



Christ Lutheran CHURCH

WEEKLY SCRIBE
May 21, 2023

Faith Formation Opportunities

Sundays 9:20 a.m.

Date	Sanctuary	Church Hall	120 (Library)	119
May 21 Last Day of Sunday School		Jesus: The Greatest Story—Bible Study Cheryl Slack	Jesus Calls Us Dave Keammerer	Sunday School Parent Coffee Klatch
May 28			Jesus Calls Us Dave Keammerer	<i>Summer Break</i>

Bible Study Options:

Jesus Calls Us

When does Jesus call?
Where does Jesus call us?
How do we answer?

Jesus: The Greatest Story

Engage. Surprise. Transform. Journey through the Gospels in this exploration of the life and ministry of Jesus.

Attention Seniors...It's been a long 3 years!!

It's been a long 3 years since we have met for fellowship and service! An organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25 at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. Contact Sue Reinhold at 219-286-0784 for more information.

VBS 2023 - Adult and Youth Volunteers Needed!

We need you! In order to welcome our CLC children and neighbors joyfully, to share the stories of God's love with them, we need our faithful and kind youth and adults on the mornings of June 19-22. Adult crew leaders are especially vital - your job would be to lead a crew of kids from station to station and help them participate - no preparation is needed as the station leaders provide all the content. Youth helpers are needed to accompany crews and to assist in different stations.

Please let Pastor Erica (pastorerica@clevalpo.org) know that you are able to help!

A Music Note:



Today is the final Sunday that our Celebration Ringers Handbell Ensemble participates in our worship services until September. It has been a pleasure for me to work with these wonderful individuals this past year, and I appreciate them giving both their time and their talents to enhance our worship time together with the gift of music.

~ Brian Bartusch

Celebration Ringers Handbell Ensemble

Amy Boedeker
Karen Boedeker
Heather Budnik
Mike Felten
Becky Fry

Madeline Fry
Betty Lockett
Cheryl Slack
Kathy Stefans
Kurt Stefans

Ellen Swayne

Substitute Ringers

Becky Bakalyar
Jeri Sims

Karen Jefferson
Karl Stefans

We will send Pastor Erica on Renewal Leave Sunday, May 28!

Read these pieces from the March newsletter for more: below, Dorothy Bass talks about why we practice sabbatical, and on the reverse Pr. Erica shares a bit about what is planned.



**Christ
Lutheran
CHURCH**

What is a sabbatical?

- (a) A special kind of sabbath
- (b) A way of providing for personal and professional renewal
- (c) Something Pastor Erica will experience this summer
- (d) All of the above

Spoiler: the answer is (d). But let's consider each point.

Sabbath is time set apart by God and for God. It's time set free from work and stress, time made free for rest and worship. God's gift of this kind of time appears in the Bible's very first story: after finishing the work of creation and declaring that it is very good, God rests for an entire day, blessing and hallowing that day (Genesis 2:1-3). In the third of the Ten Commandments (Exod. 20:8-11 and Deut. 5:12-15), God requires that God's people stop and embrace holiness on that same, seventh day—both to observe God's own Sabbath and to help the people remember that God is one who liberates people from slavery. Jesus and his disciples observed the Sabbath (e.g. Luke 4:16), though arguments over exactly how that should be done show that people of faith have sometimes disagreed about how best to receive God's gift of rest and honor God in worship. In this context, I have especially treasured Jesus' offer of rest to those who trust in him: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). By his grace we lay down our work, as well as whatever other burdens we may be carrying.

God intends rest for all creation, including us. Work is also a good and important part of God's plan for us, to be sure, but in our fast-paced society it's tempting to hear only that and to reject God's gift of Sabbath time, which tends to move on a seven-beat rhythm even beyond the one-day-in-seven commandment. For example, laws in Leviticus 25 grant rest to the land every seven years, as well as a great jubilee in which debts are forgiven every seven times seven years. And our congregation's policy encourages sabbaticals in the seventh year of a pastor's service.

A sabbatical is a special kind of sabbath time—a time of rest and renewal, kind of like giving the land a break while trusting that it will be more fertile afterwards. I think everyone deserves a sabbatical! Few employers in our society provide for them—but fortunately our synod and our congregation do. Most important, in biblical terms, sabbaticals allow pastors to rest—to sleep, relax, and recreate, yes, but also to rest in God's grace, remembering and renewing their relationship with God. Sabbaticals are also times of learning, when study and travel can bring fresh insights about the larger church, the world, and ministry today.

And yes, a sabbatical is something Pastor Erica will soon experience. She will lay down her pastoral duties for about three months, entrusting us to the good care of Pastor Tim and to one another's care. As a congregation, we enter this time trusting that God will care for, stretch, and renew her, as a pastor and as a beloved child of God, as she rests, travels, learns, and prays. And we trust that God will be with us too.

Summer Clergy Renewal – From Pastor Erica

I am joyfully anticipating the arrival of a summer of sabbatical as my Clergy Renewal Leave begins after school lets out! This time of renewal for pastor and congregation will be centered on the theme of *Dislocation as a Spiritual Practice*. Times of dislocation are fruitful ground for spiritual growth. The structures, routines, and assumptions we rely on are disturbed; we are invited to respond with curiosity and creativity in imagining new ways forward. Dislocation offers the gift of being a stranger, seeking new forms of connection and finding new communities. Dislocation de-centers us, reminding us that God and God's world are much bigger than our limited vision. The church builds the practice of dislocation into its life: pilgrimages, retreats, monastic communities, study travels, church camp experiences – not to mention a regular return to Lent and the practices of prayer, fasting, and generosity that help jog us out of our usual habits and patterns.

This renewal leave - embracing the spirituality of dislocation - will take me with family to Senegal for time spent as a stranger, learning from Christians who are a minority in their culture, and to Holden Village, a faith community that draws on traditions of pilgrimage, retreat, camp, and intentional community. At CLC the time of renewal will give us a chance to reflect on the dislocating and transforming experience of Covid-19, noticing where God has led us and listening for who we are now called to become. CLC will welcome some Formation Hour guests to help us think through it all, and hear a wider variety of voices in preaching and leadership in my absence – another helpful sort of dislocation, since we've been together in ministry for nearly 12 years now!

As avid readers of Church Council Minutes, Pastoral Reports, Annual Reports, and the church newsletter might recall – following our congregation's sabbatical policy, I requested leave for the summer of 2022, and it was granted. Working with a team from CLC, we put together a proposal for Renewal Leave funding from the Lilly Foundation – it was not granted on our first try, so we waited and re-applied for this summer. Our proposal was accepted for this year: this means the content of my leave and the costs of pulpit supply, etc. in my absence will be covered. Thanks be to God for such a gift!

As we realized we've not added an announcement in worship yet, it was clear: we've had a year just packed to the gills with good things going on that require attention on Sunday mornings. Week after week I've found myself thinking "not this week, we don't want to distract from..." whatever important ministry needs announcing that week. While the dislocation of the pandemic was deeply challenging, it's been exciting to see this sign of the ways God has brought growth and life in new areas as we move forward in ministry after a season of dislocation!

I'm confident this will be the case with Renewal Leave as well – when we are shifted out of our usual patterns, then there's space in our hearts, vision, and imagination to notice where God might be at work! I ask your prayers as our family prepares for this season of growth, invite your curiosity and participation in congregational reflection, and am grateful for the ways that the whole congregation will step in to partner with Pr Tim and the rest of our staff as ministry continues in my absence.

Peace,
Pastor Erica

Mission Bears

Please take a moment to look down the row you are sitting in- see any cute loveable Teddy Bears?

These adorable furry friends are the Christ Lutheran Mission Bears. These bears are full of hope and healing, and ready to share with someone you may know who needs a new special friend.

If you know someone who could use a Mission Bear, please take a bear for them, or let us know if you need assistance in delivering a bear.

Jacquie 219-309-6437

These Bears have special tags and have a QR code which links to our Mission Bears Adoption Page. We would love to hear about the Missions Bears travels and include their new owners in our prayers.



Vacation Bible School Registration is Open!

VBS 2023: Food Truck Party - God is setting out a feast!

We'll pull up to the table for VBS 2023 on June 19 - to learn the stories of God's faithfulness, sing, craft, and play!

June 18 is Family Day - families attend together from 4-5:30pm

June 19-22 children attend from 9:30-noon.

VBS will welcome children 4 years old (having finished a year of preschool) through entering 5th grade.

Registration fee is \$15/child, max \$30/family - please see your confirmation email for a link to pay registration fee.

Youth 6th grade through High School are needed to help!

Register here:





Christ Lutheran CHURCH

Quarterly Statements

THANK YOU for your ongoing contributions to Christ Lutheran Church! Your gifts to the Operating Fund allow our ministries to thrive. During the first quarter of 2023, your gifts have allowed your congregation to:

- Explore how we can Deepen Our Welcome, so that all people may know they have a place here;
- Raise funds for our first congregational mission trip to Costa Rica;
- Celebrate our preschool's accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children;
- Prepare to say goodbye to Clint, our Director of Youth Ministries, and welcome Kaitlyn to take his place;
- Encourage many of our youth to offer their musical gifts during worship;
- Maintain our beloved organ and prepare to celebrate its five-year anniversary in our space;
- Raise \$9,479 to share with the ministries of First Contact, Hilltop Neighborhood House, New Creation Men's Center, and our own Steiner Fund; and
- Share \$14,256 with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the ELCA to support the ministries of the wider church.

We could not accomplish any of this without you – THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

Please check your email for your first-quarter giving statement. Statements were sent electronically on Wednesday, April 26; look for an email from Subsplash Giving (noreply@secure.subsplash.com). If you did not receive your statement, or if you would like a hard copy, please call the church office or email our Business Manager, Heather Budnik (heather.budnik@clcvalpo.org).

JOIN US AT
CAMP DO GOOD.

Give Blood.



American
Red Cross



Blood Drive
Christ Lutheran Church

Activity Center - Door 14
2610 North Campbell
Valparaiso

Monday, June 19
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.



Scan to find a blood drive location
RedCross.org

**Do good this summer! Come give in June for a \$10 gift
card by email to a merchant of your choice.**



Scan to without
any of the items.

Be part of something big. Make an appointment.

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

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1-800-RED-CROSS-2767 | American National Red Cross | 1000001001-000

Graduations & Retirements

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Olivia Lozano ~ Valparaiso High School; Attending Mount Union College

Rebecca Mathisen ~ Valparaiso High School; Attending Biola University, La Mirada, CA - Ministry

Bee Wehner ~ Washington Township High School; Attending St. Francis University, Fort Wayne

Nathaniel Malchow ~ Valparaiso High School (National Merit Scholarship winner, National Honor Society, 2023 IBA All-State Honor Band member, Varsity cross country and track athlete); Attending Carleton College, Northfield, MN

Emily Abbring ~ Valparaiso High School; Attending Valparaiso University—studying mechanical engineering

Holly DiPrisco ~ Valparaiso High School; Will be take time off and start looking at colleges in the future

Jake Niksch

Elizabeth Provenzano



COLLEGE & ADVANCED DEGREES

Rachel Lundstrom ~ **Georgia Southern University**—Masters in Higher Education. Future plans: Where God leads.

Rev. Erik Grayvold ~ **Loyola University/Chicago**—Masters/PhD at LSTC

Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski ~ **Valparaiso University**—BA in Theology/Ministry and General Economics; Director of Youth Ministries at CLC.

Nate Smith ~ Bellarmine University—Graduated Cum laude in Exercise Science: Sport Performance; continuing second year in Grad school for Athletic Training Early Entry.

RETIREMENTS

Kristen Mathisen ~ retiring from Elementary Teacher @ Portage Township Schools; Hiking in the mountains of Utah.