



THE CURRENT

CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Experiencing Christ Together Through Love and Service
 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

December, 2025

Volume 41, No. 12

✦ Worship Schedule ✦

Wednesday, December 3
 Supper, 5:45pm
 Holden Evening Prayer, 6:30pm

Sunday, December 7
Second Sunday of Advent
 Breakfast, 8:45-9:15am
 In-Person/Virtual Worship 9:30am
 Faith Formation, 10:45am

Wednesday, December 10
 Supper, 5:45pm
 Holden Evening Prayer, 6:30pm

Sunday, December 14
Third Sunday of Advent
 In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am
 Faith Formation, 10:45am

Wednesday, December 17
 Supper, 5:45pm
 Holden Evening Prayer, 6:30pm

Sunday, December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
 In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am
 Faith Formation, 10:45am

Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve
 Prelude Music, 7:00pm
 In-Person/Virtual Worship, 7:30pm

Sunday, December 28
First Sunday of Christmas
 In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am
 Faith Formation, 10:45am



Wednesday Evenings during Advent

Supper at 5:45pm
Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30pm
 December 3, 10, and 17 - In-Person/Virtual



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 24. Prelude music begins at 7:00pm followed by in-person/virtual worship at 7:30pm.

General Fund Statement of Activities Ending October 31:

1/1/25– 10/31/25

General Fund Receipts: \$250,465
 General Fund Disbursements: \$235,333
 Year to date surplus: \$15,132

October 2025

General Fund Receipts: \$15,562
 General Fund Disbursements: \$21,362
 Monthly deficit: (\$5,800)



Hi there church,


The prophet Isaiah's opening vision this season of Advent contains images of what many of us yearn for in the kingdom of heaven. All nations and peoples stream to learn the ways of God, which is put in stark contrast with the ways of war. People beat their weapons into tillers and plows. And all of it is done in some wonderful community. Individuals don't say, "I am going to the mountain of the LORD." They say, "Let us go to the mountain of the LORD." People stream to the highest mountain to "study war no more," like the old African spiritual says.

I wonder what that class is like. I wonder what apprenticeships they take up, or what field study they participate in. What is lab time like? What are the tests like? The great matriculation of students to the great and final course on peace, I imagine to myself when hearing these words of Isaiah.

This Advent, how might we study peace? What course would you teach? What field study for peace might be practiced in the grocery store, at school, at the work site, at the table, or on a walk? What could you recite or put to music as you give of your time and treasures this season to the people you love, and even some that you don't love as well? What weapon of yours should be beaten down and remade into a life-giving instrument?

We're students, dear church, always. Let us go to the mountain of the LORD and take God's great course.

Peace,
Pastor Michael



**CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP
MEALS**

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY IS BACK!

Join us on **Wednesday, January 21st** at **6:00pm** for a delicious supper and a time of fellowship.

If you need transportation, please contact Nathan Stalbaum or Becky Cannon — drivers are available and happy to help.

We look forward to seeing you there!



GIVING TREE: Beginning **November 30**, we will have a "Giving Tree" set up in the Narthex. The tree will have cards for snack pack items. Please consider taking a tag or two and giving to this worthwhile cause.



Greetings!

We have a typical busy December coming up. We are changing our Liturgy to ELW Setting Ten at the start of Advent. Our Handbell Choir will be playing on December 7. And on December 21 the choir will be performing our Cantata, "The King is Born" by Craig Adams. We will have mid-week Advent services on December 3, 10, and 17 using Holden Evening Prayer starting at 6:30 pm. Choir practice will be immediately following, so if you've ever wanted to sing with us, just walk down the hall!

Our Christmas Eve service will be on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:30pm with prelude music beginning at 7:00pm. We are looking for people to perform during the prelude. If you are interested, please let me know either by emailing me at rlarco-vio@gmail.com or finding me after service!

On Sunday, December 28 we will have a Lessons and Carols service. I believe that is all the music news I have for now. Thank you to Mot, the choir, the handbell ringers and everyone who gives their time and talents to make music for Christus Victor!

Blessings,
Robert



COFFEE & GAMES! Come join us for coffee and games here at the church at 6pm on **Sunday, December 7** Wil Meade will lead a game of D&D.



Congratulations to Peyton Cannon, Brenda Counts, Katrina Davis, Don Fairbanks & Tony Kochert! We look forward to having our newly elected council members join us for our December meeting and to putting together our ministry plan.

2025 has flown by and we enter the season of Advent with a feeling of gratitude, hope, and joyous anticipation! Your Church Council is so thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit through the members of Christus Victor Lutheran Church. So many wonderful acts of service, love and community have happened through our members and the holy spirit this year! I won't try to list them all. Take time to reflect on our many blessings and consider how we might tell our stories of how the holy spirit is working in and through us.

Yours in Christ,
Church Council

Upcoming Events

- + Choir practice, each Wednesday
- + Worship and Music, 12/1
- + CBS, 12/2 and 9
- + Holden Evening Prayer and Supper, 12/3, 10 and 17
- + Breakfast, 12/7
- + Poinsettia Deadline, 12/7
- + Coffee & Games, 12/7
- + Wine & Word, 12/8
- + Lunch Bunch, 12/9
- + Church Council Meeting, 12/9
- + Clergy Spiritual Group, 12/11
- + Jesse Kaiser Ensemble, 12/12 and 13
- + WELCA, 12/15
- + Newsletter Articles Due, 12/18
- + LMM, 12/20 and 23
- + Church Office Closed, 12/25-1/3
- + Annual Reports Due, 12/31

WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)

All women of Christus Victor (and guests) are welcome to join us on **Monday, December 15th at noon** in the Fellowship Hall for study and fellowship. **(Please note that we are meeting a week early due to the holidays.) This meeting will be a potluck lunch.** For more information, please see Edna Anderson.

Our women's **Zoom book group** has begun a new book – **No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)** by **Kate Bowler**. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. **Our next meeting will be on December 16th** and we will discuss Chapters 3 and 4. Copies of the book are available on Amazon in Kindle, audiobook, hardcover and paperback formats and there are some used copies available. If you plan to attend, please contact Patti Addison at patti.addison@gmail.com or (803) 331-6066 and she will send a Zoom link several days in advance of the meeting.

Our **women's book club** typically meets in person in the church fellowship hall on the third Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Everyone brings an appetizer, dessert, or (non-alcoholic) beverage to share, and we have an assigned book and facilitator each month. However, **there will be no meeting in December**. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information, please contact Patti or Edna Anderson.

Our annual women's beach retreat at the Coastal Retreat Center, Isle of Palms, SC, is scheduled for January 23-26, 2026. There will be plenty of Bible study, food and fellowship over the weekend. **Our program will be "What Love Is: The Letters of 1, 2, 3 John" by Kelly Minter.** (See description below.) The cost is \$110 per person for the weekend (double occupancy) or \$210 per person if you would like a private room. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Patti or Becky Cannon – patti.addison@gmail.com or bcannon@aol.com

The Letters of 1, 2 & 3 John were written to encourage followers of Jesus to remain faithful to the truth. We will be challenged to look at contrasting themes such as walking in the light instead of darkness, truth versus lies and deception, loving God more than loving the world, and the meaning of true fellowship and community rather than shallowness.

Sanctuary Poinsettias - Sharing God's Love

We will collect \$15 per designation (you may give more if you would like). We will then buy a few poinsettia plants to grace our Sanctuary. The rest of the proceeds will be going to Sharing God's Love. We will have a bulletin insert listing names that were turned in. You will be helping some of our neighbors in a great time of need.

If you would like to designate a remembrance in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill in the appropriate designation and clearly print their name in the space provided. **Please either drop your form in the mailbox at the church or mail your form to the church at 400 Harbison Blvd., Columbia, SC 29212. All forms and payment must be received in the church office no later than Sunday, December 7.**

In Honor of _____

OR

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

Total paid (\$15.00 per designation): _____



CURRENT

Don Fairbanks, *who is recovering from surgery*

Nolan McKinley, *Nathan Stalbaum's fiancé, who is recovering from surgery*

Sean Meade, *for guidance on finding a new job*

Robert Prichard, *friend of Janet Robinson, who is recovering from hip surgery*

Fred Stalbaum, *Beth's son and Nathan's brother, who is recovering from surgery*

Marie Stapleton, *friend of Janet Robinson, for upcoming surgery*

Pam Watkins, *co-worker of Erika Dominick who is recovering from hip replacement surgery*

HOMEBOUND

Marie Marszalek, Eddy Mae Murphy, Lana Rosenbeck, Joe and Bee Stoudenmire

CONTINUING

Bishop Ginny Aebischer, Crystal Blackwell, Bonnie, Molly Chamberlain, Sandra Dickert, Eric Eberius, Jackie Hale, Lita Hendrick, Jack Horejsi, Nancy Hulon, Richard Hulon, Marie Hutchison, Betsy Lybrand, Jack Malloy, Lisa Menard, Mitch Mitcham, Tracy Moore, Shirley Nix, Susan Porth, John Ross, Bear Schroeder, Dermon Sox, Mary E. Swanson, Laura Vinson and family

A SPECIAL MEASURE OF YOUR GRACE

For expectant parents, Marianna and Allen Wilbur

For family and friends of Summer Burrows, *Mitzi Calvert's cousin and former member, who passed away*

For veterans and those serving in the military

For law enforcement and first responders

On January 1, we will start over with our prayer list and all names will be removed.

**If you have someone whom you wish to remain on the prayer list, please contact
the church office: 732-2668, cvlc@bellsouth.net.**



2 Donna Brown
2 Tony Kochert
2 Alana Keeffe
10 Collin Westphal
10 Allen Wilbur

15 Reagan Keller
16 Kayla Wendland
18 Laura Lesslie
19 Janet Robinson
20 Mitzi Calvert

22 Chuck Klotz
25 Carol Tomlin
28 Iris Hacker
29 Fred Tomlin
30 Madie Taylor

SERVING DECEMBER 2025

December 3 - Holden Evening Prayer

A/V - Lane Kochert

December 7 - 2 Advent

Council Member - Lane Kochert

Altar Guild - Mary Ellis

Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Marianna Wilbur

Usher - Rick Bracanovich

Tellers - Peyton Cannon

A/V - Lane Kochert

December 10 - Holden Evening Prayer

A/V - Lane Kochert

December 14 - 3 Advent

Council Member - Mark Lybrand

Altar Guild - Emily House and Lily Downs

Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Mike Metzler

Usher - Emily House and Lily Downs

Tellers - Rich Burke and Robyn Westphal

A/V - Rick Bracanovich

December 17 - Holden Evening Prayer

A/V - Rick Bracanovich

December 21 - 4 Advent

Council Member - Peyton Cannon

Altar Guild - Suzanne and Regan Keller

Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Randy Cannon

Usher - Tom McCoy

Tellers - Nathan Stalbaum and Suzanne Keller

A/V - Tom Counts

December 24 - Christmas Eve - 7:30pm

Council Member - Jennifer Johnson

Altar Guild - Lane Kochert

Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Tom Counts

Usher - Scott Johnson

Tellers -

A/V - Lane Kochert

December 28 - 1 Christmas

Council Member - Peyton Cannon

Altar Guild - Tom McCoy

Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Katrina Davis

Usher - Rich Burke

Tellers - Marie Hutchison

A/V - Scott Johnson

◀ November	December 2025					January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Worship & Music, 5:15pm	2 CBS, 8:15-11:45am (Fellowship Hall, Nurse- ry, Classroom 8, Li- brary, Youth Music);	3 Dinner, 5:45pm Holden Evening Prayer, 6:30pm Choir Practice, 7pm	4	5	6
7 2 Advent 8:45am Breakfast 9:30am In person/ online service 10:45am Faith For- mation; Coffee & Games, 6pm Girl Scouts 2-3:30pm	8 Wine & Word, 6:30pm	9 CBS, 8:15am-2pm (Fellowship Hall, Nurse- ry, Classroom 8, Li- brary, Youth Music); Lunch Bunch, 11:30am; Church Council, 6:30pm	10 Dinner, 5:45pm Holden Evening Prayer, 6:30pm Choir Practice, 7pm	11 Clergy Spiritual Group 9:30am-12:30pm (Library)	12 Jesse Kaiser Ensemble 5:30-10pm (Choir Room)	13 Jesse Kaiser Ensemble 9am-4pm (Choir Room) Beth Stalbaum 11am- 4pm (Fellowship Hall)
14 3 Advent 9:30am In person/ online service 10:45am Faith For- mation; Laura Sturgeon, 2-6pm (Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary)	15 WELCA, noon	16 WELCA Zoom, 6:30pm	17 Dinner, 5:45pm Holden Evening Prayer, 6:30pm; Choir Practice, 7pm	18 Newsletter Articles Due	19	20 LMM, 8am
21 4 Advent 9:30am In person/ online service 10:45am Faith For- mation Girl Scouts 2-3:30pm 	22	23 LMM, 6:30pm	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00pm Prelude Music; 7:30pm in-person/online service 	25 Office Closed  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 Office Closed	27
28 1 Christmas 9:30am In person/ online service 10:45am Faith For- mation	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed			

CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Columbia, South Carolina 29212-1711
(803) 732-2668; website: cvlconline.com
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 received each Sunday at 9:30am; Children's sermons and children's church each Sunday; Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer 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