



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

September 2021

Volume 61, Number 9



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BACK TO SCHOOL

I must admit that as a kid I dreaded those three little words. Thanks to all the money to be made from selling school supplies, clothing, and even college dorm refrigerators, retailers start saying “Back to School” much earlier than kids want to hear it. But actually, it was the prospect of new clothes and school supplies that made the annual back to school time not quite so bad. Of course, as a kid I didn’t have to foot the bill, and they’re saying this year that the average family will spend close to \$850 on school supplies so it can be a big expense. It was a blessing for many low income families to receive free school supplies thanks to a distribution from Langelands Funeral Home on August 21 (and thanks to any who donated to this cause from our congregation).

The school supplies I enjoyed most when I was a kid were new notebooks, especially those that had cartoon characters and super heroes depicted on them. A new box of crayons was always special, and as I got older fancy pens were fun, especially those fine pointed Radiograph pens that were great for detailed doodling. Then, oddly enough, I always got a kick out of a brand new clean pencil eraser, you know, those big chunks of pure white rubber that almost seemed good enough to eat.

I’m not sure what kids get excited about these days when it comes to school supplies. When our kids were in high school they were quite elated about that graphing calculator that they “had to have for school,” but we weren’t too excited about the nearly a hundred dollar price tag. Backpacks are surely a big deal for kids these days. I used to have a big three-ring binder that I carried around in school (I think they call them now a “trapper”), but books were just something you piled under your arm. I don’t know which way of schlepping around about 40 pounds is more ergonomic, but neither way is very comfortable for kids.

Of course, there are few things more uncomfortable for school kids than having to wear a facemask all day as a COVID precaution. But it’s what our kids had to do all of last year, and will now have to do again this year (for those in 6th grade and younger) as our school board has chosen to comply with the

recent mandate of the county health department. Some of our middle schoolers might choose to wear a mask too, and I understand that many don’t mind doing so (maybe especially if they’re like I was as a teen with acne as a perennial problem). But even so, it’s something to have to futz with and make sure you don’t forget. When I was a kid, it was all I could do to remember to put my padlock back on my locker so I would imagine that I would be trying to find my mask all the time too. But this has become part of the new normal for many students, and it may be with them for a while.

When sixth graders come into Confirmation Class here at St. Michael, we supply them with a canvas bag (suitable for doodling) that contains a copy of Dr. Martin Luther’s Small Catechism (with the 2017 revision of the study notes), and if they didn’t get one already from us at third grade, a CPH Faith Alive Student Bible. It’s a regular ESV Bible but in kid-friendly packaging that’s interspersed with maps, timelines, and bubbles of cool questions like, “Why would God hate Esau?,” or “What does sanctify mean?” or “What is significant about the number 14?” On September 12, we’re going to present these gift Bibles to third graders and their parents, and then there will be a basic “this is your Bible” introductory class in Allan Hall between the services, while the rest of us are in the gym for an overview of all the Adult Bible Classes that we will be offering in this new school year.

A Bible has not been a staple of school supplies since at least 1963, but it still is required reading in our Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Adult Bible Classes, and St. Michael Lutheran School. That’s because we know and believe that the Bible (and especially the Gospel it proclaims) is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes it (see Romans 1:16). We know and believe that it is the “God-breathed” Word of God that is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). We know and believe that it is a divine light to guide our way in all the moral decision making for Christian living that we must make in this very confused and confusing world (see Psalm 119:105). So now more than ever, we need God’s constant and comforting truth, and we’re so blessed to know where we can find it - in the Bible! What’s in your backpack?





PARKING LOT PARTY!

The air will be filled with music and the smell of good food. Purchase some tasty grub from Blue Plate Food Truck or bring your favorite meal. Park in a spot and enjoy good company.

St. Michael Lutheran
School Parking Lot
September 17th
5:00 - 7:00PM



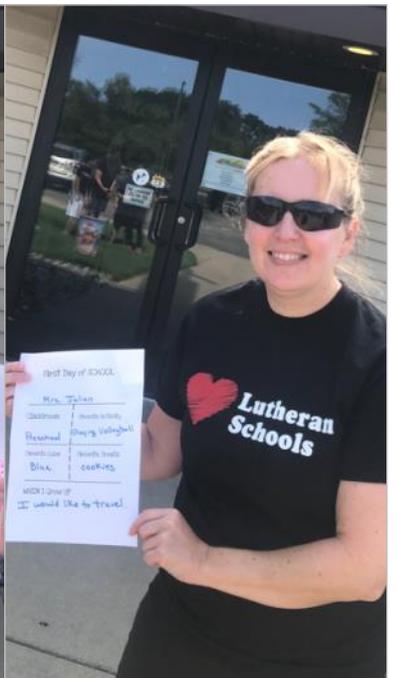
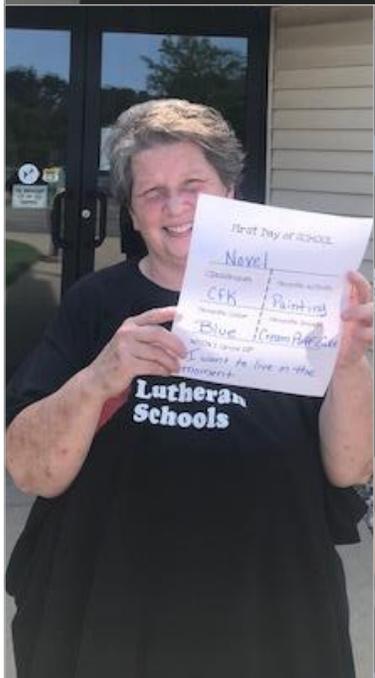
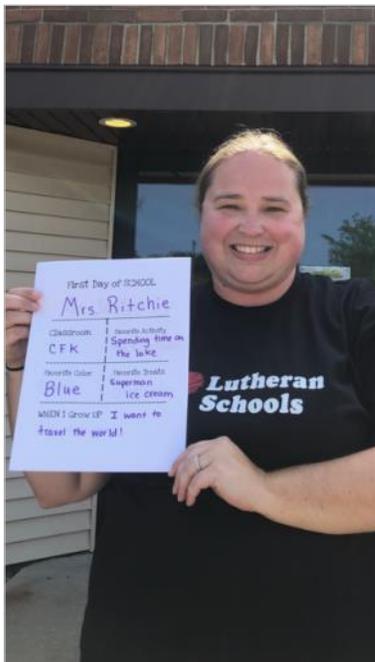
This event is organized by the Parent Teacher League (PTL)
We need your help to make these events great!

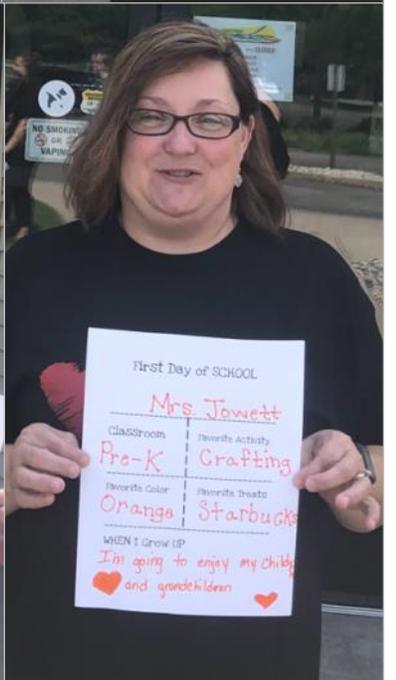
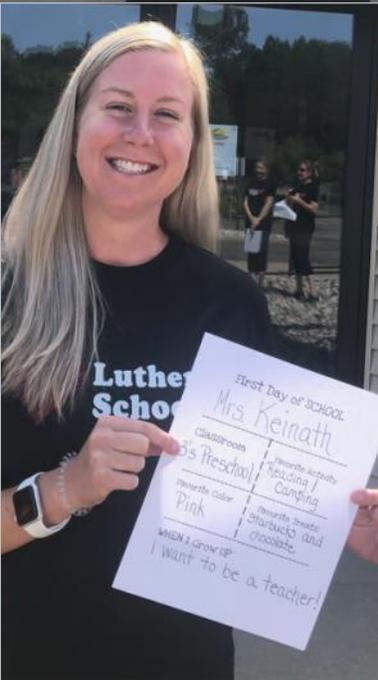
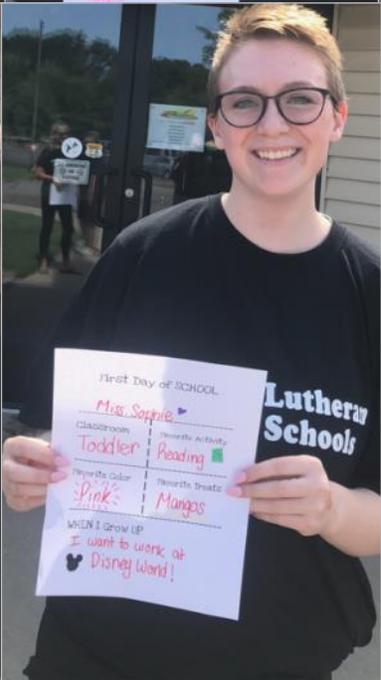
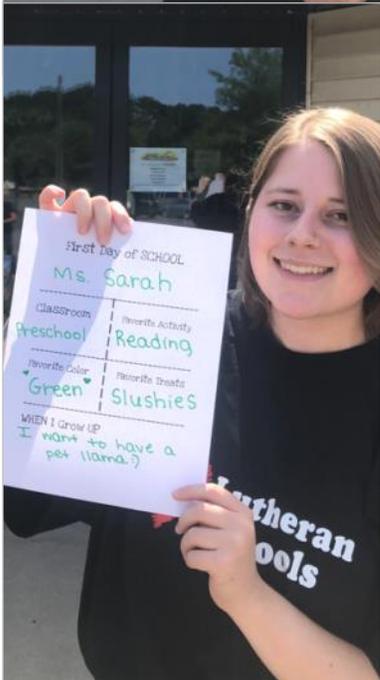
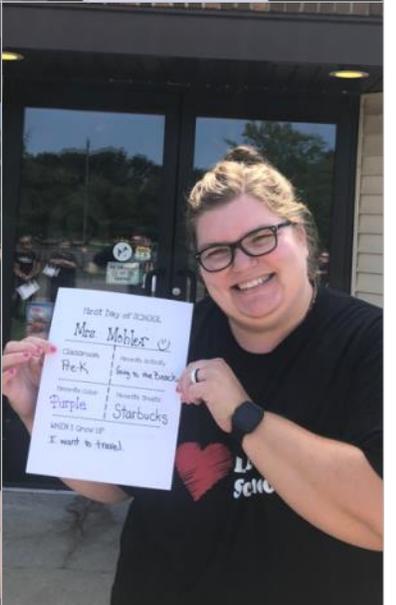
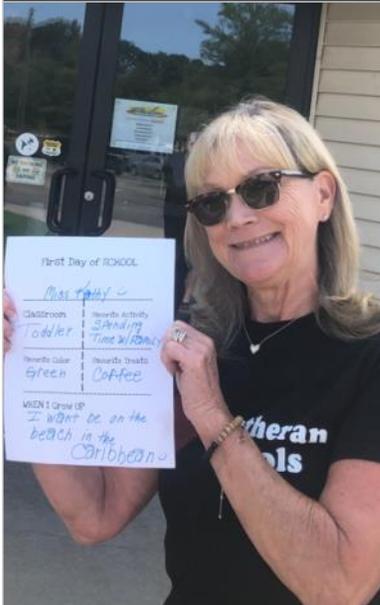
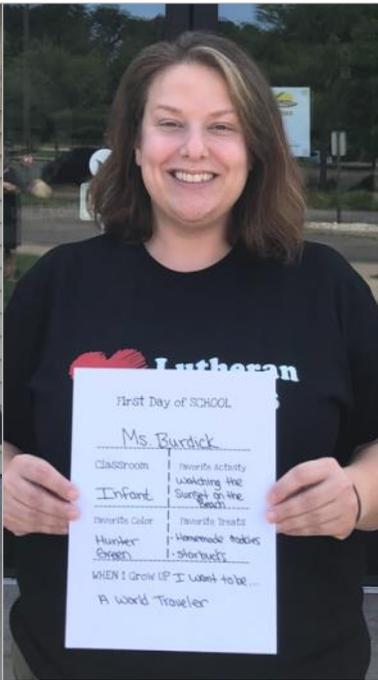
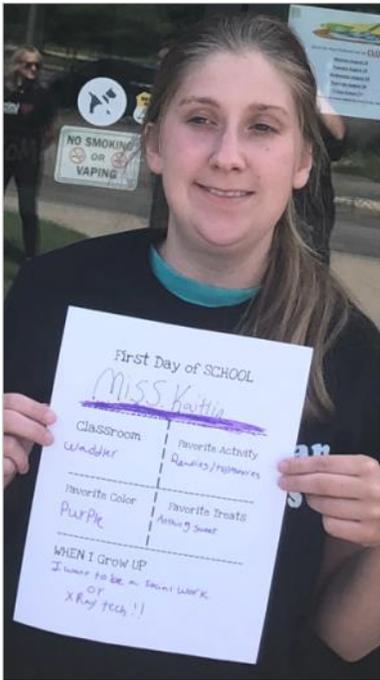
WELCOME

Back to School

from the Staff at

Christ for Kids Childcare Center

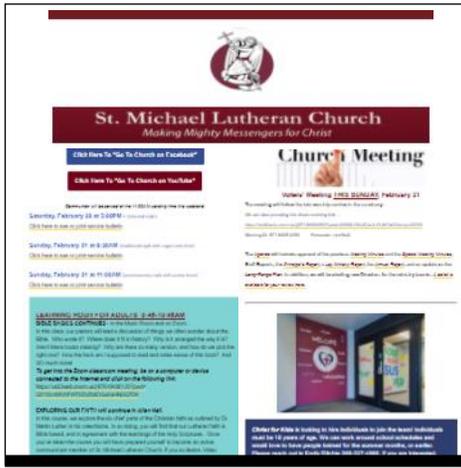




WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

STAY CONNECTED



Email Updates

Sign up for regular email updates from St. Michael. We try to send something mid-day on Friday and when special services and events are happening.

Office Contacts:

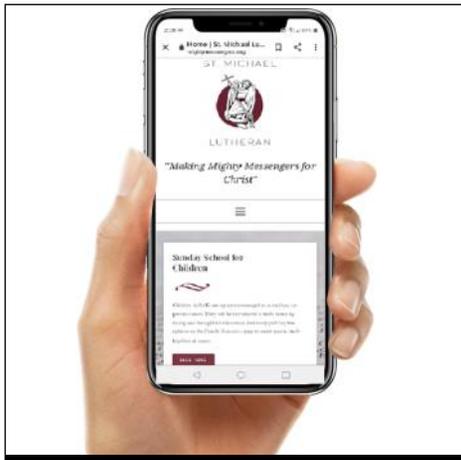
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

mightymessengers.org

St. Michael's website is full of helpful information. *We are excited about the new design and support provided by Computer Guild!*



The vision of St. Michael Lutheran is to be a growing congregation within our local community that is *"Making Mighty Messengers for Christ"* by helping people:

DEVELOP, by the power of the Holy Spirit working through His Word and Sacraments, a more vibrant and personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ that expresses itself in consistent prayer and worship; and to

GAIN practical, relevant, biblical insights for faithful Christian living both through personal Bible study and through our various Christian educational offerings such as Sunday School, Bible class, St. Michael Lutheran School; and to

BELONG to a loving and caring family of faith with a solid doctrinal heritage through active membership, ministry involvement, and Small Group participation; and to

GIVE of ourselves to others in loving Christian service and evangelistic witness within the congregation and beyond it to our local community and world.

KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL & MINERAL SOCIETY TAILGATE SALE AND SWAP

Sept 18th, 2021 9am to 3pm

St. Michael Parking Lot

Event to be held rain or shine. Open to anyone that wants to buy or sell jewelry, rocks, minerals, lapidary, equipment, crafts and other nifty items. All items sold much be rock or lapidary related. Contact Bruce at 269-303-5749 or e-mail fireball9207@charter.net The Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society (KGMS) is a 501 (c)(3) educational organization whose main purpose is to further interest in gems, minerals, geology, paleontology, and lapidary arts.

The KGMS also awards geology scholarships every year to student(s) attending Western Michigan University's Geological Sciences Department.



The conference will focus on providing resources that equip Lutherans to faithfully respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by the shifting sands of our culture. Learn more [HERE](#).

FIND YOUR NEXT BIBLE STUDY *IN THE LIBRARY*

Don't overlook the church library as a free and convenient source of materials for your next Bible study, either for yourself or your small group. Hundreds of choices – including DVDs, leaders guides, and participant guides – are organized topically along the library's back wall.

And now you can find what you need more quickly and easily. First, search the collection from any device using the library's new online catalog. Then stop in the library between 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays for assistance in locating and borrowing whatever you need.

Here are some examples of what you will find in the bookcases identified as "Study Materials for Individuals or Small Groups."



Bible Studies: Exploring God's Word (CPH), Fisherman Bible study guides.

Books of the Bible: God's Word for Today series (CPH), People's Bible commentaries (CPH).

Christian Living: Disciples Path series, Walking with God series.

The Church: Lutheran Difference series (CPH), Lutheran Spirituality series (CPH).

Defending the Faith: Answers Academy, Faith on the Edge series, Dr. Paul Maier.

Evangelism: New Life series (CPH), Tough Questions series, Bill Hybels.

God and Jesus: Life of Jesus series (CPH), Ray Vander Laan.

Grief / Suffering / Caregiving: Master's Touch series, Yearbook study series (CPH).

Marriage & Parenting: Fireproof Your Marriage, Love & Respect.

Men's Interest: Blessed is the Man series (CPH), Godly Man series (CPH).

Prayer: Love to Pray, Stormie Omartian.

Small Group Leadership: Regroup series, Network.

Women's Interest: Under His Wings series (CPH), Women of Faith study guides, Liz Curtis Higgs.

All study materials may be borrowed for four weeks. Tell the librarian if you are a small group leader, and you will be allowed to borrow study materials for three months. Anyone listed in the church directory has been issued a library card.

To browse the online catalog, go to <https://stmikeschoolmi.booksys.net/opac/smls/index.html#menuHome>, or click this link on the Library page of the church website. Try the catalog's Visual Search function for easy searching.

WORSHIP

Gathering around God's Word and Sacraments to receive His gifts & give Him glory.

We value worship, as we gather around God's Word and Sacraments, that is meaningful and up-lifting, including clear, relevant preaching. We appreciate both traditional liturgy and hymns as well as contemporary music and desire variety and quality in all our worship services so that we might have a meaningful experience of praising and glorifying God with the best that we have.

Colossians 3:16-17

*"The LORD is in His holy temple;
let all the earth keep silence before Him."*

Habakkuk 2:20

Silence. How often do we get to experience actual silence? In our world today, not that often, and perhaps not often enough. We wake up to an alarm, the kids might already be up and at 'em, and then we head off to our noisy day of work or school. We come back home to a house full of sound (*Jenny will tell you that I usually have music playing at home*). Then, we settle in for bed... and many of us almost require some sort of background white noise to fall asleep. But silence? What a strange thing to truly experience.

What about silence in worship? We come to worship on Saturday or Sunday, meet people we know and love, ask how their families are doing, settle into our regular seats and talk to the people around us, and as soon as the service is over, we strike up conversation yet again. These are all good things! ...but does silence have a place in worship?

I will never forget one very striking example of silence I experienced, while visiting a church in St. Louis for Good Friday worship. Jenny and I arrived with 10 minutes before worship began... and everyone was sitting in silence. We were in a room full of hundreds of people, and there was not a single sound to be heard. After worship, I commented on this to an older woman who was sitting in front of us. She smiled and mentioned how this was her favorite part of the week... these few minutes of silence to reflect on where she was and what was about to happen. Before singing God's praises, and hearing His Word, she treasured these all too few minutes of silence. Time to reflect and silence to focus.

You see, the silence isn't an end unto itself, it can be used to help key in our minds and hearts on the very important gifts God is about to freely give in worship. We see some of the saints in Scripture do this exact thing! Mary quieted herself at the feet of Jesus, so that she could hear His teaching; Jesus Himself quietly went off by Himself to pray to His Father. *You too can make silence a part of your spiritual walk, not just during weekend worship at St. Michael, but throughout the week as well. Silence... not for its own sake, but to quiet your heart and mind so that you can focus on the Word of God and hear God speaking through the Bible.*

God bless you, even during this busy, noisy week, as we hear God speak through His Word.

Pastor Maske



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

September 5, 2021 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Psalm 146; Isaiah 35:4-7a; Mark 7:31-37 “All Things Well” - Sermon Text: Mark 7:31-37 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker
Isaiah foretold of the Messiah who would perform many miraculous signs and wonders. Those signs and wonders were performed by Jesus. These actions clearly identify Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior of the world.



September 12, 2021 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Psalm 116:1-9; Isaiah 50:4-10; Mark 9:14-29 “I Believe...Help!” - Sermon Text: Mark 9:14-29 - Rev. William Mueller
How well prepared are we to handle the moments of crisis in faith? What are we going to do when prayers aren’t answered? What are we going to do when we realize there is a depth requirement to our faith, and we appear to be coming up rather shallow? There is good news for us in this account of an exasperated Father and an ever-compassionate Savior!

September 19, 2021 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:10; Mark 9:30-37 “Driven by Fear or Faith?” - Sermon Text: Mark 9:35-37 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer
What animates your life – fear or faith? Jesus’ disciples attempt to overcome their fear by seeking temporal greatness. Jesus shows them a better way, His way, a way that leads to a life that never ends.

September 26, 2021 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost Psalm 104:27-34; James 5:13-18; Mark 9:42-50 “Powerful Prayer” - Sermon Text: James 5:13-18 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier
Do you sometimes think that your praying is useless? Wrong! The prayer of a believer is powerful. God always hears and answers that prayer, and in the best possible way.

TV MINISTRY YOU CAN TRUST!

Spiritual Channel 189 AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Access for Kalamazoo and Portage

WJPG-LD 26 (TCT)

Sunday 6 AM 12 Noon, 6PM 12 Midnight

Repeats on Wednesdays

- 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
Sally Beck
Thelma Burrell
Lotte Christoph
Shirley Cosgrove
Ellie Deibler
Ginny Evans
Dorothy Ferguson
Nola Geissel
Audrey Glover
Nancy Heath
Bob Johnson
Flo Kangas*
Phyllis Kurлович
Lowell Loomans
Carol McCarty*
Nancy Miller
Margery Selden
Marilyn Sible
Darlene Surch
Judi VanOrman
Sharon White

*non-members

Remembering



Our
Homebound
Friends...



Great news!

St. Michael's traditional 8:30 AM service will now be posted to the Spiritual TV Channel, according to this schedule.

Monday	6AM
Tuesday	10:30 PM
Wednesday	5PM
Thursday	Midnight & 8AM
Friday	5AM & 1PM
Saturday	7AM & 8:30PM
Sunday	3:30 & 11:30 AM, 2PM

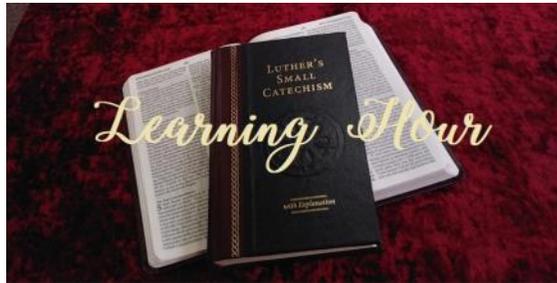
Charter Spectrum Channel 189

DISCIPLESHIP

Christian education is vital to our Spiritual health and growth.

We value discipleship through the Christian education of children and adults of all ages as essential and vital to our spiritual health and growth. While we highly value people of every age, we are especially excited about our population of young families, many of whom come into our congregation through our Christian education programs for children.

Luke 18:15-17



ADULT LEARNING HOUR FALL CLASS OFFERINGS

While we're not out of the pandemic woods quite yet, we're trying to move things a little closer to normal this fall by offering a selection of adult classes rather than just one. Hopefully one (or more) of these options piques your interest! We would like to get a sense of everyone's interest so we can line the classes up with the right sized rooms. If you think you might attend one of the classes, please complete this short survey to help us out!

<https://forms.gle/x1eAKSmT18MoaJiZ7>

If more than one person in your family plans to attend the same class, only one person needs to complete the survey.

Option 1: Exploring Our Faith

What does it mean to have Christian faith? What do Lutherans believe? How is this similar and/or different from the doctrines taught by other denominations and religions? You may be asking yourself these questions, especially if you are new to the Lutheran church. What makes Saint Michael Lutheran Church special? How do we care for one another and become involved in what God is doing among us? These and other questions may be yours if you are thinking about joining our congregation, even by transfer from another LCMS church. Or perhaps you have these questions despite being a long-time member! This course will address these questions and, if you are a prospective member, prepare you to join. In this course you will find that our faith is Bible based, and you will get to know some of the existing ministry leaders in our congregation. All in all, it will help prepare you to be an active communicant member of St. Michael Lutheran Church.

Option 2: Foundations Video Series from Answers in Genesis

We hope this class will be of interest to adults of any age and at any level of "spiritual maturity." In this hard-hitting yet often humorous 12-session DVD series, popular Australian-born author Ken Ham from Answers in Genesis uses modern events as the backdrop for the most important messages of his life. A description from the Answers in Genesis website: "Millions of Christians have decided that the Bible is out of date. They've decided that the words of Jesus aren't always true. *The Foundations* reveals the alarming state of Christianity today. Today, possibly more than at any time in America's history, a culture detached from God and willingly ignorant of His hand in creation and world events needs Jesus. But the church is not nearly as effective in reaching the lost as it was only a generation ago. There is a foundational reason."

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

Option 3: Wurmbrand Video Series from The Voice of the Martyrs

This class will include six weeks of video sessions and discussions providing lessons you can put into practice as you face hardship and opposition in your own life. At the conclusion of the six weeks, we plan to show the movie that corresponds to the study, *Tortured for Christ*, divided over two weeks. A description of the course from the study guide: "The Bible calls us to forgive, love, and reach our enemies for Christ. But fulfilling that call is not easy! Let the story of Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand challenge and inspire you as your group learns about their lives and studies how God helps followers serve faithfully – and victoriously – in the face of extreme difficulty, suffering, and opposition. In this study, you will see real-life examples of the kind of biblical discipleship to which we all aspire and learn lessons from these bold, faithful lives you can put into practice. God's power is sufficient to overcome every obstacle we face, and his grace will transform us."

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH



As summer comes to a close, your St. Michael Youth (*OUTREACH*) are gearing up for another awesome year of service, devotion, and love for our Lord and for one another. We have been so blessed here at St. Michael with wonderful families, youth, and volunteers, all focused together on bringing glory to God and love for our neighbors.

We will regularly meet Sunday evenings from 5 – 7 pm in the Youth Room, with monthly special events. For future information, please keep your eye on the Friday email announcements, as well as weekend worship announcements. Please also feel free to email Pastor Maske

dmaske@mightymessengers.org

We ask that all parents/youth please send Pastor Maske an email with contact information (name, grade, phone number, and email).

Effective communication will be vital in keeping our youth and families informed and involved. Further honing will be done on our church website; for the present, please send Pastor Maske your preferred contact information.

God bless you as we walk with our Lord together! God is faithful, and He will continue to strengthen us in faith and love.

8th-High School Sunday Mornings 9:45AM - Youth Room
Ryan & Heather Bigelow leaders

For those that may have scrolled right past the **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION SURVEY** in our Friday announcements, here is another link so you can help us prepare for the fall.

VOLUNTEERS & PARENTS

[CLICK HERE](#)



PS-2nd Grades in Room #111

Jenny Maske will be the lead teacher, with a few parents assisting from week to week

3rd-7th Grades in Room #119

Tammy Songer and Aaron Allen will teach.

There is a spot for YOU, too!

You can use your skills to do a small part in a rotation model. Training will be provided.

...Talk to Tammy, or call the Church Office, if interested.

Pandemic: Safety precautions will be followed in classrooms. We are willing to prepare the basics of the lessons for kids to study at home, if that is your preferred method for this fall. *Please let us know!*

EVANGELISM

Reaching out with the saving Gospel and proclaiming His truth to all people.

We value evangelism and believe that the good news of the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the main message of the church. We care about meeting all human needs but recognize that the most important need people have is for a love relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and so we reach out with this saving Gospel and proclaim the truth of God's Word to all people without compromise. Acts 1:8

LAC BROCHET DELIVERY OF THE BACKPACKS FROM LAMP

They are stuffed with an activity book and crafts and snacks for the kids in Lac Brochet. Normally, we would be in Lac Brochet in the beginning of August, but at least the children got some special attention in our absence. The boxes with the backpacks were packed in Winnipeg by Gord Gilby, a LAMP missionary. He loaded them up in a vehicle and drove them to Flin Flan, Manitoba and then Andrew, our LAMP pilot, flew them into Lac Brochet where Dora, one of our friends, met the plane and delivered them to the children. It is exciting to see the smiling and masked faces.

The LAMP team members hosted the donut hour on August 8 which also turned out to be a little reunion, including a couple of members from the very first LAMP team in 2011 to the most recent team in 2019.

We pray next year our pictures of the team will be from Lac Brochet!

Dana Naumann - LAMP Team Leader



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

Dear family and friends in Christ,

Greetings from Oakmont, Pennsylvania!

I thank God when I think of all of you who have supported us constantly with fervent prayers and words of encouragement. Truly we have been greatly blessed to have had the opportunity to travel for the last three months, to see many of you face to face, and enjoy the kind hospitality of many who were willing to brave hosting all nine of us at once, for a meal or in their homes. We have also been encouraged to know that many others have been lifting us up in prayer, even though we have not been able to meet.



As you can imagine, this summer has been a difficult journey, not only logistically (having to juggle an itinerary of more than 6,000 miles with 9 passengers in two vehicles!) - but also spiritually. It was painful to leave our friends, community, and home in Sri Lanka, and we feel that pain every day. Nevertheless we looked forward to the future, trusting that God's will would prevail, and we eagerly hoped for the opportunity to live and work in India, to continue mission work at Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, or in another country, if India would not be possible.

The LCMS, however, ultimately decided not to redeploy our family. On June 30 they informed me that my employment and call were ended that day. Now we have come back to Oakmont, PA, where we were before I received the call to be a missionary.

We are dealing with the additional grief of further loss, because of this decision. Our future is uncertain, and we are waiting on God again to reveal what happens next. This road is not easy to travel, and I ask that you continue your prayers for us. Especially I ask that you would pray for our children, that we can provide them with a suitable education; that another call would come quickly for Edward; for Monica (who likes to plan far ahead!) that her anxiety may be reduced; that the Holy Spirit may enable us to heal, not lose hope for the future, to have joy in Christ, and faith in the loving care of our almighty Father, and to hold fast in our hearts that peace that surpasses understanding. Finally please continue to commit to God in prayer the welfare of the people of Sri Lanka and India, that the light of Christ may shine and draw to Him those who still walk in darkness.

I want to thank the LCMS Mission Advancement team for all of their hard work, as well as the mission support and human resources staff at the LCMS for the many ways they enabled our missionary service by taking care of paperwork and logistical details.

Finally, thank you to all of you who supported us financially. Your donations ensured that we did not have to worry about funding, and I was able all the more to focus on the Word and Sacrament ministry that was my duty and privilege to perform.

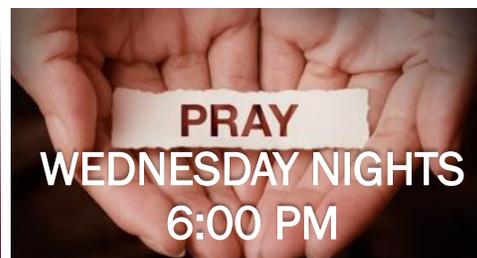
Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Edward Naumann

P.S. My apologies to any of you who tried to contact me over the last 40 days; I am not ignoring you, but since my LCMS email was closed from June 30, I have not had access to any mail sent to that account. If you wish to correspond, please write to me: lutherans@hotmail.com.

[Summary of Missionary Service of Rev. Dr. Edward Arthur Naumann
LCMS Office of International Missions, June 2015-June 2021](#)

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION - INCOMING 6TH GRADERS & UP

We are fast approaching the start of another year of Confirmation classes. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 1, in the Sanctuary from 6-7 pm. We will be discussing class expectations, materials, and scheduling. At least one parent/guardian from each family is required to attend with your student.



*Interested in being a Prayer
Partner for a Confirmation
student? Contact Prayer
Coordinator Virginia Hetrick at:
virbhtr@gmail.com.*

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT BIBLE
STUDY** JOIN US AND
INVITE
SOMEONE!
5:45 - 7:00 PM
NAUMANN ROOM

FELLOWSHIP

Reconciled through Christ, actively loving and caring for one another.

We value fellowship and want a friendly church that is like a loving family that actively cares for one another in times of need. When inevitable conflicts arise among us, we desire to be reconciled to one another, to communicate honestly and lovingly with each other, and to worship, work, and play together in peace and harmony.

Acts 2:42-47

Ballet Ministry Fall Classes Beginning Soon

Meets in Music Room

Saturdays, September 11th through December 18th
(with November 27th off for Thanksgiving)

Classes are \$5 each. We accept payment made out to SMLC in our donation box each week. Payment can be made weekly, monthly, or once for the entire session.

Register by emailing Sue at pointdancestudio@gmail.com or calling 734-765-5324
<https://www.facebook.com/SMLCBallet/>

9:30--10:00 Little Dancers ages 2-3
10:00--10:30 Pre Ballet ages 4-5
10:30--11:00 Primary Ballet ages 6-8
11:00--11:30 Lyrical and Jazz ages 6-12
11:30--12:00 Ballet and Praise ages 8-12



LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR SPOUSE IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!

Registration is now open for the next VIRTUAL Experiences!
Choose from either of these weekend dates!

October 1 - 3 and 15 - 17, 2021

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

You Can Participate Privately from Your Home or
Anywhere That Affords You Privacy as a Couple

Apply Now / Learn More at GodLovesMarriage.org!

Questions? Contact us: info@godlovesmarriage.org!

Pre-registration is required to receive the materials you'll need for your experience via snail mail - don't miss out!

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



SIGN UP NOW FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Our next Stephen Ministry training class begins **September 30**, so now is now to think and pray about whether you should participate in this free, quality learning experience being offered at St. Michael by our own Stephen Leaders.

This distinctively Christian training includes a variety of topics such as listening, assertiveness, maintaining boundaries in caregiving, and grief, focusing on how to provide care while God cures. Each student is provided a two-volume training manual as well as other resources such as “Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life.”

Class time is exciting and potentially life-transforming. Through reading, class discussion, and interactive activities, you will be equipped with skills you can use not only in your ministry but in other relationships with family, friends, and coworkers. There’s amazing spiritual and personal growth that happens.

Plus, you can participate in the training without having to commit to becoming a Stephen Minister. Those who do decide to become Stephen Ministers serve in a lay caring ministry system used in thousands of congregations and other organizations worldwide. The organization draws its name from the book of Acts; in chapter 6, Stephen was chosen to provide caring ministry to those in need.

Stephen Ministers describe their experiences as fulfilling and transformative. The upcoming opportunity to take this unique training deserves your consideration. Classes at St. Michael will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays, plus from 8:30 a.m. to noon on some Saturdays, from Sept. 30 to Dec. 16, then continuing after the holidays from Jan. 6 to 29.

Copies of the training schedule are available in the Communications Center, where you also can sign up for more information. Contact any Stephen Leader, such as Dana Nauman at 269-808-7832, with your questions.



SERVICE

Good stewardship of time, talents and treasure for the work of ministry.

We value service and good stewardship of our time, talents, and treasure within our congregation and community. We put a high premium on the volunteer ministry of our members, believing that the primary role of our professional church workers is not to do all the ministry themselves but to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

*Ephesians 4:12
Romans 12:4-8*

ENDOWMENT FUND DOUBLE BLESSED DURING AUGUST

God continues to provide wonderful blessings to St. Michaels Endowment Program. Two generous gifts were made during August. A family whose child had attended and graduated from St. Michael Lutheran School added \$10,000 to the Geri Wheeler Scholarship Fund. One of the goals of the endowment fund committee has been to reach out to former students and families of the school. These families can see the great advantages of a Christian education and if able, like this family, will help fund our school.

A second extremely generous gift of \$100,000 was made during August to create a designated fund called the School Tuition Assistance Fund. The fund will exist into perpetuity with a current yearly payout of 4% (\$4,000). This money will be used to assist students with tuition. At \$4,000 a year, that nearly pays for one student to attend the school. This family are members and wish to remain anonymous.

We thank God and these families for providing these monies to support St. Michael Lutheran Church and School. Our total endowment fund has now increased to approximately \$700,000 as of late August. If anyone is interest in more information on contributing to the endowment funds, please talk with any member of the committee: Brad Hunter, Dave Johnson, Rick Jacobs, John Engelmann, Todd Foster, Chairperson, or Jay Koski.

We are inviting 3rd & 4th graders for a BIBLE WORKSHOP & BLESSING

During the services of September 12, third and fourth graders from our congregation and school are invited up front and will be gifted a Faith Alive Bible. Families are invited to come up with them for this blessing. Please let the Church Office know if your family is interested, and what service you will be attending the weekend of September 12 and we will have a Bible ready for you! If you have questions email: tsonger@mightymessengers.org

"Mighty Angels" Annual Golf Outing
Karl Mueller Memorial Open
Angels Crossing GOLF CLUB
3600 E W Avenue Vicksburg, Michigan

Monday, September 27
Supporting Christian Education at St. Michael Lutheran School

REGISTER TODAY!!
9:00 am (Shotgun)
Co-ed Team Scramble

- 2:00 PM Luncheon & Awards
- Putting Contest (3 tries for \$5)
- Mulligans for sale (\$5 each)

Registration Deadline: September 20
Form Available By [Clicking Here](#)

FORGOTTEN?

You may have heard the story of a church picnic planned by the local congregation. A senior member, who normally was very involved in this sort of activity, was on vacation when plans were made and never officially notified of the picnic.



The night before the big event, the pastor realized the oversight and apologetically called the member. The member was hurt and offended by the last-minute call, refusing to attend the festivities. How sad that we let simple mistakes take us down a path we likely will regret later. None of us like to be overlooked, forgotten or ignored. It might hurt to think that we can so easily be replaced.

Psalm 115 reassures us that we never will be forgotten by God. Verses 11-13 read as follows: "You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is their help and their shield. The Lord has remembered us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron; He will bless those who fear the Lord, both the small and the great."

The entire bible demonstrates God remembering. He remembered Adam and Eve and promised to send a Savior. Romans 4:18 says "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.'" Abraham was remembered.

As Jesus walked the earth he remembered the often-forgotten people of society. He healed the lepers and cast out demons. He spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well. He made well the many who were sick. Even while being crucified, He remembered the criminal on the cross next to Him. He remembered His mother, asking John to care for her.

God is also there for you. As you take your concerns large or small to the Lord in prayer, stop and listen. He will answer you. And He has already taken care of the biggest need you have, forgiveness of sins and the assurance of eternal life. God loves you and remembers you.

We invite you to become a member of the Church Extension Fund family. Investing with CEF provides the resources to help build the Kingdom in partnership with you and your congregation. If you are interested in becoming a CEF Representative at your congregation, contact us to get more information about serving with us at your church.

thrivent*

Make a difference in your community through St. Michael. It is easy with Thrivent Action Teams. Submit an application by logging into your Thrivent account. Members are offered two opportunities to receive up to \$250 in support of a project each calendar year. Be sure not to miss out on using them! [Here is a link to the application page.](#) *Don't have an account?* You can be an associate with a \$20 annual member sign up. Which gives you one opportunity for a \$250 grant to support a project.

Once your project application is approved, you'll receive a package of customized resources and tools to kick-start the project. *Not sure what to do?* Contact the church office for details. We have several things within our church calendar that could benefit from your support.



Children in grades 3-5 are invited on Wednesday evenings to meet with Mrs. Mary Wright to learn valuable skills and enjoy some great projects. The class runs from 5:30-7:00 PM. Everyone must wear a mask and the group will be limited to 10 students. To register send your child's name, grade, parent name and contact info., and any allergy or medical concerns to

mary.wright65@gmail.com

If anyone would like to help, or any high school students are looking for community service hours, please contact Mary.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SHEPHERD GROUPS

Lay Minister	Family Names Start with	Family Names & include
Geoff Bohren 231-679-4927	A	Boelman
Rich Conklin 616-889-0201	Bohren	Chenevare
Dan Bryer 269-323-7416	Chilcott	D
Mel Schroeder 734-646-9652	E	Franzen
Mark Gady 616-250-3730	Frommann	G
John Engelmann 269-544-1542	H	June
Cory Luma 269-365-8281	Jung	Lapekas
Ernie VanOrman 269-548-5714	Lausman	McNees
Eric VanOrman 269-249-7915	Messing	Nelson
Jeff Burnett 269-491-3700	Nieto	P
Andy Allan 269-370-7052	Q	Shook
Greg Wedel 312-961-4636	Sible	Stolsky
Matt Heintz 269-290-8507	Sullivan	T
Arlan Wendzel 269-816-5632	U	Z

We, as a church, are all better together.
If someone is in need, please reach out to your assigned Lay Minister for assistance.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

May Avg	317
June Avg.	277
July Avg	256
August Avg	270
Annual Avg. 2019	347
Annual Avg. 2020	197
	(+ uncounted online viewers)
Annual Avg. 2021	238

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN - Sunday Morning Classes are available during the 9:45 AM Learning Hour

TEENS - Classes are available during the 9:45 AM learning hour on Sunday mornings; Confirmation studies for 6-8th grade are on Wednesday evenings during the school year at 5:45 PM; Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM

ADULTS - Topical studies are available during the 9:45 AM Learning Hour on Sunday mornings; various Bible study groups, prayer groups, and activity groups meet during the week. *Exploring Our Faith* is for those that are interested in learning more about being Lutheran, and especially being a member of St. Michael. This course is taught in the fall and winter.

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants up to 3 years old on Sunday mornings during classes and worship times in Room #205 located off the Communication Center.

BAPTISM

Anyone desiring baptism should visit with a pastor who will set up a meeting and schedule an appropriate time.

WEDDINGS

We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). A Wedding in the church is an act of worship. The purpose of a church wedding is to thank and praise God and to petition His blessings upon the couple who solemnize their marriage before Him.

ENEWS DEADLINE

Please consider items you might need to submit to the Church Office for the next email newsletter, as you read the current one. Items need to be submitted by 4:00 PM on Thursdays.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

To insure a quality product is available for the membership, please consider items you might need to submit to the Church Office for the next monthly newsletter, as you read the current one. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

CHANGE OF NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE / EMAIL

You can always call the Church Office or use the form on the website to reach out and share a message with us!
<https://www.mightymessengers.org/contact-us/>

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

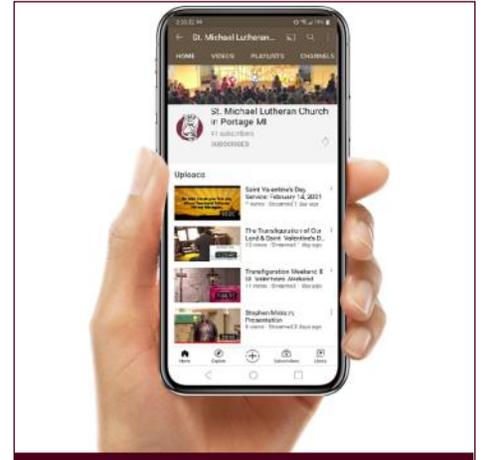
JULY FINANCIALS 9 months

11/1/2020-7/31/2021

Church Revenue	\$ 644,583
School Revenue	\$ <u>702,190</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,346,773
Total Expenses	\$ 1,293,931
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 52,842
Expense Budget	\$ 1,297,413
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 49,360
Working Cash Balance	\$ 106,488
Mortgage Balance	\$ 773,819

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$ 591,567
Building Contingency	\$ 49,239
Technology Refresh	\$ 10,152
Sunday School	\$ 318
Youth Donations	\$ 11,919
Youth Accounts	\$ 10,325
Good Samaritan	\$ 7,396
Memorials	\$ 5,590
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 9,202
Quilting	\$ 1,045
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 335
School Improvements	\$ 23,127
Tuition Assistance	\$ 48,183
School Music	\$ 580
Flower Fund	\$ 1,204
CFK Grant Fund	\$ 8,012
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,801



STAY CONNECTED

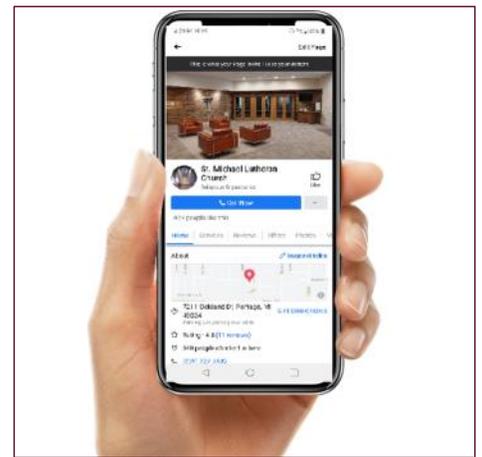
YouTube

On the St. Michael  YouTube page, You can find sermon videos, Bible classes, guest speakers, children's devotions and Vacation Bible School lessons.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLGVSDNVzjBcEyBthV7_NOg

Facebook

Find worship service videos, devotions, special event announcements and more at  <https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI>



LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

For those who are handy, a new project around the house is always an excuse to purchase a new tool for the garage collection. While that might be a bit of an obsession, there is deep truth in understanding that do a home improvement project correctly, you must have the right tool. The project will go more smoothly, and the craftsmanship of the result will be far higher, if the right tool is used.

One of the biggest “projects” the Lord ever gives us with money is planning how to distribute our estates when the Lord calls us home. A will or trust might get the job done. A charitable trust or personal endowment might be required. For flexibility, maybe the choice is a donor advised fund.

Which is the right tool? We don't use wrenches to pound a nail and don't cut tile with a wood saw. Knowing what you are trying to accomplish, you grab the right tool and, in the end, have something beautiful. The same thing is true about using the right gift planning tools in creating your gift from your estate.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started in constructing your plan. Contact...

Julie Burgess, Gift Planning Counselor Church Extension Fund
Julie.burgess@fnd.org | 713-822-5284

Welcome!

We believe that the more you study the Bible and encounter God in prayer, the more you learn to trust Him with all you have. Carve out time in your day to nurture your relationship with God and spend time encouraging others.

We believe the best way to follow Jesus is through forming community and sharing our faith with a heart of generosity, not just with money and time, but with our love, appreciation, praise and encouragement.



STAFF:

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann
naumann@mightymessengers.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Daniel Maske
dmaske@mightymessengers.org

ASSISTANT PASTOR

Rev. Jason Toman
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BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER

Jay Koski
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Tammy Songer
tsonger@mightymessengers.org

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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SCHOOL SECRETARY

Sharon Robinson

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Brenda Heintz

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Maralyse Worm

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Annie Hecht

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

Kim Ruesch

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER

Dawn Heid

FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Emily Lauterbach

SIXTH GRADE TEACHER

Julie Prentice

SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER

Lisa Lam

CHRIST FOR KIDS CHILDCARE DIRECTOR

Emily Ritchie
eritchie@mightymessengers.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Becky Mohler
Cheryl Julian
Jessica Lonc

WORSHIP MEDIA SPECIALIST

Lorraine Dudash

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Bertrand

ORGANIST

Keith Eiser

MORNING SONG DIRECTOR

Jane Connon

SEXTONS

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Ryan & Heather Bigelow

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Greg Wedel, Assistant Director

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Meg Bess, Jan Chilcott

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Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

USHERS

Mike Minger - Early Service
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

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Pastor & Dana Naumann
Heather Crampton, Lynda Rae, Virginia Hetrick

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Bill Semrau, Peter Robert, Jackie Michels

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