



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

WEEKLY SCRIBE
August 23, 2026

Faith Formation Opportunities ~ <i>Sundays 9:20 a.m.</i>		
	Church Hall	120 Library
9/13/2026	Creation Care Dr. Julie Peller	Bible Survey D. Keammerer
9/20/2026	Empathy Stephen Ministry	Bible Survey D. Keammerer
9/27/2026	Empathy Stephen Ministry	Bible Survey D. Keammerer

Adult Faith Formation Hour The Gift of Empathy

The 2026 Fall Adult Faith Formation Hour in Fellowship Hall will study the book "The Gift of Empathy: Helping Others Feel Valued, Cared For, and Understood" by authors Joel P. Bretscher and Kenneth C. Haugk. Empathy is a crucial but underused relational skill. It's about looking at the world from someone else's perspective to experience what they're feeling--and then expressing your understanding of those feelings back to them. It's a real gift, both for the one receiving empathy and for the one offering it. Through Faith Formation, we can begin to bring that gift to more people in our families, congregation and community! Classes start September 20th thru December 6th.

Participants will complete pre-class readings (less than 25 pages) and participate during class discussions led by Stephen Ministers Becky Fry and Cheryl Slack. The chapters will explore the how-to of empathizing, discover how to apply it to different areas of their lives and relationships, learn from one another's experience and grow as an empathetic group. No matter what your comfort level is in this area, all of us can grow and enjoy the benefits of this transformative life skill of relating with those around us. It's also a beginning step to address mental health crisis through mental health empowerment.

To sign up, contact Jen Bias, church administrator, at jen.bias@clevapo.org or 219-462-6660 x10, by September 6th, so that books can be ordered. Be prepared to give her your phone number and email address so that we can send you updated reading assignments.

Sheltered in Grace: Update

August 23, 2026

\$214,665 pledged. Thanks be to God!

A quick update: heavy weather in the area has pushed our roof project start date to October 5. We are grateful for your patience — and for a contractor who is keeping us in line and doing this right.

The giving has been extraordinary. More than **\$94,000** of what you've committed is headed straight to our mortgage principal. This congregation keeps showing up, and it shows.

We are at **86% of the Hallelujah Goal**. Give at [clcvalpo.org/shelteredingrace]**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.



Confirmation Project James McDaniel

If you've returned from a holiday abroad with leftover foreign coins or banknotes, you're not alone—no matter how small the value—can be turned into meaningful donations for good causes.

My project is to collect foreign coins to help UNICEF. My collection jar is in the Gathering Place near the TV.

Thank you in advance.

CLC Social Ministry and Mission August 2026

Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless. (Proverbs 31:8)



Global Refuge



Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)

www.globalrefuge.org “We stand with newcomers” has a vision that all migrants and refugees are protected, embraced, and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities. Global Refuge’ mission is witness to God’s love for all people, standing with and advocating for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice. For over 80 years, Global Refuge has been a champion for migrants and refugees from around the globe. A legacy of courageous and compassionate service has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have sought safety and hope in America’s communities. Global Refuge history reflects American Lutherans’ and others deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need. In partnership with community-based legal and social service providers nationwide, Global Refuge has helped over 500,000 migrants and refugees rebuild their lives in America.

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) <https://www.lbwinc.org> has existed since 1943 to show the love of God to people with visual disabilities and to bring them into a growing relationship with God. LBW does this by engaging some 5,000 volunteers in over 115 [Production Centers](http://www.lbwinc.org) | (lbwloveworks.org) throughout the United States. Volunteers joyfully produce approximately 250,000 volumes a year of Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles and Christian literature. CLC is one of these Work Centers (#129) and is involved in making Braille books of the Bible for the blind. Volunteers work every Tuesday in CLC’s Fellowship Hall. Monthly emphases gifts go towards national LBW activities and help with supplies for CLC’s Work Center.

Help achieve our goal of \$2000 in August (including \$1200 in CLC budgeted funds). Use your weekly worship giving envelope mailed with check to CLC and indicate “Global Ref./LBW” 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 monthly social ministry emphases.

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!

Senior Group - All are Welcome!

We will have a brunch & game morning for our August event. Meet at church on **Thursday, August 27th, at 9:30 am** for a variety of table games and/or conversations. No need to sign up, just show up. Feel free to bring a breakfast or brunch item to share with the group. And invite a friend along, if you like.

Any questions - ask Judy (mbboom@comcast.net or 309-368-9536)

August Altar Gifts

Holy Communion

Cheryl Watson ~ In Memory of Lana House

Altar Candles

Sara & Jeremy Long ~ In Memory of Carson & Vera Abbott

Eternal Lamp

Given to the Glory of God

RAINBOW Parents*

**Our love is not conditional.*

Whether you're new on this journey or have been championing your child for some time, you also need a safe place for support and encouragement. We all need a brave space where we are allowed to "start where you are at" and share our hard questions. We all need a community that will be there for us as we struggle, learn, and grow. We all need spaces where we encounter the God who knows and loves us, so that we can be signs of that love for those around us.

Parents, Grandparents, and Guardians, if you're looking for someone to walk with you on your journey, then join us at our next meeting on Thursday, August 27th, at 6pm in the conference room across from the music room.



Are you interested in joining a group of CLC folks on a Civil Rights Pilgrimage? There will be an **informational** meeting with Pastor Joanne Sorenson (she will be on Zoom) at **11:00am on Sunday, August 23rd in the Church Hall** (the room next to the kitchen). Pastor Sorenson has led many Civil Rights Pilgrimages and has agreed to be the leader for our Pilgrimage.

The trip will take place February 10-15, 2027.

We will learn history by WALKING..... We will visit Montgomery, Birmingham, Selma, and Atlanta. • Get the BIG PICTURE at EJI Legacy Museum and Memorial • Take a walking tour of downtown Montgomery and see MLK's "Dexter Church" - Freedom Rides Museum - Rosa Parks Museum - slave market square • Walk the bridge in Selma and learn about Jim Crow south from a Foot Soldier • See Birmingham 16th St Church, Ingram Park, Jail where King stayed, "dynamite" hill, and much more • Plus enjoy some EXCELLENT Southern cooking & BBQ.

POPCORN FEST

Popcorn Fest is fast approaching and you can help. Please see the sign-up for donations in the Gathering Place. Please bring the donations to the church hall by Sunday, September 6.

If you able to help on Saturday, please sign-up on the QR code:



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 scholarship fund 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.



JESUS

A NOVEL
by
WALTER WANGERIN, JR.

Audio CD set available to anyone located by the Welcome Center

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PROJECTS

QUILTS

Quilts Completed: 227



BABY CARE KIT PROJECT

2026 GOAL-500

KITS COMPLETED-380

AUGUST NEEDS are light weight jackets, sweaters, and dark colored hand towels.

INTERESTING FACT-In just three months the Lutheran World Relief truck will arrive at CHRIST.

FABRIC KIT PROJECT

2026 GOAL-100

KITS COMPLETED-48

AUGUST NEEDS are 3 yards of solid or print cotton fabric for the LWR sewing centers. 1 yard or more of cotton or flannel fabric can be used for receiving blankets.

INTERESTING FACT-Since 2016 when the fabric kit began at Christ Lutheran and including our July kit number, we have assembled 1,358 Fabric Kits.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

KITS COMPLETED-612

AUGUST NEEDS are cash to purchase needed items.

INTERESTING FACT- In the last month we completed the 10,000th Personal Care Kit from Christ Lutheran.

ALUMINUM CAN PROJECT

2026 GOAL-\$250

April 2026 Delivery-\$60.00

June 2026 Delivery-\$60.00

The more cans we bring in, the more soap we can buy. Ask others to save their CANS for us. See a can; pick it up! Every CAN counts!

INTERESTING FACT-Each Baby Care Kit and PERSONAL CARE Kit must include 2 bars of 4 ounce gentle soap. So far this year we have used 760 bars of soap for the BABY CARE PROJECT and 1,032 bars for the PERSONAL CARE PROJECT.



YOUTH NEWS!

Circle Meal Volunteers Needed

Help support our Circle Youth Group by providing a meal for Sunday evening gatherings at 6:00 PM. Scan the QR code to sign up for an available date. Thank you for supporting our students!



Fusion Teachers Needed

We're seeking 2-3 volunteers to help teach our Fusion classes (Grades 5-7). Volunteers serve approximately every other month, with occasional substitute opportunities. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the commitment for everyone. Contact Karina Barlow for more information.
karina.barlow@clcvalpo.org

Youth Ministry Fall Kickoff

Circle (Grades 9-12) will host a Welcome Back Game Night on August 23 from 6:00-8:00 PM.
Fusion (Grades 5-8) resumes September 13 during the Formation Hour between services.



Popcorn Fest • September 12

Popcorn Fest is just around the corner! We'll need volunteers to help staff our church booth and assist with donation requests. Watch for more information and sign-up opportunities coming soon.

Silent Auction Coming in October

It's time to start thinking about our annual Silent Auction! Please begin setting aside items you would be willing to donate. More information on donation needs and collection dates will be shared soon.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Finally, the children are back in school! It's been a tough month for everyone, and hopefully the routine will be helpful. We are still collecting supplies for the **School Kits** for Lutheran World Relief, which are an important lifeline for learners all around the world. **We currently have enough supplies for 45 complete school kits.**

We especially need the following:

Pencil Sharpeners

Pencils - UNSHARPENED

Pens – BALLPOINT, not gel

Scissors – blunt, child-size

Crayons – box of 16 or 24 crayons

Erasers

We can always use more:

Notebooks - 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled (still 35 cents each at Walmart)

Rulers

Crayons

Erasers

Please consider buying in bulk from Amazon. It is an easy way to purchase a larger quantity at a lower price. You can have the supplies delivered directly to the church. Gathering supplies with your children is a great way to remind yourself and them that we need to continue to love our neighbors, near and far. There is a basket in the Gathering Space for donations. Thank you for your support!

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 August 26; September 9, 23; October 7



LUNCH & LEARN

**AUGUST
4TH
11:30-1:00**

DEMENTIA-MORE THAN A DIAGNOSIS:

Explores the hidden impact of dementia, how senses may change and the practical strategies for better interactions.

**SEPTEMBER
1ST
11:30-1:00**

BRAIN HEALTH AWARENESS:

Highlight available resources to support brain health and reduce risk of developing dementia.

**OCTOBER
6TH
11:30-1:00**

BENEFITS OF SOCIALIZATION:

Discuss how socialization is one of the most effective ways to support cognitive health, reduce anxiety, and improve daily well-being.



Presented by:

*Lynne Jordan, MA, BSN, RN Certified Dementia
Practitioner, Paradigm Health*



Call to register for this free
presentation and lunch.

219-531-2484

Hosted by Aviva Valparaiso

American Red Cross Blood Drive Results

You made a difference for the 52 donors who wanted to give whole blood units to help save lives.

Semi-official results of the blood drive are: 53 potential donors (6 were deferred + 3 not enough). 48 units of whole blood received (4 productive power reds donated 8 units + 40 single units). There were no first-time donors. 7 CLC members were among the donors. We had 16 CLC volunteers (13 on shifts, 2 on "back up", 1 on organizing) that helped with this blood drive.

Thank you for making this drive successful & for helping the American Red Cross save lives!



Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

This fall, the IN-KY Synod is bringing people together for three Regional Gatherings across Indiana and Kentucky. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a rostered or lay leader, a longtime participant in synod life or someone who is simply looking for a way to connect with others across the synod.

Each gathering is a chance to worship with others from across the synod, share a meal, learn together and spend time in conversation and fellowship. We'll gather for worship with Holy Communion, a catered lunch, breakout sessions and time to connect with one another.

Come meet people from other congregations, hear what's happening across the synod, share your own experiences and enjoy a day together.

Oct. 24: Christ the King, South Bend, Indiana

Registration is \$30 per person. Register by Aug. 31 and use the code EARLYBIRD to receive 50% off. Registration closes at midnight Sept. 14.

