



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

July 2026

Volume 42, No. 7

✝ WORSHIP SCHEDULE ✝

Sunday, July 5

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am

Faith Formation, 10:45am

Sunday, July 12

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am

Faith Formation, 10:45am

Sunday, July 19

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am

Faith Formation, 10:45am

Sunday, July 26

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

In-Person/Virtual Worship, 9:30am

Faith Formation, 10:45am

Upcoming Events

- + Choir Practice every Wednesday
- + Lunch Bunch, 7/14
- + Church Council, 7/14
- + LMM, 7/18 and 21
- + Coffee & Games, 7/19
- + WELCA, 7/20, 21 and 27
- + August Newsletter Articles Due, 7/20
- + CBS, 7/28



LUNCH BUNCH: The Lunch Bunch will meet at Schooners Bar & Grill, 6226 Bush River Rd. (close to the dam), at **11:30am** on **July 14**. Please join us for fellowship, fun and good food. All are welcome!

GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES ENDING MAY 31:

1/1/26 – 5/31/26

General Fund Receipts: \$96,807
 General Fund Disbursements: \$114,174
 Year to Date Deficit: (\$17,367)

May 2026

General Fund Receipts: \$21,770
 General Fund Disbursements: \$20,913
 Monthly Surplus: \$857



FROM THE PASTOR

Hi there church,

Every year at the South Carolina Synod Assembly, I am left with one, satisfying and comforting thought: we are not alone. The ministry we are able to do here at Christus Victor we do not do alone or in our own little silo. We are part of something grander, something Jesus is up to, something that's not just attached to the Lutheran church (though, of course, the Synod Assembly is the assembly of ELCA Lutheran congregations); we are a part of a story that spans history, the country, and the world.

We're small, but we're mighty, Christus Victor, but in our relationship with our sister congregations, we are large and we're mighty. We care for the young, the elderly, the marginalized, the veteran, the first responders, the unhoused, the refugee, and the sick. We build families and inspire people to love and serve their neighbors. We are a part of the church that belongs to Jesus Christ.

I'm writing to you as I sit at Lutheridge, an outdoor ministry that this week alone will serve hundreds of kids and adults through fun, fellowship, games, music, worship, and food.

We're lucky, church. We're blessed with organizations and passionate people who have the love of Christ in their hearts. As we move from the service of Bishop Ginny Aebischier to Bishop-elect Wade Roof, we're called by God into tomorrow and how it is Christ will call us anew to love and serve God and neighbor.

Give thanks, church, that we at Christus Victor are small and mighty, and that we as the church are large and governed by love.

Peace,
Pastor Michael



FREEDOM WORTH GUARDING

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.



Greetings,

Many churches experience somewhat of a lull during the summer months when it comes to some of their ministries, including music. We are very blessed at Christus Victor to have such dedicated members with musical talent that we don't have that experience. Even when our choir is not able to present an offertory, we have individuals who can step in to fill that role. We are also fortunate to have the incomparable Mot as our organist, so no matter what the time of year you can attend a CVLC worship service and hear incredible, spirit-led music. I am very grateful to the team of people I get to work with who are willing to pick up the slack which allows me time to travel with my family. One new addition to this team is Elena Price who has agreed to come on as a Choral Scholar while she is home from college. If you are interested in joining this amazing team of people, please let me know and we will find a place that fits your gifts.

Blessings,
Robert



Please take time to notice the new visual presentation of our Congregation Goals. Becky Cannon did an excellent job of creating a display of our goals so we can all visually assess how we're doing on them. Please also take a moment to add any updates you may have to the goals.

Also, we'd like to make you aware that we will celebrate our 40th anniversary on October 5. Please contact Brenda Counts if you'd like to help with planning, etc.

In Christ, your Congregational Council



Please join us on **Monday, July 27th at noon for our in-person meeting**, including study and fellowship. Feel free to bring your own lunch and beverage.

Our **women's book club** 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 on Monday, July 20th.** We will be discussing All the Single Ladies by Dorothea Benton Frank. Please see Edna Anderson if you would like a copy of the book. If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information, please contact Patti Addison or Edna or Sheryl Myers.

Our annual women's beach retreat is scheduled for January 15-17, 2027.

Christus Victor Lutheran Church Celebrates 40 Years of Faith and Ministry

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

1986–2026

This year, Christus Victor Lutheran Church joyfully celebrates 40 years of ministry in the Harbison and Irmo community. On October 5, 1986, 118 people signed the charter forming a self-supporting congregation of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). Christus Victor began with a vision of sharing Christ's love in a rapidly growing area of central South Carolina. Over the years, God has blessed that vision beyond what the founding members could have imagined.

When Christus Victor was established in 1986, the Harbison area was on the threshold of tremendous growth. Interstate 26 had already opened the region to new residential and commercial development, but much of what we know today as the Harbison shopping and business district was still in its infancy. Many of the neighborhoods surrounding the church had only recently been built, while others were just beginning to take shape. Families were moving to the area because of its excellent schools, beautiful surroundings, and convenient access to Columbia and Lake Murray.

The mid-1980s were an exciting time in the Midlands. New businesses were arriving, residential development was accelerating, and the Town of Irmo was transitioning from a small railroad community into one of the region's most vibrant suburban centers. The Harbison area would soon become one of South Carolina's premier retail destinations, forever changing the landscape of the community.

It was during this season of growth and opportunity that a group of faithful Lutheran Christians answered God's call to establish a new congregation. Guided by faith, they laid the foundation for what would become Christus Victor Lutheran Church—a place where people could gather for worship, fellowship, learning, and service.

Over the past four decades, the church has witnessed tremendous change in the community around it. Roads have expanded, businesses have flourished, neighborhoods have multiplied, and generations of families have made Irmo and Harbison their home. Through it all, Christus Victor has remained steadfast in its mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and serve God's people.

As a current ELCA congregation, Christus Victor has continued to embrace the Lutheran understanding of God's grace, welcoming people from all walks of life into a community centered on worship, discipleship, and service. Countless lives have been touched through worship services, Christian education, youth ministry, outreach programs, fellowship events, and acts of compassion throughout the community.

This year, as we celebrate 40 years of ministry, we give thanks for the charter members whose faith and dedication established this congregation in 1986. We honor the pastors, staff members, and volunteers who have faithfully served through the years. Most importantly, we thank God for His abundant blessings and guidance.

While much has changed in the Harbison and Irmo area since 1986, one thing remains constant: God's faithfulness. As we look to the future, we remain committed to sharing Christ's love, serving our neighbors, and growing together in faith for generations to come.

More of our church history to come in the August and September newsletters!



CURRENT

Cathy Arrowood, *co-worker of Randy Cannon, who is undergoing treatment for Melanoma*
Rich Burke, *who is recovering from surgery*
Londa Delgado, *wife of Erika Dominick's friend/coworker, who suffered a stroke*
Claude Galarneau, *father of Suzanne Young, who is recovering from hip surgery*
Jesse Gates, *who has a heart valve issue*
Herb Hickle, *friend of Bear Schroeder, who is having problems related to Parkinson's*
William J., *friend of Megan Schroeder, who was diagnosed with cancer*
Noelle Klinger, *niece of Parker Dominick, who was diagnosed with Graves Disease, is pregnant and may not make term*
Fran Lee, *friend of Mot Caulder, who has respiratory issues*
Sarah McDonald, *Janet Robinson's daughter, who is recovering from surgery*
Elizabeth Meade, *a measure of grace as she begins work in China*
Laura Nix, *niece of Randy and Becky Cannon, who is recovering from successful surgery on a brain tumor*
Shirley Nix, *sister of Randy Cannon, who is having some medical issues*
Neal Richardson, *cousin of Mary Ellis, who has stage 4 liver and colon cancer*
Doni Schroeder, *who has multiple health issues*
Jean Sox, *who is recovering from knee surgery*
Marie Stapleton, *friend of Janet Robinson, who has medical issues related to arthritis*
Mary Sundvold, *cousin of Doni Schroeder, who has been diagnosed with cancer*

HOMEBOUND

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

CONTINUING

Crystal Blackwell, Josh Chambers, Nancy Hulon

A SPECIAL MEASURE OF YOUR GRACE

For expectant parents, Peyton Cannon and Sean Brooks
For veterans and those serving in the military
For law enforcement and first responders



1 Doni Schroeder
7 Ralph Ford
10 Becky Cannon
14 Robyn Westphal

14 James Coffey
15 Michael Price
20 Christy Wendland
22 Elizabeth Meade

22 Wil Meade
27 Laura Vinson
31 Zach Kochert

SERVING JULY 2026

July 5 - Pentecost 6

Council Member – Marie Bracanovich
Altar Guild – Suzanne and Reagan Keller
Lay Reader/Communion Assistant - Mike Metzler
Usher -
Tellers -Marie Hutchison and Peyton Cannon
A/V – Rick Bracanovich

July 12 - Pentecost 7

Council Member – Peyton Cannon
Altar Guild – Lane Kochert
Lay Reader/Communion Assistant – Katrina Davis
Usher – Nathan Stalbaum
Tellers – Mark Lybrand and Robyn Westphal
A/V – Tom Counts

July 19 - Pentecost 8

Council Member – Marie Bracanovich
Altar Guild – Tom McCoy
Lay Reader/Communion Assistant – Sean Meade
Usher – Tom McCoy
Tellers – Suzanne Keller and Nathan Stalbaum
A/V – Scott Johnson

July 26 - Pentecost 9

Council Member – Brenda Counts
Altar Guild – Lane Kochert
Lay Reader/Communion Assistant – Lora Price
Usher – Scott Johnson
Tellers – Robyn Westphal and Marie Hutchison
A/V – Lane Kochert

July 2026

August ►

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Choir Practice, 7pm	2	3	4 
5 Pentecost 6 9:30am In person/online service 10:45am Faith Formation	6	7	8 Choir Practice, 7pm	9	10	11
12 Pentecost 7 9:30am In person/online service 10:45am Faith Formation	13	14 Lunch Bunch, 11:30am; Church Council, 6:30pm	15 Choir Practice, 7pm	16	17	18 LMM, 8am
19 Pentecost 8 9:30am In person/online service 10:45am Faith Formation Coffee & Games, 6-8pm	20 WELCA Book Club, 6:30pm (Fellowship Hall) 	21 LMM, 6:30pm; WELCA Zoom, 6:30pm	22 Choir Practice, 7pm	23	24	25
26 Pentecost 9 9:30am In person/online service 10:45am Faith Formation	27 WELCA, noon	28 CBS, 9-10:30am (Library)	29 Choir Practice, 7pm	30	31	



CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Harbison Boulevard
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 weekly at 9:30am with Holy Communion received each Sunday; 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