**



### **Are you a reader?**

Looking for some summer reading that focuses on faith, life, and the spiritual journey? Do you like talking about books with others?

A number of people have asked about the possibility of a summer book club, and I am wondering who might be interested in participating.

The idea would be to have a "book of the month" for June, July, and August, with a gathering(s) at the end of each month to discuss the book. If you are interested in participating (even if only to read the books), please contact Pastor Kent at [pastor.kent@christusvictor.org](mailto:pastor.kent@christusvictor.org).

If there is a small, committed group, we will post the Summer Book Club reading list in late May, along with tentative dates for discussion gatherings.





## FAITH FORMATION & EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

FROM THE WELCOMING TEAM...

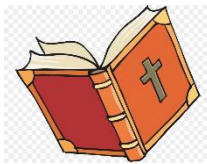
### ADULT BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

#### **\*WEDNESDAY** Morning Bible Study at the Villas at 10am in the basement meeting

**room!** The adult Bible study is moving to Wednesday mornings starting in February! Bring your Bible and join us for an always interesting and fun conversation about scripture and our life and faith. All are welcome.



#### **Thursday Bible Reflections on the CV FACEBOOK page at 8:45AM** – tune in at



8:45am 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.

#### **LAST WEDNESDAY FOODIE FELLOWSHIP NIGHT – MAY 1!**

The last Foodie Fellowship Night is on May 1 with parent discussion with Adrian and Mike Olsen! Join us for a BBQ dinner, stay for a great discussion and connecting with other parents and adults.

**FOODIE  
FELLOWSHIP**

### **CV YOUNG ADULTS**

Watch the Facebook group and messenger for information on our next gatherings. Check out our Facebook Group to stay connected -

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



#### **Lord, Help Me Be A Blessing Today**

Lord, help me be a blessing today.  
Help me to lessen the load of others.  
Equip me to encourage, and cue me to show compassion.

Where I can, help me walk alongside of those who need a friend, with a listening ear, and a helping hand.

Help me to not add to the burden of any person, in any way.

Allow me to voice words of sympathy, sorrow, and caring.

Help me to also speak blessings, compliments, and congratulations wherever I'm able.

Give me a heart to comfort and not compare, and to serve without strife.

Lord, open my eyes to the ones who feel invisible.

Allow me to see those who aren't seen.

May I notice those who feel unnoticed.

Lead me to love without conditions, believe the best in others, and shine your light to everyone I meet.

I pray others see Jesus in me today.

Amen.

[julielefebure.com](http://julielefebure.com)



## SOCIAL MINISTRIES



Social Ministries would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the Minnesota Food Share Challenge in March. Because of your generosity, Christus Victor raised \$6,890 and also much needed food items. 100% of our financial contributions go to 360 Communities

local food shelves to feed our neighbors in need. Thank you to all who provided funds and food items!

### THE DIAPER DRIVE RETURNS!

Mother's Day is coming so this means Social Ministries will kick off their diaper drive to bless our neighbors in need. Please help fill the playpen in the Gathering Space with diapers and wipes. We are especially in need of diapers sized 4, 5 and 6. Money can also be donated which will be used to purchase diapers. Please write diaper drive on the memo line of your check and place it in the offering. The drive will run from **May 12 - June 9.**

The diaper drive will benefit our local community partners: Rosemount and Burnsville Community Resource Centers and the Lewis House.

The National Diaper Bank conducted national research in 2023 and they found that 47% of families with kids in diapers struggle to provide enough clean diapers for their kids.

To fully understand how this could be true, we can look at how many diapers a baby might go through in a day: On average a baby up to 4 months old can go through 8-10 diapers per day, a 4- to 8-month-old baby can go through 8-9 diapers per day and then at 8 months and older babies can go through 6-7 diapers per day. Thus, the range can be anywhere from 42-70 diapers per WEEK! This could average \$30 per week, thus \$120 per month just in diapers.

If you have questions you can reach out to Carla B at [carlafromcv@gmail.com](mailto:carlafromcv@gmail.com)



A FRESH APPROACH  
TO ENDING LOCAL HUNGER

Each month, on the third Thursday, from 12:00 to 2:30pm, a Mobile Food Pantry is held at Christus Victor in partnership

with The Open Door Food Pantry. Open Door brings food to Christus Victor for their clients to come and shop.

**The next event will be Thursday, May 16.**

Please consider becoming a volunteer at this monthly event. Each month 8-10 volunteers will be needed to help at Christus Victor. To learn more about how to sign up to be a volunteer go to the [Social Ministries page](#) on the Christus Victor Website.

If you can't join us at the CV Mobile Food Pantry, Open Door has other volunteer opportunities:  
**Food Sorting:** Help get onsite and offsite distributions ready by sorting incoming donations from grocery store partners.

**Garden to Table:** Help with the upkeep of the community gardens.

**Mobile Lunchbox Program:** Deliver lunches to kids this summer through the Mobile Lunchbox Program.

**Offsite Distributions, including Summer Pop Up**

**Produce:** Help the Mobile Pantry with food distribution sites at senior living facilities, elementary schools and the summer neighborhood distributions.

This is a great 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](mailto:bdamlo@gmail.com) or Peggy Sunwall [sunwall@charter.net](mailto:sunwall@charter.net)

Or go to the [Open Door website](#) and become an Open Door Volunteer!



American Red Cross

Many thanks to all the CV members who donated at the April 18 Blood Drive.

With your help we donated 39 units of blood, another successful drive. Red Cross and Social Ministries THANK YOU!!



## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

### **Wednesday CYF BBQ Potluck**

**Wednesday, May 1,** is the last Wednesday of the year for CYF activities. We are having a BBQ Potluck, and everyone is invited! CV will provide burgers and brats, and we are asking everyone else to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. There is no charge for this meal! This is also the last night of the year for GLOW, Confirmation, Youth Group, and ReCharge worship. Dinner is at 6:00 PM, worship at 7:30 PM.

### **Faith Formation For All Park Clean Up, Root Beer Floats, and Volunteer Recognition**

**Sunday, May 5,** is our final Faith Formation For All activity of the year! We will be recognizing ALL volunteers and helpers for children, youth, and family ministries here at CV during worship. Then, we are inviting everyone to help with the church grounds and park cleanup outside after worship, followed by ice cream, root beer, and toppings.

### **High School Senior Graduation Sunday**

On **Sunday, May 19,** we will be recognizing all our high school graduating seniors. Please come to worship and the following reception afterwards to support them! Gift baskets will be on their respective tables in the Gathering Space.

### **Vacation Bible School and Summer Stretch Sign Ups!**

Make sure to sign up children and youth for VBS and Summer Stretch!

VBS will be in the mornings this year, from 9 AM - 12 PM, June 17 - 20. There will also be a Thursday evening potluck and program!

We are inviting Green Lake Bible Camp to help run our program again this summer, as well as partnering with our friends down the road at Grace Lutheran Church! They will be bringing some of their volunteers and children as well!

[Sign up here](#) either as a youth or volunteer by May 26!

**Summer Stretch** is for all incoming 6th - 9th graders on Thursdays throughout the summer. We meet from 12 - 5 PM and often go off-site for service projects and fellowship activities. [Sign up here](#) by May 23!

### **Gertens Flower Pickup**



The Gertens spring bedding plant orders will be delivered on Saturday, May 18. Make sure to mark your calendars!







## GREEN TEAM...

### It's Spring! Time to get out in the garden!

#### Behind the scenes at The Mulch Store, May 8

Celebrate International Compost Awareness Week by attending a free, self-guided walking tour of The Mulch Store on Wednesday, May 8, from 5–7 p.m. Stop by to see how our food scraps are turned into compost. Staff will be on hand to answer your composting questions. No registration required. [The Mulch Store](#) is located at 16454 Blaine Ave. E., Rosemount.

#### Get your compost for spring planting



[Purchase finished compost](#) from The Mulch Store at their Burnsville or Rosemount locations. The Mulch Store carries a wide variety of compost products. The Mulch Store participates in the [US](#)

[Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance](#) program to make sure the products you purchase are finished and meet quality standards. Check pricing, hours, and compost blends on their website.

#### Burnsville Annual Native Plant Market, May 18

9am - Noon, City Hall Parking Lot (100 Civic Center Parkway)



#### Why native plants?

Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil types. They provide resources for wildlife. Their deep roots prevent soil erosion, improve soil health, help soil hold more water and filter pollution. Once established, native plants need

less care than traditional garden plants.

The sale is open to Burnsville and non-Burnsville residents!

#### Garden Tool Swap, May 18, Burnsville

9am - Noon, City Hall Parking Lot (100 Civic Center Parkway)

Dakota County holds various Community Swaps for outdoor gear, puzzles, crafting supplies, garden tools, etc. Check out the upcoming events on the Dakota County Website ([co.dakota.mn.us](http://co.dakota.mn.us))>Environment and search swaps.

What to expect at a community swap:

1. Bring clean, usable items to the designated check-in area. Volunteers are available to help if needed.
2. Sign a consent form, weigh your items, and answer a few questions at the check-in table.
3. Take your items to the swap area.
4. Place your items in the appropriately categorized location.
5. Browse for some new-to-you items that others have brought. Use the Try It Out area if needed.





## RACIAL JUSTICE...

In March of this year, the ELCA released a four-page document titled “We Are Christians Against Christian Nationalism,” which can be found at <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/wearechristiansagainstchristiannationism.pdf>. Copies of this document are also available at the racial justice library near the main entrance to CV. This document draws on existing Lutheran social statements regarding peace, civic life, the church in society, as well as a 2019 resolution condemning white supremacy and racist rhetoric, to provide a Lutheran perspective on Christian nationalism.

The ELCA defines Christian nationalism as “a cultural framework that idealizes and advocates fusion of certain Christian views with American civic life. This political ideology, whether explicit or not, includes the beliefs that the U.S. Constitution was divinely inspired and enjoys godly status, that Christianity should be a privileged religion in the U.S., that the nation holds a special status in God’s eyes, and that good Americans must hold Christian beliefs.”

The ELCA is committed to the common good - not the good of Christians first - and Christus Victor stands with those in the ELCA and the wider church bodies that oppose the tenets of Christian nationalism. The Racial Justice Committee invites you to read the statement (available at the link above or in hard copy at the racial justice library) and reflect upon what it means for your life in Christ, your life in American society, and your life at Christus Victor. As we celebrate Memorial Day and remember those who have died serving our country, we keep foremost in our minds that Christ has died for us - that we may have life abundantly (John 10:10); that we keep Christ's commandment that we love one another as He has loved us (John 13:34); and that there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, but that all are one in Christ (Galatians 3:28).

Please reach out to the RJ Committee (Diana Buffie, Elizabeth Manning, Alice McCammon, Kevin Philpy, Kristin Schulz, and Alana Thureen) with any comments, questions, or for additional information.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE GOLD MEDAL GARAGE SALE!!



This year’s garage sale **will be changing** to Friday, August 16, and Saturday, August 17. Setup will start on Sunday, August 11, and continue through Thursday August 15. Many volunteers will be needed to make the Gold Medal garage sale a success.

## **Do you love garage sales and want to serve your community in a big way?**

Because Julie stepped down last year and this is Jennie’s last year, we need people interested in stepping into a leadership position for the garage sale next year to work with Jody. Training will be provided!!! Talk to Jody McDermott-Baty or Jennie Rice if the spirit is leading you or if you have any questions.