THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

June 2018 Volume 58, No. 6

"Take a Break"

When I was about eight years old, my dad come home from work one day and told me that he had signed me up to play football with our local Optimist Club (think Pop Warner or Pee Wee football where the coach is in the huddle with the kids). He knew I loved football (and he did too), and in those days there weren't nearly the soccer teams and baseball teams that you see today (at least not down in Florida). I was happy to hear this good news, but a bit apprehensive about it too, not really knowing what the experience would be like. I remember well the first practice, running around in the Miami heat in full pads with all the other 75 pounders, with the dads watching and cheering us on through the chain link fence. When the practice finally came to an end, the coach got all the kids together to take a knee and then asked us if anyone was tired. Well, I was the first one to speak up and say that I was, to which the coach replied, "You are! Well then, give me ten pushups!" I learned right then and there never to admit when I'm tired.

I'm very grateful for my childhood football experiences, as I continued to play throughout most of my high school years. I think all the grueling practices (and games) in the southern heat, especially in May and August, were character building as they taught me endurance and perseverance through painful situations. But some of the lessons it taught me were not so good. In those days it was considered weakness to drink any water during the two hour after school practices (kids would even eat "salt tabs" to keep themselves from sweating too much and getting dehydrated), and so to this day I have a hard time drinking as much water throughout the day as I should to keep myself thoroughly hydrated. It also taught me to ignore my feelings and not pay much attention to my body, continuing to work hard regardless of how it's making me feel. It can be a virtue to be able to steel oneself against the strain for awhile, especially when something has to be done by a certain time whether we feel like it or not. But it's not healthy to work nonstop without a period of rest and rejuvenation. We all need that.

In fact, the Lord knows we need a time of rest. We know this because He invented rest. When we consider the fact that our God is omnipotent and that He *"neither slumbers nor sleeps" (Psalm 121:4),* it's quite remarkable that after spending six days creating the universe God *"rested" (Genesis 2:2)* on the seventh day. God wasn't really tired out by all the creating. It's not that He needed to take a break. But He wanted to indicate by this rest that He was in fact completed with His creating. It was like God stepped back for a time to admire His work, something like you and I might do after rototilling the garden. But furthermore, God was establishing a pattern and a precedent for us to imitate. God rested as a model for us to follow so that we too would take a time to rest from our labor and not just keep on working day after day. We can do it for a time if we have to, but it's not healthy and it's not the way we were created to be. We need to take a break.

The Bible calls this the Sabbath day, a God-given time to cease from our labor. But it's not just a work stoppage. It's an opportunity that God has designed for us to spend time with Him in worship. Either as an individual or as a family, we gather together with other believers to hear God's Word and to receive His Sacraments. This important time of rest for worship is

even included in the ten commandments, namely the third one that says, *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" (Exodus 20:8).* As New Testament believers, we understand that this commandment is not limited to Saturday (or Sunday), but is best defined in the way Martin Luther did in the Small Catechism, namely, "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." The Bible puts it this way: *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25).*

For many people, the summer time offers an opportunity to slow down a bit, to have a break from the usual school year routine, and to take some vacation with the family. All this is good summer time Sabbath keeping. But even in the summer, our Sabbath should not take us away from worship but instead direct us to it. Perhaps our worship will be in a different location than usual for a time, but we never take a break from hearing God's Word. Instead, we find our deepest most satisfying rest in spending time with Him. That's true for life in this world, and it's even true for the life to come where we will finally be able to truly rest in peace and in eternal pleasure in the presence of God. With this in view, the Bible reminds us that: *"There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest. . . (knowing that) the word of God is alive and active" (Hebrews 4:9-12).* May we all enjoy a restful, worshipful, summer, doing the things that truly refresh and rejuvenate us for the important work that God has given us to do.

Pastor Naumann

JUNE 17, 2018

Using Technology for Student Achievement

There was once a time when simply having computers in your school was enough to satisfy most parents' desire for their children to be exposed to technology. As educators, we know this is not the purpose of technology in schools, but rather it is to be a tool with specific outcomes toward student achievement. The challenge for teachers has been and remains to figure out how best to optimize the technology which seems to be taking a larger share of our schools' annual budgets each year. St. Michael Lutheran School in Portage, Mich. began implementing a 1:1 technology program with its students during the 2007-2008 school year. That program has evolved through many phases, and currently utilizes Chromebooks as the main vehicle for technology learning. While Chromebooks are used across the curriculum in grades 1-8, they have become particularly effective in the middle school, where communication and collaboration are essential elements to student success. The Chromebooks are used in new and different ways that go beyond the formal instruction disseminated in computer class, and have become another tool that enhances daily learning and promotes practical application in the classroom.

Communication

St. Michael middle school teachers spend a great deal of time working together as a vertical team to create and sustain new ways to utilize technology for both communication and collaboration among themselves and the students. Communication is a vital piece to the student success puzzle that is often lacking with middle school students. Among the vertical team, the teachers are using *Google Hangouts* for live-time communication as a means to stay connected with each other throughout the school day. Teachers also provide an accurate and timely *Google Calendar* that is accessible to parents and students alike. The calendar lists homework assignments, test dates, and other pertinent information. Access to the school's student information system is also available to both parents and students, allowing them to track current grades, missing assignments, and real-time progress.

This practice helps shift this responsibility from being solely on the shoulders of the teachers to the parents and students themselves. As a backup, teachers continue to send parents notifications via email regarding delinquent assignments and specific concerns they have about those students who may be struggling in various ways. The middle school newsletter also gets shared electronically in this fashion.

Collaboration

Successful learning requires collaboration among teachers, between teachers and students, and among the students themselves. *Google Apps for Education* help make the collaborative process more successful on a number of levels. Teachers share worksheets, homework assignments, classroom notes, and announcements with their students via their *Google classroom* websites. Students can complete their assignments, print, and turn them in on the due date without teachers ever having to spend time at the copy machine. Teachers also provide video tutorials and research links on their websites that can be accessed by students and parents 24/7. If a student has an extended absence, the teachers see *Facetime* to connect with the students and share classroom information and lesson materials. The daily classroom assignment board is photographed each day and made available on he *Google* classroom website for those students who were absent or failed to write down the assignments for the day. Collaboration among the students with research and written documents is achieved through *Google Docs,* which allows for peer editing and group input on collaborative projects. Teachers take advantage of this program and often make comments, edits, or suggestions on student work while in progress. Students also use this program to take their daily classroom notes.

While certainly not an exhaustive overview, these tools and practices assist in fostering communication, collective learning, and teamwork among staff and students. Coupled with this is an emphasis on learning the principles of digital citizenship with the goal that students will exhibit Christ-like character and are safe, respectful, and responsible users of technology. The ultimate outcome is for our students to use technology to improve achievement, manage their own learning, and become independent, responsible, and productive members of society for the advancement of God's kingdom here on earth.

Greg Johnson, Principal

St. Michael Lutheran School
8th Grade Graduation Class of 2018

Front Row: Ms. Prentice, Karley Crawford, Jacob Simmons, Liah Heintz, Ryan Meyer, Eva Yesh, Mrs. Lam

Back Row: Everett Noble, Jasper Taylor, A'mya Newson, Sarah Gill, Gus Solberg, Aiden Rea

Faith Taking Root and Bearing Fruit: Divine Service as Spiritual Formation

A few years back in a course taught by Dr. Kent Burreson at Concordia Seminary, I was assigned the task of writing a paragraph about each major section of the traditional worship service, touching on the meaning and import of what we do in each one. I offer this to the congregation as an opportunity to reflect on why we meet for regular worship, and how we are formed by God and His Word every time we do. Spiritual formation is not limited to the pews, of course. But this participation with our fellow Christians in the Divine Service is a vital part of our life and growth as the people of God. These "rites" are not empty rituals, but moments that are densely soaked with God's Word and Spirit. They are opportunities for us to rehearse salvation history, receive life and forgiveness as we hear and respond to God's Word, and to respond to our King with praise and thanksgiving. I look forward to seeing you in the sanctuary!

1. Confession / Absolution Preparatory Rite

When the people confess their sins to God, they are agreeing with God that humankind is sinner and that God is savior. God's declaration that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" is acknowledged by the congregation in the context of real life. Then, as the absolution is spoken, God once again makes real His claim that His Word is a living Word and that He has given us the gift of eternal life on account of His Son, Jesus. The words of forgiveness thus spoken in the worship service are in fact God's revelation of Himself at that moment—He is the God who forgives. This forgiveness means that God is reclaiming His sinful creatures and making them once again righteous. He is taking the broken and lost pieces of a fallen creation and breathing new life into the dust.

2. Entrance Rite

Within the Entrance Rite, the speaking or singing of the Hymn of Praise gives the assembled congregation an opportunity not only to praise God, but also to recount God's deeds and His character as it has been revealed in Scripture. God's words about Himself from the Bible are sung so that all may remember who He is and believe: The Father is the Lord Almighty, the heavenly King. Jesus is the only Son of God and the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We rest on his mercy for our salvation. Just as Jesus has promised us that he intercedes for us at the Father's right hand, we sing to Him asking that He receive our prayers. Thus, through the church's singing God proclaims His sovereignty over all things and His work of reclaiming His creation.

3. Service of the Word

In the Service of the Word, the people of God participate principally as recipients of the Word and of the enlightenment of the Spirit that comes with hearing the Word. Particularly in the Gospel reading, we hear Jesus' own words repeated – incarnated – in our midst, bringing us spiritual life as we hear from the one who alone has "the words of eternal life" (John 6:88). By including the readings and sermon so prominently in the service, we agree with God that His Word has the power to bring conviction and judgment because of sin, and to bring new life by the Gospel. "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). In reading the Creed, God's reclamation and redemption of His creation is in the forefront as we recite, "and He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead…whose kingdom will have no end…I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

4. Offertory Rite

In the Offertory Rite, the people of God offer to Him their spiritual and physical gifts. The God who has revealed Himself to us as the source of love and the giver of every breath we breathe—He is the one who commands us to love one another (John 15:12) and to respond with love for God as well (John 14:23). Thus, in the prayers we offer and the physical offerings we give we are responding to God in loving obedience, in accordance with the pattern He has set for us. Called to be more like Christ our Brother, we submit to his self-giving example through what we give back to God in this tradition. As a regenerated humanity lives a generous life after the pattern of Christ, this embodies what a reclaimed creation is and should be.

5. Service of the Lord's Supper

Within the Service of the Lord's Supper, the Post-Sanctus Prayer is often spoken by the pastor, rehearsing salvation history and its implications for us. We gladly hear these words in communion with Christ and His people, words in which God identifies us as His own forgiven people, and identifies Himself as the One who feeds us with Christ's body and blood. We participate not only through our ears but our mouths and whole bodies also, physically eating and drinking, then bearing the Body and Blood of Christ as we leave the altar. We are restored and reclaimed by God through taking the perfect Christ within us.

6. Sending Rite

God has revealed himself to us as a sending God, the Father sending the Son, the Son sending out the 72 and the 12, the Father and Son sending the Spirit, and the Spirit sending countless men and women into the world to baptize and make disciples. In the Sending Rite, we participate by accepting God's act of sending us out from the service into our vocations where we are to be working at making disciples. And we also receive the peace and blessings of God, spoken by the minister and accepted by us through faith. In doing this, we become aware that we are the agents that God is sending into the world to bring the life-giving Word to others.

7. Implications for our understanding of the church's mission

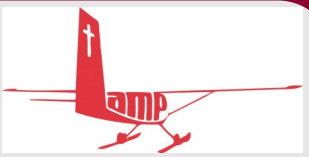
Given the ways that God speaks both *to* and *through* us, it is important for the church to keep in mind that God reveals himself to a lost world through the lives and words of Christians. While the faithful should make a concerted effort to share the Gospel of Christ with friends, neighbors, and even strangers, the larger lesson is that our very lives comprise a witness to the world of who Christ is. We don't just "do" the action of making disciples; who we "are" in God's formational narrative is foundational. We are God's ambassadors to a world in need of reconciliation. God is making His appeal through us, as 2 Corinthians 5 explains. In the sanctuary or in the world, we speak God's own words of forgiveness to the repentant. In our conversation, we recount God's historic deeds and His deeds in our own time. We offer our time, money, and whole lives in service of others because we belong to God. We listen for the ways that God is speaking to us through His means of grace, and we accept His call to live faithfully in our vocations. All these details are not a laundry list of things we have to try to remember to do each day—they are the practices that we live out in corporate worship and practices that get soaked into the core of our identity as God continues to reveal himself to us through our pattern of worship.

~Pastor Toman

Evangelism Notes

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

LAMP Team Update



Thank you to so many who continue to pray for and support financially the St. Michael LAMP Team. This is our 8th year going up to Lac Brochet, Manitoba - about 2000 miles north and west of Kalamazoo. It takes our team two days of flights to reach our destination in Lac Brochet. This year our team of eleven will leave on July 26 and then return on August 5. However two team members, Jan Jett and Dana Naumann will stay a few more days in Lac Brochet and so will not arrive back in Kalamazoo until August 8. This was a special request of some of our friends in Lac Brochet to stay longer! We thank God as He continues to show us new ways to share His love with the special people in Lac Brochet.

Thank you St. Michael for all you do to make this trip possible and shine the Light of Christ in Lac Brochet. Special Thanks to:

- **St. Michael Sunday School** for supporting the LAMP Team through their offerings.
- **St. Michael School** children for supporting the LAMP team financially, for making a card for every child who attends the LAMP VBS, and for making signs that we put up in Lac Brochet for VBS.
- **Phyllis Kurlowicz** for providing extra materials every year to go along with the VBS lessons.

The LAMP Team Needs:

- **Prayer Partners** - You can sign up to pray for the team and for the community of Lac Brochet, in preparation for the trip and while the team is in Lac Brochet. There is a devotional that you can also use along with the team while we are on the trip. Sign up in the communication center at the LAMP display and take a devotional.
- **Write a Card to a child in Lac Brochet** - We bring cards to the children who attend VBS in Lac Brochet and those cards are very meaningful to the children. Sign up to write a card for a child on the LAMP display. Put completed cards in mailbox # 215 by July 15.
- **Donate unused greeting cards** (preferably with a Christian message) to be shared with the adults in Lac Brochet, so they can use them to share with others. Place in bin under LAMP display in communication center.
- Continue to support the LAMP Trip financially.

Evangelism Notes

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

"Every One His Witness"

During the seven week Easter season at St. Michael we devoted ourselves to doing the very thing that the first Easter eye witnesses did, sharing the good news about Jesus. Every one of our weekend worship services highlighted this theme, and the sermons and the Bible studies sharpened our skills for sharing our faith through the new CPH curriculum, "Every One His Witness." Well over a hundred books were in the hands of our members who were challenged to read a portion of it every day in preparation for the six weekly video-based small group exercises. We had about a half dozen small groups using the curriculum throughout the week, and a large group in the music room using it on Sunday mornings at 9:45. The way we turned this curriculum into a kind of "Forty Days of. . ." experience was shared with Deaconess Maryann Hayter, who works with the curriculum author, Rev. Mark Wood. They did not previously have a daily devotional reading plan for the curriculum, nor any sermons or services on the topics, but they do now. So you might say that we not only engaged in sharing our faith with others, but also sharing our approach to this training manual with others within our church body. I pray that others will benefit from them as have we. So be sure to put your new found LASSIE approach to work in your relationships at home, at work, at school, at play, and wherever the Lord presents you with an opportunity. If you didn't get a chance to read the book or take the course yet, we have some books left over and we plan to offer the course routinely as part of our on-going discipleship process.

Pastor Naumann

Evangelism Notes

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

St. Michael Lutheran Church Mission Support

We wish to recognize and to show appreciation to our giving congregation. Our congregation has had a history of reaching out to people around the world to convey the Good News of Jesus Christ. Through this generosity, our congregation is making a global impact. Currently our congregation supports missions in South Asia, Canada, Michigan and here in the Kalamazoo area. Last month we highlighted the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) and the Solid Grounds Campus Ministries missions. This month, we continue to highlight a sample of outside missions supported by St. Michael:

People of the Book Ministries International (POBLO)

People of the Book Ministries International (POBLO) is an incredible organization impacting the lives of thousands across the United States and world. They are leaders in cross-cultural outreach and are successfully empowering churches and individuals in the United States to bridge cultural barriers and befriend immigrants and refugees in their communities. They are pioneering a model of cross-cultural outreach through International Friendship Centers, where free classes are provided to immigrants and refugees as a way to help assimilate them into a new country. Furthermore, their work in meeting the physical needs of refugees who are coming to the United States daily from warn-torn places like Iraq and Syria is life-changing. People who arrive in the U.S. with literally nothing but the clothes on their back are being shown the love of Christ through food, clothing, furniture, and friendships.

POBLO believes in one Gospel message that transcends cultures, yet we recognize that the way the message is delivered must vary in order to resonate with diverse groups of people. We strive to make our work as effective as possible through cultural relevancy.

In Michigan, POBLO missionaries are sharing the Gospel with Muslims and other unreached groups one-on-one, in Bible studies, and through an Arabic radio station that broadcasts Christian messages across the U.S. POBLO missionaries disciple, encourage, and counsel Muslim converts and others interested in Christianity. There are five International Friendship Centers in Michigan that, in partnership with volunteers from local churches, provide English and sewing classes to immigrants and refugees in the community. POBLO also provides refugee resettlement services; citizenship classes; food, clothing, and furniture distribution; and friendship & hospitality to those in need. POBLO is also supporting persecuted converts in Michigan.

Spring Quarter 2018
Sunday School Attendance Recognition
Preschool through 8th Grade

Perfect Attendance

Ethan Kwigizile

Faithful Attendance

(no more than 2 absences)

Eden Bigelow
Ivy Bigelow
Emily Havenhill
Nathan Havenhill
Ivan Kwigizile
Cole Lahrke
Cate Quardokus
Luke Quardokus
Will Rudowske
Gage Smith
Asher Toman

Confirmation

Front Row: Katelyn Pierce, Luke McCain, Liah Heintz, Abbey Frommann, Lauren Lahrke, Kelsee Lawson
Back Row: Pastor Naumann, Aidan Rea, Elena Pangburn, Grant Kahler, Jasper Taylor, Ryan DeVries, Tyler Stolsky, Karley Crawford, Miss Andi Lynch

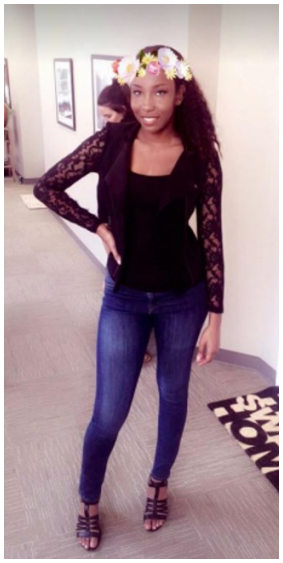
St. Michael High School Graduates

Sarah Dudash

- Daughter of Lorraine Dudash
- Baptized August 27, 2000
- Kalamazoo Valley Community College
- Davenport University, Business Mgmt.

Nathan Johnson

- Son of Greg & Wendy Johnson
- Baptized December 12, 1999
- Kalamazoo Christian High School
- Concordia University Seward Nebraska



Melanie Green

- Daughter of Angela & Tyrone Green
- Baptized January 1, 2000
- Portage Northern High School
- West Michigan College of Barbering & Beauty

Emma Mulholland

- Daughter of Gina Mulholland
- Baptized August 20, 2000
- Portage Central High School

Kyle Palmer

- Son of Tim & Luann Palmer
- Baptized July 2, 2000
- Portage Central High School
- Butler University,
  International Business

Nathan Sullivan

- Son of Rob & Mary Sullivan
- Baptized June 4, 2000
- Mattawan High School
- Western Michigan University

Mark Pierce

- Son of Kyle & Betsy Pierce
- Baptized March 5, 2000
- Plainwell High School
- Northern Michigan University

Kyle Vickery

- Son of Mark & Julie Vickery
- Baptized December 19, 1999
- Portage Northern High School
- Michigan State University,
  James Madison College

Brian Smith

- Son of Brian & Laurie Smith
- Baptized December 12, 1999
- Portage Central High School
- WMU, Teaching

Cassandra Bigelow

- Daughter of Joe & Katey Bigelow
- Baptized January 30, 2000
- Homeschooling
- KVCC & WMU, Teaching

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

We had 18 attend our event at **Cornwell's Turkeyville Dinner Theater** on Saturday, April 21. We had a fantastic Turkey dinner with all the fixings and a cranberry-apple relish that was so good. The dinner was topped off with home-made desserts, coconut cream pie, lemon pie, chocolate brownies and ice cream. Then we watched the musical play ***THE OLD RUGGED CROSS***, and saw how the lives of the people who visited the old cross by the little church in the park were changed for the better. It was a lovely afternoon with some of those old favorite hymns that we all know and love.

Women's Fellowship will be taking a summer break but watch for activities to resume in the fall. Thank you all for your support of our ministry projects this past 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
Diane Goetz 323-7667
Ondrea Brussee (616) 836-5121
Rika Noggle 327-4702
Connie Chadderdon 327-7220
Sandy Maya 330-9100

Parish Pictorial Directory

Schedule Your Photo Session

UNIVERSAL Church Directories

Photography Dates: June 7, 8, 9

Times: 2pm—8:30pm

For online scheduling go to
www.ucdir.com

Church Code: MI1137

Passcode: photos

St. Michael Youth Activities

June is here and everyone knows it! At the church and school the kids are buzzing to be outside and graduation celebrations are coming up. As I am preparing for the graduation Sunday on June 10th I am looking at our graduating seniors with lots of excitement. This is a new change and an exciting chapter in these youth's lives! I can't wait to see the amazing things that they will do and how God will use them to help others. With so many changes life can be overwhelming especially our lives in our Christian faith. I recently found a song that I believe to be a great reminder that in exciting times God is working in our lives and our dreams big or small are good, but especially look at the little things that God is working on in your life. In June with all of the changes remember that God is with you where ever you go!

Dream small
Don't bother like you've gotta do it all
Just let Jesus use you where you are
One day at a time
Live well
Loving God and others as yourself
Find little ways where only you can help
With His great love
A tiny rock can make a giant fall
Dream small

Dream Small Lyric by Josh Wilson

Jr. High Gathering Frankenmuth

Fri-Sun, June 1-3

Location: Frankenmuth, Michigan

Departure time 4pm, arrival back to St. Michael 2pm

Our group is going to Frankenmuth for the Jr. High Gathering. Registrations have already been made. Please pray for a fun, safe, and faith filled weekend!

For Jr. and Sr. High Youth
Sunday, June 3 from 6-8pm
Meet at St. Michael Gym

Bring your friends and your dodging moves. We are playing dodge ball! There is no sign-up. Just come! Jerry Kuss is hosting for the night.

Continued next page →

Sr. High Lock Out (and 8th grade)
Friday, June 15 @ 7pm - Saturday, 3am
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church

Registration is required by June 8
Price is $30 for the night

Join us for our first lock out. What is a lock out? It is a lock in that is out and about town. We will be doing different activities through out town from 7pm to 3am. Activities include: 2 table and tent jobs, movie "The Incredibles" with Colonial Acres, Prayer Walk @ Colonial Acres, Westnedge Scavenger hunt, and glow bowling. We will be topping the wee hours of the morning at Steak and Shake.

At least 4 people need to sign up to make this possible.

Schram's Greenhouse Fundraiser
Last day of sale is June 10

Time: After Services
Location: Communication Center, Church Office

The Youth group will be selling Schram greenhouse vouchers ($15 per voucher) as a fundraiser starting May 6.

Jr & Sr. Youth: I am looking for volunteers to make announcements and help sell the vouchers after services. (Don't worry there will be a script.)

Youth Table and Chair Fundraiser

Table and chair jobs are our biggest fundraiser for the year. The youth group provides tents, chairs, and tables for the community to rent.

We are looking for youth and adult helpers to set up and take down tents, tables, and chairs. There will be someone there to help who knows how to do the tents. Sign up at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e48afaf22a3f5820183. Meet at St. Michael Church for a 2 hour commitment to help with this fundraiser.

Continued next page →

VBS Workshop
Sunday, June 10
Time: 6-8pm
Location: St. Michael Gym

Everyone is invited as we get things ready for VBS. We will have painting, tracing, and other odd jobs that need be done before VBS starts

VBS Set up
Sunday, June 24
Time: 12:30-end
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church

All hands on deck as we set up for VBS! Subs will be bought and food will be brought in as we prepare for VBS this year! All are welcome to

VBS Week
Monday-Friday, June 25-29
Time: 9-noon
Location: St. Michael Lutheran Church

Join us for an incredible week where we get to discover Jesus! We need lots of volunteers to make this week possible. Please sign up every little bit helps!

Grieving takes time and work

G.R.O.W. Groups — 2018 Summer Schedule

Grief Recovery Outreach to Wholeness

If you have experienced the death of a loved one, friend, or co-worker, you may have some questions about the feelings and thoughts you are having at this time. You may feel, "out of balance"... "can't seem to let go"... "I cry a lot"... "I blame myself"... "I'm angry" ... "I feel so alone" ... "I'm exhausted!" ... "Sleep? There is to much or too little" ... "I think I'm going crazy!"

No Fee for any session

Daytime Group

June 6, 13, 20, 27; July 11 & 18 (NO MEETING— 7/4)

Kalamazoo Senior Services, Inc.
918 Jasper Street; Kalamazoo
6 Session group 10:30am —11:30am

Evening Group

June 6, 13, 20, 27; July 11 & 18 (NO MEETING— 7/4)

Portage Public School Administration Building
8107 Mustang Dr.; Portage
6 Session group 6:30pm —7:30pm

Topics covered in the six week sessions:

1. Introduction to the Grief Process, Your Story...
2. Loneliness vs. Being Alone...with options
3. Tears Are Healing/Total Body Health Responses
4. Anger, Guilt, Stress in the Grief Process
5. Grief Management— Setting Realistic Expectations
6. Coping With Reminders, The Holidays, Anniversaries & How Do I Know I Am Getting Better?

Dana Naumann, MSW
Bereavement Care Coordinator
Facilitator—*call or email to register or for more information*

Langeland Family Funeral Homes
Kalamazoo, Portage, Climax, Comstock, Galesburg, & Westside.

622 South Burdick Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
Phone: 269-343-1508
E-mail: dana@langelands.com

See www.Langelands.com
Grief and Healing page for more grief support

2nd Annual CFK Car Show

In Memory of James Newkirk

Saturday August 18, 2018
9:30-1:30

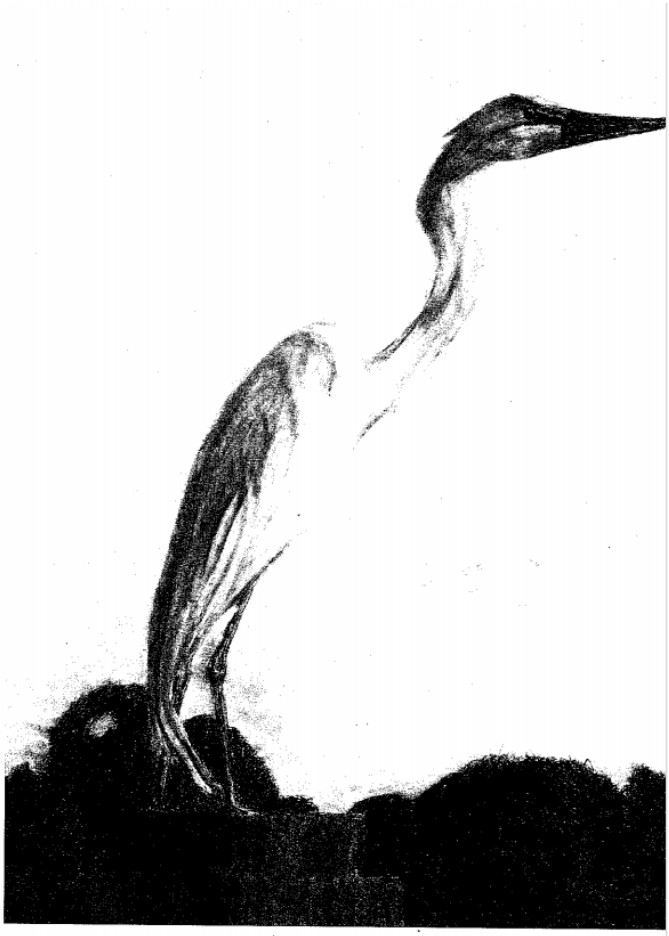
St. Michael Lutheran Church/School
7211 Oakland Drive
Portage, MI 49024

Come join us for our 2nd Classic Car show to help support Christ for Kids. First 50 cars receive dash plaques. Womens, Mens, Kids, Directors, and Pastors Choice Awards. Free Coffee and Doughnuts. Also selling hotdogs, candy, water and pop. Restrooms available inside.

Registration will begin at 9:00 and awards will be announced at 1:15

$10.00 to pre-register
$15.00 to register day of show

Please contact Emily Ritchie with any questions or to receive a registration form
269-327-4889

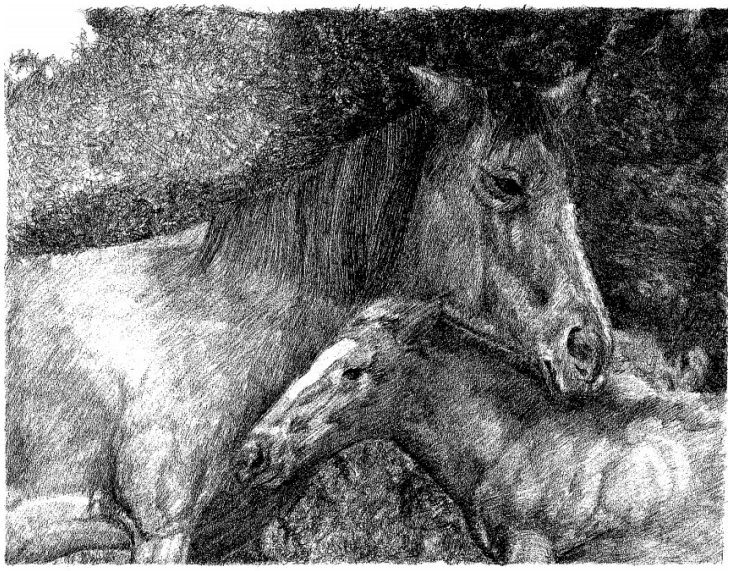


Legacy Trust Award Collection
2018
Online Award

Congratulations, Matthew Wright!

Winner of the Grand Rapids Michigan Art Show from Legacy Trust Award Collection for disabled Michigan Adults.

1 of 4 award winners out of 152 artists.



Art of Possibilities
2018
Honorable Mention - Graphics

International Disabled Art Show held in Minneapolis April, 2018

Matthew was 1 of the 25 award winners out of 165 artists.

St. Michael Lutheran School

"Mighty Angels"

Annual Golf Outing

Karl Mueller Memorial

Angels Crossing

3600 E W Avenue
Vicksburg, Michigan

Angels Crossing GOLF CLUB

Saturday, September 29, 2018
9:00 am (Shotgun)
Co-ed Team Scramble

Registration

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

List Team Below (if applicable):

_____

_____

_____

Make check to
"St. Michael Lutheran School"

_____	$ 600	Eagle Sponsor
_____	$ 300	Birdie Sponsor
_____	$ 100	Per golfer (with luncheon)
_____	$ 20	Luncheon only
_____	$ 100	Hole sponsorship
_____	$ 50	Cart sponsorship
_____		Total

If you are interested in providing prizes or would like to sponsor a hole, please contact the church or school office.

alternatives
...because LIFE is good!

Join us for our Annual Walk for Life in Kalamazoo!

June 9, 2018

Gracespring Bible Church

8643 Gull Road Richland, MI 49083

Register at:www.alternativescc.org/walk-kzoo.html

Schedule

8:45am - On-site Registration Begins
9:15am - Opening Prayer & Instructions
9:30am - Walk For Life Begins
10:15am - Kids' Activities Begin
12:00pm - Walk for Life is Over

Post-walk events include kids games and face painting, Teen and young adult activities, and more. Please be sure to join us for this fun family event!

Edna's Corner

Thank you for your contributions to the many packages we have sent to the military. Your generosity has been great & we are most thankful.

At this time, we are postponing the mailing of packages until further notice.

If ***YOU*** would like to mail packages to the troops, please go to www.anysoldier.com to obtain names/addresses of military members (all branches). Mailing boxes & forms re available at your local post office.

Thank you again for your generosity & support.

God Bless you,

Edna Fry

Dear Ms. Fry,

Just a quick note to let you know that your care package found its ways to the Special Mission Wing (SMW) Special Operations Advisory Group (SOAG). We deeply appreciate your time and gifts. We often work long hours and appreciate the opportunity you afforded us for a candy fix –though as a guy in the 28th year of his career, candy means more gym time for me—or a crossword to distract for a bit.

Our mission is to teach, advise and assist the Afghan Special Mission Wing as they perform their combat aviation mission. We (The SOAG) are an embedded team and we work hand-in-hand with our Afghan counterparts to continue to hone their skills and tactics. The Afghan SMW are the country's elite Special Forces aviation unit. They are great pilots, brave and dedicated Soldiers who selflessly put their lives at risk to bring stability to their country. I am personally impressed by their efforts every day.

We fly two types of aircraft. The PC-12 is an airplane that flies high over top of the battlefield. It uses advanced sensors to find and track the enemy and then communicates that information to friendly forces who need to know. The Mi-17 is a big and powerful and well-armed helicopter. Our mission is to carry troops and supplies into and out of combat.

On behalf of all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines of the SMWSOAG please accept our heartfelt thanks for the package and your thoughts and prayers. It is never easy to be away from home and family but the little things in care packages and the support of our fellow Americans certainly helps.

LTC Carl Engstrom
Chief of Staff

Weekly Scripture Readings & Sermon Summaries

June 3, 2018 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 81:1-10; Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Gospel: Mark 2:23-3:6
"Treasure in Jars of Clay" - Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12 - *Rev. William Mueller*

We all easily recognize our human weaknesses and limitations. Our health is fragile and frail – the clay pots, which are so easily broken, remind us of this frailty. But living and dwelling within us is a treasure beyond measure – a treasure that will impact every aspect of our life today and every moment of our future!

June 10, 2018 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 130; Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Gospel: Mark 3:22-35
"Out of the Depths" - Sermon Text: Psalm 130 - *Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III*

There are times when we feel burdened by a sin or sins that we have committed, overwhelmed with guilt. At such times, we are to cry out to the Lord, pray to Him, for mercy. Psalm 130 tells us how God will respond, and why.

June 17, 2018 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 1; Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Gospel: Mark 4:26-34
"Living in a Tent" - Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 - *Rev. Paul Shoemaker*

By their very nature, tents are designed to be temporary housing. St. Paul reminds us that our body is an earthly tent, designed to be a temporary dwelling. There is a permanent dwelling for us. That is when we are at home with the Lord.

June 24, 2018 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 124; Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Gospel: Mark 4:35-41
"Who Is This?" - Sermon Text: Mark 4:35-41 - *Rev. Dr. Daniel Brege*

Who is this, asleep in the boat? It is Jesus, a man who gets tired and is even able to die…just like you and me. Who is this who calms the violent wind and sea? It is Jesus, the eternal Son of God who, by His death and resurrection, has come to still the tumultuous, all-destroying wind and sea of sin and death.

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
Loren Bryer
Audrey Frank
Audrey Glover
Bruce Glover
Betty McCoy
Ruth Newland
Burnie Trimner

April Financials
6 months

	4/1/18-4/30/18
Church Revenue	$ 414,044
School Revenue	$ 451,477
Total Revenue	$ 865,521
Total Expenses	$ 814,149
Net Surplus (deficit)	$ 51,372
Expense Budget	$ 849,225
Under/(Over) Budget	$ (6,467)
Working Cash Balance	$ 42,644
Mortgage Balance	$ 916,769

May Average Attendance	332
April Average Attendance	349
March Average Attendance	327
Avg. 2018 Attendance	329

Designated Fund Balances

Trust Fund	$ 299
Building Contingency	$ 37,436
Technology Refresh	$ 5,822
AV Fund	$ 5,150
Sunday School	$ 373
Youth Donations	$ 10,176
Youth Accounts	$ 13,996
Good Samaritan	$ 8,622
Memorials	$ 510
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	$ 8,868
Quilting	$ 99
Church Worker Scholarship	$ 745
School Improvements	$ 15,472
Tuition Assistance	$ 23,592
School Music	$ 50

Dear Members of St. Michael,

I am writing to you in the name of our Triune God Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Twelve years ago I came to this side of the state. I visited St. Michael Lutheran Church. The members were very warm and inviting with their Christian ways. In 2006, I made my choice and joined St. Michael Lutheran Church.

I have really enjoyed working with members in this church. I wish I could take all of you with me now that I am moving back to the East side of the state, but I know that can't happen. I pray I will be able to come back and visit some day. I plan to move the last week of July, God willing.

Thank you for all your love and kindness. God bless you always!

Mae Frances Adams

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 * . . . . . Niki DeKoning
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 * . . . . . Barbara Schubert
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Second Grade Teacher * . . . . . Annie Hecht
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Third Grade Teacher * . . . . . Roxanne Topham
Saint Michael Lutheran School - Fourth/Fifth Grade Teacher *. . . . . Emily Lauterbach
Saint Michael Lutheran School - 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
Technology Coordinator * . . . . . Andrew Szarejko
Sextons* . . . . . Brian Chapman, Bud Hetrick
Stephen Ministry Leaders. . . . . Pastor & Dana Naumann, and Virginia Hetrick
Stephen Ministers . . . . . Zoe Miller, Lynne Wendzel, Jean Minger, Bud Hetrick, Kelley McNees, Ann Gribbon, Linda Handy, Sandy Maya, Ailene Buchtrup
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 . . . . . Sandi Champion
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

Lay Minister	Family Names Start with	Family Names Start with & include
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."***

JUNE 2018

JUNE 3 — BARBARA SCHUBERT RECEPTION 9:45AM

JUNE 7, 8 — PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTOS, 2PM-8:30PM
JUNE 9 — PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTOS, 10:30AM-5PM
(SIGN-IN AT ROOM 230 FOR YOUR SCHEDULED SITTING)

JUNE 10 — GRADUATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNITION, 8:30AM SERVICE
— HS GRADUATE RECEPTION, 9:45AM
— ANGEL AWARD PRESENTATION, 11AM SERVICE

JUNE 17 — FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 25-29 — VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 9AM-12PM