



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso,
Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660
clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org

The Good News
December 2023

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



Please remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

Continuing with our tradition at CLC, we are taking up a collection for Christmas gifts for our CLC Staff. If you are interested in contributing, please either drop off your contribution to Jenny at the church office or place it in the offering plate with the designation "Staff Christmas Gift." It is our intention to divide the funds evenly among all of our CLC staff.

Christmas will be here before you know it, please have all contributions in by **Sunday, December 17. If you have any questions, please contact any Church Council Officer.**



Christmas Poinsettias

We will be ordering beautiful Christmas Poinsettias for our altar. **Please order a plant by December 17;** there are order form in the bulletin, in the East Link or you may call the church office at 462-6660 and let them know you would like to provide one or more! **Cost is \$15.00.**

Attention All CLC Youth:

I'd like to invite you once again to participate in the CLC Youth Orchestra for the 4:00 pm worship service on **Christmas Eve**. If you are interested, please speak to me after any of our Sunday worship services, or e-mail me at brian.bartusch@clcvalpo.org. Music will be available to pick up in the Music Room starting November 26th. Brass, strings, woodwinds, and percussion are all welcome to participate! Mr. Bartusch

SAVE THE DATE!

The CLC Retreat is happening with a focus on FORGIVENESS. Please plan now to attend on **February 23-25, 2024**. It will be a good time to step back from our stressful daily lives into a time of respite and spiritual renewal at the beautiful **Lindenwood Retreat Center near Plymouth, IN**. Watch for more details soon.

CLC Social Ministry and Mission December 2023



*"Where every member is a missionary,
every pastor is a mission director,
and every congregation is a mission center."*



- December's Social Ministry emphasis is to provide monetary support, along with increasing partnership activities, with **Bethel Lutheran Church**, a diverse, urban ELCA congregation in the Miller neighborhood of Gary, Indiana (part of NW Indiana Conference of I-K Synod) <http://bethelmiller.org> and <http://facebook.com/bethelmillerbeach> Bethel's Pastor is Rev. Joy Heine, and Greg Bueltmann is Director of Music. Bethel means "house of God" and members believe strongly "that the God of Jesus Christ truly is present as they regularly gather in fellowship around his Word and sacraments". CLC has partnered with Bethel over many years, including our 3rd joint worship service at Lake Michigan this past summer, and it is wonderful to further increase relationships with a sister congregation.
- CLC began as an ELCA suburban mission congregation almost 53 years ago. The ELCA I-K Synod Mission and Urban Congregation programs some years ago refocused on needs of urban, rural, and diverse congregations.
- Help achieve our goal of \$2500 in December (over and above giving combined with CLC's budgeted amount of \$1200). By achieving our goal CLC will help **Bethel Lutheran** continue to thrive as a congregation with outreach activities to organizations such as Interfaith Action Network, Crisis Center, and Sojourner Truth House. Use your weekly worship giving envelope mailed with check to CLC and indicate "Bethel" or contribute through Subsplash on the CLC website <https://clcvalpo.org> via the "Give" button. Thank you to members for supporting monthly social ministry emphases.

THE ANGEL TREE IS HERE!

Christ Lutheran Church is organizing a way for you to give to others who need some help during the upcoming Christmas Season. Recipients of these angel gifts are Salvation Army, Family House, Housing Opportunities and other families.. The tree and the angels are in the Gathering Place, please follow the instructions on the label that is placed on the angel.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Blue Christmas/Longest Night

Wednesday, December 20 ~ 7:00 p.m.

In-person and Livestream

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

In-person & Livestream

9:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31

Lessons and Carols

8:00 a.m. In-person

10:30 a.m. In-person & Livestream

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Evening Prayer

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

LITTLE LAMB PRESCHOOL

REGISTRATION FOR 2024-2025 BEGINS IN JANUARY

We would love to have you become part of the LLP family! Registration for the 2024-2025 school year begins **Tuesday, January 9 at 9:00 AM for all CLC members (Currently enrolled students register Monday, January 8 at 9 AM and the community is able to register beginning Wednesday, January 10 beginning at 9:00 AM).** Registration is **only available online at www.clcvalpo.org** . If you have any questions, please contact Jen at the preschool (**462-6660 #14 or llp@clcvalpo.org**).

A virtual tour of Little Lamb Preschool is available on the website (CLCValpo.org—follow the Little Lamb tab).

FALL AND CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECTS

LLP has had two service projects this fall. Hilltop Childcare was our first service project. We collected boxes and boxes of much needed arts and crafts. **Hilltop was thrilled** with all the donations! The final service project of the fall is our most popular. We work in partnership with **Housing Opportunities** to assist families with Christmas gift-giving. We do this through an Angel Tree. The outpouring of generosity among our families is humbling. **We are so blessed to have such wonderful families at LLP!**

FUNDRAISERS

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the **Thrivent Choice** and recommended some of their **Choice Dollars** to LLP. If you own a Thrivent Insurance policy and qualify for **Choice Dollars**, please consider LLP as one of your choices. Recommendations are only good for one year, so please consider beginning the year 2024 choosing LLP as one of your choices.

CHAPEL TIME

All of our stories during the month of December center on the Christmas Story. The five older classes also practice daily for the Christmas program they present for their parents later this month. Telling the beautiful Christmas Story and sharing those special songs are powerful ways to spread the good news of God's love with our preschool families. Please continue to pray for the LLP ministry!

**Thank you to everyone who helped with our LLP Carnival. It was a HUGE success!
thanks to all of you!**



Christian Mission Statement - Little Lamb Preschool, in union with Christ Lutheran Church, serves God by shepherding God's children as we nurture the whole child in partnership with families.



Faith Formation Opportunities <i>Sundays 9:20 a.m.</i>						
Date	Sanctuary	Church Hall	120	209	119, 107, LLP Annex	AC
December 3			Faith that Pleases God D. Keammerer		Sunday School	Fusion
December 10		Sabbatical Reflections Pr. Erica	Faith that Pleases God D. Keammerer		Sunday School	Fusion
December 17	Sunday School Christmas Program	Sabbatical Reflections Pr. Erica	Faith that Pleases God D. Keammerer		Christmas Program	Fusion
December 24			Faith that Pleases God D. Keammerer		Break No Sunday School	Break No Fusion
December 31			Faith that Pleases God D. Keammerer		Break No Sunday School	Break No Fusion

December Altar Gifts

Holy Communion

Ellen Swayne ~ In Memory of Charles Swayne

Altar Candles

Phil Hahn ~ In Honor of my Daughters

Eternal Lamp

Ken and Cheryl Watson ~ In Memory of Joyce Foreman



American Red Cross

GIVE SOMETHING THAT

Means Something®

GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive

Christ Lutheran Church

Activity Center - Door 14
2610 North Campbell
Valparaiso

Wednesday, December 27
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org and enter: ChristLutheranValpo to schedule an appointment.
Donors: please enter thru Door #14.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



Make a Legendary Impact! Come give Dec. 18 thru Jan. 5 for NEW long-sleeved Red Cross Tee, ltd qty!



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Senior Group News

December 3, 2023 (Sunday): Immediately following the late service, our senior group will be meeting with the youth group, as we had hoped to do after Kaitlyn's earlier presentation to our group. Please let me know by return email if you can attend, and if so, what you can provide in the way of lunch. So far, we have a sandwich tray and chips. Right now, five youth have indicated their attendance. Thank you!

December 17, 2023 (Sunday): 2:00 P.M. White Christmas at Valpo's Memorial Opera House downtown. We will not meet as a group but will check in individually, giving "The McCawn Group" as the identifier. This event will be for those that have already prepurchased tickets through Marilyn.

January 25, 2024: Thursday, 9:15 a.m. Meet at church for our meeting as Pastor Erica will share with us her sabbatical experiences! A sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board, and also indicate if you are able to provide treats for that meeting.

Thank you for letting me know if you are able to attend this Sunday's gathering! If needed call Beth Bigham at 219 477 3937, or please reach out to Sue Reinhold.



“Since my husband is gone I don’t know how to handle this loneliness; the holidays are hard to face.”

Stephen ministers are here to listen. Call the church office **(219.462.6660)**, talk to a Stephen Minister (look for the blue badges) or one of the pastors. We are all here for you.



**Christ
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YOUTH

Fleece Donations Needed!

Do you have fleece lying around that you aren't quite sure what to do with? Consider donating it to the CLC Youth Ministries! In January, our youth will be making tie blankets to donate to Living Hope. We will be using fleece to create these blankets, so any donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for supporting our youth ministries!

2023 End of Year Contributions

As we approach the end of 2023, please take a moment to read the following guidelines for year-end giving.

All contributions received on Sunday, December 31, will be recorded in 2023. Please remember to clearly write your name, the amount of the contribution, and the purpose of the donation (operating budget, social ministry, etc.) on your envelope. (Tip: Several of our members use return address labels on their envelopes – quick and easy!)

Our envelopes have preprinted lines for Operating Budget, Social Ministry Monthly Emphasis, and Special Offering (for any other offerings). Please indicate the amount for each fund on the appropriate line. If your gift is designated for something other than the Operating Budget or Social Ministry Monthly Emphasis, please indicate the amount and the purpose. **Please note that all contributions that are not designated will be put towards the Operating Budget.** If you don't have preprinted envelopes, feel free to use one of our pew envelopes (located in the pews and on top of the indoor lockbox outside the church office).

The church can accept gifts of securities! If you would like to transfer securities to the church, or if you would like to transfer the proceeds from the sale of securities to the church, please contact the church office for more information.

Thank you for your faithful contributions to the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church! If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact the church office.



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December Updates from Youth Ministries!

CLC Congregation,

As we enter into the season of Advent, we enter into a season of waiting and hope. As I write this, I think of the beauty found in waiting. Waiting is an opportunity for us to sit in the present and to appreciate the ways God is currently moving in our lives. As I reflected on this, I thought of both the many ways God has been present in the youth ministries here at CLC *and* what God has planned in the future for these ministries.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Youth Silent Auction this past month. It is such a blessing to see the fun people have with this fundraiser and the ways our community comes together to support our youth. We had over 100 different Silent Auction donations and each of these items has found a new home. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

This past month, our youth also had some opportunities to support other ministries within our church! A few weeks ago, our youth volunteered with the Little Lamb Preschool Carnival. It was a time filled with laughs, smiles, and wonderful memories! Our youth had a great time supporting LLP's ministry! Also within this past month, Circle partnered with the Quilters to help tie some of the quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief. We had a great time learning more about their ministry and enjoyed spending time with some of the members of the Quilters group!

Once again, I want to thank you all for the ways you have supported our youth programs here at CLC. I don't think I'll ever be able to find enough words to describe the gratitude I have for our congregation. Your willingness to walk alongside our youth is a huge blessing and we are so excited for the opportunities to connect with the larger CLC community that are yet to come!

Blessings on your December,
Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski
Director of Youth Ministries



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YOUTH

December 2023 Schedule

December 3rd | Lunch Potluck with Senior Group | 12pm

High School (9th-12th)

December 3rd | Circle | 6-8pm

December 10th | Circle | 6-8pm

December 17th | Circle | 6-8pm

December 23rd-January 7th | Holiday Break (NO CIRCLE!)

Confirmation

Confirmation | December 6th | 6-7:30pm

Confirmation | December 13th | 6-7:30pm

Confirmation | December 20th | 6-7:30pm

December 23rd-January 7th | Holiday Break (NO CONFIRMATION!)

Fusion (5th-8th)

Fusion | December 3rd | 9:20-10:20am

Fusion | December 10th | 9:20-10:20am

Fusion | December 17th | 9:20-10:20am

December 23rd-January 7th | Holiday Break (NO FUSION!)



SOUNDS OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Concert to Benefit Ministry at Christ Lutheran Church and the
South Shore Brass Band
(With members of the Christ Lutheran Handbell Choir)

Christ Lutheran Church

2610 Campbell St. Valparaiso (across from Valpo High School)

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023 - 4 PM

Free Admission

(Free Will Offering will be collected)

