



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

WEEKLY SCRIBE
September 6, 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	New Testament Survey D. Keammerer
9/20/2026	Empathy Stephen Ministry	New Testament Survey D. Keammerer
9/27/2026	Empathy Stephen Ministry	New Testament Survey D. Keammerer

Adult Faith Formation Hour The Gift of Empathy

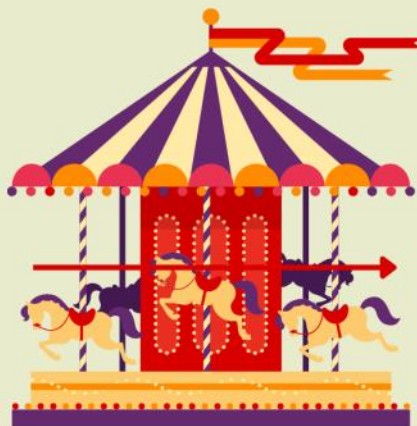
The 2026 Fall Adult Faith Formation Hour in Fellowship Hall will study the book "The Gift of Empathy: Helping Others Feel Valued, Cared For, and Understood" by authors Joel P. Bretscher and Kenneth C. Haugk. Empathy is a crucial but underused relational skill. It's about looking at the world from someone 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.

CARNIVAL

LLP CARNIVAL NEEDS YOUR HELP



Thursday, October 1, 5:30pm–7:30pm

The carnival is one of Little Lamb's major fundraising events for the year and it is an event that our preschool families look forward to year after year. We can't do it without your help! Please consider signing up for a shift.



VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
CHRIST COLLEGE
THE HONORS COLLEGE

Christ College Symposium



Thomas Albert Howard, PhD
Duesenberg Chair in Christian Ethics
Professor of History and Humanities
Valparaiso University



Edward Upton, PhD
Associate Professor of Humanities,
Religion, and Literature
Valparaiso University

Monday, September 21, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Valparaiso University
Mueller Hall Refectory (1300 Chapel Drive)

Magnificent Humanity: **A Discussion of the Pope's Letter on Artificial Intelligence**

A Public Conversation on Magnifica Humanitas

Join Dr. Ed Upton and Dr. Tal Howard for an engaging discussion of Pope Leo XIV's recent landmark encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, and its timely reflections on artificial intelligence, human dignity, technology, and the shape of contemporary society.

Sponsored by:
Christ College
Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Student Center
The Duesenberg Chair in Christian Ethics
Augustine Fellows Program

Updates from the Hospitality Team:

- Welcome to all who are visiting us. Please sign the visitor book at the welcome center. We are glad you are worshiping with us!
- Members: please wear name tags for easy introductions. If you don't have one, please contact the church office.
- If you enjoy baking, feeding others, or eating, please sign up at the Welcome Center to bring treats for the time between services. Also feel free to contact and let me know you are interested (Sally Ecklund-Baker, s.ecklundbaker@gmail.com or 219-508-1619)
- We could use a few extra folks on the Hospitality and outreach committee- if you like meeting new people, welcoming, feeding, etc... please reach out to Sally Ecklund-Baker. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

It's Bread Breakers Time!!

Bread Breakers are short term supper groups of 8-10 people that meet from October-May. Groups are formed as either "adult only" or "family" groups and meet about every 4-6 weeks for food and fellowship. You may sign up at this [link](#) to get in on this year's groups. Sign ups will be taken until September 20th. You do not have to be a member of CLC to sign up.

Groups will meet each other for the first time at our kick off pot-luck lunch on **Sunday, September 27th** after the 10:30 service. (So mark your calendars!) We look forward to having you!

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:



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!

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!



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!**

Fusion Registration now open!

Grades 5-8

**[https://clcvalpo.churchcenter.com/
registrations/signups/3852451](https://clcvalpo.churchcenter.com/registrations/signups/3852451)**



Volunteers Wanted for Event

What: The Carsten & Georgia Falkenberg Meal Pack: NWI 18th Annual Event

Sponsoring Organization: Pack Away Hunger [<https://www.packawayhunger.org>]

When: Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 9-11:30 am OR 12:30-3:00 pm [two shifts]

Where: Crown Point High School, 1500S. Main Street, Crown Point< IN 46307

This annual event will attempt to pack 100,000 healthy meals with 90% of the meals going to food pantries in NWI and 10% sent abroad to a country with the greatest immediate need. There are two packing shifts to pack meals—one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Church members and church youth groups from NWI volunteer their time to help pack the meals. All age levels are welcomed to participate!

If you want to make a monetary contribution toward the supplies used in the meals you may do so at: www.givebutter.com/NWIN2026 If you would like to volunteer to participate as a “packer” you are asked to register for the event using the same website previously given.

If you have any questions regarding ***Pack Away Hunger*** or this packing event, contact Karl Reichardt @ 219-252-9515 or karl.reichardt@valpo.edu

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

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PROJECTS

QUILTS

2026 GOAL-389

Quilts Completed: 278



BABY CARE KIT PROJECT

2026 GOAL-500

KITS COMPLETED-450

SEPTEMBER NEEDS are hats, sleepers, and light weight dark colored hooded jackets.

INTERESTING FACT-At Ollie's IVORY soap is \$4.99 for 10 4 ounce bars. That makes each bar 50 cents. That is the best soap price that has been found. LWR **WANTS** at least 8 ounces of soap in each Kit assembled.

FABRIC KIT PROJECT

2026 GOAL-100

KITS COMPLETED-56

PERSONAL CARE KITS

KITS COMPLETED-612

SEPTEMBER NEED is cash to purchase needed items.

ALUMINUM CAN PROJECT

2026 GOAL-\$250

April 2026 Delivery-\$60.00

June 2026 Delivery-\$60.00

Do you have ALUMINUM CANS to contribute to this project ? Bring them on Sundays to the red Ford truck in the parking lot or place them at the white basket in the GATHERING AREA.



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/

Coming Soon to a webpage near you...

It's time for us to renew our website, and with it we are changing our providers: web hosting, livestream, and online giving. We will be able to do more, for less cost, less fees, and better service. Watch this fall for updates and opportunities to preview the good things to come!

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

The generosity of CLC members is overwhelming! We currently have enough supplies for more than 100 complete school kits!

We especially need the following to reach our goal of 140:

- * Pens – BALLPOINT, not gel (we need 50)
- * Scissors – blunt, child-size (we need 40)
- * Notebooks – 70-sheet notebooks, wide- or college-ruled (still 35 cents at Walmart)
(we need 50)
- * Rulers – 12-inch ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (we need 20)

September Altar Gifts

Holy Communion In Memory of Kim Henry

Tammy Basich ~ Celebrating Colin's birthday!

Altar Candles Michael and Lois Felten ~ In Memory of Catherine and Betty Bauer

Eternal Lamp Cheryl Watson ~ In Memory of Betty Watson and Evelyn Whitaker

Our next **Senior Group** Gathering will be on September 24, at 9:30 a.m. at church. Angela Wehner, director of Older Adult Grant Program of Porter-Starke Services & member of CLC, is leading a discussion entitled "Purposeful Presentation". It is tailored to our age group. Feel free to invite a friend.

There will be snacks, and there will also be prizes for turning in evaluations at the end of the program.

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

CLC Social Ministry and Mission September 2026

Compass International Family Center, Valparaiso <http://compassIFC.org> equips international neighbors of all ages in Northwest Indiana with the educational services and support needed to thrive in their new community. Compass is “Open Arms * Hand in Hand” equipping new neighbors with language and life skills needed to thrive in the US, strengthening our community by breaking down divisions and isolation. With approximately 90 children and 40 adults joining 50 annual volunteers each week, each Compass night is an opportunity for growth and new friendships. Compass offers the following free services for all ages: Adult English classes, Citizenship classes, K-12 tutoring, English learner preschool, Childcare, and soccer skills/drills, arts and crafts, and other fun enrichment projects.



Project Neighbors – Freedom Recovery Fund <https://projectneighbors.org/frf> Led by Project Neighbor’s Black Board members and staff, the FRF is a sustainable and comprehensive resource for the Black community in Valparaiso. The FRF helps address systemic issues and racial inequality. Funding is allocated as follows:



Personal Incentive Accounts (e.g. home/business ownership), Emergency Grants (e.g. unforeseen reduction in income), and Legal/Advocacy Assistance (e.g. generating wills/trusts and estate planning to help build legacy of wealth). The FRF aims to engage a network of community leaders who share a common goal of improving the quality of life of Black community members in Valpo.

Help achieve our goal of \$2500 in September (over and above giving combined with CLC’s \$1200 budgeted amount). By achieving our goal CLC will help **Compass** and Project Neighbors **Freedom Recovery Fund** continue mutual support and service activities that are crucial to effective ministry. Use your weekly worship giving mailed in check to CLC and indicate “Compass/FRF” 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.

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 •

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