



# THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

AUGUST 2022

Volume 61, Number 8

NASA's James Webb Telescope using Quasars to unlock the secrets of the early universe.

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](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



Calling all married couples to consider attending a Marriage Encounter weekend coming up in Battle Creek, MI on September 30 to October 2, 2022. This weekend provides an opportunity to move from a marriage based on a contract commitment to a covenant commitment. Couples gather from Friday night to Sunday afternoon to learn and practice new communication techniques taught by Presenter Couples. The leaders share their marriage experiences and instruction in inspiring and relatable talks.

We attended an encounter weekend many years ago and have celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The weekend provided us with tools for communication and interaction that you assume you have but chances are, you do not. It has also blessed us with friends in our continuing social Journey Group who hold marriage in high esteem. While the weekend is not a problem solver in itself, the tools provide a framework in which to approach the problems all of us encounter.

Please consider this opportunity to have a new beginning in your relationship. For information and to register, visit: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org)

Or contact Registration Couple: Mark & Jan Chilcott at 269-998-6147; [mchilcotME@gmail.com](mailto:mchilcotME@gmail.com)

Lynne & Arlan Wendzel



Dog Days of Summer are here and the Quilt group members are working like dogs! The month of June was spent sewing pillowcases for Family & Children Services. In July we returned to quilt making, trying out some new designs and in August/September we will be racing our deadline to complete all the quilts in time for distribution.

Most Fridays we can be found in the Naumann Room (230) - stop by to see what's going on anytime you'd like!

Many, many thanks to our anonymous donors. We have been blessed with financial gifts and unexpected bags of cotton fabric. As prices continue to rise, we are extremely grateful for your support!



# *"The Heavens Declare the Glory of God"*

God is always speaking, but unfortunately we're not always listening. God speaks to us most clearly in the Bible and tells us more about Himself there than He does anywhere else. But God is also speaking in creation and telling us that He exists and is revealing something about His nature and character. St. Paul writes of this to the Romans:

*"For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made" (Romans 1:20).*

We call this the natural knowledge of God as opposed to the revealed knowledge of God that we have from the Holy Scriptures. While what God is saying in creation only takes us so far in our understanding of Him, it is an important start down the right path if we will take it. Recall how the Magi eventually found Jesus when they persisted in following His star. I have seen this with the First Nations people that I have come to know while ministering in Canada on LAMP trips. What God has revealed to them in nature can become foundational to future faith in Jesus, who "came down from heaven" and accomplished our eternal salvation.

King David beautifully sings of this natural knowledge of God in Psalm 19. . .

*"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.  
Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.  
Their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world."*

All this tells us that there is not only scientific value in space exploration but potentially Spiritual value as well. Whether we look up into the night sky with the naked eye or through the new James Webb Space Telescope, it should humble us as humans and move us to glorify God. As David wrote in another one of his psalms. . .

*"When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
The moon and the stars, which You have set in place,  
What is man that You are mindful of him,*

*And the son of man that You care for him?" (Psalm 8:3-4).*

But sadly it seems that the more advanced we get in scientific ability and discovery, the more we get filled with humanistic hubris. The problem lies in the fact that many who are looking through the lens of a telescope are also looking through the lens of their own evolutionary and often atheistic presuppositions. No one will ever see a "Big Bang" in outer space no matter how powerful a telescope we can manage to invent because its supposed occurrence was in the prehistoric past and is entirely conjecture. On the one hand, what we can actually observe and put to the scientific method of investigation in the present is objective truth, such things as distance, size, color, chemistry, temperature, etc. But on the other hand, any speculation about age and origin is by necessity going to be purely subjective and based on ones predetermined perspective. Contrary to the commentary on the John Webb, no telescope will ever truly be a "time machine" that shows us the past. In reality, it can only show us the present and therefore any conclusions drawn from current observations are always going to betray ones' philosophical and religious convictions as much as anything.

All throughout history, humans have been looking up into the night sky and asking questions and drawing conclusions. We just happen to be at a point in history in which we can see much farther into outer space than we have ever have been able to do before. According to the Bible, as we gaze up into outer space we can indeed conclude that there is a God who is the maker of the heavens and the earth, and the more we discover about the magnificence of creation the more we can conclude about the magnificence of its Creator. So let us pray that those made in God's image, who are observing the stunning images from the latest telescope, would not look past God and reject the work of His fingers but would instead see Him in the heavens and hear the heavens declare His glory.



SEEKING GOLFERS & SPONSORS  
FOR THE ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Karl Mueller Memorial Open

# ***"MIGHTY ANGELS"*** **GOLF OUTING**

**MONDAY, SEPT. 26, 2022**



**All Proceeds  
Support The  
SMLS  
Tuition-  
Assistance  
Fund**

**\$600 EAGLE SPONSOR:**

INCLUDES A GOLF  
FOURSOME, SPONSOR  
SIGNAGE AT THE TEE,  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION IN  
THE PROGRAM, AND AT THE  
LUNCHEON CEREMONIES.

**\$300 BIRDIE SPONSOR:**

INCLUDES A GOLFER  
SPONSOR, SPONSOR  
SIGNAGE AT THE TEE,  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION IN  
THE PROGRAM, AND AT THE  
LUNCHEON CEREMONIES.

**\$200 CART SPONSOR:**

YOUR BUSINESS OR  
INDIVIDUAL NAME WILL BE  
PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED  
ON ALL GOLF CARTS AND  
ALSO LISTED IN THE  
PROGRAM (ONLY TWO CART  
SPONSORS WILL HAVE THIS  
OPPORTUNITY)

**\$100 HOLE SPONSOR:**

YOUR BUSINESS OR  
INDIVIDUAL NAME WILL BE  
PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED  
ON A SIGN AT A TEE AND  
ALSO LISTED IN THE  
PROGRAM.

**\$100 GOLFER SPONSOR:**

SPONSOR SOMEONE TO  
PLAY GOLF IN THE EVENT  
AS YOUR SUBSTITUTE OR  
AS YOUR GUEST.

**Register online at: [mightymessengers.org/golf-outing/](https://mightymessengers.org/golf-outing/)**



# FOUR-PERSON SCRAMBLE WITH CARTS

9:00 AM SHOTGUN START

**\$100** per person



## Can't golf?

There are many ways for you to still be involved and supportive!

Join us for the luncheon, donate a prize or become a sponsor!



## REGISTER TODAY!

Please return registration form to:  
St. Michael Lutheran Church & School  
7211 Oakland Drive † Portage, MI 49024

- 8:00 a.m. - Light Breakfast / Registration begins
- 8-9:00 a.m. FREE Driving Range Warm-Up
- 2:00 p.m. Luncheon (with cash bar), Awards and Prizes
- Longest Drive / Closest to Pin / Putting Contests (3 tries for \$5)
- Hole-in-One Prizes / Mulligans for sale (\$5 each)
- Event & Hole Sponsorships Available

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List Additional Team Members Below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

_____	\$ 600	Eagle Sponsor
_____	\$ 300	Birdie Sponsor
_____	\$ 100	Player (with lunch)
_____	\$ 25	Luncheon only
_____	\$ 200	Cart sponsorship
_____	\$ 100	Hole sponsorship
_____	\$ 100	Golfer Sponsor
_____	Total	

## Questions?

Contact Pastor Naumann

[naumann@mightymessengers.org](mailto:naumann@mightymessengers.org)

Church Phone: 269-327-7832

School Phone: 269-327-0512

Tax ID - #38 - 6176071



Make check payable to: St. Michael Lutheran School

Pay online at:  
[mightymessengers.org/golf-outing-donation-portal/](http://mightymessengers.org/golf-outing-donation-portal/)

# 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*



## "In All Things"

Seven of our youth and three adult leaders had the blessed opportunity to participate in the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Houston. Our main theme was based upon Colossians 1:15-20, in which God's Word reminds us that Jesus Christ is preeminent in all things!

As the people of God, we can take such great comfort in this Gospel news. No matter the situation, Jesus Christ IS Lord and He is in charge. This might not feel so at times, but that is why we have the unchanging Word of God to remind us that, no matter what, Christ is risen and He reigns forever.

Jesus loves you. He loved you before you were born, He loved you on the cross, and right now today, and He will love you forever. He loves you all the time, no matter what you have done, and no matter what you are going through.

**Saints of St. Michael, Christ is with you in all things.** In all things. Even right now today. Even in your family. Even if you feel completely alone. *And this, friends, is Gospel news we are called to share with others who very desperately need to know this.* In the midst of divorce. When a friend has just died. In the middle of the night when you don't know how you will face the next day.

Jesus' little lamb, He loves you. In all things.

*Pastor Maske*





## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

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The youth will be sharing their gathering stories from the National Youth Gathering in Houston on August 6-7.

We will be having a youth pool party at Jeff & Beth Burnett's home August 7.

Junior & Senior High Youth are invited for a day on the lake at the home of Michael & Krista Grotelueschen on August 14.

Planning for a parent's night in September to look at events for the upcoming school year.

*The parents and youth want to say Thank You for the support for the Houston trip, and all the events we do!! You make all things possible.*



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

### August 7, 2022 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 33:12-22; HEBREWS 11:1-16; PSALM 33:12-22

“ANXIOUS HEARTS” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 12:34 - REV. SHAYNE JONKER

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” If your stuff is what you treasure, your heart will be devoted to these things and become your gods. Thus our Lord graciously directs us away from our idols to Himself. For He alone is reliable and can deliver us from anxiety and fear.



### August 14, 2022 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 103:1-13; HEBREWS 11:17-31; 12:1-3; LUKE 12:9-53

“LOOKING FOR LOVE” - SERMON TEXT: HEBREWS 11:17-31; 12:1-3  
- REV. PAUL SHOEMAKER

God is triune – three Persons, yet one God, as revealed in Scripture. We cannot fully comprehend this. But another truth from Scripture we do fully understand – the Triune God loves each one of us with a tremendous love.

### August 21, 2022 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 50:1-15; ISAIAH 66:18-23; LUKE 13:22-30

“ALL OR NOTHING” - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 13:22-30 - REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

Jesus can often say somethings that are downright challenging. Luke 13:22-30 is no exception! What does Jesus mean when He says many will strive to enter through the door but will not be able? It appears that Jesus is taking an “all or nothing” approach. Why? Might it be that is the only way for salvation? How can our faith and Christian living be encouraged? It’s all or nothing with the one who was first, who became last for us!

### August 28, 2022 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 131; HEBREWS 13:1-8; LUKE 14:1-14

“I AM CONTENT” - SERMON TEXT: HEBREWS 13:5 - REV. DR. THOMAS AHLERSMEYER

When we call our Savior “my Jesus,” we do so knowing that forgiveness of sins and eternal life is ours from Him and in Him. Because of the One “who is the same yesterday and today and forever,” I am Content!



### 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



## LCMS MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION RECAP

One June 26-28, 2022, I was honored to attend the 103rd Michigan District Convention held on the campus of Concordia University in Ann Arbor, as a voting Lay Delegate, along with Pastor Maske as a voting Pastoral Delegate and Pastor Naumann in an advisory capacity.

The convention was well attended with 864 present. Between new officers and resolutions the voting delegates were asked to vote in excess of 60 times.

The new president of the Michigan District is David A. Davis of Ann Arbor. The 1st VP is Dean M. Davenport of Livonia. The 2nd VP is Darryl L. Andrzejewski of Grosse Pointe Woods. The 3rd VP is Craig L. Bickel of Ada, MI.

All resolutions passed with the exception of two: one dealt with the future of our Concordia Universities and the other with the development of additional qualified lay and ordained servant leaders.

Outgoing president, David Maier, reported that our Michigan District is in good financial shape. Synod president, Matthew Harrison, reported the same for the overall church body finances.

The church services each day were very uplifting and filled to capacity.

Two major problems that need to be worked on: the shortage of pastors and the financial help needed for our church workers. A recent survey indicates that 40% of our pastors are 60 years or older. Another 8% are considering retiring earlier than



anticipated due to Covid concerns. We as individuals all need to be looking for and encouraging our young men to enter the ministry. Our Concordia universities are excellent places of study before going on to our seminaries in Ft. Wayne or St. Louis.

Another survey indicates that 27% of church workers average \$46,000 of debt. Both seminaries now offer free tuition. Also, our Concordia's have scholarships available, but room and board along with other personal expenses can still present problems. Again, we as individual members of the church body need to step up with creative ways to address this situation.

This year's convention theme was "People of Hope... It's Time!" We as Christians have everything to be hopeful for – a God that created us and sent His only Son to die for us, forgive all our sins and promise us everlasting life. We have our Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit to guide us, pastors to teach us and congregations to support us. If God is for us, who can be against us?

Now is the time to stand up, speak up and act against the powers of this dark world that we live in, before it's too late!

In Christ, *Bill Burns*



***Do you love to sing?***

**Join the Choir!**

Rehearsals will begin

Wednesday, August 24

at 7:00PM in the music room

# 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*



**The Gospel According to St. Matthew** - 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 on Sunday mornings throughout August. Led by Pastor Naumann in the Music Room (114).

3<sup>rd</sup> GRADERS AND PARENTS RSVP FOR:

## BLESSINGS, PRAYERS & BIBLES FOR KIDS

SEPTEMBER 11  
Early or Late Worship Service  
+ a Learning Hour Workshop

## Come Join Us At

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45-10:45 am

PS-2nd Grades  
in Room #120

3rd-7th Grades  
in Room #119

8th-High School  
in Youth Room

**STAFFING IS IMPORTANT:**  
We are looking for a few assistants that enjoy storytelling, music, games or crafts.

*Will you shepherd God's children ?*

Use your God-given skills to do a small part in a rotation model.

There is a spot for YOU!





### STEM Program at St. Michael Lutheran School

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. STEM helps develop creators, thinkers, problem solvers, doers, innovators, and inventors. The skills the students attain through STEM include critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, decision making, leadership, acceptance, failure and more. Exposing students to STEM activities today sets a foundation for higher learning tomorrow.

What does STEM look like in the classroom? It includes many inquiry-driven lessons that spark student curiosity. There is less direct instruction and more hands on. The students are building, coding, creating and collaborating with others with a strong focus on science, technology, engineering and math.

We are very excited about the new STEM program that started at St. Michael last year, and we will be continuing to implement it within our curriculum. We are able to do this thanks to the generous donations that we have been given. We have been able to purchase materials that will grow our “Maker Space” for the students. Some of the items include: a 3D printer, drones, robots, K’Inex, pattern blocks, magnet tiles, Makey Makeys (circuits), squishy circuits, rockets, and tools. We will continue to add to our supplies so we can create more activities for students K-8th. Again, we would like to thank everyone for their support, it is greatly appreciated!

Julie Prentice  
6th Grade Teacher  
STEM Coordinator



# FELLOWSHIP

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

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

*Acts 2:42-47*



## Family Welcome

New Members

To Be Received - July 17 & 24, 2022

**Brandon** (transfer from Good Shepherd LC, Saginaw, MI)

**& Jacqueline Berka** (Profession of Faith)

989-397-3450 branberk@umich.edu

616-510-7392 jacerberka@gmail.com

(mailbox #315) 313 Lake Forest Blvd., Kalamazoo, MI 49006

**Michael Gast** (Affirmation of Faith)

269-759-9403 geddywilson@yahoo.com

(mailbox #257) 655 Charlie Ct., Apt. 3B, Portage, MI 49002

**Joel & Cheryl Johnson**, (Affirmation of Faith)

517-488-4643 jjorcj@comcast.net

(mailbox #308) 1757 Timberline Drive, Portage, MI 49024

**Michael & Sarah Kamphuis** (Transfer, Zion Lutheran)

Sadie, Norah

574-607-6000 kamphuisr@gmail.com

269-377-5452 srkamphuis@gmail.com

(mailbox #120) 11090 Highley Circle East, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

**Joseph & Alicia Keinath** (Transfer Trinity, Paw Paw)

Joe 269-568-1500 joekeinath@yahoo.com

Alicia 269-568-1502 aliciakeinath@gmail.com

(mailbox #323) 27622 Manchester Cir., Paw Paw, MI 49079-8537

**Ben & Jan Wells** (Transfer from Peace, Saginaw)

989-245-2485 lewiellie@gmail.com

(mailbox #333)

3951 W. Milham Avenue #208, Portage, MI 49024

*We Are Glad You Are Here!*



# LCMSFoundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Randy and Rachel recently purchased some furniture. The trouble is it had to be assembled. Randy dug right in, but he was having trouble figuring out how to get it together. Rachel confronted him saying, "Did you look at the instructions? It frustrates me that you can't ever ask for help." Hopefully God's grace removed the offenses of that moment, but this story illustrates the fact that in life, we need help with things we can't do ourselves.

If your air conditioner breaks, you hire someone to fix it because you must be trained and licensed to work with the coolant. If you have a tooth ache, you don't use a pair of pliers to fix it yourself; You go to a dentist. One apprehension for people completing their estate plans is that they don't want to be required to schedule appointments with attorneys, financial advisors, or tax planners, nor pay the costs. But trying to put together estate plans without help is like Randy trying to build his furniture without instructions. The investment of time and dollars in estate work is worth it, making sure things are completed correctly.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist your interaction with these professionals. Your Gift Planning Counselor will never bill you for the time they work with you. You can work through the tough questions and highlight the work that needs to be done, so that when you appear in your professional's office, you are prepared and ready to be efficient and able to make decisions to move forward. To begin this preparation process with your LCMS Gift Planning Counselor, contact...

JULIE BURGESS, GIFT PLANNING COUNSELOR

Email: Julie.burgess@lfnd.org Mobile: 713-822-5284

## \*\*\*SPECIAL ATTENTION\*\*\*

To all church members who would like to be part of a group of the most caring, nurturing, patient people in our Congregation. We are listeners who care about any situation a person finds him/herself in, where a person just wants someone to hold their hand and be there when they need a friend.

Would you like to be part of a group like that??

STEPHEN MINISTERS CARE ABOUT PEOPLE!!

We have a class opening up on September 29 this year and if you would like to learn more about the Art of Listening and how to help a person going through a difficult time in their life – I'll be in the Communications Center for the next several Sundays answering questions about our upcoming class.

Virginia Hetrick 269-744-0944

## Exploring Our Faith



### NEW CLASS BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

*What does it mean to have Christian faith? What do Lutherans believe? How is this similar and/or different from the doctrines taught by other denominations and religions? ...ASK THE PASTOR!*

In this course, we will explore the six chief parts of the Christian faith as outlined by Dr. Martin Luther in his catechisms. In so doing, you will find that our Lutheran faith is Bible based, and in agreement with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. Once you've taken the course you will have prepared yourself to become an active communicant member of St. Michael Lutheran Church, if you so desire.

SUNDAY MORNINGS 9:45-10:45  
Call the Church Office to Register  
269-327-7832

### HAVE YOU SEEN THE **PAPER GATOR** 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?**

- Newspaper
- 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



Church Extension Fund

[Bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org](mailto:Bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org)

800-242-3944

**FOLLOW THE LEADER**

We've all played the game follow the leader. Whatever the leader does, the rest of the players imitate. Jump on one foot. Swing your arms in circles.

Even little babies do it naturally. As they develop, they mimic the actions of their parents. You may have experienced the play back mode of a small child that repeats something they have heard you say. Oops, did I say that?

Good role models and mentors can be a huge blessing in our lives. They can help shape the people we become. Poor role models can also impact us greatly. Without even thinking, we may join the chorus of decenterers if we hear people and get caught up in the moment.

We need to be grounded in the Word, able to discern the things we hear and sift through all the information at our disposal, before we jump to conclusions.

Psalms 1:1-2: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His Law, he meditates day and night.

Jesus led the perfect life, died on the cross and rose from the dead. Through the Holy Spirit we have the power to make a difference in our world. We can serve others and share the redeeming power of the Gospel.

Be a leader in your congregation. Partner with Church Extension Fund to help Build the Kingdom, as an investor.



We serve the children by supporting the educational needs of students, parents, teachers; fostering fellowship among school and church families; and contributing to the physical resources of the school.

If you're interested in volunteering for PTL or school events please email to:

[PTL@mightymessengers.com](mailto:PTL@mightymessengers.com) to be added to our volunteer list .



# 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/>

## JUNE FINANCIALS 8 Months

11/1/2021-6/30/2022

Church Revenue	\$ 554,206
School Revenue	\$ <u>870,754</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,424,960
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,259,185</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ 165,775
Expense Budget	\$ 1,261,680
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ 163,280
Working Cash Balance	\$ 190,087
Mortgage Balance	\$ 727,171

### Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$714,958
Building Contingency	\$ 30,475
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 7,487
Sunday School	\$ 342
Youth Donations	\$ 18,499
Youth Accounts	\$ 11,237
Good Samaritan	\$ 1,342
Memorials	\$ 7,852
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 13,078
Quilting	\$ 1,245
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 235
School Improvements	\$ 54,541
Tuition Assistance	\$ 53,088
School Music	\$ 54
Flower Fund	\$ 5,029
CFK Grant Fund	\$ 0
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 1,882
Faith Budget	\$ 54,151

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

May Avg. ....	245
June Avg. ....	250
July Avg. ....	246

Annual Avg. 2019 ..... 347

Annual Avg. 2020 ..... 197  
(+ uncounted online viewers)

Annual Avg. 2021 ..... 265

Annual Avg. 2022 ..... 290

# 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*

## CATALYST WEEK: *"Be Healed! Be Free! Release the Sound of Jubilee!"*

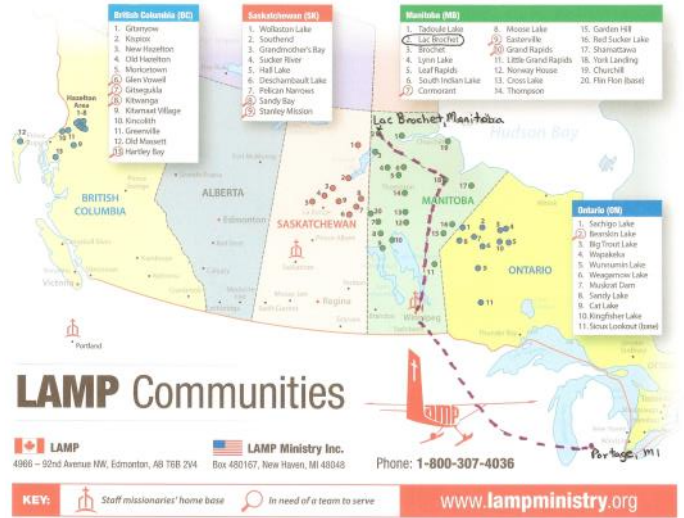




## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



### St. Michael LAMP Team Lac Brochet, Manitoba August 4–13



While we are in Lac Brochet we will:

- Put on the Rocky Railroad Vacation Bible School “ala Lac Brochet”
- Sponsor a Teen Night
- Lead a Men’s and a Women’s Bible Study
- Hang out with kids
- Share Jesus’ love with everyone



We need your Prayers:

- Travel to and from Lac Brochet— no issues with flights
- For God to use us in Lac Brochet to make use of the opportunities He gives us to share His love
- For God’s Grace to flow through the Team and to everyone we meet.
- Thanksgiving for how God is already answering prayers to bring everything together.

Thank you for your prayers  
and financial support!  
God is using you in a mighty  
way in Lac Brochet!



# 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*

## Many Thanks!



See pictures in our website gallery:  
<https://www.mightymessengers.org/photos/>

See videos on our facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI>

**To all that volunteered, donated and prayed for the success of our Vacation Bible School!!**



**SERGEANT RYAN PROXMIRE**



### MEMORIAL SCHOOL SUPPLIES GIVEAWAY

Langeland Family Funeral Homes will be collecting school supplies to donate to the children of the Kalamazoo community, for the 2022-2023 school year. Anyone in the Kalamazoo Community is invited to participate with donations.

Items can be dropped off at two of our Kalamazoo locations:



622 S. Burdick Street

or

3926 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street

During regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### Items needed include:

Backpacks for younger and/or older children  
Pencils, colored pencils, markers, or crayons  
Erasers  
Rulers  
Pencil sharpeners  
Spiral notebooks  
Folders, with or without metal tabs  
Pencil/Supplies cases  
Pens and highlighters  
Glue sticks  
Travel size packs of Kleenex and hand sanitizer



Langelands will be hosting the community giveaway on **Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> between 11:00am-1:00pm** at the Burdick Street Chapel, 622 S. Burdick St., Kalamazoo.

Prize drawings – need not be present to win.



## MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

### ***Good Volunteers are like Stars....***

***We don't always see them, but God knows they are there!!***

Have you ever thought about how many volunteer opportunities there are at St. Michael? There are some where you can meet with other members and make friends, some that are very much behind the scenes, some that are right up in front of the whole congregation, and others that allow you to interact with the community surrounding St. Michael.

Pastor Naumann recently gave a sermon about the five areas of church growth: Worship, Fellowship, Evangelism, Service and Discipleship. Each has its own set of volunteer activities that you can do that might match your personality and lifestyle, or help you step out of your comfort zone to learn and experience something new. Any volunteer activity will allow you to learn more about the .

***So why is volunteering at church so important and what difference can it make?*** It's pretty simple, the mission of the church is to reach and serve people through the love of Christ. Volunteering is an excellent way for individuals to identify their gifts and develop a heart for serving. A lot has to happen each week at a church to run smoothly and provide education and ministries to those who attend. ***"When everyone does a little, it becomes a lot."*** Remember, there are no unimportant jobs within the church. Some volunteer roles may seem inconsequential compared to others, but each one is uniquely necessary. For example, did you know that every week someone comes into the church and straightens out the Bibles, Hymnals and information in the pews? When you come in on Sunday do you notice how nice and neat it is? The people who do this are known as "Pew Checkers". The wonderful thing about being a Pew Checker is that you get to come into the sanctuary when it is quiet and spend some alone time doing work for the Lord and having a conversation with Him.

Right after church is dismissed; the Ushers come in and pick up items from the pews to tidy up once again before the second service.

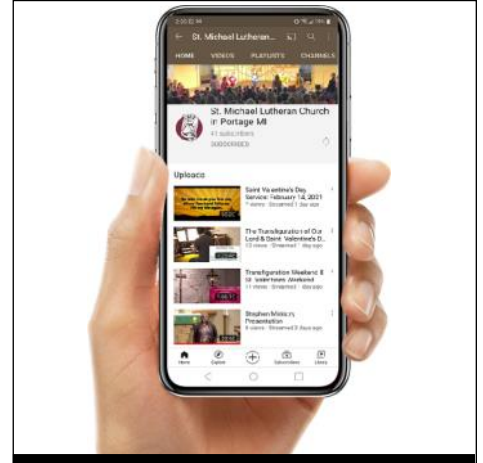
There is just no way a church staff can do everything it takes to keep the doors open. Volunteers are a huge part of the work.

***You may say, I don't know who to ask about volunteering in an area I have an interest in, or I don't know what all of the areas are that need volunteers.*** Well, it is very easy to answer that question; there is a newly revised bulletin board right next to the mailboxes in the communication area. It has stars all over it because Volunteers are STARS!! It lists lots of the opportunities and the people to contact, if you are interested.

Not only are these opportunities to do God's work, it is also an opportunity to meet members of YOUR church family! To build new relationships with the people you worship with.

Blessings,

*Virginia Hetrick*, Prayer Coordinator



## 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

### Facebook

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

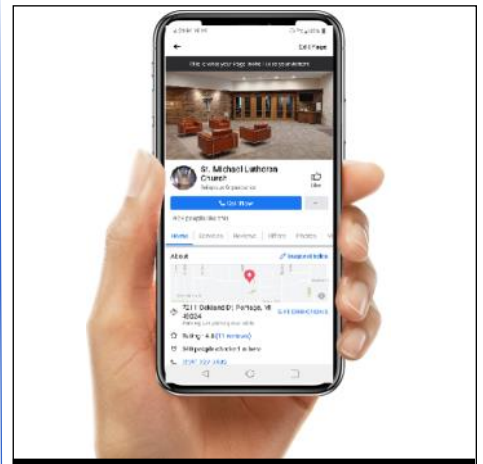


## YOUTH MINISTRY USES



**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.



## **STAFF:**

### **SENIOR PASTOR**

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann  
naumann@mightymessengers.org

### **ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

Rev. Daniel Maske  
dmaske@mightymessengers.org

### **ASSISTANT PASTOR**

Rev. Jason Toman  
jtoman@mightymessengers.org

### **BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER**

Jay Koski  
jkoski@mightymessengers.org

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

Tammy Songer  
tsonger@mightymessengers.org

### **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Greg Johnson  
gjohnson@mightymessengers.org

### **SCHOOL SECRETARY**

Sharon Robinson

### **KINDERGARTEN TEACHER**

Brenda Heintz

### **FIRST GRADE TEACHER**

Maralyse Worm

### **SECOND GRADE TEACHER**

Annie Hecht

### **THIRD GRADE TEACHER**

Kim Ruesch

### **FOURTH GRADE TEACHER**

Dawn Heid

### **FIFTH GRADE TEACHER**

Emily Lauterbach

### **SIXTH GRADE TEACHER**

Julie Prentice

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

Lisa Lam

### **CHRIST FOR KIDS CHILDCARE DIRECTOR**

Emily Ritchie  
eritchie@mightymessengers.org

### **PRESCHOOL TEACHERS**

Becky Mohler  
Cheryl Julian  
Jessica Lonc

## **WORSHIP MEDIA SPECIALIST**

Lorraine Dudash

## **CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Carolyn Bertrand

## **ORGANIST**

Keith Eiser

## **MORNING SONG DIRECTOR**

Jane Connon

## **SEXTONS**

Bryan Chandler  
Matthew Wright

## **VOLUNTEERS:**

### **PRESIDENT**

Jack Spenner

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Rob Kuhlmann

### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Tammy Songer

### **TREASURER**

Jan Jett

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Steve Bell, Director  
Mark Vickery, Assistant Director

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

Mike Grotelueschen, Director  
Matt Colby, Assistant Director

## **BOARD OF SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

Angie Heimlich, Director  
Lindsey Luma, Assistant Director

## **BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR**

Vacant, Director

### **VOLUNTEER MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Dar Swift

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Lisa Robert

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

Heather Bigelow, Director  
Chad Doubblestein, Assistant Director

### **YOUTH GROUP LEADERS**

Jerry Kuss, Jeff Burnett,  
Ryan & Heather Bigelow

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Matt Heintz, Director  
Greg Wedel, Assistant Director

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Kristi Rudowske, Linda Fry

### **LECTORS**

Virginia Hetrick, Jan Chilcott

### **PRAYER MINISTRY COORDINATORS**

Barbara Schubert, Virginia Hetrick

### **USHERS**

Mike Minger - Early Service  
Jesse Hogue - Late Service

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS**

Pastor & Dana Naumann  
Heather Crampton, Lynda Rea, Karen Shuler

### **STEPHEN MINISTERS**

Lane Bertrand, Mandi Cerqua, Virginia Hetrick  
Jackie Michels, Zoe Miller, Peter Robert,  
Bill Semrau, Kathy Zakarias

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Valerian Kwigizile, Director  
Kathie Seufert, Assistant Director

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## **BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION**

David Groll, Director  
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### **ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

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Peggy Makowski

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June Kucks

### **LWML**

Sandy Maya

### **SOFTBALL**

Shannon Miskovich

## **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Todd Foster, Dave Johnson, Julie Vickery,  
Brad Hunter, Rick Jacobs