



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

JULY 2022

Volume 61, Number 7

Summer Fun

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

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. 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



Recently, this group got together and painted the newly installed divider wall with chalkboard paint. They will use it to leave appropriate thoughts for one another, but also invite the adults of the congregation to leave a message, scripture, or well wishes for them.



The youth of today need to hear and read positive messages!



ST MICHAEL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Bible Study Every Sunday Morning in the Youth Room.

Lots of opportunity for youth to have fun and earn service hours...

SUMMER Events:

7/7 VBS Training Session 5:30PM

7/8-14 National Youth Gathering

7/23-30 VBS Week (decorate & setup, M-F fun, Sat. family celebration, cleanup)

8/7 Jr. & Sr. High Pool Party 1-4PM (*Burnett home*)

8/21 Youth Group / Parent Night 5-7PM

Summer Fun . . .

Summer is certainly a fun time of year, perhaps my favorite. It's great to go outside with little or no regard for any additional over clothes that you need to wear. It's wonderful to get out on the water, out on the golf course, out in the garden, or just out of the usual school year routine that we might have. When I was young in the ministry, I used to make a list of all the special projects that I might take on in order to take advantage of what I somehow thought would be additional time available in the summer.

But for many years now I've found the summer to be rather packed with projects such that there's hardly room for more. During the last couple pandemic summers, some of these summer projects were cancelled or curtailed. But in this summer of 2022, the traditional summer projects are all back in full force. Jesus Loves Kalamazoo's Catalysis Week begins with the One Worship event at the Arcadia Festival Grounds on July 10 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1168270863974983>). We'll again be hosting the grill site at Milham Meadows on Monday night, July 11 (<https://jesusloveskzoo.org/catalyst-week/>) and could use your help in whatever ways you like. If you've got some additional time, Colonial Acres is also a grill site on Wednesday, July 13. As you probably know, we partner with some Portage churches in an ongoing ministry to that impoverished mobile home community. This is a great way to serve them, too.

During the same time as JLK Catalyst Week, the National Youth Gathering of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is going to take place down in Houston, Texas. Pastor Maske and couple more of our adult leaders are going to be taking eight of our teens to the gathering that's entitled "In All Things," from Colossians 1:18 in which we're reminded that Christ takes the first and highest place in everything. Held every three years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about their Savior, Jesus Christ, and their Christian identity in Him. The five days of the Gathering include worship, Bible study, fellowship, fun, and service to the community.

Community service and outreach also happens right here at St. Michael, as we put on our Vacation Bible School every morning during the last week of

this month, July 25-29. The Lord has brought us hundreds of kids every year, but for the last couple years we did not have them in the building. This year they're coming back in force, the majority of them from non-member families in our community. Please go to mightymessengers.org/vbs and sign up to help. Especially as a guide to lead a small group of children from one station to the next. There's also a large VBS display by the coat racks in the Communications Center, where you can agree to bring a snack donation that is printed on a small note attached to the display. You will want to plan to join us on Saturday, July 30 for the 5:00 pm worship and a celebration of the VBS week. There will be plenty of family-fun games and the Chic-fil-A Food Truck will bring your favorite menu items here for us to enjoy.

One last big summer project is more behind the scenes during this month of July, but even when it happens August 4-13, it occurs about 2,000 miles away from St. Michael. I'm referring, of course, to our LAMP mission to Lac Brochet Manitoba Canada. With this summer mission project also, we have not been able to put it on in the usual way during the last couple pandemic years, but just recently we learned that we can return to the far north and minister in person with the Dene people in this remote reserve. To be honest, we're scrambling a bit to get everything together, but rejoicing at the same time with this resurrected opportunity to bring the love and message of Jesus to people who are very desirous and welcome to receive it.

While summer time is a busy time, it is still a very special time both to enjoy God's gifts and to distribute His gifts to others. I pray that your summer is special, and that you are enjoying some break from the usual routine and quality time with your family and friends. May you and your family also partner with us in these ministry projects and enjoy the blessing of this aspect of your summer fun. We're so grateful for all that the Lord has done, and is doing through our congregation, to bring the light of His Son into the dark places of our community and world.



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

FOLLOW JESUS

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

That is the truth.

Even if everyone on earth did not believe in Jesus, here's the fact:
JESUS IS RISEN.

... and Jesus, who died and **is risen** says this: **"follow me"**.

Dear Christians: follow Jesus. Even when that means that you lost. Even when that means that you will be mocked and made fun of...

Follow Jesus when you feel like you have nothing left to lose or gain... follow Jesus.

And even when you don't feel as though you can follow Jesus... He's already there to pick you up, put you over His shoulder, and carry you along. You are not God's child because you can run fast and far, you are God's child because He picked YOU.

Jesus is with you today, and tomorrow, and always. He KNOWS what you have done, and what you feel, and what you fear. He knows, because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate... etc

Jesus loves **you**. Trust in Him and in His power. Follow Jesus!

I know we have heard these words before... THINK on what they mean. Trust... follow Jesus who has "been there and done that". He knows pain and fear and desertion and even death. If you are reading this, you have never died yet. Jesus has, and He sent death back to hell where it belongs. Jesus loves you so much that He even put death back in its lane, back in its place.

Follow Jesus by reading the Bible, His inspired Word. Follow Jesus by joining together with your church family here at St. Michael every weekend. Follow Jesus by laughing at death because you are baptized and Satan is defeated.

*Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,
And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word,
In suffering be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle's strain
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.*

Pastor Maske



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

July 3, 2022 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 66:1-7; ISAIAH 66:10-14; LUKE 10:1-20

“TELL THE FAMILY STORY” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 10:1-20

- REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

Remember listening to your grandparents tell you stories of their childhood? Those stories delighted us and gave us a sense of who we are. We have a story to tell. It is the story of Jesus. It is the story of God's eternal love and assures us that our “names are written in heaven.”

July 10, 2022 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 41; COLOSSIANS 1:1-14; LUKE 10:25-37

“ARE YOU SURE?” - SERMON TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

- REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

At the beginning of his letter to the Colossian Christians, the Apostle Paul uses some very lofty words to describe the Colossians (and, by extension, us as well). But surely, upon closer examination, couldn't Paul be guilty of stretching the truth just a bit? Is there a stretching of the truth about us?

July 17, 2022 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 27:7-14; COLOSSIANS 1:21-29; LUKE 10:38-42

“RIGHTLY ORDERED LOVE” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 10:41-42

- REV. DR. THOMAS AHLERSMEYER

“I feel as if I'm being pulled in a dozen directions,” is a common lament in today's world. Jesus knows these directions and, in fact, has given us a myriad of things to enjoy in this world. By listening to His voice, we learn to love these gifts in the right order.

July 24, 2022 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 138; GENESIS 18:20-33; LUKE 11:1-13

“PRAY LIKE ABRAHAM” - SERMON TEXT: GENESIS 18:20-33

- REV. WALTER MAIER III

How are we to pray? Learn from Abraham! Let us pray humbly, but also confidently, boldly, and persistently.

July 31, 2022 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 100; COLOSSIANS 3:1-11; LUKE 12:13-21

“RICH TOWARD GOD” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 12:15

- REV. THOMAS EGGOLD

There is no life in the abundance of possessions, but through the undeserved forgiveness of the crucified and risen Christ and in the love of a Father who has graciously given you all things, you will live forever! And these are riches in which you can rejoice.



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

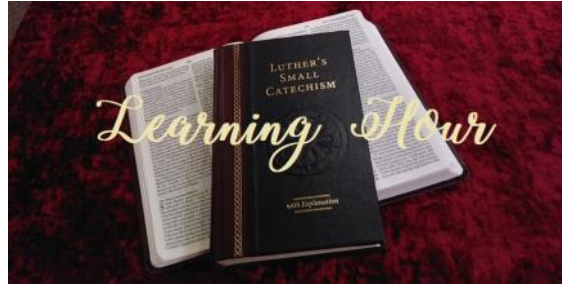
- 30-Minute Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship service
- Produced by Lutherans for the homebound, hospitalized...
- Includes the Gospel, Epistle, and Sermon by LCMS pastors
- Music by choirs, soloists, and small groups

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



WHY A LEARNING HOUR?

Christ called His followers to know the truth that would set them free, and the Bible repeatedly warns us not to fall prey to teaching that is attractive but empty. The Learning Hour feeds our minds and hearts on goodness and truth, helping us to better understand our faith and better resist the many things that would pull us away from the Gospel. Spending time together in God's Word is also a great way to develop deeper friendships.

ADULT LEARNING HOUR CLASS OFFERING

The Gospel According to St. Matthew - What is a "Gospel" and why are there four of them? To whom was Matthew writing and for what purpose? What's the unique portrait of Jesus that Matthew paints in comparison to the other Gospel writers (i.e., Mark, Luke, and John)? What application is there in what Matthew has written for my life today (and tomorrow)?

These are all important questions that will be fun and interesting to explore together, and will help us better appreciate and benefit from this first book of the New Testament. So join us on Sunday mornings throughout July and August for this 10-session Bible study. We'll be using a Bible study booklet entitled "Matthew: His Kingdom Forever," by Pauline and Leonard Erdman in the "God's Word for Today" series by Concordia Publishing House. Don't worry if you can't make every session – it's all good!

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:45AM

PS-2nd Grades in Room #120

3rd-7th Grades in Room #119

8th-High School in Youth Room





We
Welcome
You!

Education with Christ at the Heart

7211 Oakland Drive • Portage, MI 49024

St. Michael Lutheran School and Preschool, the only Christian school in Portage, is now enrolling for the 2022/2023 school year. St. Michael offers Christ-centered, quality academic programs for grades Kindergarten through 8th. In addition, St. Michael offers computer, art, gym, music, band, and Spanish along with after school enrichment classes and no-cut sports. The program is open to all. Tuition Assistance is available for those who qualify. If you would like more information, call 327-0512, or visit www.stmikeschool.org

Christ for Kids Childcare Center

offers Christ-centered childcare for children as young as six weeks. Programs offer low student/teacher ratios designed to promote spiritual, social, emotional and cognitive growth in every child. Christ for Kids offers year around, full-time childcare, Monday through Friday from 6:30 am – 6:00 pm. Call 327-0512 or 327-4889 to learn more about our programs.

Save the date!

Monday, September 26

**Karl Mueller
Memorial Open**

“MIGHTY ANGELS”

GOLF OUTING

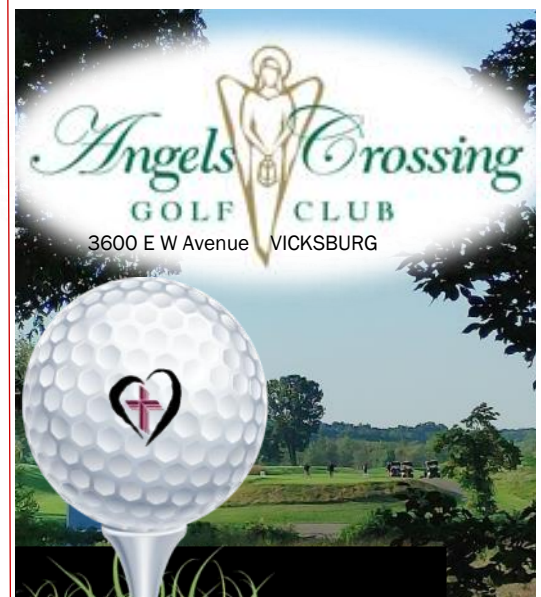
**FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE
WITH CARTS**

**9:00 AM SHOTGUN START
LUNCH & AWARDS 2PM**

\$100 per person

Registration Deadline: September 19

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE ST.
MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL
TUITION-ASSISTANCE FUND**



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

All Aboard the Rocky Railway Express!

Come join in the
Vacation Bible School Celebration
Saturday, July 30 ★ 5:00-8:00PM

*Round up your family,
neighbors and friends!*



It will be an evening of outdoor
worship, family fun and fellowship.

Bring your lawn chairs or picnic blankets
and be prepared to celebrate the
goodness of our God.

The  Food Truck will have
your favorite menu items to purchase.



There will be games for all ages. . .

You can challenge your kids
(or your Sunday morning pew partner)
to a relay, or try to beat them
at corn hole or lawn twister.



*We look forward to
seeing you!*

LCMSFoundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Helen was married for fifty-two years. Her husband Ralph was called home last year. This year, responding to her attorney, Helen finally made an appointment to meet with her attorney to review her will, which she had created twenty-five years ago with her husband. Before going to the attorney, Helen met with her LCMS Gift Planning Counselor to consider her charitable gifting plan. She was shocked to find gifts she planned from her estate long ago were no longer appropriate. One gift was to a women's shelter sponsored by her congregation that closed just last year. One was to support a specific missionary who had served in Asia for fifty years but had retired seven years ago. One gift was designated for a ministry that she had never heard about. She said to the Gift Planning Counselor, "I am not sure if I should put a plan in place again because it might get outdated."

The counselor pointed out two things. The gift to

the missionary had a definite expiration date to it. Every missionary's service will come to an end at some time. A better gift would have designated the ministry that was placing the missionary. Beyond that, the counselor emphasized that a ministry gifting plan is based on the best plan for that current moment in time. It requires regular review, at least every five years, to make sure that it is keeping up with changes. Her fears could be addressed by simply committing to this regular review. Helen felt better.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you think through appropriate ministry gifts that are not as prone to having an expiration date. They can also regularly review your plan, making sure it is up to date. Contact...

Julie Burgess

Gift Planning Counselor, Church Extension Fund

Email: Julie.burgess@lfnd.org

Mobile: 713-822-5284

2 VBS MISSION PROJECTS CAN BE SUPPORTED...



Students' mission offerings will help translate and publish *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* into the Spanish language.

Every \$5 collected provides God's promise of a Savior for a child living in places within North, South and Central America.

\$200 Goal



Collecting:

- box of 24 crayons
- a pink eraser
- loose leaf paper
- 70-sheet notebooks, wide- or college-ruled
- Wooden ruler, with centimeters and inches
- #2 pencils with erasers
- pencil sharpener
- black or blue ballpoint pens, no gel ink
- Scissors



Our Goal: to receive

200 of each item to be donated to children living within the very low-income Colonial Acres Community here in Portage.



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

Coping with Loneliness

Loneliness can creep in on us like a shadow without warning or it could come like the aftermath of a great storm leaving scattered pieces of our lives everywhere. We can allow the enemy to use this season of loneliness for pity parties and discouragement. Or we can allow the Lord to use our pain for His glory and ultimate purpose. Remember: There is a season, a reason or a lifetime for all things.

Remember that God is with you:

"Let him sit alone in silence, for the Lord has laid it on him" (Lamentations 3:28)

Because God is a Spirit, we can't physically touch nor see Him. Many times Satan will use this as a means to try to prove that God isn't real. However, we must first recognize that the Christian life is based upon faith in God even when we can't see or feel Him. Jesus said to Thomas, *"Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29)* because we are believers in Jesus Christ, we can take heart that we are never alone.

Reconcile/Restore broken relationships:

"I lie awake; I have become like a bird alone on a roof" (Psalm 102:7)

Some of us have seasons of loneliness because of broken relationships. This could be because of separation/divorce, strained familial bonds, or misunderstandings between friends. In many cases, pride in ourselves or others can bring division leading to being alone. Restoration takes both parts coming to a place of agreement and that's not always possible. However, if we have sinned against anyone in a situation, we must take responsibility to confess and seek forgiveness.

Reach out to Others:

"For none of us lives for ourselves alone and none of us dies for ourselves alone" (Romans 14:7)

Some of us are lonely because we are waiting for God to send people our way. However, you need to be receptive and recognize God's work when he does. But don't be afraid to reach out to others, we need each other to strengthen and encourage one another in these evil days.

Retrain your thinking about being alone:

"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:1)

Loneliness is not always a bad thing. There are seasons in our lives when we need to pull away from people to reconnect and hear from God. I have discovered that I have more time I can dedicate to and spend with God. Believers who use this time for getting to know God better find themselves strong in days of temptation and trials.

Rest in God's assurance and presence for a season of being alone.

"Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted" (Psalm 25:16)

The devil would prefer for us to become anxious about loneliness; yet what he meant for evil, God turns for our good. In the seasons of loneliness, we find ourselves in a place of trusting in God like we would've never done with many people surrounding us. Just like the seasons of nature have a beginning and end – so does our seasons of loneliness. Many of us come out of these seasons stronger in our faith and more determined to live out the calling of God in our lives.

Being Alone versus Being Lonely:

As believers in Christ Jesus, we can take heart that we are never alone. God is and will always be with us throughout eternity. We also can be encouraged that He allows seasons of loneliness to prune and prepare us for the next steps of our journey. We are not forsaken but rather loved deeply enough to have times of restoration and healing with our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

God IS with you,

Virginia Hetrick – Prayer Coordinator

(excerpts are taken from an article by Crystal McDowell)

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/>

MAY FINANCIALS

7 Months

11/1/2021-5/31/2022

Church Revenue	\$ 496,733
School Revenue	\$ <u>817,119</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,313,852
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,107,820</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 206,032
Expense Budget	\$ 1,107,168
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 206,684
Working Cash Balance	\$ 230,344
Mortgage Balance	\$ 732,068

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$714,958
Building Contingency	\$ 27,475
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 8,197
Sunday School	\$ 338
Youth Donations	\$ 17,819
Youth Accounts	\$ 11,237
Good Samaritan	\$ 4,222
Memorials	\$ 4,391
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 12,967
Quilting	\$ 1,390
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 135
School Improvements	\$ 55,989
Tuition Assistance	\$ 55,021
School Music	\$ 54
Flower Fund	\$ 5,369
CFK Grant Fund	\$ 0
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 1,976
Faith Budget	\$ 54,151

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

April Avg.	446
May Avg.	245
June Avg.	250

Annual Avg. 2019 347

Annual Avg. 2020 197
(+ uncounted online viewers)

Annual Avg. 2021 265

Annual Avg. 2022 296

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



Community GRILL NIGHTS

JULY 11-14
5:30 TO 8:00 PM

8 locations throughout the city!



MONDAY, JULY 11 | 5:30-8PM

MILHAM MEADOWS

Join Us!

2175 Albatross Ct,
Portage, MI 49024



ONEWorship

@ Arcadia Festival Site
Sunday July 10, 3-6pm

*Release the Sound
of Jubilee!*

JESUSLOVESKZOO.ORG

St. Michael is sending a LAMP Team to Lac Brochet, Manitoba CANADA — August 4



2022 St. Michael LAMP Team

Pastor Paul & Dana Naumann, Jay Koski and John & Ailene Buchtrup

In mid-June the Team received permission and an invitation to come back to Lac Brochet and now we are hurrying to put things together for the trip.

Needs for trip to Lac Brochet

PRAYER—for the team, for the children, for the Lac Brochet Community.

Financial Assistance—the plane tickets are much more expensive because of the rising gas prices, etc., and our time for raising money is shorter.

Send off during Worship Services: July 30 & 31

We are looking forward to:

- Seeing our friends again
- The smiling faces of the children
- Sharing Jesus with everyone in Lac Brochet
- Being Jesus' hands and feet in the far North.



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*

DONATION STATION IS NOW OPEN!!



Most of the supplies needed for VBS have been taken care of with budgeted funds or generous Thrivent Action grants.

However, you can check out this bulletin board with many ways that you can make donations to VBS for the Chew Chew Snacks.

Take a colorful reminder note and go shopping! Most Items needed by July 20th. Please bring fresh fruit items on 7/24-25.

Please leave Donation Station items across from this bulletin board, below the coat racks. Lots of items to choose from. ALL ARE NEEDED.

Over 200 kids planning to come... We currently only have enough volunteers to accept and encourage about 100 or so... 18 people needed! You can still get registered to support our program and receive a Chic-fil-A gift card, too!

REGISTER AT: mightymessengers.org/vbs

VOLUNTEER TRAINING THURSDAY, JULY 7

You are the core of the
Vacation Bible School success.
We want to take care of you!

- ♥ Team Devotion at 5:30 PM
- ♥ Light Meal
- ♥ Logistics of VBS Week
- ♥ Q & A
- ♥ Personal Care SPONSORED BY:



Back To Health
Chiropractic

1930 W Milham Avenue Suite D, Portage
(269) 345-2273 BTHCLINICS.COM



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



Church Extension Fund

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

FIELD OF DREAMS

“If you build it, they will come...”

As we watch the Boys of Summer, cheering on our favorite baseball teams, I am reminded of the movie Field of Dreams. You'll recall the main character builds a baseball diamond in the middle of his Iowa cornfield after hearing voices. whisper the above quote. Simply creating the field was not the end of the story. He chases across the country to discover the answer to two important questions. “Why?” and “What happens now?”

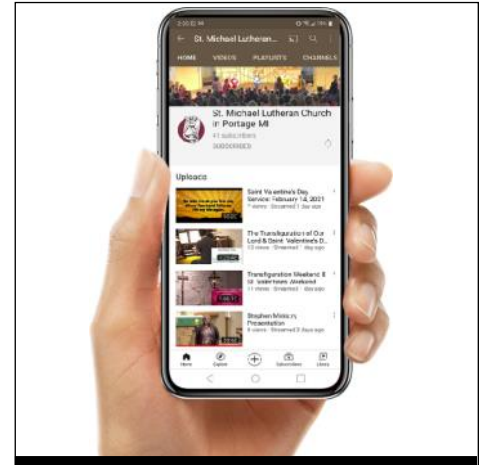
During the construction of the baseball field he is questioned, criticized, and ridiculed. He comes close to losing the farm. But he perseveres, confident his efforts will result in something amazing. My favorite scene is after the old-time players finish the game and leave the field. One player remains, his father, as a young man. They play catch and talk, as he relishes the opportunity to spend time with the man he rejected when he was a boy.

We also have the chance to spend time with our Father. Do we make the best use of our opportunities? How much time do we spend in quiet contemplation reflecting on God's Word? Or do our busy schedules make it a challenge to carve out some time each day? But He is always there reaching out to us, ready to spend time and communicate with us.

As parents we take on the task of influencing our children and grandchildren. What we do and say is a living example for them. Praying, having devotions, going to church, and just spending time with them, demonstrating our values can make a lifetime of difference. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, “Train up a child in the way they should go and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.”

I recently had the pleasure of taking two of my grandchildren to The Ark Encounter in northern Kentucky. Seeing the reality of Noah's Ark come to life, opened the door to some great conversations. My prayer is, experiencing, reading the stories, and discussing how this biblical account happened, cements the faith that has been nurtured in their young lives.

What impact can you have on the lives of your grandkids, friends, and neighbors? Take the time to share your faith. Demonstrate your faith in how you live your life. It can make a lifetime of difference. We invite you to join with Church Extension Fund to work with us to Build the Kingdom.



STAY CONNECTED

YouTube

On the St. Michael 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

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

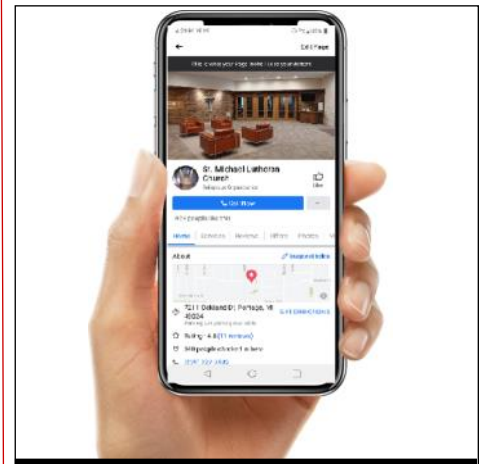


YOUTH MINISTRY USES



Signal APP

To share activity information. Connect with Pastor Maske for more details on how to be informed.



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.



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