



CHRISTUS VICTOR

Evangelical Lutheran Church

9833 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21234



FEBRUARY 2025



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Beloved Community,

This is the month of Love, and not just romantic love: Family Love, Friendship, Love for our Lord, and even love for our enemies or those who have hurt us in any way. Yes, it is true that agape love (unconditional love, the love that comes from the Lord) conquers hatred, anger, unforgiveness, revenge, bitterness, resentment, and obsessive thoughts about the hurt; but, love is not always easy to feel. Jesus said he could sum up all the law and prophets with this command: “Love the Lord your God, with all your heart, soul and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.” He didn’t say we should love if we FEEL like it. He said we must love, and those nasty lying feelings inside us just don’t factor into it.

I tried it once or twice. There was a couple who ignored me for a reason I won’t reveal, and it was hurtful. I saw them at a soccer game, and I smiled and said, “Hello.” They walked right by, but I looked at their backs and mustered up all the love I could. It freed me from worrying about running into them again or wondering what it would take to be friendly again. Guess what? They eventually came around and now are quite kind to me. Love works. Oh, and don’t forget prayer.

When I think of love, I think of our beloved member Joey Marsheck, now with his Lord and part of our cloud of witnesses. When he was told of his diagnosis with a rare aggressive cancer, he looked at his parents with great love and said, “How are you? Are you okay?” Love is a beautiful thing.

Love is helping our church to grow. A lack of love would cause our church to flounder and lose its great blessings. Let’s please promise to love abundantly and well.

Love,

Pastor Ellen





Dear Christus Victor Family,

Unfortunately, the wildfires in California have been very deadly and devastating to thousands of citizens. The emergency responders from all over our country, Canada, and Mexico have been working tirelessly to fight the fires. Please keep this community in your prayers and support them in any way you can.

I watched President Carter's funeral recently along with millions of others. What a wonderful, faithful man, and the words articulated by his family, friends and President Biden were wonderful. The words President Carter's personal pastor shared were heartwarming and very thought-provoking. Every time the pastor visited President Carter, President Carter asked him four questions:

1. Where have you been?
2. What have you done?
3. Who have you helped?
4. How can I help you help them?

I challenge you to keep these questions in mind as you interact with your family and friends.

In February, we celebrate Valentine's Day. The day should not be just about candy and flowers. You can spread kindness, respect, and civility so that it becomes a standard to you throughout the year.

Peace,

Linda Meyer

Council President

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥



Gayle Amrhine – Fighting breast cancer (Former member of Christus Victor)
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)
Luzetta DeBoe – Broken bones from a fall; in rehab (Friend of Pastor Ellen's)
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 – Healing from surgery (Friend of Karen & Phil Biedronski)
George – Bone marrow cancer (Joyce McMahan).
Loretta Gleason – Pray for healing (Birdie Patrick).
Marie Greb* – Pray for her left leg to be healed from pain and strengthened enough for standing and walking.
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)
Family of Joe Marsheck* – Pray for comfort and peace at his passing and all good memories.
Roger McPherson – (Kelly Ruby and Joan Ruby)
Pam – Brain tumor (Friend of Virginia McCurdy)
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 – Battling blood cancer (Karen Biedronski)
*member CVLC

Members at Home or in Rehab:

Diane Frederick
Jeanne George
Jim Umerley
Bea Walshinsky
Jack Zimmerman



Gospel Lessons

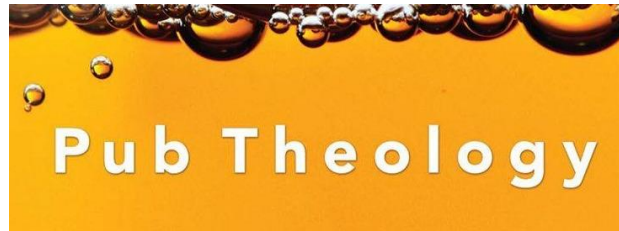
Feb. 2	Luke 2:22—40	O Lord, now let your servant
Feb. 9	Luke 4:21—30	Here I Am, Lord
Feb. 16	Luke 6:17—26	When the poor ones
Feb. 23	Luke 6:27—38	In all our grief



The First Sunday Social on February 2nd is also Team Fair Day. Please come to the fellowship hall after worship to learn more about how you can serve God through service while enjoying finger foods and conversation!



Left: Kinsley helps her grandmother, Andrea, during communion.
Right: On January 12, Ugonnaya sang a beautiful solo---It Wasn't His Child.



Please join us at The Bowman on Harford Road at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 5th**. You can order food and/or beverages, or just spend a couple of hours in conversation. All ages are welcome! Please invite friends and neighbors. This month's topic: Different Voices, Different Faiths.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2** Jake Sittler
- 4** Bea Walshinsky
- 5** Angela Myers
- 6** Virginia McCurdy
- 9** Joyce McMahon
- 12** Lily Marsheck
- 18** Pam Lankford
- 20** Nancy Myers, Dick Downes
- 21** Joan Ruby
- 22** Meryl Krich Hawkins
- 24** Christian Obineme
- 28** Jesse Revels



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2** Andrea & Phil Zahirsky
- 26** Sandy & Len Petrovich

TEAM FAIR

DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

PLACE: FELLOWSHIP HALL

Combined with

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL

**Come and see what the Church
Council Teams are all about.
See how can you help make
our church a better place.**



On January 20, 2025, Joseph Maurice Marsheck, loving son of James and Jennifer Marsheck; dear brother of Jessica and Lily Marsheck; cherished grandson of Linda and William Glisson, Ellen Marsheck and the late James Marsheck and Robert Fitzgerald and the late Debra Fitzgerald; nephew of Angel Miller and the late Tommy Miller, Katie and David Peterson, Sarah and John Pemberton, Pam Kuykendall and Robert Fitzgerald, passed into his eternal home.

"Joey was caring, thoughtful and smart. He fought, so very hard, all the way to the end. He displayed unbelievable amounts of strength and bravery. Even throughout everything he faced, he never failed to be supportive and put others first. He was a gentle giant, with a heart of gold. Gone too soon, but always in our hearts."



I'll Lend You for a Little Time a Child of Mine--- by Edgar Guest

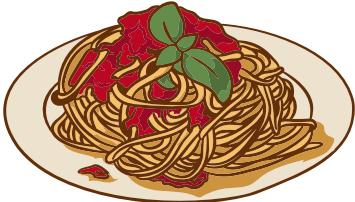
*"I'll lend you for a little time a child of mine," He said.
"For you to love the while he lives and mourn when he is dead,
It may be six or seven years, or twenty-two or three.
But will you, till I call him back, take care of him for me?
He'll bring his charms to gladden you, but should his stay be brief,
You'll have his lovely memories, as solace for your grief,
I cannot promise he will stay, since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught down there I want this child to learn.
I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true,
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes I have selected you.
Now will you give him all your love, nor think the labor vain,
Nor hate me when I come to call to take him back again?
I fancied that I heard them say: Dear Lord, Thy will be done!
For all the joy Thy child shall bring, the risk of grief we'll run.
We'll shelter him with tenderness: we'll love him while we may,
And for happiness we've known forever grateful stay.
But should the angels call for him much sooner than we'd planned.
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes and try to understand."*



On January 12, the 2025 church council members were installed during the worship service. On steps from left: Howard Stansbury, Property; Joel McCrea, Fellowship; Deacon Shelly Shrader, Worship & Music; Linda McMahan, Evangelism; Kelly Ruby, Mutual Ministry; Ugonnaya Obineme, Stewardship; front from left: Michael Schumann, Administration; Helen Tennant, Treasurer; Linda Meyer, President; Andrea Zahirsky, Vice President; Karen Biedronski, Secretary; Sandy Petrovich, Christian Education. Not pictured: Melissa Collins, Social Ministry. Also pictured, between Ugonnaya and Sandy, Laura Forbes, taken in as a new member of the congregation. On January 5, new members Jan Williams and David Burkins were officially welcomed to the congregation.

From Stephanie Vancura:

Thank you to everyone who was able to come out to Angelino's to have some delicious food and support our church. We raised \$300.00! Stay tuned for our next dining out opportunity...



Manifestus

The other day I woke up with an ear worm—no, not an earache. An ear worm is a tune that keeps replaying in one's mind and will not let go.

As it was repeating, I was able to remember three words only of the hymn that we sang in church the previous Sunday. “Manifested by the...” was all that came to mind. I tried to locate it in my copy of the *ELW* but, because that phrase is not the first line, the index of first lines provided no assistance.

Next, I tried the internet and discovered that Carl P. Daw, Jr. had written the hymn “Sing of God Made Manifest” in 1990. It did contain the word *manifest*, but it was not the one we had sung in our worship service. I did remember that the tune name was SALZBURG composed by Jakob Hintze in 1678.

Reopening the *ELW*, this time checking the index of tune names, I discovered that SALZBURG accompanied two hymn texts, one of which (number 310) is “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise.” Happily, I found the hymn again.

I wondered about the significance of the use of the word *manifest* eight times in the four verses printed in the *ELW*. Checking its derivation, I learned that it came from the Latin word *Manifestus* meaning “caught in the act.” Was I going off on a tangent here, or could it be that Jesus was caught in the act, and if so, what act? A more modern definition of *manifest* is “to make plain.” Did Jesus make anything plain and if so, what?

Christopher Wordsworth, who wrote the hymn text for the sixth Sunday after Epiphany, said that his intention was to recall all the manifestations of Jesus, celebrated in the four Sundays prior. So yes, Jesus was “caught in the act” (clearly seen) by his Star and was the long-foretold branch of David's stem. Jesus was also caught in the act of changing water into wine at Cana and in his defeating the devil's might.

To me there is even more to this hymn. The hymn tune SALZBURG contains the clue. Although it was not written to accompany Christopher Wordsworth's text, the two are joined perfectly. Plotting the melodic line of phrase one, I discovered that the first four notes change direction three times. This motion is a *chiasmus*^[1] and is a symbol of the Cross, as alluded to in verse three.

Reviewing this hymn allowed me to remember Jesus' acts, things that the writer of John's Gospel calls *signs*. Of course, these acts serve to help us understand who the Word made flesh was (as Wordsworth says, “God in flesh made manifest”). Waking me up the other morning with that snippet of text along with a recurring melody is yet another example of how worship music affects my life.

Thank you, earworm.

Bob Hayman

^[1] Chiasmi are found frequently in the Psalms and notably in J.S. Bach's music. His surname is also a chiasmus, and, given that he wrote his name musically into many of his scores, we become aware that the Cross was central to his Christology.

JOIN US FOR



SUPERBOWL SUNDAE



FEBRUARY 9TH

AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE

**Celebrate Superbowl Sunday with an
ice cream sundae bar!**

Hosted by: Faith, Fellowship, & Fun

FFF Candle Making

On Wednesday, January 29, the Faith, Fellowship & Fun team gave us the opportunity to make scented candles while enjoying tea, scones, and other treats. The candles will be ready for lighting on Sunday, February 2, as we celebrate Candlemas.



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

— Luke 2:13-14

A	X	W	E	G	U	P	V	N	D	F	G	H	J	K	L
G	E	C	A	E	P	B	W	W	E	R	T	Y	U	U	P
C	V	R	R	R	J	K	P	O	I	U	Y	Y	T	R	E
V	S	S	T	S	Z	T	W	Q	M	Y	R	O	L	G	M
M	V	C	H	E	A	V	E	N	L	Y	C	Y	U	X	O
M	N	B	B	V	C	X	Z	N	W	D	F	G	K	H	J
T	H	C	D	K	G	E	E	E	Y	M	N	B	E	V	C
C	I	G	Q	W	U	D	U	I	O	H	H	J	K	L	M
R	G	R	N	E	D	T	I	T	L	U	M	K	G	I	U
O	H	U	E	U	E	Q	U	N	E	K	L	X	Y	Z	Z
G	E	H	S	F	F	P	E	I	G	M	X	G	Y	O	P
X	S	A	S	D	F	G	G	H	N	J	K	L	R	S	I
C	T	I	O	G	N	I	S	I	A	R	P	O	I	E	E
E	E	F	F	O	C	C	Y	W	L	Y	U	K	N	N	E
N	G	O	O	D	M	H	E	A	V	N	N	N	K	T	R

Find these words from this week's lesson and Bible verse:

GOD	HEAVENLY	MULTITUDE	GLORY
PEACE	HIGHEST	PRAISING	ANGEL
EARTH	GOOD	SUDDENLY	BIBLE

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church
Council Minutes**

December 9, 2024

***Council Meetings are Open and Everyone Is Invited to Attend.
The Executive Board met Sunday, December 8, to plan the agenda.***

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

Attendance: Pastor Ellen Krich, Howard Stansbury, Michael Schumann, Kelly Ruby (via Zoom), Phil Biedronski (via Zoom), Linda Meyer, Linda McMahon, Sandy Petrovich, Helen Tennant, Andrea Zahirsky. Also Joel McCrea, Karen Biedronski and Ugonnaya Obineme (new 2025 council members)

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

Pastor Krich opened the meeting with a prayer.

Taylor Armstrong – Director of Music – addressed the council to announce that he is being deployed by the Air Force to active duty for six months beginning in April 2025. The council expressed their support for him and his family.

Approval of Minutes

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

Investment Report and the Asset Account

Phil Biedronski prepared an Asset Report for the Council and a copy was distributed to the council. There was not a lot of activity in November. There was an increase of \$3,000.00. Year to date the Investment Account is down only \$10,000.00 despite withdrawals of \$60,000.00.

Status of Funds – Helen Tennant

The October 2024 Profit and Loss report indicated a shortfall of \$4,000.00. The year-to-date report reflects gain in net income of \$13,754.00, keeping in mind \$60,000.00 did come out of the Investment Account to offset income shortfalls in 2024. The Land Easement check for \$3,240.00 has been received and deposited to the Savings Account. Helen Tennant will be meeting with the bank to investigate alternative accounts that may pay more interest on our savings. Helen plans on moving to the new version of the QuickBooks software; this version operates online. Evans Funeral home paid \$1,000.00 for use of the hall and use of the church. They also indicated that they would like to return next year. Sandy Petrovich requested updates for committee budgets for the end of 2024. Helen will run those reports for her accounts.

Old Business

Pastor's Report

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

Donation of Poinsettias – Frank Rose donated 75 poinsettias, and they are being distributed to congregation members and shut ins. Our Visitation Team is taking them on their visits to the sick and elderly.

Response to Mailer - As of yet there has been no response to the mailers but a family that attended the Trunk or Treat event has expressed interest in attending our church.

Train Garden – The train garden has been generating a lot of interest and we need to publicize it more.

Advent Services – the services are well attended.

Blue Christmas Service – Emily Krich, Ugonnaya Obineme and Tate Armstrong have solos in the service.

Cookies and Cocoa Social – for the Christmas Eve services after the 4 pm service and before the 9 pm service.

Bob Hayman's Photos of the Church – Bob is donating a large photo of the inside of the church and Pastor Don has offered to frame it. Please think about where we should display it.

MLK JR Community Service Team – The MLK team has offered to perform a service project for our church before the end of 2024. Howard Stansbury offered to coordinate this project and suggested Pastor Ellen give the team his cell phone number.

Visitor Contact at Sunday Service – Pastor Ellen suggested perhaps the Narthex needs to be re-designed to facilitate better communication with visitors. The council discussed this issue and determined that this is the responsibility of the ushers and should be addressed with them during training. Karen Biedronski indicated that we need more prayer cards in the Narthex.

Secret Pal Project – Helen Tennant reminded us that the final gift in this project will be given at the Christmas Party on 12/15. The name of the receiver of the gift should be on the outside of the card and it should be signed on the inside of the card by the giver. She also asked for a vote of those who would like to continue the project next year. This was project was agreed upon for 2025.

Holiday Party – Kelly Ruby confirmed that she expects about 25 people for the party and she needs donations of food items. Everyone who is coming should respond to her email.

Hall Usage Form – Andrea Zahirsky has drafted a new form for 2025 which includes an increase of the cost from \$250.00 to \$300.00 for non-parishioners and will include a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 in the case of cancellation. If the event goes forward as planned the \$50.00 will be credited to the total cost. Michael Schumann made a motion to accept the changes and Helen Tennant seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business

The Executive Committee – The President - Linda Meyer (incumbent), Vice President - Andrea Zahirsky (incumbent) and Karen Biedronski - Secretary were proposed as the members of the 2025 Executive Committee. Helen Tennant is an appointed member and Pastor Ellen is a member per the church Bylaws. Helen Tennant made a motion to approve these council members as the Executive Committee, Howard Stansbury seconded the motion and it was approved.

Team Leader Selections for 2025 – Helen Tennant passed out a form to each 2025 council member asking them to indicate their preference for the team they would like to lead (1st, 2nd and 3rd choices). The forms were marked and passed to Linda Meyer.

Team Fair – The Fair is scheduled for 2/2/25. Whichever team is scheduled to provide food for the First Sunday Social for that day should provide finger food so everyone can walk around to each table.

Church Keys and Door Codes - Everyone on the Church Council receives keys and door codes. Anyone leaving the Council will be requested to return the keys. Reminders were made regarding the policy of not sharing the codes. If other congregation members have roles that require keys, they may be assigned keys and codes by the council. The council members should not share the keys and codes with team members, they are required to be at the meetings to allow entrance to the building. Michael Schumann has the master code book and the master code to change the lock codes. Michael Schumann and Howard Stansbury will look into the logistics of changing the codes and report their findings in January.

First Sunday Socials – The January Social will be sponsored by the Church Council. A schedule will be distributed at the January Council Meeting listing which team will organize and provide food for each Sunday Social event. The church will provide paper products. The Sunday Social is a friendly event, not a competition among the teams.

Evening Groups for Hall Use - Andrea Zahirsky has received a request from a self-help group regarding using the hall every Thursday. Sandy Petrovich and Ugonnaya Obineme both feel the hall is booked up too many evenings and Congregational projects, the youth group, team meetings and events do not have enough available times to hold their events. Sandy also brought up the issues regarding the Cub Scouts: the areas that they use are not always left in good order. Andrea will contact the troop leaders and remind them to clean up after the meetings. Andrea Zahirsky made a motion to approve the request; Helen Tennant seconded the motion. The motion did not pass.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Andrea Zahirsky and seconded by Michael Schumann. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM and it ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Reminder: Next Council Meeting January 13, 2024, 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda McMahan, Secretary

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.

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?



Feeding the hungry is an expression of love.

Please send Oakleaf submissions to the church office or directly to Karen Biedronski (charmcitystamper@verizon.net) by the 15th 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.

February

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9-11 am Victor's Vittles
2 9 am - Sunday School and Confirmation 10 am - Worship Candlemas Team Fair & 1 st Sunday Social	3 7 pm - NA Group	4 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers 6:30 pm Scouts	5 6 pm Pub Theology at the Bowman Restaurant at 9306 Harford Road. Topic: Different Voices, Different Faiths. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!	6	7 7 pm - New Beginnings	8 9-11 am Victor's Vittles Scouts - Pinewood Derby
9 9 am - Sunday School and Confirmation 10 am - Worship Transfiguration Sunday Blessing of Couples After Service Superbowl Sundae	10 7 pm - NA Group 7 pm - Council Meeting	11 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers 3 pm - CVLC Men's Group 6:30 pm - Scouts	12 6-8 pm Youth Group	13	14 7 pm - New Beginnings	15 9-11 am Victor's Vittles
16 9 am - Sunday School and Confirmation 10 am - Worship	17 Holiday - Office closed 7 pm - NA Group	18 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers 6:30 pm - Scouts	19 LMS pickup	20	21 7 pm - New Beginnings	22 9-11 am Victor's Vittles
23 9 am - Sunday School and Confirmation 10 am - Worship	24 7 pm - NA Group	25 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers 7 pm - PCRC	26 6-8 pm Youth Group	27	28 7 pm - New Beginnings	

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President—Linda Meyer
Vice President—Andrea Zahirsky
Secretary—Karen Biedronski
Treasurer—Helen Tennant
Worship and Music—Deacon Shelly Shrader
Social Ministry—Melissa Collins
Fellowship—Joel McCrea
Christian Education—Sandy Petrovich
Administration— Michael Schumann
Evangelism—Linda McMahon
Property—Howard Stansbury
Stewardship— Ugonnaya Obineme
Mutual Ministry—Kelly Ruby
Asset Account Manager—Phil Biedronski (not a voting member of the council)



CONTACTS

Pastor: Ellen Krich 410.236.9115 pastor@christusvictoronline.org
Director of Music: Taylor Armstrong 410.340.6595 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
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Victor's Vittles: Howard Stansbury 410.529.3010

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Youth Group: Gordon Krause 410.812.6362