



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

January 2026

Volume 42, No. 1

+ Worship Schedule +

Sunday, January 4

2 Christmas

Breakfast, 8:45-9:15am

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am

Informational Mtg, 10:40am

Sunday, January 11

Baptism of Our Lord

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am

Annual Congregational Mtg, 10:40am

Faith Formation, 10:45am

Sunday, January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am

Faith Formation, 10:45am

Sunday, January 25

Third Sunday after Epiphany

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am



Upcoming Events

- Choir Practice every Wednesday
- Breakfast, 1/4
- Informational Mtg, 1/4
- CBS, 1/6, 13, 20 and 27
- Annual Congregational Mtg, 1/11
- Church Council, 1/13
- Lunch Bunch, 1/13
- LMM, 1/18 and 21
- Coffee and Games, 1/18
- Newsletter Deadline, 1/20
- Council Training, 1/30 and 31

GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES ENDING NOVEMBER 30:

1/1/25 – 11/30/25

General Fund Receipts: \$267,712

General Fund Disbursements: \$255,434

Year to date surplus: \$12,277

November 2025

General Fund Receipts: \$17,247

General Fund Disbursements: \$18,956

Monthly deficit: (\$1,709)



FROM THE PASTOR

Hi there church,

For me, the years go faster and faster. I am sure that is the case for many of you as well. Heck, even my kids say it feels fast to them.

Life's comings and goings are marked by a series of patterns that either become ingrained into our everyday life, or those patterns get disrupted and reshaped. Some of those disruptions are unwelcome changes like losing someone we love or losing a job or livelihood. Other disruptions are strangely welcome in order to discover life by walking some kind of new pathway. And yet still others can be a mysterious mixture of the two.

The new year often has been a time to consider such disruptions. We make resolutions to try something different, even if the resolution is only temporary. I've stopped thinking about resolutions and started thinking more about disruptions. If I want to be more active, what pattern could I disrupt in my day-to-day? A prayer space set up in my game room to distract my time in the chair? Taking a different way instead of just the one I know to work? Giving thanks to God for something on the holy ground of the checkout or the red light?

Maybe even these kinds of disruptions are semantic to "resolutions," and they may fizzle just like the others can do. Even so, God through the stories of Christmas and Epiphany, disrupts the patterns of the expected and interrupts the day-to-day in order for us to recognize how God is doing something new, something merciful, something salvific!

Some disruptions I'd rather not have, thank you very much. But some, I can say, I have been very thankful for.

May God give you holy disruptions to see and live out something new and hopeful this 2026.

Peace,
Pastor Michael

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

Thomas Dorsey, a jazz musician from Atlanta, made a bold decision in 1926 to leave behind secular music and devote his talent to writing songs for the Lord. But following that call wasn't easy. During the Great Depression, many church leaders criticized his soulful gospel style, calling it "the devil's music." Dorsey later joked, "I got kicked out of some of the best churches in the land."

Then, in 1932, tragedy struck. While in St. Louis for a revival, he received a telegram that his wife had died suddenly during childbirth. His faith was shaken to the core, and grief nearly silenced him. Yet in his deepest sorrow, Dorsey turned back to what he knew best — music. Out of that heartbreak came one of the most beloved hymns of all time:

*"Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn..."*

Dorsey's song reminds us that even in our valleys, God is near — guiding us, strengthening us, and using our pain to comfort others who walk the same road.



Greetings!

**FROM THE
MUSIC
DIRECTOR**

Thank you to everyone who made the music in December go so well! Thank you to everyone who contributed to Christmas Eve. Thank you to Mot her for continued leadership. And thank you so much to our choir! I've heard so many times how our choir sounds much larger than it is and it's because of their hard work and dedication. That is especially true during this season, whether it's late night rehearsals or even practicing on their own time. It is only through their significant efforts and talents that we are able to have such meaningful music in our services, especially in these seasons where music is such an integral part of our worship.

If you would like to be a part of this amazing group of individuals, please let me know! Talent is not a prerequisite, only enthusiasm and a willingness to try new things. While we are able to do a lot with only a few, just imagine what we could do with a larger group! It would also help take some of the pressure off of our current singers to be present each and every week. Please prayerfully consider joining us!

Blessings,
Robert

ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Christus Victor Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, January 11, 2026** immediately following the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and approve our 2026 Ministry Plan. Council approved the Ministry Plan during its monthly meeting on December 9 and is submitting it to the Congregation for approval. Every member of Christus Victor is invited and encouraged to attend and exercise your vote.

There will be an Informational Meeting to discuss details of the Ministry Plan on **Sunday, January 4** following the worship service. This will provide you with the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed plan. Members of the Church Council are always available to answer any questions.

**Church
COUNCIL**

Happy New Year,
Church Family!

As we step into this new season, we give thanks for God's faithfulness and look forward with hope and expectation. This year brings fresh opportunities to grow in faith, serve with love, and pursue the mission God has placed before us of Experiencing Christ Together Through Love and Service. In 2026 we have updated our goals.

- Make prayer more central in 40 events in 2026
- Make 250 personal invitations to any CVLC community or group in 2026
- Serve 50 organizations in 2026

Let's see what exciting ways we can come up with to meet these goals!

Yours in Christ,
CVLC Council

Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

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 Addison or Becky Cannon – patti.addison@gmail.com or bcannonsc@aol.com. **The deadline to register is Sunday, January 4th.**

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.

All women of Christus Victor (and guests) are welcome to join us on **Monday, January 26th at noon** in the Fellowship Hall for study and fellowship. Everyone is invited to bring their own lunch and beverage. At our January meeting, we will share our experiences from the retreat. 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 6:30 p.m. **Our next meeting will be on January 20th** 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 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 6:30 pm. Everyone brings an appetizer, dessert, or (non-alcoholic) beverage to share, and we have an assigned book and facilitator each month. Our next meeting will be **Monday, January 19th**. The book will be **French Braid** by Anne Tyler. Sheryl Myers has a book club set so if you would like a copy of the book, please see her. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information, please contact Patti or Edna Anderson.



LUNCH BUNCH: Will meet at Zorbas, at **11:30am** on **January 13**. Please join us for fellowship, fun and good food.



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.



CURRENT

Cathy Arrowood, co-worker of Randy Cannon, who is getting chemotherapy medications for Melanoma

Dave Campbell, high school friend of Don Fairbanks, who is undergoing cancer treatment

Lindsey Hoyle, daughter of Don Fairbanks, who is getting her life in order

Sean Meade, for guidance on finding a new job

Joanna Murphy, sister-in-law of Don Fairbanks, who is undergoing cancer treatment

Marie Stapleton, friend of Janet Robinson, for upcoming surgery

HOMEBOUND

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

CONTINUING

Mary E. Swanson, Laura Vinson and family

A SPECIAL MEASURE OF YOUR GRACE

For expectant parents, Marianna and Allen Wilbur

For veterans and those serving in the military

For law enforcement and first responders



2 Sean Meade	13 Garnet Noblet	19 Suzanne Keller	27 Suzanne Young
5 Mary Ellis	15 Stephen Meetze	24 Donald Schroeder	27 Betsy Lybrand
5 Len Lesslie	16 Steve Westphal	25 Adara Johnson	28 Avery Westphal
8 Julie Davis	18 Eddy Mae Murphy	26 Rich Burke	29 Judy Klotz
8 L. Scott Johnson	19 Deedee Taylor	26 Scott Taylor	31 Lynnda Niles

SERVING JANUARY 2026

January 4 - 2 Christmas

Council Member -
Altar Guild - Robyn Westphal
Lay Reader / Communion Assistant - Lora Price
Usher - Nathan Stalbaum
Tellers - Robyn Westphal and Mark Lybrand
A/V - Lane Kochert

January 11 - Baptism of Our Lord

Council Member -
Altar Guild - Mary Ellis
Lay Reader / Communion Assistant - Sean Meade
Usher - Rich Burke
Tellers - Peyton Cannon and Marie Hutchison
A/V - Rick Bracanovich

January 18 - 2 Epiphany

Council Member -
Altar Guild - Emily House and Lily Downs
Lay Reader / Communion Assistant - Mary Ellis
Usher - Rick Bracanovich
Tellers - Rich Burke and Robyn Westphal
A/V - Tom Counts

January 25 - 3 Epiphany

Council Member -
Altar Guild - Suzanne and Reagan Keller
Lay Reader / Communion Assistant - Suzanne Keller
Usher - Emily House
Tellers - Nathan Stalbaum and Suzanne Keller
A/V - Scott Johnson

◀ December		January 2026					February ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
				1 Office Closed 	2	3		
4 2 Christmas 8:45am Breakfast 9:30am In person/ online service 10:45am Faith Forma- tion	5	6 Epiphany of Our Lord CBS, 8:15-11:45am (Fellowship Hall, Nursery, Classroom 8, Library, Youth Music)	7 Choir Practice, 7pm	8	9	10		
11 Baptism of Our Lord 9:30am In person/ online service 10:45am Faith Forma- tion	12	13 CBS, 8:15am-2pm (Fellowship Hall, Nursery, Classroom 8, Library, Youth Music); Lunch Bunch, 11:30am; Church Council, 6:30pm	14 Choir Practice, 7pm	15	16	17 LMM, 8am		
18 2 Epiphany 9:30am In person/ online service 10:45am Faith Forma- tion Coffee & Games, 6pm	19 WELCA Book Club, 6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)	20 CBS, 8:15-11:45am (Fellowship Hall, Nursery, Classroom 8, Library, Youth Music); LMM, 6:30pm; WELCA Zoom, 6:30pm 	21 Choir Practice, 7pm	22	23	24		
25 3 Epiphany 9:30am In person/ online service 10:45am Faith Forma- tion	26 WELCA, noon	27 CBS, 8:15-11:45am (Fellowship Hall, Nursery, Classroom 8, Library, Youth Music);	28 Choir Practice, 7pm	29	30	31		



CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Harbison Boulevard
Columbia, South Carolina 29212-1711



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 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