

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

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Christus Victor Lutheran Church

THE VENTURE

February 2012

Mission Statement: *We are children of God called to be the light for others to know the Grace of God through Jesus Christ.*

Living Is Learning!

Everyday we learn. Sometimes we learn little bits of trivia; sometimes helpful, practical ideas; sometimes small insights into the mysteries of life and sometimes major new ideas that change the way we live or look at life.

To live in Christ is to learn, too. Often we learn of God and our relationship to Him in daily life. Sometimes we wonder how the Bible and Doctrine of the church can be applied to our living. It is only with constant openness and study of God's word and our doctrine can God continually reveal Himself to us.

Let's take every opportunity to learn and share together in our continuing growth as the people of God.

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..... Simon Zaleski

Parish Secretary..... Pat Nestler

Board Chairs

Christian Ed. Dave Seibert.....572-6937

Outreach

Parish Life Board Kathy Hopson.....544-5197

Property Bob Feltey.....489-0785

Resource

Worship Team Ken Hopson.....544-5197

Church Council

Coleman Francis.....490-2041

Dave Geisler.....740-1781

Diana Hicks.....336-364-8545

Jane Leese (Secretary).....362-5975

Ann Redick.....361-5522

Larry Santeramo.(President).....806-0539

Calista Stevens.....596-3060

Barb Trapp-Moen.....544-5429

Holly Zemke (Vice President).....806-0665

Treasurer

Denise Santeramo.....806-0539

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Web Site: www.christus-victor.org



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Imposition of Ashes &

Holy Communion

February 22- Noon &

7:00 p.m.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*“The lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?”
Psalm 27:1*

Dear friends in Christ.

Fear is a very powerful force. We see fear and its power around us everyday. From fear concerning our well being to fear of events out of our control, it seems fear surrounds us. Motivational speakers often make a point of the power of our fear of failure. Political speakers are very willing to make us aware of our fear of economic disaster and national security. Insurance companies tap into our fears financial loss and fears of illness and death. It seems fear has some use for almost any one who has something to sell, axe to grind, position to advocate or need of public support. I would wish that the first verse of Psalm 27 would be a mantra in our daily life; I believe it would strip the power of fear from our lives.

It has recently been observed that ‘fear of failure’ has an equally powerful but opposite partner that has a great impact on our lives and the organizations in which we are active, “FEAR OF SUCCESS.” Could it be that we fear becoming aware of what is possible for us? Does the idea of being able to achieve more than we ever imagined scare us? I seem to remember that when Bartholomew was brought to Jesus by Philip, Bartholomew was impressed that Jesus seemed to know all about him and Jesus tells him, you’ll see greater things than this. So how can we, as people of faith, be pawns of fear if we know that the Lord is the stronghold of my life, I have been given the power to become a child of God and Jesus promised greater things that we have seen before?

I would like us to take some time to look at our relationship with fear and faith as a focus for our Lenten journey this year. Can we overcome our fear of failure and dare to take risks in faith and know if we would fail, God still is with us? Is it really possible to not be afraid of what we can do as God's people and act on hopes, dreams and imagination that have intimidated us until now? The Word of God, sacraments, prayer and worship in community all provide us with the tools to overcome and overwhelm the fears that limit us. Sounds like a worthwhile challenge, doesn't it?

SHALOM - Pastor Huffman

Ministers in God's House /FEBRUARY 2012

8:00 am Schedule

Acolytes

- 5 A Kathy Huffman
- 12 A Betty Lyles
- 19 A Jordan Dye
- 26 A Laurel Seibert

Lay Readers/Comm. Assistants & Assisting Ministers

- 5 LR Calista Stevens
CA Joan Wilson AM
- 12 LR Coleman Francis
CA Calista Stevens AM
- 19 LR Karen Geisler
CA Pat Canada AM Calista Stevens
- 26 LR Dave Geisler
CA Kathy Huffman AM

Altar Guild: 5, 12, 19, 26 Betty Lyles

Bread Baker for the Month Judy Meade

Greeters & Ushers

- 5 G Betty Lyles U Mike Green
- 12 G Jeff Scott U Pat Canada
- 19 G Mike Green U Joan Wilson
- 26 G Joan Wilson U Jeff Scott

Offering Stewards

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

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 Schedule

Acolytes

- 5 A Sarah Johnson
- 12 A Alan Webster
- 19 A Riley Sipe
- 26 A Alexes Carroll

Lay Readers/Comm. Assistants & Assisting Ministers

- 5 LR Judy Meade
CA Bryan Chappell AM Diana Hicks
- 12 LR John Redick
CA Diana Hicks AM Cristen Chappell
- 19 LR Larry Santeramo
CA Bob Feltey AM Holly Zemke
- 26 LR Scott Justice
CA Joyce Visconti, Kathy Hopson

Altar Guild: 5, 12, 19, 26 Jane Leese

Bread Baker for the Month Bryan Chappell

Nursery

- 5 The Websters
- 12 Kathy Hopson, Trevor Justice
- 19 Kathy Huffman
- 26 Paul & Robyn Sipe

Greeters & Ushers

- 5 G Kathy Hopson U Joyce Visconti, John Redick
- 12 G Virginia Leese U Bob & Lisa Lewis
- 19 G Jane Leese U John & Phillip Moen
- 26 G Bob & Lisa Lewis
U Harry & Joleen Propst

Hosts After Worship 10:30 Service

- 5 The Justices
- 12 The Hicks
- 19 Jane & Ken Leese
- 26 Virginia Leese

Slow Me Down!

Slow me down, Lord...ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind,

Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the eternal reach of time.

Give me amid the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

Break the tension of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory.

Help me to know the magical, restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations—of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book.

*Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values, that I may grow towards the stars of my greater destiny.
Amen.*

Let's all GET FAT!!!

February 21

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Celebrate Shrove Tuesday
Mardi Gras style at CVLC.**

Pitch the pancake mix.
Enjoy steaming shrimp gumbo,
Cajun style
with salad and dessert.

Some Chicken and rice
will also be nice.

Wear your beads and Mardi Gras
attire or simply come as you are.

Shrove Tuesday/Brief History

The day before Lent begins is known as Shrove Tuesday. To "shrive" someone, in past history, is to hear an acknowledgement of sins and be assured of God's forgiveness (this is the practice of Ash Wednesday worship today).

Shrove Tuesday is also called Fat Tuesday (in French, Mardi-gras) because on this day households use up the fatty foods and cooking fat which will not be used during the forty days of Lent. Since pancakes are a standard way of using up fat, the day is also called Pancake Tuesday. In England, the day is celebrated with pancake races and a parade.

There are many stories regarding the origin of the shrove. One story shares that shroves are distant relatives of the spice known as cloves. Another legend states that shroves are tiny creatures that live under rocks and church pews, often disposed of by the use of vacuum cleaners and dedicated Altar Guild members.

ONE - DAY RETREAT

Triangle Conference
Holy Trinity ELCA, Raleigh, NC
Leader - Donna Robey
Saturday, February 18, 2012
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Registration and refreshments
begin @ 9:00 AM.

Cost: \$8.00 (includes materials,
snacks and a lunch)

Registration Deadline: February 7, 2012
See Joleen Propst for Registration Form

Disciplines of Lent

Repentance

▼ Remember your Baptism each day, making the sign of the cross and saying "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

▼ Attend Ash Wednesday worship to begin Lent with corporate confession and receive ashes on your head, as a sign of repentance and renewal.

▼ Attend worship each Sunday and each Wednesday during Lent.

▼ Take advantage of individual confession. Make an appointment with the pastor for individual confession during Lent. In preparation, read Luther's instruction on confession in the Small Catechism.

Prayer

▼ Find a devotional prayer book to use during the Lenten season. Christus Victor will have Lenten devotional materials on the table in the Narthex beginning on Ash Wednesday. Take what you need for yourself or your family.

▼ Read the Psalms during Lent. They are a wonderful treasure for prayer.

▼ Read the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creeds, or the Small Catechism as part of Lenten meditation and prayer.

Fasting

▼ Fasting comes to us from Judaism and was recommended by Jesus both in example and teaching (Matt. 6:16-18; Luke 4:2; Mark 2:20).

▼ Fasting does not necessarily mean giving up all food for a day. More frequently it is the giving up or limiting of a particular food or

food group (sweets, desserts, butter, fat, eggs, etc.).

▼ Water is never given up in a fast. Fasting is not meant for weight loss, it is designed to give more time for prayer and spiritual work.

▼ Abstinence from some activity (television, movies, entertainment, etc.) on certain days or hours is another way to observe the Lenten fast.

Works of Love

▼ It is the intention of this part of Lenten Discipline to connect our faith in God's love for us with actions that are loving to others.

▼ Use Matthew 25:31-40 and Luke 4:18-19 as guides for choosing to do a work of love.

▼ Go out of your way to do something nice for somebody at least once a week during Lent.

▼ Volunteer your time to Urban Ministries, the Rescue Mission or other service organizations.

▼ Visit shut-in members of the church.

Additional suggestions

▼ Fill out a new CVLC's Time and Talent sheet.

▼ Worship God at every single service available during Lent, including Holy Week.

▼ Take home a prayer booklet and pray for all those who are listed.

▼ Go to Sunday School every week during Lent.

▼ Participate in the work of a church board.

▼ Study Scripture with someone. Read Scripture together as a family.

▼ Have a meal each week with someone you do not know in your church family.



Women of the ELCA



Hello Ladies! HAPPY NEW YEAR ! February 2012! Due to illness, I took a Christmas break from my secretary duties for January. I wanted to tell you about our Christmas Dinner Monday, December 12 which was quite a success. Our potluck and cookie exchange was very enjoyable. The fellowship was worth the night out. We chatted, ate delicious food, and sang Christmas carols. It was a lovely dinner and get together. On Saturday, December 17 some of our ladies went caroling with a few members of our church as well as Pastor Jim and his wife Kathy. I understand they had quite a great reception entertaining the community with their strong voices, and Christmas cheer. Now, we're almost into February, ringing in the New Year, and our resolutions have been made. More time devoted to healthy eating, and exercise is on the agenda. I'm happy to say it's also becoming a reality. We also have some great retreats coming up this year. I'll do my best giving you as much information about them as I can as it becomes available.

Our February "One - Day" Retreat is on Saturday, February 18; The program is "Renew your spirit, respond with love, rejoice in the Lord." Registration and refreshments begin at 9:00 a.m. Cost: \$8.00 (includes materials, snacks, and a lunch) Registration Deadline is February 7.

The 25th Annual Gathering of the NC Synodical Women's Organization - June 22 - 24 at Lenoir-Rhyne University

Kure Beach Retreat - March 23-25 - Kure Beach Retreat Center - Program: "Climb in the Sycamore Tree" Cathy Sell

Those of you who are interested in attending please call Joleen Propst at (919-596-7534 or email at phjpropst@aol.com)

There has been a change in our meeting day, week, and time of the month. Our group with officers decided for the change, due to difficulty in night vision since we are mostly comprised of seniors. Our other ladies of the church have been encouraged to start their own circles or units on days or nights that are more compatible with their schedules. We hope that they will take this opportunity to do so, since the Women of the ELCA are the backbone of the church. Such a nucleus should be continued to avert extinction. They are a talented community of younger women who are quite adept in leadership roles. I think that they'll find it very enjoyable to have their own time together in similarity as well as in Christ who strengthens them. Our new day is the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Continue to remember our charities: Ronald McDonald House (aluminum tabs), Crossnore School (Campbell Soup Label stickers cut out from the label)

Durham Rescue Mission "Happy Bucks Room" - (Personal and household supplies), Saving Stamps USA (canceled stamps), Greeting Card Fronts (Spring Arbor) All supplies can be deposited on the table at the WELCA Bulletin Board downstairs in the Fellowship Hall by the music

Grace . . .

A cross may be free, but discipleship was and always will be costly. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, in words that have become virtually scripture in any conversation about discipleship:

"Cheap grace is the preaching of ... forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession, absolution without personal confession.

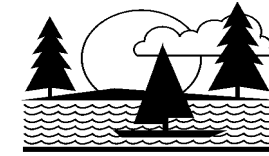
Cheap grace is ...
grace without discipleship,
grace without the cross,
grace without Jesus Christ living and incarnate.

Costly grace is ...
the gospel which must be sought again and again.
the gift which must be asked for,
the door at which one must knock,

Such grace is costly
Because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ.
It is costly because it costs us our lives.
It is grace because it gives us the only true life."

(Bonhoeffer, rephrased for gender inclusivity, David Augsburger, *Dissident Discipleship: A Spirituality of Self-Surrender, Love of God and Love of Neighbor*, Brazos Press, 2005)

Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries



☛ Summer Camp brochures are here! The brochures have been mailed in January. Register early.

Registration form is also available on the web: www.agapekurebeach.org

☛ Summer staff search for quality Christian adults to serve as counselors on our 2012 summer staff. Applicants must be 19 years minimum, love kids, and want a fun and exciting challenge.

☛ Plans are underway at Camp Agapé to:

☛ Install a mud bog

☛ Install a zip line

☛ Seventh Annual Mother/Daughter overnight is scheduled for May 11-12th. Please mark your calendar more info will be available on the web site.

☛ Announcing our new Kure Beach Registrar – Maureen started working in January. The office hours are 9:00-1:00 Monday-Friday.

Contact Camp Agape: Telephone: 919-552-9421

E-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org for Camp Agapé

E-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org for Kure Beach

Web site: www.agapekurebeach.org



Around the Parish . . .



Congratulations to . . .

✞ **Whitney Gilbert Anderson** on the birth of a daughter, **MecKenzie** on January 3.. She weighed 6 lbs 13 ozs. JoAnn Scott is the proud great-grandmother and Debbie Gilbert is the proud grandmother.

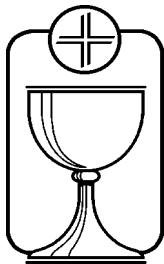
✞ **Christy Wilson and her husband Bahram Dahi** on the birth of a son, **Collin Hyar Dahi** on January 3. Collin weighed 7 lbs 8 ozs and was 19 3/4" long. Joan Wilson is the proud grandmother.

Phone Number Change . . .

✞ **Vicki Vincenti** has a new phone number 1-806-368-5387



From the Altar Guild



The Altar Guild thanks Calista Stevens for supplying the Communion bread for the early service and Judy Meade for supplying the bread for the late service. We also thank Joyce Visconti for supplying the Communion wine.

Council Retreat Highlights January 14, 2012



✞ The Council elected officers, each being elected by acclamation: President - Larry Santeramo; Vice President - Holly Zemke; Secretary - Jane Leese. Denise Santeramo agreed to and was approved as our treasurer for 2012.

✞ Treasuer's Report: 2011 ended the year in the black; and 50% of our congregation made pledges for 2012.

✞ Shrove Tuesday - February 21 - Council will prepare and serve the meal at 6:00 PM, at the church, instead of the pancake and sausage meal. Council is considering a Mardi Gras shrimp Creole meal.

✞ Congregation Meeting - February 12 - after discussion, Council decided to hold the meeting after the 10:30 AM Service, at the church.

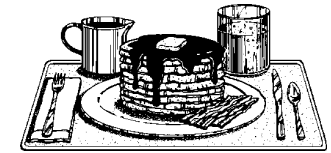
✞ Council decided to meet the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 PM.

**Opportunity may knock
once, but temptation
bangs on your
front door forever.**

room. Large donations can be put in cardboard boxes under the table. If you have any questions call Joleen Propst at the number and email address above.

Our next meeting will be February 1, on Wednesday, at 9:30 a.m. We will be having a "Women of the Bible" Study. This Wednesday we will be discussing Eve, our first mother. Program will be led by Sue Feltey. It's an interesting subject regarding her role in framing how our lives are today, and were in the past. The hostess is Sue Feltey. Bring your Bibles, a notebook, pen, and an open mind. All women are invited. I hope to see you there.

Our new slate of officers are at this time:
President/Joleen Propst Vice President/
JoAnn Scott Secretary/Sue Feltey
Treasurer/Pat Canada



Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 12
at 12 Noon
Pancakes & Sausage
Hear Reports &
Celebrate
Our Accomplishments of
2011
Please Plan to Attend

Moving?

Please contact the church office with a change of address. Because it is bulk mail, *The Venture* is not forwarded to the new address, but is returned to us and we are charged for the returned mail.



Dear Christus Victor members,
I would like to say Thank You to all of you who contributed to my Christmas gift. This note may be a bit late, but I wanted you to know your thoughtfulness is really appreciated.
Love & Many Blessings,
Pat Nestler



February Birthdays

- 11 Debbie Gilbert
- 23 Holly Zemke
- 24 Gerry Butler
- 25 Emily Leese
- 28 Laurel Seibert

February Anniversaries

- 23 Bill & Maria McDonald

