



# Christ Lutheran CHURCH

**WEEKLY SCRIBE**  
**January 4, 2026**

**A Note About Today's Prelude:**

Claude Balbastre was a French composer of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, and one of the most famous musicians of his time. Of his many compositions for organ, harpsichord, and fortepiano, one of his most well-known pieces is a suite of *Noëls*, written for organ in 1770.

When performing this piece, I see each movement tell the story of the journey of the Wise Men to Bethlehem. The first three movements - all in the key of D minor – represent each of the Wise Men, and have a musical flavor of the Middle East. The 4<sup>th</sup> movement – in D major – depicts the presentation of their gifts. The next movement (again in D minor) represents the angel's dream to Joseph, telling him to flee to Egypt to escape Herod's wrath.

The final movement – in full heavy minor chords – depicts Herod's slaughter of Bethlehem's innocents, while the final two measures – on a simple and quiet flute stop – seems to represent the Holy Family's quiet escape to Egypt.

~ Brian Bartusch



## CLC Social Ministry and Mission January 2026

“Spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed” (Isaiah 58:10).

### **First Contact, Inc. and Mike Steiner Congregational Member Needs Memorial Fund.**

Each month the Social Ministry highlights a special giving opportunity and volunteer opportunities. January’s emphasis is to support 1) First Contact Porter County <https://facebook.com/firstcontactportercounty> and 2) the Christ Lutheran Mike Steiner Benevolence Fund.

**First Contact** is a not-for-profit interdenominational resource and referral ministry, which endeavors in the name of Jesus to assist Porter County residents in need. The vision of FC is to engage a community of givers, through churches, individuals, and organizations to help support those facing hardship. FC has offices in Valparaiso and Portage. When Porter County residents come to the offices of Christ Lutheran with needs as described above, First Contact is our partner in helping address these needs. FC also welcomes volunteers to help in staffing their office hours.



**Mike (Marjorie) Steiner** was a member of Christ Lutheran who through her will asked her family to donate her financial savings (about \$15,000) to CLC. She asked that these monies be used to help CLC members who at a particular time have social, physical, and financial needs. The Social Ministry Committee established policies and procedures for making effective use of these funds to benefit those needing help with rent, utilities, emergency food, medicine, and counseling. It has been years since Mike’s initial gift, and numerous CLC members have benefited, so the fund needs new donations each year.

Help achieve our goal of \$2500 in January (over/above giving combined with CLC’s \$1200 budgeted amount). By achieving our goal CLC helps **First Contact** and **Steiner Fund** thrive. Use your weekly worship giving envelope with a check to CLC and indicate “F.C./Steiner”, or contribute through Subsplash on the CLC website <https://clevalpo.org> via the “Give” button. Thank you to members for supporting monthly emphases.

## **QUILTS**

Quilts Completed: 53

### **BABY CARE KIT PROJECT**

2026 GOAL-500

KITS COMPLETED-55

**JANUARY NEEDS**-1 yard of flannel or more and girl tops and boy shirts in sizes 6 months to 2T.

**INTERESTING FACT**- There are fewer items available at local resale shops.



### **FABRIC KIT PROJECT**

2026 GOAL-100

KITS COMPLETED-8

**JANUARY NEEDS**-Cotton fabric in 3 yard lengths. Solid colors and printed designs can be used. This fabric is sent to LWR SEWING CENTERS somewhere in the world where sewing skills are taught.

**INTERESTING FACT**-Since 2016 when this project started here at CLC, 1,310 kits have been sent.

### **PERSONAL CARE KIT PROJECT**

KITS COMPLETED 72

**JANUARY NEEDS**-CASH TO BUY NEEDED ITEMS IN BULK.

### **ALUMINUM CAN PROJECT**

2026 GOAL-\$250

Cans collected-0

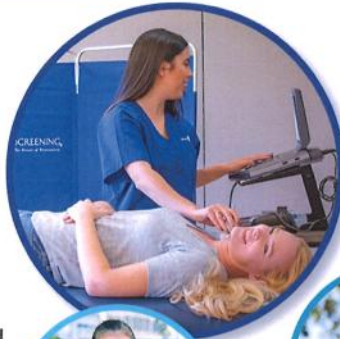
**JANUARY NEEDS**-Fill the red truck or the white basket in the Gathering Area EACH SUNDAY! Having a party over the holidays that includes aluminum cans, remember to save them for LWR.

**INTERESTING FACT**- The money earned from the cans purchased about 280 4 ounce bars of soap in 2025.

**Special screening package for  
\$129 for our members includes:**

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!  
**800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**



Christ Lutheran Church  
Friday, January 23, 2026  
Activity Center

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, or neighbor.

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 January 14, 2026.

All persons experiencing grief are welcome to attend.

## Little Lamb Preschool Scholarship Needs

There are several families this year that are in need of tuition assistance scholarships. Little Lamb has used most of our current scholarship funds to assist with this. Unfortunately, we are forecasting even more need in our spring semester. Christ Lutheran has always been such a generous partner in helping with our families' needs.

Please consider donating to our scholarship fund so that we can help with this growing need for tuition assistance. Donating to the scholarship fund is an easy process. You may donate by check (made out to Little lamb Preschool) or by using the *Give Directly* tab on the CLC website. Please specify Little Lamb Preschool.



Thank you very much for all you do to help this ministry.

## CIRCLE Dinner Providers Needed for 2026

Meals are needed for the high school youth group. Circle meets every Sunday from 6-8pm, with a meal to start at 6:00. Would you be willing to cook a meal and share it with the kids? You would be cooking for about 15 people and are welcome to stay for fellowship. If you are interested, please scan the QR code.



## CLC Retreat

**Registration is now open for the CLC 2026 Retreat: Living as a Christian When the Ground Feels Shaky**

We'll gather at the Lindenwood Retreat Center in Plymouth Feb 20-22, hearing stories of faith and sharing in study, worship, and fellowship. Follow the QR code below to register online!

Any questions ask Don MacMillan or Pastor Erica.



**NEEDED: CHRISTMAS CARDS**  
**WHEN: ANYTIME**  
**WHERE: SANDY KEAMMERER'S MAILBOX**

**Sandy collects cards all year, so keep them coming.**

## January Altar Gifts

### Holy Communion

Phyllis Schroeder ~ In Memory of David

Safrin Family ~ Celebrating our Grandson, Luke, 9th Birthday!

### Altar Candles

Phil Hahn ~ In Memory of Laurel Hahn

### Eternal Lamp

Michael & Lois Felten ~ In Memory of Connie Felten Bretscher







*Thank You Letter – Winter & Holiday Season*

**Daybreak Shelter**  
Valparaiso, Indiana  
12/15/2025

Dear Friend of Daybreak,

As winter settles in and the holiday season surrounds us with its light, we pause with deep gratitude to reflect on the blessings that sustain our mission. Your generosity has been one of those blessings. Because of your kindness, Daybreak has remained a place of warmth, dignity, and hope for those who need it most.

The holidays remind us that every gift, whether large or small, carries the power to restore faith and renew spirits. Your contributions have helped us provide shelter from the cold, meals that nourish body and soul, and a community that reminds each resident they are not forgotten. In this season of giving, you have truly embodied the spirit of compassion.

From all of us at Daybreak, thank you for standing with us. Your support ensures that our doors remain open, our tables remain full, and our hearts remain lifted. May this winter bring you peace, joy, and the assurance that your generosity is making a lasting difference.

With gratitude and blessings,  
**Daybreak Shelter Leadership & Community**