

Sometimes people ask "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?"

Stephen Ministers are there...

- after the phone call in the night that changes life forever
- after the baby comes home demanding more than they ever imagined possible
- after the funeral when everyone has left and emotions come crashing
- after the doctor says, "I am sorry, there is nothing else we can do"
- after the youngest child pulls out of the hug and heads into the dorm
- after the senior living director says "Welcome to your new home."
- after the divorce papers are served and she wonders if she will ever trust again
- after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away\
- after the fire when rebuilding the home seems impossible
- after family have heard the story too often, but he still needs to talk about it

Stephen Ministers are well trained lay caregivers who provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through difficult times in life, providing hope and healing in the midst of their pain.



Are you a Dog Lover or a Cat Lover?



Show your love by donating to the Porter County Animal Shelter (Dogs) and Independent Cat Society with your donations by August 17th. Below are the most needed items:

Porter County Animal Shelter: hand sanitizer, paper towels, laundry detergent, bleach, treats (Pup-Peroni or Zuke's Mini Naturals only), Pedigree Canned Dog Food - CHOPPED ONLY - Any Flavor is fine, Creamy Peanut Butter - Jiff, Peter Pan or Skippy Brands ONLY.

Independent Cat Society: high efficiency laundry soap, 30 gallon trash bags, tall kitchen garbage bags, paper towels, dryer sheets, bleach, paper plates (6x9"), Scratchers, Furry mice cat toys, crinkle ball cat toys, Temptations cat treats, Fancy Feast kitten wet food or classic pate, Science Diet dry kitten food, dry cat food

Collection boxes are in the gathering space.

This is a confirmation project of Jonah Knauff (dogs) and Violet Furuness (cats).

Spreading Joy, One Stitch at a Time

Libby Novack's confirmation project is all about spreading joy through small crocheted creations, and we're so thankful to everyone who joined us in May for our joyful making session!

Want to get involved? You're invited to knit or crochet pocket-sized creations anytime and drop it in the bin located in the Gathering Space at church. Yarn is available under the nursery desk, and if you're looking for ideas or patterns, feel free to email Faith Vittitoe at faithv@gmail.com.

We'll be collecting these cheerful little creations through the end of July– thank you for helping us share a little handmade happiness!



AMOS, A Mission of Service in keeping with CLC theme, "who is our neighbor", is going to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to serve during Health Care Week, leaving July 25, 2025.

We need the following:

Diabetic socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, lip balm, condoms, deodorant, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, diapers, baby hats, baby soap, nursing pads and monetary donations.

TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!!

We Make Indiana—Porter County Chapter Tuesday, July 22 | 6:30—8:00 CT Christ Lutheran Church

"Seek the welfare of the city... for in its welfare you will find your welfare." – Jeremiah 29:7

God calls us to seek justice and care for our neighbors—and that includes ensuring everyone has a safe, affordable place to call home. On Tuesday, July 22, from 6:30 to 8:00pm CT at Christ Lutheran Church, our We Make Indiana—Porter County Chapter will gather to share updates from the follow-up meetings we've held with city officials and council members since our powerful Housing Assembly in May.

We'll also share what we've learned about the City of Valparaiso's plan to rewrite its zoning laws—and why this is a pivotal opportunity to create a more just and welcoming community. Together, we'll make plans to educate and mobilize our congregations so we can have the greatest possible impact on the outcome.

All are welcome—join us as we put our faith into action to build a city for all of us.



RSVP today by clicking on QR Code:

Seniors' Group goes to Lake Michigan on Thursday, July 24

Seniors' Group to take an **excursion on the Emita II that tells the story of the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Indiana Dunes.** There will be a tour guide.

With 15 reservations (paid in advance) we'll get a special price of **\$22 per person** (\$10 off the regular fare). Karen Seykowski will receive your advance payment to secure your reservation. Contact Karen at <u>kjseykow@frontier.com</u> or 219-462-3636 (leave a message)

On Thursday, July 24, we can board the Emita II at 1:30 pm; the excursion begins at 2:00 and lasts about 90 minutes.

Those who wish to **bring a sack lunch** can enjoy it on the Main Dock for the Emita II. She docks at the Millennium Plaza along Trail Creek. We would meet at the Main Dock at 12:30 pm & have lunch. Then board Emita II at 1:30 pm.

Emita II is **accessible via the boat ramp**. Since the water level is very low, passengers would need to be able to take a couple extra steps down from the ramp before getting on the boat; some assistance can be provided. There is a lower deck (shaded) & upper deck. Restrooms (the heads) are on the lower deck.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

As much as we love summer, school supplies will soon be in the stores. And, as always, we will be collecting for Lutheran World Relief. Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children — and in some cases, adults — continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Our goal this year is to collect enough supplies through early October for 120 kits, each kit containing the following:

FOUR – 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ¹/₂" (LWR cannot use loose-leaf paper).

- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- ONE pencil sharpener.
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well).
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers.
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink).
- ONE box of 16 or 24 cravons.

ONE - 2.5" eraser.

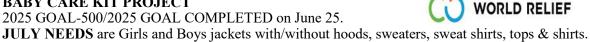
There is a basket in the Gathering Space for donations.

Collecting school supplies with your children is a reminder that we need to continue to love our neighbors, near and far. God's love is everywhere! If you have any questions, please contact me at kathyjopage@gmail.com. Thank you for your support.

Ouilts

Quilts Completed: 256 ~ Thanks to the families at CLC that attended the service event on 7/14 and tied 3 quilts! LUTHERAN

BABY CARE KIT PROJECT



FABRIC KIT PROJECT

2025 GOAL-150/KITS COMPLETED-96 JULY NEEDS are 100 per cent cotton fabric in solid colors or prints in 3 yard lengths.

PERSONAL CARE PROJECT **KITS COMPLETED-762** JULY NEED is cash to buy items in bulk in order to get the best price as possible for items.

ALUMINUM CAN PROJECT-LWR 2025 GOAL-\$250 CANS SOLD April—\$60.00

ATTENTION: A huge THANK YOU to all who have contributed in some way to the BABY CARE PROJECT, FABRIC KIT PROJECT, PERSONAL CARE KIT PROJECT and the ALUMINUM CAN PROJECT. No donation is too small. Together, we can have a huge impact for others in need.

August 11, 2025 | 6-8 PM

Christ Lutheran Church 2610 Campbell Street Valparaiso, IN 46385





Called Together: Listening, Learning, Living Tuning Our Hearts to One Another, Moving as One

The Indiana-Kentucky Synod is embarking on a journey of listening, learning, and living together, responding to God's call to work with the people of God throughout our territory. Our initiative, *Called Together: Listening, Learning, Living*, invites everyone to join in a shared process of reflection and action. As we listen to God and each other, we will discover how we can work together in faith.

Phase 1: Listening to God's Call Listening across the synod – drawing in diverse stories, needs, and hopes

In this first phase, we focus on listening—not just with our ears but with our hearts. We seek to understand the diverse stories, needs, and hopes of our community and where God is at work throughout the Synod. "Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live" (Isaiah 55:3).

We invite you to share your story and listen deeply to one another. Everyone's voice is needed, as together we seek to hear God's call.

Phase 2: Learning and Living as One Creating experiments and partnerships based on what's been heard

Once we've listened, it's time to act. In Phase 2, we'll create partnerships and opportunities based on what we've learned. "Just as a body, though one, has many parts... so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). Each of us has a unique role, and together, we make up the body of Christ, moving toward our shared purpose.

"Make every e[ort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). This phase is about living out our shared faith in Jesus with unity, humility, and love. We will work together to create experiments and partnerships that respond to God's call in our lives.

Rummage Sale

and Market

September 20, 2025

Details coming soon...

Start cleaning your attics and closets for the CLC Rummage Sale! We will be selling table space in our outdoor Market- gather your goods!

We are looking for volunteers to help organize this event! Join me Sunday, June 22, 9:00 a.m., before service in the Gathering Space Library area. Thank you! Jacquie 219-309-6437

Worship Leaders Needed All Ages Welcome!! Training Included!

If you are able and willing we could really use your help in serving during worship services.

If you would like to help during the 8:00 service please contact the following:

Lectors ~ Dave Keammerer

Prayer Assistant ~ Paige Reichardt

Communion Assistants, Ushering and Light/Sound Tech ~ Church Office

If you would like to help during the **10:30 service** please contact the church office for all positions including lights/sound Tech or Livestream Tech, click on the QR code.



CLC Social Ministry and Mission July 2025

Each month the Social Ministry highlights a special giving opportunity with July's emphases to provide monetary support for 1- ELCA's Global Missions' Selian Lutheran Hospital in Tanzania Africa and 2- AMOS, "A Mission of Service" in South Dakota, Guatemala, and Honduras.





Selian Hospital, in Arusha, Tanzania <u>http://selianlh.or.tz</u>, (celebrating over 70 years and founded by Mark and Linda Jacobson) continues to thrive under local African leadership. CLC is designated as an ELCA missionary partner congregation and continues to support Selian in their ministry of "providing competent and compassionate medical care, promotion of community health programs and proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

ELCA's Global Mission nurtures the ELCA's world engagement through the theology and practice of accompaniment by walking together with our global companions. Our work together has a multi-faceted approach to mission, from sending missionaries and personnel, to offering grants and scholarships designed to strengthen global church leadership and to support the ministries of companions. <u>https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission</u>

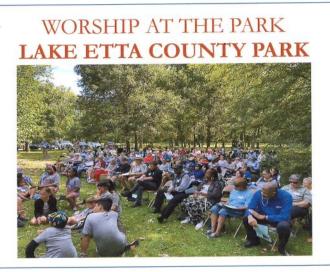


An AMOS <u>https://www.facebook.com/amissionofservice</u> ministry team, including CLC's Gail Mannington (Board member and Treasurer), regularly undertakes Medical Mission trips to South Dakota (Pine Ridge Reservation), in Guatemala (Esquipulas), and in Honduras (Copan). On each trip AMOS provides medical clinics, health care, speech pathology services and education. The next trip,

to Pine Ridge, home of the Oglala Lakota tribe, and in collaboration with the nonprofit Re-Member, is leaving July 25 during Health Care Week.

During each trip the team sees and treats hundreds of patients during clinic days, and the needs are voluminous. AMOS raises funds to purchase and provide prescription medications, ointments, and vitamins, and also collects over-the-counter medications for the mission team to take (CLC members have donated hundreds of pounds of over-the-counter medicines).

Help achieve our total goal of \$2000 in July. Use your weekly worship giving envelope mailed with check to CLC and indicate "Selian/AMOS" or contribute through Subsplash on the CLC website <u>https://clcvalpo.org</u> via the "Give" button and choose Monthly Social Ministry Emphasis. Thank you to members for supporting the monthly social ministry emphasis.



Bethel Lutheran in Gary and Christ Lutheran in Valparaiso will partner with eight other faith congregations in the community to host a worship service and picnic at Lake Etta County Park. (Lake Etta) (Park address: 4801 West 29th Ave, Gary)

> When: August 10th – Worship will begin at 10:30am Where: Lake Etta County Park – large group Pavilion

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and drinks will be provided. **Bring a side dish to pass (serve 10-12 people) Bring a lawn chair.** There is a \$5.00 park entrance/parking fee **There will be lots of fun games for kids!** Sign ups and maps are available in the Gathering Space.

Questions? Please contact Kathy Sutherland at ksutherland54@yahoo.com -or text 219.309.4414.