

Christus Victor Lutheran Church
 1615 E NC 54 Hwy.
 Durham, NC 27713-2105

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Christus Victor Lutheran Church

THE VENTURE

November 2004

"The mission of Christus Victor Lutheran Church, a body empowered by the Holy Spirit, is to respond to the gracious gift of God as revealed in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving has been celebrated in July (in 1623) and various dates in November for more than two centuries. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November a National Day of Thanksgiving in 1863. In 1939, President Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving to the third Thursday to extend the holiday shopping season. Finally in 1941, Congress ruled that the fourth Thursday in November would be observed as Thanksgiving Day and a National Holiday.

In the United States Thanksgiving Day has been a day of family gatherings with big dinners and joyous reunions. In recent years the day has been invaded by football games and preparation for the first day of the Christmas shopping season. More often than not a number of churches will come together for their Thanksgiving Service today because individually the crowd would be sparse.

This year at Christus Victor, we will come together on Wednesday night at 7:00 PM, Thanksgiving Eve, November 24. We will share in a "Service of the Word" to prepare ourselves for a day of Thanksgiving with our families. It is hoped that we will each take a vision and feeling of Thanksgiving into our family gatherings that will help us to all realize how greatly we have been blessed.

Please bring a special offering of canned or dried goods to make a statement of Thanks for the abundance God has given us and meet the needs of those who live without food in abundance but with hunger instead.

Let's make this Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 PM a fitting start for a day of Thanksgiving.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

The Venture is published monthly by Christus Victor Lutheran Church.

Ministers..... *All the members of CVLC*

Church Staff

Pastor..... The Rev. James Huffman
Music Director..... Tim Johnson
Parish Secretary..... Pat Nestler
Sextons..... Rocky & Joyce Visconti

Board Chairs

Christian Education... Laura Reid 544-0432
Outreach... Barb Trapp-Moen 544-5429
Parish Life... Virginia Leese 544-2374
Property... Judy Meade 544-2201
Resource... Jeff Stevens 567-0139
Worship... Ken Hopson & Kim Coughenour 544-5197
 544-9318

Church Council

Mary Bateman..... 544-1923
 Barbara Hallan..... 489-3013
 Jeff Scott (Treasurer)..... 405-2017
 Gary Zemke (President)..... 806-0665
 Walt James..... 489-7911
 Jennifer Maddocks (Secretary) 450-0450
 Jim Pollard..... 544-3071
 George Thompson..... 968-4770
 Pat Canada..... 596-1560
 Cristen Chappell (Vice-President) 419-0707
 Paul Sipe..... 544-7755
 Holly Zemke..... 806-0665

Office Phone 919-544-7195

FAX 919-572-9147

E-Mail - cvlc @ verizon.net

Web Site: www.christus-victor.org

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Faith -



All Saints' Day

It's the November newsletter and we know that All Saints' Day and Thanksgiving are in this month. So much for what we know, now what are we going to do about it? How many of us will be in church on November 7th to celebrate All Saints'? Will the celebration focus on the prayer for those who have died? Where will we spend the evening before Thanksgiving? Will we be at home, in the kitchen or catching that CBS Special?

There are some alternatives to the usual activities of November. We could celebrate All Saints' by not only remembering the example set for us by our forbears of faith but take that Sunday's Worship to recommit ourselves to setting an example for the Saints that follow in our path. There is word and deed in a world torn by greed, conceit, selfishness and bigotry. The evening before Thanksgiving we could come together to do more than give prayerful thanks and worship. We could actually come together to share all the blessings God has showered us with this year and confirm our realization by being thankful, good and active stewards of all of God's gifts to us.

Now not much of this is new, particularly novel or even as exciting as the Monday night match-ups on ABC football, but it is what the festivals are there for and could really be the power we need to 'jump start' our spiritual lives and the spiritual life of Christus Victor. It's time to get back to basics. Are we the Saints of Today? How can we show God we know what He's done for us?

Hulk Hogan used to say "What' cha gonna do?" I think that's a good question for us as well. For All Saints', Thanksgiving, November, and the year ahead, what will we do?

SHALOM,
Pastor Jim

Ministers in God's House /November 2004

8:00 am Schedule

Acolytes

- 7 A Jason Seibert
- 14 A Kristin Seibert
- 21 **No 8:00 am Service**
- 28 A Malina Scott

Lay Readers/Communion Assistants & Altar Guild

- 7 **LR** Jackie Reynolds
CA&AG Kathy Huffman, Betty Lyles
- 14 **LR** Calista Stevens
CA&AG Eileen Morgan, David Seibert
- 21 **LR No 8:00 am Service**
CA&AG No 8:00 am Service
- 28 **LR** George Thompson
CA&AG Joan Wilson, Holly Zemke

Ushers & Greeters

- 7 U Joan Wilson G Ken Hopson
- 14 U Ken Hopson G Eileen Morgan
- 21 **No 8:00 am Service**
- 28 U George Thompson G Alexis Thompson

Offering Stewards

- 7 Paul Sipe, Polly Quinn
- 14 Paul Sipe, Polly Quinn
- 21 Pam Stevens
- 28 Pam Stevens

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.

10:30 am Schedules

Acolytes

- 7 A Matthew Johnson
- 14 A Alex Moen
- 21 A Women of the ELCA
- 28 A Paul James

Lay Readers/Communion Assistants & Altar Guild

- 7 **LR** Barb Trapp-Moen
CA&AG Bryan Chappell, Kim Coughenour
- 14 **LR** Joyce Visconti
CA&AG Diana Hicks, Jennifer Maddocks
- 21 **LR** Women of the ELCA
CA&AG Women of the ELCA
- 28 **LR** Gerry Butler
CA&AG Joe & Kathleen St. Lawrence

Nursery

- 7 Carrie & Gerry Butler
- 14 Jeff & Pam Stevens
- 21 Tammy Justice, Robyn Sipe
- 28 Bryan Chappell, Laura Reid

Ushers

- 7 Jeff & Pam Stevens
- 14 Joe & Kathleen St. Lawrence
- 21 Women of the ELCA
- 28 Harry & Joleen Propst

Greeters

- 7 JoAnn Scott, Elizabeth Webster
- 14 Paul & Robyn Sipe
- 21 Joe & Kathleen St. Lawrence
- 28 Jeff & Pam Stevens

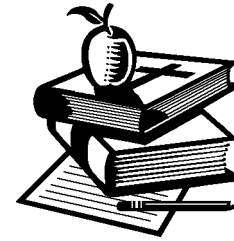
Hosts After Worship

- 7 Jim & Nancy Pollard
- 14 Nancy-Anne Potts
- 21 Harry & Joleen Propst
- 28 Polly Quinn

A Guide to the Best Ways to Help the Pastor Be of Service to YOU!

1. If you need me, call any time...day or night.
2. If you have scheduled a surgical procedure, let me know so that I can put it on my calendar. No procedure is too small. I like to be there whether you are having heart bypass or same day surgery. Remember...I can't provide care if I don't know of your need.
3. If a family member, loved one, or friend goes into the hospital...let me know as soon as possible so that I can provide pastoral care. Again...I can't provide care if I don't know of the need.
4. If you know of a need in our congregation...let me know. Do not assume that someone else has told me. I would rather hear something ten times than not to hear at all. (See the last line of numbers 2 and 3 above). Note: inform me, but please do not make promises on my behalf!
5. If you have questions about something that I do or say or something going on in the congregation, ask me about it. I will be more than happy to explain.
6. If you like something I'm doing...tell me. I like to hear good news. If you don't like something...tell me. I may not change what I am doing, but then again, I just might. Either way, what you feel/think is important to me.
7. You are welcome to drop by my office anytime. However, if you want to be sure to catch me, it is always safest to call ahead and make an appointment.
8. I am available to talk with you about any concern, problem, or pending decision. Do not assume that I am too busy or that your problems are insignificant. In fact, if you need a friendly ear...call me. I will be happy to listen and will uphold professional confidentiality.
9. If you are planning to get married, please let me know as far in advance as possible so that we can arrange to meet and begin planning.
10. If you have good news to share (promotion, honor roll, etc.), let me know so that I can share it with the congregation.
11. I will normally take Friday as my day off. However, if you have an emergency and need me, don't hesitate to call. I am always available (see number 1 above).
12. You can count on me to pray for you. Please pray for me!

But, If I Go To Worship Services, Why Do I Need To Go To Education Classes?



It's hard to keep the time-consuming efforts of spiritual nurturing a top priority in our schedules. We're easily tempted with activities that are more fun but not good for souls. But keeping our minds on our spiritual goals gives us the courage for hard labor and the long haul.

Attending worship allows us to praise God. Christian education is an enhancement to that worship experience. If we want to truly know Christ and follow his way of life, it requires attendance at both worship services and educational classes.

This congregation is a "school for discipleship" that seeks to enable all ages to deepen our spiritual identity through:

- * spiritual renewal.
- * vital and meaningful worship.
- * competence in biblical and theological knowledge.
- * a connection between worship and education, faith formation and discipleship.
- * life shaped by the pattern of Christ, as celebrated in the Christian year and the lectionary.

A Living Nativity



As we ready ourselves to give our gift of the story of the birth of Jesus to our neighbors, friends, family and community, the number one task on our checklist is to tell everyone about it. To help with this, a flier will be made available, by e-mail

and on the Narthex table at church, for you to make copies of and distribute. Give them to your neighbors and co-workers, and hand them out when you visit local retailers. Many will even allow you to post one in their windows since it is a community event. Your efforts will pay off as we help those who come, to center themselves on the real reason for this season.



Church Council Nominations

On **Sunday, November 21**, ballots will be available following the 10:30 AM service to nominate Church Council members for 2005.



Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 5**, during the Sunday School hour, 9:15 AM, for the purpose of electing Church Council members for 2005 and to approve the 2005 budget.



The October meeting continued with “Paying Attention, Studying, and Discernment.” We made 10 more kits for babies to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. This is a total of 20 kits. We discussed plans for the Hall family for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

ARE YOU FILLING YOUR THANK OFFERING BOXES??? THESE BOXES WILL BE TAKEN TO THE SERVICE THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA WILL PRESENT ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 10:30AM.

Contribute to the WELCA Fall Project..... Bingo prizes and birthday gifts for Lutheran Services for the aging adult day care centers throughout North Carolina. We need the following items.....

Quarter/50 cent pieces, stationery/stamps/greeting cards, safety pins, toothpaste/mouthwash/toothbrushes, hand lotion, hairbrush/comb, pocket-size tissues, shaving cream/lotion/cologne, socks (men and women), knee-hi hose, costume jewelry, knickknacks, lipstick/manicure sets, flashlightw/batteries, umbrellas/sunglasses, sweatshirts/tam/berets, gum (regular and sugarless). Items may be left on the WELCA table in the Fellowship Hall.

We invite all women to join us on Saturday, November 20 to take “Mary’s Song” on the road to Raleigh. We will meet at the church at 12:30. I need volunteers to participate in this drama. Contact Betty Lyles if you would like to be a part of this program.

We invite each woman in the congregation to join us on the second Monday night of each month, at the church, at 7:00 PM.

*May the strength of God Pilot us,
May the power of God preserve us,
May the wisdom of God instruct us,
May the hand of God protect us,
May the way of God direct us,
May the shield of God defend us,
May the host of God, guard us against the snares or evil and
the temptations of the world. Amen*

Nancy Pollard, President
544-3071

Pat Canada, Treasurer
596-1560

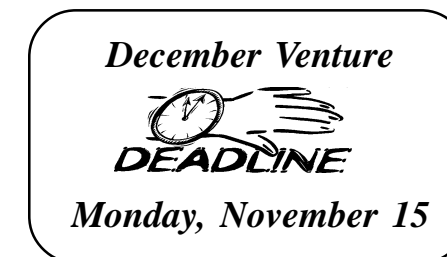
Betty Lyles, Secretary
544-7995

The following letter was received from Rev. Dr. Leonard H. Bolick, Bishop —North Carolina Synod of the ELCA:

Your mission support dollars have been put to good use in our synod this year. Some of the many things that we have been able to do together were:

- * Received Water of Life Lutheran Church - At our annual assembly last June we were able to receive this new congregation in our synod. This was possible through the cooperative effort and financial support of our churchwide body, the synod and the commitment of dedicated Lutherans in the Wilmington area.
- * Support candidates for rostered leadership - The North Carolina Synod continues to be a leader in sponsoring and providing financial support for candidates seeking careers in rostered ministry. The synod candidacy committee is currently working with approximately 120 individuals in the candidacy process.
- * Support congregations - The bishop staff provides support to congregations in the call process, congregations in conflict, and congregations celebrating the work of the church. In the first six months the staff has made 180 visits to 130 different congregations.
- * Establish new direction for youth and family ministry - With the assistance of our churchwide organization a new emphasis is being placed in youth and family ministry. JUMP Start training in April (Just Unleash More People) kicked off a new emphasis for youth and family ministry in our synod. This fall and into 2005, we'll be having training in each cluster on how to involve more people in the faith formation of our youth and children. This will include Milestone Ministries - congregations recognizing those important milestones in the lives of our youth along with support for parents/guardians as they pass on the faith to the next generation. Faith is caught, not taught!

Thank you for supporting these and many other ministries in our synod, and for the mission support your congregation provides to support the ministries beyond your church walls. The North Carolina Synod is incredibly blessed with gifted and committed lay leaders and pastors and we can do much to answer God's call as we work together as a synod and with our brothers and sisters in Christ across the wider church.



Around the Parish . . .



From the Parish Register:

The membership of **Emily Kluttz** was transferred to St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Salisbury, NC.

Address Change:

Alta Lindsay, 112 Timber Ridge Road, Durham, NC 27713



Thank You!

Dear CVLC Family,

My sincere thanks to the congregation for your prayers, cards, telephone calls, and the expressions of love during the illness and death of my mother. Your prayers and love have sustained me during this difficult time.

*Your sister in Christ,
Joleen Propst*

From the Church Council



**Highlights of Council Meeting
October 10, 2004**

✓ In lieu of a formal council meeting, we had a two hour meeting on the discussion of the value, mission, and vision statements (VMV) for CVLC.

✓ The mission statement was finalized.

✓ Discussion on ways to meet our mission statement was initiated.

✓ All of this information will be presented to the congregation at a future congregational meeting.

✓ A formal council meeting will be combined with a fifth VMV meeting in November 2004.

**Sunday, November 21
Schedule:
NO 8:00 AM Service
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship**

If Ya' Can't Beat Em' . . .

We used to complain when it happened before Thanksgiving. Now stores begin filling their shelves in mid-October with Christmas merchandise and one store even played carols over their speaker system.

But as much as we would complain about the premature merchandising of Christmas, we would complain about how December - oops, Advent - offered insufficient time for personal and family devotional preparation for remembering the miracle of the incarnation.

So why not figure that this year the merchants are on our side, enabling us to complete the most of our gift buying and card writing by the first Sunday in Advent? And then, come Advent, let's spend more time than ever in the kinds of devotion and deeds of compassion that will remind us of the miracle of God's love reaching out into a sin-darkened world.

**"We can still help . . .
Native American
School Kids!
Save Your Campbell
Soup Labels!"**

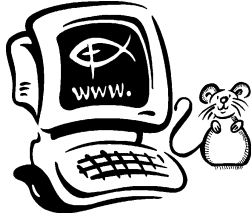
Lutheridge/Lutherock



**Give the Gift of Faith
this Christmas**

A week of camp is one of the most important activities a child can participate in for faith development. This


Christmas, give the gift of faith. Gift certificates for a week of camp are available from Lutheridge+Lutherock. Pay the deposit or pay for the whole week. A specially designed certificate will be sent to you to present at Christmas. Contact Leah Combs at 828-684-2361 or Lcombs@Lutheridge.com



E-mail Address Change

The current e-mail address at
Christus Victor Lutheran Church
cvlc@mindspring.com
has been changed to
cvlc@verizon.net

Please update your e-mail address book
to reflect the new address.

	September Record of Giving		
	Sept. Actual	Sept. YTD	Nine Month Budget
Monies Given	\$10,584	96,031	100,899
Monies Used for Ministry	<u>\$11,823</u>	<u>97,787</u>	100,899
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,239)	(1,756)	



November Birthdays

- 1 Kristi O'Shea
- 2 Cristen Chappell
- 4 Jordan Dye
- 5 Rich Le Sesne
- 6 Brooklyn Justice
- 8 Vicki Vincenti
- 9 Ocriea Berry
- 10 George Viola
- 11 Kathy Le Sesne
- 16 Paul Sipe
- 21 Lisa Buckley
- 22 Beth Miller
- 26 Leigh Gilbert
- 26 Bill Mendyka
- 27 Pam Herring

November Anniversaries

- 4 Richard & Sharon Knight
- 18 Al & Suse Bradshaw