Take the risk. We’ll catch you.

Maybe you’ve played the team-building game where you stand in a circle of people, blindfolded and then, completely stiff, you lean—forward, backward, sideways—trusting that your circle of team mates will catch you and push you back up to where you can stand. It can be a little freaky if you don’t know the people on your team. We’re not used to having relative strangers touch us. Will they catch you? Can you trust them?

In some ways, your first days and weeks of college will be a little like that. You’ll be having a completely new experience. Maybe you’ll know your roommate, maybe not. You won’t know your professors, that’s for sure. But you’ll have to go to meet them. You have to go to class, even if the first days make you uncomfortable.

Nobody’s going to make you come to the Chapel. No one’s going to come by and check to see if you’re dressed and ready for church on Sunday morning.

Showing up at the Chapel for Morning Prayer and Celebrate!, for Candlelight and Sunday worship are risks that you’re going to have to take on your own. But when you do, you’ll find you’ve got a whole new group of people—students and professors and staff—who are waiting to make you feel like you belong. We’ll even catch you when you fall. We fall ourselves sometimes. So take the risk, we’re looking forward to meeting you.

Lots of Ways to Connect at the Chapel

With our goal of providing students with the experiences they need to become leaders in the church and the world, there is no place in Chapel life where students are not involved, planning and making decisions.

In the area of worship, students serve as worship planners and leaders, acolytes, communion assistants, readers, and ushers. Student musicians help lead worship throughout the week. You can learn more about opportunities in the fall.
Nurturing your spiritual life
Worship here at the Chapel of the Resurrection draws upon the gifts of Christians from across the centuries and around the world. Students, pastors, and other members of the University community shape each worship service through music and art, proclamation and prayer.

When we gather for worship in this place, everyone present is a precious part of the whole.

If worship at the Chapel is different from what you are used to, please listen again. It may not be as strange as it first appears. You will hear God’s Word. You will share Christ’s Holy Supper. You will be sent out into the world to love and serve God and your neighbor.

If you are new to Christian worship, don’t worry. Much of what we do may seem mysterious—and, in the Mystery of God, it is. If you listen carefully you will also notice some things that are down-to-earth: a Gathering, a Story, a Meal, a Mission. The Chapel staff is eager to answer any questions you may have.

We encourage you to open your mind and your senses to what you will encounter here! May your participation in services here at the Chapel allow you to meet the Risen Lord and renew you for faithfulness in your day-to-day life.

Service Schedule
There are eight services a week when classes are in session, a different style each day:

Sundays
Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.
Candlelight Evening Prayer – 10:00 p.m.

Weekdays
Monday-Friday – Morning Prayer - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays – Celebrate! (praise band) - 10:00 p.m.

During the summer:
Sundays
Holy Communion 8:30 a.m., VUCA Room 1519
People you can count on

As student generations change, and as new student life at Valpo evolves, some things remain in place — especially that first year — like the challenge of living away from home, the challenge of making new friends, and the challenge of making it in college academic life. The university pastors can help, regardless of your religious tradition – even if you don't consider yourself “religious.”

Two Lutheran pastors, Rev. Charlene M. Rachuy Cox and Rev. James A. Wetzstein, are committed to providing excellent spiritual care for the entire University community – students, staff and faculty. As chaplains, they are available to meet and talk with you about any issue or situation. They’ll help you clarify the issue, reflect on your own beliefs and think through your options with kindness and grace.

University Pastor Charlene M. Rachuy Cox
charlene.cox@valpo.edu
Office Phone: 219 464-5093
Cell: 641 590-4520

Pastor Charlene Rachuy Cox is the regular speaker at Candlelight on Sunday nights, and the pastoral advisor for the Peer Ministry team, ACTS, the Christian Ministry Network, and serves on the Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue and Spirituality. Influenced by the many and varied people who have crossed her life’s path, Pr. Char is a lover of stories and is passionately committed to finding creative ways for the gospel narrative to be woven into the stories of our lives. Pr. Char is the parent of 17-and 16-year-old daughters, Torie and Elianna. She loves walking with her giant schnoodle, Ari, and her Bischon/poodle, Bob, and especially enjoys memoirs and historical fiction.

University Pastor James A. Wetzstein
james.wetzstein@valpo.edu
Office Phone: 219 464-5093
Cell phone: 219 405-0630

Pastor James Wetzstein is the mentor for the Social Action Leadership Team (SALT) and works with the students who plan and implement Celebrate! every Wednesday night. Lessons learned through independent international travel and twelve years of experience in a small, multicultural congregation in Gary, Indiana, are at the root of his commitment to a global vision coupled with gospel-driven, grassroots local action. Pr. Jim and his wife Tracey, an attorney, live in Gary with their 10-year-old son, Gabriel, and a bunch of dogs and cats. He draws a weekly, three-panel comic strip for churches called “Agnus Day.”

“Friend” the university pastors on Facebook!
Agnus Day
Agnus Day (the two sheep, above) is a weekly comic strip by Pastor Jim. Check it out at www.agnusday.org or look for a link in the chapel's weekly newsletter, in your email inbox once classes are in session.

Follow us on Twitter & Facebook
Be part of the Chapel's on-line community, too!
Follow us on Twitter: @ValpoChapel
Find us on Facebook:
Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso
Experience a vibrant worship life
Chapel Late Nite!
Want to meet people? Enjoy music, food and games at Chapel Late Nite, a one-night-only event at the Chapel.

This year’s Late Nite is Friday, Sept. 11 at 9 p.m.

BRO and SIS are here for you
Brothers Reaching Out (BRO) and Sisters In Spirit (SIS) are two groups started by students for students. Both are living and learning communities, housed in Guild-Memorial. Members gather for Bible study, fellowship and service projects. Watch for information this fall about how to get involved!
Peer ministers look forward to meeting you
Peer Ministers serve as mentors, a caring presence, and role models, being available to peers, fostering relationships, creating program and spiritual growth opportunities, and connecting students in need of spiritual care with the pastoral staff of the Chapel of the Resurrection.

Peer Ministers live in the residence halls where they serve and are an integral part of both the Residence Life team and the Chapel ministry.

Retreats help you figure it out
The Chapel offers a series of retreats throughout the year that lead participants in the disciplines of prayer and spiritual discernment, especially in the area of life vocation. Quietly appreciating and meditating on the beauty of God’s good creation… sharing caring conversation with a new friend… listening to God’s word with new ears… That’s what the Lifetree Retreat is all about. In quiet contemplation, you are invited to learn to listen to God through individual and group activities, prayer and worship, Bible study, and fellowship. Watch for your opportunity to participate in a retreat. There is no charge and transportation and meals are included.
Social justice - a way of life
SALT, the Social Action Leadership Team, is the chapel’s social justice ministry. Students in SALT serve as the leadership team that invites Valpo students to engage in Christian service both near and far, from local volunteering to spring break service trips to church-based community organizing. Each year, the members of SALT choose one project for the World Relief Campaign, a major fundraising effort that is carried out during the spring semester. Over the course of 30 years, SALT has successfully raised more than $100,000, including the 2015 campaign, “The 400 Movement,” a project that will help more than 600 children receive artificial limbs through A Leg to Stand On. This year’s most successful fundraiser was the Color 4 a Cause Run.