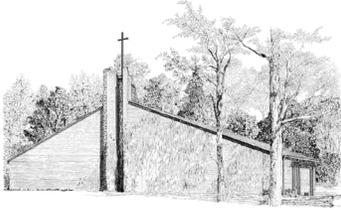


# Christus Victor Lutheran Church

## The Venture



*November 2017*

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Sunday School — 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship — 10:00 AM

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### November is International Ministry Month at CVLC

God's World is so much bigger than the little corner we live in. God's World is so much richer with flavors and colors than we will ever comprehend. God's World is so much broader than any one person, or any one congregation, could ever minister to. The needs are so great throughout God's World. The diversity of God's people throughout the 7 continents also come with a diversity of contextual needs. But as the Church, we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. This includes our next door neighbors - yes! And it also includes our global neighbors. It's a both-and, not an either-or situation. Our God is big enough to call us to care about and do both local and global ministry. (Our God is also big enough for a Law AND Gospel, Saint AND Sinner, Death AND Resurrection, saved by grace AND still do good works theology. Faith Alone, Word Alone, AND Grace Alone. Body and Blood AND Bread and Wine. I could go on ... but Protestant Reformation History month was last month.)



So, during the month of November, we will have members of local Lutheran (and one Presbyterian) congregations visit us to discuss the international ministry they have done. I have learned through the experience of resettling refugees in Philadelphia that the people who were most dedicated to refugee resettlement ministry were the ones who were transformed the most. Helen Tobin, whose husband died shortly before I became her pastor, told a reporter once "Refugee Resettlement did not change my life. It saved my life." After being her husband's primary care taker for years, today she now has dozens of international family members that care for each other. Helen is 79 years young and has been doing refugee resettlement work for over 8 years. (Pictured is Helen Tobin and Pastor Ben working with a family of Sudanese refugees resettling in Philadelphia. Photo by Matt Romano.)



Jesus did not change lives. Jesus raised people from the dead. I pray God will show us how to transform lives, including our own.

#### **Adult Christian Education Schedule for International Ministry Month**

Nov. 5 - Madison Burke, a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) just finished a year of missionary work in Mexico. David Krebs was also a YAGM in Mexico in 2006. Madison will tell us about our ELCA's YAGM ministry.

We will also BLESS THE QUILTS during worship on this Sunday, before sending them to Lutheran World Relief.

Nov. 12 - Peggy Ruopp from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Raleigh will present on Good Shepherd's ministry with an orphanage in Zimbabwe. She's been to Zimbabwe four times.

# Ministers In God's House

November 2017

## Acolytes

- 5 A Camden Justice
- 12 A Julia Chappell
- 19 A
- 26 A

## Lay Readers/Comm. Assistants & Assisting Ministers

- 5 LR Sue Feltey  
CA Cristen Chappell AM Diana Hicks
- 12 LR Mike Green  
CA Jim Goodwin AM Cristen Chappell
- 19 LR Larry Santeramo  
CA Shannon Trantas AM Jim Goodwin
- 26 LR Joyce Visconti  
CA Joan Wilson AM Diana Hicks

**Altar Guild:** 5, 12, 19, 26 Frieda Summers  
Elaine Goodwin

**Bread Baker:** Kathy Le Sesne

**Wine Supplier:** Steve Fredrick

## Nursery

- 5 Amy Krebs
- 12 Carla Stolzenhaler
- 19 Brooklyn Justice, Julia Chappell
- 26 Doris Kelly

## Greeters & Ushers

- 5 G Joan Wilson, JoAnn Scott  
U Maryetta Grooms, Joleen Propst
- 12 G Maryetta Grooms  
U Beth Miller, Kinara Mlay
- 19 G Lorie Bloomer-Berger  
U Harry & Joleen Propst
- 26 G Jeff Scott U The Justices

## Hosts After Worship

- 5 CVLC Men
- 12 The Santeramos
- 19 JoAnn Scott
- 26 The Websters

## Offering Stewards

- 5 John Moen
- 12 Carrie Butler
- 19 Polly Quinn
- 26 Carrie Butler

### **RE: MINISTERS IN GOD'S HOUSE**

If you cannot serve on the date scheduled, please find a substitute and call the church office the *Tuesday before you are to serve* for the change to be published in the Sunday bulletin.



## **November Birthdays**

- 2 Cristen Chappell
- 3 John Redick
- 4 Jordan Dye
- 6 Brooklyn Justice
- 8 Victoria Hernandez
- 9 Ocriea Berry
- 19 Debra Schleusener
- 22 Beth Miller
- 23 Ashley Parks
- 23 Arya Chikmath
- 23 Conrad Lentz
- 26 Leigh Gilbert
- 27 Pam Herring
- 28 Donna Miller

## **November Anniversaries**

- 18 Al & Suse Bradshaw



Nov. 19 - Kristin Westermann, a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Raleigh, will present on Godparents for Tanzania.

Nov. 26 - Leslie Woodall from Triangle Presbyterian Church (just West on 54 from CVLC) will present on Rise Against Hunger, a ministry that involves many local congregations and gets food to international communities in need.



### Financial Update

I can now report on the CVLC finances for the first nine months of the year. Contributions and miscellaneous income received to support our Mission Spending Plan total \$126,231. Our expenses to date total \$125,561. While it looks like we have a small surplus, we also have some outstanding bills to pay.

When our approved Mission Spending Plan or budget is spread uniformly over the year, CVLC might have spent about \$145,000 but our contributions to date only cover 87% of that plan.

My overall assessment is that we are in pretty good financial shape thanks to the generous support you provide. Since Pastor Ben has been on the job the activity at CLCV has picked up significantly. Our financial resources have helped us reach out to the community around us and try new things and new initiatives. But we have now reached a point where we will have to watch our expenditures.

Please take a look at where you stand with your giving plans for God’s Church at Christus Victor. Many of you may find you are meeting your intended commitments. If you do find that you have fallen behind or can give a little extra, it will help to support the exciting programs that are engaging our visitors and our members, both new and long timers. If you would like an update on your giving, I can provide you with a statement of your individual financial contributions for the past nine months. Please contact me by phone or Email if you have questions.

I close with thanks to the Lord for all he has given us. Thank you for your support.

Jay Stolzenhaller, Treasurer jaystolzen@gmail.com 919-694-5533



### Women of the ELCA



Hello Ladies! Hello November! Thanksgiving is the star of the show this month as well as our Celebration of The Blessing of the Quilts Sunday. Women, even men, are going to exercise their culinary skills in a few weeks that will always be a day of remembrance...pumpkin pie with whipped cream, sweet potato soufflé, roasted turkey or turkey breast with gravy and stuffing, etc., etc., Great food for all, even the poor will be fed extravagantly. The Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Urban Ministries and other charities who do God’s work every day will be of service as always. It is that time of the Great Thanksgiving where we come together to be thankful for life, family, friends and liberty for all in America. We thank

God for his love for us, and being able to live in a country where we are allowed to worship Him with great praise. He sent us Jesus, to be our Savior sacrificing His life so we can one day wear the cloak of righteousness. Praise be to the Lord! God Bless America!

On another high note, I must tell you that our Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 7 was a great success. We welcomed our other Conference church ladies from the Triangle congregations, in Fellowship and love. Our theme and Program “Can Women Achieve Justice” led by Kenya Davis, the daughter of our Presider Francine Davis, was very enlightening. She brought interesting ideas and facts of what we as women have to face and bravely deal with. She reminded us of the Genesis story where Adam blamed Eve and even God Himself. “The woman whom you gave

to me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” (Genesis 3:12) The rest of the story we know didn’t end happily. We well know that we are always experiencing trials and tribulations for the Great Sin. Even man was not off the hook. Since then we have made great strides and someday we will even have a woman President of the US. However, I’d like to impart with you what my Father-in-law of long ago said to me while we were watching a depressing newscast of female abuse and violence. “Always dress down, then women will be fully respected.” Of course, I thought this was a little sexist, but it left me with much food for thought. Hmmm!

Our October 4 monthly meeting was full of discussion, for Joyce Visconti gave us a leading question for her Program which was “What does Faith mean to you?” We even talked about patience which has hidden undertones of Faith. We are always waiting and believing in all that we do, for God is always with us, and the Holy Spirit is our guiding light helping us with patience as our Faith grows stronger. Joyce always makes us think, and her Refreshments were inviting. It was a great day for planning also.

Sunday, November 5 will be our celebration of WELCA Sunday, and the Blessing of the Quilts. We have 100+quilts, 47 Personal Care kits, and 30-33 School Kits accomplished for Lutheran World Relief. Our ladies will fulfill the duties of our Ministers in God’s House, and it will be good for the Lord.

The date of our Annual Christmas Dinner is Monday, December 11 somewhere. Yes, we still have not come up with final choice where to have it. So, stay tuned for further developments.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 3 and you will have a new President of our group. I am stepping down after four years of service. It has been a joy and sometimes a headache serving you. LOL Yes, I am tired. Soon you will know who will succeed me. We have several worthy ladies who will make excellent officers. God Bless them!

Sincerely With Love,  
Sue Feltey



## Update on 2017 Initiatives

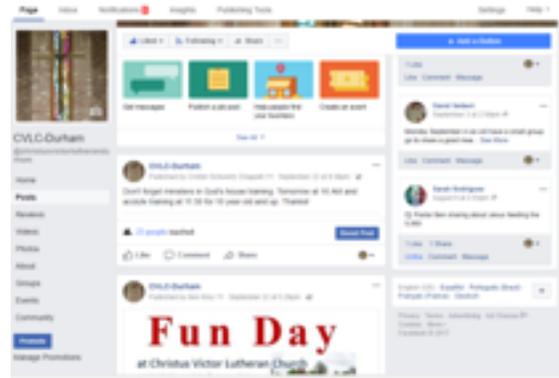
The following six initiatives were selected and endorsed during the Congregational Council’s retreat on 4/22/2017. They are based on our visioning discussions held during 2016. These outlines are a starting point and are not intended to impose constraints on possibility thinking.

**1. Music Experience for Children** Tammy Justice, Simon Zaleski, and Pastor Ben organized a Music Camp for July 31-August 4. We had 4 children from the congregation and 24 from the community. It was such a success, we are planning a “mini-Music Camp” to teach children Christmas Carols to be sung on Sunday, Dec. 17th. Tammy, Simon, & Pastor Ben decided that if we get 20 or more children (not counting the 4 from CVLC that were at the summer Music Camp) for Dec. 17th, we will take that as a sign that we should do another “mini-Music Camp” in the Spring. We plan to hold a very similar one-week Music Camp during the summer in 2018 - unless there is significant clear interest from the community that they want more (3 unprompted phone calls would constitute “significant clear interest”).



**2. Alternative Worship Opportunities** We have deferred a decision on restarting the 8:00 a.m. service. There are additional options that should be given some consideration. These include the time and day of the service and the style. The Worship & Music team has met twice, and is listening closely for God’s direction coming from prayer, Scripture, and the community. We are praying specifically for discernment in what day & time to hold worship, what kind of worship service it should be, and what date we are to start a second worship service.

**3. Publicity** What methods can we use to better make our neighbors aware of Christus Victor and the activities we sponsor? What should we do to announce events and encourage our neighbors to visit? What methods are most effective in reaching members of different generations? David Krebs (DKKrebs@gmail.com) has started a Facebook page for Christus Victor so we can begin exploring this social media tool. The Music Camp banners proved to be hugely effective. A new sign board has been placed in the playground also. Hopefully, the community garden will get a few more “eye balls” on our property.



**4. Projection in the Sanctuary** Overhead projection is being increasingly incorporated into Christian worship. Here is one reference: <http://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/projectors-in-worship-survey-summary/> The advantages to CVLC include minimizing the impact of hymnal shuffle, reducing the size of our printed bulletins, the ability to support video clips, streaming and photographs and more appeal especially for younger and/or tech-comfortable worshipers. The initial phase of this initiative will involve surveying other churches and working with vendors to obtain proposals specific to CVLC sanctuary. Other logistical considerations will be compiled and then shared. Follow on will require wider congregational involvement and support. Jay Stolzenthaler will develop a more specific proposal for further consideration. If you would like to help, contact Jay at [jaystolzen@gmail.com](mailto:jaystolzen@gmail.com) or 919-251-9289.

**5. Christian Education for Youth through Confirmation** Pastor Ben has started a confirmation class that will work closely with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Raleigh. He has recruited Larry Santeramo, Carla Stolzenthaler, and David Ernsthausen to share their faith stories as part of the Fall 2017 curriculum. There are 3 classes before the retreat December 1-3 retreat with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church:

- Wednesday Sept. 27, 2017 from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM - 6 students attended
- Oct. 18, 2017 from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM - 5 students attended (but they had too much fun, and we didn't leave until just before 9:00 PM)
- Nov. 8, 2017 from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (we will try to stick to 8:30 PM this time)

Pastor Ben has used a lot of games so the students and adults can get to know each other better and be more comfortable around each other. In the first two classes games have included “train wreck,” a multi-ball toss name-learning game, “human slide puzzle,” M&M personal facts sharing game, & “Octypus-Platypus.” Then we just ran out of time for more games. We’ve also covered topics on saved by grace and not by works; Martin Luther’s quote “God does not need our good works, but our neighbor does,” why do we go to school, God comes down to us (we cannot go to God). The students have also asked “stump the pastor” questions including “if the OT says don’t eat pork, why do we eat pork?” and “why does an all-loving God seem to kill so many people in the OT?” We’ve done a lot in just 2 classes!

The Confirmation Retreat will be Dec. 1-3 with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at Camp Agape in Fuquay-Varina. The topic of the retreat will be the Protestant Reformation. On Sunday, December 3rd, the confirmation students will attend worship at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Fuquay Varina and give a presentation to that congregation. And the cost is \$100 per student. Pastor Ben will be at the retreat with the confirmation students and Pastor Marissa will be leading the service at CVLC that Sunday.

The confirmation students are: Leslie Herring, Dakota Green, Brookly Justice, Ethan Noel, Alan Webster, and Abbey Noel.

**6. Community Garden Visions:** Barb Trapp-Moen is leading an effort to explore community garden options for Christus Victor. Fence construction began Oct 21st. Pictured is a straight-line that will help



us keep the fence aesthetically pleasing (i.e. looking pretty). The community garden group (at least 7 people) is prolifically communicating electronically between meetings. We have 10 men who signed up to help with the fence construction. Barb can be reached at [btm.gerocare@earthlink.net](mailto:btm.gerocare@earthlink.net)



## Triangle Area Lutherans

Kick off the next 500 years of reformation by joining Lutherans from around the Triangle at a special showing of PBS's acclaimed documentary, *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*. The Triangle Conference is sponsoring this screening which will take place on Nov. 7 at 11:30 at Stone Theatres-Park West 14 in Morrisville. The cost per ticket is \$12 and tickets can be reserved by visiting the Triangle Area Lutherans Facebook page or [http://www.tugg.com/events/martin-luther-the-idea-that-changed-the-world-1v\\_](http://www.tugg.com/events/martin-luther-the-idea-that-changed-the-world-1v_). Stay up to date on all Triangle conference events by following the Triangle Lutherans Facebook Page.

### Upcoming in the Triangle

- Tuesday, Nov. 7, 11:30: Special screening of *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*, Stone Theatres-Park West 14 in Morrisville. Cost \$12. Visit the Triangle Area Lutherans Facebook page or [http://www.tugg.com/events/martin-luther-the-idea-that-changed-the-world-1v\\_](http://www.tugg.com/events/martin-luther-the-idea-that-changed-the-world-1v_) to reserve your tickets.
- Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7PM: Informational meeting at Christ the King, Cary for the trip Pastor Wolfgang Herz-Lane will be leading to Germany next July (July 18-28, 2018).
- Monday, Nov 13: Lutheran World Relief pickup for quilts, healthkits, etc, Grace Lutheran, Raleigh.

### **This Month's Featured Congregation: The Church of the Abiding Savior**

1625 S. Alston Ave., Durham. NC 27712. (919) 682-7497. [abidingsaviordurham@gmail.com](mailto:abidingsaviordurham@gmail.com). [facebook.com/AbidingSaviorDurham](https://www.facebook.com/AbidingSaviorDurham).

Abiding Savior is a caring and welcoming congregation that has served the community in Durham for more than 50 years. Located at 1625 S. Alston Ave., Abiding Savior is a church that serves others, and celebrates God's gracious gifts here in our neighborhood and throughout Durham and the world. Abiding Savior is a congregation in "Redevelopment." That means that we are intentionally rethinking the way that we are church in our community and looking forward to renewed growth as God does a new thing in and through us. At Abiding Savior, we are: 'People of Grace, Growing in Faith, Making God's Love Known.'