



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

February 2022

Volume 61, Number 2



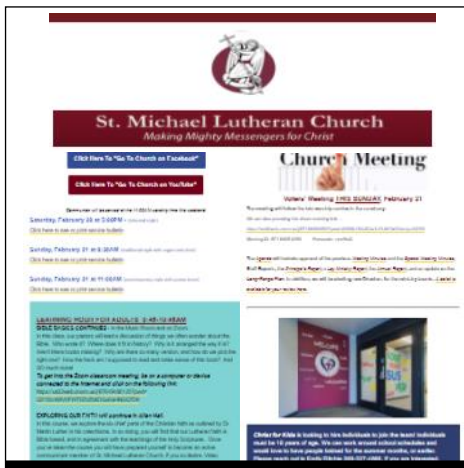
CONNECT WITH OUR CHURCH & SCHOOL FAMILY AT [MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG](https://mightymessengers.org), ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE



# 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:

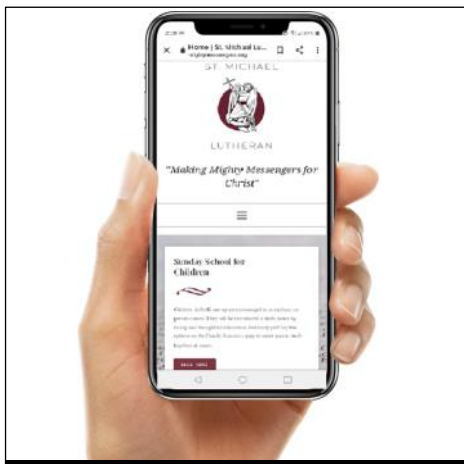
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

### [mightymessengers.org](http://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.

## Help us share Christ's love with your **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS!**

All Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2022!

To be eligible to direct Choice Dollars as part of Thrivent Choice®, you must be a client with benefit membership. Individual eligibility is also based on at least one of the following:

- \* Having \$750 or more in annual billed premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products.
- \* Having \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products.

You can direct your Choice Dollars online at: [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) You will need to login with your username and password. You can also call (800) 847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice®" after the prompt.

Don't let your Choice Dollars expire! Call or go online today to help St. Michael Lutheran Church & School share Christ's love!



**Reminder to All Members** – Requests for endowment fund distribution are due by February 15th. If you are in need of several hundred to several thousand dollars during 2022 for a St. Michael ministry, please feel free to request money. A form is available in the church office and once completed can be returned to the church office. Decisions on distributions will be made by the Endowment Committee by mid March.

## EXTRA EPIPHANY LIGHT

It's a full two-month long Epiphany season this year, so that all of February gives us the luxury of continuing to get to know the Person of Jesus better before we must enter into that time called Lent, in which we especially focus on His saving Work of suffering and dying on the cross for our salvation (prior to His Easter resurrection). Getting to know Jesus better is indeed a wonderful thing for us to do as ones who have been called by the Gospel into a saving faith relationship with Him. So let us continue to worship Him each week and see Him demonstrate His divinity through His remarkable words and miraculous actions. As we discover more about who Jesus is as the eternal Son of God, we will be all the more prepared to follow Him through His Lenten Passion and to appreciate the reason for His suffering.

But Epiphany is not the only season of discovery. This year, Lent is going to be for us **"40 Days of Discovery"** as our whole congregation will be invited to focus on the reason for our existence in this world which God loves and for which He gave His life. We will all be reading each day from the book entitled *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?* by New York Times bestselling author Rev. Rick Warren of Saddleback Church near Los Angeles, CA. Some of you have read his book when it first came out in 2003 and we had our *"Forty Days of Purpose"* shortly thereafter. But the book was revised in 2012 and there are updated videos for our use in the Small Groups. Angie Heimlich has been working hard on the small group component, and would love to hear of your willingness to host/lead a group, or that the group you are currently in, is willing to take up this curriculum for the six weeks of Lent (or longer, if your group meets less often).

You'll find in this newsletter the schedule of how the topics are laid out in the Lenten season. The daily readings in the book begin on Ash Wednesday and a new topic and a new week of readings begins every Wednesday thereafter. There will be thematic worship services both on Wednesday nights and on



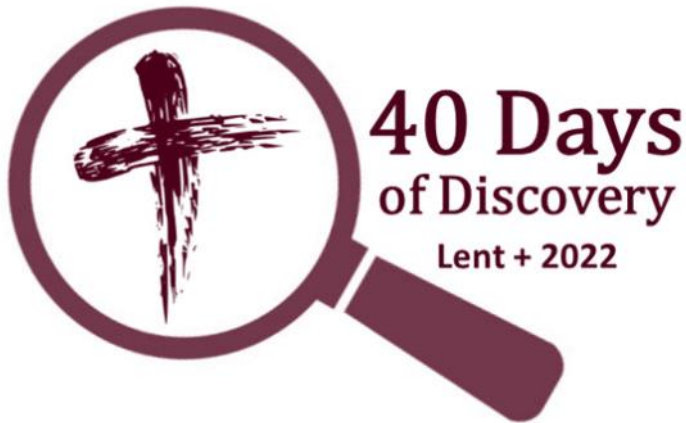
the weekends that will be especially designed to further reinforce what you are reading and discussing in your small groups. Altogether, this will make for a powerful six weeks of devoting our attention to God's purpose for our existence on this planet, and helping us see in practical ways how we can live out our calling as His children and our mission of making mighty messengers for Christ. Please plan to be a part of it, and prayerfully make your Lenten experience this year not merely a time to give up something, but a time to gain something special, to discover the meaning of life and the very purpose of your eternal existence in Christ.

In the meantime, we have an added bonus for you in this Epiphany season: a **Voters Assembly Meeting at noon on February 27**, in which you can consider the current state of the congregation's **Long-Range Plan**, and cast a vote for the new officers and Lay Ministers that will be on the **ballot for the next two-year term**. This is the year in which we especially elect the Vice President of the congregation and the various Assistant Directors of Boards (as well as several Lay Ministers and Endowment Fund Committee members). The Long-Range Plan is developed every five years, but it is also reviewed every year to see what has been accomplished and what more we would like to accomplish by God's grace within that five year period of time. The Long-Range Plan is intended to give direction to our nine administrative Boards for their annual planning, so that the whole congregation is working together toward achieving the same goals spelled out in the plan. You'll have an opportunity to see these things prior to the VA meeting, and to discuss them at a Town Hall meeting between services at 9:45 am on February 13. Please plan to be with us at that time.

So 2022 is off and running, but no matter how fast it may already be going, we're careful not to get out ahead of God. He is leading, and we are following. May the Lord of the Church show us His good way forward as we continue to serve Him, and bring His love and light to our congregation and community to the glory of His holy name.



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



**Magnifier + Member + Model + Minister + Messenger**

### – COMING SOON!

each of us is His child, created to do good works even before we were born. He wants to work in us and through us! This happens in a variety of ways: when we attend church and receive the sacrament of the Lord's supper, when we have conversations with God throughout the day, when we pray with our family, when we read God's word and do devotions. These are all ways that we stay attached to the vine.

When we take part in a small group Bible study or St. Michael's Learning Hour, connect with a mission organization such as Jesus loves Kalamazoo, or volunteer at our church or within our community, we are giving God the opportunity to increase our understanding of who He is and what our purpose is beyond our job and family. He calls for us to live in community, serving within our church and finding ways to support and care for our surrounding communities.

I hope you will join me in reading Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Life* and participating in our "40 Days of Discovery" that we will be engaged with during Lent this year! We will be offering a variety of small group options for the video-based Bible study that hopefully will fit everyone's schedule. If you have never experienced a small group community, now is the perfect time to give it a try! Lent is the perfect time to give up a little of our time so that we might gain and grow in our relationship with Jesus! You will be blessed!!!

Angie Heimlich

I

n writing *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth am I Here for?*, Rick Warren desired to answer three important questions for his readers: Why I am I alive? Does it matter? What is my purpose?

He answers these questions by reminding us that It all starts with God! You are NOT an accident! You are made to last forever; your life is a temporary assignment and there is a reason for everything! When you see your life from God's perspective, you understand what should be driving your life.

I picked up the *Purpose Driven Life* book this past summer knowing that I would benefit from reading this book again. I was part of the "Forty Days of Purpose" that our congregation did almost 20 years ago. With each day I read, I found myself wanting to read more. I found it refreshing and inspiring! I was excited to share my experience with all of you at St. Michael Lutheran Church and School!

I appreciated the reminder that life is not about me! In our current "me first" culture, I find myself reminding both myself and my kids that life does not and should not cater to me or them! Below is a definition of Individualism, a popular world view in our culture.

*"Individualism is the belief that life is about me. The purpose of life is to be authentic to yourself and to live according to your feelings without obligation to anyone or anything beyond the self. Sin involves being inauthentic, and salvation comes from discovering "yourself". (So the Next Generation Will Know by, Sean McDowell and J. Warner Wallace)*

It's easy to get caught up with the "me first" cultural belief. We need to be reminded often that God does have a purpose for our life! He desires for us to include him in every area of our life and to depend on him to give us everything we need for each new day!

I know that I need to be reminded often that everything I do matters to God. He does not want us to just "get through the day," or the week, or the month. God desires for us to connect to Him, through His word daily, remembering that

### SCHEDULE OF SMALL GROUPS MEETING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor & Dana Naumann - Allan Hall (12:30 pm)	Moms on Zoom - Angie Heimlich (8:00 pm)	Men's Group - Jesse Hogue - Antique Kitchen (6:30 am)	Lenten Supper (5:00-6:30)	Mature Women's Group - Connie Chadder on - Allan Hall (9:30 am)	Mom's Group - Angie Heimlich - (10:00 AM)	Men's Every Other Week - Jerry Lentz - Room 230
			Confirmation Class (6:00 pm)			(8:00 am)
		Women's Group - Barbara Schubert - Library (6:30 pm)	Worship (6:30-7:00)	Women's Group - Jan Chilcott - Room 230 (9:30 am)		Young Couples - Pastor & Jenny Maske (10:00 am)
		Mixed - Carol Conklin (7:00 pm) - starts 3/15	?? - Small Group Time (7:15 pm)	Young Men's Group - Jay Koski home (7:00 pm)		?? - Todd Foster - ?? (3:30 pm)

## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

Date	Worship	Topic	Daily Reading (and Small Group Topic)
3/2	Ash Wednesday 1:00 pm – SMLS Chapel Supper – 5:00 pm 6:30 pm – Communion Service	<b>Introduction</b> What on Earth Am I Hear For?	<b>Read Days 1-7</b> Begin Week 1 – <i>What on Earth Am I Here For?</i>
3/5-6	First Sunday in Lent (Temptation of Our Lord) Sat: 5:00 pm Sun: 8:30 am & 11:00 am	<i>“Lord, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that You think of them?” (Psalm 144:3)</i>	<i>What on Earth Am I Here For?</i> <a href="https://youtu.be/O3rd0ow_P2s">https://youtu.be/O3rd0ow_P2s</a> (Or Session #1 from DVD)
3/9	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	<b>Magnifier</b> You were Planned for God's Pleasure	<b>Read Days 8-14</b> Begin Week 2 - You Were Planned for God's Pleasure
3/12-13	Second Sunday in Lent Sat: 5:00 pm Sun: 8:30 am & 11:00 am	<i>“In everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 4:11)</i>	You Were Planned for God's Pleasure <a href="https://youtu.be/k0UnKwJ-e30">https://youtu.be/k0UnKwJ-e30</a> (Or Session #2 from DVD)
3/16	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	<b>Member</b> You Were Formed for God's Family	<b>Read Days 15-21</b> Begin Week 3 - You Were Formed for God's Family
3/19-20	Third Sunday in Lent Sat: 5:00 pm Sun: 8:30 am & 11:00 am	<i>“We are members one of another” (Ephesians 4:25)</i>	You Were Formed For God's Family <a href="https://youtu.be/oP597MBEY7A">https://youtu.be/oP597MBEY7A</a> (Or Session #3 from DVD)
3/23	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	<b>Model</b> You Were Created to Become Like Christ	<b>Read Days 22-28</b> Begin Week 4 - You Were Created to Become Like Christ
3/26-27	Fourth Sunday in Lent Sat: 5:00 pm Sun: 8:30 am & 11:00 am	<i>“We are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ” (Ephesians 4:15)</i>	You Were Created to Become Like Christ <a href="https://youtu.be/Hkera-lZICE">https://youtu.be/Hkera-lZICE</a> (Or Session #4 from DVD)
3/30	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	<b>Minister</b> You Were Shaped for Serving God	<b>Read Days 29-35</b> Begin Week 5 - You Were Shaped for Serving God
4/2-3	Fifth Sunday in Lent Sat: 5:00 pm Sun: 8:30 am & 11:00 am	<i>“We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Ephesians 2:10)</i>	You Were Shaped for Serving God <a href="https://youtu.be/v3VS56aFhUU">https://youtu.be/v3VS56aFhUU</a> (Or Session #5 from DVD)
4/6	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	<b>Messenger:</b> You Were Made for a Mission	<b>Read Days 36-42</b> Begin Week 6 – You Were Made for a Mission
4/9-10	Palm Sunday Sat: 5:00 pm Sun: 8:30 am & 11:00 am	<i>“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8)</i>	You Were Made for a Mission <a href="https://youtu.be/vbF5ShqWm8E">https://youtu.be/vbF5ShqWm8E</a> (Or Session #6 from DVD)
4/14	Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm - Communion	<i>“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in them” (John 6:56)</i>	(Flex time to get caught up on the reading as needed)
4/15	Good Friday 6:30 pm	<i>“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20)</i>	(Flex time to get caught up on the reading as needed)



# 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*

## PRAYING THE PSALMS WITH JESUS

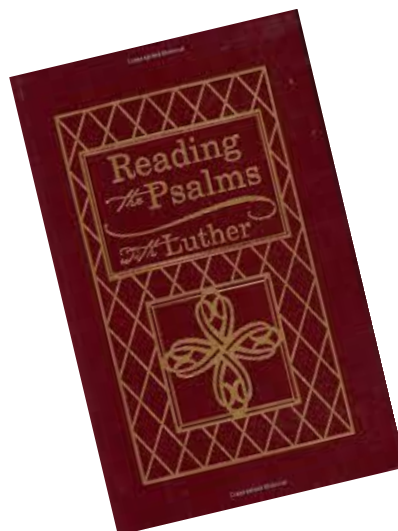
Martin Luther once said, "The Psalms are a Little Bible, wherein everything contained in the entire Bible is beautifully and briefly comprehended" ... and how true Luther was in saying so! If you take a few moments to look through our orders of service, you will notice how many of the Psalms are interwoven throughout. The Psalms (which, as God's Word, are inspired by the Holy Spirit), speak God's grace and truth into our time of worship together.

But the Psalms are also a reflection of the full human experience. The range of emotion contained in God's Psalms portray expressions of anger, grief, terror, zeal, deep love, and ultimate trust in His goodness. There are Psalms that convey God's unending mercy... and then there are Psalms that call down God's unbounded wrath against His enemies. There are Psalms that repent of deep-felt sin, and then Psalms that cry out for justice based upon a clean and upright heart. The Psalms are holy and down to earth at the same time.

When we pray the Psalms, we do so with Jesus at our side. In the end, Jesus Himself is the perfect embodiment of the heart of the Psalms. They are **His** cry to our Heavenly Father, praying on our behalf for mercy, justice, thanksgiving, and joyful love. When we pray the Psalms in worship, and at home, we do with Jesus at our side. So when you come to worship next, or when you find yourself at home having devotions, take a look at the Psalms. Spend some quality, quiet, intentional time reading and hearing about how much God knows and loves you.

(If you would like a high-quality Psalm reading resource, please check out "Reading the Psalms with Luther" available for \$17.99

from [cph.org](https://www.cph.org/p-498-Reading-the-Psalms-with-Luther.aspx) -- <https://www.cph.org/p-498-Reading-the-Psalms-with-Luther.aspx>



*Pastor Maske*



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

February 6, 2022 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
PSALM 100; ISAIAH 6:1-8; LUKE 5:1-11

“LIKE ISAIAH” - SERMON TEXT: ISAIAH 6:1-8 - REV. DR. WALTER MAIER III

In Isaiah 6, the chapter describing the call of Isaiah to be a prophet, we see four characteristics God brought forth in the prophet. The good news is that God has given these same characteristics to us.

February 13, 2022 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany  
PSALM 1; JEREMIAH 17:5-8; LUKE 6:17-26

“BLESSED” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 6:20 - REV. THOMAS EGGOLD

The term “blessed” is one of the most misunderstood and misused words in our cultural vocabulary. Today we find this word “blessed” coming out of the mouth of Jesus...but the way He uses the word stands in blatant contrast to the way it’s used in the world. Everything about today’s reading challenges our natural and cultural understanding of what it means to be “blessed.”

February 20, 2022 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany  
PSALM 103:1-13; GENESIS 45:3-15; LUKE 6:27-38

“THE BAPTIZED LIFE” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 6:27-28 - REV. SHAYNE JONKER

Our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us, even though we did not deserve it. Our ingratitude should be punished, but instead He forgave it and gave us even more. Our wickedness should be judged as worthy of hell, but He gave His own Son hell and us heaven instead. Living in and under the love, grace, and mercy of God in His Son Jesus Christ, life looks different, sinners look different, enemies look different, and love and mercy is not only possible, but natural.

February 27, 2022 – The Transfiguration of Our Lord  
PSALM 99; HEBREWS 3:1-6; LUKE 9:28-36

“PREPARING FOR CHALLENGES” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 9:28-36 - REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

We all face challenges in life. Jesus was preparing for the challenges of the cross and He was preparing His disciples for a life of service following His resurrection and ascension. Are you able to see past life’s challenges to the glory that awaits you?



### *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
<b>Charter Spectrum Channel 189</b>	

### 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*

**DISH Network Channel 54 Sunday 11:30 AM**

- 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

## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

There will be a TOWNHALL MEETING on Sunday, February 13 in the Gym at 9:45 AM, for discussion of concerns and upcoming Voters' Assembly topics.

The next regularly planned VOTERS' MEETING is following the late service on Sunday, February 27, in the Sanctuary. At this meeting, the agenda will include Staff Reports, Financial updates, *Additional nominations can be submitted to the Church Office.* an update on the Long-Range Plan and we will be electing new Assistant Directors for the ministry boards. A ballot is available here for your review.



### Position 2 year terms

#### Vice-President:

### Nominee

Rob Kuhlman

#### Assistant Board Directors

##### Stewardship

Dar Swift

##### Parish Education

Kristen Shook

##### Evangelism and Missions

Kathie Seufert

##### Small Group Ministry

Lindsey Luma

##### Early Childhood/School

Matt Colby

##### Properties

Mark Vickery

##### Parish Fellowship

Judy Schroeder

##### Youth/Young Adult Ministry

Chad Doubblestein

#### Lay Ministers:

Dan Bryer

Jeff Burnett

Matt Heintz

Corey Luma

Mark Ruesch

Greg Wedel

#### Trust Fund Officer:

Dave Johnson

Rick Jacobs

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The board of Lay Ministry is working with the Altar Guild on a new process for ensuring that we have fresh floral arrangements in the chancel each Sunday, other than the season of Lent.

There will be opportunities for families to sponsor these floral arrangements on special Sundays as a memorial for a family member or event.

We have a standing order with a local florist for two floral arrangements, to be appropriate for the liturgical season, in the chancel for every weekend. Two sponsors per week may select dates on this calendar on a first-come basis. The cost to be a sponsor for one arrangement is \$50. *(Two arrangements would be \$100.)* Look for the Calendar & Envelopes near the Usher's station. Sponsors' checks should be made payable to: St. Michael Lutheran Church, with the funds designated for the Flower Fund. Chancel Flower envelopes can be used for these payments.

*Want to make your reservation today?* [Use this link](#) and complete the form.

Sponsors of the floral arrangements will be acknowledged in the church's member email preceding the sponsored weekend and be noted in the pre-service worship slides to encourage and remind members of the opportunity to sponsor floral arrangements.

Members who have paid for the floral arrangements may take them home after the late service on Sunday. Floral arrangements that are not sponsored by a member will be removed by the Altar Guild.



**While trusting God for our health, we wish to reduce the risk of Covid transmission in our facility.**

- Sanitary precautions are taken
- An air purifier is always running

***Facemasks are optional for worshippers***

- We do encourage wearing them to protect high-risk individuals.





From Sunday Children's  
Messages to Friday  
Chapel, Mr. Johnson  
♥ Lutheran Schools!

## NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATION 2022

This year's Lutheran Schools Week celebration was January 24-28. The theme verse, "In All Things" is based upon Colossian 1:15-20. Each morning the students gathered in the gym for all school devotions/prayer and they enjoyed a number of fun events throughout the week including Beach Day; Anything but a Backpack Day; Dress Like Your Parents Day; and Crazy Day. Students also went bowling and heard a presentation by firefighter Travis. Lutheran schools are a unique ministry and we thank God for our school and the St. Michael congregation that generously supports our ministry!

*Anything, but a  
backpack day  
brought creativity!*



### 2021-2022 LCMS SCHOOL YEAR THEME

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:15-20

in all  things  
COLOSSIANS 1:15-20



*These girls are  
ready for the  
beach!*



*Dress like a  
family member  
day was a  
success!*

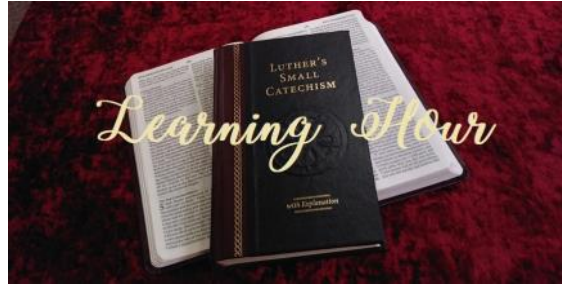


# DISCIPLESHIP

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 CLASS OFFERINGS

*Between Worship Services beginning approximately 9:45 AM*

It is planned to show the Wurmbrand movie February 27, in the Music Room for all interested. The movie is 77 minutes long and that will be a Communion Sunday for the early service, so we are hoping Matt will be hitting play on the movie by 9:40 am, in order to finish it before late service starts.

*Classes will pause on Sunday, February 13 for a Townhall Meeting in advance of the Voters' Assembly planned for Noon on February 27.*

## Sunday Morning Small Group Bible Class Opportunity

### Video and Discussion For All:

**9:45 am to 10:45 am** in the Music Room (114)

### Fellowship Time in Allan Hall:

- with coffee, snacks, conversation, and prayer  
hosted by Angie and John Heimlich  
- Children are welcome.

- **9:15 am to 9:45 am** (for those attending the 11:00 am worship service)
- **10:45 am to 11:15 am** (for those attending the 8:30 am worship service)

Children can be in Sunday School, or age 3 & younger in the Nursery.



### PS-2nd Grades in Room #120

Jenny Maske leading, with parents

### 3rd-7th Grades in Room #119

Tammy Songer & Aaron Allen leading

**Additional Volunteers are encouraged! Please come serve with us.**



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

### FEBRUARY

Superbowl Subs Sale 1-11th  
Youth Board Mtg. 1st @5:30PM  
Super Subs Making 12th @9AM  
Super Subs Pickup Day 13th  
WinterJam Concert 18th  
Pancake Supper Planning 20th

### MARCH

Pancake Dinner 1st @5PM  
Youth Board Mtg. 8th @5:30PM  
NYG Mtg. 6th @ 5PM  
Easter Breakfast Planning  
13,20, 27th

### APRIL

NYG Mtg. 3rd @5:30PM  
Youth Board Mtg. 5th @5:30PM  
Easter Breakfast Prep 16th  
@9AM  
Easter Breakfast 17th  
Schram's Greenhouse  
Fundraiser Starts

### MAY

NYG Mtg. 1st @5:30PM  
Youth Board Mtg. 3rd @5:30PM  
Confirmation Sunday 15th

### JUNE

Junior High Districe Gathering  
NYG Mtg. 5th @5:30PM  
Youth Board Mtg. 7th @5:30PM  
Graduation Sunday 12th

### JULY

NYG - Houston 9-13th  
Youth Board Mtg. 9th @5:30PM  
VBS Week 24-29  
NYG Reports 31st

8th-High School Sunday Mornings  
9:45AM - Youth Room

Ryan & Heather Bigelow leaders

Sunday Evenings - 5:00 to 7:00 pm



**So much is happening in February for the youth in OUTREACH please come and be part of the fun!**

February 12, we will be making the **SUB SANDWICHES** sold for the Super Bowl parties. The sub-making starts 9 am sharp, many hands make light work so please come and help. The money earned from the subs will help support the youth program.

February 18, is the return of **WINTER JAM** - SKILLET, KB, NEWSONG, COLTON DIXON, TAUREN WELLS, I AM THEY and many more will perform at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. Tickets are 10 dollars at the door. The youth group will be carpooling from church leaving by 3:30. The details are found on [JAMTOUR.COM](http://JAMTOUR.COM). Please RSVP to the Church Office, no later than February 7, so we can plan for enough drivers. *Families are welcome to come to this exciting night full of fun worship!!*

March 1, back by popular demand, is the **PANCAKE SUPPER!** The youth group will be hosting again this year, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Keep your eyes peeled for a donations board located in the Communication Center. We are also in need of amazing adult volunteers who like to flip pancakes. All money made from the Pancake Supper will go towards the National Youth Gathering coming up in July. Any youth who volunteers will be able to use the money to help defray the costs of the trip. Please contact Jeff Burnett, the Pancake Supper king, if you would like to help.

As always, the youth group meets Sunday evenings from 5-7 if your youth have not taken advantage of St. Michael's youth program, please consider encouraging your youth to join. The more kids the more fun!

## VBS WEEK IS JULY 24-30, 2022

Please pray about how you will be serving the Lord during this week.

**LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS IT A SUCCESS**

**\*\*\* Sing & Play Express, Rocky Wrap-up, Imagination Station, Chew Chew Snacks, Bible Adventures, KidVid Cinema, Loco Motion Games, Registration, Crew Leaders, Decorations, Media Team, Prep Volunteers, Greeters, Safety Patrol, Donations \*\*\***

*Already know what you hope to do? Talk to Tammy in the Church office!*  
We are hoping for a wonderfully fun, in-person outreach to our community in 2022.





# 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*

## PRAY FOR TYLER AT COLONIAL ACRES

Our Youth for Christ missionary at Colonial Acres mobile home park, Tyler Gjeltema, has been particularly challenged and needed lately, and could use your prayers.

Two of the families active in the outreach ministry there have suffered a major loss of a loved one. First, one of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls had her father pass away unexpectedly. Her mother told Tyler recently that her daughter gave her a Bible and told her that she needed to read it. Her mother has indeed been reading it most every day since receiving it and in this very difficult situation is starting to find some peace. Then, most recently, a young man's mother lost her over two year fight with cancer, leaving behind four boys and their dad. While we don't have answers as to the why of these premature deaths, we do have the comfort and peace that only Christ can give. We pray that Tyler and his wife Megan would have all the Spiritual and emotional resources they need to be able to come beside these families at this difficult time, and to express the Lord's love to them in tangible ways, bringing them the comfort of the Holy Spirit.



Is your HEART so full, you could share?

We would like to collect greetings and send them to our friends in Lac Brochet, Manitoba, Canada. Until mid-February, we will be collecting greetings that you might write for about 40 adults or 150 children...No one needs to do all of them!

We will send them off for distribution in the community where our LAMP team regularly visits. Be creative and look for the collection basket in the Communication Center.

Help us share the hope of Jesus with everyone!

## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

### LAC BROCHET, MANITOBA—UPDATE!

The St. Michael LAMP Team's last visit to Lac Brochet was in July 2019 (ninth year of going to Lac Brochet to teach VBS and lead Bible Studies). Lac Brochet is located in the northern most part of Manitoba and can only be reached by air in the summer (or ice roads in the winter). They are an isolated Dene community of about 1000 people.

Since the pandemic began we have had to limit our communication with our friends to Facebook, phone calls and sending packages for the children.

Our latest project is to collect valentines for the children and adults and send them there to encourage and brighten their day. There is a valentine collection box in the Communications Center until February 13, and then they will be mailed to Lac Brochet.



**Lac  
Brochet  
currently  
has a  
COVID  
outbreak.**



It is especially hard for the people in Lac Brochet because they do not have a hospital in the community. There is a nurses station where they can get medical attention, but that is limited and it is a one hour flight away to get to the nearest hospital. This makes them especially vulnerable during the pandemic.



In order to deal with the boredom and to help promote healthy activities the community has been hosting contests where individuals and households make a project—quilt, stuffed animal, picture frame.... Or make a video of dancing or singing under special categories. These are posted on Facebook and the community votes and prizes are awarded!



With COVID in the community they are not allowing anyone to come in or go out of Lac Brochet. They have stopped all public activities and are confined to their homes. Their homes are small and often overcrowded with extended family all living together, so this is particularly difficult for them with the outside temp being around -30 Degrees and less than 9 hrs. of daylight.



**Can a St. Michael LAMP Team go to Lac Brochet in August 2022?**

**We will see what the next couple of months tell us. Pray that we can. If you have interest in possibly being part of the team talk with—  
Dana Naumann 269-808-7832.**

# 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*

## LENTEN SUPPERS

Volunteers are being sought

to sponsor our traditional mid-week Lenten Suppers.



Please consider hosting a Wednesday night meal. Serving would begin at 5:00 PM and should continue until about 6:15 PM, allowing all to enjoy that may come early for Confirmation and Life Skills programs and those that arrive a bit later for Worship at 6:30 PM.

Normal headcount is between 50-60 individuals. The meal can be as simple or as complex as you wish with soup and sandwiches being the normal fare. It is fun to do, and the fellowship is even better.

Church Boards, Small Groups and families are needed to host these events. Any donations received go to offset your cost and benefit your group. During the Christmas season, we were blessed to have the Lay Ministry, the Quilting Group and the youth from Life Skills prepare us a meal.

Wednesday nights available are:

### Date

3/2/22 – Ash Wednesday - Proceeds will enhance VBS programming

3/9/22

3/16/22

3/23/22

3/30/22

4/6/22

4/13/22

**.... The Believers studied what the Apostles taught. They shared life together. They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed.**

**Acts 2:44 (NIRV)**

Please contact Diane Gibson at 925-989-5059 or [Voxnaswede@aol.com](mailto:Voxnaswede@aol.com) for additional information.



JOIN US FOR A  
**MAGICAL  
CELEBRATION**  
SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Dinner & Special Guest

**DUANE LAFLIN**

An internationally awarded performer who specializes in family-friendly entertainment. He is a former president of The International Fellowship of Christian Magicians.

After years of working in magic shows, Duane and his wife Mary began producing music and comedy productions. In Custer, SD, the "Grand Jamboree," in Branson, MO, the "Ozark Music Show," and before the pandemic hit, they had produced "The Comedy Jubilee" which was scheduled for the Bird-In-Hand theater.

Now they focus their expertise on their theater in Colon, MI (the magic capital of the world) in order to add highly entertaining variety programs to their performance schedule!



**TUESDAY, MARCH 1**

Serving from 5-6:30 PM in the Gym

PRESENTATION IN THE SANCTUARY AT 6:30 PM

# SERVICE

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



Mighty Messengers for Christ

*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*

## VOLUNTEER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*Do you have your purpose and place in the ministry of St. Michael? Perhaps you were unsure of where to start...Or maybe, you are waiting for someone to ask you to serve in a specific capacity.*

*Church isn't a spectator sport. In first Corinthians 12, Paul describes the church as a body. He indicates that a healthy congregation is a church with each part functioning as determined by the Holy Spirit. That portion of scripture provides substance to the term "member."*

*Start with PRAYER, then REVIEW this list of areas to be a SERVANT OF CHRIST, and as the Holy Spirit works – ACTIVELY pursue your passion. Call the Church Office today to get connected!*

- ♦ Adult Education Facilitator
- ♦ Altar Guild
- ♦ Audio/Visual
- ♦ Advent/Lenten Suppers
- ♦ Children's Messages
- ♦ Choir / Praise Team
- ♦ Cleaning
- ♦ Coffee Host
- ♦ Collection counting
- ♦ Colonial Acres projects
- ♦ Easter Breakfast
- ♦ Fall Fest / Trunk or Treat
- ♦ Funeral Trustee
- ♦ Golf Outing or League
- ♦ Guest Experience Team
- ♦ Instrumentalist
- ♦ JLK projects
- ♦ Kitchen Coordinator
- ♦ Library Assistant
- ♦ Life Issues point person
- ♦ Maintenance projects
- ♦ Meals for Moms
- ♦ Meals on Wheels
- ♦ Nursery Attendant
- ♦ Organizing
- ♦ Painting
- ♦ Pancake Supper
- ♦ Pew Checker
- ♦ Pianist
- ♦ Prayer Ministry
- ♦ PTL
- ♦ Quilters
- ♦ Scripture Reader
- ♦ Security Team
- ♦ Shut-Ins Coordinator
- ♦ Snow removal
- ♦ Softball Team
- ♦ Sound/Light Coordinator
- ♦ Stephen Minister
- ♦ Sunday School Administrative
- ♦ Sunday School Teacher
- ♦ Jr./Sr. Youth Groups
- ♦ Thanksgiving Food Collection
- ♦ Usher
- ♦ Vacation Bible School Team
- ♦ Visitation Volunteer
- ♦ Vocalist
- ♦ Watering Plants
- ♦ Women's Fellowship
- ♦ Yard work
- ♦ Youth Trips/Retreats

## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

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This is an article written by Dan Lane, Armstrong Chaplain. The in-house Pastor (*yes they do have one*) at Armstrong International in Three Rivers:

As Jesus hung on the cross, he said "It is finished." But, what was it that was finished?

After taking on all of our sins beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane, through all the beatings, and finally while hanging on the cross, the words "It is finished" did not mean that Jesus was totally finished. In fact, what Jesus had accomplished and finished was providing for our redemption. He had borne our punishment. Settled our debt. Torn down the wall of separation between God and us. And, in



forgiving our sins, removed the wrath that God had toward those sins. But Jesus was not finished yet.

When Mary Magdalene and the disciples came to the tomb of Jesus, what did they see? Emptiness. No body. The linen wrappings for burial that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had wrapped the body of Jesus in so lovingly, were now empty. He had risen from the dead. The tomb was empty. Jesus was not finished yet.

As Peter and John stooped to look into the tomb, they noticed something as their eyes adjusted to the darkness of the tomb. Curious, they stepped into the tomb. There, something wonderful was folded ever so neatly. It was the face cloth that had been placed over the face of Jesus.

Why is that important? So important that once the disciples saw it, they believed?

God never wastes words. Everything in His Word, the Bible, is inspired and for a purpose. Every detail. He is a God of the details. The folded napkin or face cloth was a sign for these believers. It instantly brought them hope and joy. Their hearts were full now. Full of faith.

Tradition held that when the master of the house sat down to eat, everything was in perfect order and in its perfect place. The servants, once they had set the table, were never allowed to touch that table again until there was a sign signifying that the master had finished his meal.

What sign? When the master had finished, he would wipe his face, fingers, and beard then throw the once neatly folded napkin on the table in a wrinkled mess. This used and discarded napkin told the servants the master was finished. But if the master once again folded the napkin and neatly placed it on the table, it meant he was not finished and was coming back again.

Once dead, a body cannot fold a napkin. Once dead, but alive again. Jesus folded the napkin and left it on the table to say, "Gentlemen, I am alive and not through yet". Jesus was not finished. He was coming back.

I'm really looking forward to our Easter Celebration !!

*Virginia Petrick, Pray Coordinator*



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

### DECEMBER FINANCIALS 2 Months

11/1/2021-12/31/2021

Church Revenue	\$ 130,968
School Revenue	\$ <u>181,016</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 311,984
Total Expenses	\$ <u>318,712</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ (6,728)
Expense Budget	\$ 328,844
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ (16,860)
Working Cash Balance	\$ 19,092
Mortgage Balance	\$ 756,862

#### Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$588,062
Building Contingency	\$ 47,121
Technology Refresh	\$ 8,261
Sunday School	\$ 113
Youth Donations	\$ 14,357
Youth Accounts	\$ 10,325
Good Samaritan	\$ 4,142
Memorials	\$ 7,290
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 9,283
Quilting	\$ 446
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 435
School Improvements	\$ 33,873
Tuition Assistance	\$ 49,821
School Music	\$ 221
Flower Fund	\$ 1,218
CFK Grant Fund	\$ 0
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,830
Faith Budget	\$ 55,000

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

October Avg. ....	274
November Avg. ....	293
December Avg. ....	491
January Avg. ....	252
Annual Avg. 2019 .....	347
Annual Avg. 2020 .....	197
(+ uncounted online viewers)	
Annual Avg. 2021 .....	265
Annual Avg. 2022 .....	252

## LCMSFoundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Imagine that Herb and Edith are core members of their congregation. They have raised three children in the faith, as those children attended the Lutheran school. Now six of their seven grandchildren are attending that same Lutheran school.

Herb is a retired plumber. Together with Edith they ran their own plumbing business. The Lord blessed them with success. Five years ago they sold the business to someone else. The business maintains its original name and all the clientele passed to the new owner. When they sold it, it netted them \$800,000, in addition to the \$2 million they have saved in their retirement account.

Ten years earlier they had created an estate plan with their attorney. That was before they sold their business. At the time, they had created a \$20,000 gift to ministry as a "tithe" of what would pass through their will. They had not even considered making a gift from the leftovers of their IRA when the Lord calls them home. They put the \$800,000 into an investment account and now it is worth \$1.4 million. At the end of their earthly life they expect there will be over \$2 million of assets remaining, and the investment account and IRA have their children receiving 100% of these assets through beneficiary designation.

In recent months, motivated by their thankfulness for the ministry of their home congregation and a desire to see its ministry continue long into the future, they have reconsidered their plan for gifting. They are wondering how to calculate the size of the ministry gift coming from their will. They are also wanting to add to it with disbursements from their investments and IRA. They are wondering which fund from which they should chose and how to fill out the beneficiary designation forms correctly. They want to make a \$500,000 gift to their church for the sake of scholarships for the school. Much to their surprise, each of their children will receive \$500,000 as well.

In a situation like this, your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help to cut through the clutter and to illustrate options, looking to optimize tax savings as well. They can coordinate work with your professionals, attorney, tax advisor and financial advisor. Contact...

**Julie Burgess, Gift Planning Counselor**

**Church Extension Fund**

1863 Hunters Creek Dr, Superior Twp, MI 48198

713-822-5284

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## 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.

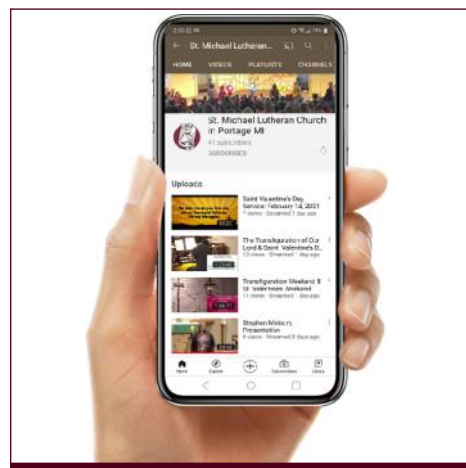
## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

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/>



## STAY CONNECTED

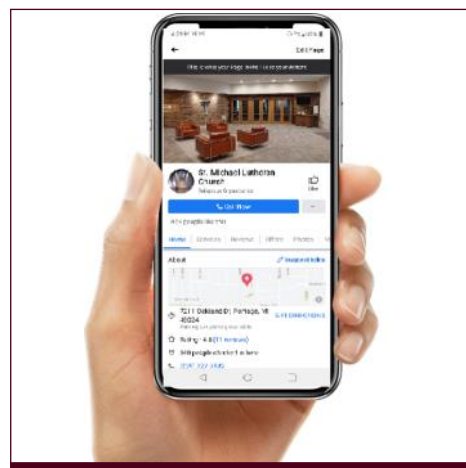
### YouTube

On the St. Michael  YouTube page, You can find sermon videos, Bible classes, guest speakers, children's devotions and Vacation Bible School lessons. Find us at:  
St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage MI

### Facebook

Find worship service videos, devotions, special event announcements and more:

@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI



# 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  
jtoman@mightymessengers.org

### **BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER**

Jay Koski  
jkoski@mightymessengers.org

### **CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR**

Tammy Songer  
tsonger@mightymessengers.org

### **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Greg Johnson  
gjohnson@mightymessengers.org

### **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**

Bryan Chandler  
Matthew Wright

## **VOLUNTEERS:**

### **PRESIDENT**

Jack Spenner

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Peter Robert

### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Tammy Songer

### **TREASURER**

Jan Jett

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Peter Robert, Assistant Director

## **BOARD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD & SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

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Angie Heimlich, Director  
Lindsey Luma, Assistant Director

## **BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR**

Linda West

## **VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Dar Swift

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Lisa Robert

## **BOARD OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT**

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Chad Doubblestein, Assistant Director

## **YOUTH GROUP LEADERS**

Jerry Kuss, Jeff Burnett,  
Ryan & Heather Bigelow

## **BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY**

Matt Heintz, Director  
Greg Wedel, Assistant Director

## **ALTAR GUILD**

Kristi Rudowske, Linda Fry

## **LECTORS**

Virginia Hetrick, Jan Chilcott

## **PRAYER MINISTRY COORDINATORS**

Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

## **USHERS**

Mike Minger - Early Service  
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

## **STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS**

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

## **STEPHEN MINISTERS**

Zoe Miller, Kelley McNees, Lane Bertrand  
Bill Semrau, Peter Robert, Jackie Michels

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Matt Quardokus, Assistant Director

## **GREETERS**

Arlene Groll, Mark & Jan Chilcott

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Kristin Shook, Assistant Director

## **ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

Jesse Hogue

## **CRADLE ROLL**

Peggy Makowski

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Vacant, Director  
Diane Gibson, Assistant Director

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

June Kucks

## **LWML**

Sandy Maya

## **SOFTBALL**

Shannon Miskovich

## **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Todd Foster, Dave Johnson, John Engelmann,  
Brad Hunter, Rick Jacobs