



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso,  
Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660  
[clcvalpo.org](http://clcvalpo.org) • [office@clcvalpo.org](mailto:office@clcvalpo.org)

The Good News  
February 2024

February



## RECONCILING IN CHRIST

proudly proclaims:

For the past two years our congregation has been listening, learning, asking and wondering what we mean when we say “Everyone is welcome here.” We heard from our beloved youth as they shared their experiences in the LGBTQIA+ community at the high school and around town; our beloved siblings shared about their family, friends, neighbors and coworkers; we have explored and learned how our culture uses pronouns, talks about gender, and more. Together we crafted, revised, and ultimately approved [an official Welcome Statement](#) that

**We are a community of people sharing God’s love through Christ and growing together in faith.**

We are delighted to report that our good work has been recognized: we have been named a Partner Congregation in the [Reconciling in Christ](#) Program, a “holy ministry of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy.”

*The purpose of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work and support the national program. Since 1983, the RIC program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church.*

As a result of this recognition our congregation is now listed in a searchable national map, which provides people in the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies the ability to search for a faith community in their area. This inclusion in the directory is an important way for us to extend welcome and invitation to the people we have specifically named in our Welcome Statement.

The RIC program notes [something we’ve already experienced](#) during the “Deepening our Welcome” process:

*Many RIC partners report the demographic most often drawn in by the RIC status is young couples with children. These folks are seeking communities prepared to help them raise their children in ways consistent with their values. They want their children to grow up surrounded by diversity and to know their families will never have to question if their children will be welcome as they grow and learn more about who they are.*

**Together we will name and celebrate this milestone in the life of our vibrant, loving, welcoming congregation during worship on February 4, with cake and celebration during the Formation Hour (9:20am). Please be sure to join us for this important step in the life of our congregation.**

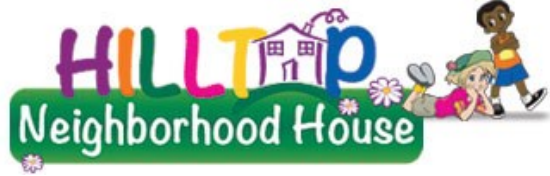
Thanks be to God for the plentiful gifts of hospitality and welcome so generously given to our beloved congregation!

## CLC Social Ministry and Mission

February 2024

*Speak up for people who cannot speak for themselves. Protect the rights of all who are helpless.  
(Proverbs 31:8)*

**Social Ministry Emphasis for February is Hilltop House** [https://  
www.hilltophouse.org](https://www.hilltophouse.org)



February's emphasis is to provide monetary and volunteer support for Hilltop House and Hilltop Food Pantry. HH is located "on a hill" in a neighborhood west of Valparaiso U. where social service needs are real for the families and children living there. HH can provide as a health care provider Medicare and Hoosier Healthwise benefits to those in Porter County living below the poverty level (estimated to be 9000 children and 4000 women in Porter County). A gift of \$50 permits Hilltop to provide childcare, health care, and community improvement activities within a child's own family setting (also contributions may qualify for Indiana's Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit).

Help achieve our goal of \$2500 in February (over and above giving combined with CLC's budgeted amount of \$1200). By achieving our goal CLC will help **Hilltop** continue to thrive. Use your weekly worship giving envelope with check to CLC and indicate "Hilltop" or contribute through Subsplash on the CLC website [https://  
clcvalpo.org](https://clcvalpo.org) via the "Give" button. Thank you to members for supporting monthly social ministry emphases.

Also, look for the Hilltop Soup dinner fundraiser March 19 at VU Union (volunteers from CLC are being solicited to help with setup, cleanup, and other activities). And, the Hilltop Food Pantry [Hilltop | Food Pantry \(hilltophouse.org\)](https://www.hilltophouse.org) welcomes food donations at 606 Union Street, Valpo.

## **LENT/EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2024**

**Ash Wednesday**

**February 14**

**1:00 p.m.**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Mid-Week Lenten Dinners**

**February 14, 21, 28; March 6, 13, 20**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Mid-Week Lenten Services**

**February 21, 28; March 6, 13, 20**

**7:00 p.m.**

### **Retreat 2024 - The Freedom of Forgiveness!**

Registration is open for the retreat, which will be held **February 23-25, 2024**. Congregation members will share how God has been at work in their lives through the practice of forgiveness; it's a great 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**. Scan this QR code to register:



## LITTLE LAMB PRESCHOOL

### Registration Continues

Little Lamb Preschool registration is now open for the fall 2024-2025 school year. All information is available on our webpage- [www.CLCValpo.org](http://www.CLCValpo.org). Please make sure to visit our webpage and take the tour. Please call Jen Gottlieb at 219-462-6660 if you would like more information, have any questions or are interested in a tour. We would love to have you become part of the LLP family!

### Dudes and Donuts

February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> are our annual Dudes and Donuts Days. The children and their special person come to spend activity time together and share delicious donuts provided by Family Express.

### Art Show and Breakfast Fundraiser

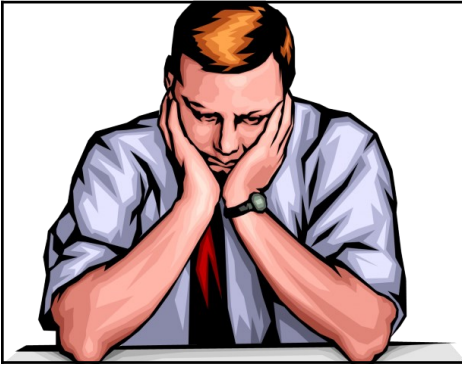
Our Art Show is BACK!!!! This fundraiser is coming March 2 from 8-11 AM. This is a wonderful time for Little Lamb extended families to come, enjoy breakfast, fellowship, view preschool art and see the classrooms and visit with our teachers. We also have a marvelous silent auction with fabulous items geared toward preschoolers and their families. This is such a happy morning with preschoolers, their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles visiting and enjoying each other! Little Lamb is such a great place to be!

### Mission Statement & Educational Philosophy

**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.

**Educational Philosophy Statement:** *We are a Christian preschool whose goal is to provide excellence in education and opportunities for faith formation in a loving, safe learning environment for every child. Based on evidence that shows young children learn best through play, we provide developmentally appropriate opportunities for them to explore, make discoveries, and learn respect for themselves and others. We firmly believe that all children are wonderful gifts from God to be cherished and nurtured. In collaboration with families and Christ Lutheran Church, we encourage and support children to learn and grow socially, emotionally, academically, physically, and spiritually.*





## Stephen Ministry

“I never thought anyone could hurt me so much and I have no one to talk to.”

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 care and respect your privacy.

## Coming Soon! Faith Formation during Lent (and beyond!)



Join us during the weeks of Lent for the study of *The Color of Compromise*. This book and video series introduces us to the roots of racial injustice in the American church. This survey will take us on an historical, sociological, and religious journey from the American colonial period right through the Black Lives Matter movement and charts a path forward to replace established patterns and systems of complicity with bold, courageous, immediate action.

The author is Jemar Tisby (BA, University of Notre Dame; MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary) is President of The Witness: A black Christian Collective, where he writes about race, religion, politics, and culture. He is also cohost of the Pass the Mic podcast and is studying for a PhD in History at the University of Mississippi with a focus on race religion, and social movements in the twentieth century.

**This series begins on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:20am in the Church Hall (big room next to the kitchen).**

It is not necessary for you to purchase the book or study guide, but if you would like to purchase the book, click on QR code to the right. If you would like to purchase the study guide (which includes a personal study guide for reflection between sessions – a possibility for your Lenten devotional time) click on QR code:



Questions?? Contact Kathy Sutherland ([ksutherland54@yahoo.com](mailto:ksutherland54@yahoo.com)) or Patrice Weil ([psherriweil@gmail.com](mailto:psherriweil@gmail.com))

**Quilts**

2024 Goal: 500

Quilts Completed: 78

**Baby Care Kits**

2024 Goal: 500

Kits Completed: 125

**Fabric Care Kits**

2024 Goal: 150

Kits Completed: 16

**Personal Care Kits**

Kits Completed: 255

**Baby Care Kits for February Needs: Sleepers with/without feet, socks, and hats.****Fabric Care Kits for February Needs: 3 yard lengths of cotton fabric.****Personal Care Kits for February: Cash to purchase needed items to complete kits.****LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF NEWS**

LWR 2023 Kit Numbers and Deliveries

551,700 Quilts and Kits to 14 Countries

Quilts-194,983

School Kits-190,043

Personal Care Kits-123,920

Baby Care Kits-35,490

Fabric Kits-7,264

On the bulletin board above the back shelf in the Gathering Area the Lutheran World Relief Summary is posted. It indicates which countries were served and which warehouses were used for each delivery. More Personal Care Kits and School Kits were delivered last year while the other kits were less.

**Lenten Dinners at CLC!!!**

During Lent, you are invited to join in Lenten dinners at **5:30 p.m.** Wednesdays at CLC, before each **7:00 p.m.** evening service. Please sign up for each meal in advance in the East Link so that the cooks know how many to expect, and consider bringing a dessert to share. A free-will offering will be collected at each meal. Come and join in the fellowship!

**As the season of Lent approaches, we are looking for individuals or groups to make the evening meals. Sign-up sheets are in the East Link, for more information call the church office. Remember when signing up to also ask for volunteers to set-up and clean-up the hall.**

**Dinner schedule:****February 14—****February 21—Hospitality & Outreach: Soup, Salad, Bread****February 28 —Stephen Ministry: Pasta's, Salad, Bread****March 6—Sanctuary Choir: Soup, Salad, Bread****March 13****March 20**





# Christ Lutheran YOUTH

CLC Congregation,

This past month has been filled with many blessings and exciting opportunities for our youth ministries! We have our upcoming Mardi Gras fundraiser (which myself and the youth are SUPER excited for!), the beginning of a new “Theology Club” with some of our high schoolers, and the building of new connections with other churches in the area, among many other things! It has been a busy month for our youth, and as our youth group returned from Quake this past weekend, many of us came back with an important reminder about the need for rest amid this busyness.

The theme of Quake this year, which is a weekend-long youth retreat in Schaumburg, Illinois, was “Breathe.” Much of the weekend focused on how amid the busyness of our lives, we are called to find rest in Jesus. The speaker of this year’s Quake, who went by the name “Packer” Dave (if you’re a Packers fan like I am, I’m sure you’ll appreciate that one) spoke a lot about how life brings with it a lot of different obstacles that try to push us down and how this can be very overwhelming for many of us. “Packer” Dave explained that it is in these times that Jesus calls us to bring our worries, stresses, and anxieties to him, as he will provide us with the rest that we need.

Since being back from Quake, I’ve spent a lot of time reflecting on the busyness of life and how many of us often forget to stop and simply breathe. I once saw a video that talked about how with every breath we take, we are actually breathing in God’s name. Each breath we take is a call out to God and so when we take the time to pause, breathe in, and speak God’s name through that breath, we are finding our rest through God.

My hope is that if you are feeling the busyness of life in this season, that you are reminded of the rest we can find through God and that there isn’t a stress, worry, or burden too heavy for our God to carry. Thanks be to God!

Blessings on your February,  
Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski  
Director of Youth Ministries





**Christ  
Lutheran**  
YOUTH

## **February 2024 Schedule**

### **Theology Club**

February 12th | Theology Club | 6pm

February 26th | Theology Club | 6pm

### **High School (9th-12th)**

February 4th | Mardi Gras Fundraiser | 5-7pm

February 11th | Ice Skating at Urschel Pavilion | 3-5pm

**February 18th | No Circle | Mid-Winter Break**

February 25th | Circle | 6-8pm

### **Confirmation**

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

February 14th | Confirmation | 6-7:30pm

February 21st | Confirmation | 6-7:30pm

February 28th | Confirmation | 6-7:30pm

### **Fusion (5th-8th)**

February 4th | Fusion | 9:20-10:20am

February 11th | Fusion | 9:20-10:20am

**February 18th | No Fusion | Mid-Winter Break**

February 25th | Fusion | 9:20-10:20am

## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

### Circle Dinners!

Is there a new recipe you've been excited to try out? Have you been looking for ways to be involved with our youth? We are in need of volunteers to help provide dinners for Circle for the second half of the year. If you are interested in providing a dinner, the QR code will take you to a sign up! Thank you so much for supporting our youth!



If you are a Girl Scout, Girl Scout Leader or have earned the Gold Award and would like to be recognized on Girl Scout Sunday, March 10, 2024, please call the church office (219-462-660).

Thank you!!

### February Altar Gifts

Holy Communion	Marilyn McGawn ~ In Memory of my Parents
Altar Candles	Vickie and Gregg Copeland ~ In Celebration of our Grandchildren
Eternal Lamp	Lucas and Sally Ecklund-Baker ~ In Memory of Jake Baker

## **For Children and Families - Mark Your Calendars!**

### **Third Grade Bible Basics**

Every year, our Third Graders and families meet to learn about the Bible - Why do we read it? How does God's love come to us through the Bible? Where did it all come from, anyway? This year's Third Grade Bible Basics classes will meet on Sundays during the Formation Hour - March 3 and March 10. Email Pastor Erica ([pastorerica@clcvalpo.org](mailto:pastorerica@clcvalpo.org)) with any questions, or to let us know you'll be attending!

### **Communion Conversations**

CLC children and families are invited to our annual Communion Conversations on Saturday, March 9, from 9-10:30am. Our practice at CLC is to welcome children to God's table whenever families discern that they are ready to receive - and then to make an opportunity available to learn more, together! If your child is ready to begin receiving communion, or if they are already receiving communion and are ready to learn more, please join us! Email Pastor Erica ([pastorerica@clcvalpo.org](mailto:pastorerica@clcvalpo.org)) with any questions, or to let us know you'll be attending!

**Our All-Ages Easter Vigil** is the highlight of the year! This year at 4pm on March 30, we will celebrate this ancient tradition while having a lot of fun along the way, using all 5 senses (plus our sense of humor) to walk through the family stories of God's people and celebrate the Resurrection - and then break our Lenten "fasts" with s'mores. One of the best parts is always a collection of family storytellers for our Bible Stories - you can sign up at the following link, and contact me ([pastorerica@clcvalpo.org](mailto:pastorerica@clcvalpo.org)) for any help with ideas or questions!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C49A4A92FA5FE3-47492298-easter>

### **Easter Sunday Egg Hunt, March 31 after 10:30 service**

Times are approximate, depending on when worship wraps up:

12:00– pre-k-k (near the Memorial Garden)

12:10– 1st– 4th grade (out in the field)

12:15- 5th-8th grade (in the woods)

*We will have some plastic bags, but you may want to bring your own collecting container. Emptied eggs will be collected back afterwards to be recycled for next year.*



# Christ Lutheran CHURCH

## Quarterly Statements

THANK YOU for supporting the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church! Your commitment to our congregation and our community shares the love of Christ with our neighbors here in Valparaiso and all over the world. Our congregation does so much more than Sunday worship! During the past few months, Christ Lutheran:

- Passed our official Welcome Statement, affirming our commitment to welcome all people as siblings made in the image of God;
- Became a Reconciling in Christ congregation, specifically stating our welcome to people of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations;
- Hosted a Lutheran World Relief in-gathering, where we gather an actual truckload of school supplies, personal care kits, baby care kits, fabric kits, and quilts from congregations all over the region;
- Welcomed the families of 138 preschoolers to an evening of fun and games at our annual carnival in November, and again in December to hear the Christmas story and celebrate the birth of Christ;
- Provided treats and fun to local families participating in our first-ever Trunk or Treat;
- Created opportunities for fellowship (and friendly competition!) at our chili cook-off, Thanksgiving pie fellowship, Bread Breakers groups, and Sunday morning chats around our Welcome Center;
- Continued our commitment to nurture our faith through Sunday School, education hour classes, confirmation, Fusion, Circle, book groups, and Bible studies;
- Provided space for our annual Silent Auction, which raised \$3,700 to help send our youth to the National Youth Gathering;
- Provided meeting space for Alcoholics Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous;
- Maintained our beautiful organ and celebrated its five-year anniversary in our space with a concert by our own Brian Bartusch;
- Celebrated the birth of Christ with wonderful music from our Chancel Choir, Celebration Ringers, Youth Orchestra, soloists, South Shore Brass Band, and our Bella Quatra Handbell Quartet;
- Raise \$15,961 to share with the ministries of Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Response, Lutheran Diaconal Association, and our mission partner Bethel Lutheran in Gary;
- Share \$15,716 with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA to support the ministries of the wider church.

YOUR GIFTS to our ministry allow these things to happen - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

Please check your email or mailbox for your fourth-quarter giving statement. Statements were sent electronically on Tuesday, January 23; look for an email from Subsplash Giving ([noreply@secure.subsplash.com](mailto:noreply@secure.subsplash.com)). If you do not receive your statements electronically, and did not pick up your statement from your church mailbox, it has been mailed to you. If you did not receive your statement, please call the church office or email our Business Manager, Heather Budnik ([heather.budnik@clcvapo.org](mailto:heather.budnik@clcvapo.org)).

[Thank you for being an important part of how this congregation changes lives!](#)



## SCOUT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2024

### **Troop 904**

Dirk Bailey  
Martin Bateman  
Harrison Beeg  
Camden Bell  
Tommy Emery  
Corrin Flick  
Drew Gschwind  
Jackson Kick  
Wyatt Murcheck  
John Patston

### **Troop 904 Leaders**

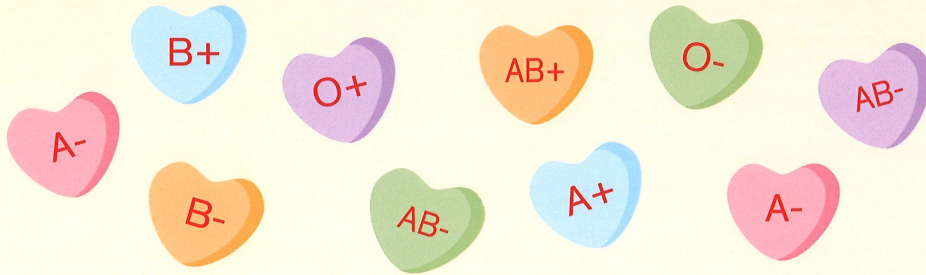
Adult Leaders:  
Executive Officer: Pastor Tim  
Chartered Organization Representative: Phil Griffith  
Scout Master: Dale Kroeger  
Committee Chair: Carrie Gschwind  
Treasurer: Tracie Beeg  
Advancement Chair: Beth Bell  
Assistant Scoutmasters: Micah Bell, Bob Emery,  
Doc Weisman  
Committee Members: Cheryl and Jack Kick, George  
Murcheck

### **Members—Eagle Scouts**

Malcolm McGawn  
Pastor Tim  
Ed J Seykowski  
Paul Danger  
Andrew Soleim  
Nate Smith  
Mark Budnik



American  
Red Cross



You're just our type! *Give blood.*

## **Blood Drive** **Christ Lutheran Church**

Activity Center - Door 14  
2610 North Campbell  
Valparaiso

**Tuesday, February 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®

**Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20  
Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See [rcblood.org/heart](https://rcblood.org/heart)**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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