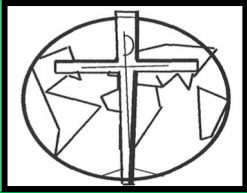


Christus Victor Lutheran Church

**DECEMBER 2023**



**“To bring the Life, Love and Teachings of Jesus  
Christ to today’s world”**



The Season of Advent



Hello Christus Victor Family and Friends.

This coming Sunday, December 3 marks the first Sunday of Advent. The Paraments will be a beautiful Blue, reminiscent of the night sky which is the backdrop for the coming ★ that will light the way for the visitors of the Christ child. The stable will be placed in front of the Altar and we will slowly add characters until we are able to place the baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve. At that time, the Wisemen will still be in the windows, slowly traveling to the Christ child which we will honor on Epiphany.

The Christmas tree will be standing tall in the Narthex. (Thank you Paul and Deb Davis for taking care of this chore). Google says this about the symbol of the Christmas Tree: *“For many, the Christmas tree represents Jesus Christ's birth and resurrection. The tree branches and bushes are regarded as a sign of immortality and are thought to represent Christ's crown of thorns on the crucifixion.”* The ornaments that cover the tree are called Chrismons: *“Chrismons, meaning “Christ monograms,” traditionally are white and gold designs made from Christian symbols that signify Christ.”* If I don't forget before I am in the office on Wednesday, I am planning to make a little game out of finding different Chrismons on the tree. Feel free to call or text me to remind me on Wednesday.

One of the biggest traditions our congregation has during Advent is our Wednesday evening Advent soup supper and worship service. I think that our Soup Suppers are legendary. From my very first Advent at Christus Victor, I have been overwhelmed by the variety and amount of soup that is made. I was surprised when we didn't have people sign up for each Wednesday. I wondered how we could be sure that we had enough soup. WELL.... If you have EVER been to a Christus Victor Soup Supper, you know that if there are 3 soups, we worry about having enough (though there has NEVER been “not enough”). It is not unusual for us to have as many as 6 or 7 soups. The big kicker is that they are all delicious, and sometime quite unique. Because we have so much soup each week, several years ago I made Pickle Soup on a whim, figuring that if it was awful, there would still be enough soup for everyone. Little did I know that it would become a requested soup for every Advent and Lent. Danuta made Borscht a couple of years which I would have never tried if it weren't for the Soup Supper evenings. Our Soup Suppers provide a great time of fellowship and an opportunity for individuals to share a bit of their own family traditions and heritage. It is a great set up for our Advent worship.

We almost always use Holden Evening Prayer for our Wednesday evening Liturgy. It is a beautiful liturgy of singing that our congregation is very familiar with. With individuals having the chance to be the leader of the liturgy if they would like, this service sets the tone of our season of anticipation. In recent years we have been using short videos to help us draw our attention to the Christ child with a few questions to ponder, and maybe a little editorial from me. This year our video series is “Songs of the Savior”. Each week through the insight of different members of the Christmas story, a familiar Christmas song is used to help us get excited about the coming of our Lord, Emmanuel.

Soup Suppers and Advent worship are a great reason to invite a friend or neighbor, or even a stranger. The very relaxed nature of the dinners and the service are perfect for those who may or may not have an understanding of Liturgy. The dinner allows people to feel the open and welcoming nature of our congregation, and the service speaks for itself. **Our first Advent Soup Supper and Worship service is on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.. We will be having the supper in our Fellowship hall until or unless the number of people attending gets too big. Wouldn't that be a great reason to move dinner back to the Family Life Center!!!!**

Let us enjoy the time of waiting and anticipating as we invite those we know to join us for wonderful dinners and beautiful 30 minute worship services!!!!

I can't wait to begin the anticipation.

God Bless you all,  
Pastor Tammy



## Upcoming Events



Help us decorate the Christmas tree! When you come for our church service on Sunday, add an ornament or two to the Christmas tree. The ornaments will be out, waiting to be hung.

The Youth Group and Chancel Choir will be spreading some Christmas cheer at The Crossing (255 Egret Bay Blvd) on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church at 1:00 and carpool to The Crossing. If you'd prefer to meet us there, please arrive by 1:25. If you have any questions, reach out to Jason (225-236-8533 or [jasonrrt97@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonrrt97@yahoo.com)). Even if you think you can't sing, come spread holiday happiness with us and make a joyful noise!



Don't forget! We are collecting Christmas gift items for Bay Area Turning Point and the family we adopted. Collection boxes are in the Narthex, along with a copy of the email we sent out with ideas for the BATP Christmas store.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be at 7:00 on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome! Invite family, friends, neighbors, or that nice lady at the grocery store to attend. We can't wait to see everyone!



There will also be a Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:30 am December 24th

*Wine  
PAIRS NICELY  
WITH GOOD  
friends*

Our Women, Wine, and Wisdom group will meet next month. What are some things you'd like to do? If you have any suggestions, please share them with Sara.



# *Christus Victor Children's School*

CVCS is getting ready for our Christmas program! You can hear singing throughout our halls as the children practice. Please join us on December 3rd at 2:00pm. After the children perform, we will have craft stations, cake for Jesus's birthday, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause.

CVCS will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> for Christmas and January 1st for New Year's.

**December Bible Verse: "A Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11**


We at CVCS wish you a Merry Christmas and a new year filled with love and laughter. Thank you for your support of our children!



## Music

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving. Good food and fellowship made me especially grateful. I was also moved by how many Christmas trees and lights are up and already glowing. I believe people are doing this earlier and earlier because they truly enjoy the Christmas holiday. I worry though that they forget the true reason for celebration. I know that as a choir director I start to "celebrate" in my head as I consider what beautiful Christmas and Advent carols that I want to honor our Lord with this season. From 'Joy to the World' to 'Noel' there are so many wonderful songs to be sung. So please consider joining us at choir or handbell rehearsals to sing the best and enjoy the best fellowship. If there is a favorite you want to hear, please let me know. Remember rehearsals are only 45 minutes. Wouldn't your heart love to spend 45 just enjoying Christmas carols? It certainly will be more fun than fighting those Christmas crowds.

Much love to each of you!

Trish 

"I was born with music inside me. Music was one of my parts. Like my ribs, my kidneys, my liver, my heart. Like my blood. It was a force already within me when I arrived on the scene. It was a necessity for me-like food or water."

-Ray Charles

"In life we naturally stay close to anything that makes us glad we are alive. That's why a **musician** is **never** far from the music. **It's our reason for breathing.**"



**The December songs for Praise Sunday (3rd Sunday of the month) are as follows:**

How Many Kings	CCLI 5351880	Prelude
O Come All Ye Faithful/We Adore You	CCLI 7100948	Gathering
Glory (Let There Be Peace)	CCLI 7071972	Hymn of the Day
Light of the World	CCLI 7023299	Offertory
Great Are You Lord	CCLI 6460220	Communion
Go Tell It On The Mountain	CCLI 29080	Recessional

The “Main Street Messengers” have their own YouTube channel. We use that to record our rehearsals to upcoming service songs. You are welcome to take a listen to those, too, to familiarize yourself with upcoming songs. As a fair warning, these are only in the rehearsal stages and can be a bit rough.

**Main St. Messenger’s**

If you are interested in singing praise songs, please come to practice on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am

Everyone welcome!



We have pre-ordered Poinsettias if you wish to purchase one the cost is \$20.00.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can email the church.

Let us know how many you want and if it is to The Glory of God or in honor or memory of someone, so we can get that information into our Christmas Eve bulletin.



## Jesus is Better than Santa!

Santa lives at the North Pole.  
**Jesus** is everywhere!

Santa rides in a sleigh  
**Jesus** rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year  
**Jesus** is an ever-present help!

Santa fills your stockings with goodies  
**Jesus** supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited  
**Jesus** stands at your door and knocks....and then enters your heart!

You have to stand in line to see Santa  
**Jesus** is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap  
**Jesus** lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is  
"Hi, little boy or girl".

**Jesus** knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads!

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.  
**Jesus** has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is Ho! Ho! Ho!  
**Jesus** offers health, help and hope!

Santa says "You better not cry"  
**Jesus** says "Cast all your cares on me for I care For you"!

Santa's little helpers make toys  
**Jesus** makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions!

Santa may make you chuckle but  
**Jesus** gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree  
**Jesus** became our gift and died on the tree!



### December Anniversaries!

Jon & Robin Hall	12/3
Peggy & Ron Bassett	12/27



### Advent Service:

Advent services will be on Wednesday, November 29, December 6th, 13th & 20th service with Holden Evening Prayer at 7 pm. In person and Live Streamed

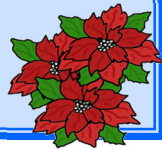
Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm

Please observe silence when entering the Sanctuary. Come join us as we prepare for our Savior's birth!

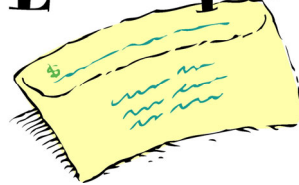


### December Birthdays!

Michael Bredeson	12/3
Braden Vykukal	12/7
David Seal	12/12
Elizabeth Del Toro	12/14
Amanda Vykukal	12/14
Shawn Keesler	12/14
Elizabeth DelToro	12/14
Rod Huber	12/15
Diana Bredeson	12/18
Terry Mossburger	12/21
Curt Gonzalez	12/23
Doris Coury	12/24
Jesus Christ	12/25
John Vykukal	12/28
Carol Vykukal	12/29
Linda Myers	12/31
Marvin Parker	12/31



### Offering Envelopes



The 2024 Offering Envelopes will be ready for pickup in the Narthex by December 10th.

Thank you for your generous support of the ministries of Christus Victor Church!



# DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <b>1st Sunday of Advent</b>  9:00 am Main St Messengers  <b>10:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>2:00 pm CVCS Christmas Program</b>	4	5	6 6 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Advent Svc.  	7	8	9
10 9:00 am Main St Messengers  <b>10:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b>	11	12	13 6 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Advent Svc.  	14	15	16
17 9:00 am Main St Messengers  <b>10:30 am Worship Service</b>  <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>	18	19	20 6 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Advent Svc.  	21	22	23
24 10:30 am Lessons and Carols 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  <hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: 0;"/> 31 10:30 am Worship Service	25	26	27	28	29	30



**Health Concerns**

(removed after 30 days)

**Personal Needs**

(removed after 30 days)

**Bereavement**

(removed after 2 weeks)

*The Family of Pat Hall  
The Family of Betsy Riley*

**Serving in our Military**

Kyra Derr  
Brandon Geiger  
Blake Meyer  
Zach Wood

**Long Term Care/Medical  
Treatments**

(remains until requested to be removed)

Raymond Aguilera (08/23)  
Earl Armstrong (04/20)  
Diana Bredeson  
Ashlynn Coury-Moseley  
Helen Danielson (8/23)  
Letha Frederick  
Elissa Gould-Schautd  
Brad Loucas (02/22)  
Scott Massey (09/23)  
Merl Matthewman (04/22)  
Daryoal Ondick (10/22)  
Marvin Parker (11/2023)  
Penny Plumlee (05/23)  
Kathy Pulliam (03/21)  
Theresa Rios (10/21)  
Patricia Meyer Schalla  
Carol Schautd  
Ken Schautd  
Natasha Slawson (05/22)  
Cathy Vaughn-Ortiz  
Kathleen Womansong (10/21)

Due to HIPPA regulations and pastoral confidentiality issues, we do not give specific details of prayer concerns in the bulletin. Please pray, however, for those who ask for our prayers for God knows and understands their needs. We pray that God's will be done.

**When a prayer request arrives marked confidential it is not placed on the prayer list. Pastor Tammy will pray for the request.**

**Please obtain permission from the person or the family before adding them to the list.**

# **Christus Victor Lutheran Church....281-332-6847**

**Vision Statement: "To bring the Life, Love, and Teachings of Jesus Christ to Today's World"**

**Sunday School: 9:00 am      Sunday Worship: 10:30 am**

## **Church and School Contact Information :**

**Contact info for Pastor Tammy Sharp - Cell # 281-924-1667**

**Tammy's E-mail: [pastortammy@comcast.net](mailto:pastortammy@comcast.net)**

**Tammy's Office Hours: 9 am until 4pm Monday thru Thursday. [Friday...out of office.]**

**Church Office Hours: 8:30 am until 3:00 pm M—T Office closed on Friday**

**Church Secretary, Sandie Price Office# 281-332-6847**

**Church Office E-mail - [cvlctx@comcast.net](mailto:cvlctx@comcast.net)      Website- [www.christusvictor.us](http://www.christusvictor.us)**

**Choir Director, Patricia Fowzer**

**Worship Committee Chairperson, Stacey Keener 281-797-6775**

**Children's School Director, Tebertha Henderson...281-332-2821 E-mail...[directorcvcs@comcast.net](mailto:directorcvcs@comcast.net)**

### **OFFERING REPORT YEAR-TO-DATE (11/30/2023)**

**2023 Offering Needed: \$ 185,801.00**

**Current Offerings Received: \$ 100,820.79**

**Shortfall: \$ 84,971.21**

**Building Fund Offerings ytd: \$ 8,125.00**

**Building fund loan balance: \$ 8,129.14  
(as of November 10, 2023)**

### **Church Council Members:**

**Council President: Sara Smart**

**Council Vice President:**

**Council Secretary: Lisa Kutinac**

**Church Treasurer: Carol Vykukal**

**Property:**

**School Board President: Lisa Kutinac**

**Outreach:**

**Education:**

**Worship:**

**Parish Life:**

**Stewardship:**