



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

April 2022

Volume 61, Number 4

## *Easter Changes Everything*

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



# CHANGING FOR THE BETTER

For the most part, people resist change. We're creatures of habit and we like our routines and patterns of behavior that we're comfortable with. We like life to be predictable. Oddly enough, this tends to be true even when our life is unhealthy or dysfunctional and obviously in need of some change for the better. But the status quo is what we're used to, and the fear of the unknown and the stress of changing keeps us in the same rut.

But change can be beneficial, and the fact is, eventually change is inevitable. It's just a matter of whether we will change for the better or for the worse. During the Lenten season this year, our *40 Days of Discovery* have largely been about change, that is, growing and improving in our understanding of life's purposes and in making life adjustments accordingly. God is all about effecting change in us. The first thing He does is change us from being dead in sin to being alive in Christ. He changes us from being His enemy into His friend. He changes us from being Spiritually ignorant to enlightened.

This is what the Bible calls our "justification" or conversion, when God the Holy Spirit works through the means of grace (i.e., His Word and Sacraments) to give us saving faith and to make us members of His forever family. But beyond that, God also continues to work in our hearts and lives through the same means of grace to effect on-going change and improvement in our attitudes and actions. This process of character development is what is called "sanctification." As our behavior improves, we don't become more saved than we were already, we just demonstrate our salvation and our personal relationship with God more consistently and practically.

Have you found yourself making some changes for the better as a result of the Lenten emphasis? Has your reading and small group discussion moved you to make some improvements in your Christian walk as a follower of Jesus? I pray that it has for you even as it has for me. Part of our Christian maturing is the realization that we haven't arrived and that we never will until we arrive in heaven. I've found that the more highly developed disciples are humble,

and are always aware of their ongoing need for the Gospel and the forgiveness of sins that it gives us. As Jesus taught us to say in Luke 17:10, we are always *"unworthy servants (who) have only done what was our duty."*

As the calendar changes from March to April, we continue in the Lenten season. But by April 10 (Palm or Passion Sunday) we'll be into Holy Week and the Lenten season (and our 40 Days of Discovery) will be coming to an end. By the way, here's another change for you. This year for the first time, our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 6:30 pm, rather than 7:00 pm. This is consistent with the 6:30 pm service times that we had on Wednesday nights in both Advent and Lent and will be our new routine! Easter Vigil will remain 5:00 pm, since it's the Lamplight service that night. Our Easter Sunrise communion service will remain at 7:30 am, with the Easter breakfast at 9:00 am, and the Easter Morning Song communion service at 11:00 am.

Even though there will be unchanged service times for Easter, our theme for this year is that Easter Changes Everything! While this may sound intimidating to some, the things that Easter changes are truly things that need to be changed! Each weekend throughout the seven weeks of the Easter season will address some aDverse and unDesirable things that really needed changing (and they all start with the letter "D"), namely: Death, Doubt, Denial, Distraction, Desertion, Darkness, and Division). Like "Ding Dong, the witch is Dead," we'll be able to celebrate with joy this Easter season the Demise of these Dastardly things through Jesus' Defeating of Death, the Devil, and all things Diabolical. If you're not one to come to church much beyond Easter Sunday, here's a great opportunity to change that and to become one who makes weekly worship a regular habit. May our unchanging God, work His good will in our lives and enable us to make some changes for the better.



# WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

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:

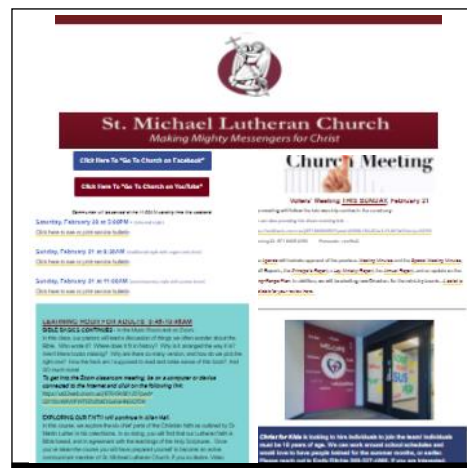
**DEVELOP**, by the power of the Holy Spirit working through His Word and Sacraments, a more vibrant and personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ that expresses itself in consistent prayer and worship; and to

**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.

## 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:

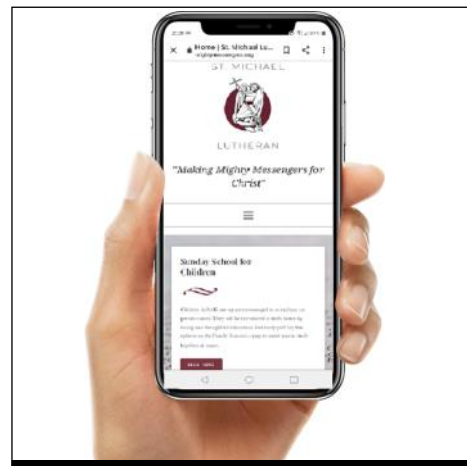
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

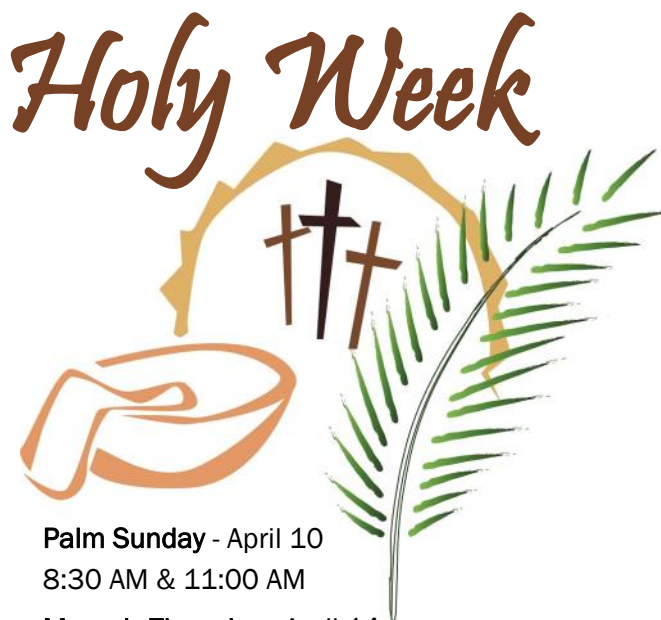
Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

### mightymessengers.org

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



JOIN US!



**Palm Sunday - April 10**

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

**Maundy Thursday - April 14**

6:30 PM

**Good Friday - April 15**

6:30 PM

**Easter Vigil - April 16**

5:00 PM

**Easter Sunrise - April 17 at 7:30 AM**

*Join us for a family brunch 9:00-11:00 AM*

**Easter Morning Song - April 17 at 11:00 AM**



# WORSHIP

Gathering around God's Word and Sacraments to receive

*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*

"It is written" is how Jesus responded to Satan's temptations in the wilderness, and this itself should cause us to stop and marvel. The Son of God himself, the Word incarnate, chose to respond to Satan with scripture that was already written down and would stand forever.

By now I hope you have noticed the wonderful new addition to our sanctuary: our beautiful pew Bibles. These new Bibles are all in the English Standard Version (what we use during weekend worship), and also include Luther's Small Catechism in the back.

We are so blessed to have so many copies of the Bible in our beautiful sanctuary; the word of God is His great gift to us and our heritage.

Please never hesitate to open these Bibles during worship, following along with the readings, and even getting a little better context of where the readings fall in the narrative of scripture.

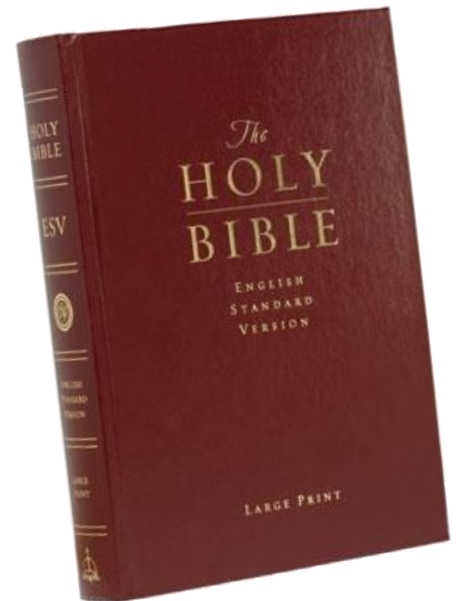
God bless you as we walk together with God's unbreakable Word as our guide and stay.

+++

God's Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.

+++

*Pastor Maske*



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

**April 3, 2022 – The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:16-21; Luke 20:9-20**

**“CORNERSTONE OF SALVATION” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 20:17B**

**- REV. SHAYNE JONKER**

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” The Messiah of Israel, Jesus, is a rejected Messiah. One the architects and builders of Israel thought unfit to be the cornerstone, but God sizes up the angles differently. This Jesus, born of the Virgin, crucified and risen, reigning at the right hand of God, the One who baptizes you and forgives you and feeds you is the rejected Rock of Israel and the Cornerstone of your salvation.



**April 10, 2022 – Sunday of the Passion**

**Psalm 118:19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; John 12:20-43**

**“A TROUBLED SOUL” - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 12:20-43**

**- REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER**

Jesus faced a horrific death on Calvary's cross. In anticipation of this tortuous, world changing event, Jesus said, “Now is my soul troubled.” This troubled soul conquers His fear and fulfills His purpose, the salvation of all.

**April 17, 2022 – Easter Sunday**

**Psalm 16; Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 24:1-12**

**“CREATED NEW FROM EMPTY” - SERMON TEXT: ISAIAH 65:17-25**

**- REV. WILLIAM MUELLER**

Easter Sunday – what a day to celebrate! Jesus is risen from the dead! Jesus lives, no more to die! But Easter is far, far more than just a day to celebrate. It is a movement and activity of God to be lived every day! We discover more about this in the prophecy of Isaiah. Through Jesus Christ and His resurrection we have something new from something empty!

**April 24, 2022 – Second Sunday of Easter**

**Psalm 148; Revelation 1:4-18; John 20:19-31**

**“JESUS ENTERS LOCKED DOORS” - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 20:19, 36**

**- REV. DR. THOMAS AHLERSMEYER**

What are the “locked doors” of your life – a chronic physical ailment, a broken relationship, a dead-end job, or whatever else seemingly holds you captive? The One who burst the bonds of death, the One who holds the keys of Death and Hades, the One who came to the disciples through locked doors – by His liberating death and resurrection, as the firstborn of the dead, He enters and opens our sin-imposed, self-inflicted prisons, granting to us belief, peace, and a life that continues into eternity.



*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

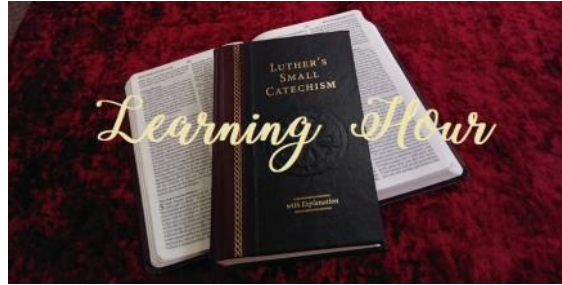


# DISCIPLESHIP

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

· **9:15 am to 9:45 am Fellowship Time** in Allan Hall (for those attending the 11:00 am worship service) with **Video and Discussion** 9:45 am to 10:45 am in the Music Room (114) with David Groll & Jesse Hogue

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87649486125?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87649486125?pwd=Q21Dcm9lV0FWTOZnZltdOGx6aHNGQT09)

[pwd=Q21Dcm9lV0FWTOZnZltdOGx6aHNGQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87649486125?pwd=Q21Dcm9lV0FWTOZnZltdOGx6aHNGQT09)

· **9:45 am to 10:45 am Video and Discussion** (for those attending the 8:30 am worship service) and 10:45 am to 11:15 am **Fellowship Time** in Allan Hall

- with coffee, snacks, conversation, and prayer hosted by Angie and John Heimlich - Children are welcome or they can be in Sunday School (age 3 & younger in the Nursery).

### Consider this:

A jar of 52 marbles sits before you – one for each week of the year – it's a reminder about the number of hours in a given year for the volunteers and staff of the church to teach children in Sunday School.

After subtracting a few marbles for sick days, vacations, holidays, etc. – we have less than 45 opportunities this year to impact a child with critical truths about life, God and eternity; less than 45 chances to teach a child things he needs to know about salvation, God's love, and scriptural principles; less than 45 connections that will help kids build relationships with Christian friends.

Let that sink in a moment... to make a comparison, the average fourth grade boy, will spend 400 hours studying math and over 500 hours playing video games.

Has your family committed to have your children attend close to this number of hours (or more) of Sunday School, Life Skills and Vacation Bible School programs?



**Sunday Mornings 9:45AM**  
**PS-2nd Grades in Room #120**

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

**8th-High School in Youth Room**

**DEAR PARENTS:**

**SEND YOUR KIDS ON  
A MOUNTAINTOP  
ADVENTURE!**

At Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School, kids discover Jesus' power can pull them through life's ups and downs.

Rocky Railway is filled with 5 mornings of incredible Bible-learning experiences where kids see, hear, touch, and even taste of God's love!

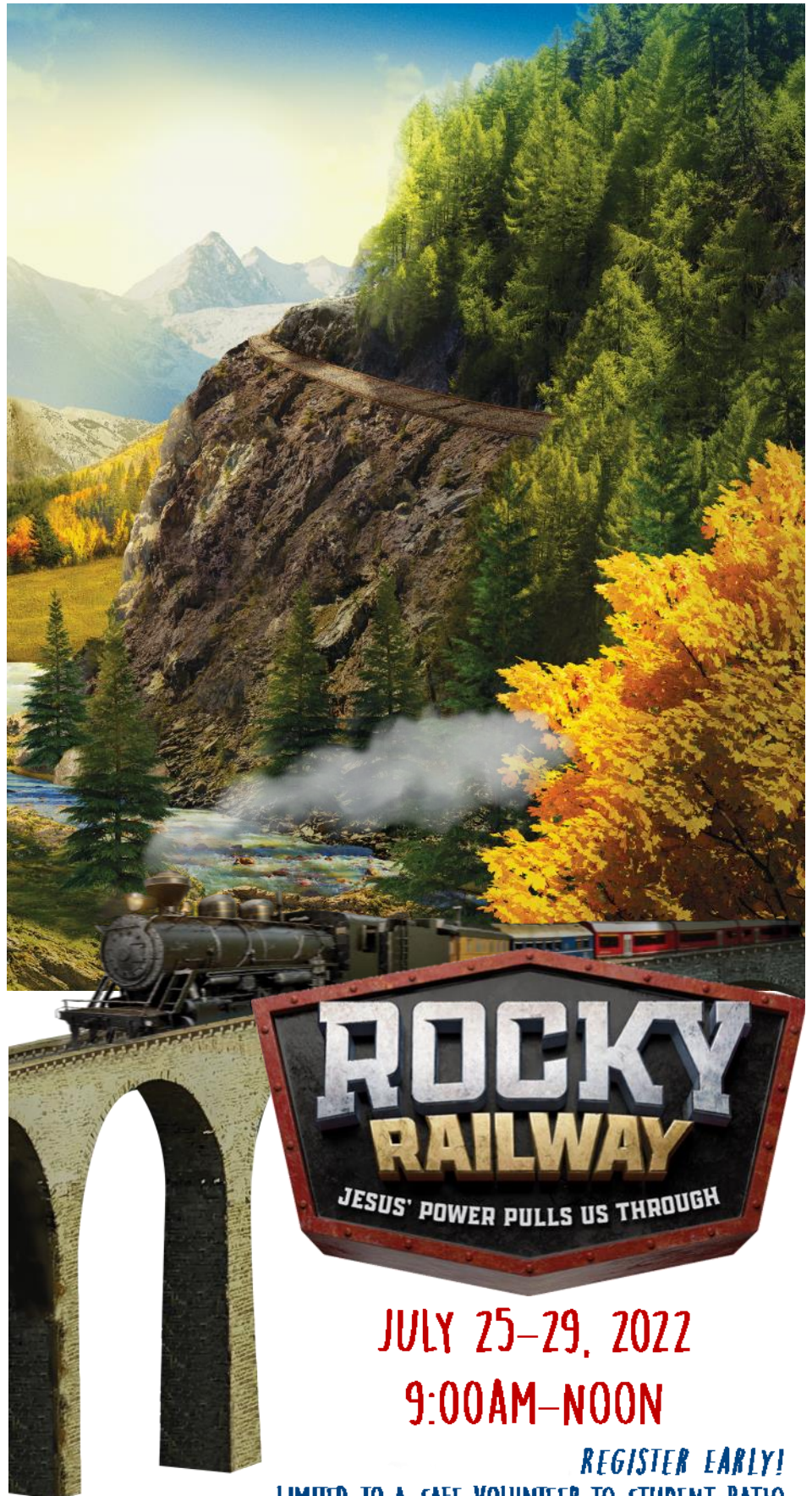
Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life.

Your kids will also participate in a mission project. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®.

**MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE  
NEEDED TO MAKE THIS  
WONDERFUL WEEK A  
SUCCESS...**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**[MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG](http://MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG)**



**REGISTER EARLY!  
LIMITED TO A SAFE VOLUNTEER TO STUDENT RATIO**



### A PLACE FOR CHILDREN

Here, at St. Michaels, we are so fortunate to have a school where each teacher prays for and with their classes every day. The Bible curriculum encourages memorizing scripture, Luther's Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer. A prayer request list is posted on whiteboards and student led prayers include these requests. Every Tuesday morning the whole school gathers in the gym for devotions and prays together, and then they sing the doxology. Then there is Praise and Worship time at 9:00 every Friday morning in church.

Prayer is critical in our plan to teach boys and girls the deep truths of scripture and without an intentional prayer life, we all may struggle. The good news is that the bible itself gives us great encouragement about prayer. Here are a few things we can learn from scripture about prayer.

Jesus is our example. Many places in the gospels record Jesus separating himself from the crowds and seeking the Father in prayer. Here are just a few for you to consider. Matthew 14:23 and 2:36; Mark 1:35, 6:46 and 14:32; Luke 5:16 and 6:12. Jesus' example of prayer shows how important prayer is to a healthy spiritual life. As we plan, we should take Jesus' example and seek God consistently and intentionally in prayer.

Jesus prayed for children. Three of the gospel accounts show Jesus' care and concern for children as these snapshots talk about a time when parents were bringing their children to Jesus so he could bless them. Check out Matthew 19:13-1, Mark 10:13-16, and Luke 18:15-17. Jesus knew the importance of praying for children. As we prepare for teaching our children, we should share Jesus' love and concern with our own children and other children we know.



Prayer is commanded. Many places in scripture give us encouragement on prayer. Sometimes we might not know what to pray, but God, through the Holy Spirit, will help us do that too (see Romans 8:26). We should always be in an attitude of prayer, trusting God to hear us and answer us as he wills. See a few other verses that encourage prayer: Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and 1 Timothy 2:1.

It's a great idea to tell kids that prayer is just a conversation with God. One definition defines prayer as "talking to God and listening to him." This definition evokes a conversational attitude where two people are talking and listening to each other. Our communication with God is not just important in the quiet times we spend with him, but we should be the outward example of that communication as we lead boys and girls to discover how to talk to and listen to God. As we begin helping kids discover a closer relationship with God through prayer, they will grow deeper in their understanding of and have a relationship with him.

Build children Lord, who in times of joy, never forget how to weep, and in times of sadness, never forget how to laugh. Build children Lord who in defeat, are gracious and in victory are gentle. When they falter, give them courage. When they fail, extend mercy to them. Amen.

Prayerfully,  
*Virginia Hetrick* – Prayer Coordinator



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



### CHRIST FOR KIDS CHILDCARE

*Education with Christ at the Heart*

- Wacky Wednesday
- Dr. Seuss
- St. Patrick's Day
- 100 Days of School
- Fox in Socks
- Pets Theme
- Washing our Friends feet, like Jesus Did at The Last Supper
- Green eggs and ham





# FELLOWSHIP

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

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*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*

## God Loves MARRIAGE

### Birch Run Marriage Encounter Weekend – The 5-W's

**Who:** Attention all Married Couples  
**What:** Marriage Encounter Weekend  
**When:** April 22-24, 2022. Starts Friday at 7:00 pm and ends Sunday around 3:00 pm  
**Where:** Comfort Inn, Birch Run, MI

**Why:** Marriages and families are under the greatest demonic attack of our lifetimes. This broken world needs strong marriages and families that glorify God by living out His purposes first in the family and then to the ends of the earth.

During this Encounter Weekend, you will receive unique and powerful equipping from the married couple leaders. Through a series of authentic testimonial teachings, learn how to have safe heart talks with your spouse that builds deep emotional connection and intimacy. You will come away from this Encounter Weekend refreshed and grateful for God's gift of marriage.

Don't miss this opportunity to bless your spouse and family and to glorify God.

**Registration & Information :** <https://godlovesmarriage.org/event/birch-run-mi-marriage-encounter/>

**For more information:**

Mark & Janet Chilcott - (269) 998-6147

Brian and Donna Zelner - (269) 870-6144

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### Lutheran Golf League:

#### Openings for 2022 Season!

Practice round and schedule handouts at Pineview Golf Club on April 28<sup>th</sup> Official start up May 5<sup>th</sup> Play will go on for twenty weeks, ending in September.

If you are on a team no need to reply. If you would like to play, please e-mail me

at: [aallan@arvco.com](mailto:aallan@arvco.com) or call me at: 269-370-7052. *Will be in touch!*

As far as I know costs are the same \$25.00 league fee, plus greens fees. *Looking forward to another fun year!*







**YOUTH MINISTRY  
WILL BE SERVING  
9-11 am**



**April 17, 2022**

The St. Michael Youth Group will host the church family for breakfast for the first time in three years. Please join us in the gym for an assortment of Egg and French Toast Casseroles, Quiches, Muffins, Fruits, Juices, and Coffee *(and dry cereals for the child that won't eat anything else!)*.

We are excited to continue the Easter breakfast tradition and to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Great things are happening in YOUTH MINISTRY!**

**Bible Study Every Sunday Morning in the Youth Room.**

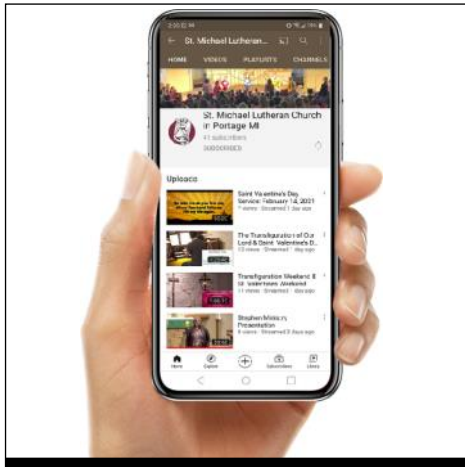
**Activities on Sunday evenings 5-7PM**



**Pancake Supper 2022 recap:**


Tuesday, March 1, 2022 was a very special evening at St Michael Lutheran Church. For the first time in over two years the church family was able to safely gather together for a major celebration. It had not happened on a large scale since the same event was held in 2020. On this night over 225 Christ-filled fellowship-loving pancake-deprived people came out to celebrate Lent, Mardi Gras and life in general. Blueberry, chocolate chip, potato, and traditional plain pancakes were the main attraction on the menu while the entertainment was provided in the sanctuary by Christian Illusionist, Duane Laflin who put on a terrific show.

A great night was had with so many members just happy to sit and catch up with friends they had not seen in so long. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers for the dinner prep and serving, the kitchen/gym/sanctuary cleanup, the SMLS student voices, and all those that gathered to support the event. It was a wonderful evening!



## STAY CONNECTED

### YouTube

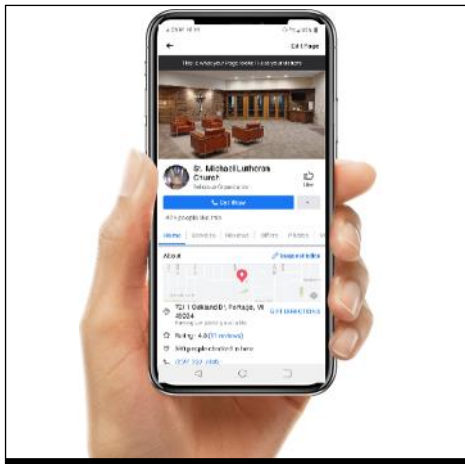
On the St. Michael  YouTube page, You can find sermon videos, Bible classes, guest speakers, children's devotions and Vacation Bible School lessons. Find us at:

St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage MI

### Facebook

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

@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI



### TRIP – Tuition Reduction Incentive Program



Order gift certificates, get money back towards your tuition – It's that easy!!!

Not familiar with TRIP? TRIP is a tuition reduction program that allows you to purchase gift cards for items you would already be buying, such as groceries, gas, restaurants, etc. A percentage of the purchase price (variable by vendor) is then refunded back to your tuition account, (minus 1%). You may also choose to have your refund donated to another family or to the general scholarship fund.

On the order form, you will see a % indicated by each merchant. You pay the full value of the gift certificate, then you will get the indicated % amount, (minus 1%), back in your tuition account! (The 1% is for administration expenses, which in part includes shipping cost and banking fees.)

Example: Order a \$100 Speedway gift certificate (at 4%).  
Pay \$100 for the certificate.  
You receive \$3.00 towards your tuition account.  
Fund management receives \$1.00.

Profits accumulate are posted in your weekly. Please continue to make your regular tuition payments.

Order forms are available in the school office or use the convenient app for your smartphone.

## SMLS & CHURCH FAMILY FUN NIGHT



April 9th, 2022 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Great Skate Roller Rink

10496 Portage Rd, Portage

Cost: \$5 per roller skater, \$20 max per family

\$2 per non roller skaters (Children 4 & under free)

PTL is sponsoring a family fun night at Great Skate Roller Rink in Portage. This event is open to all SMLS family and church members. Pizza, snacks and drinks will be provided. Please pre-pay for the event in the school office. Contact the PTL via email at [PTL@mightymessengers.com](mailto:PTL@mightymessengers.com) with any questions or to volunteer. (Inline extra \$4)



# 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/>

## FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

4 Months

11/1/2021-2/28/2022

Church Revenue	\$ 282,331
School Revenue	\$ <u>547,464</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 829,795
Total Expenses	\$ <u>629,464</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 200,331
Expense Budget	\$ 641,070
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 188,725
Working Cash Balance	\$ 226,152
Mortgage Balance	\$ 744,357

### Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$723,558
Building Contingency	\$ 38,371
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 8,054
Sunday School	\$ 273
Youth Donations	\$ 16,534
Youth Accounts	\$ 10,155
Good Samaritan	\$ 4,232
Memorials	\$ 7,440
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 10,832
Quilting	\$ 446
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 535
School Improvements	\$ 33,101
Tuition Assistance	\$ 58,253
School Music	\$ 221
Flower Fund	\$ 5,923
CFK Grant Fund	\$ 0
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,745
Faith Budget	\$ 55,000

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December Avg. ....	491
January Avg. ....	252
February Avg. ....	284
March Avg. ....	373
Annual Avg. 2019 .....	347
Annual Avg. 2020 .....	197
(+ uncounted online viewers)	
Annual Avg. 2021 .....	265
Annual Avg. 2022 .....	299

# 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*

## ST. MICHAEL LAMP TEAM 2022



2019 St. Michael LAMP Team

We are forming the next team to go to Lac Brochet, Manitoba, Canada for a summer trip August 4–14, 2022.

We are currently making arrangements with the leadership in Lac Brochet to come this summer.

During the week we are in Lac Brochet we will run the Vacation Bible School, hold teen nights and women's and men's bible study groups, hang out with the children at the beach, walking on the road, and playing games by the rectory, letting them know that Jesus loves them.



Would you like to know more? Talk to Pastor or Dana Naumann and they can share more about the amazing ministry which has been going on with Lac Brochet for over 10 years.

The children are so excited to have us come back. Do you want to be part of the team? Dana's email [dana.naumann@gmail.com](mailto:dana.naumann@gmail.com) or phone 269 808 7832





## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



Representatives of five Portage churches (including St. Michael) who have a heart to reach the Colonial Acres Neighborhood and share the love of Jesus, met recently to pray together and make plans for upcoming ministry events.



### Colonial Acres Community

### Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 16**

**1:00pm to 2:30pm**

We are so excited to announce that Youth for Christ and the coalition of churches will be hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt again for the Colonial Acres Community and residents. It has been 2 years since we have been able to serve this community in this way, and we are so excited to be back.

We are needing **volunteers** with a heart to serve others. This is a great fellowship opportunity and wonderful way to bring worship to this community. We are looking for families who will help set up, welcome the community, play games, hand out refreshments and clean up.

We will have a sound system with music, games, refreshments, and a raffle for the residents of Colonial Acres. If you have small children, they may also participate in the egg hunt.

We also need donations of individually-wrapped candy. (like skittles, bubble gum, fun fruits, m&m's)

There will be a candy collection site in the Communication Center and Church Office. We will be collecting candy until Sunday, April 10.

A **Vision Sharing Time** will be on **Wednesday, March 30 at 6:00pm** in the Gym. Stop by to discuss the event and sign-up as volunteers.

There will be snacks and candy.

**Volunteers, Candy  
and Prayers Needed!!**



### New Members To Be Received - March 12, 2022

**Jeff Young** (Profession of Faith)

269-649-0804 jndcyoung@comcast.net

(mailbox #358)

6926 Hayward Drive, Vicksburg, MI 49097

**Zach Button** (Profession of Faith)

810-844-6860

(mailbox #272)

1567 Kickapoo Ct., Kalamazoo, MI 49006

**Gay Fleming** (Affirmation of Faith)

269-666-1167 lynnlove3033@gmail.com

(mailbox #128)

2131 Mansfield Avenue, Portage, MI 49024

**Greg & Cari Richmond** (Profession of Faith)

269-327-5911 gregncari@att.net (mailbox #263)

4624 Hanover Avenue, Portage, MI 49002

*We Are Glad You Are Here!*

# LCMSFoundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Randy was somewhat of a hypochondriac throughout his life. His fear of catching a disease or getting cancer caused him to become a recluse in his house. He gave up gathering with family, attending Church, or even taking a walk in the park. All of these things seemed like they posed danger to him. The sad thing is that for decades, he was forfeiting living of life, trying to preserve life, only to find that he had become the biggest loser.

As Christians we don't live in such paralysis of fear, even though certain areas of our lives may reflect it still. Avoiding the planning of our estate because we are afraid that if we talk about the end of our lives that talk will make it a reality, is choosing to live in fear rather than faith. On the one hand it is true that end of life planning does acknowledge there is an end coming, but it's not really end of life. It's just the end of current circumstances, for life lasts forever in Jesus, who conquered death by rising from the dead.

With that confidence we choose to use the legal tools of wills and trusts, constructed by our attorneys, to guide our affairs. But this process is more than just a legal transaction. It is an act of love, providing for family care. It is an act of love providing support for ministry so that countless more will hear the Gospel and come to faith in Jesus. Live in that faith and love. Express it in your plans. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact...

**Julie Burgess, Gift Planning Counselor**  
Church Extension Fund  
1863 Hunters Creek Drive  
Superior Township, MI 48198  
713-822-5284



**“Exploring Our Faith”**

Contact the Church Office,  
to register or assist a friend in  
learning more!  
269-327-7832  
[naumann@mightymessengers.org](mailto:naumann@mightymessengers.org)


What does it mean to be a Lutheran? What do Lutherans believe? How is this similar and/or different from the doctrines taught by other denominations and religions? What makes Saint Michael Lutheran Church special? How do we care for one another and how can I get involved in what God is doing among us?

In order to address these questions, we offer this course of instruction entitled: **“Exploring Our Faith.”** It is taught on Sunday mornings during the same time as the children's Sunday School and other Adult Bible Classes, at 9:45 am to 10:45 am.

### Course Schedule (Spring of 2022)

Date	Lesson #	Topic
5/1	Lesson #1:	God and the Bible
5/8	Lesson #2:	The Father & Creation
5/15	Lesson #3:	Sin & the Law
5/22	Lesson #4:	Person & Work of Jesus
5/29	Lesson #5:	The Holy Spirit
6/5	Lesson #6:	Holy Baptism
6/12	Lesson #7:	The Lord's Supper
6/19	Lesson #8:	Lord's Prayer
6/26	Lesson #9:	Office of the Keys

Saturday, July 9: 10:00 am — Noon  
*New Member Orientation*



SEEKING GOLFERS & SPONSORS  
FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL

## JESUS LOVES KZOO GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

**MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022**  
**LYNX GOLF CLUB**  
900 LINCOLN RD, OTSEGO, MI 49078

All Proceeds Support Jesus Loves Kzoo  
Sponsor & Registration Info on Back

**JESUS LOVES KZOO**

[Jesusloveskzoo.org/golf-fundraiser/](https://Jesusloveskzoo.org/golf-fundraiser/)



## GIVING GIFTS

What's the best gift you have ever received? Conversely, what's the very best gift you have ever given? Which means more to you today? Do you expectantly wait at birthdays or Christmas pondering what wonderful surprise you may receive or do you get more joy from thoughtfully contemplating the perfect gift for your loved one?

There's a story about a young man named Tom, who receives a new car as a gift from his brother. A kid on the street sees the car and asks, "Hey mister, is that yours?"

"Yes, my brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The amazed kid responded, "He gave it to you and it didn't cost you nothing?"

Then the kid said, "Boy I wish..." and Tom thought he knew what he was going to say, but was astonished to hear the street kid say, "I wish I could be a brother like that."

In Acts 20:35 Paul reminds us about giving. "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'".

God has certainly been generous to us. He provides our daily needs. He listens and comforts us with His Word. God cares enough to give us His very best, His son, who died on the cross to forgive our sins, restore our covenant with God, and prepare a place for us in Heaven.

As we move through the year, what are ways that we can demonstrate that same spirit of generosity? It could be in the well thought out gifts we give to family and friends. Returning to ministry from the abundance we have received would certainly qualify. Maybe it could be lending a helping hand to a neighbor in need, stopping to assist the person struggling with a task, or just a friendly smile to the stranger we encounter at the store.

You can make a difference in the lives of countless people. It doesn't need to be expensive. Be creative and share the love of God with the people He places in your life.

We invite you to partner with Church Extension Fund to help Build the Kingdom. Sharing the 120-year story of serving the Michigan District by investing with CEF as we plan for the future. We look forward to serving with you.



**NEW DATE IS MAY 21**



1997-2022

**REV. DR. PAUL NAUMANN**  
(and DANA)

IN MINISTRY AT  
**ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL**

**5:00PM 21 MAY**

hors d'oeuvres reception  
**7211 OAKLAND DRIVE  
PORTAGE, MICHIGAN**

**RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE 269-327-7832  
BY MAY 7, 2022**

# 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

### ♦ Sunday School Teacher or Assistant

Give a current teacher a break! Working knowledge of the Bible and the Christian faith. Love of Children. To teach children the word of God as found in Holy Scripture and to encourage children to live holy lives. The ability to maintain order and discipline in the classroom through planning and organizational skills. For more information, contact Tammy in the Church Office.

### ♦ Children’s Message Ministry

Desire to teach God’s word. The ability to engage and communicate clearly with children. Have a working knowledge of the Bible and the Christian faith. Present in front of the congregation on a given Sunday morning. For more information, contact one of our Pastors or Tammy in the Church Office.

### ♦ Guest Experience Team

Arrive early to church and position yourself near the doors that enter the church building. Help open the door and sincerely welcome those who come to worship. Focus especially on those who are unfamiliar to you, and if you learn that they are a guest, direct them to sign the guest book. As worship is completed, thank them for worshiping at St. Michael, to show them that we care, and to assess needs for follow-up. Pray for our guests and for our efforts to meet their needs and share the Gospel with them. To learn more, contact Arlene Groll at 269-762-5576.

### ♦ Parish Education Board Member

Provide Bible-based educational programs for the congregation that assists in building knowledge of the Christian faith and provides for spiritual growth and maturity. Establish objectives, set policies and supervise the educational programs of the congregation. Encourage participation of every member in Bible study. Cultivate the use of the Church Library. Monthly board meeting and 1-2 hours per month to support activities. To learn more, contact Pastor Maske or David Groll at 269-762-5576.

### ♦ Vacation Bible School Team

We are hoping for a fun, in-person outreach to our community in 2022. It can only happen with the support of our friends of St. Michael and a great leadership team. Please pray about how you will be serving the Lord during this Vacation Bible School season! We need you all! Mark your calendar for July 24-30 and talk with Tammy in the Church Office about more details.



## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE OFFERS

### ESTATE & GIFT PLANNING WORKSHOP MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

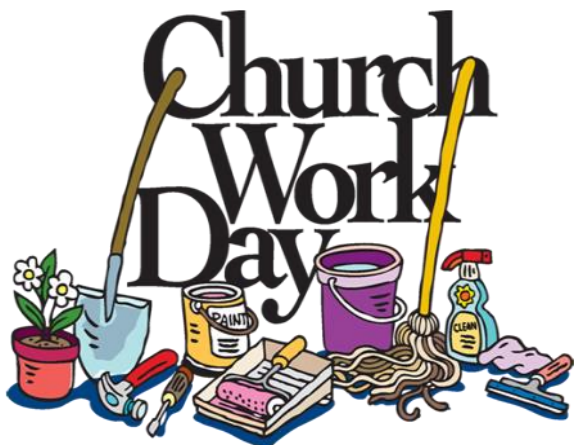
The St. Michael Endowment Committee is pleased and excited to offer an **Estate and Planned Giving Workshop** for all members during the Adult Learning Hour between services (9:45-10:45) on Sunday May 1. The workshop will be presented by our LCMS/CEF Gift Planning Counselor, Julie Burgess.

You may be asking yourself, why do I need an estate plan or why should I change my existing plan? Even as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we also know that His victory is so sweet because it gives eternal life even as our present lives here on earth are finite. An estate and gift plan that designs how God's gifts will be distributed to the family you love and the ministries you care about, begins with a face-to-face confrontation with end-of-life issues. Yet, end of life is not really accurate for a child of God. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and life...whoever lives and believes in me will by no means die, forever." During the workshop, Julie will describe how she helps individual members through the Lifetime Plan for Giving process. This four-step process gives you time to gather information and look at options for how God wants you to use your financial blessings to gift both your family and the ministries you care about long after He has called you home. She will walk you through the process, pray with you and discuss your stewardship goals so that you can create a plan that gives you peace of mind knowing that your wishes are fulfilled. Julie's services are free of charge to all LCMS Michigan District churches and their members. She briefly describes her services in a short YouTube video at the following link (<https://youtu.be/oFlhb9isvNA>).

Even if you're uncertain about the need for an estate plan or already have an existing plan, we encourage you to come on May 1 and listen to what Julie has to say about the services she offers.

*Dave Johnson*

Endowment Committee Member and CEF Representative



**SATURDAY,  
MAY 7  
8:00 AM**

*Welcome To  
God's Family*



### RUSSELL DOUGLAS MATULIS

Born: February 23, 2022

Baptism: March 3, 2022

*Son of*

**Tyler & Kayla Matulis**

*Grandson of*

**Mike & Krista Groetlueschen**

## WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP

**Saturdays at 5:00pm - Informal Worship**

**Sundays at 8:30am - with the organ and  
Lutheran Service Book hymnal**

**Sundays at 11:00am - Contemporary**

*Holy Communion:* The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at Lamplight the Saturday before a second or fourth Sunday; at 8:30am on second, fourth and fifth Sundays; at 11:00am on first, third and fifth Sundays

*Supervised child care is provided throughout Sunday morning worship services.*

*During the Learning Hour (9:45AM-10:45AM) Sunday School is available for kids Preschool to High School, and Adults too!*

# 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**

Rob Kuhlmann

### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Tammy Songer

### **TREASURER**

Jan Jett

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Mark Vickery, Assistant Director

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Matt Colby, Assistant Director

## **BOARD OF SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

Angie Heimlich, Director  
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## **BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR**

Linda West

### **VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Dar Swift

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Lisa Robert

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Chad Doubblestein, Assistant Director

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Ryan & Heather Bigelow

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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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### **ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

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### **CRADLE ROLL**

Peggy Makowski

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Judy Schroeder, 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