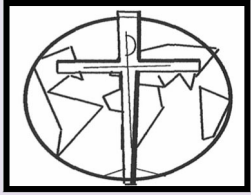


Christus Victor Lutheran Church

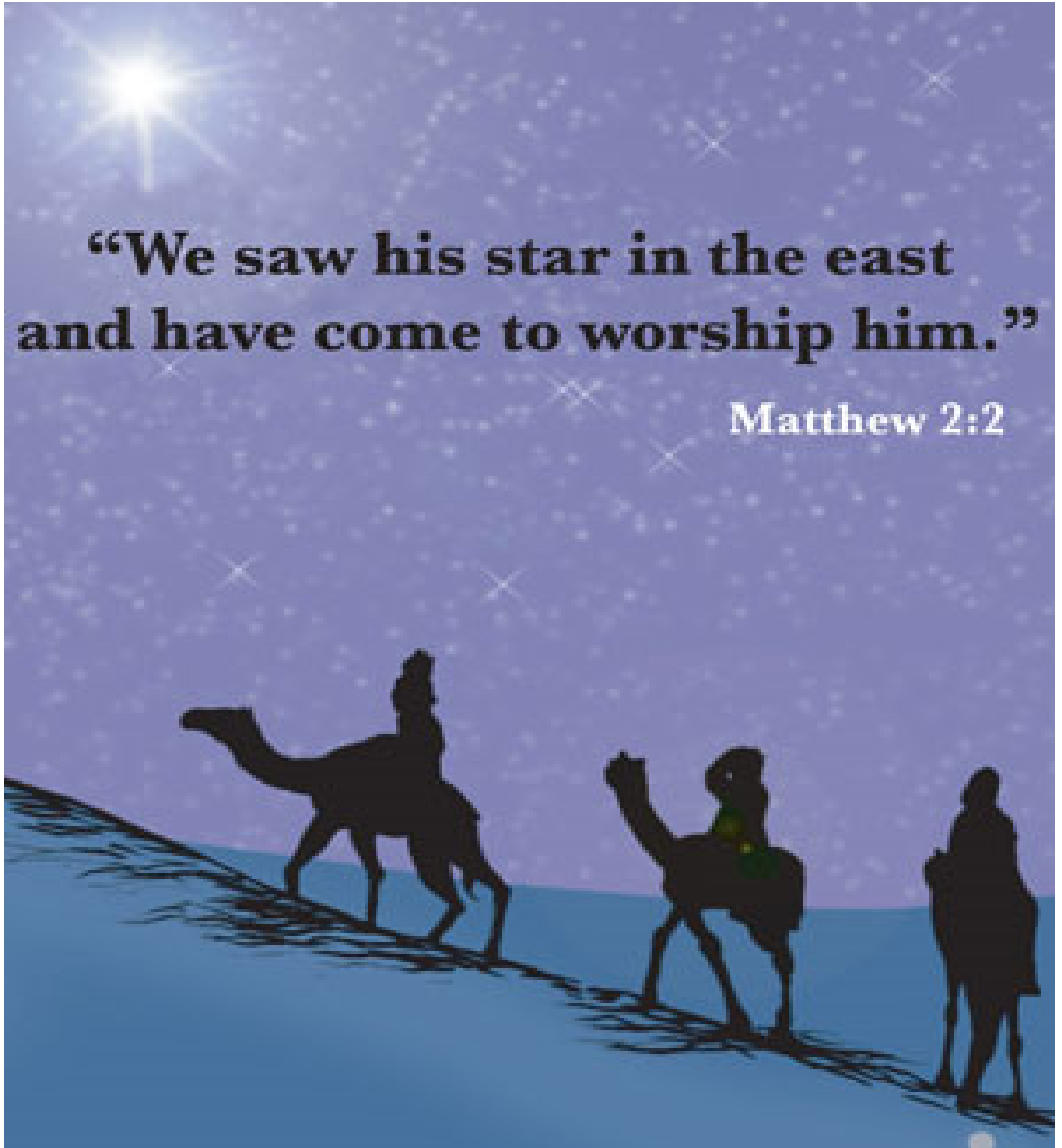
JANUARY 2026



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

**“We saw his star in the east
and have come to worship him.”**

Matthew 2:2





Happy New Year Christus Victor Family and friends.

Let me start 2026 off with a passage from scripture that I hope will stick with you throughout the year.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

In many ways, 2025 has been a struggle for me. Don't worry, I am not going to spend the next page or so lamenting my frustrations with 2025. However, the basic nature of my frustration is the setting for my thoughts as I begin 2026. Why is there so much anger and bitterness? Whether it is on the TV or hearing conversations in the store or just about anywhere else. Time and again what I hear is anger. Maybe it is more negativity that I am hearing but ultimately it comes out as anger.

Now anger has its place in life. Seeing wrongs being done to ourselves and/or to others does bring anger and it is that anger that moves people to do something to change the situation. But way too often it seems that anger is coming out with hostility and no reasonable thought as to how each individual might do something to change the circumstances. That is why this verse caught my attention. The way to truly change the negativity and anger in my world is for me to take to heart that I am, as a child of God, one branch of this enormous vine. I cannot assure that all the branches will flourish, but I can do my part to stay healthy and truly produce the sweet fruit God alone can produce. There are a few things I want to take from this metaphor and keep in mind throughout 2026, and I hope you will join me on the journey.

First, I/We are not the vine. We come to church and sing praises and worship through the Word and the Sacraments (Baptism and Holy Communion), but we leave church and seem to forget that there is something greater than ourselves that invites us draw our strength and wisdom from the vine. We are not the bigshot we often think we are. We cannot live a fully abundant life on our own. The God we worship not only invites us to but expects us to rely on God to fulfill our life's purpose. When we consult and rely on God as we begin each day, things will make better sense to us and it will be easier to face the challenges of each day. We are not alone in this world.

Second, I/We are not left to figure out how we should face each day. The Vine is the example we need as we encounter individuals and face various challenges. People look to scripture for answers to questions that were never even considered when the scriptures were written. Because there are not specific verses to address them, we scramble looking only to end up with verses that support what I think regardless of what that scripture is really talking about. The way to understand how God would respond to today's questions and challenges is to get to know Jesus. The circumstances and questions are different today, but the compassion and love and openness we find in the life of Jesus tells us all we need to know. Jesus was serious when he said "Love your neighbor as yourself" "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." At the core of every question we face that involves how we respond to others, this is all we need to know. Is what I am about to say or do showing the love we have first received from Christ? And if we are perfectly honest with ourselves, when we say "I love the sinner but hate the sin", what our words and actions and attitude convey to others is judgement, bitterness and the very hurtful feeling that they are not welcome wherever you are. Let our words and actions as the branches of the Vine that is Christ be a honest and loving reflection of the Vine that is Christ. Let this year be THE YEAR where people everywhere can look at those of us who so boldly accept the title "Child of God" or Branch of the True Vine", and find that unconditional love, grace and forgiveness that can only come from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year to all. May the Christ who is the true root of God's grace bring you peace and comfort and a passion for service.

God bless you all,
Pastor Tammy

Upcoming events



Our Phill The Box fundraiser is off to a great start! Thank you to everyone who has brought donations and/or shared the information! The boxes will be in the parking lot throughout January, so you still have time! All money earned will help send our kids to Lutherhill this summer.

Who's ready for bingo??? Join us on Saturday, January 24th at 4:00 for bingo! Bingo will be \$20 for 1 card per game, and additional cards will be available for purchase. We will have a taco dinner following bingo. Taco plates will be \$12 and include 2 tacos, rice, and beans. Join us for both or either event! Taco plates will also be available to go. You can pre-pay for both events on our website. If you would like to donate a gift card or Bingo prize, let Lisa know. We will also be sending out a sign up if anyone would like to donate items for the taco dinner. Proceeds will help send out kids to camp!



Challenge accepted! With God, I am strong! VBS this summer will be an unforgettable adventure with Snowball Mountain Challenge. We will host VBS Sunday, May 31st through Thursday, June 4th. We will have a VBS planning meeting on February 4th at 6:00pm.

We will be going to Lutherhill week 2, June 14th – June 19th. Please let Lisa know if you have registered your camper. If anyone has questions, please ask!



Rt ` i | # £ • — # 

Every year we ask, and every year you answer. The outpouring of support for Bay Area Turning Point every Christmas just leaves me speechless. Thanks to your support, we adopted a family and made Christmas magical them, and we supported the “store.” We collected sweatshirts, shoes, bracelets, makeup sets, and monetary donations which became blankets, pj pants, sweatpants, Bluetooth speakers, cross necklaces, sweatshirt, and so much more. Pastor Tammy is always saying that she knows that God isn’t done with Christus Victor, and you, our members, prove her right. You show how a small but mighty group of people can change the world.



THIS IS WHAT YOUR IMPACT LOOKS LIKE

“My kids are able to have a wonderful Christmas with *your* help. Stay blessed.”
-The R. Family

“Thank you so very much for you all do this for complete strangers! I hope this comes back to you 1000x over!”
-K.S.

Thank You!

“My heart is so full right now, so overwhelmed by your incredible kindness in donating all these beautiful gifts for our precious girl’s Christmas...Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making this holiday, and our world, so much brighter.”
- Felicia

“Thank you so much for your kindness & thoughtfulness for my daughter (and me). ...Things like this are greatly appreciated.” -
The Joyfilled Girls



Christus Victor Children's School

Our Bible verse this month is

"I am the Lord your God."

Psalms 81:10

We have a few openings in our pre-school class. If you know anyone looking for care for their children, please send them our way.

We had a fun-filled December at CVCS! We had our Christmas program, Christmas parties, and Santa visited the children!. We are looking forward to what the new year will bring!

In January, we will be learning about:
The winter season and leaders around the world.



I Am Grateful.....

I am grateful for Pastor Tammy who always supports me and gives me the best advice.

I am grateful for Sandie who keeps me organized and prepares a worship book each week to enable me to play the right hymns and liturgy at the right time.

I am grateful for Pastor Paul who encourages me, sings so beautifully, and does heartfelt narration.

I am grateful for the choir members who show such dedication in coming to rehearsals and who did such a great job on the cantata.

I am grateful for the bell choir because of their patience with me and their ability to work together so easily to present handbell presentations.

I am grateful for Karen Connelly who purchased new black gloves for the bell choir. We love them!

I am grateful for the congregation who always has such kind words for all our musical presentations.

I am grateful for Paul Davis and Austin Nguyen who bring us the sounds of heaven on the violin and cello.

I am grateful for Mary Ann Davis for the gift of a CD player. We needed this for choir use so badly.

I am grateful for our AV team who makes sure we are heard in church and across the internet.

I am grateful for the Main Street Messengers who bring us uplifting contemporary music every month.

I am grateful to Karl Klug for playing with me on Hallelujah this week. I can't wait to do other selections with you.

Finally, I am grateful to God for bringing me to Christus Victor where my heart is blessed every Sunday.

Happy New Year!

Trish 💜





Worship News January 2026

As we begin the New Calendar Year may each of you be filled with joyfulness and God's blessings. In December we pondered Advent with four Soup Suppers and services of Holden Evening Prayer. Thank you to all who brought soup and goodies for our suppers. Thanks also to Tracy, Karen and Pastors Paul and Tammy for leading us in worship. The beautiful Christmas Eve service was filled with beautiful music thanks to Trish and her friend Jane, the ladies of the Chancel Choir as well as Kari and Caitlyn. There are many who faithfully serve behind the scenes and during worship to make it run smoothly and continuously. One doesn't always know who they are but without their faithfulness things would not be planned and prepared. Thank you to the Altar Guild for preparing the altar and communion each Sunday. Thank you to the sound and technology team for your diligence and knowledge. Thank you to the Worship Assistants, the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, those who purchase and set up the flowers, the Communion Assistants, those who set up and tidy up and especially thank you to our staff; Pastor Tammy, Music Director Trish and Office Manager Sandie.

The next meeting of the worship committee will be on January 21 at 12:15 pm . You are welcome to attend if you would like to share an idea or concern.

We Need Your Help

Ushers/Greeters

We have begun scheduling Ushers/Greeters. This is an important role and involves only a few minutes on Sundays. If you are inclined to serve there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for volunteers. We like to schedule two people per Sunday and the more persons we have the fewer Sundays a person will be assigned. A list of the responsibilities involved in serving in that capacity can be found on the table in the narthex as well.

Worship Flowers

There are openings for worship flowers on the bulletin board in the hall. The cost has gone up to \$55. A new flower chart for 2026 is on the bulletin board in the hall..

Tellers: Persons are needed to count the offerings following worship. The task requires two people and Sandie will provide training. This can be done following worship on Sundays or on Monday morning. Please let Sandie or Karen know if you can do this.

Soundboard Tech: Currently Jay is the only one who knows how to operate the soundboard and he could really use a break now and then. He will of course provide training. Please consider serving in this capacity.

In The Future

We are planning a refresher workshop for Altar Guild members in February. The date has not yet been set. We can always use more members for this most important role. Please consider as this workshop will be an ideal time for training new members. Speak with Karen if you are interested.

Praise be to God! Karen Connelly, Worship Chair



QUILT & STITCH EVERY 3RD SATURDAY

Quilt and Stitch **Next Meeting January 17, 9am to Noon**

We will continue to open the church every third Saturday of the month to work on quilts for baptisms and H.S. graduations. We invite anyone to come pin or tie from 9 am to noon. NO SKILL IS NEEDED and it's a great opportunity for fellowship with other friends of Christus Victor.

If you like to knit or crochet, we have an abundance of yarn that can be used for prayer shawls. Quilt and Stitch is not just for quilters. We need all kinds of "stitchers" working together.

Remember that Quilt and Stitch meets every third Saturday of the month unless of a conflict with a holiday or other Christus Victor event.

For questions or information contact Karen Connelly at 281-546-5450 or kjconnelly@verizon.net.





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

My Father's World	CCLI 7264872	Prelude
Open Our Eyes	CCLI 1572	Gathering
Messiah	CCLI 1454269	Hymn of the Day
Holy Water	CCLI 7136448	Offertory
You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore	ELW 817	Communion
We Are Marching In The Light of God	ELW 866	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 9:15

Everyone welcome!



Did you know that you can link your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card to Christus Victor Lutheran Church and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the church?

Login to <http://www.kroger.com>

If you already have a Kroger account log on. If not, create a new account.

Once you're logged on, you will need to link your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card to your account.

Select Community Rewards and search for CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH either by name or XM834 and then click Enroll.

Now, Christus Victor Lutheran Church will benefit every time you use your Kroger Plus Shopper's card when you shop at Kroger.



Are you a Thrivent member? If so, you can direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to support activities and events here at Christus Victor! Let Sandie or Lisa know if you'd like to be added to our list of members to talk to when we are planning events.



Let's fill the Interfaith Caring Ministries

month!

(ICM) basket in the narthex each

Plans are to have a designated item or items each month!

January item(s) will be:

Pet Food

Wet, Dry, and Snacks

January Birthdays!

Jennifer Mallios	1/1
Martin Danielson	1/3
Trish Fowzer	1/7
Karen Hernandez	1/11
Andrew Duffield	1/13
Wren Kuhlman	1/13
Emily Vykukal	1/16
Parker Campbell	1/19
Amy Jarie'rce Battle	1/22
Abigail Stitt	1/26



We will resume our bible study at 11:00 am Wednesday January 28th We Are currently studying the book of Matthew as part of the Augsburg program Together by Grace Bible Conversations.



Debbie & Paul Davis 01/14



JANUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2 Office Closed	3
4 9:15 am Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	5 No Choir	6	7 No Bible Study	8	9 Office Closed	10
11 9:15 am Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	12 No Choir	13	14 No Bible Study	15	16 Office Closed	17 9:00 am Quilt & Stitch
18 9:15 am Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	19 No Choir	20	21 No Bible Study 12:15 pm Worship Committee	22	23 Office Closed	24 4:00 pm Bingo & Tacos
25 9:15 am Praise Team Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	26 No Choir	27	28 11:00 am Bible Study	29	30 Office Closed	31



Health Concerns

(removed after 30 days)

Personal Needs

(removed after 30 days)

Bereavement

(removed after 2 weeks)

The Family of Penny
Plumlee (Angela
Twombly's mom)

Serving in our Military

Parker Campbell
Kyra Derr
Dezmon (DJ) Deyon
Brandon Geiger
Frank LaGunas

Long Term Care/Medical Treatments

(remains until requested to be re-
moved)

Raymond Aguilera (08/23)
Earl Armstrong (04/20)
David Bonen (12/25)
Diana Bredeson
Lynn Carey (03/24)
Ashlynn Coury-Moseley
Trish Fowzer (11/23)
Elissa Gould-Schaudt
Ruby Hinton (01/24)
Ann Horvath (03/24)
Marcia Jones (03/24)
Scott Massey (09/23)
Merl Matthewman (04/22)
Mylah Merritt (10/25)
Troy Nguyen (8/24)
Kay Paine (02/25)
Marvin Parker (11/23)
Penny Plumlee (05/23)
Kathy Pulliam (03/21)
Patricia Meyer Schalla
Carol Schaudt
Ken Schaudt
Scott Short (11/24)
Khloe Thompson (09/25)
Donna Timberlake (01/26)
Martha Ukno (08/24)

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 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

Tammy's Office Hours: 9 am until 4pm Tuesday & Wednesday.

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

Website- www.christusvictor.us

Choir Director, Patricia Fowzer

Children's School Director, Tebertha Henderson...281-332-2821 E-mail...directorcvcs@comcast.net

Church Council Members:

Council President: Sara Beaudet-Smart

Council Vice President:

Council Secretary: Lisa Kutinac

Church Treasurer: Carol Vykukal

Property: Johnny Vykukal

Youth: Emilia Smart

Education: Tebertha Henderson

Worship: Karen Connelly

Parish Life: Judy Hembd

Stewardship:

School Board President: Lisa Kutinac

OFFERING REPORT YEAR-TO-DATE (12/31/2025)

2025 Offering Needed: \$165,562.04

Current Offerings Received: \$132,437.87

Shortfall: \$ 32,704.17

Building Fund Offerings ytd: \$9,375.00