



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

MAY 2022

Volume 61, Number 5

. *Mother's Day*  
. *Confirmation*  
. *Anniversary*  
. *Graduation*

# 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 by going to our website: [mightymessengers.org](http://mightymessengers.org). 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



**Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
**Morning Song Service**  
**11:00 AM**

Oral exam will be held Wednesday, May 11 at 6:00 pm.  
The congregation is invited.

*Please keep these students and their family  
in your prayers:*

**Caleb David Anderson**

**Christina Abigail Anderson**

**Mackenzie Viola Chapin-Dyer**

**Isabelle Marie Crampton**

**Jacob Karl Hand**

**Emily Rose Havenhill**

**Gavin Griffin McCain**

**William Christopher Rudowske**

**Asher Jase Toman**



# WELCOME CHANGES

When I was a kid, there was an ad on TV for a hair coloring product and their slogan was, “You’re not getting older, you’re getting better.” That’s a nice thought, for sure, but I’m not sure how true it is. There may be some things that improve over time, like fine wine and cheese, but for the most part things don’t get better with age. I took advantage of the street pickup in Portage to get rid of our old outdoor gas grill and our portable fire pit. I did the best I could to keep them going for several years, but eventually they were just beyond repair. As Jesus once said, “*rust destroys*” (Matthew 6:20). Changes over time are often not for the better.

But there are other changes that we welcome. Certainly the diminishing of fears about getting the COVID virus and the relaxing of extraordinary preventative measures has been a welcome change. So also is the change in the weather. While we had some nice days in April, by and large the month lived up to its reputation for showers that bring the May flowers. But now that May is here we can be more confident that we can exchange our snow shovels for gardening tools. Also, the month of May often brings some joyous monumental changes in our lives and family, like college graduations and weddings. In fact, on May 11 our youngest child will celebrate her three year wedding anniversary!

Our Easter worship this year highlights seven welcome changes that the resurrection of our Savior brings. We’ve featured two of them already in April, but we have five more to go which will take us through all the five weekends of May this year. Here’s what remains of the Easter season

4/30-5/1	Third Sunday of Easter	Easter Changes Everything: Denial	<i>John 21:1-19</i>
5/7-8	Fourth Sunday of Easter Mothers’ Day	Easter Changes Everything: Distraction	<i>John 10:22-30</i>
5/14-15	Fifth Sunday of Easter Confirmation (11:00 am)	Easter Changes Everything: Desertion	<i>John 16:12-22</i>
5/22	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Easter Changes Everything: Darkness	<i>John 16:23-33</i>
5/28-29	Seventh Sunday of Easter (Memorial Weekend)	Easter Changes Everything: Division	<i>John 17:20-26</i>

Those weekends, of course, will include Mother’s Day on May 8 and then Confirmation Sunday on May 15 (at the 11:00 am service). What’s more, even though we offered the *Exploring Our Faith* Bible class at the beginning of 2022, for the first time ever we plan to offer it yet again this school year. It begins May 1 and goes through June. After that (by request!), I plan to teach a Bible class during the Sunday morning Learning Hour for the rest of the summer on the Gospel according to St. Matthew (beginning 3). Don’t feel like you have to make every session to attend when you can.

May is always a busy month and I’m sure you’ve got several things on your calendar already, some of which might involve travel, celebrations, and fun. But chances are you’ve also got other things on your calendar that are not so fun, like doctor appointments and even surgeries. But whatever changes and challenges May might hold, we can know our victorious and risen Savior is with us and has conquered all our foes. As St. Paul wonderfully put it, “*I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8:38-39). May the Lord bless you this merry month of May, and keep you in His loving care.



# 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 uplifting, 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*

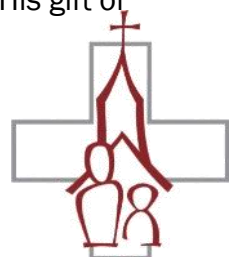
## MOTHERS: A BLESSING FROM GOD

Martin Luther once said, "when God wants to speak and deal with us, He does not avail Himself of an angel, but of parents." This month we have the special opportunity to thank God for His gift of our mothers, and our "thank you list" to God for our moms is virtually impossible to exhaust. Our lives, our upbringing, our introduction to God and His Word... God works through our moms in very special and significant ways.

We could never thank God or our mothers enough for the blessings we receive, but one place we can start is by praying for our moms. As hard as they work and as much as they care, no mom is perfect. However, we owe our moms (and dads) honor and respect as God's representatives in our lives. We are called to pray for our parents, to forgive them when they misstep, and to cherish them more than any other authority in our lives.

If you are thanking God this Mother's Day for your mom who has already fallen asleep in Jesus, God bless you. You especially can take comfort this year knowing that Jesus loves your Mom too, and He died and rose to keep her safe forever. If you still have your mom around, give her a hug or a phone call today. God loves you, and He shows His love in daily and practical ways through His gift of parents.

*Pastor Maske*



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

### May 1, 2022 – Third Sunday of Easter

PSALM 30:1-5, 11-12; REVELATION 5:8-14; JOHN 21:1-14

“JESUS CARES FOR YOU” - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 21:1-14 - REV. WALTER MAIER III

The meeting of Jesus with his disciples by the Sea of Galilee after his resurrection shows his loving care for them. Jesus has the same kind of care for you. He who is always with you knows what you need and will provide for you.

### May 8, 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

PSALM 23; ACTS 20:17-35; JOHN 10:22-30

“THE SHEPHERD’S VOICE” - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 10:27-28 - REV. THOMAS EGGOLD

Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd, came to call us with the Gospel. He came to lay down His life for the sheep. He came to “seek and save that which was lost” and in the voice of our Good Shepherd we are drawn to the Father.

### May 15, 2022 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

PSALM 148; REVELATION 21:1-7; JOHN 16:12-22

“HEARTS WILL REJOICE!” - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 16:20 - REV. SHAYNE JONKER

“You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.” You will have sorrow because this is a fallen world. But your sorrow will turn into joy because Jesus has taken your sorrow into Himself on the cross and to the grave. But He is risen, victorious over sin, death and the devil, and yes even your sorrow.

### May 22, 2022 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

PSALM 98; REVELATION 21:9-14, 21-27; JOHN 16:23-33

“WHAT’S GOING ON?” - SERMON TEXT: JOHN 16:23-33 - REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

When we are perplexed by the dissension in the world we Christians are comforted that our Lord Jesus has overcome the world. In a world full of tribulation we find peace in knowing we are the Lord’s.

### May 29, 2022 – Ascension of Our Lord Observed

PSALM 47; ACTS 1:1-11; LUKE 24:44-53

“ASCENDED BUT NOT FAR” -

SERMON TEXT: LUKE 24:44-53 - REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

The Ascension of Our Lord is, tragically, a long overlooked festival in the Church Year. Forty days after His resurrection, having accomplished all things for us and for our salvation, Jesus visibly ascended into heaven; His visible presence among us removed. Why? What are we supposed to do now? We’re still here...and Jesus calls us to be engaged in witness mission.



### 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

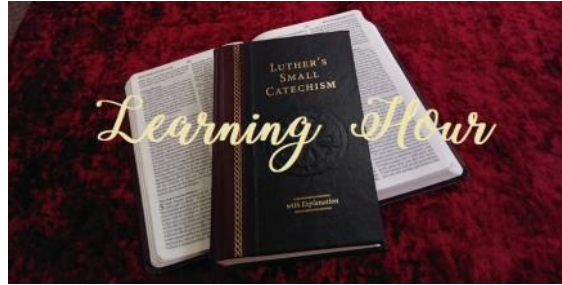


# DISCIPLESHIP

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.*

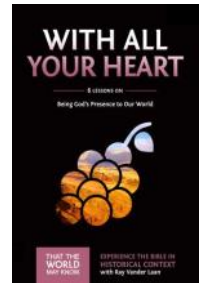
*Luke 18:15-17*



## ADULT LEARNING HOUR CLASS OFFERINGS

### NEW SERIES: Beginning Sunday, May 8

Ray Vander Laan takes us on a journey through Sinai and Israel, a region that is still largely desert but at times filled with lush, bountiful places. We will discover how Jesus called people to live in the Promised land. What can we learn during times of abundance and in times of desert. God led his people back to the desert often to relearn the lessons they had forgotten. John the Baptist and Jesus had powerful encounters in the desert. We will learn that the desert is where we are closest to God. It is where our relationship with God is at peace.



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*



## HIGH QUALITY – CHRIST CENTERED



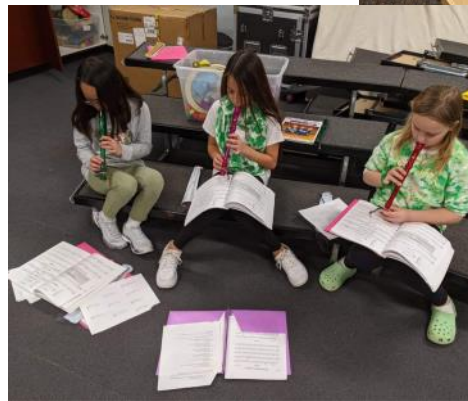
National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) serves as the accrediting body for Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod schools across the United States and around the world. Accreditation has always been based upon a school's compliance with national standards for Lutheran schools that reflect the essential qualities expected of Lutheran schools.

In April of 2016, St. Michael Lutheran School went through National Lutheran School Accreditation and became accredited for the very first time. Accreditation must be renewed every 5 years, but with the coming of the COVID pandemic, the school applied for a one-year extension. NLSA requires a rigorous self-study to evaluate the actual conditions in place that are related to essential indicators of school quality. These are evaluated and measured in seven specific standard areas. In order to become accredited in good standing with NLSA, a school must comply fully with 30 required indicators of success. After working for more than a year on this extensive self-study report and completing school improvement goals established through the previous accreditation process, St. Michael Lutheran School again gained full accreditation in April of 2022. This time Christ for Kids Childcare Center also went through this process simultaneously with the school and both the early childhood and K-8 programs earned full accreditation.

This process insures continuous improvement and accountability to district accreditation commissions. Upon conclusion of the self-study, a

NLSA visiting team validates that the self-study prepared by the school accurately reflects the actual conditions that are present. In a formal, two-day visit, the team examines evidence, interviews school stakeholders, visits classrooms and observes overall school practices. This visit took place on April 6 & 7 of this year, and the results indicate that both Christ for Kids and St. Michael Lutheran School scored well above the NLSA national average score.

National Lutheran School Accreditation encourages, assists,



and recognizes schools that provide quality

Christian education and engage in

continuous improvement. I am grateful to the staff for all of their hard work and time invested in this process, which confirms that the educational programs at St. Michael are both high quality and Christ-centered. St. Michael Lutheran Church can be proud of their educational ministries knowing that they meet the rigorous standards established by NLSA and exceed those standards established by the state of Michigan. Please join me in gratitude to God for His many blessings and for another successful round of accreditation!

*Greg Johnson*, Principal



## THE LIBRARY IS YOUR SOURCE FOR MORE THAN BOOKS



Good, clean movies can be hard to find, but not in the library at St. Michael. You will see a prominent display of Christian DVDs directly ahead of you when entering the library from the Welcome Center. Some of our newest titles available for borrowing are listed here.

### Feature-length films

***Beautifully Broken*** (2018 / 101 mins. / PG-13): A refugee's escape, a prisoner's promise, and a daughter's painful secret converge in this inspiring story of hope.

***Gosnell: the trial of America's biggest serial killer*** (2019 / 93 mins. / PG-13): Law enforcement agents raid an inner-city women's clinic looking for illegal drug sales and instead uncover three decades of murder and infanticide.

***Risen*** (2016 / 107 mins. / PG-13): Clavius, a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus after the crucifixion.

### Documentaries

***The Drop Box*** (2015 / 77 mins. / not rated): After a baby is left outside in winter, a South Korean pastor builds a heated hatch so mothers can safely abandon their children.

***Emanuel : the untold story of the victims and survivors of the Charleston church shooting*** (2019 / 76 mins. / not rated): Survivors and family members describe the senseless act of terror that killed nine at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

***Won't You Be My Neighbor?*** (2018 / 95 mins. / PG-13): Here is a look at the person behind the show, persona, and personality that defined what it means to be a good person and a member of a healthy community – Mr. Fred Rogers.

### Family-friendly choices

***Clean If It Kills Me*** (2014 / 71 mins. / not rated): Stand-up comedian Marty Simpson talks about kids, football, taking it like a man, spelling bees, roller coasters and lost dogs.

***Miracles from Heaven*** (2016 / 109 mins. / PG): A little girl falls three stories in a freak accident and has a supernatural encounter.

***Wonder*** (2018 / 113 mins. / PG): August Pullman, a boy with facial differences, attends a mainstream elementary school for the first time.

Stop in the library from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Sundays to borrow books as well as DVDs. You can keep everything for a month and return it to a convenient, wall-mounted box next to the library door in the Welcome Center. If your name is in the church directory, you have a library card.

Think you can't borrow a movie because you no longer own a DVD player? Think again! Put it in a desktop computer DVD drive or a gaming console such as XBOX or PlayStation. Plug an external DVD drive into a laptop. Another option is a portable DVD player with its own screen.





**Magnifier  
Member  
Model  
Minister  
Messenger**

## 40 Days of Discovery

**Lent + 2022**

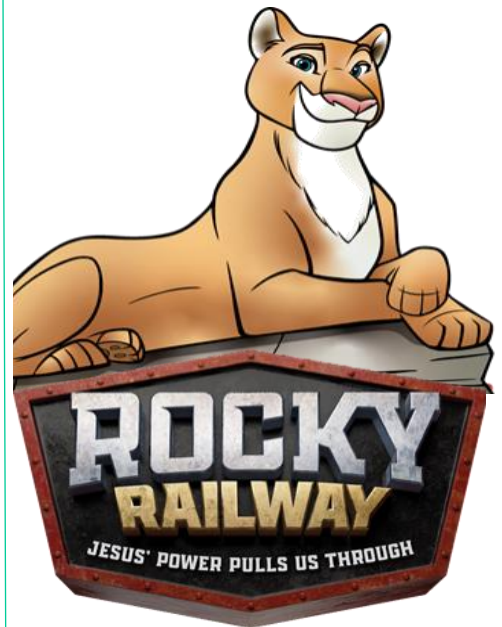
her, and she said she was smiling all day just thinking about it. Another member talked about her need to find more time for fellowship, that making this a priority would help her to be a better mother and wife. In my Sunday small group, we talked a lot about how trials in our life prepare us for future ministry with friends and family. God never wastes a hurt!

Many individuals talked about how blessed/happy they were to be in a small group again. They were glad for the invitation from “core” members already involved in the small groups before the 40 days journey. Another small group member said that she first experienced God’s love at St. Michael, school and church. “I feel like now that I know people, I am coming weekly to worship.” Another person said, “This is the first time I can open up about experiences at church.” Many have requested prayer requests and Stephen Ministry is mentioned often. I am sure that I could mention many more conversations and discussion that have happened over these 40 days!

I am thankful for every individual who took the time to read the “Purpose Driven Life” and who participated in a small group! I pray that you were blessed for your commitment and time! I know both John and I were blessed both as small group leaders and while reading through the book with our boys! Praise God from whom all blessing flow! I am going to end with a quote from Billy Graham’s wife, something she always told her children according to Anne Graham Lotz and something I plan to say to my children often. “Read your Bible. Every day. Study it. Learn to love it. Live by it.”

*Angie Heimlich*

I am so thankful for all who participated in the 40 Days Journey! I have enjoyed making new relationships and reconnecting with many individuals during the Learning Hour. We had some amazing discussions after each video! One person in my group talked about how she had never thought about God smiling when he thought of



**THE BEST WEEK OF  
THE SUMMER!!**

New Friends. Amazing Experiments.  
Creative Game. Incredible Music. Snacks.

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

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**MIGHTYMESSENGERS.ORG**



**Sunday Mornings 9:45AM**

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

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

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

# FELLOWSHIP

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

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

*Acts 2:42-47*

## SPRING SHOWCASE

**5th grade Beginner Band, 6th-8th grade Concert Band, Worship Teams, 2nd-4th grade music classes, and the SMLS Drama Club!**

**When:** Thursday, May 12th beginning at 6:00pm.

**Where:** St. Michael Lutheran School (The bands will perform in the sanctuary, and the Musical will be performed outdoors if the weather permits, or in the gym)

**Cost:** Free!! Although a Free-will offering will be collected, to invest in the music and drama departments.

### More Details:

- 1) This is a BYOC event... *Bring Your Own Chair!*
- 2) Audience members, you may want to set up your chairs outdoors (or in the gym) BEFORE the event begins. There will be signs showing the way to our outdoor "theater".
- 3) This event is happening in Michigan in May... bring SPF and a beach hat... or a blanket and a winter hat... whatever it takes to help you and your family be comfortable during the performance!
- 4) We are excited about this wonderful event we have coming up, and would appreciate everyone's prayers for great weather, health, and JOY in the preparation!



5:00PM **21** MAY

**REV. DR. PAUL NAUMANN** (and Dana)  
IN MINISTRY AT  
ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Worship Proclaimer:  
Rev. Dave Davis

hors d'oeuvres reception  
& Fun

RSVP to Church Office 269-327-7832 by May 7, 2022



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



Hello families,

Congratulations on such a big step. Your family here at St. Michael would love to recognize your senior student upon their graduation this year. We would like to put their picture and a little summary in the newsletter for June, as

well as prepare a powerpoint slide for each.

Please send to the Church Office ([tsonger@mightymessengers.org](mailto:tsonger@mightymessengers.org)) a picture, the name of the high school graduating from, and future college or plans after high school..

For your calendars we are planning on having a graduation celebration service on June 12 in the late service. After the service, we will have some cake in honor of the seniors to celebrate their hard work.

*If your graduate is living or going to school out of the area, please let us know, so that we can add them to our college ministry list!*



**SATURDAY, MAY 14**

**Allan Hall 9:00 AM**

*A Light Lunch Will Be Provided.*

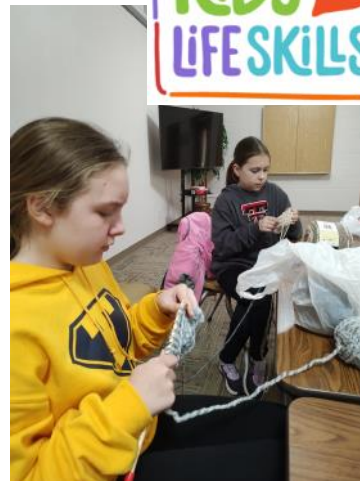
- ♦ “FUN WAYS TO PRAY” Program
- ♦ Tie Pillows for Hospital Project
- ♦ Bring Canned Food Items to be donated to a local pantry.

Contact: Sandy Maya for more details  
269-330-9100



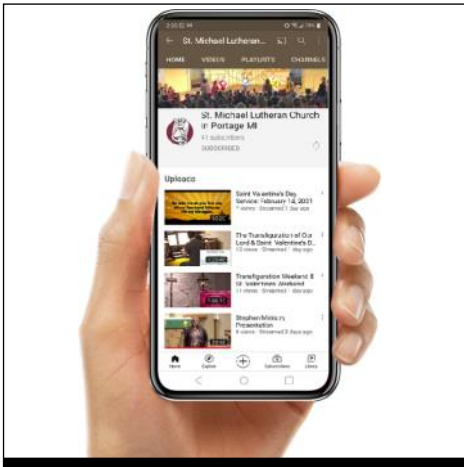
Students in the Wednesday evening Life Skills Class are very talented. Weekly they are taking on projects that some adults do not have the confidence to complete. They have calculated money, ingredients, materials, etc. and in most cases then developed a product to share with others.

We are thankful to Mrs. Mary Wright for giving her time to mentor the next generation of disciples!






## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



### 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:

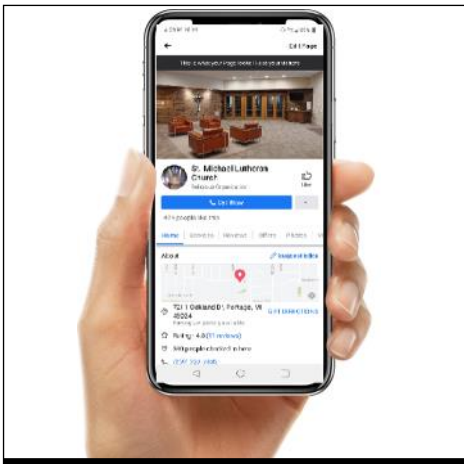
St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage MI

#### Facebook

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



@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI



### STEPHEN MINISTRY WELCOMES TWO TO THE TEAM

"Highly skilled" is an appropriate description for the newest members of our Stephen Ministry team.



#### Kathy Zakarias and Karen

Shuler, both commissioned April 9-10, come to St. Michael having served in Stephen Ministry at other churches.

**Kathy** trained and served as a Stephen Minister at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Janesville, WI, and is resuming that role here. A licensed professional counselor, she has been a supervisor at Allegan County Community Mental Health. She and her husband, Pete, joined St. Michael about four years ago. They have two children, Amelia, 4, and Theo, 2. Kathy enjoys reading, movies, biking on local trails, yoga, scrapbooking, volleyball, softball and drinking coffee.

**Karen**, our newest Stephen Leader, was the administrative assistant for 15 years at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing. She also was instrumental in beginning a Stephen Ministry there. In 2019, she was among five church members who trained as Stephen Leaders in St. Louis. After they brought the ministry to Lansing, Karen served as its supervision coordinator. She moved to Vicksburg and transferred her membership to St. Michael last year. Karen enjoys sewing and quilting, especially with the quilt group at St. Michael, as well as reading and gardening.



Stephen Ministry offers one-to-one, Christ-focused, confidential support to anyone going through life challenges, including grief, illness, job loss or divorce.

If you'd like to request a Stephen Minister, call a Leader, such as Lynda Rea at 269-589-8447, or the church office.

# 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/>

## MARCH FINANCIALS

5 Months

11/1/2021-3/31/2022

Church Revenue	\$ 334,941
School Revenue	\$ <u>643,832</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 978,773
Total Expenses	\$ <u>792,129</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 186,644
Expense Budget	\$ 779,067
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 179,707
Working Cash Balance	\$ 212,465
Mortgage Balance	\$ 740,836

### Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$714,958
Building Contingency	\$ 43,871
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 8,201
Sunday School	\$ 293
Youth Donations	\$ 15,238
Youth Accounts	\$ 11,697
Good Samaritan	\$ 3,842
Memorials	\$ 3,420
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 12,068
Quilting	\$ 1,290
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 535
School Improvements	\$ 35,008
Tuition Assistance	\$ 57,209
School Music	\$ (201)
Flower Fund	\$ 5,631
CFK Grant Fund	\$ 0
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 3,822
Faith Budget	\$ 55,000

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January Avg. ....	252
February Avg. ....	284
March Avg. ....	373
April Avg. ....	446
Annual Avg. 2019 .....	347
Annual Avg. 2020 .....	197
(+ uncounted online viewers)	
Annual Avg. 2021 .....	265
Annual Avg. 2022 .....	318

# EVANGELISM

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

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*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*

## THE COLONIAL ACRES EASTER EGG HUNT WAS A BLESSING!

The families that attended had fun and enjoyed the time together. The numbers that attended were lower than in the years past, but with the pandemic and colder weather we still did get a good turnout.

Bekki Ewaskowitz from Renovation Church in Portage was a huge help to Kelly Docsa from St. Michael's Evangelism Board, as the event was planned with less than 3 weeks notice. Approximately 25 to 30 volunteers from both congregations worked together. Lunch was served in the new Youth For Christ building for volunteers that agreed to help hide the eggs and setup earlier that morning.

Pastor Wells came and brought the popcorn machine. It was awesome to have warm, fresh popcorn. We also had cookies, brownies, juice boxes and bottles of water as refreshments.

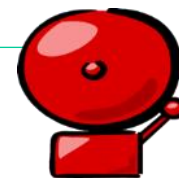
We had approximately 3,500 eggs stuffed and hidden for the children to find. We did have to scour the area and pick up some unfound eggs, as they were not all collected. The event took place at 1:00pm and concluded around 2:30. A raffle was held for four easter baskets, \$25 gift card to Dominos, two gift certificates to Airway Lanes and a Kalamazoo Growlers Family Fun Pack. We did not have games for the older kids, but we did have plenty of activities for families and the little kids. The residents stayed and listened to music and played games.

Overall the day was a blessing to the community. All those who attended and volunteered felt God's presence and love. We were able to tell the Easter story and give the kids a Jelly Bean prayer craft to take home. Most of the kids went home with a bracelet that was a reminder that Jesus loves them...and lots of candy!

**A Free Dumpster Day was held Saturday, April 23 for Colonial Acres residents, sponsored by the five churches from the Jesus Loves Kalamazoo coalition and City Life /Youth For Christ. Volunteers were able to drive around the park with trucks and trailers to help load up and haul stuff to the dumpsters. Tires, oil products, old computers, or hazardous material was collected. Everyone loves a cleaner neighborhood!**







## AFTER THE BELL – SUMMER 2022

*St. Michael Lutheran School is pleased to offer summer enrichment opportunities designed to teach new skills as well as provide fun learning experiences. These affordable classes will help keep minds sharp and active, and provide a head start for the coming school year. Please consider signing your child up for one or more of these opportunities. Students who do not regularly attend St. Michael are welcome to participate.*



### **Basketball Camp (Coach Jim Horn – KVCC Basketball Coach)**

All boys and girls entering grades 1-8 in the fall are welcome to sign up for our annual community basketball camp. This camp, which meets on site, runs from Monday, August 1 through Thursday, August 4. Times are 9:00 am – 3:00pm. Students are to bring a sack lunch, basketball shoes, and proper clothing each day. Concessions will be available. Cost is \$100 per child for full days and \$50 per child half days. [Registration form](#) is available here or can be picked up in the school office.

### **Drama Days with Mrs. Taylor at St. Michael Lutheran School**

Students entering grades 2-8 are invited to join Mrs. Taylor for two separate sessions of acting, singing, and games in our annual Drama Camp. Students will work on skills such as staying in character, projecting, improvisation, memorization, building confidence, and more! Camp sessions meet on Wednesday, July 20 and Wednesday, August 10 from 12:30 – 4:00 pm each day. Cost is \$25 for each student per session. Space is limited! Please contact Mrs. Taylor at [Melissa.Taylor@mail.com](mailto:Melissa.Taylor@mail.com) to save your spot.



### **Art Around The World Art Camp**

We will explore Art from different parts of the world. We will see how different cultures use Art to beautify their lives as well as practice tradition. The end of the week will be an Art show so students can show case their work. Students in grades 1-5 can join Art Camp from 10 am -12 noon from July 18-22. Cost is \$100 per child for the week and includes all necessary supplies and a daily snack. Space is limited so please signed up no later than June 1. Contact Heather Bigelow (269) 873-7023 to sign up.



### **DOJO of the Risen Son Martial Arts Instruction**

Certified Black Belt instructors provide Martial Arts instruction taught with Biblical application each Tuesday evening in the St. Michael Lutheran School gym. This class is for boys and girls ages 7 years and up from 6:00 – 7:15 pm. Cost is \$40 per month with additional charges for required uniform. To sign up, ask questions, or learn more about summer specials, please contact Barry Bond at 269-808-6484. Minimum of (6) students required for this session.

### **Junior Robotics Camp (Grades K-3)**

This is the perfect camp to get young students interested in STEM. Students will learn to build and program using the following robots throughout the camp: Ozobot, Probot, and Lego Wedo 2.0 to learn about how these robots are used in real world applications. Class will meet Monday-Friday August 15-19 from 9:00 am – 12 noon. Minimum of 6 students required with a maximum of 12. Cost is \$165 per student. Sign up in the school office, no later than June 3.



### **Intro to Robotics Camp (Grades 4-8)**

Continuing to pique kid's interest in STEM, students will focus on critical thinking, engineering, and programming concepts by building and programming the Lego EV3 Robotics Kit throughout the camp. We will explore the various aspects of the kit and look at some real-world applications for robots, sensors and coding. Class meets Monday-Friday August 15-19 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Minimum of 6 students required with a maximum of 12. Cost is \$175 per student. Sign up in school office, no later than June 3.



Church Extension Fund

Bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org  
800-242-3944

### BROKEN POTS

Kintsukuroi, translated to mean “Golden Repair”, is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery using lacquer mixed with powdered precious metals like gold, silver or platinum. Once the object is repaired, cleaned and dried, its former cracks are highlighted by veins of the metal running through its form.

To the Japanese, the breakage and repair become part of the history of the object, transforming it from something to discard to a new creation.

Rather than trying to disguise the repair, some feel the art of repairing the pottery with gold or silver lacquer make the piece more beautiful and valuable for having been broken.

That sounds remarkably like the message in 1 Peter 5:10. And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

God created us to be perfect reflections of Him, but because of sin we all could have been cast aside as damaged, smashed vessels. Instead of throwing us out, God picked up the pieces of our broken lives. He put His plan into motion, sending Jesus to pay the price for our shortcomings. He transforms us into a new creation, something more valuable than we could ever imagine, a work of art adorned with grace.

And that’s still not the end of the story. I’m reminded of the woman meeting with the pastor to preplan her funeral service. She wanted to be holding a fork in her hands as she lay in the coffin. When asked why, she confidently replied, to remind people that the best is yet to come, just like at the church dinners with all the wonderful desserts. Heaven awaits us. And one day Christ will return to make all things new.

Church Extension Fund may not be able to repair all the cracks or dents that appear, but since 1901 CEF has offered competitive loans to assist congregations make repairs, expand or build new facilities to grow the Kingdom. More recently CEF has offered grants, for upgrading technology, enhancing property appearance with paint or landscaping and becoming more energy efficient. A recent grant was to assist congregations and schools to protect their people with a Security Grant. We look forward to working with you for another hundred years to help spread the Good News of the Gospel.



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



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

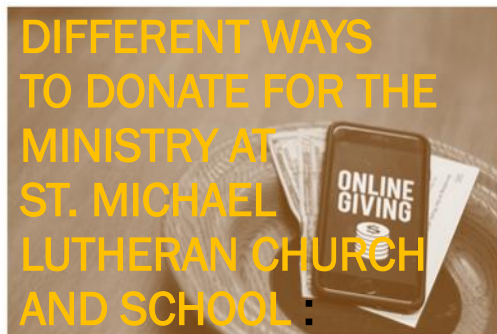
## GET YOUR SCHRAM'S GREENHOUSE VOUCHERS

Dig out your gardening gloves because the Youth Group is once again offering Schram's Greenhouse Vouchers for purchase. **\$18 Value**

The certificate can be applied to your purchase of any merchandise in the store and are valid through the 2022 growing season.

The certificates will be available in the Communication Center after Lamplight and Sunday services through the end of May, and in the Church Office.

**THANK YOU for your SUPPORT!**



1) <https://www.mightymessengers.org/donate/>

2) Mail or bring your donation envelopes to the church.

3) Fill out this [electronic giving form](#) and bring it into the church office.

4) Download the VANCO FAITH App from the Google Play or Apple Store.

5) Text to give 269-338-8196 with the amount of your donation.

6) Check out these designated giving options <https://secure.myvanco.com/YHHN/home>

7) Give by using Paypal at this link:



## LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Butch and Marie got married when they were nineteen. They were married for seventy years before the Lord called them home last year. When they were thirty-five, after having three children, they had created their first estate plan with a will that established guardianship for their children and created a minor's trust to provide for their children, providing for their needs until the youngest would reach the age of twenty-five. Their youngest child is now fifty-five and most of the provisions of their early plan no longer are needed.

Butch and Marie thought that they never needed to update that will. There was a problem with that. The original inheritance language from fifty-four years ago did not include the words "per stirpes." That phrase means that a child's inheritance will pass to their children if they die before receiving it. Two of Butch's and Marie's children passed away three years ago from illness. Each of them had three children. However, without the appropriate language, none of the inheritance will pass to those children (grandchildren of Butch and Marie). That would have crushed Butch and Marie had they known it happened. It also created some tension between some of the grandchildren.

All of this could have been avoided if Butch and Marie had reviewed their plan periodically through the years. It would have been worth the money to sit with an attorney. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can encourage these regular checkups and make sure your gifting plans to family and ministry are clear. Contact...

**Julie Burgess**

Gift Planning Counselor, Church Extension Fund

Email: [Julie.burgess@lfnd.org](mailto:Julie.burgess@lfnd.org)

Mobile: 713-822-5284

*"It is more blessed to give than to receive." — Jesus, in Acts 20:35*



# SERVICE

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

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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

### ♦ Altar Guild

To maintain and care for the altar and its paraments, the other furniture in the altar area, the sacramental vessels and other sundry appointments such as candles, the vestments, etc.; to have them in readiness for proper use. On duty 1-2 months per year, requiring 1-1.5 hours per week when on duty. Interested? Speak with Kristi Rudowske at 269-532-5043 or [kspitz2001@yahoo.com](mailto:kspitz2001@yahoo.com) for more details.

### ♦ Director of Parish Fellowship Board

Lead the Board in determining the specific roles that each will have to plan, supervise, and implement gatherings of the congregation from time to time, including seasonal suppers before Advent and Lenten services, receptions between Sunday worship services, special events and activities be put on by other Administrative Boards. If interested, please contact Jack Spenner, [jaspenner@chartermi.net](mailto:jaspenner@chartermi.net) Parish Planning Council President or Pastor Naumann.

### ♦ Director of Stewardship Board

Provide leadership to initiate programs that develop scripturally based stewardship attitudes in the members of the congregations. Work with a team, including the elected Treasurer and members of two committees: Volunteer Ministries Committee and Financial Committee. If interested, please contact Jack Spenner, [jaspenner@chartermi.net](mailto:jaspenner@chartermi.net) Parish Planning Council President or Pastor Naumann.

### ♦ Coffee & Donuts Sunday Morning 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 hour. Contact Judy Schroeder at 734-646-9651 or at [jkschroe66@gmail.com](mailto:jkschroe66@gmail.com) for further information.

### ♦ Usher

Greet the congregation as they enter the sanctuary. Hand out the service bulletins. Attend to the collection baskets during the service. Direct people from the pews to the altar during communion. Collect the attendance cards and cleaning the pews after the service. Experience the joy of working for the Lord in a church service with your family and friends.

Early service Head Usher: Mike Minger [mjminger@charter.net](mailto:mjminger@charter.net) Late Service Head Usher: Jesse Hogue [hoguejesse@gmail.com](mailto:hoguejesse@gmail.com)

## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

### THE GENTLE FLUTTERING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Recently I finished reading “Living Among Lions” by David and Jason Benham. One quote in their book really caught my attention because I love butterflies! “If you don’t wait for the Lord, you may still have wings – but more like a hummingbird than a butterfly, you work a lot harder and fly a lot lower.”

“Without patience in prayer that waits for God’s wind, you’ll end up exhausted, without His strength and power to accomplish His work. All you have to do is spread your wings (fully trust in God for the results) while He does the work. Thriving prayers require patience and waiting on His wind to come. Before you start flapping, wait patiently for God’s favor.”

Experiencing the Holy Spirit is kind of like a visit from a butterfly. You can’t force a visit from a butterfly. No, butterflies come and go with the breeze. Jesus describes the Holy Spirit in a similar way: “the wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going...” (Jn 3:8). When a butterfly does appear, you’re compelled to be still, watch, and simply enjoy its presence. Sometimes when I’m outside alone and I see one flitting around I think, “This is a tiny gift from God, this butterfly, in this moment, is just for me.” Then I smile and breathe a prayer of thankfulness for this small sign of His love.

And isn’t this how we encounter the Holy Spirit in our lives: in still, unexpected moments? It doesn’t come loudly, with pomp and circumstance. Rather, it comes in small, quiet ways. The Lord appeared to Elijah in this very way. “The Lord said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’ Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave” (1 Kgs 19: 11-13).

God chose to reveal Himself to Elijah not in power or majesty, but instead in a gentle whisper. Yes, sometimes God appears in trembling earthquakes or in pillars of whirling smoke and fire. But the Holy Spirit usually comes to us in everyday ways in our everyday lives. He comes to us in the sunshine that warms our faces and melts away the stress when we step outside after a long day at work. In the cool breeze that comes before a much-needed rain, relieving a parched, 97-degree summer day. He comes to us and whispers, *everything will be okay. I am here, and I am with you.* The Holy Spirit comes to us in this way: in a gentle voice that speaks directly to our hearts—softly, personally.

Consider this though, if the Holy Spirit usually speaks to us in quiet ways, how will we hear Him if we’re distracted and our world is full of noise? It’s all too easy to miss small, grace-filled moments when we’re rushing from place to place and task to task. So often our day goes from the phone screen to the computer screen and ends with the TV screen. To notice, we must be quiet and observant: “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps 46:10).

Finding time for stillness and silence to sit in His presence in a chapel, alone in your backyard, or even just for a few minutes in your car can help you notice that God is always present with you, loving you no matter where you are. Try setting time aside some “time for peace” each day this week. When you do, first take a few moments to relax, set aside the troubles of your day, and just breathe. Then, watch and listen with your heart; pay attention to the gentle fluttering of the Holy Spirit, however small and quiet it may be.

*Come Holy Spirit. Come dwell in the stillness of my heart. Console me, strengthen me, and fill me with faith, hope, and love.*

Easter Blessings, *Virginia Hetrick* – Prayer Coordinator

Special thanks to the Property Board Director, Steve Bell and members: Peter Robert, Mark Vickery, Aaron Allen for trimming over 40 trees on the recently. Also thanks to Lisa Robert, Rick Jacobs, Jay Koski and Rob Kuhlman.



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



Quilters meet Fridays, 9:30-2 in classroom 230 in the hallway. There’s always laughter and fellowship, with deepening friendships. Come for a while or for the day; come to pick up a project to sew at home, whatever you prefer and fits your schedule. Laura Bell  
440-452-6086  
Ljbell29@gmail.com

# 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

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### **ASSISTANT PASTOR**

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Brenda Heintz

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Maralyse Worm

### **SECOND GRADE TEACHER**

Annie Hecht

### **THIRD GRADE TEACHER**

Kim Ruesch

### **FOURTH GRADE TEACHER**

Dawn Heid

### **FIFTH GRADE TEACHER**

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### **SIXTH GRADE TEACHER**

Julie Prentice

### **SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER**

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eritchie@mightymessengers.org

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