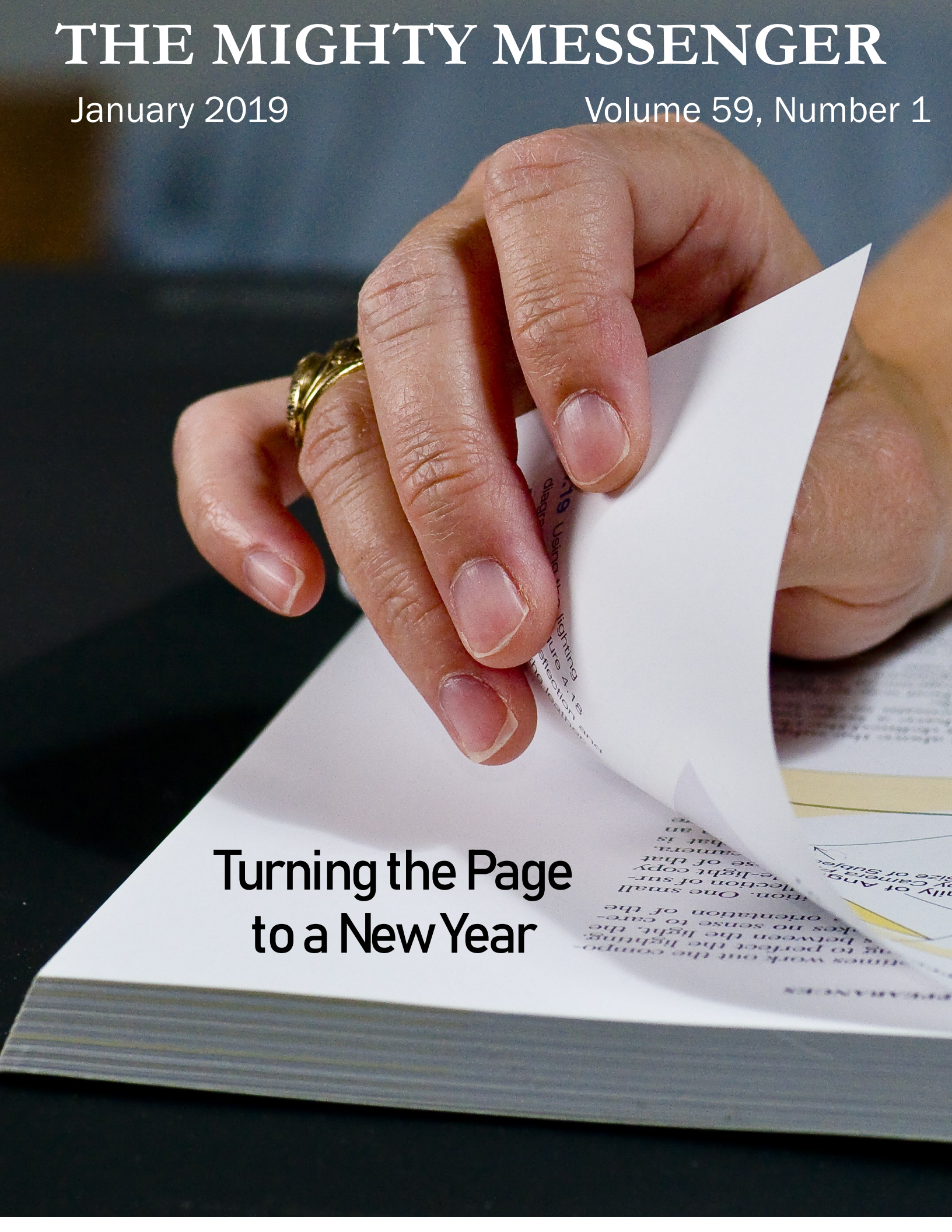
THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

January 2019 Volume 59, Number 1



Turning the Page to a New Year

Turning the Page

Whatever New Year's resolutions I might come up with for 2019, one of them is not going to be to go paperless with my calendar and just do everything on my smart phone like so many people do. Part of the problem is that I don't like keying in a lot of words on my phone (thus, I don't care much for texting). The rest of the problem is that I'm not sure I could see the details very well without reading glasses! I must say, I do find it a bit amusing that as I've persisted in using a paper calendar (and endured some ridicule as a result), it's not unusual to be in a meeting and have people looking over my shoulder at my paper calendar when we're talking about dates.

So as 2019 begins, I don't think that I'm going to "turn over a new leaf" and work with just an electronic calendar, but I am literally turning over a new leaf of paper onto a new month in my calendar and into a new year ahead. Whether you're actually turning a page with me in your calendar, we're all challenged to "turn a page" in our lives as we move forward into the future. As we do, we're all entering into the great unknown, but we're doing so with some certainties at the same time. We can be certain that the year ahead will have some challenges, some surprises (both pleasant and otherwise), and some unforeseen turns of events, because they always do. God has given us fair warning that we enter the Kingdom through many hardships (see Acts 14:22).

But Jesus also assures us that even though in this world we will experience tribulation, He has overcome the world through His perfect life, death, and resurrection (see John 16:33). We can also be certain that the Lord will be with us and that He will help us with whatever challenges we encounter. As our victorious Lord and King, He promises in His unchanging Word never to leave us nor forsake us (see Hebrews 13:5), and to be our ever-present help in time of trouble (see Psalm 46). He has also promised that His grace will be sufficient for us (see 2 Corinthians 12:9), and that He will give us the strength we need for the moment, and even the words that we need to say when the time is right (see Luke 12:12). Therefore we need not worry about tomorrow but can just take each day as it comes (see Matthew 6:25-34).

It's been said that if you want to make God laugh just tell Him your plans. That's a point well taken for the Bible says: "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:13-15). At the same time, we know that the Lord wants us to be organized, to be diligent, and to plan ahead with prudence, as He often points out in Proverbs (for example, Proverbs 12:5; 21:5). So we pray first and then make plans with His guidance that are committed to the Lord (see Proverbs 16:3).

So what are the plans for 2019 at St. Michael? I would encourage you to find that "Planned Parish Program" that you received at the Voters Assembly meeting back in October at the time that the congregation approved the budget. This spells out the plans of our nine administrative boards that oversee the various aspects of our ministry. In addition, we will continue to work on our long range plan that has two big projects remaining, namely making improvements in our culture and in our structure of governance. We also plan on adding an additional full time staff person very early in 2019 as our Business and Finance Manager. We had this position filled for most of 2018 but now it's vacant once again, causing Jan to have to come off of her retirement for a time to fill the void.

You'll see in this newsletter other plans for 2019, such as sending a LAMP team to Lac Brochet twice, sending a group to the Synodical Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July, and sending a group to Germany in 2020 to tour the Luther lands and see the Passion Play in Oberammergau that is put on only every ten years. Be in prayer about whether the Lord has it in His plans for you to join any of these groups and let us know soon. Yes, be in prayer about everything that you plan to do in this new year ahead. Ask God for wisdom and direction, listen to His "still small voice" (see 1 Kings 19:12), and then be yielded to whatever the Lord wants for you and wherever He wants to take you. Following Jesus is always an adventure, but one that we do with joy and with confidence, knowing that He leads us "in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (Psalm 23:3).

Pastor Naumann

JLK's Annual Vision Day is a LUNCHEON this year!

Thursday, January 31 (11:30 am - 1:30 pm)

The River Church (517 Walbridge, Kalamazoo 49007)

Come celebrate the past and learn of the future of this amazing evangelistic movement in our community. Save the date and look for further information.

Why Lutheran Schools Matter

It's a typical morning in the classroom, much like every other third grade classroom. The students settle in their seats as the day is about to begin. One of the girls picks up a book and heads for the office chair in the back of the room. She reads a Bible verse, then proceeds to read the devotion for the day. This is where things become much different than many other classrooms. This is where we invite Jesus into our hearts, our classroom, and begin our day with prayer.

Please forget for a moment that I am a Lutheran Educator. Please just think of me as a blessed mother of three wonderful children. As a mom, I had many choices to make regarding my children. What would I name them? When would they be baptized? How would I raise them? Where would we live? What would I do when it was time for me to return to work? Then one of the biggest decisions of all, where would they attend school? That actually was very easy for me. My children would attend a Lutheran School because I wanted them to learn in a school where Christ was the center of education. It was *extremely* important to me. Sacrifices had to be made so it could happen. However, there was never any question in my mind. I wasn't willing to give up what I believed in to save money or jeopardize my child's future. Faith Formation is something that happens naturally in a Lutheran School. His love is present within the building. I wanted, scratch that, needed that for my children. I needed them to hear God's word on a daily basis. I wanted them surrounded by Christian teachers that could teach them to pray when they needed to and would pray with them. I wanted them to learn to wear Jesus well, no matter what the cost. I believe my children are who they are in large part because of the influence of their foundation. That foundation was set in Christ during those important formative years.

I am sure I could have found many ways to spend that extra money. I always wanted a boat, a camper, a motorcycle, a lake house, and more. However, after burying my oldest son, Zachary, I know that money spent on Lutheran Schools was well spent. Finding his Bible with verses highlighted and dated, knowing he was in the word, and the assurance that I will be with him again one day in heaven was worth every single penny. You can't put a price tag on eternity.

Registration has begun for the 2019-2020 school year at St. Michael Lutheran School. Will your child join us for a Christ Centered Education? We have a space waiting just for them.

Roxanne Schmerheim
3rd Grade Teacher

Faith Taking Root and Bearing Fruit: Books

Christians are a people who put much stock in one particular book—the Holy Bible. It records God's communication to us of His law and gospel, it tells the history of God's actions of love and salvation, and because of its divinely inspired character it defines the boundaries for what we teach about God.

The Bible isn't the only book that Christians read, however. There is much to be learned about virtue, human nature, history, glory, and suffering from other authors, new and old. A fictional character's journey of folly or discovery can sometimes expose our own vices and give us a greater desire to change than any starkly given command could. A book by a Christian lawyer who knows apologetics can fortify our faith and give us more confidence as we seek to defend it.

Books let us travel to new places without leaving our own couches. An author in another century can help us to see the blind spots in the notions of our own age. Books by Lutherans help us to appreciate the beauty and truth of our biblical teaching; books by non-Lutheran Christians help us to see similarities and differences in our understandings of the Bible, and they sometimes give us new language that is helpful for expressing the truths that God has revealed.

For all these and many other reasons, we ought to keep reading books—or start reading them!

If you are someone who struggles to make time to read, here is an opportunity that just might help:

> BOOK-OF-THE-QUARTER AT ST. MICHAEL
> For each quarter of the year, a specific Book of the Quarter is read by participants on their own time. Means may be provided for online chat or email conversations about the book. And readers can of course have ad hoc discussions whenever they meet at church. On a specified date each quarter, participants are invited to come for a final discussion, which will include coffee and some Biblical connections to the book.
> How to participate: Find a copy of the book listed for the quarter, and start reading! Mark your calendar with the date scheduled for the discussion. If you want to let me know that you are reading, or if you have questions, just call or email me. Specific times and locations for each discussion date will be posted later.
>
> Quarter 1: Clearly Christian by A. Trevor Sutton (CPH), discussion on March 16, 2019
> Quarter 2: Orthodoxy by G.K. Chesterton, discussion on June 15, 2019
> Quarter 3: Little Women by Louisa May Alcott, discussion on September 21, 2019
> Quarter 4: Martin Luther's Large Catechism by Martin Luther, discussion on November 23, 2019

Happy New Year!

--Pastor Toman

Evangelism Notes

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

Gathering the 2019 LAMP Team

Would you like to know more about what is involved in being on the Summer Travel team to Lac Brochet or would you like to assist in getting things ready for the summer trip?

Talk with Dana or Pastor if you have any questions or are interested in helping with the summer trip.

Keep the Lac Brochet Children and adults in your prayers. It is a very difficult time of the year for them - very dark and very cold.

Thank you!

Evangelism Notes

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

Join Us at Our New Members' Reception

January 13, 2019

A reception for our new members will be in the gym between services at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday January 13, 2019. Please join us during this special reception to honor and celebrate them, and to get to know them better. Please wear your name tag and a smile.

Christmas Cheer Brought to Colonial Acres

Several members of the Bridge, Renovation, First Baptist, and St. Michael came together on December 9 to sing Christmas songs and bring Christmas greetings to the residents at Colonial Acres mobile home park. Afterwards, there was a nice time of fellowship with cookies and hot chocolate. In the left background of this picture is a home that was destroyed in a fire. We brought encouragement, financial gifts, and some cookies and pizza to those who were working there on the salvage effort. We also prayed over the site where we hope to have a Youth for Christ community center in the near future.

New Members Received
December, 2018

Front Row: Jackie Michels, Mike & Krista Grotelueschen, Delores Jung, D. Young, Deb Hackett, Jessie Duniphin, Shannon Lapekas, Ruth & Jacob Heacox

Back Row: Tracie & Frank Fisher, Karen & Gary Griffin, Lori Simonds, Lisa Fisher, Sean Lapekas, Don & Laura Heacox

The Bigelows: Chris, Katey. Joe. Kenzie, and Thomas

Mark & Kim Ruesch, Carrie & Ryan Nelson with Cecelia, Luke and Evelyn Nelson, Pastor Nauman

A Weekend of Discovery... A Lifetime of Love — Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Resolve to Improve Your Marriage in 2019

As we turn over another new year, many of us will make New Year's resolutions. If you are married, a great resolution is to do something to strengthen your marriage. It is the *second* most important relationship we can have, after all! There are many great options out there – attending a seminar, doing a couple's Bible study, resolving to pray together daily, etc. It wouldn't even hurt to do a combination! We are blessed to have an excellent option in the Lutheran church – Lutheran Marriage Encounter. Lutheran Marriage Encounter helps married husbands and wives celebrate their special relationship - and provides them with unique insights and tools to improve their communication for the long haul. A Marriage Encounter experience can be a blessing for *any* marriage, whether you are newly married or a "seasoned veteran." **The next Marriage Encounter Experience in Michigan will be March 29-31, 2019 in Birch Run.**

If you are married, we encourage you to check out the Marriage Encounter display on the counter behind the coat racks in Communication Central, come talk to us, or check out the GodLovesMarriage.org website for more information. The experience is a whole weekend away from chores, jobs and kids, and is an opportunity to celebrate your love, learn a delightful new method of communication, and reap joyful long-term rewards for yourself, your family, and your faith journey as husband and wife. Also, there is a special benefit this year - in honor of 50 years of enriching marriages in North America through Worldwide Marriage Encounter, LME will offer a $50 discount off the registration fee for all 2019 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Experiences.

If you need an eye witness account to strengthen your resolve, please read this testimonial from Joe and Kate Maurer:

> "We decided to attend the marriage encounter weekend after seeing it in the church newsletter as a way to help strengthen our marriage. We didn't know exactly what to expect from the weekend, but we found that it drew us closer together and helped us to effectively communicate on a deeper level with one another. Whether your marriage is already great or if it is struggling, we highly recommend participating in this event."

If you have already been blessed by a Marriage Encounter Experience, I hope you will consider continuing the journey by joining our Kalamazoo area group! It's a great way to keep strengthening your marriage in a fun way with great Marriage Encounter couples, and to support one another in our marriages. With everything going on in both the Wilkins family and the Zelner family, our next meeting will not take place until February. We'll keep you posted with the details! In the meantime, please keep both families in your prayers.

Jesse and Shannon Hogue

Fall Quarter 2018

Sunday School Attendance Recognition

Preschool through 8th Grade

Perfect Attendance

Grayson Cole
Ethan Kwigizile
Ivan Kwigizile
Mark Rudowske

Faithful Attendance

(no more than two absences)

Ivy Bigelow
Isabella Crampton
Emily Havenhill
Sara Havenhill
Ella Holdsworth
Cate Quardokus
Luke Quardokus
Will Rudowske
Asher Toman
Callan Toman
Ellery Toman
Lyra Toman
Silas Toman

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Women's Fellowship Ministry would like to say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the congregation for making our **Christmas Cookie Sale** and **Thanksgiving Food Basket collection** and **Christmas Food Basket and Gift collection** such a wonderful success.

- At the time this is being written I don't have exact figures but we had about 240 plates of cookies.
- Our goal for the Cookie Sale was to raise $1000.00 for the new Altar Paraments and we exceeded that amount.
- We were also able to set aside18 plates of cookies to go in the shut-in bags.
- We sent the group going Caroling Sunday evening with cookies.
- Pastor took the leftover plates with him to the Colonial Acres Christmas Party that afternoon.

Women's Fellowship and the Altar Guild are thrilled. Thank you!!!

Women's Fellowship Ministry

For Thanksgiving . . .

- We had plenty of food and funds to bless our three families with ample food baskets for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal and a few more meals.
- Thank you to the VanOrman's who furnished the turkey's and a few other packages of meat.

For the Christmas Food Baskets and Gifts . . .

- We had plenty of food and all the wish list items were filled. There was enough money donations to purchase all the perishable food items needed.
- These items were distributed the week before Christmas.
- After our three families were taken care of there appears to be funds leftover to surprise another needy family with a gift card for food.

We are truly blessed to be able to help those in need. We also pray that God would heal and restore health and find jobs for those able to work.

May you all have a blessed and Happy New Year!

If you have any ideas for an event, activity or service project, please contact a board member and let us know.

Board Members

June Kucks 649-4529
Arla Mayhew 327-4643
Rika Noggle 327-4702
Diane Goetz 323-7667
Sandy Maya 330-9100
Connie Chadderdon 327-7220
Ondrea Brussee (616) 836-5121

New Members Received

December 9, 2018

Front Row: Jackie Michels, Mike & Krista Grotelueschen, Delores Jung, D. Young, Deb Hackett, Jessie Duniphin, Shannon Lapekas, Ruth & Jacob Heacox

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The Bigelows: Chris, Katey. Joe. Kenzie, and Thomas

Mark & Kim Ruesch, Carrie & Ryan Nelson with Cecelia, Luke and Evelyn, Pastor Naumann

Dear friends at St. Michael,

As 2019 is upon us, Dana and I are so blessed and grateful to have been a part of our St. Michael family for 22 years. You have always shown us much appreciation and love, and we certainly love and appreciate you as well. Thank you to all those who gave us anonymous Christmas gifts again this year. We receive them as an expression of your heart and your support of our mutual mission and service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was born for us, lived, died, and rose again for us. Because of Him, we'll share eternity together. Looking forward to it!

With love, Pastor and Dana Naumann

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas and a Joyous Epiphany to All! 2018 has been a year of blessings and struggles for all of us. God has been good and gracious through it all. The Toman family is very grateful for the many kindnesses and gifts we have received in 2018, notably during my recovery from renal surgery and during the weeks after Milo Jack's birth. Through you and through all of God's providential means, and especially through His means of grace, we have been greatly blessed. This year we have also received so many hand-me-downs of kids' clothes and shoes that our basement shelves could be mistaken for a thrift store! But we are putting the gifts to good use. Thank you, St. Michael, for these and many other kindnesses. Please continue to lift us up in prayer in 2019, asking God to help us each to mature in Christ-likeness, to remain firm in our faith and hope, and to humbly serve the people God has put into our lives. Happy New Year, people of God!

With Love, Pastor Toman and Family

We are so grateful for all of the many gifts and examples of love and support that have been shown to our family during this Christmas season. We very much appreciate our St. Michael family!
In Christ,

Greg, Wendy, Nathan and Jared Johnson

Noah and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for all of the prayers, talks, treats, and gifts that we have received throughout the year. We are honored to serve God through St. Michael and we look forward to an amazing 2019! - Andi Lynch

St. Michael Youth Group

January—You have probably heard the phrase "I identify with" often this past year. Our world seems obsessed with identity and what or who we consider ourselves to be based on how we feel. What is amazing to me is that God addresses our identity in the Bible. He does not focus on how we feel we are, but who He has created us to be. No matter the struggle or how bad we think we are God calls us His children, loved and wanted. He cleanses us from our sins and sends us out to be His representatives on earth. His identity triumps our feelings, our fears, and our hopes. For all our great accomplishments and all of our failures our identity as a child of God comes first! I pray we live our lives in celebration knowing that we are valued, loved, and cherished by God, I also pray that we are humble enough to know that God's created identity for us is greater than ourselves.

" for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:27-28

Sr. High & Current 8th Graders
Creation Museum & Ark Trip
Kentucky/Ohio

Leaving 7am January 3
Returning 5pm January 5

Drop In Volleyball
at St. Michael Gym
January 11, 2019, 6-8pm

Everyone and any skill level
is invited to come and play!

Winter Chili Extravaganza
Sunday, January 13
12—2:30pm in the gym

While this is a fundraiser for our NYG students we want to invite everyone to attend this event. We will have a chili cook off, fellowship time for the congregation, a cookie decorating table, and prizes! We are inviting youth to come help out and enjoy this fellowship event with the entire congregation.

To sign up to help, please register in front of the youth board.

Continued next page →

St. Michael Youth Group

Jr. and Sr. High Ice Skating

Date: Sunday, January 20
Time: 6-8pm, Cost: $2

Millennium Park
280 Romence Road, Portage, MI

Come on over to Millennium Park and join us in ice skating! Feel free to bring your friends! Afterward we will enjoy some hot chocolate and a devotion. Please sign up at the youth board so we have an idea of who is coming! Hope to see you there!

Candy Making Fundraiser Lock-In

Friday, January 25-26
7pm-9am
@ St. Michael Lutheran Church

While we do invite all youth to participate if they would like to come, this will be a working lock-in. Our primary goal is to make candy for our candy selling fundraiser. The Youth who are going to the gathering will be selling candy for Valentines Day during the month of January. The lock-in is the time we are dedicating to make the candy.

Super Bowl Sub Making
Saturday, February 2
9am-noon in St. Michael Gym

For this fundraiser I am looking for youth to help at the sign-up table at the end of Saturday / Sunday services, and help in the kitchen on Saturday, February 2 putting the subs together. I am also looking for some parent help in the kitchen on February 2 to help put the subs together. **Please sign up at the Youth Board in the Communication Center so I am aware of the help coming and able to distribute money fairly.**

Jr. High Tool Time Retreat
March 30-31, 2019
at Concordia University Ann Arbor

Registration Deadline: March 15

Cost: $60 (if registered before March 1)
$70 after March 1

Checks can be made to St. Michael Youth Group and put in Andi Lynch's mailbox #423.
Parent chaperones needed at no cost for this trip. Please consider this honor to interact with the kids and share your faith! $10. to purchase a shirt.

Tool Time is a youth retreat run by the college students at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Youth get to enjoy games, sessions, a band and lots of activities focused on each other and their faith. It is a great time for youth to interact with college students and see the faith of college students in action.

In Response to the 46th Anniversary of Roe v Wade

Prayer for Life

January 20, 2019 3:00pm
Bronson Park - Downtown Kalamazoo

- Participants are invited to bring diaper and baby wipe donations for Caring Network and Alternatives of Kalamazoo
- Firm Foundation Ministries will host a time of fellowship and light refreshments following the prayer located at 414 W South Street - across from the park

In case of inclement weather, prayer will be moved to Firm Foundation Ministries, 414 W South Street. To check weather status call 269-903-0177 or check one of the following websites:

www.diokzoo.org - Diocese of Kalamazoo
www.mightymessengers.org - St. Michael Lutheran
www.immanuelkzoo.org - Immanuel Lutheran
www.kazoortl.org - Kalamazoo Right to Life

This event is sponsored by:
Kalamazoo Right to Life
St. Michael Lutheran
Immanuel Lutheran
Diocese of Kalamazoo

2020 PASSION PLAY OBERAMMERGAU

St. Michael Lutheran Church and School
Making Mighty Messengers for Christ

GERMANY

THE PASSION OF JESUS AND THE REFORMATION OF HIS CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 17- 29, 2020

13- DAY SMALL GROUP TOUR HOSTED BY THE REV. DR. PAUL NAUMANN

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann has been the Senior Pastor of St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage, Michigan for 22 years. Previously, he had been a theology professor at Concordia University Wisconsin. His wife, Dana, has a Masters in Social Work and specializes in grief counseling. She is also the president of the US board for LAMP (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots). Together, they have traveled abroad numerous times, both on mission trips and just for pleasure, to such places as Canada, Israel, England, India, and Italy.

PASSION PLAY TICKETS ARE LIMITED
DEPOSIT DUE BY MARCH 15, 2019

Come along and experience with us the land of Martin Luther and enjoy some of the most important historical sights of the Reformation: Wittenberg, Eisleben, Erfurt, Wartburg, Heidelberg and more. Discover the impact this era has on who we are today. Follow in the footsteps of the courageous Christian men and women from the past and see why they were willing to take an uncompromising stand for the truth of God's Word. But this is more than an adventure in history. It is an opportunity to explore firsthand some of the most beautiful and charming sights in Deutschland, to marvel at the beautiful architecture, cruise the Rhine river, get to know the people, worship in their churches, hear their music, enjoy their food, and taste some of their wine and beer. Our tour will also take us back much further than the Reformation era, as we witness one of the most phenomenal presentations of the saving work of Jesus in the entire world, the Passion Play in Oberammergau. Performed once every ten years (since 1634), this open-air spectacle will move you deeply and keep you enthralled for five hours (including a break for dinner). Throughout the journey we will travel together aboard a luxury motor coach, along with our professional tour guide, and overnight in first-class accommodations. Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime adventure in 2020. In Christ, Rev. Dr. Paul and Dana Naumann

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION ROAD

Few men or women can be truly described as having "changed the history of the world." However, Martin Luther, born in 1483, is one of these rare people. An energetic and charismatic German pastor, professor of theology, composer, priest, monk, Luther is known as the Father of the Reformation stands shoulder to shoulder with the giants of history.

Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses against the sale of indulgences on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, October 31, 1517 and a global Gospel movement grew out of his action: it influenced not only Germany in a lasting way, but also the rest of Europe and America, and continues to make its mark around the world.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST ~ PASSION PLAY

After 376 years, the Oberammergau Passion Play is still a work in progress - performed every decade as a promise to God. A vow, made in times of absolute misery, has been fulfilled since 1633.

During the Thirty Years' War, after much suffering and many deaths caused by the plague, the surviving population of Oberammergau vowed that they would perform the "play of the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ" every 10 years if they were spared from extinction. At Whitsun in 1634 they kept their promise for the first time.

In 2020 the village will perform the play for the 42nd time. The play takes place out doors with the sky and mountains as the back drop. More than 2,000 citizens make up the actors, singers, instrumentalists and stage technicians that bring the play to life. The play runs 5 hours, comprised of spoken dramatic text, musical and choral accompaniment and tableaux vivants. A dramatic presentation depicting the Passion of Christ, including the trial, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

LUTHER TOURS Since 1965 *NEVER JUST A TOUR... ALWAYS A SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE! 1.866.777.1517 ~ LUTHERTOURS.COM*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED FEATURES

PRIVATE GROUP ~ CUSTOM- DESIGNED ITINERARY

- Relaxed pace- time for reflection and spiritual inspiration
- Rev. Naumann will accompany the group sharing stories at on-site discussions, leading daily devotions and studying His word
- Services of our Professional English-speaking Tour Manager with expertise in Reformation history to assist throughout the tour
- 11 nights first-class accommodations with private bathroom
- Hotel taxes
- Breakfast daily, 7-Dinners
- Gratuities for all included meals
- Luxury air-conditioned Motor Coach will transport you in comfort
- Group Airport Transfers in Germany
- Life Enriching Activities- spiritual, cultural and educational experiences daily
- Professional local guides
- Worship service at the churches where Martin Luther worshipped
- Winery Visit and Tastings with regional cuisine
- Rhine River sightseeing cruise
- Regensburg Brewery visit and tastings
- 2020 Passion Play ticket and hotel accommodation in the Bavarian Alps
- All sightseeing and admissions as indicated in the itinerary
- Baggage handling throughout the tour for 1-bag each

2020 TOUR PRICE*

per person based on double occupancy

$3,790 with 25 paying travelers
$3,990 with 20 paying travelers
$595 Additional for Single Traveler

*Tour prices are based on costs provided to LT from travel suppliers and partners for our 2020 programs. Final tour price subject to currency fluctuation.

GROUP AIRFARE*

Is additional and not included in the tour price, minimum of 10-travelers on same flight

Approximately $1300 from Detroit, MI
Airfare is available from most cities nationwide contact LT for price
*Flight schedule and price confirmed 11-months prior to travel dates

TRIP INSURANCE IS ADDITIONAL

Cancellation, Interruption and Baggage insurance is available
Visit www.travelguard.com/zehndertravelgroup for full description of benefits, coverage and price

NOT INCLUDED

Gratuities for tour manager, coach driver, local guides
Passport application fee and visa fee for non-US passport holders check with LT for requirements.
Meals not listed, personal items such as internet charges, telephone calls, laundry during trip
Trip Insurance

PAYMENT POLICY IS PER PERSON- SMALL GROUP- SPACE IS LIMITED TO 25 TRAVELERS

Deposit:	$150 along with your completed reservation form by March 15, 2019 (Deposit is non-refundable due to the strict cancellation penalties required for the Passion Play hotel and play ticket package)
Second Payment:	$350 due by May 1, 2019 (a reminder will be sent to travelers)
Final Payment:	Balance due 120 days prior to departure (a reminder will be sent to travelers)

CANCELLATION SCHEDULE IS PER PERSON

-Up to May 01, 2019.....$150
- May 02, 2019 up to 121 days prior to departure..$500
- 120 to 91 days prior to departure.....$750
- 90 to 46 days prior to departure.....50% of total cost
- 45 days or less prior to departure...100% of total cost

Please refer to our complete cancellation and change policy shown in the LT Terms and Conditions of Travel at www.LUTHERTOURS.com and click Contact to view the policy or contact our office 1.866.777.1517 and a copy will be mailed or emailed to you.

LUTHER TOURS Since 1965 *NEVER JUST A TOUR... ALWAYS A SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE! 1.866.777.1517 ~ LUTHERTOURS.COM*

Saturday, February 2, 2019
Our Savior Lutheran Church
7910 E St Joe Hwy Lansing, Michigan

Prayer is dangerous. It can change you. It can disrupt your life/routine. Don't pray, and let everything be the way it is. Pray, and receive peace, guidance, understanding, faith, purpose, protection from evil, and a deeper relationship with God. Jesus prayed often, and He tells us to be constant in prayer. Join us at "Be Constant In Prayer," the 2019 Theological Conference, and learn more about this gift from our heavenly Father.

Victor Belton

Connie Denninger

Bryan Wolfmueller

Christopher Paavola

David Maier

Moderator

John Rathje

Facilitator

Onsite Registration $20/General and $15/Student

LANGELAND FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

Grief: A Path to Healing

1st Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise noted

Grief takes time and work. We'll help you learn how to move forward.

2019 dates:

January 8
(2nd Tues.)
February 5
March 5
April 9
(2nd Tues.)
May 7

6:00pm - 7:30pm
Portage Public School Administration Building
8107 Mustang Drive
Portage, MI 49002

This is a monthly Educational Grief Support Group.

It is especially for:

- **Those who are new to grief.**
- **Those who are going through a rough time of grief.**
- **Those who would like to better understand the grief process.**
- **Those who would like to support someone they care about who is grieving.**

This monthly group, gives an overview of the grief process and also offers tools which can be helpful in working through the grief process. It also can be a place for the participants to share their experience and get support from others. A person may come to one monthly session or may desire to return for several months.

Call Dana or Lynn with questions: 269-343-1508
email: dana@langelands.com or lynnm@langelands.com

Weekly Scripture Readings & Sermon Summaries

January 6, 2019 – Epiphany
Psalm 72:1-11; Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12; Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
"The Mystery of Christ Made Known" - Sermon Text: Ephesians 3:4-6 - Rev. Thomas Eggold

The mystery of Christ is the inclusive and universal message that Jesus Christ entered our humanity, lived a perfect life under the Law, died on a cross for the sins of the entire world and was raised from the dead, conquering death and giving all of humankind the certain promise of everlasting life. This is the Gospel that the Church has been commissioned to communicate!

January 13, 2019 – The Baptism of Our Lord
Psalm 29; Epistle: Romans 6:1-11; Gospel: Luke 3:15-22
"Baptised into Christ!" - Sermon Text: Luke 3:21-22 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his" (Romans 6:5 ESV). This morning we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan, God in the flesh, and so also we celebrate our Baptism into Christ. What a great comfort in the midst of temptation and trial, sin and death, and every distress that we can say to ourselves, "I am baptized into Christ!"

January 20, 2019 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Psalm 128; Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-5; Gospel: John 2:1-11
"Manifesting His Glory" - Sermon Text: John 2:1-11 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

We remember weddings as special, happy occasions. At the wedding at Cana, the unthinkable happened. Who would step in and save the day? Jesus has done much more than saved a wedding at Cana.

January 27, 2019 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Psalm 19; Old Testament: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Gospel: Luke 4:16-30
"Read It and…Rejoice!" - Sermon Text: Nehemiah 8:1-10 - Rev. William Mueller

In the dark days after the exiles returned from captivity in Babylon, the Word of God was rare. Ezra, the priest, reads and applies God's Word and the people respond with repentant weeping and abiding faith. The Word of God still has that same power for us – so we are invited to read it and rejoice!

TV MINISTRY YOU CAN TRUST!

Charter Cable Channel 189
AT&T U-Verse Channel 99
Sunday and Wednesday at 3:30pm
Access for Kalamazoo and Portage

- 30-Minute Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship service
- Produced by Lutherans for the homebound, hospitalized…
- Includes the Gospel, Epistle, and Sermon by LCMS pastors
- Music by choirs, soloists, and small groups

Caroline Barkow
Audrey Glover
Betty McCoy
Ruth Newland
Burnie Trimner

November Financials

1 month

	11/1/18-11/30/18
Church Revenue	$ 62,534
School Revenue	$ 70,815
Total Revenue	$ 133,349
Total Expenses	$ 130,285
Net Surplus (deficit)	$ 3,064
Expense Budget	$ 142,384
Under/(Over) Budget	$ 12,098
Working Cash Balance	$ 20,361
Mortgage Balance	$908,902

December Average Attendance 370
November Average Attendance 336
October Average Attendance 385

Avg. 2018 Attendance. 338

Designated Fund Balances

Trust Fund	$272,112
Building Contingency	$ 27,185
Technology Refresh	$ 7,307
AV Fund	$ 6,130
Sunday School	$ 1,631
Youth Donations	$ 6,850
Youth Accounts	$ 14,872
Good Samaritan	$ 3,990
Memorials	$ 1,169
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	$ 8,286
Quilting	$ 967
Church Worker Scholarship	$ 1,045
School Improvements	$ 11,755
Tuition Assistance	$ 29,824
School Music	$ 144
Flower Fund	$ 100

Saint Michael Lutheran Church and School

Staff Members, Board Directors, and Other Leaders

*Paid Positions

Senior Pastor * . . . . . Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann
Office Hours: Tues-Fri. 9:00 am -12 noon
E-mail Address: naumann@mightymessengers.org
Director of Children & Youth Ministry *. . . . . Andi Lynch
Office Hours: Monday 1—3:30pm, Tues-Thur 8:30am-3:30pm, Fri—off
Assistant Pastor *. . . . . Rev. Jason Toman
Office Hours: Wed. 9:00 am—5:00 pm
Church Secretary * . . . . . Kendra Muller, Marianne Wiersma
Business & Finance Manager * . . . . . Vacant
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm
School Principal/Teacher * . . . . . Greg Johnson
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Kindergarten Teacher * . . . . . Brenda Heintz
Saint Michael Lutheran School - First Grade Teacher * . . . . . Maralyse Worm
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Second Grade Teacher * . . . . . Annie Hecht
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Third Grade Teacher * . . . . . .Roxanne Schmerheim
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Fourth Grade Teacher *. . . . . .Emily Lauterbach
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Fifth & Sixth Grade Teacher *. . . . . .Julie Prentice
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Seventh/Eighth Grade Teacher * . . . . . .Lisa Lam
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Secretary * . . . . . Sharon Robinson
Christ for Kids Childcare Director * . . . . . Emily Ritchie
Parish Nurse . . . . . .Jean Minger
Sextons* . . . . . Brian Chapman, Bud Hetrick
Stephen Ministry Leaders. . . . . Pastor & Dana Naumann, and Virginia Hetrick
Stephen Ministers . . . . . Zoe Miller, Jean Minger, Bud Hetrick, Kelley McNees, Ann Gribbon, Linda Handy, Peter Robert, Jackie Michels, Mandy Cerqua, Linda Rae
President . . . . . Rob Kuhlman
Vice President . . . . . Jack Spenner
Board of Lay Ministry Director . (See table below for list of individual lay ministers) . . . . . Mark Hough
Worship Media Specialist * . . . . . Lorraine Dudash
Prayer Ministry Coordinator . . . . . Vacant
Recording Secretary . . . . . Carol Conklin
Treasurer . . . . . Vacant
Newsletter/Bulletin Publications * . . . . . Marianne Wiersma
Board of Parish Education Director . . . . . David Groll
Sunday School . . . . . Vacant
Adult Education . . . . . Jesse Hogue
Vacation Bible School . . . . . .Andi Lynch
Board of Early Childhood & School Ministries Director . . . . . Jenn Pangburn
Board of Evangelism and Missions Director . . . . . Matt Quardokus
Cradle Roll . . . . . Peggy Makowski
Board of Parish Fellowship Director . . . . . Joe Maurer
Women's Fellowship Chair . . . . . June Kucks
LWML . . . . . Sandy Maya
Board of Church Properties Director . . . . . Mark Pangburn
Board of CELL Group Ministry . . . . . Jan Chilcott
Board of Stewardship Director . . . . . Mark Chilcott
Volunteer Ministry Committee Chair . . . . . Vacant
Board of Youth & Young Adult Ministry Director . . . . . Jerry Kuss
Senior High Youth Group Leaders . . . . . Jerry Kuss, Jeff Burnett, Alison Van Orman
Junior High Youth Group Leaders . . . . . Andi Lynch
Altar Guild . . . . . Kristi Rudowske, Linda Fry, Mary Wietzke

Shepherd Group Assignments

Lay Minister	Family Names Start with	Family Names Start with & include
Geoff Bohren	A	Boelman
Brian Hall	Bolt	Champion
Dan Bryer	Chilcott	D
Mel Schroeder	E	Freeman
Mark Hough	Frommann	G
John Engelmann	H	June
Cory Luma	Jurhs	Larsen
Ernie VanOrman	Lausman	Meewes
Eric VanOrman	Messing	Newkirk
Jeff Burnett	Newland	P
Andy Allan	Q	Shook
Greg Wedel	Sible	Stolsky
Matt Heintz	Sullivan	T
Arlan Wendzel	U	Z

St Michael Lutheran Church

7211 Oakland Drive
Portage, MI 49024-4151

Church Phone: 269-327-7832
School Phone: 269-327-0512
Fax: 269-327-3148
website: www.mightymessengers.org
E-mail: stmike@mightymessengers.org

DATED MATERIAL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission at St. Michael Lutheran Church is to make disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ by building up one another in the faith and reaching out to others with the Gospel.

We call this ***"Making Mighty Messengers for Christ."***

JANUARY 2019

(NO NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE)

JANUARY 1 — NEW YEARS DAY
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY 6 — THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 13 — NEW MEMBER WELCOME RECEPTION, 9:45AM

JANUARY 17 — SMLC OPEN HOUSE, 6:30PM

JANUARY 20 — LIFE SUNDAY