



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

WEEKLY SCRIBE
August 30, 2026

**REMINDER: WE RETURN TO TWO SERVICES (8:00 AND 10:30 A.M.)
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13.**

Faith Formation Opportunities ~ *Sundays 9:20 a.m.*

	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@clevalpo.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.



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 Sunday, August 30 at 2 PM. Feel free to contact Erin Schmidgall (219-487-6532) with any questions.**

Annual Congregational Retreat

Mark your calendars for the CLC Retreat this coming February 19-21!
And if you'd like to join the planning team, come to our **first meeting on Sunday, Sept 20 after the 2nd Service - see Pr. Erica with any questions!**

Over the last two weeks, we've seen Porter County at its best: neighbors clearing fallen trees, some restaurants and churches giving away food, and people with electrical power opening their homes, sharing generators, providing meals and washing clothes for others.

We've also seen how vulnerable our communities can be when severe weather hits. This has reinforced why we need to build a stronger, more resilient community.

Because of the storm, we postponed our Leadership Assembly to Tuesday, September 1.

Faithful Citizenship Kickoff
Tuesday, Sept 1
6:30 pm
Christ Lutheran Church
Church Hall

SIGN UP TO SAVE YOUR SEAT



We'll come together in the aftermath of the storm, reconnect with one another, and launch our **Faithful Citizenship Project**, a nonpartisan effort to help our congregations and neighbors participate in this fall's election with hope, purpose, and love to make our voices heard. We will work on Tuesday to make a plan to:

- Register voters and help people check their registration
- Help educate and inform voters by holding a candidate forum
- Reach neighbors who are least likely to vote and help them to make a plan to vote

Our "We Make Indiana" congregations, which Christ Lutheran is a part, already bring together hundreds of people across Porter County and within our city of Valparaiso. When we organize those relationships, we have the power to make sure ordinary people have a voice in shaping our community.

This is for anyone who wants to help strengthen our democracy and serve the common good. Come learn more how YOU can help.

Registration is helpful but not required. Coffee and desert to be shared as we work together.

Your vote is your power. See you on September 1 at 6:30 p.m.

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.

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!

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

It's Time to Register for Sunday School!

We're looking forward to a great year of Sunday School, starting on September 13 at 9:20am. Follow this link/QR code for our Registration Form, so that we are ready to welcome your child and have all the important information (emergency contact, medical concerns, etc) right from the get-go!



Fusion Registration now open!

Grades 5-8

<https://clcvalpo.churchcenter.com/registrations/signups/3852451>



Civil Rights 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.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Sutherland or Pastor Erica.

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.



Storm Recovery: How Can We Help?

Over the past two-plus weeks, our local food pantries have provided a variety of support in Lake and Porter Counties to keep our friends and neighbors afloat. The work is ongoing, and supplies have been hit hard. It's our turn to support them as they continue to support our community.

Hilltop Food Pantry has an urgent need for the following supplies— preferred over financial gifts right now.

Peanut butter	
Jelly	Condiments
Bread	Toilet paper
Pastas	Paper towels
Spam (the canned meat)	Liquid shower soap
Pork and beans	Laundry detergent
Pasta sauce	Quart Ziplock bags
Sandwich Ziplock bags	

Drop off:

- At Hilltop Pantry, 606 Union St. Valpo: 3-6 pm Tuesday through Friday
- At Hilltop Neighborhood House, 460 S. College Ave., Valpo: 6:30 am to 6:30 pm M-F
- At Christ Lutheran, during office hours or Sunday mornings

Immanuel Food Pantry:

Instant potatoes
Canned spaghetti sauce
Canned veggies
Boxed Helpers

Drop off:

During church office hours
Immanuel Lutheran Church
1700 Monticello Park Drive, Valpo

To support efforts in Lake County: donations can be made to these reputable organizations:
Lake County's Legacy Foundation: legacyfdn.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=5554
Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church (one of our partner churches in We Make Indiana Lake County): @Givelify giv.li/by1r00
Sojourner Truth House: sojournertruthhouse.org/

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

It's almost September, and we are still collecting supplies for **School Kits** for Lutheran World Relief, which are an important lifeline for learners all around the world, including for learners in disaster areas in the United States. Thank you SO much for helping us toward our 120-kit goal. Shall we try for **140 kits** as we did last year? To do this, we need the following:

Pens – 300 – WE NEED PENS! Blue or black BALLPOINT, not gel

Pencils – 100 – UNSHARPENED

Notebooks – 102 – 70-sheet notebooks wide- or college-ruled *(Hopefully Walmart will have them on sale soon. They are currently 35 cents each. Last year they were 10 cents each toward the end of the back-to-school season.)*

Scissors – 40 – blunt, child-size

Rulers – 20 – 12-inch ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.

Scissors – 40 – blunt, child-size

Crayons – 10 boxes of 16 or 24 crayons

We currently have enough pencil sharpeners and erasers. There is a basket in the Gathering Space for donations, or you can purchase from Amazon and choose to have the items delivered directly to the church. Thank you for your support in showing God's love for children in need.

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 September 9, 23; October 7

Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Grant Recipients Announced!

What a blessing it is to see the interest accumulated annually from thoughtful endowment fund gifts by congregational members extend the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church beyond the scope of our operating budget.

The Total Interest Accrued from the CLC ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust Account from inception in January of 2025 to the end of the 1st quarter of 2026 was \$6,768.50.

On July 29th the CLC Endowment Fund Committee reviewed and voted on 5 Grant Applications for various projects having congregational, local, regional and even global impact. On August 18th, CLC Church Council approved the recommendations.

A summary of the applicants, their requests, and amounts approved are as follows:

Global Impact

Applicant: Kellie Bittorf, Organization: City of Refuge NW Missionary Project. Granted \$2,000. Purpose: Reimbursement for supplies for August 2026 Mission trip to Okinawa, Japan supporting VBS at World Mission Christian School and performing some needed repairs.

Regional Impact

Applicant: Crystal Koss, Beneficiary: Family of Megan Ramirez (Chesterton). Granted \$2,217. Purpose: Replacement of weather-damaged wooden fence to ensure safe outdoor time with therapy dog for level 3 autistic young woman.

Congregational Impact

Applicant: Cheryl Slack, Organization: CLC Stephen Ministry. Granted \$500. Purpose: Gift of Empathy Faith Formation Hour Offering, Fall of 2026, for books and supplies.

Congregational Impact

Applicant Samuel Venstrom, Purpose: Confirmation project to start a Free Outdoor Little Library at CLC to benefit the congregation AND local community. Granted \$750. for supplies and materials.

Local Impact

Applicants: Karl & Paige Reichardt, Organization: Project Neighbors. Granted \$1,000. Purpose: The Crossing Studios Apartments in Valparaiso for essentials to complete one unit.

Total of all the above Awards: \$6,467

Fund Applicants will provide the congregation with a follow-up report on the impact and outcomes of their worthy causes, within a year of receipt of funds.

May the Lord continue to Bless CLC and our work, Amen.

Grace Safrin 2026 CLC Endowment Chair

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.

