



Evangelical Lutheran Church

9833 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21234



JULY 2025



From the Pastor's Desk

Hello beloved church family,

I am reflecting on Pastor Laura Sinche's message on stewardship and still remembering Vicar Deacon Doug Meekins' message on the empty tomb that leads to us wanting to somehow fill the work of our risen Lord with the resources needed.

Soon, our Stewardship team leader, Ugonnaya Obineme, will be sending out a card asking for your pledge for giving for the 2025-2026 church year. There will be a delicious Thanksgiving Sunday Social to thank you for the commitment you are making on September 21st, Commitment Sunday.

One thing I learned about stewardship is that the Lord doesn't need my money. If I opt out of giving to my full potential, the Lord will find others to take up my slack, and then poor, poor, pitiful me—left out of the great joy of helping to fund the Lord's work on earth, of helping to bring people to Jesus, of feeding the hungry, having community events for the lonely, and cheering on our members who respond to God's call. I never want to be left out of God's work. That's a sad place to be, and honestly, when I was younger, I was not as giving as I could have been to our church, and not surprisingly my faith suffered.

Closeness to God requires closeness to God's work: time, talent and treasures—the three great Ts that we need to give to our Lord. Join me in doing that. It is so rewarding and it leads to the abundant life Jesus calls us to live.

I love you all so much,
Pastor Ellen



Pastor Ellen, Linda McMahon and Sandy Petrovich at the annual Synod Assembly.



Dear Christus Victor Family,

I am happy to inform you about a new feature that will be in *The Oakleaf* this fall, Lutheran 101. Deacon Shelly, the Team Leader for Worship and Music, has suggested this feature. The purpose is to give an explanation for anything you have questions about regarding our service.

Look for a special box in the narthex in August where you can submit your questions. The explanation will be published in a future *Oakleaf*.



Lord, we pray for healing and renewal in our lives this month. Heal our hearts from past hurts and renew our spirits with Your love. Help us to embrace the new with open hearts and minds.



As you know, we have lost three wonderful men from our congregation recently. Jim, Herb and Jack will be greatly missed, but we know they are in God's loving arms now. Please continue to pray for healing of their families.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." — Psalm 147:3

Bee Peaceful and Kind,

Linda Meyer
Council President



Graham Allen – Young child with ill health (Jane Bowie)
Tate Armstrong & family – Safety during deployment
JoAnn Bakie – Health issues (Bea Walshinsky)
Daniel Beauford – Health issues (Obinemes)
Henry Hale Brzozowski – Baby born prematurely (cousin of Emily Krich)
Greg and Kelly Bryant (Stansburys)
Patty Buddemeyer – Health issues (daughter of the Leights)
Daryl Burman (Howard Stansbury)
Robert Chilcote – Pray for strengthening of his heart.
Sheila Clark – Severe stroke (cousin of Diane Hopple)
Rob Coppage – Battling cancer (nephew of Birdie Patrick)
Paula Deiste – Double mastectomy (The Biedronskis)
Ola Denues – Recovering from brain surgery (cousin of Karen Biedronski)
Darlene Evans – Fighting cancer (Sandy Petrovich)
Kathy Fiedler (cousin of Virginia McCurdy)
Beth Franks – Pray for healing (friend of Joyce McMahan)
George – Bone marrow cancer (Joyce McMahan)
Loretta Gleason – Pray for healing (Birdie Patrick).
Bobby Heuisler – (Stansburys)
Jessie – Pray for strength (Len & Sandy Petrovich).
Nancy Kiefner – Health issues (Stansburys)
Robert Kruelle – Kidney health issues (Irene Ruby)
Jacqi & Lacey Lockard – (Stansburys)
Brian Martel – Stage 4 melanoma (friend of Phil Biedronski)
Ken McPherson (Rachel and Emma McPherson).
Roger McPherson (Kelly Ruby and Joan Ruby).
Christopher Miltier – Safety during his military deployment (Stansburys)
Pam – Brain tumor (friend of Virginia McCurdy)
Susan Parker – Pray for well-being after a paralyzing stroke (daughter of Bea Walshinsky).
Rosemary – Stage 4 pancreatic cancer
Joseph Schaech (Stansburys)
Rebekah Scranton (Shraders)
Jake Sittler* – Pray for strength and continued wellness.
Ginny Thompson – Numerous health issues (Merle Vogel)
Michele Thompson – Health issues (Bea Walshinsky)
Carol Tracey – Serious health issues (Jane Bowie)
Tyler Walsh – Long recovery from a motorcycle accident (Linda Meyer)
*member CVLC

Members at Home or in Long-Term Care

Jeanne George Bea Walshinsky

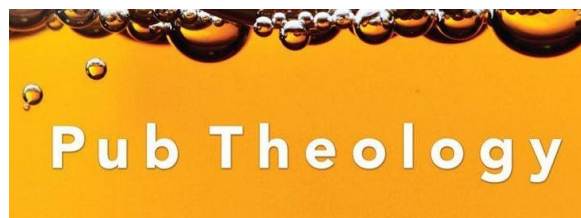


Gospel Lessons

July 6	Luke 10:1–11, 16–20	We all are one in mission
July 13	Luke 10:25–37	Lord, thee I love with all my heart
July 20	Luke 10:38–42	Give me Jesus
July 27	Luke 11:1–13	Forgive our sins as we forgive



The First Sunday Social on July 6 is hosted by the Worship and Music Team. Please come to the fellowship hall after worship for refreshments and conversation.



Please join us at The Bowman on Harford Road at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 2nd**. You can order food and/or beverages, or just spend a couple of hours in conversation. All ages are welcome! Please invite friends and neighbors. This month's topic: Spirituality.

Victor's Vittles

Please help with our monthly drive! Any shelf-stable items are welcome at any time—These are just suggestions for those who like to have a plan when they shop. Please place any donations in the Victor's Vittles containers located in the Fellowship Hall.

July: Pasta sauce/pasta

August: Potatoes or rice—instant boxes/packets

September: Chili

It takes many hands to meet the growing needs of our community. Drivers for Friday food pickups are always needed. You can also volunteer to distribute food on Saturday mornings or stock and pack bags on Tuesday mornings. Any help you can give is appreciated!



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Ed Gail
6 – Courtney Wilt
7 – Alex Gail
16 – Tate Armstrong
20 – Don Keyser
23 – Pam Lehman, Madison Hieber
25 – Marie Greb
29 – Bradley Duncan, Carol Stansbury



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

8 – Ashby & Sally Everhart, Matthew & Melissa Collins
25 – Butch & Terrie Falloni

My Synod Assembly Experience

This was my first Synod Assembly, and, I must say, was nothing like expected. It was more informational than just voting. The voting was a little confusing, but I feel I did my best. The part that affected me most was the message from Good Trouble Church. In simple terms, they were made to feel unwelcome at last year's Synod Assembly through various encounters. This made me think about my own church family and how we interact with each other and strangers. How a few people out of several hundred had hurt a church badly enough for them not to attend. How we react, look at, talk, or act can turn someone away from our church family. Bishop Gohl told us it wasn't hard to be kind and the least we can do is SMILE! You don't have to talk to someone, but a smile will never hurt. To remember we are all children of God and made uniquely by him. The issue at Good Trouble Church had been resolved prior to the Assembly and they do plan to attend next year.

This situation has set heavy on my heart and reminds me of this wonderful song by Zach Williams, "Less Like Me."

*Oh, I have days I lose the fight. Try my best but just don't get it right.
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk and miss the moments right before my eyes. Somebody
with a hurt that I could have helped. Somebody with a hand that I could have held
When I just can't see past myself, Lord help me be:
A little more like mercy, a little more like grace. A little more like kindness, goodness, love and
faith. A little more like patience, a little more like peace.
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.
Yeah, there's no denying I have changed. 'Cause I've been saved from who I used to be. But
even at my best, I must confess: I still need help to see the way You see.
A little more like mercy, a little more like grace. A little more like kindness, goodness, love and
faith. A little more like patience, a little more like peace.
Oh, I wanna feed the beggar on the street, learn to be Your hands and feet.
Freely give what I receive, Lord help me be.
I want to put You first above all else, love my neighbor as myself.
In the moments no one sees...Lord let me be
A little more like mercy, a little more like grace. A little more like kindness, goodness, love and
faith. A little more like patience, a little more like peace.
A little more of living everything I preach. A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.*

Smiling,

Sandy Petrovich ☺

Dear Christus Victor family,

I want to thank everyone for the prayers, well wishes, and get well cards I have received. My spirit was lifted. It is a great feeling to know that so many people care for you—I am truly blessed! Just an update: I am currently doing Cardiac Rehab as prescribed by my cardiologist. After a month or so, I will have another scan of my heart to see if the rehab is working. The purpose of the rehab is to strengthen my heart and get it back to pumping at 100%, as only 2/3 of my heart is working. My heart may not be at 100%, but it is full of love for my Christus Victor family.

Thank you again.

Peace,
Deacon Shelly

Helen Tennant thanks everyone who has donated empty baskets to be used for the Holiday Bazaar gift baskets she makes. We still have four months to prepare, so keep 'em coming!



This little cutie visited our grounds and Linda McMahon was on hand to capture this amazing photo. Is it Victor...or Victoria?

Spotlight on New Council Members: Ugonnaya Obineme

Hi, I'm Ugonnaya Obineme. If you want to say my name out loud, this is how it sounds: oo-GOH-na-yah oh-BEE-neh-meh. My parents are Christian and Ngozi (in-GUH-zee). We have been members of Christus Victor since I was a child. So, I've done a little bit of everything! Currently, I assist with the technology and youth group. I am also a choir member and occasionally a lay assistant.



Outside of CV, I work at UMMC Midtown Campus as a pharmacy technician in the inpatient pharmacy. I sing with a community choir called Deer Creek Chorale and am on the Board for Baltimore Campus Ministry. I enjoy reading (mainly fiction and memoirs) and am currently binge watching Schitt's Creek (I know, I'm five years behind!).

I think of CV as my second home and want to do my best to ensure that anyone coming through those doors feels like a part of the family!

MAINE BLUEBERRY PUDDING

3 cups blueberries
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water



- 1) Cook the fruit, sugar and water for 10 minutes in a saucepan on the stovetop.
- 2) Butter six (6) slices of white sandwich bread; sprinkle with cinnamon.
- 3) Layer the bread and the cooked berries in a loaf pan.* Chill for several hours.

Serve with heavy cream, vanilla ice cream or Cool Whip.

*Recipe can be doubled (use square pan) or tripled (use rectangular pan).

---Submitted by Pamela Wright



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates: August 11th–15th

Time: 11 AM to 2 PM

Lunch served

You can register your neighbors and friends on our church's website (www.christusvictoronline.org) or pick up registration forms on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Decorations will be created in July! Come any of the times and help us make GIANT flowers, bees and beehive, caterpillars, ants, butterflies, ladybugs and magnifying glasses! There'll be something for everyone to do!

Daytime: 10 AM–12 PM, July 16th
Nighttime: 7–9 PM, July 10th and 30th



VBS crafting is fun fellowship time!

Tate's birthday is July 16!

We were grateful to hear that Tate's unit has been moved out of the volatile situation in the Middle East. His six-month deployment is half over! You can communicate with Tate by email at the usual address, tsarmstrong@gmail.com. If you would like to send a "real" letter or card to Tate during his deployment, please use the address shown here:

Taylor Armstrong < (Do not include rank)
AFCENT PAB
OPC 1201 Box 22
APO, AE 09309

Family Rock Painting & Ice Cream! ***July 16th, 6pm - 8pm***



**FREE
EVENT!**

***Join us in decorating rocks for our original Rock Garden,
Little Library and our new Memorial Garden for Joey by
Victor's Vittles ! Paint, decals and rocks provided.
Enjoy an ice cream Sundae afterwards.***

Sunday School

We celebrated the end of Sunday School with some duckpin bowling at AMF Towson lanes. Even with the breakdown of the lanes, we improvised and had a great time. Look at those scores! We were playing “Ghost Bowling.” Pins would not reset, but if you rolled a ball down the lane you would get a strike!!! Each child was also given playtime in the arcade by the bowling alley.

Sunday School and Confirmation classes start again on September 7th. Pastor Ellen will be starting a post Confirmation class on September 14th.



Game 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
JACKSON	151 7	5-2 14	52- 21	6-2 29	-14 34	X 64	X 94	X 124	X 154	XXX 184	184
KENZIE	--3 3	61- 10	2-1 13	243 22	--- 22	X 52	X 82	X 112	X 142	XXX 172	172
MAKENZI	--- 0	71- 8	16- 15	1-- 16	--5 21	X 51	X 81	X 111	X 141	XXX 171	171
EMMIE	16- 7	9-1 17	2-6 25	--- 25	314 33	X 63	X 93	X 123	X 153	XXX 183	183
AUDREY	8-- 8	7-- 15	171 24	--1 25	X 55	X 85	X 115	X 145	X 175	XXX 205	205
RILEY	53- 8	31- 12	31- 16	1-- 17	X 47	X 77	X 107	X 137	X 167	XXX 197	197
JACKSON										8.45 MPH	
Team 4											

Youth Group

On Sunday, June 8th, the youth participated in the church service. Everyone seemed to enjoy some of the new ideas that we integrated into the service. The testimonials were touching, and we added two teens to the lay assistant schedule.

We have been keeping up with policing the litter on the church property every other week, even in the rain. On the 11th, we watched the movie Minecraft. We have future plans for a swim day and have purchased a portable Ga-Ga pit for fun right at church.

Sandy Petrovich

Candlerich54@gmail.com





Thank you to Sandy, Ugonnaya, and all of the youth who shared some of the music and lessons that they experienced at the youth retreat last fall. It was wonderful to have some fresh perspectives, participate in faith-building exercises and hear the heartfelt testimonies.

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

The DEMD Synod has encouraged all churches to participate in "God's Work, Our Hands". An opportunity to celebrate who we are as God's people. We have selected 2 projects to include all ages. One inside project and one outside.

*Good Trouble Church, a member of our synod is very involved in lifting up our homeless population. They are looking for donations of Blessing Bags to hand out at their various events.

During the summer our congregation will collect hotel soaps, lotions, shampoos etc. If you have a dental appointment, tell the dentist. Sometimes they will donate to toothpaste giveaways. If you are a member there is a \$250 Thrivent grant that is available for this project. A list of items needed is listed below.

Toenail clippers, Disposable razors (2), Travel sized shampoo, conditioner, and/or body wash, multi-utensil (like a camping knife/fork/ spoon combo) Travel-sized deodorant, A few Band-Aids, Tampons (made with cotton, not rayon), Socks Hand sanitizer spray, Toothbrush and toothpaste, small container of wet wipes, A few snacks (crackers, etc.), A few toothpicks. Hand warmers and knit gloves are also requested after September.

On September 7th during the 1st Sunday Social, we will assemble the bags. We can even donate partially filled bags with notes of what is missing. Someone will come to pick up the items.

*Our second project will be in our Statue Gardens at the entrance of church. Diane and Wayne Spath work weekly to keep our gardens beautiful. However, we need to install wooden barriers around the edges to keep our mulch in place during rain. Wayne Spath and Howard Stansbury will get the supplies and be able to guide us through this process. This is where we will need our younger members, teens and adults, that can provide the labor to complete this project. You don't need to know how to do it, just be willing to help Wayne and Dianne with this project.

Please mark your calendars. This will be a great day of Fellowship, Food and a chance to help others.

Please send Oakleaf submissions to the church office or directly to Karen Biedronski (charmcitystamper@verizon.net) by the 15th of the current month for publication in the next month's newsletter. Photos from church events are always appreciated. Please send all written submissions as text (Word) documents and send photos separately (JPEG or PDF). I need to be able to format and edit the text and cannot make changes to JPEG or PDF files.

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church
Council Minutes**

May 12, 2025

***Council meetings are open and everyone is invited to attend.
The Executive Board met to plan the agenda on Sunday, May 11, 2025.***

Unite in Christ, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love, and Share the Good News

Attendance: Pastor Ellen Krich, Linda Meyer (President), Andrea Zahirsky (VP), Helen Tennant (Treasurer), Karen Biedronski (Secretary), Michael Schumann, Sandy Petrovich, Joel McCrea, Ugonnaya Obineme, Linda McMahon, Melissa Collins, Shelly Shrader, Phil Biedronski (Asset Account Manager, via Zoom)
Absent: Howard Stansbury, Kelly Ruby

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

Pastor Ellen Krich opened the meeting with a prayer.

Asset Account – Phil Biedronski

Phil Biedronski provided the Morgan Stanley Investment Account summary of activity for the month ending April 30, 2025. Our combined asset accounts gained \$1,971 in April; year-to-date, they are up 5%.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the April minutes with one correction was made by Helen Tennant and seconded by Sandy Petrovich; the motion was passed. A copy of the minutes will be published in the next *Oakleaf*.

Status of Funds – Helen Tennant

The April 2025 Profit and Loss report indicated that our income fell short of our expenses by \$9,361.34.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Ellen led Jim Umerley's memorial service and Herb Crum's funeral.
- New members Joan Rudzicka and Melissa (Missy) O'Donnell were welcomed into our congregation.
- On May 18, Hudson Hall Storch will be baptized.
- Linda McMahon and Sandy Petrovich will attend the Synod Assembly.
- Pastor Ellen will start a relaxed summer Bible study on Zoom on "what Luther said" Tuesdays at 7 p.m. after The Chosen series is through.

Old Business

Outstanding Projects

- Painting --- After discussion, council feels that the fellowship needs complete repainting rather than touch-ups. Linda McMahon made a motion to obtain estimates to paint the fellowship hall. Andrea Zahirsky seconded the motion; all were in favor.
- Bathroom renovations --- Howard Stansbury will provide estimates to council before the next meeting. Handicapped access is crucial.
- Photo of Christus Victor has been framed and will be dedicated the next time the Keyzers are in church.

Fellowship

No First Sunday Social on June 1. Our June social event will be the church picnic after the service on June 8. Church will provide the meats and individuals should bring a side dish to share.

Stewardship

Pastor Laura Sinche will give a stewardship sermon on June 15.

Social Ministry

Victor's Vittles -- Ten new families were registered in April. A member of the community made 60 Easter baskets, which were distributed to families with children.

FFF -- Total income from the flea market was \$1,258.55. There was interest from several participants in adding a fall flea market.

Property Report

Energy-efficient LED lighting was installed at no cost to our church through a BGE energy incentive.

New Business

Visitation Teams

Council decided that those who visit hospitalized and homebound members will report to the Evangelism team leader. By-laws need to be updated to reflect this.

Memorials

Helen Tennant reported that we have received approximately \$3,000 in memorial gifts in recent months. Such gifts go in the general fund unless the donor indicates a specific use. Ellen Marsheck agreed to lead a Memorial Fund Team. She will ask the families whether they have a particular wish for how the money given on behalf of their loved one is used.

Youth Group Property Clean-up

Karen Biedronski suggested that we ask our youth group to give their time and talents to pick up litter on the property before their meetings at church. Karen will supply disposable gloves, trash grabbers, and reusable waste baskets.

Process for Putting Dates on the Calendar

If your team wants to add dates to the church's calendar of events, you must give the dates to our parish administrator so she can add them to the large paper calendar that hangs in the office. Check with Andrea Zahirsky to see whether there are any potential conflicts with pending hall requests.

Quiet Room

Sandy Petrovich will create an ad for *The Oakleaf* about staffing the Quiet Room (formerly called the Nursery) during worship services and make up a schedule for those who volunteer.

Constitution and By-laws

Sandy Petrovich informed us that the Synod will revise the Synod Constitution in August, so we should get busy on our own revisions to our Constitution and By-laws. Sandy will find out whether the Synod needs to see our (provisional) changes or just the revised versions.

Fellowship Hall Use

Michael Schumann made a motion to allow use of the fellowship hall by Molly Walsh (sponsor--Andrea Zahirsky) on Sunday, July 20, from 12 to 5 p.m. for a baby shower. Shelly Shrader seconded the motion and all approved.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Michael Schumann and seconded by Andrea Zahirsky. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Reminder: Next council meeting is on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Biedronski, Secretary

WE / COUNCIL / MEETING / MINUTES / JUNE / 2025 / PAGES / 1-10 / PRINTED / ON / JUNE / 10 / 2025 / AT / 10 / 10 / AM

Council does not meet in July; therefore, the June minutes will not be approved until the August meeting, after publication of the August issue of *The Oakleaf*.

July 2025

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers	2 Pub Theology 6 pm	3	4 Office Closed 7 pm - New Beginnings	5 9-11 am Victor's Vittles
6 10 am - Worship 1 st Sunday Social	7 7 pm - NA Group	8 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers	9 Youth Group 6 pm	10 VBS crafters 7-9 pm	11 7 pm - New Beginnings	12 9-11 am Victor's Vittles
13 10 am - Worship	14 7 pm - NA Group	15 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers	16 VBS crafters 10 am - 12 pm LMS Pickup FFF Rock painting & sundaes 6 pm	17	18 7 pm - New Beginnings	19 9-11 am Victor's Vittles
20 10 am - Worship	21 7 pm - NA Group	22 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers	23 Youth Group 6 pm	24	25 7 pm - New Beginnings	26 9-11 am Victor's Vittles
27 10 am - Worship	28 7 pm - NA Group	29 9:30 am - Christus Comforters 11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers	30	31 VBS crafters 7-9 pm		

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor—Ellen Krich

President—Linda Meyer

Vice President—Andrea Zahirsky

Secretary—Karen Biedronski

Treasurer—Helen Tennant (non-voting)

Worship and Music—Deacon Shelly Shrader

Social Ministry—Melissa Collins

Fellowship—Joel McCrea

Christian Education—Sandy Petrovich

Administration—Michael Schumann

Evangelism—Linda McMahon

Property—Howard Stansbury

Stewardship—Ugonnaya Obineme

Mutual Ministry—Kelly Ruby

Bold = Executive Team



CONTACTS

Pastor: Ellen Krich 410.236.9115 pastor@christusvictoronline.org

Director of Music: Taylor Armstrong tsarmstrong@gmail.com

Sunday School Superintendent: Sandy Petrovich

Altar Guild: Andrea Zahirsky

Ushers: Sherry Simpkins

Parish Administrator: Sharon Ibex office@christusvictoronline.org

Office phone: 410.668.8089 Office hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Council President: Linda Meyer deviationmeyer@gmail.com

Mutual Ministry: Kelly Ruby kjands3@verizon.net

Oakleaf Editor: Karen Biedronski charmcitystamper@verizon.net

Victor's Vittles: Howard Stansbury

Financial Secretary: Sharon Ibex

Asset Account Manager: Phil Biedronski biedrojr@verizon.net

Faith, Fellowship & Fun: Stephanie Vancura

Youth Group: Gordon Krause