



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

WEEKLY SCRIBE
July 26, 2026

LDA SUNDAY WITH A SPECIAL GUEST

Deacon Erin Brown

Followed by a potluck luncheon

July 26, 2026



Erin serves on behalf of the ELCA as the Regional Representative for South America and is based in Argentina. In this role, she will steward ELCA's relationships with global companion churches (Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia) and partners through deep engagement and presence in their lives and ministries. She provides contextual mission interpretation to ELCA, Synods and Congregations, fully informed by the perspective of the companion's churches and partners and the theological lens of accompaniment.



August Outreach of the Month: ELCA Global Mission—South America—Click Here:

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE! HERE'S HOW TO GIVE:

By check: Make payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America" with "Erin Brown GCS3618" in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

By credit or debit card: See [ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving](https://elca.org/MissionaryGiving) or call 800-638-3522 and specify "Erin BrownGCS3618."

By automatic monthly bank withdrawal, or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication and support: Contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2820, or globalchurch@elca.org.

Mark your Calendars!

Sunday, August 16, two options for worship:

Worship at CLC 9:30AM

Worship in the Park with sibling churches 10:30AM

Sheltered in Grace Update: July 19

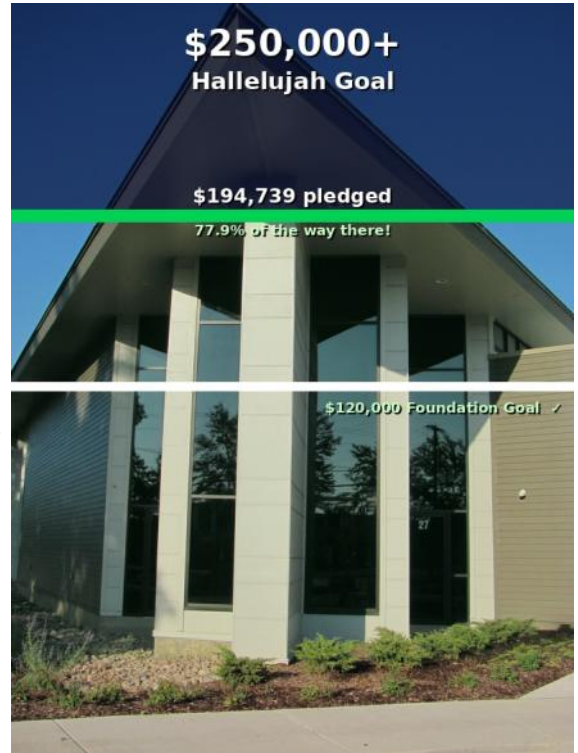
Thanks to your generosity, we've signed a contract to fix our roof — AND you are making it possible to pay down our mortgage! Pledges total **\$194,739** and counting. Thanks be to God!

Work begins in August. More than **\$73,000** of what you've given is already headed straight to our mortgage principal — not the roof. That is money that will reduce our monthly payments and free resources for ministry, year after year.

We are at **77.5% of the Hallelujah Goal**. Gifts are received through **August 1**. If you feel moved to give or to do more, there is still time.

Join us at clcvalpo.org/shelteredingrace. Questions about appreciated securities, a tax refund, or an IRA charitable rollover? Contact Heather Budnik.

We built this place together. Let's protect it and then some.



A Message from our Quilters

"Thanks from the quilters for all who stayed and helped with our "Quilt Tying Party" on May 31st. We completed 10 quilts that day! Our current count since the last In-Gathering last fall is 227 completed quilts.

We meet on Wednesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from about 8:30 to 11:30am. If you have some time to help, just stop in for as long as you can spare to help us tie more quilts. Many hands make light work.

Questions? Contact Kathy Stefans 847-612-3025, kathy.stefans@gmail.com or Judy Haalboom mbboom@comcast.net"

CLC Social Ministry and Mission July 2026

Each month the Social Ministry highlights a special giving opportunity with July's emphases to provide monetary support for 1- **ELCA's Global Missions' Arusha Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania Africa** and 2- **AMOS, "A Mission of Service" in Guatemala and Honduras.**

ELCA Global Mission



Arusha Lutheran Hospital, in Arusha, Tanzania <https://www.almc.or.tz> (with leadership from Dr. Steven Swanson - known to some at CLC) thrives with local African leadership. CLC is designated as an ELCA missionary partner congregation and supports Arusha in their ministry of "providing competent and compassionate medical care, promotion of community health programs and proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

ELCA's Global Mission, "global mission" means joining God's reconciling work in Christ alongside more than 80 companion churches and many ecumenical and interfaith partners around the world, trusting the Spirit already at work in every place and people. The work together has a multi-faceted approach to mission, from sending missionaries and personnel, to offering grants and scholarships designed to strengthen global church leadership and to support the ministries of companions. <https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/global-mission>

An AMOS <https://www.facebook.com/amissionofservice> ministry team, including CLC's



Gail Mannington (Board member and Treasurer), regularly undertakes Medical Mission trips to Guatemala and Honduras. AMOS is thrilled to announce another AMOS mission to Central America, warmly welcoming our 2026 team of dedicated volunteers! We're set to depart for Esquipulas, Guatemala on November 6th, 2026, this team is ready to make a lasting impact!

On each trip AMOS provides medical clinics, health care, speech pathology services and education. During each trip the team sees and treats hundreds of patients during clinic days, and the needs are voluminous. AMOS raises funds to purchase and provide prescription medications, ointments, and vitamins, and also collects over-the-counter medications for the mission team to take (CLC members have donated hundreds of pounds of over-the-counter medicines).

Help achieve our total goal of \$2500 in July. Use your weekly worship giving envelope mailed with check to CLC and indicate "Arusha/AMOS" or contribute through Subsplash on the CLC website <https://clcvalpo.org> via the "Give" button and choose Monthly Social Ministry Emphasis. Thank you to members for supporting the monthly social ministry emphasis.

AMOS

A Mission of Service is so grateful for Christ Lutheran Church's faithful support. Due to our congregation's involvement with AMOS since September 2016, two of our congregants, Christiana McLean NP and Gail Mannington RN (BOD) are in the process of fundraising and preparing for our November 6 medical mission trip to Guatemala and Copan, Honduras. Our nursing licenses and passport information have been forwarded to the Guatemalan Government for approval of our mission. This is the largest group we will be taking, 12 nurses and providers will be providing care to this community. We are so excited. The Guatemalan government has made changes to how we bring medications into the country and because of this, instead of our AMOS drop box, we graciously request visiting the AMOS website to see how you can make a difference. The Guatemalan Government now requires that we log every medication and expiration date which makes it labor intensive. Our website provides a link to purchase medications which will be delivered directly to AMOS for logging and packing, and a donate button to help us purchase additional medications needed, here and in Guatemala and other supplies necessary.

Kindly continue to use the AMOS drop box for the newborn baby hats and bags (15"x18" cotton bags with casement and ties) sewn by the ladies in our congregation. We use these for the Helping Babies Breathe program where we teach the midwives how to resuscitate newborn infants, and for the Teenage Hygiene Program and for many other projects. Our programs have now become sustainable due to your support of AMOS and the people of Central America.

AMOS website: <https://amissionofservice.org> and find us on Facebook.

Confirmation Project Request

As many people here know, a lot of people in our church knit or crochet during the services. But most of the time, someone forgot their supplies. For my confirmation project, I will be collecting yarn, crochet hooks, knitting needles, and scissors for cutting yarn to have handy in the Gathering Space for those who want to crochet but forgot their supplies that day. If you have yarn that you don't need, spare crochet hooks, spare knitting needles, or scissors that could be used for cutting yarn, you can bring them to put in the designated box in the Gathering Space. There will also be patterns for needed supplies for the Lutheran World Relief kits. This way, we're not just helping people in our church be able to do what they love during church, but also helping people all over the world get the things they need, as well as helping those in our church who knit or crochet (or who want to learn), build bonds and create quality conversations. Thank you, Gabby Soleim

Your Love is Needed in Sunday School!

Your love – your kindness – your faith – your time. These are the best gifts you can give! Our young folks come to Sunday School each week ready to meet Jesus, to learn about God's love and faithfulness, and that happens as they get to know YOU! We are looking for caring adults to join our team-teaching groups.

Leaders for each group are part of a rotating team that allows for lots of flexibility in scheduling. Our Youth Helpers are amazing! The curriculum is anchored in the Good News and makes preparation easy.

The gift of relationships with faithful caring adults is so crucial to our kids – and the gift of relationships with faithful, curious, joyful kids is so lifegiving for us adults! So please pray about joining us – contact Pr. Erica (pastorerica@clcvalpo.org) or the church office with interest or questions.

Adult Faith Formation Hour - your ideas welcome!

Planning is in the works for our Adult Faith Formation opportunities on Sunday mornings next year. Ever year we're surprised by how quickly the schedule fills with good things! If you have an idea, a series you'd like to lead, a guest you'd like to invite, etc - please be in touch with Pr. Erica (pastorerica@clcvalpo.org) so that we can do our best to fit all these good opportunities into the calendar!

July Senior Outing

Hamstra Gardens
2062 IN-10
Wheatfield, IN

July 30 at 12:00, Hamstra Gardens (NOTICE DATE CHANGE AGAIN)

For those who wish to carpool, please meet at the front of the church at 11:00.

Please register online at HamstraGardens.com. There is a \$5.00 fee for visiting the gardens. Please let me know if you plan to attend or have difficulty registering.

I'm checking out restaurants in the DeMotte/Wheatfield area. We may come back to Valpo to eat.

Please make sure to bring water or a beverage with you as it could be hot that day.

Cheryl Watson
219-929-5243
watsoncheryl877@gmail.com

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

As much as we love summer, school supplies are already in the stores! And, as always, we will be collecting for Lutheran World Relief. Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children — and in some cases, adults — continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. Learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities. Kits are distributed worldwide, even in the US when disaster strikes. Our goal this year is to collect enough supplies through early October for 120 kits, each kit containing the following:

FOUR – 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper (approx. 8" x 10 ½", not loose-leaf paper).

ONE – 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.

ONE – pencil sharpener.

ONE – pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well).

FIVE – **unsharpened** #2 pencils with erasers.

FIVE – black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink).

ONE – box of 16 or 24 crayons.

ONE – 2.5" eraser.

There is a basket in the Gathering Space for donations. If you have any questions, please contact me at kathyjopage@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.

Meeting in the Middle

This informal group is a chance for women facing the many changes of middle age—emptying nests, aging parents, physical changes, etc.—to share conversations, comfort, and coffee with each other and consider what following Jesus looks like in this season. We will meet at **FLUID Coffee Roasters, 260 Franklin Street in Valpo, on Sunday, July 26 at 2 PM.** Feel free to contact Erin Schmidgall (219-487-6532) with any questions.



July Altar Gifts

Holy Communion Grace Safrin ~ In Celebration of Kara's birthday!

Altar Candles Marilyn McGawn ~ In Memory of Malcolm

Eternal Lamp Sara and Jeremy Long ~ In Celebration of our 30th Wedding Anniversary

Little Lamb Preschool is a ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, serving children and families in our community. At times, families face unexpected hardships such as divorce, illness, an accident, or loss of employment that can make paying tuition difficult.

Our provides temporary financial assistance to families during these challenging seasons, helping their children continue attending school and enjoying the stability, friendships, learning, and care that preschool provides.

Would you prayerfully consider making a donation to the Preschool Scholarship Fund? Your generosity helps ensure that a temporary hardship does not have to interrupt a child's education and sense of stability.

Thank you for helping us care for our preschool children and their families when they need it most. Please see Laura Venstrom or Heather Budnik for more information.



Christ Lutheran Church offers a Grief Support Group every other week on Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11 am in the Conference Room. (209). The group serves adults who have experienced a loss of a spouse, parent, child, friend, sibling, or neighbor. The core group of peer support welcomes others to walk together in our grief journey .

Come when you can. Coffee and Kleenex available.

The group is facilitated by Cheryl Slack, a Stephen Minister. You may contact her at 219-241-0677 or one of the pastors if you have any questions.

Upcoming dates are July 29; August 5 and 19.



**You're invited to my Pampered Chef
Fundraiser Party!**

Date and Time: Thursday, July 30th at 6:30 pm

Place: Christ Lutheran Church

2610 N Campbell St, Valparaiso (Door 10)

Host: Christiana McLean

RSVP: (219)242-3186

Christiana_mc@yahoo.com

This fundraiser supports A Mission of Service
(A.M.O.S.)

Bring a friend for food, fun, and great cooking products
and tips!

Please see page 9 for more information and a QR code to order product.

I'm excited to be on the team going to Guatemala for the upcoming A Mission of Service (AMOS) mission trip in November along with Gail Mannington!

I'm having a Pampered Chef fundraiser party for A.M.O.S. On 7/30 at 6:30 pm we'll have a fun demo with food to taste and will learn more about the organization we're supporting.

Up to 30% of the sales from this fundraiser will go to the organization! Here's a link to see some fun product and recipe videos. It's also where you'll order when you're ready: table.pamperedchef.com/party/3603586xme



Please let me know if you can make it! You can also order online if you can't make the party, and feel free to share this information with anyone you know who might be interested!

Faithful Citizenship Project

Leadership Assembly: Launching the Faithful Citizenship Project

How can our congregations help our members and our neighbors participate in public life with hope, purpose, and love? Does loving our neighbors include helping them have a voice in shaping our community? Join We Make Indiana's Porter County chapter Leadership Assembly as we explore how churches can strengthen faithful citizenship during this election season and beyond. Together we'll reflect on our shared call to seek the well-being of our community, learn practical ways congregations can encourage civic participation, and launch our fall efforts to help every voice be heard.

Tuesday, August 25 at 6:30 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church Valparaiso (Church Hall)

Pastors, lay leaders, and anyone interested in serving the common good are invited.

RSVP here or contact organizer Serena Fugate:
serena@wemakeindiana.org, 219-508-7714





Christ Lutheran CHURCH

Quarterly Statements

THANK YOU for your generosity to the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church! Your support of our ministries allows us to bring the love of Christ to our local community and beyond. As you can see, we are a busy congregation, even during the summer!

Christ Lutheran is investing in our mission, locally and globally:

- Little Lamb Preschool's annual STEAM camp inspires faith, creativity, and curiosity.
- Lutheran Braille Workers and Lutheran World Relief Quilters gather in our Fellowship Hall to produce Bibles and quilts that are shipped around the world.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, grief support group, Stephen Ministries and other groups rely on our generosity for meeting space.
- The Indiana-Kentucky Synod supports ministries throughout Indiana and Kentucky, funded in part by mission support gifts from congregations like ours (\$8,000 in the second quarter).
- CoAction, Reconciling Works, LGBTQ Outreach of Porter County, Project Neighbors, and Food Bank of Northwest Indiana serve our neighbors in northwest Indiana, funded in part by our support (\$9,186 in the second quarter).

Christ Lutheran is caring for our space and our people:

- Confirmation camp at Lutherwald encourages our youth to deepen their faith.
- Trivia Night is an evening of fellowship and friendly competition that raises funds for our youth ministry (\$1,591 in the second quarter).
- Family Faith Gatherings bring all generations together for food, fellowship, and service.
- Little Lamb Preschool welcomes Laura Venstrom as our new Director.
- We celebrate with our congregation's graduates and retirees - including Jen Gottlieb, who faithfully served as Director of Little Lamb Preschool for ten years - as they move on to new adventures.
- Sunday School, education hour classes, confirmation, Fusion, Circle, book groups, Bible studies, and fellowship groups nurture our faith and growth.

Christ Lutheran is joyfully worshipping our Lord:

- We worship together as one congregation in one service during the summer.
- Weeknight evening prayer on the back patio offers peace, renewal, and fellowship.

Christ Lutheran is committing to good stewardship of our resources:

- Our Ministry Plan for the 2026-2027 fiscal year challenges us to raise \$992,372 to fund the ministries of this congregation and repay \$11,400 borrowed from our restricted funds.
- Our "Dare to Disciple!" stewardship campaign raised \$479,334 to fund our Ministry Plan.
- Our Sheltered in Grace special appeal raised \$190,144 to fund the new roof over our sanctuary and significantly reduce the balance of our mortgage.
- A grant of \$20,000 from the John W. Anderson Foundation will help fund major property expenses.

YOUR GIFTS to our ministry help us to accomplish all this and more - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

Please check your email for your second-quarter giving statement. Statements were sent electronically on Tuesday, July 14; look for an email from Subsplash Giving (noreply@secure.subsplash.com). If you do not receive your statements electronically and would like a paper copy, please call the church office or email our Business Manager, Heather Budnik (heather.budnik@clevapo.org). Thank you for being an important part of changing lives through the work of Christ Lutheran Church!

WORSHIP & PICNIC in the Park

Sun 16 Aug.

Worship Service: 10:30 A.M.

Food

Provided by us:

- Burgers
- Hot Dogs
- Condiments
- Beverages

Provided by you:

- Salad OR dessert to pass
(please no mayo based salads!)

Fellowship

Be sure to bring:

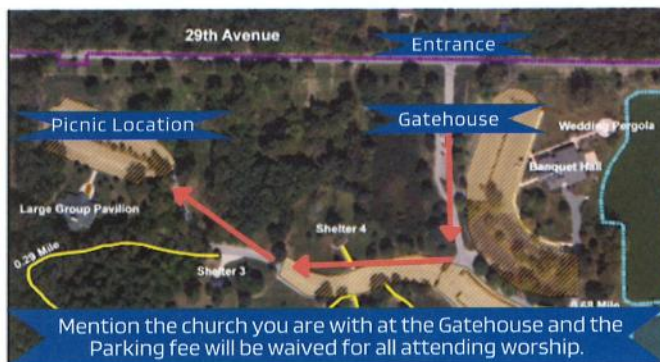
A lawn chair or picnic blanket for seating! There are picnic tables inside the shelter but you will want a chair to sit in for the worship service.

Fun

There will be organized games and fun for kids following the picnic lunch

This event is lovingly organized by members of:
*I AM's Holiness Church Christ Lutheran-Valparaiso
Bethel Lutheran Church Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
House of Bread Ministries Christ Lutheran-Hammond
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church*

Lake Etta County Park
4801 W 29th Ave, Gary, IN 46406



American Red Cross

Every 2 seconds, someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

*Give blood.
Help save lives.*



Blood Drive
Christ Lutheran Church

Activity Center - Door 14
2610 North Campbell
Valparaiso

Tuesday, August 18
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Name Tags

We would love for everyone to wear name tags, if you do not have one please let the office know. Also, we have lanyards for your name tag if you would like one too.

jen.bias@clcvalpo.org
219-462-6660