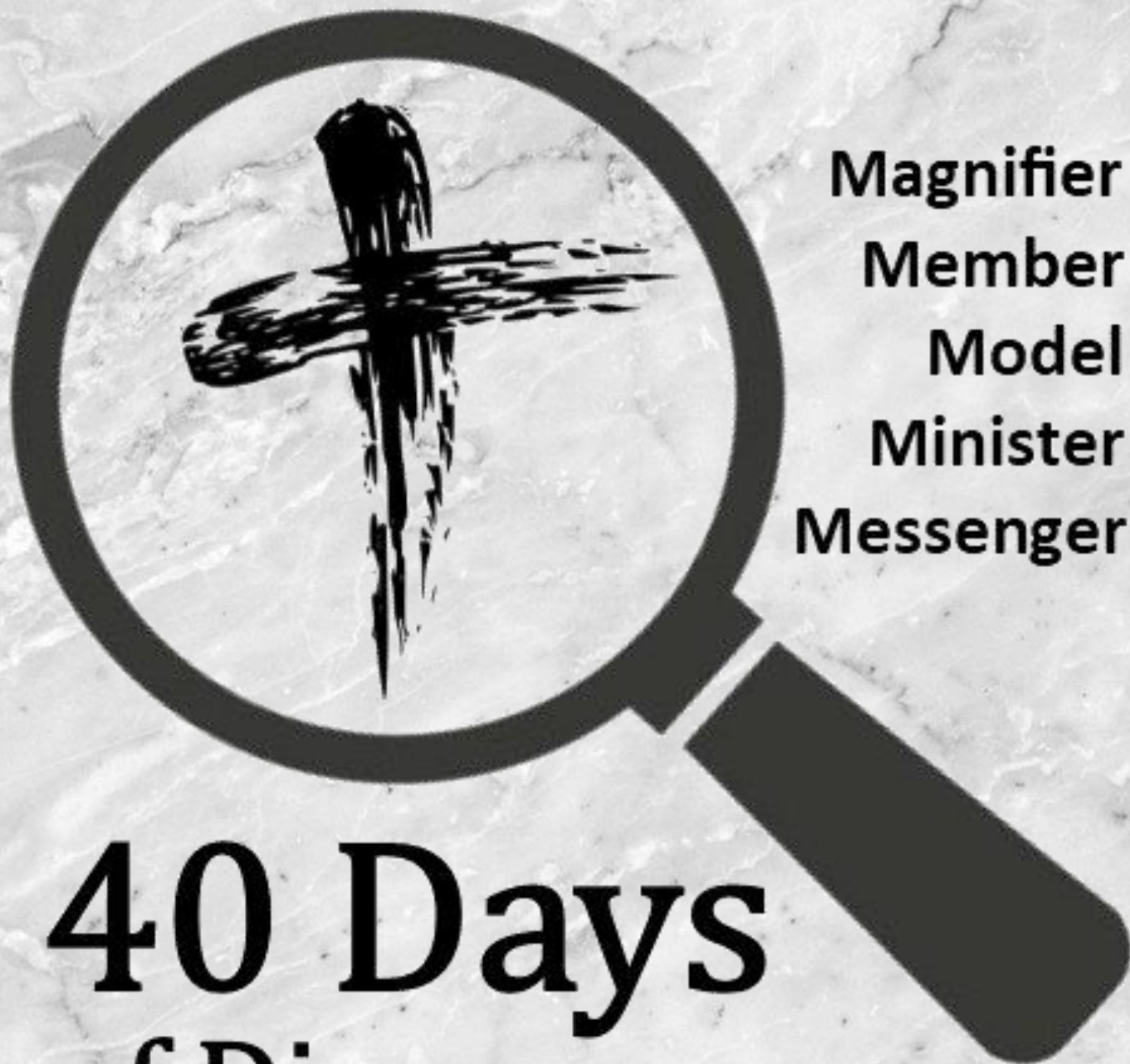




THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

March 2022

Volume 61, Number 3



40 Days of Discovery

Lent + 2022

WELCOME TO “40 DAYS OF DISCOVERY!”

As March begins this year, so does the season of the church called Lent. Over the centuries, Lent has been a time of Spiritual preparation for the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday morning. Historically, it means focusing on the suffering of Christ and pondering His passion. It often includes a time of fasting, deliberately depriving yourself of something for the forty days (not counting Sundays) of Lent. For some this means not eating meat on Fridays and for others it might be a fast from Facebook. Giving something up for Lent can be a Spiritually healthy thing to do, as Martin Luther puts it in the Small Catechism, “fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training.”

But doing without something is most beneficial when we replace it with something better. So, for example, if we fast from mindlessly scrolling through TikTok videos, great! But what are we going to replace it with? The best thing would be daily devotional time with reading and prayer, and that’s exactly what we’re going to be doing through the “**40 Days of Discovery**.” Every day, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2 (Ashes and Communion at 6:30 pm), we will be reading the book ***The Purpose Driven Life***, which is loaded with Bible verses that help us discover the meaning and purpose of our lives. We will be reminded that everything about our lives starts and ends with God, and that we are not here by accident, but by His gracious design for our eternal existence.

Viewing life from God’s perspective will be very enlightening, and will add value to our lives and meaning to our existence in this world. We will all come to discover that God made us to be...

magnifiers of His majesty in worship that receives and gives;

members of His forever family in loving relationship with each other;

models in our daily living of our Savior who lived and died for us;

ministers in His service for the good of His Kingdom and of our neighbor;

messengers of His saving Gospel to a lost and dying world.

If you have not done so already, please stop at the **display table in the Welcome Center** and receive your free copy of the book along with a schedule and other literature. There you can also sign up for a small group that will meet for about an hour and a half each week to watch and discuss a video talk, and to pray together for each other. In addition to our usual weekend worship opportunities, there will be an additional devotional service each Wednesday night at 6:30, right after Confirmation Class at 6:00. Come early and enjoy a Lenten supper in the gym, beginning at 5:00.

We’ll be launching the “40 Days of Discovery” in a fun way on Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras in the gym with our annual pancake supper (serving from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm). Afterwards, everyone is invited to the sanctuary for a brief musical presentation by our St. Michael Lutheran School children prior to our special guest entertainer, ***the renowned Christian magician, Duane Laflin*** and his assistants from the Grand Magic Theater in Colon, MI (“the magic capital of the world”). We’re hoping that some of our small groups may continue to meet beyond the Lenten season, but for the most part we will be celebrating the conclusion of the special emphasis on Easter Sunday morning, April 17, at the Easter Breakfast at 9:00 am between our two Easter Sunday communion services (7:30 and 11:00). May the Lord bless all this singular Lenten focus, and may you and I be blessed to be a part of it all together.

In Christ,



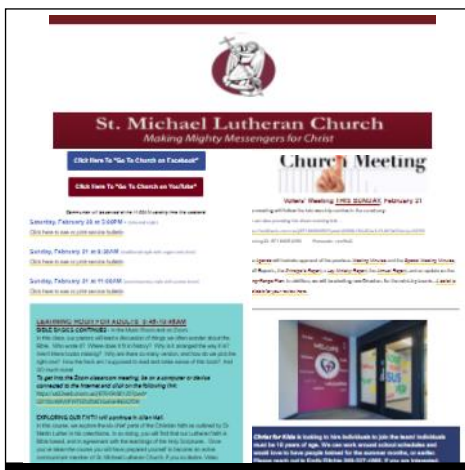
Date	Worship	Topic	Daily Reading (and Small Group Topic)
3/2	Ash Wednesday 1:00 pm – SMLS Chapel Supper – 5:00 pm 6:30 pm – Communion Service	Introduction What on Earth Am I Hear For?	Read Days 1-7 Begin Week 1 – <i>What on Earth Am I Here For?</i>
3/5-6	First Sunday in Lent (Temptation of Our Lord) 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> https://youtu.be/O3rd0ow_P2s (Or Session #1 from DVD)
3/9	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	Magnifier You were Planned for God’s Pleasure	Read Days 8-14 Begin Week 2 - <i>You Were Planned for God’s Pleasure</i>
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>	<i>You Were Planned for God’s Pleasure</i> https://youtu.be/k0UnKwJ-e30 (Or Session #2 from DVD)
3/16	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	Member You Were Formed for God’s Family	Read Days 15-21 Begin Week 3 - <i>You Were Formed for God’s Family</i>
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>	<i>You Were Formed For God’s Family</i> https://youtu.be/oP597MBEY7A (Or Session #3 from DVD)
3/23	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	Model You Were Created to Become Like Christ	Read Days 22-28 Begin Week 4 - <i>You Were Created to Become Like Christ</i>
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>	<i>You Were Created to Become Like Christ</i> https://youtu.be/Hkera-lZICE (Or Session #4 from DVD)
3/30	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	Minister You Were Shaped for Serving God	Read Days 29-35 Begin Week 5 - <i>You Were Shaped for Serving God</i>
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>	<i>You Were Shaped for Serving God</i> https://youtu.be/v3VS56aFhUU (Or Session #5 from DVD)
4/6	Lenten Supper – 5:00 pm Confirmation Class – 6:00 pm Devotional Service - 6:30 pm	Messenger: You Were Made for a Mission	Read Days 36-42 Begin Week 6 – <i>You Were Made for a Mission</i>
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>	<i>You Were Made for a Mission</i> https://youtu.be/vbF5ShqWm8E (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>	<i>(Flex time to get caught up on the reading as needed)</i>
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>	<i>(Flex time to get caught up on the reading as needed)</i>

SMALL GROUPS AVAILABLE ARE LISTED AT WWW.MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG/40-DAYS-OF-DISCOVERY

WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

STAY CONNECTED



Email Updates

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

Office Contacts:

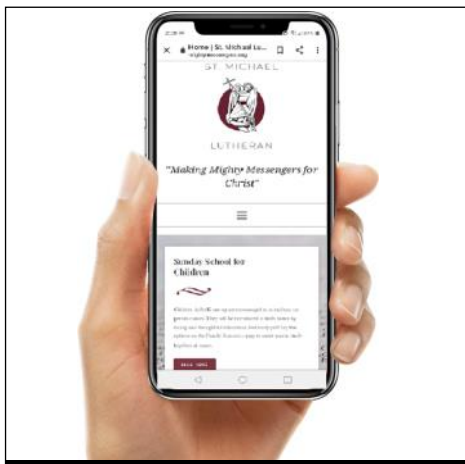
Church + 269-327-7832

School + 269-327-0512

Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

mightymessengers.org

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



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

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

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

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

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

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturdays at 5:00pm - *Informal Worship*

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

Sundays at 11:00am - *Contemporary Worship*

March 2-April 13 -- Wednesday Evenings during the Lenten Season -- you are invited to enjoy a meal and fellowship at 5:00-6:15pm and a brief Worship time at 6:30pm.

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!

A SEASON OF
HOPE
LENT

Share God's love
with your neighbors
this Lent.

**Make Personal
Care Kits!**



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

AS A PART OF OUR 40 DAYS OF DISCOVERY, we ask the congregation to reach out to our neighbors in the most fragile corners of the world and in the most challenging circumstances by assembling **PERSONAL CARE KITS**. *Collecting items through March.*

Completed kits have: ONE light-weight bath-size towel, Bath-size bars of soap (equaling 8-9 oz.) in original wrapping, ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging, ONE sturdy comb, ONE metal nail clipper.

Please place **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS** in the wooden chest in the Communication Center.

Help people in crisis to feel human. To feel loved. To feel that someone cares.

**ASSEMBLY DATE IS
WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 30!
5:30-6:30 PM**



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

Hey, y'all! If you've ever lived down South (or have southern family) you have heard this wonderful second person plural form many times before. It's not really something we have up in Michigan (our version being something closer to "you guys"). Technically, a person can get away with simply saying "you" in English, even if speaking to a group of people.

Did you (all) know that the New Testament is mostly full of "y'all" language? Whenever you open up the Bible, you may be tempted to think that it is speaking personally to you... but this is not actually the case at all. In fact, a vast majority of the time (with very few exceptions), the "you" language in Scripture is speaking to "you all" as a group. If you stop to think about it, it just makes sense! After all, Paul's Epistles and the Gospel letters were never written or intended to be sent to one person alone: after all, here we are 2,000 years later still reading them and growing in our faith!

To make things even more interesting, the New Testament was originally not intended to be read by oneself. These letters were sent to be **read aloud to a group of people**, then passed along to the next congregation. Although we now can (and should) have personal Bible study and devotional time, *participating in group Bible study and hearing the Word read to us as a congregation is vitally important*. This is especially crucial to understand in our me-first society in which me/myself/I can become our favorite false god.

When you read Scripture or hear it read, remember that it's not just about you. God's Word was intended (and still is) to be heard and beloved by all y'all! God loves you personally, but the Christian walk is not simply a matter of "your personal walk with Jesus". In fact, the Holy Spirit inspired the Scripture writers to write to all of us together! We together are the church, and we share our Lord Jesus and His Gospel together! God bless us as we grow together in the Faith!

Pastor Maske



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

March 6, 2022 – First Sunday in Lent

PSALM 91:1-13; ROMANS 10:8B-13; LUKE 4:1-13

“THE WORD IS NEAR YOU” - SERMON TEXT: ROMANS 10:8B-13 -
REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

The Apostle Paul reminds us that the Word of God is near us; so near it is in our mouth and in our hearts. What does that mean? How does that impact our lives when we are facing temptation?

March 13, 2022 – Second Sunday in Lent

PSALM 4; PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1; LUKE 13:31-35

“WHAT A CONTRAST!” - SERMON TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1 - REV. DR. THOMAS AHLERSMEYER

Christians are citizens of heaven through our King victorious, Christ the Son of God. This heavenly citizenship changes our attitudes and actions. It changes our lives today and eternally!

March 20, 2022 – Third Sunday in Lent

PSALM 106:4-12; 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-2; LUKE 13:1-9

“THE SEA CROSSING” - SERMON TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-2 -
REV. DR. WALTER MAIER III

The sea crossing in the time of Moses was a miracle and also a foreshadowing of Christian baptism. There are points of similarity between the sea event and baptism which bring us great comfort today.

March 27, 2022 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

PSALM 32:1-11; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21; LUKE 15:1-3A, 11-32

“THE PRODIGAL FATHER” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 9:28-36 -
REV. THOMAS EGGOLD

The story in Luke 15 is often called the “Parable of the Prodigal Son.” But the word prodigal is actually a much better description of the father. You see, “prodigal” means “reckless” or “extravagant” and it is in the father’s unrestrained and overwhelming grace that we find the truth that changes our lives.



Great news!

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

Monday	6AM
Tuesday	10:30 PM
Wednesday	5PM
Thursday	Midnight & 8AM
Friday	5AM & 1PM
Saturday	7AM & 8:30PM
Sunday	3:30 & 11:30 AM, 2PM
Charter Spectrum Channel 189	

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

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

MAGICAL CELEBRATION

with
DUANE LAFLIN



TUESDAY, MARCH 1



Youth Group will be serving
PANCAKES & SAUSAGE
from 5-6:30 PM in the Gym

MAGICAL PRESENTATION AT 6:15 PM

Bring Your Family!

Lutheran Golf League:

Openings for 2022 Season!

Practice round and schedule handouts at Pineview Golf Club on April 28th Official start up May 5th 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 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!



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



Your Relationship Deserves Marriage Encounter!

Comfort Inn & Suites – Birch Run, MI

April 22 – 24, 2022

Apply now at GodLovesMarriage.org!

Questions? Contact Mark & Jan Chilcott
via email or Call 269-998-6147

Pre-registration is required to secure your room and meal reservations
– *don't miss out!*

Join us for a



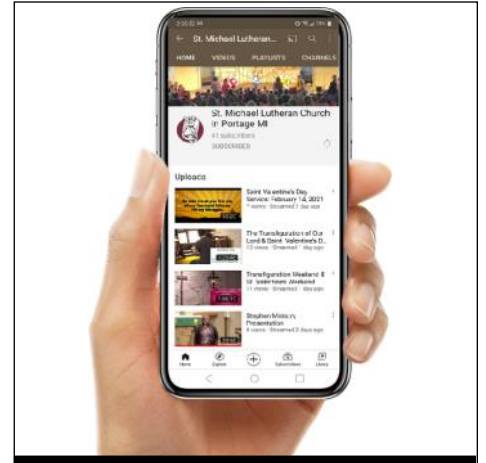
Before the Ash Wednesday Service

Serving 5-6:15 PM in the Gym

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Freewill offering will support VBS 2022

Wednesday Evenings during the Lenten Season –
you are invited to enjoy
a meal and fellowship at 5:00-6:15pm and
a brief Worship time at 6:30pm.



STAY CONNECTED

YouTube

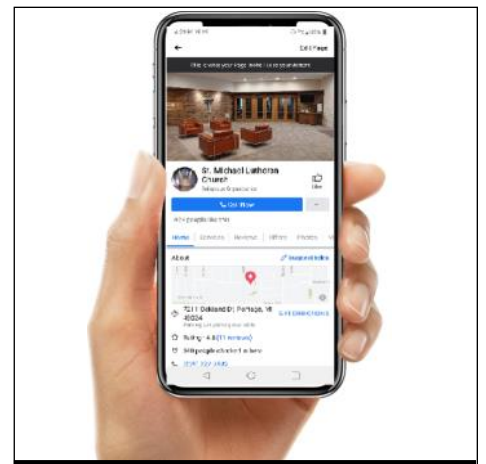
On the St. Michael  **YouTube**
page, You can find sermon videos,
Bible classes, guest speakers,
children's devotions and Vacation
Bible School lessons. Find us at:
St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage MI

Facebook

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



@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI

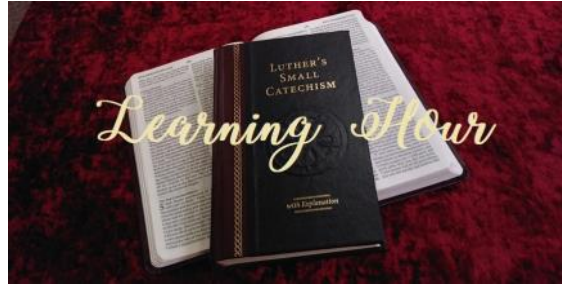


DISCIPLESHIP

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

Sunday Morning Small Group Bible Class Opportunity

Video and Discussion For All:

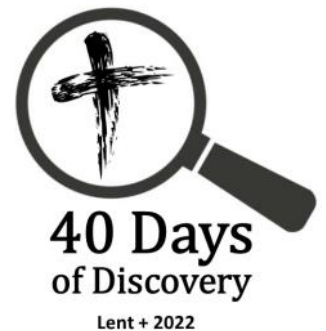
9:45 am to 10:45 am in the Music Room (114)

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

8th-High School in Youth Room
Pastor Maske and
Ryan & Heather Bigelow leading

Sunday Mornings 9:45AM

Additional Volunteers are encouraged!

Please come serve with us.

HAZARD WARNING:

Occasional fun, games
& BIBLE STUDY!!

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



Frankenmuth

June 3 - June 5

Bavarian Inn Lodge

If someone gets their eyes examined and it is said that they have "20/20 Vision," in human terms they have "perfect" vision.

When we consider our Christian lives and our attempt to follow God's Word and plans, it often seems difficult to see things clearly. God's Word serves as a lens to correct our faulty vision. Hebrews 12:2 says, "let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Join us at the 2022 Michigan District Jr. High Youth Gathering to explore the meaning of "fixing our eyes on Jesus."

NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT ATTENDANCE!

Junior Youth Participants will enjoy hearing from some exciting speakers, devotional times, the Saginaw teen worship & praise group IMPACT, and general fun together!

Only \$40 pp for a fun weekend away!

Registration is open until March 31. Submit your payment to Pastor Maske or the Church Office soon.

Participants: A youth participant is any current 6th – 8th grade students. (Those entering 7-9 grade in the Fall of 2022). Currently, we are planning for staff members: Pastor Dan Maske and Tammy Songer, Children's Ministry Coordinator to attend as chaperones. Some adults may be asked to join us. Pastoral verification is required of all adult leaders.

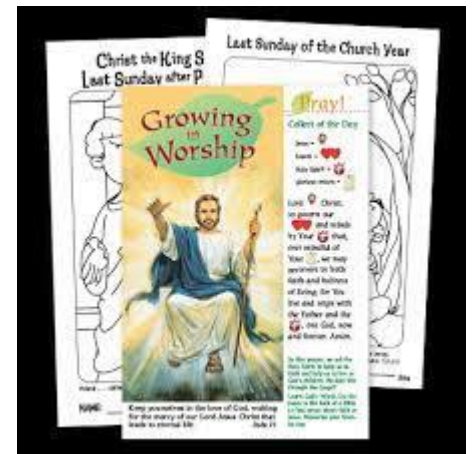
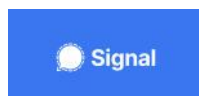
Note: The CDC and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommend that all participants, including those vaccinated, wear masks while gathered indoors. A mask will be provided to you at check-in if you need one.



Great things are happening in YOUTH MINISTRY!
Activities on Sunday evening 5-7PM

NYG Team Meeting at 5:30 pm on March 6

Have you downloaded the app called SIGNAL? This is a very safe way for us to communicate with the kids and parents concerning Youth Ministry activities. Please chat with Pastor Maske, if you would like to be added to the distribution group.



Growing in Worship involves children in the worship service so they learn, follow, and participate in the order of worship. Colorful and interactive, this four-page weekly worship folder uses realistic artwork and coordinates with the lectionary to highlight the weekly theme and message of the day.

Features of the worship folder include:

PRAY! Child-friendly Collect Rebus format highlights the prayer of the day. Realistic artwork conveys that the Bible stories and lessons are real and connects children to the message of the day.

SEE! Eye-opening activity gets children looking at the chancel, symbols, banners, paraments, furnishings, and rubrics of the church service, offers explanation of historical relevance, and delivers understanding on what they see.

DO! Engaging activity reinforces the message of the Gospel reading.

HEAR! A checklist of Gospel highlights prompts children to follow the reading. Less familiar words are explained – increasing Bible vocabulary and forming bridges to understanding.

WORDS TO KNOW! Simple definitions provide context for understanding and aid comprehension of unfamiliar words used during the worship service.

DID YOU KNOW? An intriguing fact sparks thinking about each week's Gospel message.

FAMILY FAITH TALK! Brief, daily activity for families encourages faith discussion. Six days of the week, timely tasks are suggested that parents can use as their child's faith teachers.

CHURCH CALENDAR Dated with the festival and seasonal color connects young worshipers with the church year lectionary.

Pickup your copy in the Welcome Center, near the Guestbook!

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

THINK “ARCH” IN MARCH

Lent is a great time to encourage children to focus on their faith. One excellent way to do so is to read Arch Books. Our church library has a substantial collection – nearly 150 choices! – of these classic Bible stories which you may fondly remember from your own childhood.



Even though they have been published for six decades, some things about Arch Books have never changed. The stories always rhyme. There is a black box with an arch on the cover. And the last page is always a “note to parents” helping them to teach important Bible truths from the story – in particular, how it all relates to Jesus Christ.

Arch Books may remind you of your childhood, but they mean so much more. Arch Books have touched millions of children’s lives around the world. With more than 60 million copies sold in the last 60 years, Arch Books continue to teach younger generations about God and His Word.

As Concordia Publishing House (CPH) continues to publish new Arch Books, St. Michael has been able to grow its collection. Newly added titles include:

Moses and the Bronze Snake, based on Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14-16.

How Enemies Became Friends: the story of Elisha and the Aramean Army, based on 2 Kings 6:8-23.

The Twenty-third Psalm.

The Lesson of the Tree and its Fruit, based on Matthew 7:15-20 and Luke 6:43-45.

Paul’s Great Basket Caper, based on Acts 9:1-25, 31.

Peter Surprises Rhoda, based on Acts 12:1-19.

To encourage new readers of Arch Books this Lenten season, the library’s collection will be placed in a special revolving display atop the circulation desk. Each child who borrows an Arch Book during March, will have his or her name placed in a special drawing. The first boy’s name and the first girl’s name drawn will each receive a gift in April.

The library is open every Sunday between services from 9:30 to 11. Bring in your children to choose an Arch Book and explore everything else our beautiful library has to offer for children – and for grown-ups, too. If your name is in the church directory, then you have a library card.

Remember to “think Arch in March”!

Being of One Mind with One Purpose

Being of one mind focuses the energy and prayers of the individuals onto a purpose, just like sunlight is focused by a magnifying glass and can burn paper or wood. These highly focused prayers and spiritual intents can bring about major spiritual transformations. Thus Jesus wants His church to be united and powerful.

I don't believe Jesus wants uniformity, but wants his church to be of "one heart, one soul and one mind". The strongest armies in history are those whose goals are the same. Like the "armies of God" that we have read about in the Bible. They were unstoppable because they were all following God's commands and pursuing the same goal as God.

"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you, nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those part of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all Prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all posses gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?" (1 Corinthians 12:14-31 ESV)

We have an opportunity this March to all "be of one mind with one purpose," as we all study and share "The Purpose Drive Life". I'm really looking forward to sharing this "Journey with Purpose" with the entire church.

Blessings,

Virginia Hetrick,

Prayer Coordinator



CHANCEL FLOWERS

There are opportunities for families to sponsor the 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.*)

Schedule now for dates beyond Easter week! 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.

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.



HOSPICE – A LIFE-AFFIRMING APPROACH TO CARE

You've likely heard the word "hospice," but do you really know what it means?

Many of us have preconceived notions about hospice because of its association with death. Unfortunately, such fears can prevent patients and their families from accessing a potentially beneficial source of care at the end of life.

Although hospice is reserved for individuals with a terminal diagnosis, it is appropriate for people who have not days, but months, to live. Care typically focuses on pain and symptom management, which is central to the mission of hospice. Most patients can expect pain relief and an increase in quality of life. Some studies suggest hospice care may even extend life.

Despite such benefits, hospice is avoided or delayed when a family continues to hope for a treatment or cure that will avoid death. Most patients say they wish they had entered hospice sooner. Hospice is most beneficial when families receive its services for a month or more.

It is covered by nearly all insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Hospitalizations are usually unnecessary and rare for those in hospice; two-thirds of patients remain at home, with family members providing much of the day-to-day care. Therefore, hospice centers not just on the patient but his or her entire family. A goal is that family caregivers are less burdened and better able to cope with the circumstances.

Thus, the hospice team includes not only doctors and nurses, but hospice aides, social workers, spiritual coordinators, bereavement coordinators, and volunteers. Beyond physical and practical needs, hospice addresses spiritual and emotional ones for



patients and their families.

At St. Michael, our Stephen Ministry also seeks to provide spiritual and emotional care for those who are dying and for their family and friends. To improve the quality of this caregiving, Stephen Ministers recently learned about hospice during a continuing education session.

It was presented by church member Theresa Krieger, a social worker at ProMedica Hospice in Portage. She says it is a privilege to be able to offer love, respect and care at the end of a life.

Theresa noted that for survivors, hospice offers bereavement services for at least a year after a death. This support may include one-on-one counseling, group sessions, or periodic phone calls.

Stephen Ministers also are here for those grieving the loss of a loved one. The purpose of Stephen Ministry is to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in our church and in the community who are experiencing life difficulties.

If you think you might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, contact the church office or any Stephen Leader, such as Dana Naumann at (269) 808-7832.

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/>

JANUARY FINANCIALS

3 Months

11/1/2021-1/31/2022

Church Revenue	\$ 223,839
School Revenue	\$ <u>278,386</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 502,225
Total Expenses	\$ <u>460,570</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 41,655
Expense Budget	\$ 487,098
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 15,126
Working Cash Balance	\$ 67,475
Mortgage Balance	\$ 756,862

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$713,067
Building Contingency	\$ 35,371
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 8,419
Sunday School	\$ 153
Youth Donations	\$ 15,472
Youth Accounts	\$ 10,325
Good Samaritan	\$ 3,793
Memorials	\$ 7,290
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 10,692
Quilting	\$ 446
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 535
School Improvements	\$ 32,464
Tuition Assistance	\$ 52,497
School Music	\$ 221
Flower Fund	\$ 1,052
CFK Grant Fund	\$172,430
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,898
Faith Budget	\$ 55,000

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

November Avg.	293
December Avg.	491
January Avg.	252
February Avg.	282
Annual Avg. 2019	347
Annual Avg. 2020	197
(+ uncounted online viewers)	
Annual Avg. 2021	265
Annual Avg. 2022	263

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

Would you like to help your church get involved at a deeper level?

You Could Be the Hands & Feet

of Jesus in the Streets! Did you know local street ministry teams go out every week? If you would like to help provide serve with an experienced street ministry team - **contact us and we can help connect you!**

PS. Great serve opportunity for small groups!

Have Muscles and a Heart to Serve?
Seeking Serve Teams Willing to Help with Furniture Deliveries & Moves...

JLK/365 often receives requests from people in the community who have to move and are in desperate need of help – or from others who may have housing, but no mattresses or furniture! We have ONE awesome small group who have been such a blessing with stepping up to this need, but we would love to have a few more groups lined up so we can help even more folks! **Want to hear more? Contact us today, if your family - or small group - might be interested!**

Have you noticed? Here in Kalamazoo, serving and worshipping together has become the normal way of doing things! Praise God! The Lord has done so much over the years... and we know there is more to come.

Save the Dates Now for Catalyst Week: July 10-15, 2022

Catalyst Week is the ONE core event each year where the whole body has an opportunity to step out together under the banner of Jesus Christ in an intentional and visible way, for His Glory!

Dear Friends,

Last month, I was blessed to share with you why I love my job. This month, the teens asked about why I do what I do, and they were shocked that it's my job and I get paid to do it. I loved hearing their curiosity about why I want to hang out this teenagers and share the gospel with them.

We have seen God working in some of our teens who decided to give up on some addictions that were gripping onto their lives. Through this process, leaders have continued to love on and walk alongside the teens in some very difficult times, while encouraging them.

Thank you for faithfully partnering and praying for us in this walk with our Colonial Acres City Life crew.

An additional prayer request:

- ♦ May our teens continue to grow and be bold in asking questions, relationships to be strengthened and ultimately God opening their eyes to His goodness.



Tyler Gjeltema
City Life Colonial Acres Director
C.A. City Life Club
Meets Tuesday Nights
from 6-7:30 PM
In Colonial Acres



Meets Thursday nights for Hot Chocolate!

JESUS
LOVES KZOO

THANK YOU FOR
SHARING THE LOVE
WITH OUR FRIENDS IN
THE LAC BROCHET COMMUNITY!!



With the help of many, we sent 140 valentines to the children, and about 50 went to teachers, bible study ladies, and health department staff. We sent candy to be distributed to kids and adults at the health department.

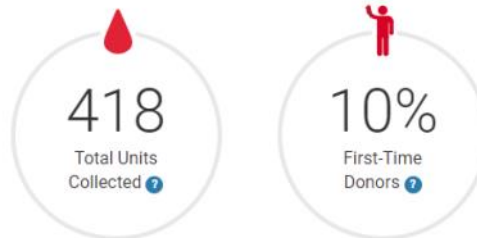


**American
Red Cross**

Next Opportunity to
Donate at St. Michael
will be March 31
Noon-5:45 PM

***Make Your
Appointment Today!***

IMPACT REPORT



With Each Donation You Are Helping Save Lives



VBS WEEK IS JULY 24-30, 2022

LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS

Please pray about how you will be serving the Lord during this Vacation Bible School season! Registration will be open April 1.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE



IN THE PARKING LOT?

***We earn money when you
recycle paper in our bin...***

The paper will be shredded and processed into hydro seeding mulch, lawn establishment products, lawn repair products, Fresh News® Cat Litter, dog litter, Fresh News® Small Animal Bedding, Fresh News® Small Animal Litter or recycled at paper mills, cellulose insulation manufacturers or other recycling facilities.

**WHAT CANNOT
GO IN THE BIN?**

· Plastic · Metal · Trash · Glass · Cardboard

**WHAT CAN
GO IN THE BIN?**

- Newsprint
- Catalogs/Magazines
- Junk Mail · Phone Books
- Office/School paper
- Hard and soft cover books
- Paperboard (Grocery Item boxes)
- Standard staples & paperclips are ok
- Shredded paper



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

♦ Coffee Host

Host one weekend a month by preparing coffee and supplies for guests to enjoy. Likewise, to clean the coffee pots and put away the supplies following the Coffee Hour. Contact **Judy Schroeder** at 734-646-9651 or at jkschroe66@gmail.com for further information.

♦ Prayer Ministry

Prayer is communication with God. We need to be respectful of the conversation. When we are talking to God from our hearts, there is nothing we say that can be wrong. He already knows everything we think, feel, know and plan. Everything is asked in accordance with God's will. We pray that His will be done on earth. That does not mean we don't ask for earthly things, it means we ask God to take care of the earthly things the way He sees fit. Groups meet regularly on Tuesdays at 9:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Need more information, contact Prayer Coordinator, **Virginia Hetrick** at 269-744-0944 or at virbhtr@gmail.com

♦ Lector

Share God's word by reading aloud the Holy Scriptures during the worship service. Receive Scripture text to be read, from the church office several days before the worship time. Practice reading the lesson out loud several times to yourself, if possible. If interested, let the **Church Office** know at 269-327-7832 and Coordinator, Virginia Hetrick will follow up with the schedule.

♦ Funeral Trustee

Arrive one hour before the visitation or service starts. You may be asked by family to locate some stands for floral arrangements or tables for memorabilia. Assist the funeral home personnel with any questions they may have. Assist any visitors coming in, directing them to the bathrooms, coat racks or fellowship area if a lunch is served. More details available. Contact the **Church Office** at 269-327-7832, if you are interested.

♦ 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! *** 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 *** *Mark your calendar for July 24-30* and talk with Tammy in the Church Office about more details.



SUMMER AT CHRIST FOR KIDS

With some warmer weather recently (*it didn't last long*), it has us thinking about the summer days to come! With that comes the planning for our summer program here at Christ for Kids. Our summer program is open for children 3-12 years old. We offer flexible schedules and our hours are Monday through Friday from 6:30 am-6:00 pm.

Our 3-5 year olds (haven't completed Kindergarten yet) will be taught by Mrs. Julian and Mrs. Keinath. They are beginning to collect fun activities and projects for the summer time and are excited to share them with the children. Our School-age program is for children who have completed Kindergarten up to 12 years old. Mrs. Mohler and Mrs. Jowett will be working with the School-Agers this summer and they always have a lot of fun with their theme weeks each week. Christ for Kids also has amazing aides who help out in each room and help find fun activities and crafts.

We do not go on field trips due to transportation guidelines, but we try to bring people to the center instead. The past 2 years have been hard with COVID to find people willing to come in, but hopefully this summer will be different. In the past, we have had Binder Park Zoo, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Mad Science, Alan Kazam Magic show, and Farmer John. The kids really enjoy these special days, so we are praying they can happen this summer!

Our theme for this summer is Rocky Railway-Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. Jesus pulls us through life's ups and downs. We will discover that God is active in our lives and that his fingerprints are everywhere! We have some fun things lined up to do every day. We will have a time set aside each day for Bible time and learning time, as well as play time to get our wiggles out!

Here is a sample of things we will be doing here at Christ for Kids for each day of the week:

Monday: This will be our Chapel Day. We will have Chapel in the morning for every age group with a Bible message, as well as songs to sing together.

Tuesday: Water Day! The students really enjoy this, and of course it is coming back for this summer!

Wednesday: Lunch Day! On Wednesdays, we provide lunch for the kids here at the center.

Thursday: Another Water Day! Due to the popularity of Water Day, we now have it 2 times a week instead of one! We have sprinklers, slip and slide, and maybe this year even a blow up water slide if we can find one!

Friday: Fun Friday! This is our day for a special activity and to have fun celebrating an awesome week here at Christ for Kids! This is the day we try to bring in a special guest if we are able to.

If you are in need of childcare this summer for the whole week, a couple days, one day a week, whatever needs you have, Christ for Kids is here to help. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you would like more information!

Emily Ritchie, Christ for Kids Director
269-327-4889 eritchie@mightymessengers.org



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
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ASSISTANT PASTOR

Rev. Jason Toman
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BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER

Jay Koski
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR

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Greg Johnson
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SCHOOL SECRETARY

Sharon Robinson

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Brenda Heintz

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Maralyse Worm

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Annie Hecht

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

Kim Ruesch

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER

Dawn Heid

FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Emily Lauterbach

SIXTH GRADE TEACHER

Julie Prentice

SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER

Lisa Lam

CHRIST FOR KIDS CHILDCARE DIRECTOR

Emily Ritchie
eritchie@mightymessengers.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Becky Mohler
Cheryl Julian
Jessica Lonc

WORSHIP MEDIA SPECIALIST

Lorraine Dudash

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Bertrand

ORGANIST

Keith Eiser

MORNING SONG DIRECTOR

Jane Connon

SEXTONS

Bryan Chandler
Matthew Wright

VOLUNTEERS:

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Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

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Jesse Hogue - Late Service

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Heather Crampton, Lynda Rae, Virginia Hetrick

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