

Evangelical Lutheran Church 9833 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21234



APRIL 2024



Dear Beloved Community,

Permit me to use my letter this month as a sad tribute to a dear, close neighbor who is now buried in a watery grave, twisted and mangled out of her former glory, my beloved Francis Scott Key Bridge. Not only did my majestic bridge fall into the depths, but she took six hard-working, loving, family men down with her. We will never forget them.

I'm a city girl who remembers going with friends on a boat ride that took us from the Inner Harbor to the KEY BRIDGE!!! It was a very big deal. We took pictures of this architectural beauty with our cheap black and white cameras and had them developed for our photo albums. The boat went under the bridge, and we just looked up at it in awe. Through the years, when I would "chauffeur" someone home from the Eastern Shore or areas on the other side of town, I would always take the Key Bridge, and without fail, my guests would ooh and aah. "This is beautiful." "We love it when you bring us home this way." During the day, traveling on her, we could see barges, cruise ships and the Inner Harbor stretching out on both sides. (Once, we raced up to the top of her by car to wave at our friends who were going out on the cruise ship.) At night, the city and the ships were lit like brilliant starlight. The large yellow Bethlehem Steel Star stood tall to the west of her. You see, for me she was my only option for travel. The tunnels were foreign thoroughfares; the Key Bridge was my method of travel no matter what! It saddens me that our circular beltway is now just a horseshoe since she is gone. I wish the multitude of road signs around my home would stop saying, "Key Bridge Closed. Take alternate route." They should say instead, "The Key Bridge is no more. Rest in peace. Take alternate route."

Almost two decades ago, Lee and I found an acre of property right on Lynch Cove of Bear Creek and took years and years to build our house. It had to be built high because of lessons the area learned from Isabel's destruction. We nearly flew out of our seats one day soon after the outer structure of our home was finished, when we crossed the Key Bridge and could see our home from there. Hurrying home and running up to the top floor of our house, I could see the bridge to the east of us and for a few years there would be fireworks behind it on New Year's Eve and July 4th, until they moved them, I guess. Now, looking out that window, I see nothing but sky.

The second Jewish temple was sort of like the Key Bridge, in that both took about five years to build but such short times for them to be no more. My friend collapsed in just seconds. Jesus likened his body to the temple. Our bodies are the temples for the Lord now. Can Jesus then be the bridge we've lost, connecting us to all whose lives are severely impacted by this tragedy? We'll most likely need to give out more food and toiletries, things that will not only be in short supply because of shipping issues but may be above budget means for those whose jobs are suddenly in jeopardy. My mighty and powerful friend who held up 30,000 vehicles a day, including mine and those of my family, collapsed! While I can hardly believe it, it brings to my mind a stark reality: Nothing made with human hands has even a miniscule speck of the power our Lord God has!

I heard the death groans of my dear friend. I was finishing up the movie *Anatomy of a Fall* way too late, on a night I should have been in bed long ago, but around 1:15, I climbed into bed and soon after heard what sounded like a terrific thunderstorm coming up with major wind force, since the windows were rattling and shaking. I was about to wake Lee, but then I thought maybe it was just the sound of a truck convoy on the Peninsula Bridge. The next morning, I found out that I was up with my beautiful bridge and heard her die. I'm glad I was able to find that closure and say goodbye.

Blessings and Comfort,

Pastor Ellen



Spring is a time to reflect, refresh, and renew ourselves. Easter is a perfect time for these three 'Rs.' Take time to reflect on yourself and your impact on your spiritual life. How can you refresh and renew yourself? Make a personal commitment to yourself on your ponderings.



I keep recalling the old adage, "April showers bring May flowers." I love flowers and the outstanding flower gardens we have here at Christus Victor. A huge thank you to the Garden Team who maintains the gardens. Remember the important role bees make in pollinating our flowers. Spring flowers are a gift

from God and remind us that spring is a time of renewal.

Did you know that Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970? Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. This year's theme is "Planet vs. Plastics." As you reflect on Earth Day, think about your carbon foot print. How much plastic do you use? Do you recycle? How can you be a better care giver of this beautiful earth God has given us. On April 22, plant a tree or garden, or take a walk to view Spring's beauty to commemorate Earth Day.



Bee Peaceful,

Linda Meyer

Council President



JoAnn Bakie – Health issues (Daughter of Bea Walshinsky, mother of Angela Meyers)

Bette - Please pray for her new round of cancer medication to work so that she goes into remission. (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

The Family of Brent – Pray for comfort for his family, as he passed away on Easter morning (Nephew of Becky Sprinkle's sister).

Greg Bryant – Son-in-law of the Stansburys

Kelly Stansbury Bryant – Daughter of the Stansburys

Janet & Tommy Burkhart – Niece & nephew of the Stansburys

Summer Cieszynski – Pray for healing from a serious Lupus attack with complications (Family of Phyllis Christopher).

Tyler Dickens – Pray for healing from a brain injury after a serious car crash. Pray for his family also (Friend of Quinn Krich).

Beth F. -- Pray for strength, peace and healing as her doctors search for an alternative chemotherapy treatment (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

Loretta Gleason – Pray for strength and healing (Birdie Patrick's sister).

Joe Gordon – Friend of Carol & Howard Stansbury

Roberta Hanna – Friend of Carol & Howard Stansbury

Debra Hopple – Undergoing chemo for breast cancer (Daughter-in-law of Tom & Diane Hopple)

Tom Hopple* -- Hospitalized after a fall in which he broke his hip. Pray also for Diane, his loving caretaker.

Joe Marsheck* -- Pray for the miracle of healing and for comfort and peace while going through treatments.

Christine McCann – Pray for strength and increasing wellness as she adjusts to regular dialysis (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

Katie McPherson - Pray for recovery from the sudden onslaught of Bells Palsy.

Meg – Pray for wellness of muscles and nerves and strength to cope with what she is facing (Friend of Joyce McMahon).

Pat – Pray for healing from double breast cancer (Stepdaughter of Barbara Francis, Bible study member).

Connie Petrovich – Daughter-in-law of Len & Sandy Petrovich

Charlotte Pullara – Pray for healing and no need for future surgeries (Mother of Stephanie Vancura).

Erika Scarcella – In the hospital being tested for seizures (Grandaughter of the McCreas)

Joann Schoenfeld - Friend of Carol & Howard Stansbury

Terrie Sommers – Health issues (Niece of Pat Eichner)

Rich Souders – Pray for rehab to enable him to return home under Carol's care. Pray also for Carol, his caretaker.

Harper Struntz – 9-year old transplant patient, currently with Covid (Friend of the McCreas)

Susan Stygler – Lost everything in a house fire (Friend of the McCreas)

Michele Thompson – Health issues (Daughter of Bea Walshinsky)

Lisa Triller - Granddaughter of Len & Sandy Petrovich

David Wilford – Brother-in-law of Michael and Bette Schumann, recently diagnosed with cancer. Please pray for strength, comfort and effective treatment.

Les Yeagle – In hospice (Friend of Arlene and Charles Leight)

Laura Young – Niece of Jane Bowie

Members at Home:

Diane Frederick Jeanne George Tom Hopple Elsie Peck Jim Umerley Bea Walshinsky

Jack Zimmerman



Gospel Lessons

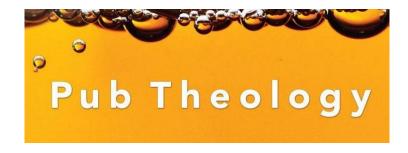
April 7	John 20:19—31	O sons and daughters, let us sing
April 14	Luke 24:36b48	We who once were dead
April 21	John 10:11—18	Have no fear, little flock
April 28	John 15:1—8	O blessed spring



Pastor Ellen wearing the beautiful, vibrant stole made for her by Pat Eichner. What a treasure!



The First Sunday Social on April 7th will be hosted by the Ushers. Please come to the fellowship hall after worship for refreshments and conversation!



Please join us at The Bowman on Harford Road at 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 3rd**. Topic: Evil in this world. 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. We love new voices!

Please keep bringing in pull tabs from aluminum cans. The money raised from recycling them is used to purchase gas for the shuttle that takes Ronald McDonald House families to and from the hospital. Every little bit helps!





Congregational Survey

Everyone for whom the church has contact information should have received a survey electronically or will soon receive one in the mail. The deadline for responses has been extended to Sunday, April 14th. Please contact Kelly Ruby or another Mutual Ministry team member if you have any questions. Paper copies are available at church, and you need not be a member to share your opinions. Thank you to all who have already responded!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 -- April Eichner

4 -- Madeleine Armstrong

5 -- Natalie Vancura

11 -- Nancy Yeager

13 -- Courtney Nichols, Betty Schumann

14 -- Alex Lankford

16 -- Barb Vigna, Nathan Walck

18 -- Sandy Petrovich

19 -- Mark Vancura

20 -- Rebecca Falloni

24 -- Seth Gail

25 -- Sharon Ruthke

26 -- Kelly Ruby

28 -- Marcus Collins



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

3 -- Sherry Simpkins & Mike Small

23 -- Arlene & Charlie Leight

25 -- Larry & Teresa Meley

CHRISTUS VICTOR ANNUAL SHRIMD FFAST APRIL 20, 2024 COST \$30.00 & SOCIAL \$25.00 TIMF 2-5 D.M.



Quilt Raffle



This gorgeous, cheerful, handmade quilt will be raffled off at the Shrimp Feast on April 20th. Take a chance for only \$5! If you won't be attending the Shrimp Feast, you can still give your money for the quilt raffle to Helen Tennant in advance.

The Joy of Unselfish Giving

Time is not measured by the years that you live But by the deeds that you do and the joy that you give---And each day as it comes brings a chance to each one To love to the fullest, leaving nothing undone That would brighten the life or lighten the load Of some weary traveler lost on Life's Road---So what does it matter how long we may live If as long as we live we unselfishly give.

> --Helen Steiner Rice Submitted by Marie Greb



During spring break, Natalie and Courtney Vancura visited the beautiful campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Flea Market



And Iraft Fair



and bake sale









To become a vendor and join in the fun call the office at 410.668.8089 between 9-1 for details & to reserve your spot!

Mutual Ministry

Ministry is the work of and for the whole people of God, not just of the pastor or staff.

Mutual Ministry is meant to help the entire congregation better accomplish God's mission in working together for the glory of God.

The focus is on means of improvement rather than on reasons why something was or was not done and on celebrating successes and resolving the challenges.

Don't think you have to handle an issue alone — we are here to listen and support as needed.

Please contact a Mutual Ministry team member if you have any concerns, issues or questions.

Your Mutual Ministry Team,

Kelly (410-274-9156) Cheryl (410-935-4641) Joel (410-592-7759) Ugonnaya (443-559-2655)



CALLING ALL BOYS AND GIRLS K--GRADE 5 TO JOIN THE CUB SCOUTS PACK 183

Scouts meet Tuesday nights at Christus Victor.

They have lots of fun events and community service projects throughout the year!

Please contact Cubmaster Sarah Barrett at pack183carney@gmail.com for more information.



When someone visits Christus Victor for the first time, we now have welcome gift bags to show our appreciation for them and to give them more information about our church beyond the worship service. And each and every one of us can welcome visitors with a smile and an introduction!

Sunday School

Our latest Bible Buddy was Amanda. She is a red panda and not related to the black and white panda! Amanda taught us, "Don't worry about anything: instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done." (Philippians 4:6) We also learned that God knows what we need. After those four weeks we jumped into Lent, then Holy Week, and we studied the Trinity on St. Patrick's Day. On Palm Sunday, we decorated "floats" and had a parade! On Easter we did some reviews and played some games after making our Resurrection Rolls. Yummy!!! At church we sang "Beautiful Savior."









On April 7th we will meet our last Bible Buddy of the year. On May 5th, we will be decorating flower pots for a surprise gift for all our mothers in church. The rest of May, we will be doing our quarterly review and working on the Lord's Prayer. No Sunday School on May 26th (enjoy your long weekend). We will finish on June 2nd with class and then a party after church. We hope to be outside if the weather is good!

Youth Group

Our Youth Group met on March 13th to work on some ongoing service projects. We assembled a "Christian Survival Kit" to be added to the gift bags being given to visitors to Christus Victor. This little token will be a way to let visitors know we have a Youth Group and Sunday School. We then met on the 27th for a Holy Week Scavenger Hunt. Information about each of the days including Ascension was hidden around the building. Each person was given a list of questions to find the answers to. At the end, Pastor Ellen reviewed the answers with the group.











We are in the process of having CVLC Youth Group t-shirts made for each youth. We sent an idea to Katie Petersen and she was able to design a logo that everyone loved. Katie will be embroidering the logo onto the shirts. We are excited and hope to have these soon.

Easter Egg Hunt

Again, this year, we were gifted a rainy day for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and it was a lot! However, it did not prohibit more than 25 children from showing up excited to see where we could hide the Easter eggs indoors. We started in the church with Pastor Ellen leading the Resurrection Eggs Easter Story. From there, we left in groups to hunt for the eggs. Guess who popped out? The sun! Then we were able to get a few eggs hidden in the garden. We had a photo op station in the parlor and were blessed with a guest Easter Bunny. Once eggs were found and emptied, we had crafts and lunch. Additionally, this year we had a bake sale, which was very successful; all the money collected went to the roof (building) fund. The Faith, Fellowship and Fun committee joined me this year in hosting this event, as well as Mr. Jim, Mr. Len and many of our youth group.

All children were given an announcement of our Vacation Bible School dates.











Vacation Bible School

SCUBA! is our theme for this year. Our dates are July 29th thru August 2nd. We meet at night, beginning at 5:30 p.m. for a light dinner and 6:00–8:00 p.m. for our program. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know.

Sandy Petrovích

Candlerich54@gmail.com / Text 410-241-8814

There's not enough darkness in the world to put out the light of one small candle!



On Palm Sunday, the congregation processed from the courtyard into the sanctuary shouting, "Hosanna!"

Memorial Service for Virginia Huettner

A memorial service and luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 13th, starting at 11 a.m. to celebrate the centennial life of Virginia Huettner. Her family would like to welcome everyone to come and pay tribute to God's daughter who now rests in God's arms.

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

This summer we will be transforming our church, classrooms, fellowship hall and hallways into a spectacular under water sensation. We can use some items you may normally throw away or **recycle**.

egg cartons

cardboard drink carriers

2 liter plastic bottles with lids (washed please)

plastic bottle caps (water bottle, medicine bottle caps)

packing peanuts, bubble wrap, packing paper

paper towel rolls or larger cardboard tubes

bowls (paper, plastic, cardboard)

Things from the Dollar Tree

pool noodles

bath scrunchies/loofa

colorful tissue paper

paper lanterns

scalloped bowls (come in colors)

I am sure we will need other items as we move forward. Thank you for your support.



COUNTRY Line Dancing

A11 skill levels welcome!

\$5 Donation Includes: line dance instruction & lite grub

Wednesday, April 17th 6-8pm









Beginning April 7th, we will be selling raffle tickets in the narthex after church for a cowboy hat filled with fun items.





Left: Our beautiful living cross. Right: We can count on Nancy Yeager to wear a hat on Easter!

Christus Victor Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 12, 2024

Council Meetings are Open and Everyone Is Invited to Attend.

The Executive Board met Sunday, February 11, 2024, to plan the agenda.

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

Attendance: Pastor Ellen Krich, Phil Biedronski via Zoom, Linda Meyer, Linda McMahon, Sandy Petrovich, Kelly Ruby, Howard

Stansbury, Helen Tennant, Stephanie Vancura, Andrea Zahirsky and David Murray.

Absent: Michael Schumann

Call to Order at 7:00 pm

Pastor Ellen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Review of minutes, motion to approve was made by Andrea Zahirsky and seconded by David Murray, minutes were accepted. A copy of the minutes will be published in the next *Oakleaf*.

Asset Account – Phil Biedronski prepared an Asset Report for the Council and a copy was distributed to the council. The Account balance was \$542,421 as of 01/31/24, a decrease of 0.2% from the previous month.

Status of Funds - Helen Tennant

As of 1/31/24 are as follows; the General Fund balance was \$14,597.10, the balance for the Victor Vittles account was \$6,038.88 and the Savings Account balance was \$12,047.56. Total income for January 2024 was \$22,979.07. Total Expenses for this period were \$26,030.59. Total net ordinary income for December 2023 was –\$3,051.52. A \$500.00 bequest was not spent in 2023; Helen indicated that it was inconvenient to return the money to the asset account. Andrea, as the vice president of the council, made the decision to move the money to the Victor's Vittles account. \$5,500.00 was paid for the deposit for the roof repair. The insurance company has informed the church that the roof repairs are covered. Helen has suggested that a separate account should be created to set funds aside for building repairs. A motion was made by Andrea and seconded by Linda McMahon to approve this change.

Pastor's Report

The report outlined a list of the Pastor's suggested action items.

Visitation Team – Training has been completed.

Baptism – Sunday 2/18 during service

Funeral – Virgina Huettner – 2/13 family only. Memorial Service will be planned for a later date.

Three Crosses – The crosses will be installed in front lawn.

Deacon – A new deacon is interested in possibly joining the church.

ELCA Hunger Force Conference — proposed food festival to share information and resources. Date to be determined.

Evangelism Report

College Student project was reported on by Stephanie Vancura. Valentine packages have been sent out. Welcome packages for visitors to church services were discussed. Committee is working on details. Postal cards to invite people in the local Parkville zip code are being worked on by David Murray.

Old Business:

Howard Stansbury updated the roof status. He detailed his process for obtaining estimates and determining the best vendor. The insurance inspector has been on site and determined the costs for repairs of the roof and inside the building will be covered. Lee Krich has already begun repairs in the building and the vendor has completed the repairs to the roof.

Howard also reported that the church has been contacted in regards to a sewer line installation on our property for new construction behind the back parking lot and to the right of the Victor's Vittles buildings. The work will be done 200 feet behind the church building and will not impact our parking lot. The business will pay for the easement.

Sherry Simpkins has informed the church that she will donate \$2000.00 for tile for the bathrooms. Howard is getting quotes for the cost of the repairs.

Classroom cleanup in process in several areas. Nursery equipment will be cleaned this week.

Helen Tennant indicated that the Organ Fund has been already created and the issue has been outlined for the congregation in the Oakleaf this week.

Norms were reviewed and no changes were proposed.

The Directory is ready to print and will be distributed next Sunday.

Book Study will begin next week; Linda Meyer distributed the schedule for discussion each month.

The church survey was discussed. Kelly Ruby indicated that the subjects to be addressed will be the service, the sermon and the music selection. She is working on a draft of the survey.

Ellen Krich will discuss the Master Calendar with Phyllis Christopher.

Linda McMahon will confirm the dates for the line dancing class with Joyce McMahon.

The designated smoking areas has been discussed with the groups that use the hall on a regular basis. A new sign has been ordered and the bucket has been moved farther away from the canopy.

New Business:

Rental dates for the hall were proposed by Andrea Zahirsky. Two new dates were discussed. Sandy made a motion to approve and Kelly seconded it. The rental dates were approved.

A new Inclement Weather Policy was proposed by Andrea Zahirsky. The policy was acceptable by the council; however, the bylaws will have to be changed.

The Call-em-All system was discussed and Ellen explained that the cost has been paid and she will send out the first message this week in regards to the Pancake Dinner.

Helen Tennant detailed all of the cleaning and reorganizing that has been completed this month. The Hall closet and the kitchen have been re-organized. Holiday decorations have been consolidated and labelled. Everyone is encouraged to use these supplies for First Sunday Lunches. Signs have been posted in the kitchen encouraging all users to clean and put kitchen equipment away.

Sherry Simpkins resigned from the Council.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Helen and seconded by David. Motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned and it ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Reminder: Next Council Meeting March 11, 2024, 7 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda McMahon, Secretary



April

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Easter Monday	9:30 am- Christus Comforters 11 am- Victor's Vittles Volunteers 6:30 pm Scouts	3 6:30–8:30 pm Pub Theology at the Bowman Restaurant at 9306 Harford Road. TOPIC: Evil in this world.	7 pm- Christian Ed Meeting in Confirmation Classroom 7:30 pm NA Group	7 pm- New Beginnings	g-11 am Victor's Vittles
7 a am Sunday School and Confirmation .o am: Worship st Sunday Social	7 pm- Council 7 pm- Women's NA Group	9 9:30 am- Christus Comforters 11 am-Victor's Vittles Volunteers 6:30 pm- Scouts	10 6-8 pm- Youth Group	7:30 pm NA Group	7 pm- New Beginnings	9-11 am Victor's Vittles 11 am – Memorial Service for Virginia Huettner; 12 pm lunch. All are invited.
14 g am Sunday School and Confirmation .o am: Worship	7 pm- Women's NA Group	g:30 am- Christus Comforters 11 am- Victor's Vittles Volunteers 6:30 pm- Scouts	FFF Event Line Dancing 6-8 pm	18 7:30 pm NA Group	7 pm- New Beginnings	9-11 am Victor's Vittles Shrimp Feast 2-5 pm
21 g am Sunday School and Confirmation to am: Worship	7 pm- Women's NA Group	9:30 am- Christus Comforters 11 am- Victor's Vittles Volunteers 7 pm- PCRC	6-8 pm Youth Group	25 7:30 pm NA Group	7 pm- New Beginnings	g-11 am Victor's Vittles
g am Sunday School and Confirmation Lo am: Worship Cub Pack Bake & Coupon Sale after Worship	7 pm- Women's NA Group	30 9:30 am- Christus Comforters 11 am- Victor's Vittles Volunteers				

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

President—Linda Meyer
Vice President—Andrea Zahirsky
Secretary—Linda McMahon
Treasurer—Helen Tennant
Worship and Music—Michael Schumann
Social Ministry—Helen Tennant
Faith, Fellowship & Fun—Stephanie Vancura
Christian Education—Sandy Petrovich
Administration—Andrea Zahirsky
Evangelism—Dave Murray
Property—Howard Stansbury
Stewardship— vacant
Mutual Ministry—Kelly Ruby
Asset Account Manager—Phil Biedronski (not a voting member of the council)



CONTACTS

Pastor: Ellen Krich 410.236.9115 pastor@christusvictoronline.org

Director of Music: Taylor Armstrong 410.340.6595 tsarmstrong@gmail.com **Sunday School Superintendent:** Sandy Petrovich 410.241.8814 call or text

Altar Guild: Andrea Zahirsky 410.668.8165 Ushers: Sherry Simpkins 410.668.8165

Parish Administrator: Sharon Ibex office@christusvictoronline.org Office phone: 410.668.8089 Office hours: M-F 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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