



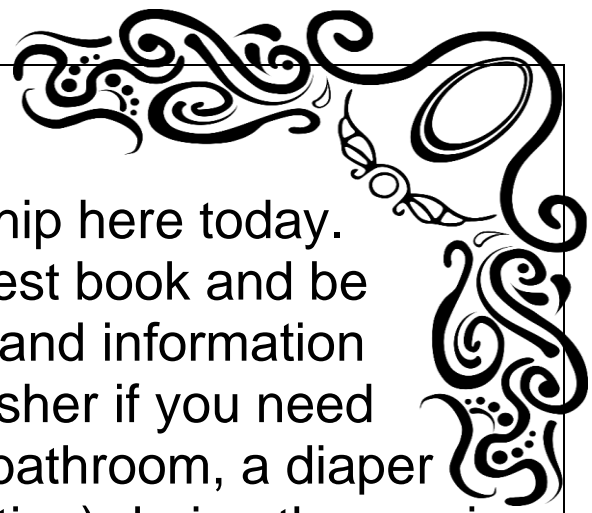
**Epiphany of Our Lord
January 5, 2025
New Members' Sunday**

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church
9833 Harford Road
Parkville, MD 21234
(410) 668-8089**

**Web Site: Christusvictoronline.org
Email: office@christusvictoronline.org**

[Mission Statement: God calls us to unite in Christ, grow in faith, serve in love, and share the good news.](#)

WELCOME TO ALL,
ESPECIALLY OUR VISITORS.



We praise God for all who worship here today. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book and be sure to take a visitor's bag of goodies and information about our church. Be sure to see an usher if you need anything (a quiet room for children, a bathroom, a diaper changer, or the parlor for quiet meditation) during the service.

Absolutely everyone is welcome to take communion. Lutherans believe that the very presence of Jesus Christ means the bread is his body and the wine is his blood. Communion is a meaningful vehicle for the Holy Spirit to enter us fully and have us participate in Christ's death and resurrection. God invites you to God's own table for love, forgiveness, and fellowship. Parents may decide if they want their young children to commune or receive a blessing, but please know that all ages are welcome to commune in the Evangelical Lutheran faith.

. You are absolutely invited to everything Christus Victor Church does, including all fellowships, events, and after-worship activities. La casa de Dios, tu casa.

Note to Everyone: Please, please, please read the announcements at the end of this bulletin!!!

WORSHIP NOTE: THE * MEANS "PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE" FOR THAT PART OF THE WORSHIP. YOU MAY SIT WHENEVER YOU FEEL THE NEED.

God's blessings on all who serve:

PASTOR: Ellen B. Krich

DEACON: Shelly Shrader

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Taylor Armstrong

TECHNOLOGY: Meghan Collins

LAY ASSISTANT: Kathie Nichols

READER: Linda McMahan

USHERS: Sherry Simpkins, Joyce McMahan

ACOLYTE: Marcus Collins

ALTAR GUILD: Andrea Zahirsky, Irene Ruby, Virginia McCurdy, Cathleen Burkins, Ellen Marsheck



PRELUDE: GATHERING

Please stand as you are able and face the cross in the back of the sanctuary.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Just as the magi sought diligently for the baby of Bethlehem, God seeks diligently for us to call us his own, through forgiveness and love. I declare, as an ordained minister, looking at the cross of Christ, that every one of your sins is forgiven and forgotten. **Amen.**

PROCESSION OF THE MAGI

***GATHERING SONG: “We Three Kings” (WOV 646)**

***GREETING**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***KYRIE (ELW p. 203)**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE “GLORIA” (ELW p. 204)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A. Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us by faith to know your presence in our lives and bring us to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters
shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to
you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 72:1-7, 10-14 (SUNG)

¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

² **that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon
shall | be no more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay
tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**

¹¹ May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in
distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

¹³ He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he re- | deems their
lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**

***GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and

calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “*As with Gladness Men of Old*” (ELW 302)

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

P: *(New members come forward.)* We are so blessed today to be able to officially declare your membership into the Christus Victor family and to welcome you with open arms.

Dear new members, you have been with us for a while and have shown that you desire to become active with our church by working with the various teams that will utilize your

gifts and by giving of your time, talents, and resources to further the mission that the Lord has given to us.

Furthermore, it is important that you continue to attend worship as often as possible, that you read Scripture and join Bible studies as you are able, and that you seek through prayer to know our Lord more fully and deeply, so that you can rely on our Lord throughout your work here at church and in your life. Do you therefore promise to seek our Lord through worship, prayer, and Scripture to become an active part of our Lord's mission? If so, answer, "We do, and we ask God to help and guide us."

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Do you also promise to actively serve on teams and on projects that utilize your skills and gifts, including helping with worship and fellowship, as God directs you. If so, answer, "We do, and we ask God to help and guide us."

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Beloved Church, will you promise to welcome our new members with love, to worship beside them, and to assist them in utilizing their gifts and skills in the work of the Lord here at Christus Victor?

We promise, and we ask God to help and guide us.

I declare you official members of our church with all the rights and privileges of membership, including serving on teams, on Council, and voting on all measures that require a vote.

Please welcome our dear new members, as we give each other the peace of the Lord.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P. Filled with good news of great joy that the magi followed a star leading to all nations finding the Christ child, and praying that as a new year begins, you will strengthen us with your love, we now ask these petitions and trust in your mercy.

A. Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths and give our beloved Christus Victor opportunities for ecumenical partnerships. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world, just as it happened when the magi met the Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. You know all our needs, and we give you thanks for everything that magnifies your glory. We praise you for the beautiful image-bearers you have brought to membership at our church. Help our new members and us to make a difference in this fallen world in all our undertakings, with your guidance, protection, and encouragement. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

A. Help us to be a force in ending conflicts that destroy societies and cause destruction. As we journey through a new year, let us not fall when the paths are rough, for just as you guided the magi with a star through a long, tiresome, and difficult path, please continue to guide us as we work for freedom, not bondage; bounty instead of hunger; health, instead of sickness; peace, not war; preservation, not abuse; and knowledge without ignorance. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you, as we name those on our parish prayer..... and all who are on our hearts and precious in your sight, namely..... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. We give thanks for President Jimmy Carter and his legacy of kindness, humility, and hard work for worthy causes. His faith motivated him to work for peace his entire life of 100 years, and you have now taken him into your kingdom to be reunited with his beloved Rosalyn. Be with his family and friends and the nation that mourns him. We celebrate all your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory, including Vicki Lynn Foreman, a beautiful woman who gave her family the gift of her caring presence at all their activities and celebrations. We pray for all those in our congregation who were her beloved relatives as they mourn her, along with the rest of her close and grieving family. Make all of us, with these saints, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise and may they continue as our cloud of witnesses to encourage and give us models of faith and hope. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. Death and life are the same to you, in the way in which you hold us close. Hold Amber Depew, in her brilliant and active life and work, close as she celebrates with her loving husband, son, and extended family a glorious birthday.

Strengthen her in health and faith as she faces a joyous year ahead and give her the gifts that never fade or get old and out of style, namely the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We thank you for this beautiful member of our church. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

P. We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

OFFERING

MUSICAL MEDITATION

***OFFERTORY: “*We are an Offering*” (ELW 692)**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***SANCTUS (ELW p. 207)**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

AGNUS DEI (ELW p. 208)

COMMUNION HYMN: “*Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*” (ELW 303)

***HYMN: *God Be with You Til We Meet Again* (ELW 536)**

***THE FINAL BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG: “SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE” (ELW 310)**

***DISMISSAL**

**May your new year be filled with peace, love and hope.
Thanks be to God.**

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Care and Concern

**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 – Recuperating from surgery (Cousin of 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 – Surgery (Friend of Karen & Phil Biedronski)

George – Bone marrow cancer. (Joyce McMahan).

Loretta Gleason – Pray for healing. (Birdie Patrick)

Marie Greb* - Hospitalized

Jessie – Pray for strength. (Len & Sandy Petrovich)

Nancy Kiefner – Health Issues (Stansburys)

Robert Kruelle – Kidney health issues (Neighbor of Irene Ruby)

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).

Rosemary – Stage 4 pancreatic cancer

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 – Serious 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)

*member CVLC

Members at Home or in Rehab:

Diane Frederick	Jeanne George	Susan Parker
Jim Umerley	Bea Walshinsky	Jack Zimmerman

Attendance: 12/29/2024

Sanctuary/In-Person Worship 10:00AM – 65

Facebook Live – 135

Count Our Blessings: 12/29/2024

Weekly Offering - \$6,474.00

Online Giving 12/27/2024 – \$1,429.74

Victor's Vittles - \$1,740.00

Thank you for your support!

As the new year begins, we will have a special stewardship program, which we believe you will receive with joy, as it unfolds. Please remember to take your offering envelopes from the narthex if you are not an online giver.

Happy Birthday Wishes: Jan. 5 – Amber Depew

Come out and have a good dinner or a carry-out from **Angelino's Restaurant at 9948 Harford Road on Monday, January 20, 2025**, from 2-10 p.m. and help raise money for our church. Christus Victor will receive 15% of all money we spend there. Be sure to grab a flier to present at the time of purchase.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 5 – 9:00AM Sunday School, 10AM New Members' Induction and Celebration with First Sunday Social.

Monday, Jan. 6 - Women's and Men's NA Group 7:00PM

Tuesday, Jan. 7- Christus Comforters 9:30AM
Tuesday, Jan. 7 – Victor’s Vittles Volunteers 11:00AM
Tuesday, Jan. 7 – Scouts 6:30PM
Wednesday, Jan. 8 – LMS Pick-up
Wednesday, Jan. 8 – Youth Group 6:00PM
Friday, Jan. 10 – New Beginnings 7:00PM
Saturday, Jan. 11 – Victor’s Vittles 9:00-11:00AM
Sunday, Jan. 12 – New Council Members’ Induction with after-service visitor training.
Monday, Jan. 13 – OSSD New Testament Class
Monday, Jan. 13 - Council 7:00PM
Wednesday, Jan. 15 – Oakleaf Articles Due
Wednesday, Jan. 15 – FFF Candle-Making, Tea, and Meditation (More information to follow. Save the date.)
Monday, Jan. 20 – Fundraiser at Angelino’s Restaurant 2:00-10:00PM

Today is New Members’ Sunday

Today, we are officially recognizing our beloved new members, Jan Williams, Laura Forbes, and David Burkins. These three people have declared that not only do they desire to be members, but they desire to work on Teams and be active in our church, praise God. We will celebrate them at our First Sunday Social with delicious food and sweets. God bless them in their journey with the Lord.

Attention Visitors and those desiring to Visit:

On Sunday, January 12, directly after the service, we will have training for new and current visitors to refresh you and bless you to give communion and visit our shut-ins and those in rehabilitation or the hospital. Please come for the brief training with Pastor, where we will unveil a calendar.

Christmas Village is our Christmas Train Garden, even bigger than Spooky Town. Please invite all train enthusiasts to come and visit. The Village is bright, loud and joyous. It will be open after all church services until Epiphany.

VICTOR'S VITTLES:

**January 11th – Ellen Marsheck, Angela Myers
Driver Pick-up January 10th – Zahirskys
More drivers are desperately needed.**

Victors Vittles Food Drive!

Please help us stock up our regular family foods by bringing in the following:

January: Pancake Mix

February: Rice/Rice packet dinners

March: Peanut Butter

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Linda Meyer, President	410.215.0356
Andrea Zahirsky, V.P. & Administration	410.668.8165
Linda McMahon, Secretary	410.528.3221
Helen Tennant, Treasurer	410.661.0686
Michael Schumann, Worship & Music	410.665.0702
Sandy Petrovich, Christian Education	410.241.8814
Helen Tennant, Social Ministry/Fellowship	410.661.0686
Howard Stansbury, Property	410.529.3010
Andrea Zahirsky, Admin.	410.668.8165
Kelly Ruby, Mutual Ministry	410.274.9156
Dave Murray, Evangelism	443.469.2933
Stephanie Vancura, FFF	410-336-2364

Church Contacts

Pastor:	Ellen Krich, 410-236-9115 pastor@christusvictoronline.org
Dir.of Music:	Taylor Armstrong, 410-340-6595 tsarmstrong@gmail.com
P.A./Fin Sec:	Sharon Ibex, Ofc. 410-668-8089 office@christusvictoronline.org
Sunday School:	Sandy Petrovich, 410-444-7947
Oakleaf Editor:	Karen Biedronski, 410-529-9405 charmcitystamper@verizon.net
Victor's Vittles:	Carol Stansbury, 410-529-3010
Lay Assistants:	Linda Meyer, 410-215-0356
Ushers:	Sherry Simpkins, 410-661-7568
Youth Group:	Gordon Krause, 410-812-6362