



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

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

The Good News May 2023



CLC Social Ministry and Mission May 2023



Social Ministry Emphasis for May. A special giving opportunity and focus for May is to provide support for a ministry that is international, **CLC's upcoming Summer 2023 Mission Trip to Costa Rica** - in conjunction with Casa Adobe www.facebook.com/casadobe

Costa Rica Mission Team - Shared Stories for Transformation: At the end of June, Christ Lutheran Church will send its first intergenerational, international, service-learning mission team to Costa Rica. Seven members of the twenty-two on the team are youth ages 12-16. The team will be split up to stay with two different host families who came to Costa Rica as refugees. There will be host families in an urban setting near San Jose that are part of Casa Adobe; a ministry center that is in partnership with the Christian Reformed World Mission and with the study abroad program of Valparaiso University. The other host families will be living in the intentional refugee farming community of Monga Mai in a more rural part of Costa Rica.

Knowing that God is already in the places they are going, the team will learn from their hosts and share their skills in partnership with them. The trip goals include learning about refugees, caring for creation and nurturing faith in God's love. The team will learn about climate change and farming and some will participate in gardening projects. Some of the team, trained here on the Little Calumet River, will be conducting river monitoring for pollutants which is a problem in the areas they are visiting. Some will work with neighborhood children either by taking them to a museum that they normally could not afford or by doing some tutoring their English.

What the team learns about issues that affect people and creation, they will bring back to the congregation, and especially if those issues are related to our daily lives in the United States. Knowing that this experience will be transformational as stories are shared and relationships built, the team will return and reflect on what they and our congregation might do next in response. The hope of this trip is... *Shared stories for Transformation.*

Expenses and ways to give support:

\$4,750 is going to the host families for opening their homes and preparing meals for the team

\$3,000 to Casa Adobe for accompanying the team

\$1,000 for service projects

\$250 to offset CO2 from flying to Costa Rica (National Fund for Forestry and Finance)

Help achieve our goal of \$3000 in May (over and above giving combined with CLC's budgeted amount of \$1200). Use your weekly worship giving envelope mailed with check to CLC and indicate "H.O." or contribute through PushPay 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.

Book Club

Our next book will be *The Children's Blizzard* by Melanie Benjamin. This book will be available in the box after our meeting next Tuesday 4/25. The next book club meeting will be May 23 @ 7:00 p.m. in room 107.

The AMOS TEAM is on the move again. NOVEMBER 2023

Needles, yarn and things like that,
could you help us make a baby hat.
New to this world a babe is born,
breezy and cold. Let's keep him warm.

Off to Guatemala in November will be,
training the midwives, thanks, CLC.
AMOS and our ladies, hand-in-hand,
making a difference, together we stand.

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.

Thank you all and please share the bears!





Little Lamb

PRESCHOOL

A ministry of Christ Lutheran

Chapel Time

We gather together to hear stories about God's love for us and sing songs. We have heard the good news about Easter. Thanks to Pastor Erica for delivering our Easter messages

Spring Happenings

The first week of May will bring our Mother's Day Celebrations gatherings by class are being planned. Our End of the Year Celebration (Graduation) will take place in our Sanctuary by grade level. The Kiddos have been very busy rehearsing some lovely songs. The Beginner End of the Year Picnic will be happening, hopefully outside. We are hoping for good weather to end our year.

Summer Camp

We are hosting our annual summer camp the week of June 5-9. We will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math. and Chapel time happens daily. This is always a fun week filled with a great deal of energy, play and joy.

Thank You

Thank you for all the well wishes and prayers that you have offered on behalf of Little Lamb Preschool this year. They have been felt! We have been blessed with a wonderful year full of accomplishments. Thank you also to the dedicated CLC staff that support Little Lamb daily and the LLP staff that continue to be amazing.



Faith Formation Opportunities

Sundays 9:20 a.m.

Date	Sanctuary	Church Hall	120 (Library)	119
May 7	Costa Rica Forum Diana Iltzsche	Jesus: The Greatest Story—Bible Study Cheryl Slack	Jesus Calls Us Dave Keammerer	Sunday School Parent Coffee Klatch
May 14 Happy Mother's Day		Jesus: The Greatest Story—Bible Study Cheryl Slack	Jesus Calls Us Dave Keammerer	Sunday School Parent Coffee Klatch
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	Summer Break

May Altar Gifts

Holy Communion

Sara & Jeremy Long ~ In celebration of our Moms

Lori Cross ~ JoAnn Murfey

Altar Candles

Ellen Swayne ~ In memory of Gladys Swayne

Eternal Lamp Candles

To the Glory of God

Graduations

On May 21 we will acknowledge those members and friends of our congregation who have graduated from High School, College, Technical and/or Advanced Degree Programs during the past year (summer 2022 - summer 2023). Please add your name to the list in the East link so we may recognize your accomplishments or email the office: jen.bias@clcvalpo.org

Retirements

Similarly, if you have retired during the past year (summer 2022 - summer 2023) please sign on the list in the East Link so we may recognize your years of service and dedication or email the office: jen.bias@clcvalpo.org.



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

A Stephen Minister may be just who you need.

"Cancer! I never thought I'd face this! No one understands my fear. I have to be strong for my family!"

Call the church office (219.462.6660),
talk to one of the Pastors, or talk to a
Stephen Minister (look for the blue
badges)



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@clcvalpo.org) know that you are able to help!



Dr. Sunghee Kim

Assistant Professor of Music & Director of Chapel Music, Valparaiso University

Performing works by

J.S. Bach, Schumann, Clayton, Böhm, Mendelssohn and Eben

Sunday, May 7, 2023 | 4:00 pm | Free Admission

Christ Lutheran Church

2610 N Campbell Street, Valparaiso, IN



**Christ
Lutheran
CHURCH**

2023 Organ Concert Series: May | September | October

Hosted by the Worship & Arts Committee of Christ Lutheran Church in celebration of the 5th anniversary of the installation of the sanctuary pipe organ!

Christ Lutheran Church | 8:00 am In-person Worship | 9:20 am Faith Formation Hour | 10:30 am Hybrid In-person & Online | clvalpo.org | 219.462.6660



Christ Lutheran YOUTH

Weekly Programming Schedule May 2023

High School (9th – 12th grades)

Game Night / Sunday May 7th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

@ Christ Lutheran Church

Starbucks / Sunday, May 21st, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

@ 2711 Calumet Ave, Valparaiso, IN

Middle School (5th – 8th grades)

Fusion meets weekly on

Sundays, 9:20am – 10:20am

5/7, 5/14, 5/21

Confirmation (8th grade)

Class meets weekly on

Wednesdays, 6:30pm – 7:25pm

5/3, 5/10, 5/17

High School Lock-In

Current 8th – 12th graders

May 26th, 6:00pm – May 27th, 8:00am

For more program information, as well as questions, e-mail

Clint at clint.mullet@clcvalpo.org or

Kaitlyn at kaitlyn.jedrzejowski@clcvalpo.org

Permission Slip
CLC High School Lock-In
2610 Campbell Street Valparaiso, Indiana
Permission Slip Due: 5/21/23 EOD
WHEN: 5/26, 6:00pm – 5/27, 8:00am
WHERE: Valparaiso, IN
TOTAL COST: \$10 (due at sign-up)



**Christ
Lutheran**
YOUTH

In regards to:

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

To be read and completed by the parent or guardian:

I give my permission to for, _____, to participate in this trip. In doing so, I make the following acknowledgments:

- I acknowledge that I am aware of the full details of this event's activities and risks
- I agree that the information contained in my son/daughter's Medical Form on file with the church office is accurate.
- I understand that if my child is taking prescription medication at this event, I will notify the leader of the event and ensure medication is placed in a sealed bag with dosage instructions.
- Should an emergency arise, the leaders or supervisors of this event have my permission to obtain any medical care, at their discretion, for my son/daughter
- I understand that my child's picture from this event may be used in any Christ Lutheran Church promotional material.

I agree to defend and indemnify Christ Lutheran Church its employees, and volunteers against any claim or action that may arise on behalf of myself or my son/daughter other than the willful, wanton, or reckless misconduct of Christ Lutheran Church, its employees, or volunteers.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

For Youth Director

Medical Form: _____

Paid: _____



8th - 12th Graders



SUNDAY, JUNE 25 – SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Join us for a week of meaningful community service alongside strong local ministries and non-profit organizations in the Louisville area. Our time will be packed with practical acts of love and service as we engage people with Christ-like empathy and compassion. Evening activities will give us the opportunity to sample the culture and diversity of Kentucky's largest city, including a community cookout with bluegrass band.

We will leave on Sunday, June 25 and return on Saturday, July 1st. Christ Lutheran Church in Jeffersontown, Kentucky will be our 'home base' for the week. We will spend Monday through Thursday doing volunteering and service work throughout the Louisville area. We will spend Friday at Kentucky Kingdom Amusement Park and Hurricane Bay Water Park.

The cost is \$150 per person, which is all inclusive! This will cover all transportation, meals, entertainment, and lodging for the trip! Contact Clint at clint.mullet@clcvalpo.org to sign up!



**Christ
Lutheran**
YOUTH

Camp Lutherwald Confirmation Camp Information Letter #3

March 24th, 2022

As summer draws near and schedules are finalizing, I hope you will consider sending your child for a transformative week at Camp Lutherwald in Howe, Indiana. Every year, our CLC kids have the chance to spend a week deepening their faith, friendships, and having a life-changing experience at Camp Lutherwald!

What is Confirmation Camp?

Confirmation Camp is a 5-day program that invites our incoming 6th, 7th, 8th, and outgoing 8th graders into a deeper exploration of their relationships with God, each other, and nature. The camp staff works alongside church staff to bring learning, games, activities, and worship opportunities every day!

What's the schedule?

This year's camp dates are June 11th – June 16th. Check-in begins on Sunday, June 11th in the afternoon and programming begins that evening. On weekdays, Confirmation campers spend the mid-morning with their pastors and adult leaders, who lead discussions and activities to teach and deepen your child's understanding of Jesus and faith.

The afternoons are spent participating in structured activities. Evenings involve large group games and a time for worship and reflection. Check-out begins Friday, June 16th, after the last program in early afternoon. Carpool transportation (to and from Camp Lutherwald) is available. Families may provide transportation themselves.

Interested in sign up? Email Clint Mullet (clint.mullet@clcvalpo.org)

Camp cost \$400.00 to attend. We are committed to making camp affordable for all families. There are up to \$150 in awards for those who apply by April 30th. See the following page for more details! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Clint. He will gladly answer any questions, address concerns, and share more with you about Confirmation Camp, Lutherwald, and our plans for this trip!

Visit www.lomik.org for more details!



Christ Lutheran YOUTH

Camp Lutherwald
June 11-16, 2023
Information Letter #3
Page 2

Registration Instructions

Important – Do not register online! Please turn in all registration paperwork and payments to Church Lutheran Church. Paperwork should be turned into the office. Payments should be placed in the black boxes located inside and outside of Door 3.

1. Fill out the LOMIK paperwork attached to the Confirmation Camp e-mail
 - a. Summer Camp Registration Form
 - b. Camper Information Form
 - c. Camper Health Form instructions: this form should be turned in to camp staff during camp check-in on Sunday, June 11. If your child is carpooling, you may send the form with CLC staff.
 - d. Fill out the CLC Onboarding Form

Turn in all forms (except the Camper Health Form) and a \$100 deposit payment to Christ Lutheran Church. Normal registration ends on April 30th, 2023. Late registration ends on May 11th.

Making Camp Affordable!

We fundraise for our youth program quarterly at Christ Lutheran Church! Together, our congregation gives and supports these events. Our goal is to ensure our summer programs remain accessible and affordable.

Below, you will find information about our camp costs, automatic rewards, and scholarship opportunities!

On-time Registration Award

Turn in your \$100.00 deposit and registration paperwork before April 30th and we will deduct \$50.00 from your child's camp fees.

Fundraising Scholarship

Any CLC student who volunteered at any 3 out of 4 fundraisers during the 2022-2023 school year will receive a \$50 award toward their camp fees.

Additional Assistance Available

If you are interested in further assistance, please contact Clint for more information. Both CLC and Lutherwald have additional resources available to assist you!



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:



Last Sunday our **Youth Handbell Ensemble** participated in our worship service one last time until the fall season. They were a wonderful group of young people to work with I wish to thank them for a great and exciting first year; I've truly enjoyed working with them and having them share their musical talents with our church family.

~ Brian Bartusch

Youth Handbell Ensemble 2022-2023:

Dana Abbring
Jenna Abbring
Becca Budnik
Isabel Ecklund-Baker
Magdalena Gibson-Even
Asher Knauff (substitute)

Danelle Rivera
LJ Summerville
Robert Summerville
B Wehner
Zach Wehner



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).