



THE CURRENT

CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

The People of Christus Victor, ministers
Rev. Michael Price, Pastor

"Whoever believes in Me, streams of living water will flow from his heart." John 7:38

May 2025

Volume 41, No. 5

Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 4

Third Sunday of Easter

Outdoor Worship Service at Saluda Shoals, 11:00am (In-Person/Virtual)
Picnic Lunch after Worship

Sunday, May 11

Fourth Sunday of Easter

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am
Faith Formation, 10:30am

Sunday, May 18

Fifth Sunday of Easter

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am
Faith Formation, 10:30am

Sunday, May 25

Sixth Sunday of Easter

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am
Faith Formation, 10:30am



Outdoor Worship Service, May 4, 2025

Worship at Saluda Shoals - Redbud Shelter -
11:00am

Potluck Picnic follows Worship
Service and picnic will be held in the shelter
Please bring a side dish or dessert
Main dish, drinks and paper products will be provided

There will be **no** worship services at the church.
Online service **will not** be available.

Upcoming Events

- + Choir practice every Wednesday
- + Outdoor Worship Service at Saluda Shoals, 5/4
- + Girl Scouts, 5/4, 18
- + Coffee & Games, 5/4
- + Clergy Spiritual Group, 5/8
- + Nehemiah Action, 5/12
- + Lunch Bunch, 5/13
- + Church Council meeting, 5/13
- + LMM, 5/17, 20
- + Laura Sturgeon Piano Recital, 5/18
- + WELCA, 5/19, 20, 25
- + Newsletter Articles Deadline, 5/20
- + Memorial Day, 5/26 - Office Closed



We thank you, God, for loved ones dear
Who clung to faith beyond their fear,
Who served and paid the highest price
For freedom bought with sacrifice.
May they remind us of your Son
Whose death our final freedom won.

—Heidi L. Mann, 2012



Hi there church,

He was just a regular guy. He attended a United Methodist Church that was just a regular church, facing all the same problems that mainline churches face today. This regular guy in this regular church had a regular time he spent throughout his week at the dog park, walking his dog and socializing with others who brought their dogs.

Over time, after developing real connections and relationships into some friendships, and some friendly acquaintances, this regular guy decided to pray for people right there at the dog park. What began as a routine time in his day transformed into a spiritual community of dog-park attenders. This regular guy now meets regularly with people for Jesus-centered conversations, prayer, and support.

How many did this regular guy host every week? About 20. How many came to his congregation? One, but not regularly, and not permanently. Did he stop doing the dog park thing after a few years?

BY NO MEANS!

Something is brewing in the church that belongs to Jesus. It's a story like this. Organically grown Christian communities of people who may never darken a church door are gathering on a regular basis to converse, reflect on Scripture, pray, and support and encourage one another.

Early on in my time at seminary, I was fascinated by studies of the early church and ancient culture of the time of the New Testament. Maybe you'd be surprised to know that "church" simply meant an "assembly" of people gathered together for a meal. They would share the meal (which has come to be known as Holy Communion, but imagine instead of token pieces, it was a whole meal shared alongside bread and wine), and then after the meal came the "symposium," a time of conversation, idea-sharing, reflection on the stories handed down by the disciples, and prayer and song.

We need MANY kinds of expressions of the church. We need a congregation like Christus Victor, and we need people who see in their life the spaces and people who might gather around the good news of Jesus independent of a classically-defined congregation. Will it save a denomination? Will it save a regular congregation? Doubtful.

But it will save the church of Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Michael

DEATH IS NOT THE END

Loren Eiseley, an anthropologist who died in 1977, requested this epitaph for his wife and himself: "We loved the earth but could not stay." No one can stay, of course. We're all moving toward that final day when "the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over, and our work is done" (*The Book of Common Prayer*).

On Memorial Day, we remember people who have perished in war, making the ultimate sacrifice to protect others. May God hasten the day when humans can solve disputes peacefully. We also remember loved ones whose stay on earth is over.

A memorial stone at Ohio's College of Wooster, placed by a class years ago, reads: "United in time / Divided in time / To be reunited / When time shall be no more." Christians believe that death does not end all. When our earthly life is over, we have the promise of eternal life — and joyful reunions — in heaven.



Greetings!

First I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Worship and Music Team and the choir for their tireless efforts and long rehearsals through Lent and Holy Week. It takes a lot of time and effort behind the scenes to make these services happen and we hope they are meaningful to our congregation. I want to especially thank Mot who not only brings an extremely high level of musicianship to everything she does, but also keeps me in line when things occasionally fly under my radar. I've said it before, but I am extremely blessed to work with some extraordinary people. I would also be remiss if I didn't thank my wonderful wife, Jennifer, for her endless patience and for "holding down the fort" during this season. I would not be able to do what I do without her support at home.

Now for some bittersweet news. May 4, which is our outdoor service, will also be Enya Moore's last Sunday with us. Enya has been our Choral Scholar for the last two "school years" and we have greatly enjoyed having her voice (and occasionally her flute!). On a personal note it has been great watching her develop her leadership skills and occasionally stepping in to direct the choir. Next year she will be attending Shenandoah University in Virginia to pursue a Master of Music Therapy degree. We at Christus Victor celebrate her success and wish her all the best in her future endeavors! And should she ever find herself back in the Columbia area, our doors are always open to her!

Blessings,
Robert



We want to express sincere thanks to Len Leslie for serving as treasurer. We are so grateful for his 12 years of service as treasurer! His leadership and responsible management of our finances have been essential to our church's well-being.

As we have not been able to find a church member to take on the duties as treasurer, council proposes to add \$7000 / year to the ministry plan to hire Linda M. Barnhill, LLC as financial secretary for bookkeeping services. Linda will be responsible for generating monthly reports and paying bills and payroll. A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 11th following service to vote on the proposal to hire Linda as financial secretary.

A volunteer is needed to act as treasurer for Christus Victor. The treasurer will be responsible for reviewing the monthly reports and presenting the financial information in monthly council meetings.

In other news, Christus Victor will be participating in the MORE Justice Nehemiah Action on Monday May 12 at Eau Claire High School. Nehemiah Action is where hundreds of community members will gather and ask public officials to take measurable action steps to implement a solution to our community's most pressing problems. Be a part of standing for justice and equality. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

The ELCA and SC synod has given us an opportunity to apply for grants for congregational evangelism and outreach. Please talk to a council member for more information.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vO6GUcLk9bw>

Finally, keep our 2025 goals in mind. We're making good progress! Let everyone know what we're doing by writing on the posters or putting a pom pom in the fish bowl in the fellowship hall.

- Make 250 personal invitations to any CVLC community or group in 2025.
- CVLC will be an inviting and visible presence in 50 community gatherings in 2025.
- Serve 40 organizations in 2025.

Yours in Christ,
CVLC Council

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Prayer Partners: Why be a part of the Christus Victor women's prayer partner/secret sister program? The best reason is that you would have someone praying for your spiritual guidance and wellness every day. And you would get cards and/or small gifts to honor you on special occasions such as your birthday. Your obligation would be to provide the same for another woman in our church.

Names will be drawn at the May **in person meeting of the Christus Victor WELCA on Sunday, May 25 at 12:15 pm at a luncheon meeting in the Fellowship Hall.** (The time of the meeting has been changed to accommodate women unable to attend our usual meeting time.)

If you want to be a part of this program and cannot attend the meeting on May 25, please call or text Edna Anderson at 803-260-5215 or email Edna at rhaepa@bellsouth.net on or before Saturday, May 24.

We welcome the participation of women who cannot attend the regular in person CVLC WELCA meetings.

Monthly Zoom meeting: Our next monthly Zoom meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m.** We are using the book entitled 50 Women Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Heroines of the Faith by Michelle DeRusha. We will be studying Mary McLeod Bethune, Faye Edgerton and Edith Stein. If you are interested in joining us and have not been receiving the Zoom link each month, please let Patti know at patti.addison@gmail.com or 803-331-6066.

Book Club: Our women's book club (separate from the WELCA group in the previous paragraph) will meet in the church Fellowship Hall on **Monday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m.** Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer, dessert, or beverage to share, and we have an assigned book and facilitator. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information, including the book selection, please contact Patti, Jean Sox or Edna Anderson.

Save the Dates!: Our annual women's beach retreat is scheduled for **January 23-26, 2026.** More information will be available in the Fall.

NEHEMIAH ACTION: In lieu of Wine and Word we will be participating in the MORE Justice Nehemiah Action on **Monday, May 12** at Eau Claire High School Auditorium, 4800 Monticello Road. Registration begins at 5pm and the event starts at 6pm. Be a part of standing for justice and equality. Join us for the 2025 Nehemiah Action, where hundreds of community members will gather and ask public officials to take measurable action steps to implement a solution to our community's most pressing problems.

COFFEE & GAMES: The next coffee and games will be **Sunday, May 4** from 6-8pm at Starbucks on Lake Murray Blvd. Scott Johnson will organize games. Wear a CVLC t-shirt if you have one!

GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES ENDING MARCH 31:

1/1/25 – 3/31/25

General Fund Receipts: \$56,506
General Fund Disbursements: \$69,088
Year to Date Deficit: (\$12,582)

March 2025

General Fund Receipts: \$21,365
General Fund Disbursements: \$21,093
Monthly Surplus: \$272

SAVE THE DATE FOR



Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 16 - Thursday, June 19. Hosted at Scott and Emily's gym. More details to come.



LUNCH BUNCH: The Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, May 13 at **11:30am** at The Bistro, 1085 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo. Please join us for fellowship, fun and good food.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.....



CURRENT

Rich Burke, *who is recovering from surgery*

Don Fairbanks, *who is recovering from surgery*

Meredith, *daughter of Judy Rowe's friend*

Lita Hendrick, *friend of Janet Robinson, who has multiple serious illnesses*

Lisa Menard, *step-mother of Robyn Westphal, who is continuing to battle lung cancer*

Bill Nix, *Randy Cannon's brother-in-law, who was recently diagnosed with cancer*

Helen Oyer, *Don Fairbanks' mother-in-law of Auburn NY, who is in the hospital for wound care and congestive heart failure and undergoing physical therapy*

Chris Robinson, *Janet Robinson's ex-husband, who is recovering from a bike accident*

Lynn Smith, *friend of Doni Schroeder, who has been diagnosed with 2 cancers in last 4 months*

Felicia Spinelle-Dixon, *friend of Jennifer Johnson, who was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer with metastatic involvement*

Laura Vinson and family *as they care for Laura's mother, Mary E. Swanson, who now lives with them*

HOMEBOUND

Marie Marszalek, Eddy Mae Murphy, Lana Rosenbeck

CONTINUING

Molly Chamberlain, Brenda Counts, Heather Davis and sons, Nancy Hulon, Jack Malloy, Bee and Joe Stoudenmire, Sharon Weber

A SPECIAL MEASURE OF YOUR GRACE

For expectant family, Jennifer Coffey, Robert Arcovio and Ellie

For Jean and Dermon Sox, *for their transition as they prepare to move*

For Enya Moore, *as she graduates from USC and concludes her time as our Choral Scholar while beginning the next chapter of her journey*

For veterans and those serving in the military

For law enforcement and first responders



6 Mike Stoudenmire

7 Mark Lybrand

8 Johnna Metzler

9 Judy Rowe

11 Lacey Chapman

15 Patrick Keaton

24 Tracy Shealy

25 Jennifer Johnson

27 Grayson Weidensee

30 Aden Johnson

SERVING MAY 2025

May 4 - 3 Easter - Outdoor Worship

Council Member - Jennifer Johnson
11:00am Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Randy Cannon
11:00am Usher - Tom McCoy
Tellers - Suzanne Keller and Robyn Westphal

May 11 - 4 Easter

Council Member - Mark Lybrand
Altar Guild - Emily House and Lily Downs
Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Lora Price
Usher - Scott Johnson
Tellers - Robyn Westphal and Marie Hutchison
A/V - Lane Kochert

May 18 - 5 Easter

Council Member - Peyton Cannon
Altar Guild - Suzanne and Reagan Keller
Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Sean Meade
Usher - Tony Kochert
Tellers - Steve Westphal and Rich Burke
A/V - Tom Counts

May 25 - 6 Easter

Council Member - Nathan Stalbaum
Altar Guild - Mary Ellis
Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Mary Ellis
Usher - Rick Bracanovich
Tellers - Rich Burke and Mark Lybrand
A/V - Scott Johnson

◀ April	May 2025					June ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 3 Easter Outdoor Worship at Saluda Shoals, 11am; Girl Scouts 2-3:30pm; Coffee & Games, 6pm 	5	6	7 Choir Practice, 7pm	8 Clergy Spiritual Group 9:30am-12:30pm (Library)	9	10
11 4 Easter 9:30am In person/online service 10:45am Faith Formation 	12 Nehemiah Action, 6pm	13 Lunch Bunch, 11:30am; Church Council, 6:30pm	14 Choir Practice, 7pm	15	16	17 LMM, 8am
18 5 Easter 9:30am In person/online service 10:45am Faith Formation Graduation Sunday Girl Scouts 2-3:30pm Graduation Sunday Laura Sturgeon, 3:30-6:00pm (sanctuary)	19 Christian Ed, 6:30pm; WELCA Book Club, 6:30pm	20 LMM, 6:30pm; WELCA Zoom, 6:30pm; Newsletter Deadline	21 Choir Practice, 7pm	22	23	24
25 6 Easter 9:30am In person/online service 10:45am Faith Formation WELCA, noon-3pm (Fellowship Hall)	26 Office Closed 	27	28 Choir Practice, 7pm	29	30	31

CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Secretary email: cvlc@bellsouth.net



Christus Victor Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There are many opportunities for spiritual growth and nurture at Christus Victor. Our ministry programs provide opportunities for worship, learning, service and fellowship so that all might be strengthened in faith and might grow in Christian discipleship. If you are looking for a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ in a lively congregational setting, we invite you to make Christus Victor your church home. Lutherans are Christians who comprise the largest Protestant denomination in the world. As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach:

- + *Jesus Christ is Lord of all life.*
- + *We are all sinners in need of God's love and grace.*
- + *We are saved by the grace of God through faith in Christ alone, apart from our works.*
- + *The Bible is the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of the church's proclamation, faith and life.*
- + *The church is the fellowship of those who confess Jesus Christ as Lord, and is the primary expression of God's love on earth. It is a people created by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative and redeeming work in the world.*
- + *We celebrate two sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion, as the God-given means for penetrating our lives with love and grace.*

Worship - Worship service with Holy Communion each Sunday at 9:30am; Children's sermons and children's church each Sunday; Mid-week services during Lent and Advent

Learning - Sunday School for all ages; Vacation Bible School; Confirmation instruction; Adult Bible Study

Fellowship - Congregational fellowship events; Groups for men, women and youth; Neighborhood shepherding groups for care and nurture; Small groups for personal growth in faith and fellowship