

8:30 AM Band Led Worship  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Choir Led Worship

1615 E NC Hwy 54, Durham, NC 919-544-7195

[www.christus-victor.org](http://www.christus-victor.org)  
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CHRISTUS VICTOR  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Venture

December 2018

LIVING NATIVITY IS DECEMBER 8!  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018, 6-9 PM

It's time for our gift to the community with our annual Living Nativity.  
Remember to invite your neighbors and friends.



# Ministers In God's House

## December 2018/January 2019

**RE: MINISTERS IN GOD'S HOUSE**

If you cannot serve on the date scheduled, please find a substitute and call the church office the *Tuesday before you are to serve* for the change to be published in the Sunday bulletin.

### December 2018

8:30 AM Band Led Service

**Lay Reader**

2 Scott Justice  
9 Mike Green  
16 Elizabeth Webster  
23 Larry Santeramo  
30 David & Hnery Krebs

**Usher**

2 Scott Justice  
9 David Erusthausen  
16 Tammy Justice  
23 Joan Wilson  
30 David & Henry Krebs

**Communion Assistant**

2 Camden Justice  
9 Deb Schleusener  
16 Brooklyn Justice  
23 Larry Santeramo  
30 Jeff Scott

**Greeter**

2 Camden Justice  
9 Deb Schleusener  
16 Brooklyn Justice  
23 Joan Wilson  
30 Jeff Scott

**AV Assistant**

2 David Krebs  
9 Deb Schleusener  
16 Larry Santeramo  
23 Jeff Scott  
30 Jay Stolzenhaler

10:30 AM Choir Led

**Acolyte**

2 Julia Chappell  
9 Tory Green  
16 Faye Fredrick  
23 Olivia Trantas  
30 Joyce Visconti

**Usher**

2 John Moen & Bryan C.  
9 Faye & Steve Fredrick  
16 Joyce V. & Julia C.  
23 Barbara S & Beth M.  
30 Harry & Joleen Propst

**Lay Reader**

2 Julia Chappell  
9 Joyce Visconti  
16 Bob Feltey  
23 Barb Trapp-Moen  
30 Kathy Noyes

**Host After Worship**

2 Men's Group  
9 Pam Herring  
16 Ken & Kathy Hopson  
23 Conrad & Sandra L.  
30 John & Barb Moen

**Assisting Minister**

2 Cristen Chappell  
9 Cristen Chappell  
16 Jim Goodwin  
23 Kathy Noyes  
30 Shannon Trantas

**Communion Assistant**

2 Kathy Hopson  
9 Cristen Chappell  
16 John Moen  
23 Julia Chappell  
30 Shannon Trantas

**Greeter**

2 Harry & Joleen Propst  
9 Faye & Steve Fredrick  
16 Lorie Bloomer-Burger  
23 Beth Miller  
30 Joyce Visconti

**Wine Supplier** 2,9,16,23,30 Shannon Trantas

**Alter Guild** 2,9,16,23,30 Faye Fredrick/Doris Kelly

**Bread Baker** 2,9,16,23,30 Kathy LeSesne

### January 2018

8:30 AM Band Led Service

**Lay Reader**

7 Larry Santeramo  
14 Scott Justice  
21 David Krebs  
28 David Seibert

**Usher**

7 Larry Santeramo  
14 Tammy Justice  
21 David & Henry Krebs  
28 Jeff Scott

**Communion Assistant**

7 Joan Wilson  
14 Scott Justice  
21 Doris Kelly  
28 Deb Schleusener

**Greeter**

7 Joan Wilson  
14 Tammy Justice  
21 Doris Kelly  
28 Jeff Scott

**AV Assistant**

7 Deb Schleusener  
14 Jeff Scott  
21 Larry Santeramo  
28 Jay Stolzenhaler

10:30 AM Choir Led

**Acolyte**

7 Julia Chappell  
14 Anthony Trantas  
21 Tory Green  
28 Faye Fredrick

**Usher**

7 Joyce Visconti & John M.  
14 Julia C. & Steve Fredrick  
21 Faye F. & Barbara S.  
28 Beth Miller & Bryan C.

**Lay Reader**

7 Kathy Hopson  
14 Faye Fredrick  
21 Sue Feltey  
28 Bryan Chappell

**Host After Worship**

7 Men's Group  
14 Andrea Hernandez  
21 The Butlers  
28 The Chappells

**Assisting Minister**

7 Cristen Chappell  
14 Jim Goodwin  
21 Cristen Chappell  
28 Jim Goodwin

**Greeter**

7 Barbara Sappenfield  
14 Beth Miller  
21 Julia Chappell  
28 Harry & Joleen Propst

**Communion Assistant**

7 Bryan Chappell  
14 Barb Trapp-Moen  
21 Bob Feltey  
28 Barbara Sappenfield

**December Birthdays**

- 4 Joan Wilson**
- 8 Trey Gebhardt**
- 11 Russ Martin**
- 21 Anthony Trantas**
- 27 Henry Miller**
- 31 Diana Hicks**

**Anniversaries**

- 8 Jack & Debbie Weidman**
- 12 Kelsie Bennett & Tim McCaskill**
- 27 Tom & Lauren Baker**



**Congregational Council**

- Mike Green.(Vice President) 919-740-6872
- David Krebs (Secretary) .....919-321-5248
- Nahum Matamoros.....919-357-6154
- Dave Seibert (President).....919-656-0619
- Diana Hicks.....336-364-8545
- Gwen Kuehl.....908-963-3835
- Barbara Sappenfield..... 918-381-2722
- Cristen Chappell..... 919-419-0707
- Beth Miller.....919-544-7061

- Treasurer
- Jay Stolzenhaller.....919-694-5533



**Emergency Contacts**

Due to a recent emergency at church, it was suggested that we keep emergency contacts in the office. If you choose, you can give Samantha (our office administrator) any emergency contact numbers, so that we can get a hold of them for you. Also, as a suggestion, if you have any health issues, that an EMT might need to know about you, please add that along with emergency contact information.



**Altar Flowers**

A new Flower sign chart for the first six months of 2019 will be going up soon. Look for it on the Narthex bulletin board (at the top of the stairs). If you desire to donate flowers, add your name for the date you want. Then check the appropriate column to indicate if you want the church florist to provide the arrangements (\$50. for the two vases), OR, if you prefer to do the arrangements yourself. In the last column you can indicate if you are celebrating a special family event that you want noted in the bulletin for that Sunday.



Finally, find the special envelopes (tacked near the flower chart), and fill out the requested information, putting your payment inside. Then the envelope can be dropped into the offering plate (or given to the offering stewards after the service). Note: The florist bills the church at the end of the month, so we request that your payment be made by month-end in order for funds to be available for our treasurer to pay the florist. Contact the Worship Board or Kathy Hopson with any questions or suggestions.



For December, we will have two services on December 23rd as usual. One service at 7:00 PM December 24th. One service at 10:00 AM on December 25th. Two regular services on December 30th.



As 2018 comes to a close, please have all contributions to the church submitted by Sunday, December 30th.

Thanks  
Polly

## The Advent of God's Mission

The Season of Advent is the beginning of the liturgical Church year. We hear the prophecies of the coming of Christ. Advent is the Latin word for "coming." The readings in Advent do not only prophesy the birth of Christ, but also the second coming of Christ. So, the Church year begins with prophecies before Christ was born (Advent), then the birth of Christ (Christmas), the revealing of Who Christ is (Epiphany), the sacrifice of Christ (Lent & Holy Week), the Resurrection of Christ (Easter), and then the acts of the Holy Spirit (Day of Pentecost and the season after Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit is still working through us to reconcile the world back to God).



Each week of Advent will have a theme at Christus Victor. The first week will focus on the hope that Christ gives us. The second week will focus on the peace that Christ brings into the world. The third week is filled with joy because Christ is almost here! The fourth week (which will run from the 4th Sunday of Advent on Dec 23 until the 12th Day of Christmas on January 5) is a long celebration of Who Christ is: love.

When I think about these words, hope, peace, joy, and love, it names my feelings about the new mission statement we have started discerning. I am filled with hope that God will do great things through us, when our wills are aligned with God's mission. I have peace knowing that much of our busy work will be replaced with work that will bear fruit. This reminds me of Luther's word in the small catechism, "you are to go to your work joyfully." And, of course, God's Mission is a mission of love, for God is love. All Christians are commanded to love God and love neighbor; each person and each congregation just lives it out differently.

This Advent Season, do not passively wait for Christ to come. Actively wait, like a waiter waiting on tables. Pray for the advent of the mission that God has for Christus Victor Lutheran Church. The Planting Hope team is filled with energy and excitement about what God is doing here. We know God is calling us to include the entire congregation in developing our mission. After the first meeting on November 10th, through prayer and Bible Study, we heard many action words & phrases like "get up and go," "do," "love without questions," "reach out to non-residents," etc. When we meet next on January 12th, we will continue praying, studying Scripture together, and discussing what God is calling us to do. And, with God's help, we'll start to see some light shed on key phrases that will articulate God's mission for CVLC. Cue the Blues Brothers music, because "we are on a mission from God!" Pray this Advent for the advent of God's mission for us.

Advent Blessings to each of you. Christ warms you with His love.

Pastor Ben Krey

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship service at St Titus Episcopal Church was wonderful! 2 Lutheran & 2 Episcopal Churches combined their choirs and shared worship leadership to give thanks to God as a larger Christian community in real communion with each other. We're thankful that "God desires everyone is saved." (1st Timothy 2:4)



### Advent & Christmas Schedule

Mid-week Advent Services:  
Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM followed by  
a meal in Fellowship Hall  
**Wednesday, Dec 5**  
**Wednesday, Dec 12**  
**Wednesday, Dec 19**

Christmas Eve  
**Candlelight Worship at 7 PM**

Christmas Day  
**Worship at 10 AM**



### Christmas Dinner Invitation To All Women Of CVLC

All women who attend CVLC are invited to Bocci Trattoria & Pizzeria, 5850 Fayetteville Rd, Durham, for our annual Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 10th. We will begin gathering at 6:00 PM and dinner will be ordered at 6:30 PM. Again, each person will order their preference from the regular menu. Come and join us to get to know more ladies from the church and enjoy a delicious meal.

Faye Fredrick has posted a sign-sheet in the Narthex, or you can let Faye Fredrick or Barbara Sappenfield know that you plan to attend. The restaurant is requesting a headcount, so that the private dining room can be set up to accommodate our event.

Looking forward to you joining us.

## Another Holy Spirit Moment for the Planting Hope Team

Last night, Tuesday, November 28th, the Planting Hope leadership team met to plan the next congregation-wide event. The energy and excitement among the leaders was great. We were ready to rock and roll. One person proclaimed, "Since the Holy Spirit is leading us, we can't screw this up!"

Right at the end of the meeting, one member looked at the agenda we planned and said "If I were a member, I might get angry if I am asked to be here for the Living Nativity one Saturday, then this agenda the next Saturday, and then Iron Chef and Family night, on Sunday, the next day - all in the middle of December." Suddenly the air was out of the room - and it probably wasn't because of a sugar crash after the cheesecake we ate at the beginning of the meeting. The wind was out of our sails.

Part of our team mission statement is "to include all neighbors." It's important - no, it's imperative! - to us that we have as many people as possible be part of God's mission. Since the Holy Spirit is often associated with wind (John 3:8), when the wind left our sails, we felt the Holy Spirit was telling us not to do the work we were so energized to do. It is like how the Spirit of Jesus prevented Paul from preaching in Asia (Acts 16:6-7). Because Paul did not spend time in Asia, he went to Philippi where two powerful things happened. First, he met, baptized, and discipled Lydia, who was from the very region Paul was prevented from going. Second, he founded the church in Philippi, which Paul loved in abundance unmatched by his love for the other churches (Philippians 1:3-11). We trust God is doing something similar with us right now. And it will be powerful!

So, we have cancelled the December 15th meeting, but we are ready to plant some hope on Saturday, January 12th!

The Holy Spirit is guiding this Planting Hope process. God has a mission for us. We can't screw it up. You are part of what God is doing here! Come, be part of the process to discern, understand, and articulate what God is calling us to do!

The Planting Hope Team



### Learn about Advent in 7 minutes!

Click [here](#) for a 7 minute Christian Broadcast Network video on YouTube on the history of the Advent season, the Advent Wreath, and the hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.



## Jeff Scott honored for CROP Walk Support

On Thursday, November 29th, the CROP Walk held its 2018 Awards Banquet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Jeff Scott was among those honored for raising over \$1,000 as an individual. "I am passionate about walking and exercise," Jeff Scott said, "and here I get to do something good with that passion." Jeff Scott attended the ceremony for the first time in 2017, and thinks he has raised over \$1,000 several years in a row. This year, the CROP Walk raised \$158,800 and distributed 75% of it to international aid and 25% remained local. Some of the local organizations included Meals on Wheels, Housing for New Hope, Open Table Ministry, and Urban Ministries of Durham.

Led by Daniel Hada Harianja, Christus Victor Lutheran Church was recognized for raising more money than they did last year. However, Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren leap frogged CVLC to claim the "small congregation" Silver Sneaker Award. Rev. Ben Krey, the Pastor of CVLC, said, "It is fantastic that everyone is raising more money!" Truly, it's better to come in 3rd but raise more money and help more people as a larger community. The "small congregation" Gold Sneaker once again went to Pilgrim United Church of Christ, which has raised more money than any-sized congregation for many years in a row.

Mayor Steve Schewel was the keynote speaker. He acknowledged the great work of the people who feed the hungry in Durham and also emphasized the great work being done to "shorten the lines." He shared that 50,000 of the 300,000 residents of Durham are food insecure, and "people with a good paycheck are not food insecure." He discussed plans to improve transportation (including light rail, busses, and access to cars), affordable housing, "mid-level" education (like vocational schooling after high school), and services that will "shorten the lines" and make the work of those who feed the hungry even more effective for the individuals they serve. Immediately following the speech, he left the awards ceremony to attend the Durham CAN Metro Council meeting.

The emcee for the evening was Bill Reh, the weather man on WNCN, who has supported the CROP walk as the emcee for "more years than I can remember."

The 2019 Crop Walk will be held on April 7th. Keep up the great work, CVLC!



# IN OTHER NEWS!!!



The Men's group will be hosting the 2018 cvlc iron chef event on Sunday, December 16th beginning at 6 pm. come on out and enjoy a wonderful meal and join in the singing of holiday hymns and maybe a few christmas songs.



## Fall Confirmation Classes

This Fall, we will teach Luther's Small Catechism to our confirmation students. You can find Luther's Small Catechism on page 1160 in the back of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. It is very fundamental Lutheran doctrine. (Luther meant for parents to teach this to their small children, but today seminary professors teach it to their students!)

Tuesday, Dec 4, 7:00 PM  
Friday-Sunday, Dec 7-9 - Confirmation Retreat at Camp Agape

CVLC Confirmation Students include Brooklyn Justice, Alan Webster, Ethan Noel, and Abbey Noel. Please pray for our confirmation students and support them as they learn more about their faith and understand Lutheran theology better!

## Christian Education Topics Early 2019

### January - Faith & Science

At Bishop's convocation in October, I heard the founder of the STEAM Project (Science & Theology for Emerging Adult Ministries) discuss how important it is that churches talk about science and how rarely churches do talk about science. 52% of the youth in a congregation will go into a science or technology field, yet a church's youth group might talk about science or technology once/year. How will these young people come to know that God is active in their vocation if their church never talks about science?

His website, [www.thesteamproject.org](http://www.thesteamproject.org), shares a staggering statistic: 70% of 18-23 year olds agree or strongly agree that religion and science conflict. 85% of scientists view science and religion as only sometimes or never in conflict. How does an 18-23 year old know more than a professional scientist about conflicts in faith and science? They don't. It's just that the churches don't talk about science. So, too many of our young people only hear is that evolution is real, and the church only preaches creationism.

There are some great videos on that website. Here's a leading astronomer at NASA talking about where she sees God when she studies galaxies light years away:  
<https://youtu.be/IJckNYqRa5I>

St. Augustine wrote that when a non-Christian who knows a field of study well sees a Christian talking foolishly about that field of study, how will that non-Christian ever take the Christian seriously on issues of the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the dead, and everlasting life? There's a need for the church to talk about science intelligently and faithfully, otherwise, we just look either foolish or out of touch to non-Christians, and the Gospel Message will go unheard.

That's why I am inviting people in science and tech fields to talk about where they see God in their scientific or technology field. When people know we are speaking the truth, they will take us more seriously when we share the truth of the Gospel.

February 6 - Learn about the Gideons - who are they and why do they give away so many Bibles?  
February & March - Imam Abdul Waheed will lead a series on connections between Muslims and Christians



## **Confirmation Reflection: Young People Learn A Lot From Us - Good and Bad**

This Fall, I invited the confirmation students to re-order the 10 commandments from the student's highest priority to the lowest. 3 of the 4 students put the 3rd Commandment (keep the Sabbath holy) last, and the 4th student put it 9th out of 10. In reflection, I think the students have learned a lot from us. They don't live in a vacuum. They did not each independently put the Sabbath as such a low priority. We have shown them that we (both in Society and the church) do not take the Sabbath seriously. We have shown them we work a lot and have made work a very high priority in our lives. We can ask ourselves lots of questions - what is more important being productive (get a lot done) or fruitful (get meaningful stuff done, and then rest)? Is it more important to obey God (and the 3rd commandment) or do what we think is best (get stuff done)? Are we talking about the Sabbath at all? If not, why would our young people consider it spiritually important? In reflection, it's clear to me that what we do as a church, how we live as Christians, what we say and don't say, teaches our children a lot!



## **Urban Ministry Needs**

There is an urgent need for underwear for Urban Ministry clients. All sizes are needed for men (boxer briefs), women and children. Let's fill our "underwear/sock" box. If you find underwear is too expensive, consider splitting the cost with another member. We're doing something great to keep the needy warmer this winter.

Thanks,

Carla



The youth group meeting for December will be the trip to Christmas Town USA in McAdenville, NC. We will meet at the church on December 15th around 12 to 12:30 and leave from there. If you plan on going please let me know so that we make sure we have enough vehicles. There is no cost for this event. You might want to bring a little money for snacks and hot chocolate. I will take care of dinner for us.

We will have our regular meeting on January 13th right after the 10:30 service. I would love to have everyone there so we can make plans for next year. Remember you can invite a friend to the meetings.

The LYO event is scheduled for February 22nd thru the 24th. The event will be in Greensboro, The theme is This Is Me. I need to get us registered so if you want to attend let me know very soon. It would be great to have as many from our group as possible attend.

The Rise Against Hunger event will be on February 16th. Our time slot is 12:30 to 2:30. I will have a sign up sheet in the narthex. We had a great time last year, and I hope you will plan to be there for this one.

In 2019 we will be working with the teen court system to try and help out troubled youth in Durham. Details in the January meeting.

I hope everyone has a Blessed Christmas. Remember that Christmas isn't all about getting gifts. It's a celebration of the greatest gift ever given. The gift of our Savior. I pray that you will take time out to celebrate His love for you.

Thanks to each of you for a great year. Peace with you.  
Mike & Barbara.

# December 2018

November '18							January '19						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:30 AM BAND-LED SERVICE 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM CHOIR-LED SERVICE PULPIT SWAP	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM BOY SCOUTS	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM CUB SCOUTS 7:00 PM CONFIRMATION	<b>5</b> 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> CONFIRMATION RETREAT	<b>8</b> CONFIRMATION RETREAT Live Nativity
<b>9</b> CONFIRMATION RETREAT 8:30 AM BAND-LED SERVICE 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM CHOIR-LED SERVICE	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM BOY SCOUTS	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM CUB SCOUTS	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Youth Group to Christmastown USA
<b>16</b> 8:30 AM BAND-LED SERVICE 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM CHOIR-LED SERVICE 5:00 PM Iron Chef	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM BOY SCOUTS	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM CUB SCOUTS	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30 AM Band-Led Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir-Led Service	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 PM Candlelight Worship	<b>25</b> CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM Christmas Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:30 AM Band-Led Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir-Led Service	<b>31</b> NEW YEAR'S EVE	Notes				

# January 2019

December '18							February '19																				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S														
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9												
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	30	31

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b> 8:30 AM Band-Led Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir-Led Service Epiphany of Our Lord	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>9</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Planting Hope Mtg TBA	
<b>13</b> 8:30 AM Band-Led Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir-Led Service Youth Group Meeting	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b>20</b> 8:30 AM Band-led Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir-Led Service 3:00 PM MLK Service @ St. Paul Lutheran	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Quilters 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>27</b> 8:30 AM Band-led Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Choir-Led Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	Notes					