

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

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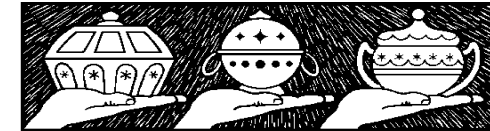
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Christus Victor Lutheran Church
THE VENTURE

January 2005

"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."



epiphany

The Christian Church has observed the season of Epiphany since the third century A.D. The day of Epiphany always falls on January 6, but is generally celebrated on the first Sunday of the new year.

As Christmas marks the appearance of God to the human family in the person of Jesus Christ, the presence of the foreign Magi is symbolic that the one whom they sought as "King of the Jews" was "King of the Gentiles" as well. The visit of the Wise Men clearly indicates that it was the Gentiles who were ultimately to receive the gospel.

Little is written in Scripture about the Magi. The only account of their visit can be found in the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel. However, much tradition has surrounded them. Matthew does not give us their names and does not even specify how many there were. The number three has evolved because they bore three gifts.

It took some time for the early church to accept the fact that Jesus was not sent to the Jews exclusively. But once the church, at Paul's urging, understood the universal intention of God, it set into motion a mighty missionary effort which reached throughout the Roman Empire. The Good News which was shared with the Magi also extends to people of all nations, languages and colors.

In the midst of yet another Epiphany season, we are made starkly aware that the missionary task of the church remains unfinished. Despite centuries of history, there are people near and far who still await the bright light of Jesus Christ to break the darkness of their lives.

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... Alta Lindsay 450-0110
Parish Life... Virginia Leese 544-2374
Property... Mark Herring 572-1775
Resource... Jeff Stevens 567-0139
Worship... Ken Hopson & Kim Coughenour 544-5197
 544-9318

Church Council

Carrie Butler..... 484-2984
 Pat Canada..... 596-1560
 Cristen Chappell (Vice-President) 419-0707
 Kathy Hopson..... 544-5197
 Walt James..... 489-7911
 Jennifer Maddocks (Secretary) 450-0450
 Jim Pollard..... 544-3071
 Harry Propst..... 596-7534
 Paul Sipe..... 544-7755
 Calista Stevens..... 450-2566
 Pam Stevens..... 567-0139
 Holly Zemke (President)..... 806-0665

Treasurer

Jeff Scott..... 405-2017

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Dear Friends in Christ,



A New Year begins. The national and global state of affairs is unsettled and disturbing. The Christmas adrenaline has faded and the questions of what to do, be and believe in life have returned. I found inspiration and renewal in a sermon of Martin Luther's from 1522. I can learn a lot from the "faithfulness" of the Magi. The "can do" attitude Luther points out is the exact kind of fuel we need to allow faith to lead us and empower our actions.

"Thus the Magi teach us true faith. After they had heard the sermon and the word of the prophet they were neither slothful nor slow to believe.

Note the obstructions and obstacles they faced: first, they were off the mark; they came to Jerusalem the capital, and did not find him; and in the meantime the star disappeared. Would we not expect that their thoughts, if guided by human reason, would have been as follows: "Alas, in vain we travelled so far; the star deceived us. It was a phantom. If a king had been born, we would easily have found him in the capital city, lying in the royal palace. But upon arrival, we find no one who knows of him. Ah, it must all be a mistake. Besides, the news frightens them; his own people do not like hearing it. They show us the way out of the royal city and direct us to a tiny village. Who knows what we will find there!"

When the magi arrive at a poor hut and find there a poor young woman with a poor little child, they meet once again with appearances so utterly out of keeping with a king, that even their domestic servant is more honorable and more noble. But they do not allow all of this to make them waver, but with a great, strong, and full faith they dismiss from their eyes and senses what ever human nature in its vanity might question and undermine, and follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart, take him to be a king, fall down on their knees, worship him, and give him gifts. Sermon on "The *Gospel* for the Festival of the Epiphany, Matthew 2:1-12

I pray we will be as faithful and focused on Christ as the Magi. Perhaps we need not be distracted by the world's appearances but allow the word of the prophets, the Word of God made flesh and examples of the saints who have gone before us give us direction and focus. The faithfulness of the Magi in the midst of truly unexpected circumstances inspire us to faithfulness today.

SHALOM,
Pastor Huffman

Ministers in God's House /January 2005

8:00 am Schedule

Acolytes

- 2 A Jason Seibert
- 9 A Kristin Seibert
- 16 A Jordan Dye
- 23 A Malina Scott
- 30 A Jason Seibert

Lay Readers/Communion Assistants

- 2 LR Calista Stevens
CA Joan Wilson, Holly Zemke
- 9 LR George Thompson
CA Ken & Kathy Hopson
- 16 LR Holly Zemke
CA Kathy Huffman, Betty Lyles
- 23 LR Alexis Thompson
CA David Seibert, Calista Stevens
- 30 LR Kathy Hopson
CA Eileen Morgan, Vicki Vincenti

Altar Guild: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Calista Stevens

Ushers & Greeters

- 2 U Ken Hopson G Eileen Morgan
- 9 U Alexis Thompson G George Thompson
- 16 U George Thompson G Holly Zemke
- 23 U Joan Wilson G Alexis Thompson
- 30 U David Seibert G Ocrea Berry

Offering Stewards

- 2 Carrie Butler, Mary Bateman
- 9 Joe & Kathleen St. Lawrence
- 16 Carrie Butler, Mary Bateman
- 23 Joe & Kathleen St. Lawrence
- 30 Paul Sipe, Polly Quinn

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

- 2 A Matthew Johnson
- 9 A Alex Moen
- 16 A Jacob Chappell
- 23 A Paul James
- 30 A Matthew Johnson

Lay Readers/Communion Assistants

- 2 LR Jennifer Maddocks
CA John Moen, Paul Sipe
- 9 LR Jim Martin
CA Joe & Kathleen St. Lawrence
- 16 LR Judy Meade
CA Barb Trapp-Moen, Joyce Visconti
- 23 LR Nancy-Anne Potts
CA Gerry & Carrie Butler
- 30 LR Polly Quinn
CA Bryan Chappell, Kim Coughenour

Altar Guild: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Judy Meade

Nursery

- 2 Tammy Justice, Bryan Chappell
- 9 Laura Reid, Robyn Sipe
- 16 Nancy-Anne Potts, Elizabeth Webster
- 23 Rocky & Joyce Visconti
- 30 Jeff & Pam Stevens

Ushers

- 2 Joe & Kathleen St. Lawrence
- 9 Scott & Tammy Justice
- 16 Jeff & Pam Stevens
- 23 Harry & Joleen Propst
- 30 Gerry & Carrie Butler

Greeters

- 2 Steve Gothard, Barbara Hallan
- 9 Walter & Donna James
- 16 Tammy Justice, Jennifer Maddocks
- 23 Nancy Pollard, Nancy-Anne Potts
- 30 Harry & Joleen Propst

Hosts After Worship

- 2 Jeff & Pam Stevens
- 9 Vicki Vincenti
- 16 Rocky & Joyce Visconti
- 23 Elizabeth Webster
- 30 Joan Wilson

Why Do We Do That?????



"The Sign of the Cross"

For Christians, the sign of the cross and the words that accompany it (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) have served as an act of petition and as a blessing since very early in the history of our faith. When one makes the sign of the cross, we are reminded of our Baptism in which we were washed in the triune name and "marked with the cross of Christ forever." The sacrament of Holy Baptism was very important to Martin Luther and is central in his understanding of the Christian faith. In one of his best known works, the Small Catechism, Luther recommends that each person use the sign of the cross to begin one's prayers both upon waking up and upon going to bed. In worship, we as Lutherans experience the sign of the cross both at the beginning of service, during the Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness, and at the end of the service, during the Benediction. While in many Lutheran churches this "sign" is made by the pastor, in other traditions (such as Roman Catholicism) it is common for people to "cross" themselves as well. However, the practice of crossing oneself is becoming more and more common in Lutheran congregations. In Western Churches (Roman Catholicism, Lutheran, Episcopalian, etc.) The sign is made by touching the forehead, the chest, the left shoulder, and, finally the right shoulder. In Eastern Churches (Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, etc.) the order is slightly reversed and the sign is made by touching the forehead, the chest, the right shoulder, and finally, the left shoulder. While certainly not a necessity

for daily devotions or worship, making the sign of the cross on oneself can serve as a powerful reminder of God's promise made to us in our Baptism and of the unbreakable relationship we have with God: the father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Faith Practices — Worship

Worship is the practice of "stepping away" from the pattern and press of daily life to intentionally love God. In doing so, the disciple gains a deeper understanding and experience of the majesty, mercy and mystery of God. In worship we praise God for being God, for being our God!

The disciple can "step away" from the routine of the moment to honor God in numerous ways: through participation in the public event of a worship service; through the creative act of art, drama, dance, craft, music and song; through listening to a sermon or receiving the sacrament; through an encounter of God in the beauty of creation, and more. While "worship" is more than what we often mean by the word "worship," the maturing disciple acknowledges that the act of corporate worship within the context of a celebrating congregation is key and necessary to a disciple's walk and life of devotion.

Part of a disciple's job description is to worship God regularly.

News From The Altar Guild



There are some changes in the organization of the altar guild which will begin in January. Members serving on the altar guild will be separate from those serving as communion assistants. The altar guild will be responsible for setting up the altar and cleaning the altar after worship service. Communion assistants will only serve communion.

This change has come about for several reasons. First, altar linens, especially the paraments, cannot be kept on the altar because of possible water damage from leaks in the roof shingles. Second, the altar guild will be trained in the setting up and cleaning up procedures, especially the care of the silver communion ware. For example, removing rings when washing the silver communion ware is important. The common cup is being replaced due to deep scratches in the gold lining that cannot be regilded.

Several members from each worship service have agreed to serve on the altar guild. For the first service, Calista Stevens, Joan Wilson and Holly Zemke will set up the communion table. For the second service, Diana Hicks, Judy Meade and Barbara Carruthers will clean the altar and wash the serving pieces. Each person will serve for a month. Serving on the altar guild will not take these individuals out of the rotation as communion assistants. Betty Lyles will be the link between the two services making sure the communion table is ready. Judy Meade and Diana Hicks will change the

banners according to the season of the church, and Judy will continue to order communion supplies.

Also, Barbara Hallan and Mary Bateman have agreed to be our "merry menders," keeping our linens and banners in good condition.

If you are interested in serving on the altar guild, please contact Judy at 544-2201, or leave a message in the altar guild mail box in the church office.

Ladies, thank you in advance for your willingness to serve.

Judy Meade, Altar Guild Chair



Our thanks to the following members for baking Communion bread:

- Kim Coughenour (October)
- Joe St. Lawrence (November)
- Jackie Reynolds (December).

We have received several gifts this past month -

- From Diana Hicks, a stained glass panel she made, which is hanging in the window above the stairway
- From Johnnie McDonald, 14 linen napkins for Communion
- From the Women of the ELCA, a brass candle lighter to be used for Sunday worship services.

We give thanks for these gifts.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CONTINUE TO GROW.....

We had an exciting year in 2004 with an average of 10 to 13 women at our meetings each month. We enjoyed programs and refreshments each month. We are continuing the theme Listen, God is calling. We are learning how we, as God's chosen Women CAN make a difference.

Seventeen women enjoyed our annual Christmas Dinner. Tim Johnson made our program more enjoyable by playing the organ for our hymns. After the program we enjoyed dessert, exchanging Christmas ornaments and Secret Sister gift exchange. Twelve women drew names for Secret Sister for 2005. A special thanks goes to Barbara Hallan and Mary Bateman for making the fellowship hall so beautiful for our dinner.

We conducted a short business meeting to dispense the money left from our 2004 budget. We used this money to buy a candle lighter for the Acolytes to use. We sent money to the following places: Happy Bucks Room at the Rescue Mission and money to buy groceries for Ronald McDonald House.

We also gave a Food Lion Gift Certificate to Ms. Hall and family to go with the Christmas presents we bought for the family .

2005 will start with a business and planning meeting the second Monday in January at 7:00PM.

Nancy Pollard has agreed to remain as President. Betty Lyles will be Vice President, Joleen Propst, Secretary and Pat Canada agreed to remain as Treasurer.

We plan to continue some of our projects and add some more things as the year progresses. Come to the January meeting so you can be a part of the planning for an exciting year.

We would like to have a group of women to go to the WELCA Gathering June 10-12 . This has proven to be a fun weekend for women who have gone in the past. We stay on campus at Lenoir-Rhyne College and eat at in the cafeteria. Of course, the delegate has to go to the meetings but everyone else is free to go to the workshops or just "hang out."

Give us a try in 2005. We think you will enjoy our group of women and the activities we have planned.

Nancy Pollard-President. Betty Lyles-Vice President, Joleen Propst-Secretary, Pat Canada-Treasurer

e-mail Nancy at nanap@mindspring.com if you have any questions about the WELCA or speak with her on a Sunday at church.

A Congregational Meeting

will be held on January 23, 2005 for the purpose of approving the 2004 Annual Report, the Mission Statement and the Value Statements.

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2005 Singles Conference and Retreat with Chip Ingram is scheduled for May 2005, at The Cove in Asheville, NC. Further information and details will be forthcoming.

"Thank You"



This is a special "Thank You" note to all of those people who quietly perform the work of the church in so many ways. Here are just a few: lights are changed, doors are repaired, the sanctuary is prepared for worship, candles are changed, banners are hung, kitchens are cleaned, supplies are ordered, offerings are counted, bills are paid, visitors and members are greeted, acolytes are recruited and trained, assisting ministers are recruited and trained, grounds are maintained, furnishings are repaired, plumbing is repaired, the sound system is operated and operators are trained, flowers are ordered, choir robes are sewn, food bags are prepared, donations of food and clothing are delivered, phones are answered, the newsletter is mailed, Sunday School is taught, signs are made, music is played, choirs are led, youth groups are led, confirmation students are mentored, meals are cooked and served, meals are delivered to the sick, and the list goes on and on.

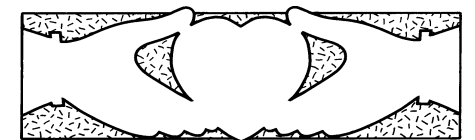
Our church is operated and led by a dedicated and committed Church Council, and they are supported by an involved and dedicated congregation. You are the church. You make God's word come to life. You are doers of the word!

At this time of year we give thanks for all the wonderful gifts we have received and for all the gifts we are able to give!

So thanks to the congregation of Christus Victor for all that you do and for the time you give. May God bless all of you!!!

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**Sew & Sew Circle -
Organizational Meeting**

A number of ladies responded to last month's inquiry about starting a social group (Circle) that would gather regularly and create beautiful things from fabric. A couple of you are specifically wanting to quilt. Let's meet on Thursday, January 6th at 7:00 pm, upstairs at church (Scouts will be meeting downstairs). If you are running late - feel free to bring your dinner with you! If you already have a project in the works, bring it with you. We'll explore what we want to do, and when, where and how often we'd like to get together. If you have questions, please call Holly at 806-0665.



Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend
A WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY. . .A LIFETIME OF LOVE, February 11-14, 2005 in Myrtle Beach, SC
For details call 1-800-235-1010 or e-mail DonAmanda@aol.com

Lutheran Engaged Encounter Weekend
A WEDDING IS A DAY . . .A MARRIAGE IS A LIFETIME April 22-24, 2005 near Columbia, SC
For details call 803-796-0290 or e-mail marybuds@juno.com



Around the Parish . . .

From the Parish Register:

- ☐ **Camden Christine Justice** was baptized at Christus Victor on December 5, 2004. Camden's parents are Scott and Tammy Justice.
- ☐ **Mark and Krista Rogers** were welcomed into our Fellowship of Faith on December 5, 2004. Mark comes to us from Cross of Life Lutheran Church in Brookfield, WI; Krista by Affirmation of Faith. They reside at 6 Brevard Court, Durham 27713. Phone: 361-0271
- ☐ **Barbara Carruthers** was welcomed into our Fellowship of Faith on December 5, 2004. Barbara comes to us from Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Gainesville, Florida.



The Bureau of Standards in Washington says that fog covering seven city blocks to a depth of 100 feet is composed of less than one glass of water.

Divide that amount of water into about 60 billion tiny droplets and you get fog. Distribute those minute particles over a city or the countryside, and they can almost blot out everything from your sight.

Lesson: Too many of us let a cupful of problems turn our lives into an absolute fog.

From the Church Council



**Highlights of Council Meeting
December 12, 2004**

- ✓ New Council members serving 3 year terms are Carrie Butler, Kathy Hopson, Harry Propst, and Pam Stevens. Calista Stevens has also been voted onto council and will be serving a 1 year term.
- ✓ Thank you to Barbara Hallan, Mary Bateman, Jeff Scott, George Thompson, and Gary Zemke who are rotating off of council this year. We really appreciate all that you have done for us!
- ✓ Church Officers for 2005 are as follows:
President: Holly Zemke
Vice President: Cristen Chappell
Treasurer: Jeff Scott
Secretary: Jennifer Maddocks
- ✓ Council retreat is being planned for January and will be at Camp Agape.
- ✓ The Mission and Value Statements have been voted on and will be brought before the congregation at the January congregational meeting.

November Record of Giving



	Nov. Actual	Nov. YTD	Eleven Month Budget
Monies Given	\$10,321	118,259	123,321
Monies Used for Ministry	<u>\$16,602</u>	<u>127,887</u>	123,321
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (6,281)	(9,628)	

Thank You!

To the Pastor & People of Christus Victor Lutheran Church:

On behalf of the people of The Church of the Abiding Savior, Lutheran, please accept our grateful appreciation for your recent gift of a photo-copier. Our current machine has been showing signs of age and most likely will need to be replaced in the near future, so your gift is very timely. We appreciate your consideration and support for our ministry. Thank you!
In Christ,
Gregory Hudgins, Congregational President
Rev. Gordon H. Myers, Pastor



Christmas Casualty

It was almost evening of the day after Christmas, and the night watchman of a large department store was setting out on his usual rounds.

Floor after floor presented the same wild disorder: piles of mixed up goods, boxes and cartons of all shapes and sizes uncovered and tipped; indeed a miniature cyclone could not have left a worse jumble behind.

But a bigger shock awaited the watchman when, under one of the counters, he found a man who apparently had been pushed aside and trampled upon in the mad rush of shoppers on Christmas Eve.

The man was an absolute stranger, and no item of his clothing provided a single clue to his identity. But when his body was examined for markings, nail prints were found in the palms of his hands.

What a Beautiful Gift We Gave



You know the feeling - when you've given that perfect gift - by the way it makes you feel. Everyone who participated in the Living Nativity must have

felt that special tingle (above and beyond the short-term weariness). With about 500 luminaries and a crisp and clear night, the story of Mary, Joseph and the miraculous birth of our Savior Jesus Christ was beautifully told to families of walkers, as well as those who drove past the scenes. Virtually everyone in our church family worked in some way to make A Living Nativity possible once again this year. A big thank you goes to everyone, including several guests who helped with traffic, luminaries and scenes. If you would like pictures of yourself as a shepherd, an angel, an innkeeper, etc., please look at the beautiful photographs presented downstairs in the fellowship hall. They are available for purchase from Edward Carruthers Photography. Edward is the son of Barbara Carruthers, and we are happy to finally have some clear and colorful memories of this special event.



When the 109th Congress of the United States is sworn in Jan. 3, it will include 19 Lutherans — 10 Democrats and 9 Republicans, according to the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, Washington, D.C., the federal public policy advocacy office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).



January Birthdays

- 1 Dominic Silha
- 2 Lyn Huffman
- 2 Heidi Chikmath
- 5 Daniel Potts
- 7 Jim Pollard
- 8 Nick Mendyka
- 10 Bryan Chappell
- 11 Christopher Ovid
- 12 Kathleen St. Lawrence
- 15 Mario Scott
- 17 JoAnn Scott
- 17 Everett Poore
- 17 Mark Herring
- 18 Alex Moen
- 20 Niles Leese
- 26 Bill Mendyka
- 31 Georgeann Thompson

January Anniversaries

- 6 Rich & Kathy Le Sesne
- 15 Walt & Donna James
- 27 Bill & Carol Mendyka

February Venture



Monday, January 17