

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

The Venture

December 2017

Sunday School — 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship — 10:00 AM

December Celebrations

Advent & Christmas 2017

Mini-Music Camp - Rehearsals: Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 PM and Saturday, December 16 at 4:30 PM. We will teach the children how to sing Christmas Carols and prepare them for a concert during worship on December 17th.

DID YOU KNOW? In 1997 Holly Zemke proposed that Christus Victor present a Living Nativity as a gift to our community. Since then we've missed only one year: 2013 when there was so much rain running through the parking lot, we didn't dare run our electrical cords. In 2002 when our neighborhood had no power, God blessed Christus Victor with electricity to light our Nativity scenes! Help us continue our gift. Sign up to be in costume to play a role, help with station and luminary set up or prepare food for cast members. Please pass on to friends and neighbors by word of mouth or Facebook, etc.

LIVING NATIVITY 6-9 p.m. Saturday, December 9. Walk or Drive through. Includes live animals!

Contact: Joan Wilson: 919-942-7208 or
Carla Stolzenhaller: 919-694-5533
Jeanschmitz38@gmail.com

Cookies Wanted! It's that time of year where we are collecting cookies for CVLC's Living Nativity. Baked or store bought, your favorite brand or holiday decorated, all donations are appreciated. Please place all your labelled donations on top of the refrigerator or in the freezer by Wednesday, December 6. If you want to help bag cookies, please contact Barbara Green at 919-740-6869.

Women of the ELCA - On Monday, December 11, at 6:00 pm will be our Christmas Dinner at Bocci's Italian Restaurant, at 5850 Fayetteville Road right next to Nantucket Grill. It's across the street from the Bark Park, which is a doggie park. So, cool. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. All women and girls are invited.

Christmas Carolling Friday, December 15, at 7:00 PM. There will be a light supper at 6:00 before we go carolling. Wear warm clothing and bring your gloves and a flashlight. We'll sing at the apartment complexes on each side of church. Help us bring "Joy to the World!"

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 AM Worship (No Sunday School)

December 24 - 7:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve

December 25 - 10:00 AM Christmas Worship

Ministers In God's House

December 2017

Acolytes

- 3 A
- 10 A Julia Chappell
- 17 A
- 24 A
- 31 A

Lay Readers/Comm. Assistants &

Assisting Ministers

- 3 LR Jeff Scott
CA Barb Trapp-Moen AM Diana Hicks
- 10 LR Scott Justice
CA Bob Feltey AM Cristen Chappell
- 17 LR Bob Feltey
CA Jeff Scott AM Jim Goodwin
- 24 LR JoAnn Scott
CA Joyce Visconti AM Cristen Chappell
- 31 LR David Krebs
CA John Moen AM Jim Goodwin

Altar Guild: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Kathy Le Sesne
Carla Stolzenhaler

Bread Baker: Bryan Chappell

Wine Supplier: Shannon Trantas

Nursery

- 3 The Websters
- 10 Amy Krebs
- 17 Carla Stolzenhaler
- 24 Brooklyn Justice, Julia Chappell
- 31 Doris Kelly

Greeters & Ushers

- 3 G JoAnn Scott
U Joyce Visconti, Faye Fredrick
- 10 G Beth Miller
U Jeff Scott, Joan Wilson
- 17 G Joyce Visconti
U JoAnn Scott, Steve Fredrick
- 24 G Doris Kelly
U Maryetta Grooms, David Krebs
- 31 G Harry & Joleen Propst
U Kinara Mlay, Beth Miller

Hosts After Worship

- 3 Men's Group
- 10 Andrea Boehme-Hernandez
- 17 The Butlers
- 24 The Chappells
- 31 The Felteys

Offering Stewards

- 3 Tom Baker
- 10 John Moen
- 17 Polly Quinn
- 24
- 31

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.

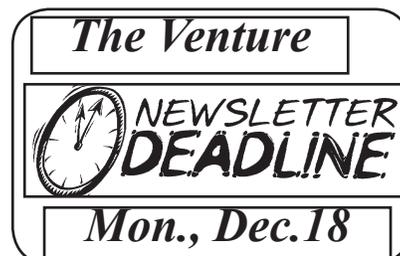


December Birthdays

- 4 Joan Wilson
- 5 Steve Fredrick
- 8 Trey Gebhardt
- 11 Russ Martin
- 21 Anthony Trantas
- 27 Henry Miller
- 30 Ethan Noel
- 31 Diana Hicks

December Anniversaries

- 8 Jack & Debbie Weidman
- 19 Steve & Faye Fredrick
- 27 Tom & Lauren Baker
- 28 Revs. Ben & Marissa Krey
- 28 Rev. John & Sharon Heinemeier



Advent Waiting

During the season of Advent, we are waiting in more ways than one. We are waiting for Christmas to arrive. We are waiting for the Christ Child to appear. We are waiting for Jesus. But this “waiting” sounds very passive. Like when you are waiting for the bus, you are just standing there. The bus is busy working somewhere on the road with other passengers that you cannot see, while you wait. Only recently have people been able to work on their cell phones while waiting. Before that, at most, people were reading a magazine, newspaper, or book while they waited.



But there's another type of waiting that is anything but passive. When I go to a restaurant and my waiter or waitress is waiting on my table, they are anything but passive. Waiting on tables is one of the most active professions. Even when business is slow, the wait staff has tables to get ready, ketchup bottles to fill, salt shakers to unplug, tables and chairs to wipe clean.

Advent waiting is more like waiting on tables than waiting for the bus. Yes, we are waiting for the Christ Child. We are also getting ready. Our culture understands this, in so much as, our culture teaches us to get ready for Christmas by spending lots of time and money on getting gifts, planning parties, and preparing food. Imagine if you waited for Jesus in the same way you waited

for Christmas. Imagine if you invested as much energy into preparing your heart as the culture does in preparing the presents. Imagine if you invested as much into trimming your soul as the culture does in trimming their trees.

Give yourself a great gift this Advent by actively waiting. When you are out shopping and see someone in need, or perhaps when you step outside and see your neighbor again, wait on them. You will meet the face of Jesus when you do. And, then, you will be prepared for Christmas with a full heart.

Blessings,
Pastor Ben

Update on 2017 Initiatives

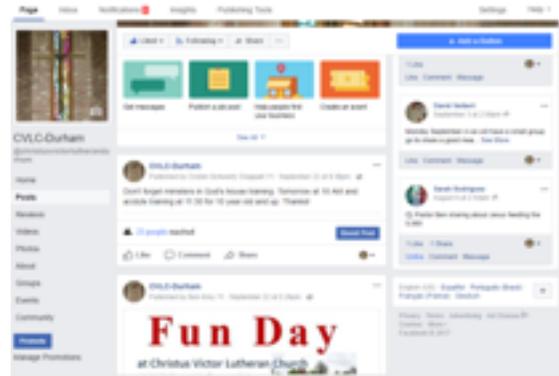
The following six initiatives were selected and endorsed during the Congregational Council's retreat on 4/22/2017. They are based on our visioning discussions held during 2016. These outlines are a starting point and are not intended to impose constraints on possibility thinking.

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 worshippers. 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 Stolzenhaller will develop a more specific proposal for further consideration. If you would like to help, contact Jay at 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 Stolzenhaller, and David Ernsthausen to share their faith stories as part of the Fall 2017 curriculum. Larry, Carla, and David each gave thoughtful testimonies. David's testimony on Nov 8th was on how his faith helps him overcome personal fears. This testimony especially resonated with the students, who asked him heavy questions and engaged in faithful, honest conversation afterwards.

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, & "Octopus-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! Barb can be reached at btm.gerocare@earthlink.net



From the Quilters . . .

The quilters would like to thank everyone for their support and generous help in providing quilts, school kits and personal care kits for LWR. Doris Kelly, Jack Weidman, Harry and Joleen delivered 158 quilts, 47 personal care kits and 36 school kits to Raleigh to be distributed through LWR. We will have two quilts to raffle very soon. This year you can get one ticket for \$5.00 or three tickets for \$10.00. Be sure to sign the ticket and put your phone number on it. The drawing will be on December 16 after the 10:00 service.

Quilting will resume Monday, January 8, 2018. We can always use sheets for quilting. They must be cotton or cotton blend. We cannot use knit, white, holiday prints, or patriotic prints. We can always use help on Monday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30. The more help - the more quilts will go out. We do have fun also. Come give it a try!!!



WOMEN of the ELCA December 2017



Hello Ladies! Hello December! It's almost Christmas, and time to prepare for the great birthday party that we celebrate each year on December 25, when Jesus was born. It's also a great time to thank Him for being so loving to us. Let us do so as we spend time with our family and friends. Also, give generously to the poor, and various charities to help them have a better life. May God comfort and bless them.

On All Saints Day, WELCA and Blessing of the Quilts and Kits Sunday was beautiful. Candles were lit and we all remembered those who died this past year, and the years before whom we loved. My mom passed in 1996, and I still miss her dearly. Our quilts looked beautiful draped over the backs of the pews, their colors gleaming with great pride. Over a 150+ quilts were sewn, along with 47 Personal Care and 33 School Kits. Kathy LeSesne, one of our quilters also sewed the beautiful school kit bags in a gorgeous durable fabric. These works were truly a labor of love. Our quilters meet every Monday, at 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and worked their magic. They are truly blessed with so much talent.

At our meeting in November, we elected a new President and Secretary. Faye Fredrick will be our new President, and Barbara Sappenfield will be our new Secretary. So, you'll be getting a new article written by Barbara for February, 2018. It will be nice to retire after four years... getting some rest, giving others the opportunity to excel. Faye and Barbara are a great addition to our Executive Board. Doris Kelly will continue to be Vice President, and Joleen Propst will still be our Treasurer. I thank Joyce Visconti for her service as Secretary. She has always been a shining star in our midst, and has done a great job. So, stay tuned for news from our new board about what will be happening in 2018.

Also, at our November meeting, Barbara gave a well presented and very interesting program on Katie Luther who was the highlight in her husband's life. He adored her. She was his rock, and gave him solace yet quiet advice on how to live life amidst the turmoil he suffered for he did not expect a Reformation. He made history.

*December 11, 2017 - Monday - at 6:00 pm will be our Christmas Dinner at Bocci's Italian Restaurant - on Fayetteville Road right next to Nantucket Grill. It's across the street from the Bark Park, which is a doggie park. So, cool. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. All women and girls are invited.

*December 15 - Friday - we'll be meeting at the church to have a hotdog supper followed by caroling at some of our neighbors next door. Bring warm clothes and flashlights. Music will be provided.

*December 20 - Wednesday at 2-3 pm we'll be singing, with the residents at Seasons at Southpoint Memory Care Community, Christmas music, and just hanging out having a great time making a joyful noise for the Lord. It's fun, and a happy time. Please come join us.

Sue Feltey, President CVLC Women of the ELCA

DURHAM CAN ACTION MEETING
October 26, 2017
Mt. Level Baptist Church

The assembly had three major goals for this meeting; celebrate recent victories, learn where the candidates for mayor and district offices stood on Durham CAN's agenda, and launch their jobs campaign. This was an inspiring meeting. Representatives from Durham CAN shared new housing developments for people making less than \$30,000/year where they could live comfortably in Durham. Durham CAN got confirmation from all elected officials this year to support housing and jobs for lower income families in Durham. They specifically emphasized the need for Durham as a city to purchase sufficient land near light rails for the development of lower income housing in the city though the Durham Community Land Trustees. Housing costs in Durham are rising and eviction rates are increasing for our less fortunate neighbors. Finally, Durham CAN launched their jobs campaign and specifically emphasized the need to help our returning citizens find gainful employment. Too many times people who have been convicted of even minor offenses cannot find suitable employment to break the viscous cycle they find themselves in. Without some help, what choices will they be left with.

Want to Support Durham CAN.... I know you as CVLC members definitely do...

There are two upcoming events.

1. Songs of Hope will be a beautiful celebration of Durham CAN's achievements over the year. It will be held at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church, 504 W. Chapel Hill St. on December 4 from 7 – 8:30 pm. It is free and open to the public.
2. There is an upcoming training for community organizing on Jan 27, 2018 and would be a great way for CVLC to get involved. Contact Gwen Kuehl at gkuehl2236@gmail.com or Pastor Ben if interested.

Finally, at this holiday season, I want to share how thankful I am to have found such a wonderful community like CVLC. I know as Christian brothers and sisters in faith, we will all be eager to get involved in helping to make Durham a place where all people can live in relative comfort at any income level.

Gwen Kuehl