



**15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025
Commitment Sunday**

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church
9833 Harford Road
Parkville, MD 21234
(410) 668-8089**

**Web Site: Christusvictoronline.org
Email: office@christusvictoronline.org**

Mission Statement: God calls us to unite in Christ, grow in faith, serve in love, and share the good news.

WELCOME TO ALL,
ESPECIALLY OUR VISITORS.



We praise God for all who worship here today. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book and be sure to take a visitor's bag of goodies and information about our church. Be sure to see an usher if you need anything (a quiet room for children, a bathroom, a diaper changer, or the parlor for quiet meditation) during the service.

Everyone is welcome to take communion. Lutherans believe that the very presence of Jesus Christ means the bread is his body and the wine is his blood. Communion is a meaningful vehicle for the Holy Spirit to enter us fully and have us participate in Christ's death and resurrection. God invites you to God's own table for love, forgiveness, and fellowship.

Note to Everyone: Please read the announcements at the end of this bulletin!

God's blessings on all who serve:

PASTOR: Ellen B. Krich

DEACON: Shelly Shrader

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Taylor Armstrong

ORGANIST: Barbara Skillman

TECHNOLOGY: Ugonnaya Obineme

LAY ASSISTANT: Meghan Collins

READER: Braelyn Revels

USHERS: Karen Biedronski, Phil Biedronski

ACOLYTE: Nathan Walck

ALTAR GUILD: Andrea Zahirsky, Irene Ruby, Virginia McCurdy, Cathleen Burkins, Ellen Marsheck



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: We All Are One in Mission, *arr. C.E. Walz*

***GATHERING**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG: *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (ELW 686)**

*GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***KYRIE (ELW page 184)**

Refrain

The musical notation for the refrain is written on a single staff in treble clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#), indicating D major or B minor. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, starting with a half rest followed by a quarter note D4, then an eighth-note pair E4-F#4, a quarter note G#4 tied to the next measure, and continuing through various intervals and rests.

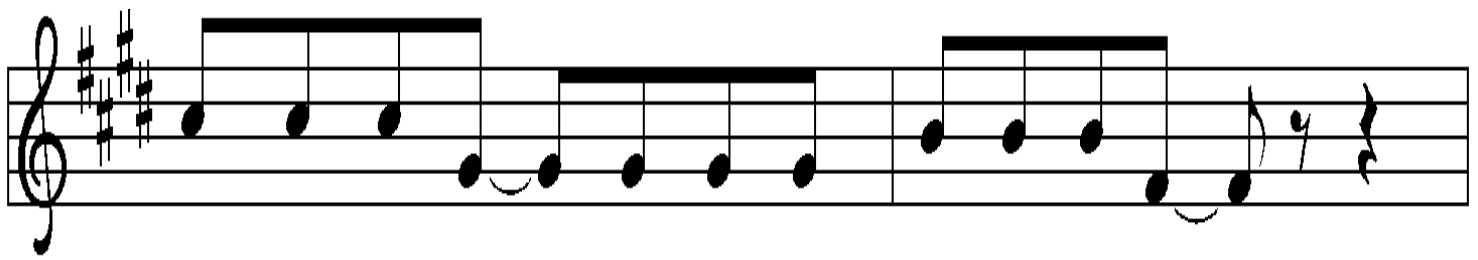
Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

[illegible]

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u	-	ni	-	ty	of	all;	for
hun	-	gry	and	the	poor;		that
friends	and	fam	-	i	-	ly;	for
wa	-	ter	and	the	word;		that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A. Let us pray.
 God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

A reading from Amos.
Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

- ⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
 and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
- ⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
 so that we may sell grain,

and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113

- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;
praise the name | of the LORD.
² **Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**
³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down
let the name of the | LORD be praised.
⁴ **The LORD is high a- | bove all nations;
God's glory a- | bove the heavens.**
⁵ Who is like the | LORD our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,
⁶ **but stoops | to behold
the heavens | and the earth?**
⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,
⁸ **enthroning them | with the rulers,
with the rulers | of the people.**
⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!

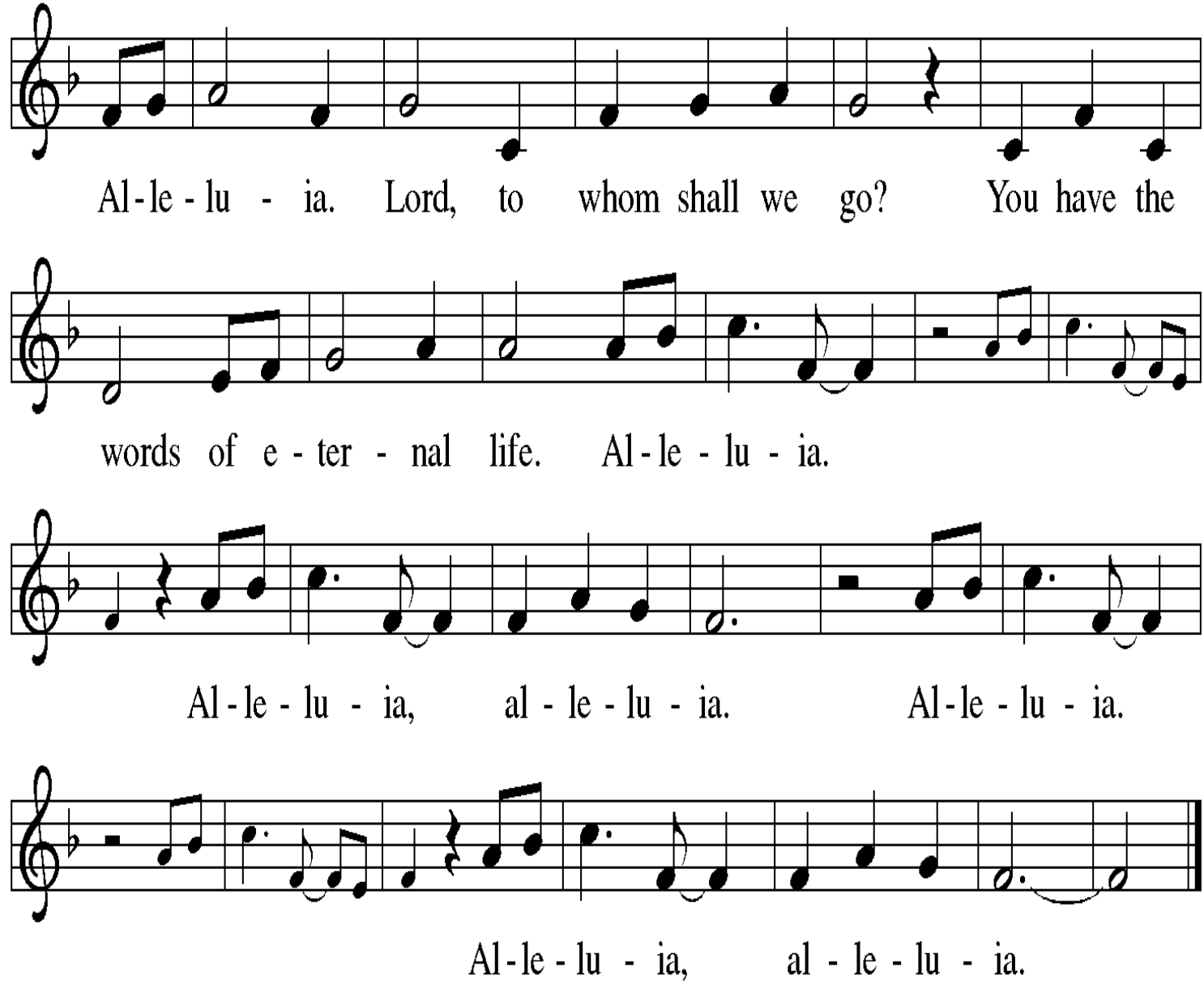
SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

A reading from 1 Timothy.

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For
there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and

love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Let Streams of Living Justice* (ELW 710)

YOUTH TIME

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated for the prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P. Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A. On this Commitment Sunday, O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. Make our stewardship a treasure of delight and pleasure for you. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your and our example of stewardship, generosity and compassion. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. We name those on our parish prayer list.... And others on our hearts.... May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible stewardship, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints, especially the beloved Saint Matthew, who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

A. On the birthdays of Matthew Higgs, Diane Spath, and Greg Depew, we offer praise and thanksgiving to you. Bless these devoted members of our congregation with ever stronger faith and closeness to you, adventures and joy in the year ahead and peace which passes all understanding in times of stress.

Thank you for the anniversary celebration of David & April Eichner. May they live in blessing and peace as a shining example of the companionship and oneness of marriage. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

P. We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

OFFERING

Please hold up your commitment card promise of time and talent for a blessing.

OFFERTORY: What is the World Like

GREAT THANKSGIVING

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***SANCTUS (ELW page 190)**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please bring your commitment cards forward and place them in the offering plate.

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

AGNUS DEI (ELW page 191)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN: *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* (ELW 488)

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray.
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***SENDING**

***THE FINAL BLESSING**

***SENDING SONG: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (ELW 623)**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Rejoice in your commitment of time and talent.
We will, with God’s help.

POSTLUDE: Lord, Speak to Me, *arr. Lani Smith*

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Care and Concern

Christiana Asadu - Health issues (Ngozi Obineme’s sister)
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)
Jim Byrne – (Stansburys)
Danny Chumley – In hospice (Jim Steadman)
Sheila Clark – Severe stroke (Cousin of Diane Hopple)
Paula Deiste – Stage 4 breast cancer (The Biedronskis)
Mark Derda – Hip Surgery (Linda Meyer)
Darlene Evans – Fighting cancer (Sandy Petrovich)
Kathy Fiedler – (Virginia McCurdy's cousin)
Beth Franks – Pray for healing (friend of Joyce McMahon)
George – Bone marrow cancer. (Joyce McMahon).
Loretta Gleason – Pray for healing. (Birdie Patrick)
Bobby Heuisler – (Stansburys)
Jim Highkin – (Virginia McCurdy)
Austin James – (Shelly Shrader)
Jessie – Pray for strength. (Len & Sandy Petrovich)
Nancy Kiefner – Health Issues (Stansburys)
Jackie King - Beginning battle with cancer for the third time (friend of Karen Biedronski).
Robert Kruelle – Kidney health issues (Irene Ruby)
Greg Lanchak and Family – (Shraders)
Jacqi & Lacey Lockard – (Stansburys)
Brian Martel – Stage 4 melanoma (friend of Phil Biedronski)
Steve Martin – Complications from heart surgery (Friend of Len & Sandy Petrovich)
Ken McPherson - (Rachel and Emmie McPherson).
Elaine Nadolski – Pray for overall health and healing (Kelly Ruby's friend).
Susan Parker – Pray for well-being after a paralyzing stroke (Bea Walshinsky's daughter)
Don Ratcliffe – (Friend of Sandy & Len Petrovich)
Rosemary – Stage 4 pancreatic cancer
Sandy – (Virginia McCurdy)
Erika Scarcella – Having testing for seizure disorder (the McCreas)
Rebekah Scranton – (Shraders)
Marianne Sisak – Health Concerns (Mother of Susanne Bruneau)
Jake Sittler* - Pray for strength and continued wellness.
Jim Steadman* – Health issues

Becky Snyder – health issues -- married to Reverend Tim Snyder, blind minister who started Spoken Word Ministries (Marie Greb)

Ginny Thompson – Numerous health issues (Merle Vogel)

Michele Thompson – Health Issues (Bea Walshinsky)

Carol Tracey – Serious Health Issues (Jane Bowie)

Finn Wagner - Hospitalized in isolation with serious health concerns (Susanne Bruneau's brother)

Cheri Wittmann – (Friend of Linda Meyer)

*member CVLC

Members at Home or in Long Term Care

Jeanne George Bea Walshinsky

Please call the church office with updates on the person(s) you put on the prayer list and let Sharon know if prayers were answered and the person can come off the list. Thank you.

Attendance: 9/14/2025

Sanctuary/In-Person Worship 10:00AM – 59

Sunday School - 7

Facebook - 109

Count Our Blessings: 9/14/2025

Weekly Offering - \$522.79

Online Giving 9/12/2025 – \$1,515.00

Victor's Vittles - \$395.00

Flea Market – \$539.70

Crab Feast - \$840.00

Thank you for your support!

Happy Birthday Wishes: September 21 – Matthew Higgs and Diane Spath; September 23 – Greg Depew

Happy Anniversary Wishes: September 25 – David & April Eichner

+ Tate's physical address. Many of you have asked to send letters and cards directly to Tate. His address is:
Taylor Armstrong (No Rank)
AFCENT PAB
OPC 1201 Box 22
APO, AE 09309

Remember, he is also able to receive emails at tsarmstrong@gmail.com. If you hear back from him, please be sure to share the news with the rest of our church. He has only one month of deployment left.

Upcoming Events

- **Crab Feast on Saturday, September 27th, 2-5 PM.** The cost is \$50 for all you can eat of crabs and all food; \$40 for the plenteous homemade foods with no crabs. **This is the last day to purchase Crab Feast tickets.**
- **Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 25th, 5-7 p.m.** Spread the word to all the families you know and please consider making a fun and scary trunk to give out candies for our community trick or treaters!
- As Charlie Leight announced today, we are trying a small change to our service, where we share a **community greeting and peace** at the beginning of the service after announcements, and during the peace later in the service, we simply say, "And also with you," and move to the Apostles' Creed. We will begin this next week and will be looking for feedback. Sharing a greeting at the beginning allows us to catch up briefly with each other to express our friendship and concern.
- We've had three questions so far in our Lutheran 101 box about the service that we have answered in *The Oakleaf*. Please feel free to submit any questions you have about the way Lutherans worship, think, and believe.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept. 21 – Sunday School 9:00AM, Service 10AM
Monday, Sept. 22 – NA Group 7:00PM
Tuesday, Sept. 26 – Christus Comforters 9:30AM
Tuesday, Sept. 23 – Victor's Vittles Volunteers 11:00AM
Tuesday, Sept. 23 – PCRC 7:00PM
Wednesday, Sept. 24 – Youth Group 6:00PM
Friday, Sept. 26 – New Beginnings 7:00PM
Saturday, Sept. 27 – Victor's Vittles 9:00-11:00AM
Saturday, Sept. 27 – Crab Feast 2:00PM-5:00PM

VICTOR'S VITTLES:

September 27th – Andrea Zahirsky, Merle Vogel
Driver Pick-up September 26th – Zahirskys
More drivers are desperately needed.

We have an emergency situation in our Victors Vittles food bank account.

With the increased need for food among our neighbors and the climbing prices of food, our Victors Vittles volunteers have had to use more funds from the VV bank account than in the past to purchase groceries, meats, and perishables for our growing number of families who come for food. As a result, the funds are rapidly depleting. Please consider, as part of your stewardship pledge, to include extra funds for Victors Vittles and to give whatever you can to ensure we'll be able to purchase Thanksgiving meals for our families who without us would not have a holiday meal. Thank you for caring.

Victors Vittles Food Drive!

Please help us stock up our regular family foods by bringing in the following: **September:** Chili



Holiday Food Drive

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it! Please support our brothers and sisters in the community by donating some of the following items to Victor's Vittles Food Pantry:

Instant Potatoes

Gravy

Sweet Potatoes/Yams

Cranberry Sauce or Canned/Bottles Fruit

Jiffy Muffin mix

Boxed Desserts: Cake, Muffins, Brownies

Pie filling (e.g. Pumpkin, apple)

Pie Crust

Gift Cards to Weis

Please contact the church office for more information:

office@christusvictoronline.org or 410-668-8089

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Linda Meyer, President
Andrea Zahirsky, Vice President
Karen Biedronski, Secretary
Helen Tennant, Treasurer
Melissa Collins, Social Ministry
Joel McCrea, Fellowship
Linda McMahon, Evangelism
Ugonnaya Obineme, Stewardship
Sandy Petrovich, Christian Education
Kelly Ruby, Mutual Ministry
Michael Schumann, Administration
Deacon Shelly Shrader, Worship & Music
Howard Stansbury, Property

Church Contacts

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Oakleaf Editor:	Karen Biedronski charmcitystamper@verizon.net
Victor's Vittles:	Carol Stansbury
Altar Guild:	Andrea Zahirsky
Lay Assistants:	Linda Meyer
Ushers:	Sherry Simpkins
Youth Group:	Gordon Krause
FFF:	Stephanie Vancura