



## CHRISTUS VICTOR

Evangelical Lutheran Church

9833 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21234



# JANUARY 2025



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Beloved Community,

I finished the old year—2024—by doing a funeral for Vicki Lynn Foreman, a woman I will strive all my life to emulate. While this may seem like a horrible way to end a year, death reminds us that there is NO END to our lives thanks to Jesus' victory on the cross. He smashed death once and for all times, so death is never the final word. Besides, the service celebrated her life so beautifully, even though it was filled with tears and sobs. She was loved by so many, and her qualities included kindness, positivity through insurmountable health challenges, humility and a zest for life, her faith, and travel. They say that, even though she was a busy partner with her husband in a very successful and renowned crane company, she never missed a birthday, a birth, a family occasion or a sports game of any of her children, grandchildren, and one great grandchild. She accepted everyone's decisions and supported them fully, including babysitting when a mother wanted to go back to college. She celebrated everything, but most of all loved Christmas and poinsettias.

Having this beautiful tribute to a very beautiful woman whose close family included "in-laws" who were never treated as anyone except intimate family members gave me a new spark for this new year, 2025. I'm determined to keep my resolutions beyond the first week of January for the first time in my whole life, striving to be more like Vicki but mostly like Christ. I invite you to make and keep your resolutions alongside me. We can walk the Resolution Path together and encourage and support one another, just as Vicki, who has become one of my cloud of witnesses, will do.

Resolution #1: I want to deepen an intimate relationship with my triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Resolution #2: I want to work my way through the Bible again in 2025, enjoying every word, every story, every glimpse of Jesus through the beloved Old and New Testaments. (Please call me if you want my reading plan or have questions when you hit a rough passage.)

Resolution #3: I want to be there for anyone who needs me and try to attend all family and friend occasions, never missing a birthday, sports game, or holiday, plus giving small gifts as I'm able, but most importantly giving the gift of my love.

I'll spare you the next 25 resolutions that include the usual: eat healthily; walk and exercise; read a book every week; stop humming and annoying Lee; you get it!

That's resolutions, but I also have big visions for 2025, all to make Christus Victor, through God's help, into the brightest shining star in the surrounding community. We started by making our driveway lights brighter and our sign funnier. (Just kidding.) I hope that you share a vision for our beloved Church, to make her a beacon of hope, a place of unconditional love and acceptance, and an expanding mission church for youth, the hungry, homeless in need of food and blankets, families in need of fellowship and fun safe events, and most of all those a welcoming and encouraging home for those who desire to know Jesus Christ deeply and fully through worship, Bible study, and Christian education.

I'm so blessed that you and I will journey alongside each other in a bright new year of hope and promise through our Lord.

Much Love,

Pastor Ellen



Happy New Year, Christus Victor Family,

Many of us make resolutions on New Year's and, if you are like me, have a difficult time keeping them. I am suggesting that this year, we make resolutions for our faith. Here are some suggestions:



- Spend more personal time with God. In Matthew 14:34, Jesus dismissed the crowds and went up the mountain to pray alone. A private conversation with God can help bring you peace.
- Resolve to make more connections to our church. Having a church family to encourage and support us is important and beneficial.
- Serve regularly. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us that each of us "should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace." The gifts we have been given by God should be used to serve others, particularly those in need.
- Read the Bible. Romans 15:4, "for everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."
- Remember Christus Victor in your will as a final gift to our church.

There are many opportunities to share your gifts and talents at Christus Victor. We will be having a team fair soon. Check out what each team does to support our church and volunteer. This could be a wonderful resolution for 2025.

I would like to end with a New Year's prayer:

*Dear Lord, as the new year begins, we look to You for hope, joy, and peace. Give us courage to do Your will. Lord, help us remember your promises and rely on your faithfulness. May this year be filled with peace, prosperity, and love. Amen*

Peace,

Linda Meyer

Christus Victor Council President



**Joshua Allen** – Surgery for removal of malignant tumors (Len & Sandy Petrovich)  
**Gayle Amrhine** – Fighting breast cancer (Former member of Christus Victor)  
**Brett Apple** – Motorcycle accident (Julie Apple)  
**JoAnn Bakie** – Health issues (Bea Walshinsky)  
**Daniel Beauford** – Health issues (Obinemes)  
**Greg Bryant** – (Stansburys)  
**Kelly Stansbury Bryant** – (Stansburys)  
**Janet & Tommy Burkhart** – (Stansburys)  
**Daryl Burman** – (Howard Stansbury)  
**Rob Coppage** – Battling cancer (Nephew of Birdie Patrick)  
**Ola Denues** – Healing from brain surgery (Karen Biedronski)  
**Dawn Dipietro** – (Stansburys)  
**Helena Discher** – Health issues (Friend of Jan Williams)  
**Anna Fowler** – Pray for healing that she might no longer need oxygen (Jan Williams)  
**Albert Galinn** – Recovering from cervical fusion surgery (Biedronskis)  
**George** – Bone marrow cancer (Joyce McMahan)  
**Loretta Gleason** – Pray for healing (Birdie Patrick)  
**Nancy Kiefner** – Health issues (Stansburys).  
**Robert Kruelle** – Kidney health issues (Irene Ruby)  
**Jessie** – Pray for strength (Len & Sandy Petrovich).  
**Libby** – Pray for comfort (Joyce McMahan).  
**Jacqi & Lacey Lockard** – (Stansburys)  
**Joe Marsheck\*** – Pray for him to find strength, peace and joy with the Lord holding him in his arms.  
**Roger McPherson** – (Kelly Ruby and Joan Ruby)  
**Susan Parker** – Recovering from stroke in rehab (Bea Walshinsky)  
**Rosemary** – Stage 4 pancreatic cancer  
**Alan Scarlett** – Pray for health and healing through procedures (Jim Steadman)  
**Erika Scarcella** – Seizures (McCreas)  
**Jake Sittler\*** – Pray for strength and continued wellness.  
**Rosemary Sommers** – Stroke (Pat Eichner)  
**Terrie Sommers** – Health issues (Pat Eichner)  
**Nick Spinnato** – Health concerns (Linda Meyer)  
**Ginny Thompson** – Numerous ongoing health issues (Merle Vogel)  
**Michele Thompson** – Health issues (Bea Walshinsky)  
**Carol Tracey** – Health issues (Friend of Jane Bowie)  
**Tyler Walsh** – Motorcycle accident (Linda Meyer)  
**Molly Ward** – Health issues (Leights)  
**Grace Webb** – Friend of Virginia McCurdy  
**Billy Wilhelm** – Fighting blood cancer and Myasthenia Gravis (Karen Biedronski).

Members at Home or in Rehab:

Diane Frederick	Jeanne George	Jim Umerley
Bea Walshinsky	Jack Zimmerman	



## Gospel Lessons

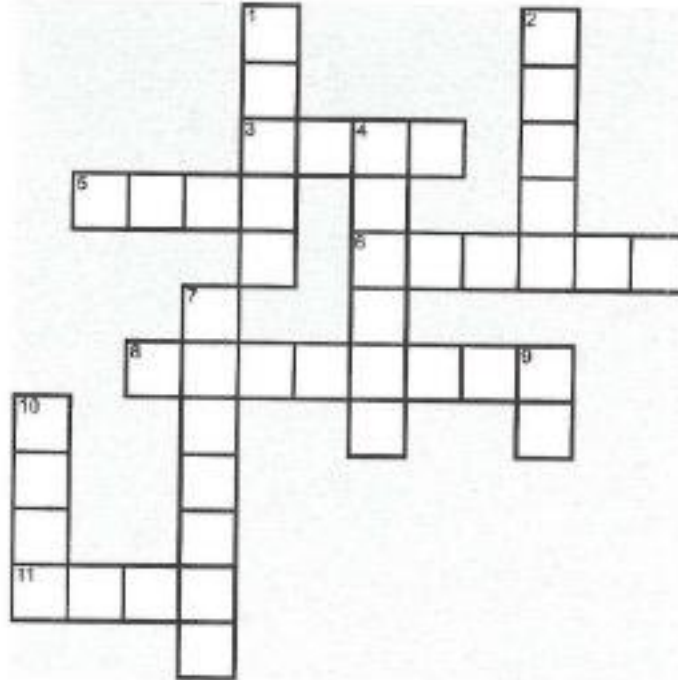
Jan. 5	John 1:[1—9]10—18	Of the Father's love begotten
Jan. 12	Luke 3:15—17, 21—22	Christ, when for us you were baptized
Jan. 19	John 2:1—11	Songs of thankfulness and praise
Jan. 26	Luke 4:14—21	Let streams of living justice



The First Sunday Social on January 5th will be hosted by the Church Council. Please join us in the fellowship hall after worship for refreshments and conversation.



# John 2:1-11



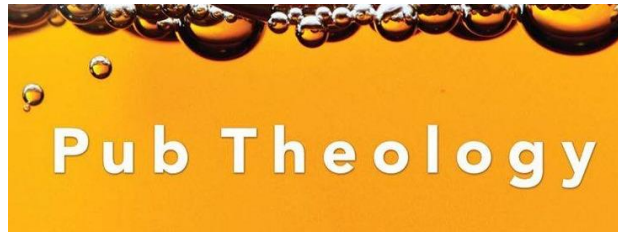
## Across

- 3 Jesus replied, "Woman, what does that have to do with me? My \_\_\_ hasn't come yet."
- 5 When the \_\_\_ ran out, Jesus' mother said to him, "They don't have any \_\_\_."
- 6 The headwaiter \_\_\_ the water that had become wine.
- 8 Jesus revealed his glory, and his disciples \_\_\_ in him.
- 11 This was the first miraculous \_\_\_ that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee.

## Down

- 1 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with \_\_\_," and they filled them to the brim.
- 2 The headwaiter called the groom and said, "Everyone serves the good wine \_\_\_\_....You kept the good wine until now."
- 4 Jesus' \_\_\_ was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration.
- 7 On the third day there was a \_\_\_ in Cana of Galilee.
- 9 His mother told the servants, "\_\_\_ whatever he tells you."
- 10 Nearby were six stone water \_\_\_ used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons.

Please send Oakleaf submissions to the church office or directly to Karen Biedronski ([charmcitystamper@verizon.net](mailto:charmcitystamper@verizon.net)) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month for publication in the next month's newsletter. Photos from church events are always appreciated. Please send all written submissions as text (Word) documents and send photos separately (JPEG or PDF). I need to be able to format and edit the text and cannot make changes to JPEG or PDF files.



No Pub Theology this month. Normally we meet at The Bowman Restaurant on Harford Road on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. See you in February!

WE PUBLISH THIS PAGE EVERY MONTH ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6 P.M. SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3** – Kathy Krause, Katie Revels
- 4** – Howard Stansbury
- 5** – Amber Depew
- 18** – Ugonnaya Obineme
- 19** – Cheryl Franz
- 22** – Ryan Vancura
- 25** – Matthew Wilt
- 26** – Pat Eichner



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

No anniversaries this month. Let us know if we need to add yours!

WE PUBLISH THIS PAGE EVERY MONTH ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6 P.M. SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!

Keep bringing in those aluminum can pull tabs! The big jug in the fellowship hall is almost full. The money raised from collecting them will pay for transportation for families staying at Ronald McDonald Houses. It's a small thing that can make a big difference!



Andrea Zahirsky would like to thank everyone who contributed to "hanging the greens" and all of the other preparations to ready the church for Advent and Christmas. Didn't our church look especially beautiful in December?





## Christmas Village Train Garden



Lee Krich set up an amazing Christmas village display in the choir room. It brought joy to many through the holiday season.

**Update from Stephanie Vancura: The Texas Roadhouse fundraiser earned Christus Victor \$108! Thank you to everyone who came out for a night of good food and fellowship.**

# Sunday School

On Sunday, December 22nd, the Sunday School performed the annual Christmas Pageant, this year called "The Christmas Window." Bette Schumann told the tale of all the things we love about Christmas from cookies to Santa. We had two fantastic solos by Emmie McPhersen and Brynlee Hawkins, but then the kids looked with disappointment at the window. Bette continued the story, revealing the true meaning of Christmas to smiles and children dressed in costumes while the congregation sang carols. It was a great Sunday.



# Youth Group

On Sunday, December 29th, the Elementary Class was told Sunday School would be at 2 p.m. SURPRISE! The Youth Group threw a Christmas party for them with games, crafts and snacks.

Afterwards the Youth Group had their own Christmas Party and gifts exchange. We had an end of year toast with more fun times ahead.

Thank you to Gordon, Ugonnaya, Pastor Ellen, Deacon Shelly, Reneé Norman, and all the parents who made these parties possible.

Happy New Year!

*Sandy Petrovich*

Candlerich54@gmail.com / Text 410-241-8814







FAITH, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP AT  
CHRISTUS VICTOR INVITES YOU TO A:

# DINING OUT AT ANGELINO'S PIZZA. SUBS. PASTA.

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JANUARY 20TH, 2025  
2PM-10PM



AT

**ANGELINO'S PIZZA**  
9948 HARFORD RD,  
PARKVILLE, MD 21234



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Bring family, friends, and fellow pizza lovers!  
Must bring a flier and 15% will be donated to Christus Victor.  
Dine-in and Carryout orders ONLY.



## Victor's Vittles

Please help with our monthly drive! Any shelf-stable items are welcome at any time---These are just suggestions for those who like to have a plan when they shop. Please place any donations in the Victor's Vittles containers located in the Fellowship Hall.

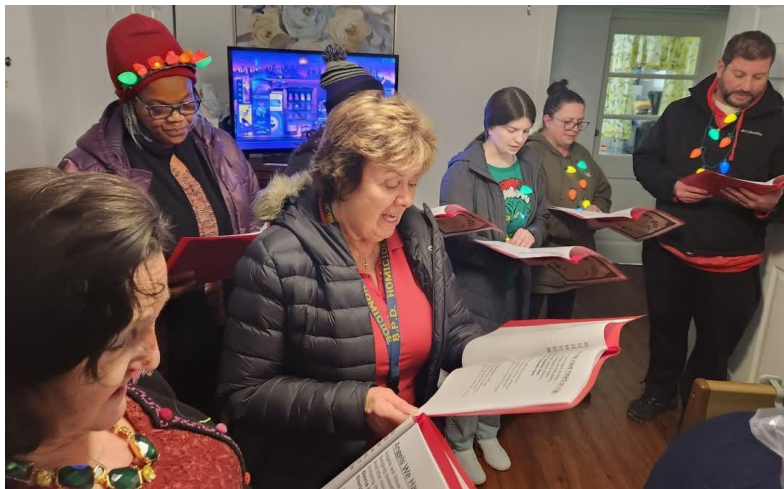
January: Pancake Mix

February: Rice/Rice packet dinners

March: Peanut butter

**Victor's Vittles needs drivers to pick up food weekly. Is this something you could do once a month? Do you know someone looking for a volunteer opportunity?**

## Christmas Caroling





**Christus Victor Lutheran Church**  
**Council Minutes**  
**November 4, 2024**  
*Council Meetings are Open and Everyone Is Invited to Attend.*  
*The Executive Board met Sunday, November 3, 2024, to plan the agenda.*

*Unite in Christ, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love, and Share the Good News*

**Attendance:** Pastor Ellen Krich, Michael Schumann, Kelly Ruby, Phil Biedronski via Zoom, Linda Meyer, Linda McMahon, David Murray, Sandy Petrovich, Helen Tennant, Andrea Zahirsky. Shelly Shrader attended as a visitor (not a voting member of council).

**Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.**

Shelly Shrader opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

The October minutes were reviewed, motion to approve was made by Andrea Zahirsky and seconded by Helen Tennant, the motion was passed. A copy of the minutes will be published in the next *Oakleaf*.

**Order of Saint Stephen's Deacons** – will worship at Epiphany on St. Stephen's Feast Day, December 26, 2024.

**Investment Report and the Asset Account**

Phil Biedronski prepared an Asset Report for the Council and a copy was distributed to the council. The investment account balance on October 31<sup>st</sup> was \$530,162.00, which is a decrease of approximately \$8000.00. Overall, 2024 has been a good year; the investment account is reduced year to date by approximately \$13,000.00 reflecting both investment gains and withdrawals.

**Status of Funds – Helen Tennant**

The October 2024 Profit and Loss Report indicated a shortfall of \$3171.24. The year-to-date report reflects income of \$254,376.00, expenses of \$235,324.00 and net income of \$19,051.89.

**Old Business**

**Pastor's Report**

The report outlined a list of the Pastor's suggested action items and items of interest.

Visitations – are ongoing

Bible Study – Is ongoing and powerful

Men's Group – Pray for success

Pub Theology – is ongoing and very successful

Office Computer – The counters need a new computer

Picture Wall – Ellen would like to have her picture on the Pastor wall; Linda McMahon and Pastor will work together to make that happen.

Ring at office door – Lee Krich has installed a Ring device on the office door. It will alert Sharon, Pastor Ellen and Andrea's phones.

Christmas Flyers – the flyer promises a small gift for each person who brings the flyer into the Church. David Murray advises that anyone who brings the flyer to Angelino's Restaurant will receive a discount. The council proposes both promotions; the discounts and the gift will be provided. Motion made by Linda McMahon, seconded by Kelly Ruby, and approved.

Thanksgiving Eve - Holden Evening Prayer – Several people from the Chosen project have volunteered to sing with the choir. Council advises Pastor to discuss this proposal with the Worship and Music Committee.



Big Tent Revival – Pastor Ellen Krich would like to have the Youth Group help with this Project. Sandy Petrovich expressed her concerns with taking the Youth Group into Baltimore City. This project was scrapped.

Hunger Task Force – The collection that was approved in an earlier Council Meeting will be scheduled for 11/10 during the Veterans Day Service.

### **Old Business**

**Budget 2025** – Social Ministry will now include FFF and Fellowship. Budgets will be combined into one line item. In response to the large increase in the BGE energy rates, the Property Team will schedule an Energy Audit from BGE. Hopefully they will be able to propose strategies that will save money in 2025. A decision was made that we will not be investing in the Concordia project in 2025. Motion to approve the budget was made by Andrea Zahirsky, seconded by Mike Schumann, and it was approved. The budget will be mailed to the Congregation and discussed at the Town Hall Meeting on 11/24.

**Congregation members who wish to attend the Council Meetings** – It was proposed that the members should contact Linda Meyer and request that their concerns and issues be added to the Council Agenda.

### **New Business**

**Commitment Cards** – Temple Talks and Commitment cards will be moved to January 2025, after the Stewardship Committee Team Leader is assigned. Kelly Ruby made a motion to approve this change of schedule, David Murray seconded it, and the motion was approved.

**Workshop to review Bylaws and prepare Action Plan for committees in 2025** – Sandy Petrovich proposes that we hold a council workshop to create an action plan for the Council in 2025.

**Team Fair** - it was proposed to hold a Team Fair at the first Sunday Social in February to recruit team members.

**Nomination of potential New Council Members** - The Vice President is tasked with recruiting potential new Council Members. Before nominations the responsibilities of council members will be communicated to potential new members.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Sandy Petrovich and seconded by Andrea Zahirsky. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned; it ended with the Lord's Prayer.

**Reminder: Next Council Meeting December 9, 2024, 7 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda McMahon, Secretary

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Monthly and weekly offering envelopes for 2025 are available for pick up in the narthex. If you do not have an assigned number and would like to receive envelopes, please contact our parish administrator, Sharon Ibex.

# January

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day: No Bible study or Pub Theology due to the holiday.	2	3 7:00 p.m. New Beginnings	4 9:00-11:00 a.m. Victor's Vittles
5 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation 10:00 a.m. Epiphany Worship 1st Sunday Social Celebrating New Members	6 EPIPHANY 7:00 p.m. NA	7 9:30 a.m. Christus Comforters 11:00 a.m. Victor's Vittles Volunteers 6:30 p.m. Scouts	8 LMS Pick-up 6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Group	9	10 7:00 p.m. New Beginnings	11 9:00-11:00 a.m. Victor's Vittles
12 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation 10:00 a.m. Worship Induction of 2025 Council Members	13 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m. Council meeting	14 9:30 a.m. Christus Comforters 11:00 a.m. Victor's Vittles Volunteers 6:30 p.m. Scouts	15 Deadline for <i>The Oakleaf</i> 6:00 p.m. FFF Event – Candle Making Workshop in preparation for Candlemas.	16	17 7:00 p.m. New Beginnings	18 9:00-11:00 a.m. Victor's Vittles
19 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation 10:00 a.m. Worship	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Angelino's 2-10 p.m. 7:00 p.m. NA	21 9:30 a.m. Christus Comforters 11:00 a.m. Victor's Vittles Volunteers	22 6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Group	23	24 7:00 p.m. New Beginnings	25 9:00-11:00 a.m. Victor's Vittles
26 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation 10:00 a.m. Worship	27 7:00 p.m. NA	28 9:30 a.m. Christus Comforters 11:00 a.m. Victor's Vittles Volunteers 6:30 p.m. PCRC	29	30	31 7:00 p.m. New Beginnings	

# 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President—Linda Meyer  
Vice President—Andrea Zahirsky  
Secretary—Karen Biedronski  
Treasurer—Helen Tennant  
Worship and Music—Michael Schumann  
Social Ministry—\*  
Fellowship—\*  
Christian Education—Sandy Petrovich  
Administration—\*  
Evangelism—\*  
Property—Howard Stansbury  
Stewardship— \*  
Mutual Ministry—Kelly Ruby  
Asset Account Manager—Phil Biedronski (not a voting member of the council)  
\*New Team Leaders will be determined in January.



## CONTACTS

**Pastor:** Ellen Krich 410.236.9115 [pastor@christusvictoronline.org](mailto:pastor@christusvictoronline.org)  
**Director of Music:** Taylor Armstrong 410.340.6595 [tsarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:tsarmstrong@gmail.com)  
**Sunday School Superintendent:** Sandy Petrovich 410.241.8814 call or text  
**Altar Guild:** Andrea Zahirsky 410.668.8165  
**Ushers:** Sherry Simpkins 410.668.8165

**Parish Administrator:** Sharon Ibex [office@christusvictoronline.org](mailto:office@christusvictoronline.org)  
Office phone: 410.668.8089 Office hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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**Oakleaf Editor:** Karen Biedronski 410.529.9405 [charmcitystamper@verizon.net](mailto:charmcitystamper@verizon.net)

**Victor's Vittles:** Howard Stansbury 410.529.3010

**Financial Secretary:** Sharon Ibex 410.668.8089

**Youth Group:** Gordon Krause 410.812.6362