



DARE TO DISCIPLE!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..”

— Matthew 28:19

Christ Lutheran Church
Valparaiso, Indiana

Stewardship Appeal 2026



The Vision

“Go therefore...”

Consider what Jesus was asking. The tomb was barely empty. The disciples were still finding their footing, still startled by resurrection, still not entirely sure what had just happened. And into that uncertainty, Jesus speaks one of the most audacious commands in all of Scripture: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”*

Not: “settle in and figure things out.” Not: “wait until you’re ready.” Go. Dare. Make disciples.

Christ Lutheran Church has been answering that dare for 56 years. In our worship and our welcome, in our learning and our service, in the ways we care for one another and reach beyond these walls, we have been making disciples — of ourselves, of our neighbors, of our community and our world. The Holy Spirit has been faithful to this congregation through every season, and has more in store for us yet.

Discipleship happens here in all directions at once: as we grow in faith ourselves, as we invite and welcome others into this community, and as we serve our neighbors near and far. None of it happens by accident. All of it is sustained by the generosity of this congregation — your time, your presence, and your giving.

God is still speaking that same dare. And we are still answering.

Ministry Initiatives

“...and baptize all people...”

Jesus’ command to “go and make disciples” is not a solo endeavor. It requires a community — people, place, and the resources to sustain both. As we look honestly at where we are and where God is calling us, two needs stand out.

We need to care for the place where discipleship happens. Our building is not just a building. It is where generations have been baptized, confirmed, married, and mourned. It is where grief groups gather, where AA members find their way back to themselves, where Boy Scouts earn their first badges and brass bands find a home. Caring for this space is an act of ministry — and our long-range maintenance plan requires consistent, dedicated investment to keep this community hub healthy and welcoming. As we invest in our property, we ensure that our doors remain open — wide — for every group and family who calls CLC home.

We need to return to the generous congregation we have always been. For generations, Christ Lutheran has been a tithing church — giving the first ten percent of everything we receive to the wider church and its partners in mission. For a season, while we worked to stabilize our finances, we had to step back from that practice. That season is ending. This year’s appeal is an invitation to return: to reinvest in our staff, to recommit to our mission partners, and to reclaim our identity as a congregation that gives generously because we have received generously.

“...and teach them to obey...”

CARE FOR OUR HOME

\$780 per week

Our Property team forecasts and plans for campus maintenance. Staying current with our long-range plan protects the investment our congregation has made over 56 years — and ensures every group, family, and neighbor finds a space ready to welcome them.

INVEST IN OUR MISSION

\$737 per week

We return to our calling as a tithing congregation — giving the first ten percent of our offerings to the ELCA, our synod, and social ministry partners. We also invest cost-of-living adjustments in our staff, so the gifted people who lead our worship are supported with the dignity their work deserves.

Appeal Goal: Increase Offerings by \$1,518 per week

“...and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20b

That is how Jesus ends the Great Commission. Not with a deadline. Not with a performance review. With a promise: *I am with you. Always.* That promise is what makes the dare possible.

Pray about what it means to be a disciple here, now, in this moment of CLC’s life. Pray about your response to the letter from the Stewardship Team. Ask God to lead you in how you will respond to all that you have received.

Be ready to complete your **Statement of Intent** and offer it in worship on **March 22** — or mail your response to the church office, or submit it online at **clcvalpo.org**.

Dare to live in community. Dare to share your joy. Dare to serve your neighbor. We are Christ Lutheran Church. **And we dare to disciple.**

Reflect on Your Giving

- › How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- › How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?
- › Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? And can I consider doing that?
- › How much more could I give if I really wanted to?

Weekly Giving Levels

Households by weekly giving range

