



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

WEEKLY SCRIBE
September 7, 2025

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

	Sanctuary	Church Hall	120 Library	Gathering Place
9/7 Sunday School	Bishop Tim Graham		Bible Survey D. Keammerer	Rummage Sale Meeting
9/14	Worship Leadership What, How, and Why?		Bible Survey D. Keammerer	
9/21		We Make Indiana Local Church Housing Coalition	Bible Survey D. Keammerer	
9/28		Great Cloud of Witnesses: Stories of Faith & Resilience with Sam Graber & Anna Stewart	Bible Survey D. Keammerer	

Bishop Timothy Mark Graham was elected and called to serve the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA, at the 2024 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly, in Louisville, KY. His official start began on September 1, 2024.

Bishop Tim is an Iowa Hawkeye by birth. At three-weeks-old, he was adopted by the late Rev. Vernon and Mrs. Ellen Graham (while Vernon was a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA). However, most of his young and adult life have been spent in Fort Wayne, IN.

Prior to the assembly election, Bishop Tim served Messiah Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN, in various capacities, for seventeen years. His initial call to Messiah in 2007 was actually a dual parish call shared with Grace Lutheran Church/Light of the Cross, also in Fort Wayne, as the redevelopment pastor. Grace/Light of the Cross celebrated Holy Closure at the end of 2009, and Bishop Tim was called to serve Messiah as the Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry in 2010 and then as the Senior Pastor in 2015.

Bishop Tim obtained his undergrad degree from Purdue University in Fort Wayne (when it was still IPFW) in Organizational Leadership and his Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA. Bishop Tim was ordained at Trinity English Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN, which was his home congregation prior to his first call. Bishop Tim also worked for 14 yrs. as a forklift driver at Supervalu prior to attending seminary.

Bishop Tim, and wife, Meme (Michelle), are the parents of four adult children in Fort Wayne: Sashelle Rose (fiancé Alex Knight), Timothy Graham, Jr., Larraine Graham (husband Cody Williamson), and Robert Graham. They also have seven grandchildren including Jaylen, twins Maleyah and Michelle, Noelle, Elias, Graham, and Greyson.

CLC Social Ministry and Mission September 2025

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.



Freedom Recovery Fund

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.

Additional Opportunities:

Northwest Indiana Lutheran Food and Supply Pantries Donations.

Daybreak Men’s Shelter and Resale Shop <https://newcreationresaleshop.com> at 2102 Calumet Ave, 219-548-3548. You can help feed our neighbors experiencing homelessness: Daybreak Men’s Center continues to be a daytime base for both single men and women working at the Resale Shop, providing daily meals and a space to be during the day. You can help feed their guests at the daytime Center: lunch supplies can be dropped off at the resale shop counter during open hours (usually 10-5). Needed items include (lunch) meat, fruit, individual juice, snack cakes, and chips. Call for more information. There is a basket inside door #3 for food donations.

Co-Action Housing Office <https://coaction.care> 2001 Calumet Ave., 219-548-2800. Help stock our pantry with essentials: detergent (bottles and pods), paper towels, toilet paper, ramen noodles, canned soup, and dish soap? You can drop off donations in the lobby at 2001 Calumet Ave., Valpo on Monday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm. If you purchase items from our Amazon Wishlist, they will be delivered to our housing office.

Immanuel Food Pantry <https://immanuelvalpo.org/food-pantry> 1700 Monticello – drive up drop off items. Donations can be dropped off at Immanuel, best done Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-3 pm, at entrance between church and school.

Hilltop Food Pantry <https://hilltophouse.org/Food-Pantry> 606 Union St., Valpo.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Thank you for your continued support for school kits for Lutheran World Relief. The following items are still needed for each school kit:

ONE – 30-cm ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (we need 44).

ONE – pair of blunt scissors (we need 47).

FIVE – black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink) (we need 87).

ONE – pencil sharpener (we need 78).

We currently have enough notebooks, crayons, pencils and erasers. Dollar General has a pair of scissors for \$1, and rulers two for \$1. If you know of other deals, let me know at kathyjopage@gmail.com and I will pass them along.

There is a basket in the Gathering Space for donations, or you can purchase from Amazon or Target and choose to have the items delivered directly to the church. Thank you for your generous support!

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS: ASSEMBLING SCHOOL KITS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, DURING FORMATION HOUR.



Fall Registration

LLP is looking forward to welcoming 142 students this August. Little Lamb Preschool has openings for the 2025-2026 school year in our Young 5 PM class [Monday-Friday 12:30-3:00 PM (Your child must have turned 4 by June 2025 to enroll in this class)], our Pre K PM Class [Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:15-2:45 PM (Your child must have turned 4 by August 1, 2025, to enroll in this class)] and our Beginner 3 PM Class [Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:30-3:00 PM (Your child must have turned 3 by February, 2025, to enroll in this class)]. Please contact Jen with any questions or interest. 219-462-6660 #14 or LLP@CLCValpo.org You may also look on our website for more class information. clcvalpo.org. Classes begin soon!



Be a part of the 17th Annual
Carsten & Georgia Falkenberg Meal Pack NWI

Saturday, September 20, 2025

9:00 – 11:30am 12:30 – 3:00pm

Crown Point High School Cafeteria

Your donations feed many people in NW Indiana (90%), and overseas. At 40c per meal, your donation makes a big impact.

This year: No training required for experienced packers! Free lunch if you work both shifts! Live Christian music! Special recognition for donors of \$500+! Taste the Nutri-Plenty meal!

Please send checks (payable to Pack Away Hunger, NWI event in memo line) to: P.O. Box 37, Greenwood, IN 46142, or Georgia Falkenberg, 6811 E 125th Ave, Crown Point, IN 46307

Register to help pack and/or donate at:
www.givebutter.com/NWIN2025

Rummage Sale and Market

September 20, 2025

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

CALLING ALL VENDORS

Join Christ Lutheran Church Outdoor Market
on September 20, 9am-2pm
2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso 46383

*In conjunction with indoor Rummage Sale
Email: jchevallero630@outlook.com
Or 219-309-6437
For details

Vendor Registration Forms:



Page 1



Page 2

Volunteers to Lead our Fusion Youth Group

"At Christ Lutheran, the intergenerational relationships we build here are a very special part of many people's faith lives. Our youth's lives have been deeply impacted by the adults that walk alongside them in their faith formation. From Confirmation mentors to Sunday School teachers, your presence leads to meaningful and faith-filled relationships. As you will hear many Confirmands share in their Witness to the Church papers, they deeply cherish the relationship they have with their mentor.

This year, we are looking for volunteers to help lead Fusion. If you are someone who has been looking for ways to be a part of the faith formation of our young ones, this is an amazing opportunity to do so! Youth Board is looking for a team of 2-3 individuals to volunteer that would switch off leading Sundays. If you are interested in volunteering, or would like to learn more, please reach out to a member of Youth Board."

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. Sign ups will be taken until September 21st. 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 28th** after the 10:30 service in the church hall. (So mark your calendars!) We look forward to having you!

Please scan the QR code to sign up for a group!



Welcome to our new Nursery Attendant!

We're excited to welcome Olivia Magiera as our Nursery Attendant! Olivia is a Junior at Valparaiso High School, and has been a regular volunteer in our nursery and with Vacation Bible School. Fun fact: Olivia is a third-generation member of Christ Lutheran!

WHY MEN SHOULD JOIN THE CHOIR



The Top 10 Reasons men should join the church choir:

10. Rehearsals are every Thursday night, which means that for those few hours, you will significantly reduce your risk of contracting tendonitis from non-stop operation of the TV remote control or the computer mouse.
9. Because you wear a choir robe every Sunday, you are liberated from the task many me- would find quite challenging: *finding clothes that match properly.*
8. From your special advantage point every Sunday, in which you look out at the entire congregation from the choir seating, you will develop interesting new hobbies. Among these is a little guessing game called “Who’s praying, who’s sleeping?”
7. On the other hand, sitting in full view of 100 – 150 people on a weekly basis makes it much less likely that you yourself will give in to a chronic lack of sleep (although it has been known to happen)!
6. If you think your singing in the shower sounds good now, *just wait* until you’ve been singing with the choir for a few weeks!
5. Singing in a choir is one of the few activities for men that does not require electronic equipment or expensive tools. This could be good for the family budget.
4. For the fitness buffs, singing in the choir is not only heart healthy, it’s *soul healthy*. There are no monthly membership fees, and it’s a lot easier on the knees than jogging.
3. If you think you’ve done everything there is to do, and there are no great challenges in life, try singing with the choir and *staying on pitch!*
2. Choir rehearsals last half as long as a professional football or basketball game, but is at least twice as satisfying. This is especially true if you’re a long-suffering fan of the (*insert team name here*) (don’t worry, though, the rehearsals are on Thursdays, not Mondays).

And the **number one reason** men should join the choir:

When people ask whether you’ve been behaving yourself, you can say with the utmost sincerity: “*Hey, I’m a choir boy.*”



QUILTS

Quilts Completed: 276



BABY CARE KIT PROJECT

2025 GOAL-500

KITS COMPLETED - 600

SEPTEMBER NEEDS - Sleepers and lightweight jackets.

INTERESTING FACT: So far this year our ladies have sewn 2400 diapers.

FABRIC KIT PROJECT

2025 GOAL - 150

KITS COMPLETED - 104

SEPTEMBER NEEDS - Cotton solid colors and cotton printed patterns in 3-yard lengths.

PERSONAL CARE KITS

KITS COMPLETED - 834

AUGUST NEED - Any contribution will be helpful.

ALUMINUM CAN PROJECT

2025 GOAL-\$250

January - 120 pounds: \$60

April - 120 pounds: \$60

August - 140 pounds: \$70 = \$190

Are YOU having a family get together, a reunion, or party? CAN YOU save the aluminum CANS for LWR? No CAN donation is too small. Place the CANS in the white basket in the Gathering Place or in the red Ford truck in the parking lot. Let's beat our 140 pounds!

Senior Group Meeting

Even though American Indian tribes no longer inhabit many of our local areas, we see remnants of their existence in the names of many of our cities and towns. Ed Seykowski will lead a presentation on "The American Indian" at the Christ Lutheran Church Seniors Group Meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Fun fact: In our area, the Pottawatomie Tribe were friendly farmers and hunters along our lakes, streams, and rivers. As a boy, Ed would occasionally find Indian flint arrowheads on the shore of his lakefront home. He especially enjoys the Boy Scout Order of the Arrow and authentic American Indian Dance performances.

MUSIC NOTES:

Are you interested or curious about being a part of the many musical ensembles here at Christ Lutheran Church, but aren't quite sure if you're ready? Well have no fear – you are more than welcome to attend any of our rehearsals for the sanctuary choir or the adult handbell ensemble with no commitment.

The ***Celebration Ringers Handbell Ensemble*** rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in the Music Room (right next to the church mailboxes). If you've never rung a handbell before, you'll have an opportunity to ring a few notes or just stand next to one of our talented ringers and observe their skills and follow along with the music.

The ***Sanctuary Choir*** also rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the sanctuary. If you're interested in attending a rehearsal just to observe, let our director Brian Bartusch know (brian.bartusch@clcvalpo.org) and music will be available for you to follow or sing along. The choir learns some wonderful music at rehearsals, and enjoys a little fun along the way.

Not sure of committing on a weekly basis, but still enjoy singing? Consider being a ***cantor*** for our Sunday worship services. The cantor leads the congregation in singing the responsorial psalm during the service, and cantors are on a rotating schedule, so you would participate every 6 – 8 weeks and assigned a psalm that fits well with your vocal range.

Come join us!



September Altar Gifts

Holy Communion Bill & Diana Iltzsche ~ Celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary

Barb & Bill Lieske ~ Celebrating our 44th Anniversary
and our son's 42nd birthday

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

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

Sunday School Registration and Adult Faith Formation

Sunday School and Adult Faith Formation begin this week!

Sunday School for those 3yo-4th grade begins this week at 9:20 with opening in the LLP Annex (or "the old sanctuary," by the church office).

Please use QR code to register:

Adult Faith Formation will kickoff in the sanctuary with the opportunity to meet and get to know our Indiana-Kentucky Synod Bishop, Tim Graham.



Stay tuned for news about the first week of **Fusion** - our Sunday morning group for 5th-8th grades beginning soon, but not yet this week.

Updates from the Hospitality team:

- Welcome to all who are visiting us. Please sign the visitor book in the welcome center. We are glad you are worshiping with us!
- Members: please wear name tags for easy introductions.
- 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.

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.

Current grief group members state these benefits of attending:

~it's a confidential and "safe" place to talk about your journey of grief of the loss of your loved one

~It lets you know that you are not alone as you meet others who understand what you are going through

~we share memories, tears and even laughs

~some days you can just listen to others rather than speaking

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 17th, October 1st, 15th, and 29th.

You are invited: To our 50th Anniversary blessing service and our grandchildren's baptism.

For: Diana and Bill Iltzsche

When: Saturday, September 13th at 2:00

Service: Pastor Erica Gibson-Even liturgist

Pastor Fred Neidner preacher

Music by Paul Schreiner

Please join us. Service will be also be live-streamed

Valparaiso Housing: Crisis or Opportunity

Join us on Sunday, **September 21st at 9:20 in the Fellowship Hall** for a congregational forum where we will listen to each other's stories, learn about how zoning shapes our neighborhoods, hear how meetings are going with our city government since Christ Lutheran hosted the *We Make Indiana* housing assembly in May. At that time, we called on city officials to make our housing crisis in Valparaiso a priority. Hear how that public call is working with changes on the table. We have a rare opportunity to shape the proposed reforms if we come together as people of faith to ensure our community is more welcoming, affordable and just. Please join us for this important forum. All are welcome.

