

Faith Formation Opportunities
Sunday 9:20 a.m.

Date	Sanctuary	Church Hall	120 Library	107 Brides Room
December 5	How Lutherans Interpret the Bible—Video Series	Sunday School 1st-4th Grade	Justice, Law, History Dave Keammerer	Sunday School Beginners-Kindergarten
December 12	How Lutherans Interpret the Bible—Video Series	Sunday School 1st-4th Grade	Justice, Law, History Dave Keammerer	Sunday School Beginners-Kindergarten
December 19	How Lutherans Interpret the Bible—Video Series	Sunday School 1st-4th Grade	Justice, Law, History Dave Keammerer	Sunday School Beginners-Kindergarten
December 26	Break	Break	Break	Break
January 2	Break	Break	Break	Break

Adult Bible Study: Beginning in December the Bible Study topic will be “Justice, Law, History” with selections from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, 2 Samuel, Ezra, Job, Isaiah, Nahum.



The Virtual Angel Tree Project 2021 has begun!

Priscilla Circle will repeat our gift giving to family units that live in Porter County and sponsored by our partner groups such as Hilltop Neighborhood House, Housing Opportunities, Disabled American Veterans, Little Lamb Preschool and our congregation. Donations from members & friends of CLC will go toward purchasing \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards. Based on last year’s experiences, our partner groups have suggested that we offer the Walmart cards to the adults & children that each group serves. The generosity of last year’s donors made it possible to show the love of Christ to 64 adults and 39 children. The need of the families served by our partner groups continues this year.

Angel Tree Project 2021 is ready to receive electronic donations through the CLC Giving Center at <http://clcvalpo.org/give>. Set up or use your existing account, indicate a one-time gift, date, then select Angel Tree Project 2021. Checks can also be made out to Christ Lutheran and mailed to 2610 Campbell St. Please make sure to put **Angel Tree 2021** on the memo line & on the outside of the envelope. You can also place cash or checks into an envelope, marked with **Angel Tree 2021**, in the outside lock box or in your offering. Your generous support will reflect God’s love & care for our community.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Good News
December 2021



Little Lamb Preschool

REGISTRATION FOR 2022-2023 BEGINS IN JANUARY

We would love to have you become part of the LLP family!

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year begins **Tuesday, January 4 at 9:00 AM for all LLP members (Currently enrolled students register Monday, January 3 and the community is able to register beginning Wednesday, January 5). 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). Due to COVID-19 we are currently unable to offer tours during school hours or host our annual open-house.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

Our Extended Day program that typically begins in January and runs through the end of the school years is unfortunately paused for the time being due to COVID restrictions.

FALL 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 supplies as well as paper towels and disinfecting wipes. **Hilltop was thrilled** with all the donations!

The final service project of the fall is our most popular. We will 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 2022 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. Our Christmas Program is in person this year (fingers crossed!) with every class presenting individually! Please continue to pray for the LLP ministry!

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.



The 2021 Silent Auction

Location: East Link Hallway

Bidding:

- Leave your name and phone number clearly printed on the item sheet at the table!
- Winning bidders will be contacted on December 5 and 6 to arrange pick-up. Baked goods and services winners will receive contact information to make their arrangements!

Bidding closes on December 5 after the 10:30.

We are excited to be hosting the Youth's Silent Auction for the upcoming Holiday season! All money raised in the auction will go towards our upcoming trip to the 2022 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota!

For Children and Families

Sunday School Service Project

This Christmas season we're again partnering with CLC's Social Ministry Team and Bethel Lutheran in Gary - collecting this year for the needs of women leaving Sojourner Truth House and for residents of the Crisis Center. You'll find the list of needed items in the Social Ministry advertisement in this newsletter!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Our Sunday Schoolers will share the Christmas Story with us on **Sunday, Dec 19 (students arrive 9:00am, program at 9:20am)**. Sunday Schoolers will begin to look at some music in the coming weeks, but the bulk of our preparation will be at our **one rehearsal on Saturday Dec 18 from 9-10:30am**.

Bible Basics for Third Graders and their Families/Bible Presentation in Worship

Though our Together in Faith program is on hold as we wait out the end of the pandemic, we want to be sure our 3rd graders have their usual milestone of learning about how we read the Bible and receiving their own Bibles. **3rd Graders and Families are invited to a Bible Basics class at CLC on Saturday, February 12 from 9-10:30, and to join in the Bible Presentations in worship on Feb 13.**

Communion Conversations

Our young folks begin receiving communion at a variety of ages, whenever families determine that they are ready. If your child has not yet participated in our Communion Conversations class, learning more about the sacrament, this year's opportunity will be **Saturday, February 26 from 9-10:30am at CLC**.

CLC Social Ministry and Mission



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



Bethel Lutheran Church – Miller/Gary

December’s Social Ministry emphasis is to provide monetary support, along with increasing partnership activities, for **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, and it is wonderful to further increase a relationship with a sister congregation.

- CLC began as an ELCA suburban mission congregation almost 51 years ago. The ELCA I-K Synod Mission and Urban Congregation programs some years ago refocused on needs of urban, rural, and diverse congregations as well.

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 PushPay on the CLC website <https://clcvalpo.org> via the “Give” button. Thank you to members for supporting monthly social ministry emphases.

Greetings, CLC Family,

As we begin our Advent preparations, we would like your help in **partnering with Bethel Lutheran Church in Gary** to provide needed items for Sojourner Truth House and for the Crisis Center, Inc.

Sojourner Truth House is a day shelter program, a ministry of hope and help for homeless and at-risk women and their children. Through hospitality, advocacy, integrative services and collaboration, participants improve their quality of life and that of the community in a safe, trusting environment. The unique model of service and collaborative actions inspires the human spirit so that participants can improve their quality of life and become contributing members of their communities. See below for urgent and ongoing needs.

Crisis Center, Inc. is an organization whose mission is strengthening communities and empowering families with emphasis on children in need of shelter, safety and support. Crisis Center, Inc. has programs including the Alternative House emergency shelter for children and youth, Safe Place outreach to youth in crisis and Teen Court prevention and early intervention services for youth. The Crisis Center is a place for youth, mostly teens in crisis, helping them transition to foster care or back home. See below for ongoing needs.

Sojourner Truth House needs:

Kitchen move-in set

- Kitchen towels
- Potholders
- Measuring cups/spoons
- Can opener
- Vegetable peeler
- Kitchen utensils (such as serving spoons, spatulas, turners, tongs, whisks, etc.)

Bathroom move-in set

- Waste basket
- Shower curtain/ hooks/ liners
- Bath towels (2)
- Bathroom Hand towels (2)
- Bathmat

Other Needed Items:

- *Food storage container sets (Tupperware)
- Iron
- Ironing board
- *Clock radio
- *Pots/pans set
- Baking pan set
- **Kitchen knife set
- *Framed wall mirror
- Picture frames
- (*Denotes items which we are low on ** Denotes items which we are currently out of)

Crisis Center, Inc. needs:

The Crisis Center, Inc. is in serious need of t-shirts, underwear, under garments and socks of various adult sizes.

And slippers of varying teen sizes. (no hats or mittens or scarfs, they have a lot). You can go to the Crisis Center Wish list on Amazon to see specific needs (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GMM7SVR9CRE0?ref_=wl_share)

There are two ways to donate:
Shop online, and have your purchase delivered to:
 Sojourner Truth House
 410 W. 13th St.
 Gary, IN 46407

Crisis Center, Inc.
101 N. Montgomery Street
Gary, IN 46403

Drop your purchase off on or before December 15, 2021 at Christ Lutheran Church, where an area inside the main Campbell Street entrance has been set aside. These will be delivered to Sojourner Truth House and Crisis Center, Inc. before Christmas.
If you would like to find out more about Sojourner Truth House and see their list of needs, you can visit their website: <https://www.sojournertruthhouse.org>

If you would like to find out more about Crisis Center, Inc. and see their list of needs, you can visit their website: <https://crisiscenterysb.org/>

Thank you for your generosity!
Lisa Owen, Diana Iltzsche and Kathy Sutherland
Social Ministry and Mission Committee

Additional Opportunities:
Northwest Indiana Lutheran Food and Supply Pantries Donations.

Men's Shelter Update

Men’s Shelter (and Resale Shop) at 2102 Calumet Ave, 219-548-3548 You can help feed our neighbors experiencing homelessness: New Creations Men’s Center continues to be home base for both single men and women between homes, providing daily meals and a space to be during the day. Overnight services began at area churches on October 15. Christ Lutheran will resume our hosting in April 2022.

In the meantime, you can help NC feed their guests. Lunch supplies can be dropped off at the resale shop counter during hours of operation (usually 10-5). **Requests include: Lunch meat, Fruit, Individual juice, Snack cakes, and Chips.** Dinners are also appreciated; please call New Creations (219-548-3548) for more information about quantities and scheduling of dinners. Information to follow soon on our scheduled night to feed the men. Meanwhile please pray for those in our community living in cars, tents and on the streets.

There is a basket inside door #3 for suggested food donations for Men's Shelter.

Housing Opportunities <https://hoi.help/pantry> 2001 Calumet Ave., 219-548-2800

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Spaghetti sauce (in jars)
- Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayo

One click donating! Check out our Amazon wish list; items shipped directly to the shelter!

www.hoi.help/pantry

NON-PANTRY NEEDS:

New Pillows

Twin size sheets (can be used; no stains or tears)

Immanuel Food Pantry <https://immanuelvalpo.org/food-pantry> 1700 Monticello – drive up drop off items. Donations can be dropped at Immanuel, best done Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-3 pm, at entrance between church and school. Contributions especially appreciated now are holiday food items such as gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, cake and cookie mixes. Also, cooking oil, salad dressing, ketchup, mustard, olives, pickles.

Hilltop Food Pantry <https://www.hilltophouse.org/hilltop-food-pantry> 606 Union St.



Christ Lutheran Church Youth Ministries

Circle (High School)

Sundays, 7:00pm – 8:00pm, in person
December 5th, 12th

<https://clcvalpo.churchcenter.com/groups/unique/circle>

Fusion (Middle School)

Sundays, 9:20am – 10:20am
December 5th, 12th

<https://clcvalpo.churchcenter.com/groups/unique/fusion>

Confirmation Class (8th graders)

Wednesdays, 6:00pm – 7:30pm
December 1st, 8th, 15th

<https://clcvalpo.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups/confirmation-class-2021-2022>

Circle Updates

Circle's Christmas Party will be on December 5th! Wear your favorite festive outfits for games and a White Elephant gift exchange (\$10 limit for gifts)

Circle's Study Break will be on December 12th! Space to study and unwind with games will be provided!

Fusion Updates

Fusion's last regular meeting will be on December 12th!

Fusion kids are encouraged to participate in, or attend, or Sunday School Christmas program on December 19th during normal Fusion times!

National Youth Gathering – Update

I am thrilled to announce we have 22 high schoolers and 6 adults attending the National Youth Gathering next year! Please support our current fundraiser, the Silent Auction, by bidding on our amazing donations!

Quake Dates

Our annual trip to Quake will be February 25th – 27th, 2022, in Schaumburg, IL!
Deposit is \$95, total cost is \$250! Contact Clint to sign up.



February 25th – February 27th
Hyatt Regency Schaumburg
in Schaumburg, IL
Cost: \$250.00

Quake is a weekend of worship and activities to cultivate spiritual growth for all 6th -12th grade teens

Interactive events

- Talent Show
- Stage Games
- Worship

Discipleship and bonding

- Campfire Worship
- Large group and small group discussion times
- Workshops

Service project

- Packing disaster relief meals

Speaker: Jen Jacobsen

- Youth Minister

Quake Band: Lynn Stoneking

- Singer/songwriter from Minnesota



A Different Way to Give

A few years ago, my aunt made it clear to my sisters and me that birthday and Christmas presents to unwrap weren't on her priority list anymore. "I really don't need more stuff," she said. "A donation in my name would be great." It wasn't hard to find the right donation to honor her. A bicycle to enable a girl somewhere in Africa to get herself to school suited her legacy as a pioneer in women's sports and a lifelong educator.

Your gifts can give twice—and honor the true spirit of giving that Jesus teaches us. The five organizations below are a great place to start. Most offer some way to let your loved one know about your gift in their name.

May Jesus be your Light and shine through you this Advent season.

Lisa Owen
Social Ministry and Mission Committee



is a ministry of hope and help for homeless and at-risk women and their children located in Gary, sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. When you donate to Sojourner Truth House, you're creating ripples of lasting change in women's lives, and, ultimately, the future we share.

Go to <https://sojournertruthhouse.org/ways-to-give/>
or text **gift19** to 855-934-4JOY



Oh, the amazing changes in Kenya! Amy Ahiga brought handcrafted items from Nairobi to sell at CLC's Alternative Giving fairs, as a way to help people in impoverished neighborhoods to earn livelihoods. Since we last saw her, she and her organization have built and opened a school in Kenya. To read about and shop for gifts that support this ministry, go to https://grainofrice.shop/collections/alternativegifts?mc_cid=3ee4c6a8fc&mc_eid=a4008b9f4f

To shop for handcrafted items, got to <https://grainofrice.shop/>



Hocker has been visiting Central America for over 30 years, partnering with local families to expand their market by bringing their handcrafted goods back to the U.S. Tom can take orders via email. You can shop and find his contact info at: <http://www.thetreeoflifeimports.com/>



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

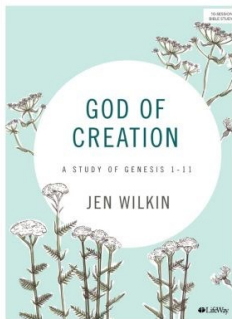
The ELCA's Good Gifts catalog is a place to shop for 50 gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. There's even a Christmas section, where you can personalize a Christmas card to let your loved one know what you've gotten them.

Visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>



STARFISH PROJECT
WEAR HOPE. GIVE HOPE.

Founded by an Elkhart, IN native, Starfish uses jewelry sales to help exploited women and girls experience freedom, establish independence and develop careers. Shop their catalog at <https://starfishproject.com/collections/all-jewelry>



The Ladies Tuesday Evening Bible Study invites you to join us starting December 7, 2021 @ 7:00—8:30 p.m. in Room 120 for a Study of Genesis.

This study was inspired by our dear sister in Christ and friend, Linda Robison was passed away suddenly this year. We pray you can join us!

We meet every Tuesday evening (except during Holiday weeks) for study, fellowship and prayer. If the weather is inclement, we meet on Zoom. The study guide is available for purchase on Amazon or other

Christmas Poinsettias

Once again, we will be ordering beautiful Christmas Poinsettias. We are preordering 20 plants. If you would like one or more please fill out a form by December 19. There are order forms in the Gathering Place or you may call the church office at 462-6660. **Cost is \$12.00.** Take your plant home after the 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Thank you.



Worship Leaders are needed to sign– up for Christmas Eve Services

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area.

Thank you!



2021 End of Year Contributions

As we approach the end of 2021, please take a moment to read the following guidelines for year-end giving.

All contributions received on Sunday, December 26, will be recorded in 2021. 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 lockboxes).

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.

SACRED GROUND



Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American

histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Christ Lutheran Church, in partnership with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, invites you to join in this discussion circle beginning in January 2022 and meeting every other week for 10 sessions, each 90 minutes. We will meet via Zoom. **Watch for information about registration.**

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Owen (jlo46383@msn.com) or Kathy Sutherland (ksutherland54@yahoo.com). For more information about Sacred Ground,

Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

As a 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 12.** **If you have any questions, please contact any Church Council Officer.**



Worship Leaders are needed to sign-up for Christmas Eve Services

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area.

Thank you!

Please join us
IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY for our
VNA Tree of Remembrance Ceremony
Tuesday, December 14, 2021 Doors open at 6:00 pm
Christ Lutheran Church, 2610 N Campbell St, Valparaiso
Sponsored by VNA Friends of Hospice

Family and friends are invited to attend this heartwarming ceremony, either in person or virtually. Christ Lutheran Church has limited capacity of 130 thanks to the pandemic, so we will take reservations on a first come, first served basis. The remaining participants (or those who prefer) will be able to attend virtually. In person attendees will receive tickets by mail and pick up their ornaments at the event. Ornaments and instructions will be mailed to those attending virtually. Event info may be found at www.facebook.com/VNAofNWI/ and our website at www.vnanwi.org.

The ceremony will also be recorded and available to watch and share with family and friends.

You may email a picture of your loved one to be included in the ceremony slideshow to mhamline@vnanwi.org or mail to VNA, 501 Marquette St. Valparaiso, IN 46383. (photos will be returned.)

*All completed forms and photos must be received by **Dec 3rd** to be included in the ceremony slideshow and receive your ornament before the event. For more information please call the VNA at 219-307-2385.

(Keep top half, send bottom half with payment)

Remember someone special with an ornament from the VNA Tree of Remembrance
Suggested Donation: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____
(Proceeds support the VNA Hospice Program)

Donor Name _____ Address _____
City, State, Zip _____ Phone Number _____

Email (required for important virtual information) Print Clearly _____

☐ Check Enclosed (payable to: VNA Foundation) ☐ Credit Card (circle one - VS, MC, DI, AMEX)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ 3 Digit Code on Back _____

Print name as it appears on card _____ Signature of card holder _____

Please return by 12/3/21
VNA Foundation
501 Marquette St
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Ornament #1 _____ Ornament #2 _____

In Remembrance of
Name of loved one (please print) _____
☐ Photo enclosed ☐ VNA has photo ☐ Photo emailed

In Remembrance of
Name of loved one (please print) _____
☐ Photo enclosed ☐ VNA has photo ☐ Photo emailed

Required
QUANTITY ATTENDING IN PERSON _____
I WILL BE ATTENDING VIRTUALLY _____

2021 Star Ornament
4" Diameter, blue
leatherette with laser
engraved VNA Logo

VNA HOSPICE NWI
219-462-5195 www.vnanwi.org