



CHRISTUS VICTOR

Evangelical Lutheran Church

9833 Harford Road, Baltimore, MD 21234



JUNE 2025



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Christus Victor Beloved Members,

June did not lumber in; it shot forth like a windy beauty leaving May behind in warm and sunny dust. It is no secret that time flies: Spring flies by, and summer is right on its heels, racing forward. So, what are we to do? Capture every bit of gusto, every bit of ministry, every bit of abundant life it allows.

I love to write poetry, and while this little poem isn't one of my finest, I felt it captured the feeling I'm having while writing the June letter:

Many a hurry each day by
And carries along each busy fellow
No ease or rest does it give.
The Holy Spirit blows it yonder.
As it wants, the wind
To and from, circular spin
Two steps forward, backward a spiraling storm
Takes along each little soul trying to stay warm.

Carpe diem! Seize each breath of the last days of spring and the first days of summer. Bask in the light of the longest day of the year. Remember that Christ is the light of the world, and think of Holy Spirit each time the wind blows. Every breath we take is from God.

Blessings little souls,
Pastor Ellen





Dear Christus Victor Family,

As summer begins, many of us are thinking and planning vacations. My question to you is, "Who and what are you taking on vacation with you?"

As you know, church attendance drops during the summer. When you are not at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, do you worship somewhere else? Worship does not have to be in a church building; it could be on a beach, in a boat, on a lake, at a campsite, or anywhere "where two or more are gathered."



Think about taking your Bible, a prayer book, or a hymnal to plan an informal prayer service with your family and friends.

Have a relaxing and safe summer.

Bee Peaceful,

Linda Meyer
Council President

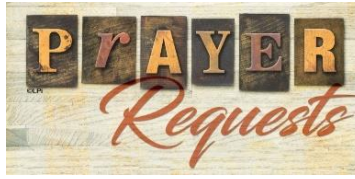
I found the quote below from the new Pope very thought-provoking and interesting:

God doesn't shout. God whispers. And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything.

I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs.

I am not asking you to believe in everything. I'm asking you not to close the door. Give a chance to the God who waits for you without judgment.

---Pope Leo XIV



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)
Kim Bruns – Recovering after surgery for serious spinal injury (Niece of Mike & Betty Schumann)
Henry Hale Brzozowski – Baby born prematurely (cousin of Emily Krich)
Greg Bryant – (Stansburys)
Kelly Stansbury Bryant – (Stansburys)
Patty Buddemeyer – Health issues (daughter of the Leights)
Daryl Burman – (Howard Stansbury)
Robert Chilcote* - Pray for strengthening of his heart
Sheila Clark – Stroke (cousin of Diane Hopple)
Keith Cohen – Stroke & blood clot (nephew of Kathleen Clement)
Rob Coppage – Battling cancer (nephew of Birdie Patrick)
Regina Delozier – (Stansburys)
Ola Denues – Recovering from brain surgery (cousin of Karen Biedronski)
Helena Discher – Needs bypass surgery (Jan Williams)
Darlene Evans – Fighting cancer (Sandy Petrovich)
Anna Fowler – Pray for peace of mind and healing that she might no longer need oxygen (Jan Williams)
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)
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)
Pam – Brain tumor (friend of Virginia McCurdy)
Ken McPherson – (Rachel and Emma McPherson)
Roger McPherson – (Kelly Ruby and Joan Ruby)
Grayson Myers – (Grandson of Nancy Myers)
Susan Parker – Pray for well-being after a paralyzing stroke (Bea Walshinsky's daughter)
Ronnie – (Shraders)
Rosemary – Stage 4 pancreatic cancer
Emily Scranton – (Shraders)
Rebekah Scranton – (Shraders)
Jake Sittler* – Pray for strength and continued wellness
Rosemary Sommers – Stroke (Pat Eichner)
Terrie Sommers – Health issues (Pat Eichner)
Tjark Steg – (Stansburys)

Ginny Thompson – Numerous health issues (Merle Vogel)
Michele Thompson – Health issues (Bea Walshinsky)
Carol Tracey – Health Issues (Jane Bowie)
Tyler Walsh – Long recovery from a motorcycle accident (Linda Meyer)
The family of Jack Zimmerman*
*member CVLC

Members at Home or in Long-Term Care
Diane Frederick **Jeanne George** **Bea Walshinsky**



While we will always have room for all those who need our prayers, it is important to keep the prayer list up to date. A request is typically granted for four weeks, but names will not be automatically deleted. It is up to you to check in with our parish administrator, Sharon Ibex, by phone or email to let her know whether someone can be removed or to update their status. An ideal time to do this would be a few days before the end of the month, so the latest information can be published in *The Oakleaf*.

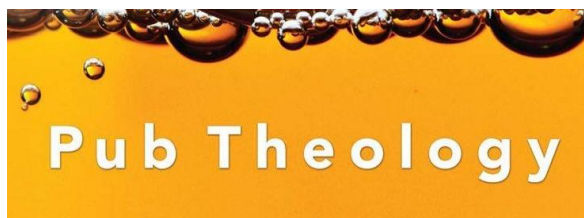


Gospel Lessons

June 1	John 17:20–26	Son of God, eternal Savior
June 8	John 14:8–17[25–27] <i>Day of Pentecost</i>	Like the murmur of the dove's song
June 15	John 16:12–15	Holy Spirit, truth divine
June 22	Luke 8:26–39	Oh, praise the gracious power
June 29	John 21:15–19	By all your saints



No First Sunday Social in June. Instead, we will have a picnic (outdoors, weather permitting) after worship on the second Sunday, June 8. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!



Please join us at The Bowman on Harford Road at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, June 4th**. 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: Prayer.

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.

June: Cereal/oatmeal

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!

Spotlight on New Council Members: Melissa Collins

I am the daughter of Len and Sandy Petrovich and granddaughter of Marie Greb. My five kids, Mason, Makenna, Meghan, Miley and Marcus were baptized, communed, and confirmed within the church. We all attend church events, volunteer to help as much as possible and love being involved and making friends here at church!

I have been a Facility Manager for over 20 years and recently passed the FMP certification program. I am well versed in contract negotiations, pricing negotiations, and managing building projects.

I also have a home business working with a wedding planner designing wedding stationery. I have designed invitations and day of wedding stationery for not very well-known celebrities!

I hope to bring my talents and professional skills to help in my role on the council.



VBS crafting has begun!

See the "Magnified" page later in this newsletter for dates when you can come and help make the magic happen.



The “Quiet Room” is a place for a parent to take their young children during the service, if *they* feel the need. We love our little ones in church with us. Just know that we will have scheduled supervision each Sunday. The service is simulcast, and the children will be brought into church for the kid’s talk and back again for communion with their family.

The “Quiet Room” opens with supervision on June 1st. Some of our youth took and passed the CPR and choking class earlier this year. They have agreed to supervise the Quiet Room. This is a great way to give your time and talents to our church. If you would like to be added to the schedule, please see Sandy Petrovich.

Below is our first schedule for June, with hopes that you may decide to volunteer your time also.

QUIET ROOM CHAPERONES SCHEDULE

June 1 Marcus Collins and Marie Greb

June 8 Hailey Willis and Colette Revels

June 15 Haley Tozer and Cora

June 22 Quinn and Chloe Krich

June 29 Andrea Zahirsky and Meghan Collins

Responsibilities:

Have the service streaming on TV.

Bring children in for the kid’s talk and communion.

Put away all toys after communion.

Dispose of any food and beverages in trash can.

One person will accompany child to bathroom if needed. No need to go in with them (if not necessary), but wait outside to accompany back to the Quiet Room.

SUNDAY! SUNDAY! SUNDAY!!

JUNE 8TH

**YOUTH SUNDAY
SERVICE!**

**ANNUAL CHURCH
PICNIC!**

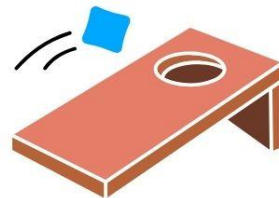


**BRING YOUR FAVORITE SIDE DISH TO
SHARE!**

**WE WILL SUPPLY HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS,
AND DRINKS.**



GAMES





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) starting June 1st or pick up registration forms on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Decoration making starts in June.

Daytime: 10 AM–12 PM, June 4th and 18th and July 2nd and 16th

Nighttime: 7–9 PM, June 12th and 26th and July 10th and 30th.

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!



VACATION TIME !



Let's plan ahead! While on vacation and traveling this summer, collect the small toiletries from your hotels. We will be using them in the Fall for our "God's Hands - Our Work" project. (more to come later)

Things we are looking for:

Travel sized shampoo, conditioner, body wash.

Travel size deodorant

Toenail clippers

Hand Sanitizer Spray

Small container of wet wipes

Tampons (Cotton)

Disposable razors

Band aids

Socks

Toothbrush & Toothpaste

Toothpicks

Snacks (crackers, etc)



Sunday School

Our end of year celebration will be bowling with pizza at Towson AMF duckpin lanes. We will have pictures next month!

Youth Group

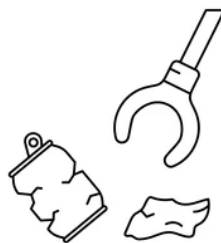
On Sunday, June 8, the youth will be sharing what they learned at their Synod retreat last fall. We will be helping Pastor Ellen with the service, singing some of our songs, and giving the adults a break. After the service, we will enjoy our annual church picnic.

As of May 14, the youth have taken on the responsibility of inspecting the church grounds before their meetings and picking up litter. We explained to them about “Time and Talents” and how this is a way they can give back to their church. Karen Biedronski was nice enough to purchase two “grabbers” for us, as well as disposable gloves. We hope you notice the difference.



Sandy Petrovich

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





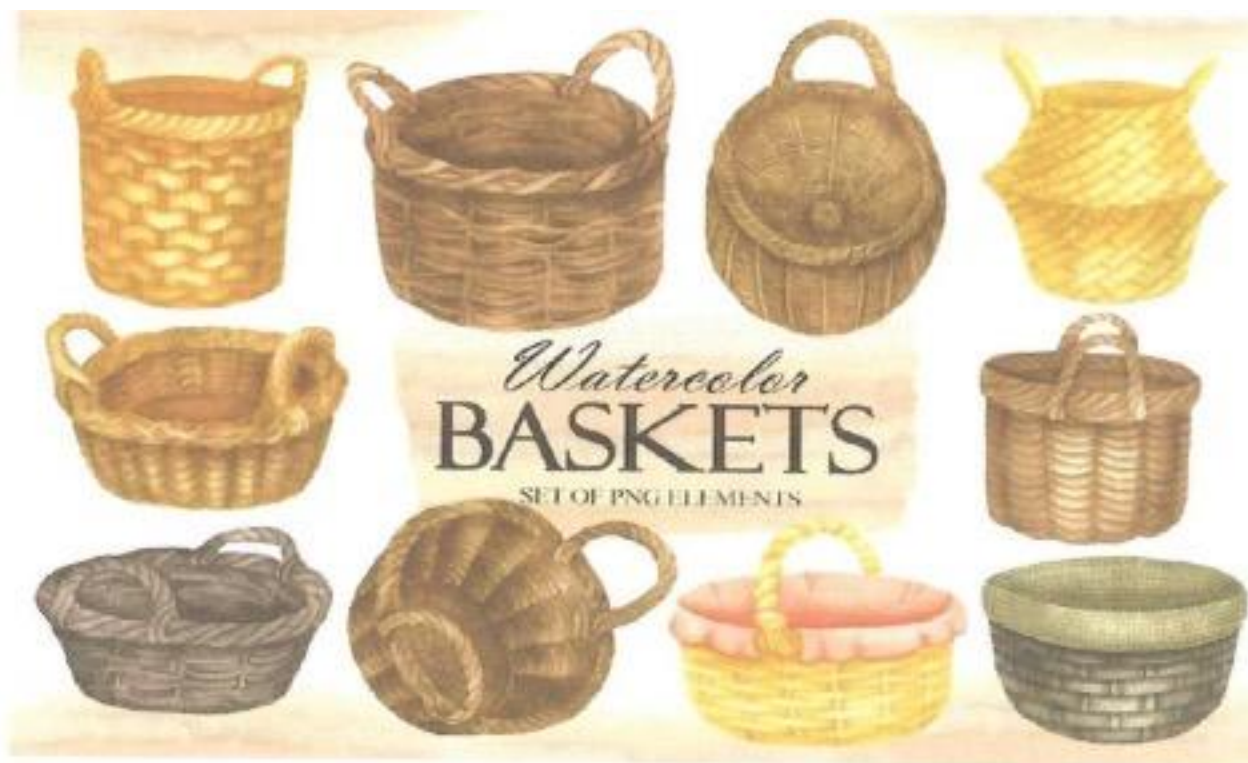
Here's a glimpse of our beloved music director serving in the Middle East.
He's the one wearing sunglasses (on the far left)!

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

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## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Every year for the Holiday Bazaar, I make pre-made gift baskets for sale. I am in need of wicker or decorative baskets for this project. If you have any baskets you would like to donate to this project, leave them in the Fellowship Hall and I will pick them up. Thanks for your support. Helen Tennant



***Madison Hieber*** graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Sports Management from Shenandoah University. She was on the President's List for five semesters. Madison was a four-year member of the women's soccer team and a two-year captain. She was selected to the ODAC sportsmanship team for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Madison will be working at Concordia Preparatory School, her alma mater, and coaching a Baltimore Union girls soccer team.



**Natalie Vancura** graduated Magna Cum Laude from Gettysburg College with Bachelors of Arts in Health Sciences and Public Policy with a Business minor. She earned honors in both of her majors and received the Gettysburg College Student Leadership award and the Eternal Light of Peace-Peace Light Award for her involvement.

Throughout her four years, she was a member of the Stem Scholars Program, a Fielding Fellow where she traveled to London and wrote a paper for the US State Department, a Washington Summer Fellow, President of the Newman Association, involved in Catholic Campus Ministry, a member of the Interfaith Council, a Public Policy Journal Editor, and was inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the Public Policy Honor Society.

After Gettysburg, Natalie will be working as a Community Sales Associate at Brightview Towson and plans to attend plenty of Orioles games.

**Christus Victor Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes**

**April 14, 2025**

***Council meetings are open and everyone is invited to attend.  
The Executive Board met to plan the agenda on Sunday, April 13, 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, Howard Stansbury, Shelly Shrader (Zoom), Phil Biedronski (Asset Account Manager, via Zoom)  
Absent: Melissa Collins, Kelly Ruby

**Call to Order at 7:00 pm**

Pastor Ellen Krich opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Michael Schumann and seconded by Andrea Zahirsky; the motion was passed. A copy of the minutes will be published in the next *Oakleaf*.

**Asset Account – Phil Biedronski**

Phil Biedronski provided the Morgan Stanley Investment Account summary of activity for the month ending March 31, 2025. Our combined asset accounts lost \$286 in March; our investments did better than the stock indexes. Our account balance stood at \$546,778 on 3/31/2025.

**Status of Funds – Helen Tennant**

- The March 2025 Profit and Loss report indicated that our income fell short of our expenses by \$1,071.68.
- George Warren's IRA (<\$300) still to come; ~\$50,000 from Nancy Kohlman's estate is also pending.
- Helen Tennant made a motion to pay Barbara Skillman an additional \$50 per week when she is holding choir practice as well as playing the organ. Mike Schumann seconded the motion; the motion passed.
- Helen Tennant made a motion to pay Tate Armstrong \$500 per pay period (every two weeks) vs. \$500 monthly during his deployment. Howard Stansbury seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**Pastor's Report**

- Pastor Ellen will lead Jim Umerley's memorial service on Wednesday, April 16.
- Pastor Ellen would like to provide a Sunday 3 p.m. service at the Resorts of Augsburg (formerly Augsburg Lutheran Home) sometime in the fall after Tate returns.
- Still need members to attend the Synod Assembly (possibly Linda McMahon).
- Noisy change offering will be collected in May leading up to the assembly.
- Joan Ruzicka and Melissa O'Donnell wish to become members of our congregation. Sandy Petrovich made a motion to approve their membership; Ugonnaya Obineme seconded the motion, and it was approved by all. They will be taken in on Sunday, May 4th.
- Deacon Shelly will preach on the last Sunday in April, and Doug Meekins will speak on May 4th as part of our stewardship program.
- Need a pictorial directory of members to help us know one another. Will get a committee together to investigate whether a photo studio or self-publishing is best.

**Old Business**

**CLAIM Membership**

Ugonnaya Obineme made a motion for Christus Victor to join CLAIM (Coalition of Lutherans Advancing in Mission). Linda McMahon seconded the motion; a majority approved, and the motion passed.

### Outstanding Projects

- Mike Schumann took Pastor Ellen's official photo and will work on framing it.
- Linda McMahon is framing the photo of the church taken by Bob Heyman.
- Pastor Ellen will form a committee to organize the records of the scattering garden.
- Painting by Nick Zahirsky (altar room; sanctuary and fellowship hall touchups) has been delayed but happening soon.
- Refinishing of tiled floors was completed by Higher Standard Carpet Cleaning. Will find a company that handles commercial properties next time.
- Narthex bathrooms need renovation. Howard Stansbury will work with a committee to get estimates.
- Need a tutorial so all council members can successfully program the fellowship hall door to remain unlocked and then relock it.

### Property Report

- On April 5, the CPR/AED/choking/Narcan training for certification was well attended.
- A new landscaping company, Rodriguez Lawncare & Landscaping, has been hired to do the grass cutting and tree/shrub maintenance.
- On April 28, BGE will replace the fluorescent lighting throughout the buildings with more efficient LED lights at no cost to Christus Victor.

### New Business

- Medical equipment that has been piling up under the coat rack in the narthex will be reduced to one wheelchair and one walker. Other items will be donated to LMS.
- Howard Stansbury will purchase a new first aid kit for the narthex.
- Sandy Petrovich made a motion to move the church picnic from June 1 to June 8; Mike Schumann seconded the motion, and all approved. There will not be a First Sunday Social in June; the picnic will serve as the monthly social.
- Sandy Petrovich made a motion to move the Faith, Fellowship and Fun Team from under the umbrella of the Fellowship Team to Social Ministry. Ugonnaya Obineme seconded the motion, and it was passed.
- Sandy Petrovich proposed having a structure built to hold special event signs to avoid the issues of the vinyl signs sagging and falling off the wall---To be investigated further.
- Sandy will box up choir robes and move acolyte robes to the choir room, freeing up space the Scouts can use that is out of sight. She will also dispose of Walk with Jesus supplies.

### Social Ministry

Helen Tennant made a motion to allow use of the fellowship hall on the following dates: Wednesday, April 16, Jim Umerley memorial service; Saturday, April 26, Lena Gorman memorial service (Karen Biedronski); Sunday, May 4, Stansbury family baptism; Sunday, June 1, Marsheck graduation party. Joel McCrea seconded the motion; 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 9:01 p.m. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

**Reminder: Next council meeting is on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 7 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Biedronski, Secretary

*Please send Oakleaf submissions to the church office or directly to Karen Biedronski (charmcitystamper@verizon.net) by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*

# June 2025

| Sun.                                                                              | Mon.                                                          | Tue.                                                                                              | Wed.                                   | Thu. | Fri.                        | Sat.                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1<br>10 am - Worship                                                              | 2<br>6 pm - OSSD<br>7 pm - NA Group                           | 3<br>9:30 am - Christus Comforters<br>11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers<br>5:15 pm - The Chosen | 4<br>6 pm - Pub Theology at The Bowman | 5    | 6<br>7 pm - New Beginnings  | 7<br>9-11 am Victor's Vittles  |
| 8<br>10 am - Worship:<br>Youth Service followed by church picnic<br>Youth bowling | 9<br>6 pm - OSSD<br>7 pm - Council meeting<br>7 pm - NA Group | 10<br>9:30 am - Christus Comforters<br>11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers                        | 11<br>6-8 pm - Youth Group             | 12   | 13<br>7 pm - New Beginnings | 14<br>9-11 am Victor's Vittles |
| 15<br>10 am - Worship<br>Father's Day Brunch                                      | 16<br>7 pm - NA Group                                         | 17<br>9:30 am - Christus Comforters<br>11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers                        | 18<br>LMS pick up                      | 19   | 20<br>7 pm - New Beginnings | 21<br>9-11 am Victor's Vittles |
| 22<br>10 am - Worship                                                             | 23<br>7 pm - NA Group                                         | 24<br>9:30 am - Christus Comforters<br>11 am - Victor's Vittles Volunteers<br>7 pm - PCRC         | 25<br>6-8 pm - Youth Group             | 26   | 27<br>7 pm - New Beginnings | 28<br>9-11 am Victor's Vittles |
| 29<br>10 am - Worship                                                             | 30<br>7 pm - NA Group                                         |                                                                                                   |                                        |      |                             |                                |
|                                                                                   |                                                               |                                                                                                   |                                        |      |                             |                                |

# 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](mailto:pastor@christusvictoronline.org)

**Director of Music:** Taylor Armstrong 410.340.6595 [tsarmstrong@gmail.com](mailto:tsarmstrong@gmail.com)

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Sandy Petrovich 410.241.8814 call or text

**Altar Guild:** Andrea Zahirsky 410.668.8165

**Ushers:** Sherry Simpkins 410.661.7568

**Parish Administrator:** Sharon Ibex [office@christusvictoronline.org](mailto:office@christusvictoronline.org)

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

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**Victor's Vittles:** Howard Stansbury 410.529.3010

**Financial Secretary:** Sharon Ibex 410.668.8089

**Asset Account Manager:** Phil Biedronski 410.529.9405

**Faith, Fellowship & Fun:** Stephanie Vancura 410.336.2364

**Youth Group:** Gordon Krause 410.812.6362