

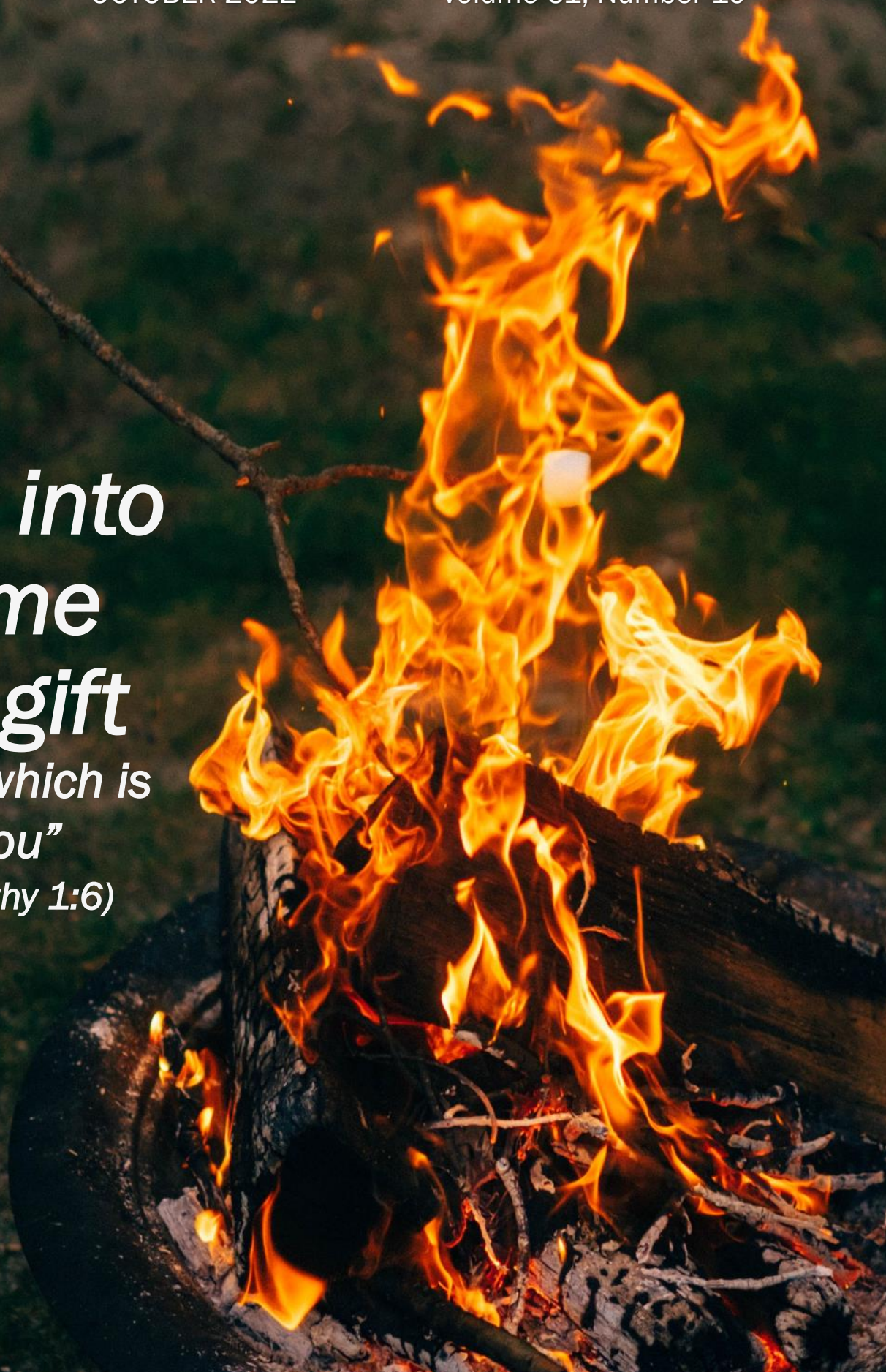


THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2022

Volume 61, Number 10

***“Fan into
flame
the gift
of God which is
in you”
(2 Timothy 1:6)***



WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

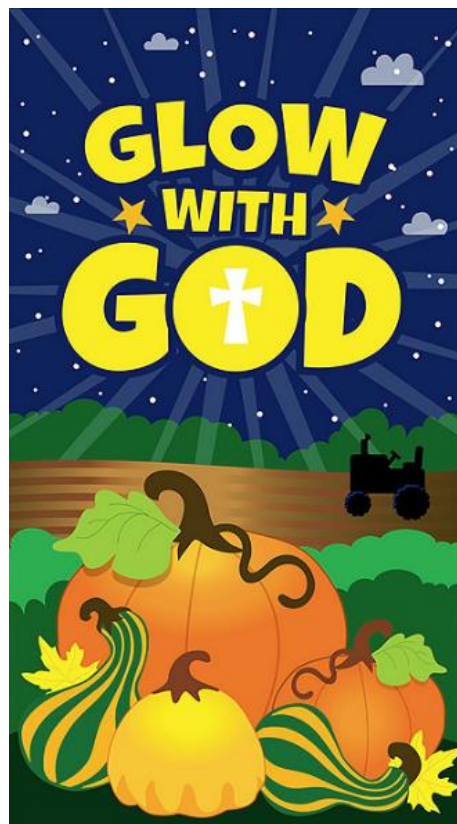
The vision of St. Michael Lutheran is to be a growing congregation within our local community that is *"Making Mighty Messengers for Christ"* by helping people:

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.



Some people think of Halloween as a time to wear costumes, eat candy and have fun. Some think about Halloween as a time to celebrate darkness and fear. While others are celebrating violence, Christians celebrate the light, love and peace of Jesus! We can share our Savior's victory over sin and death. In Psalm 27:1 the Bible says: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* In Matthew 5:16b Jesus says, *"let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

This year, on **Saturday, October 29**, we hope to **"GLOW with God"** at St. Michael.

Beginning with our Lamplight Worship time at 5PM, including the student choir of our school. There will be food, fun and fellowship in our Gym. Weather-permitting and with your participation, we will again host a *Trunk or Treat* in our parking lot.

How can you **"GLOW with God"** for our community? Maybe it is picking up a donation of candy, while shopping. Lots will be needed and we *understand that there is a candy shortage, so don't delay in making a purchase!* Maybe you can consider a creative, CHRISTIAN-theme so you can decorate and be in the trunk competition. Plan to help with setup/cleanup, food and games area, safety/parking, or be a contest judge...

[Opportunities to Volunteer can be seen here or take a look at the Registration Form in our Friday announcements!](#)

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

Fan into Flame the Gift

One of the joys of autumn's cooler weather is sitting by a fire, perhaps in your backyard or fireplace, or at a campsite. I tried to light a fire recently on a cool evening in our patio fire pit but it had been rainy earlier and the damp kindling made it challenging. But that's also part of the fun of having a fire, starting from a fledgling source that must be carefully tended, gently fueled, and fanned into flame. There's a warm feeling of accomplishment when it finally catches ablaze.

This is true in many other areas of life as well. For example, parents and teachers alike lovingly invest a great deal of time and energy sparking a child's initial interests in a variety of things, striving to *"train up a child in the way he should go"* (Proverbs 22:6). Not everything ignites, but over time they continue to nurture what catches on and ultimately they can bask in the glow of seeing kids fired up with their unique passions.

All of us who have been baptized into Christ have had a flame of faith lit in our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. But that faith requires ongoing reinforcing through the same Word of God that started it. We can hardly expect faith to grow without regular fueling and so every day we spend time in prayer and Bible reading. We gather with fellow believers in worship and corporate Bible study, knowing that a once burning coal that is isolated from others will eventually burn out.

But far beyond mere survival, God also wants our faith to grow to the point that we are fired up for Christ. He has made us for a reason, and has given us all our time, talents, and treasure for His special purposes. After all, fire is not just for fun but for

"fan into flame the gift of God which is in you"

-- 2 Timothy 1:6

function – heating, cooking, smelting, sanitizing, and a whole host of other utilities. Likewise, our faith is made for action – teaching, witnessing, comforting, administering, leading, and serving in countless ways with the gifts that God has given to us for ministry.

In his second letter to Timothy, St. Paul encourages him to ***"fan into flame the gift of God which is in you"*** (2 Timothy 1:6). In context, this refers to Timothy's ordination into the pastoral office, but it can also be applied to every believer in Christ. Your baptism was your ordination into *"the royal priesthood (in which you) proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (1 Peter 2:9). Every member of the body of Christ has a unique contribution to make in the mission He has given us.

Our stewardship emphasis this year is **Fan into Flame the Gift**. It begins the first weekend in October and concludes with the Commitment services October 22-23. At that time, we will bring our completed Commitment Form up to the altar and renew our resolve to be active receivers and givers of what God has entrusted to us.

Oct. 1-2	Pentecost 17	<i>Guard the Treasure</i>	2 Timothy 1:1-14
Oct. 8-9	Pentecost 18 - Blessing of the Quilts	<i>Join in Suffering</i>	2 Timothy 2:1-13
Oct. 15-16	Pentecost 19 - Blessing of the LWR Boxcar; Operation Christmas Child	<i>Fulfill Your Ministry</i>	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Oct. 22-23	Commitment Weekend - Pentecost 20	<i>Finish the Race</i>	2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Please commit even now to active participation in worship, prayer, and Bible study, so that together we might fan into flame the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to us for our good and for the good of His Kingdom.

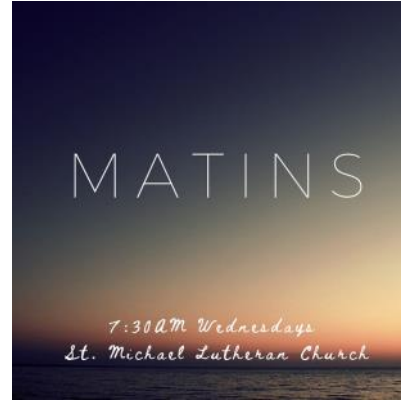


WORSHIP

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.

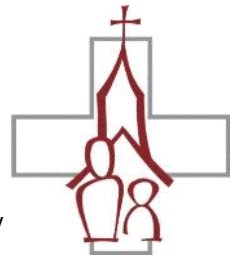
Colossians 3:16-17



You are invited to Midweek Morning Matins!

At 7:30 AM each Wednesday, join us for traditional Matins where we'll sing canticles, read the Bible, and offer prayers, closing with a Benediction before 8AM. It's not a replacement for the weekend Divine Service, but a midweek opportunity to feed on Scripture and pray together at the break of day. The liturgy is formal, starting at page 219 in the hymnal, but no formal dress will be expected, and all ages are welcome.

Even if you have never tried Matins and don't know the songs, come listen in as we sing, offer prayers, and find encouragement and refreshment in the Lord. If you come every week, you'll soon know the Matins by heart.



Confirmation students learning the process of acolyting and preparing for worship.



Please pray for their faith journey.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

October 2, 2022 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 62; HABAKKUK 1:1-4; 2:1-4; LUKE 17:1-10

"LIVE BY FAITH" - SERMON TEXT: HABAKKUK 1:1-4; 2:1-4

- REV. WILLIAM MUELLER

In a world, culture, and society that is going haywire in an exponential fashion, the cry of Habakkuk is very relevant: "How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen?" The Lord answers in a very unique way, with an even more unique message. We live by faith!

October 9, 2022 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 111; 2 TIMOTHY 2:8-13; LUKE 17:11-19

"GOING GOD'S WAY?" - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 17:11-19

- REV. DR. THOMAS AHLERSMEYER

God cares for all, yet all do not acknowledge that it is GOD'S care. Such is the case with Jesus' healing of the 10 lepers. We learn from this miracle that there is healing and then there is HEALING. Are you GOING GOD'S WAY?

October 16, 2022 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 121; GENESIS 32:22-30; LUKE 18:1-8

"GOD: MY ADVERSARY?" - SERMON TEXT: GENESIS 32:22-30

- REV. DR. WALTHER MAIER III

God, in human form, wrestled with Jacob. He seemed to be Jacob's adversary or opponent. At times God may seem to be our adversary - for example, when we receive bad news or are going through difficulties. But was God really Jacob's, and is he really our, opponent?

October 23, 2022 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 5; 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18; LUKE 18:9-17

"LET THEM COME" - SERMON TEXT: LUKE 18:15-17

- REV. THOMAS EGGOLD

Despite what our culture may teach, sin remains a reality in the world. Every single person has been born into a broken relationship with God, separated by nature, and in dire need of forgiveness. And to this desperate need Jesus said, "Let them come!"

October 30, 2022 - Reformation Sunday

PSALM 46; REVELATION 14:6-7; JOHN 8:31-36

"GOD DOESN'T CHANGE" - SERMON TEXT: REVELATION 14:6

- REV. DR. LAWRENCE R. RAST, JR.

Today we celebrate the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation and we remember the founding of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Both events were all about the proclamation of the unchanging Gospel of Christ, which is the unshakable and immovable foundation of our faith. Both the Reformation and the LCMS emphasized the comforting reality that, while everything around is constantly changing, God doesn't change.



Great news!

St. Michael's traditional 8:30

AM service will now

be posted to the Spiritual TV
Channel, according to this
schedule.

Charter Spectrum Channel 187

9 AM & 9 PM

TV MINISTRY YOU CAN TRUST!

Access for Kalamazoo and Portage

Monday	1 PM
Wednesday	5 AM & 10 AM
Friday	7 AM
Saturday	6 AM
Sunday	6 AM 10AM 6PM 10 PM

NEW CHANNEL
& TIMES!!

- 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

WHERE ARE WE MEETING? 9:45 - 10:45 AM

ROOM

- 114 The Path to the Cross: Embracing Obedience & Sacrifice
- 119 4th - 7th grades
- 122 Preschool-Kindergarten
- 123 1st - 3rd grades
- 207 8th - High School - **Studying the Scriptures of the week**
- 230 Exploring Our Faith - led by Pastor Naumann

YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Have you ever heard the story about a pastor who went to visit a parishioner that hadn't been in church for some time? Although this parishioner had been active at his church, something affected him enough that he no longer wanted to get out. After visiting with this parishioner and praying with him, the pastor said he had one more thing he wanted to show this member. So he turned to the warm inviting fireplace and, using tongs, he plucked out a glowing ember from the fire. As they sat there in companionable silence, the glowing ember slowly lost its fire.

In the last two years many Christian Americans have lost their fire about attending church. Sadly, some are still afraid to be in public and others have gotten used to watching a church service on their TV or computer. Although, remotely watching a church service is good, being a part of that service among other believers is so much better.

Adult men and women who attended religious services (including prayer meetings), at least weekly, at age 12 were more likely to report that they were currently "very happy", more likely to report that they receive more attention from others and less likely to indicate that they were frequently bored or more sad than those who had not attended services.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:23-25

I believe that consistently attending church services (including prayer gatherings and small groups), getting to know your "church family", and helping other people will provide increased happiness, less depression and more involvement in community life. This type of life and social engagement can also add years to your life.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another... And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Colossians 3:12-14

Blessings, Virginia Hetrick - Prayer Coordinator





ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL GETS RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITATION

National Lutheran School Accreditation encourages, assists, and recognizes schools that provide quality Christian education and engage in continuous improvement. After working for more than a year on an extensive self-study report and completing school improvement goals established through the previous accreditation process, St. Michael Lutheran School gained full accreditation once again. Christ for Kids Childcare Center also went through this process for the very first time and now both the early childhood and K-8 programs are fully accredited. Michigan District Superintendent of Lutheran Schools, Travis Grulke, visited on Sunday, September 25, and awarded our childcare and school with full NLSA accreditation. 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.



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



- Trunk-or-Treat CANDY give away
- Free Hamburger and Hotdog Dinner
- Kids Activity and Games
- Hayrides with a John Deer Tractor

Sunday, October 30th

3:00 - 5:00pm

Don't be late and miss the candy!!

@ The Community Center Building

(behind the main office - where the new basketball court is being installed)

This events is sponsored by the five churches that bring us the Jesus Loves Kalamazoo Events.

Renovation Church

St. Michael Lutheran

The Bridge Church

First Baptist Portage

Centre Ave Church of God



Friends of St. Michael are invited and encouraged to participate in making this a wonderful event for a very low-income community that needs to know the love of Jesus!

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

Fall is here and that means OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD is just around the corner! As you make preparations for Fall Festivals and Thanksgiving celebrations, plan also to fill a shoebox with gifts for a child who needs to know the love of Christ. New to this ministry? It's headed up by Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse and is a world-wide operation. People throughout the world pack a shoebox with small toys, hygiene products, socks, shirts, etc. and through a well-organized process the boxes are shipped to poorer areas – including some in the US. Children who receive a shoebox are also given the greater gift of being introduced to Jesus and the love He has for them. What better gift can be given?

Shoeboxes will be available for you

October 23 They need to be returned by November 13. Look for the display in the Communication Center. Every box will have instructions inside with suggestions on items to include. But remember – the most important thing you can include is your heart. There's a child somewhere that needs to know that you care. Can't or don't like to shop? For \$25 you can build a box online! For personal stories and more information go to samaitanspurse.org/occ



LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Julie Burgess
Julie.burgess@lfnd.org
713-822-5284

Herb loves his family. Three years ago, the Lord called home his wife, Betty. Now Herb lives within ten minutes of all four of his children. They are close and do many things together. But one day, Herb was talking with his pastor over lunch and shared that he had concerns about the estate plan he and Betty had put together twenty years ago. At the time, his children were forty years old. His grandchildren were just getting ready for college and most of their estate was planned to support their children, helping them through the expensive time of life. "But now," Herb remarked, "My grandchildren are all out of school. Most of them will make more in ten years than Betty and I did in our entire life. My children are all comfortable. But I am concerned that we are not providing enough financial support to assist the training of future Church workers in the LCMS." Herb's pastor put him in contact with their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor.

Herb realized that several endowments exist across Synod and certainly at the Concordia Universities, to carry out exactly what was on his heart. After doing some investigation, he determined that 50% of his estate would now be aimed at providing funds for some of those endowments. He also created a fund with his pastor to support annual Church worker career activities in their congregation. He moved money into that fund because he wanted to start that right away.

Financial support of the Lord's work includes Gifts Now, Gifts in the Future, Gifts spread over time. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help uncover the gift for which the Lord has prepared you.



**LOTS OF
CANDY
NEEDED!!!
Please donate
what you can!**



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



The Battle Creek Zone Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML) held its Spring Rally at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Battle Creek on Saturday, Sept. 24, 1922 enjoying fellowship and a time devoted to Mission Work. Pastor Vincent Iqbal led an awesome bible study on the different religions and how they attract new followers.

Newly elected officers:

Secretary - Kathleen Bradish, Trinity, Paw Paw
Treasurer - Jessica Miller, Redemption, Battle Creek,
Christian Growth - Carolyn Burns, St. Michaels, Portage

Continuing in office:

Pastoral counselor - Pastor Vincent Iqbal, Missionary-at-Large
President - Sandy Maya, St. Michael, Portage

Upcoming events:

Spring Rally at St. Michael, Portage on April 29th

National Convention in Milwaukee, WI
June 22-25, 2023



ATTENTION: MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER VETERANS

Those Couples who have attended Marriage Encounter in the past should consider joining other vets for a Renewal Weekend at The Shack in Jugville, Michigan on November 4-6, 2022. Call 231-924-6683 to reserve a room at the inn. After you register, email Brian and Donna Zelter at dwzsearch@gmail.com and let them know so they can put you on the list of participants. Rooms are filling up fast so call soon to register.

Remember that a good marriage must be created and nurtured! It is giving each other a safe place in which to grow. It takes care and work to remain in the place where your marriage can thrive, whether you are newlyweds or old folks like us who have been at this for SIXTY years. Hope to see you at The Shack!

Lynne & Arlan Wendzel

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



With a new school year, we are excited to be in a new Youth Outreach year, as well!

Outreach is open to ALL youth in Grades 6-12. This is a wonderful opportunity for your youth to be in a nurturing and fun environment with other Christian youth. For all events, your children are invited and welcome to bring friends.

2022-23 KICKOFF

We had a great turn out at our Big Bash kickoff for the upcoming year on September 11. Approximately thirty youth enjoyed nine square in the air, bracelet making, basketball, making homeless care packages and much more!

FALL 2023 EVENTS / TeamSnap App

We have a lot of fun Outreach events planned for October and beyond. Please update your availability on the TeamSnap app, so that we know how many kids to expect each week.

If you would like to be added or have any questions about the app please email cindyhunter@gmail.com.

COMING IN OCTOBER...

October 2: Outreach 5-7 PM - Youth Room

We have a lot of fun cooking, open gym (volleyball/basketball/nine square in the air), movies, games, we are open to other ideas as well! Bring a friend and make new friends.

October 9: Harvest Moon Acres Family Event - Gobles, MI 5-9 PM - Come enjoy the a 5-acre Corn Maze, Fun Zone, farm animals, hayride, fire pit and more awaiting you. Cost: \$5 per person.

October 15 & 16: volunteers needed to help load the truck for Lutheran World Relief

October 16: Outreach 5-7 - Youth Room

October 23: Outreach 5-7 - Youth Room

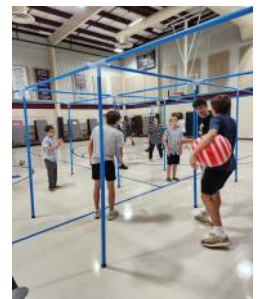
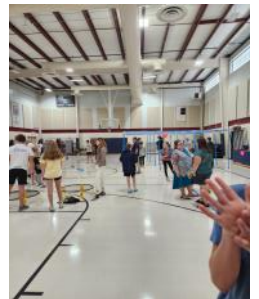
October 30: Outreach 5-7 - Youth Room

FUTURE EVENTS

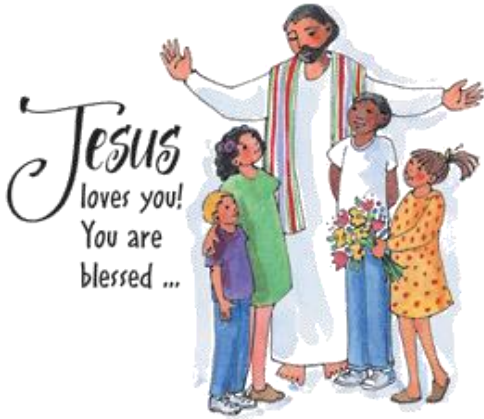
November 13: Progressive Dinner

December 11: 1-3pm, Junior High Sakura Hibachi Christmas Dinner
5-7pm, Senior High Sakura Hibachi Christmas Dinner

BIG BASH FUN!



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



SHEPHERD GROUPS

Lay Minister	Family Names <u>Start with</u>	Family Names <u>& include</u>
Geoff Bohren 231-679-4927	A	Boelman
Rich Conklin 616-889-0201	Bohren	Chenevare
Dan Bryer 269-323-7416	Chilcott	D
Mel Schroeder 734-646-9652	E	Franzen
Mark Hough 269-567-0705	Frommann	G
Pastors 269-327-7832	June	H
Cory Luma 269-365-8281	Jung	Lapekas
Mark Kahle 402-730-1914	Lausman	McNees
Mark Ruesch 330-730-9099	Messing	Nelson
Jeff Burnett 269-491-3700	Nieto	P
Andy Allan 269-370-7052	Q	Shook
Greg Wedel 312-961-4636	Sible	Stolsky
Matt Heintz 269-290-8507	Sullivan	T
Arlan Wendzel 269-816-5632	U	Z



Church Extension Fund

Bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org

800-242-3944

ENCOURAGEMENT

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing has been my church home for over forty years. Just over thirty years ago I witnessed something amazing. Pastor Eldor F. Bickel was retiring after serving at Our Savior for 33 years. A new pastor was arriving to become the new Senior Pastor. I've been told that this exact situation was considered the absolute worst scenario for young pastors to begin a ministry- a long serving, beloved pastor that was retiring, but planning to stay as member of the congregation.

Rev. David P.E. Maier was that new young pastor arriving in Lansing. The fears of the seminary nightmare stories of the retiring pastor staying on were quickly put to rest. The very first Sunday I saw Pastor Bickel direct some influential women of the church directly to Pastor Maier with their questions. That was the affirmation needed to transition to new pastoral leadership. From that day, the encouraging relationship that developed was a blessing to the entire congregation. Pastor Maier has even described Pastor Bickel as a blessed mentor and like a second father, as they did God's work at Our Savior.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

That's exactly what was happening in Lansing thirty years ago and what should be happening all over. It doesn't matter if it is a new pastor, a called servant of twenty plus years or the people you are working with on a committee to further the work of the church.

That encouraging manner shouldn't stop in the church. What a difference a word of praise, a pat on the back or a smile for a job well done, would do in our world. Think about your children or grandchildren who would whole-heartedly welcome that word of encouragement. It could make all the difference in a work relationship to deepen the sense of teamwork and cooperation.

Think about who you can influence today. Who can benefit from you being the hands, feet and voice of Jesus? Isn't that part of the reason Jesus attracted so many, because He took the time to listen and encourage? We may not be able to heal the sick or do miracles, but we can give our time, share the healing message of the Gospel and encourage people in our world.

We can plant the seeds, nurture and watch the Spirit of God work. Thanks in advance for your words of encouragement.

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

11/1/2021-7/31/2022

Church Revenue	\$ 673,126
School Revenue	\$ <u>989,201</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,662,328
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,663,610</u>
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ (1,283)
Expense Budget	\$ 1,666,276
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ (3,949)
Working Cash Balance	\$ 23,029
Mortgage Balance	\$ 716,986

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$567,880
Building Contingency	\$ 17,133
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 7,284
Sunday School	\$ 1,059
Youth Donations	\$ 18,564
Youth Accounts	\$ 11,237
Good Samaritan	\$ 1,870
Memorials	\$ 8,042
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 6,151
Quilting	\$ 1,111
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 235
School Improvements	\$ 47,759
Tuition Assistance	\$ 57,221
School Music	\$ 68
Flower Fund	\$ 4,539
CFK Mission Expansion	\$ 90,000
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 2,092
Faith Budget	\$ 54,151

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

July Avg.	246
Aug. Avg.	249
Sept. Avg.	271

Annual Avg. 2019	347
Annual Avg. 2020	197
(+ uncounted online viewers)	
Annual Avg. 2021	265
Annual Avg. 2022	285

SERVICE

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



*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*

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT:



**Hats,
Mittens,
Socks
For
Everyone!!!**

**Collecting HATS, MITTENS, SOCKS
for Children, Men & Women
throughout October/November.**

Items can be left at the Wooden Chest in Communication Center,
or brought to Classrooms on Sunday Mornings.



Mission Statement: A collaborative community **Serving** as the hands and feet of Jesus, **Respecting** the value of every human being, **Empowering** those who desire Gospel-Powered life transformation, **Equipping** people with the resources for success, and **Shepherding** them into a life of purpose and compassion.

What began as a depression-era soup kitchen is now a multi-campus, comprehensive ministry reaching those in our community in need of hope and healing. The Gospel is at the center of our name and at the heart of what we do. We offer shelter, food and a helping hand, but we cannot change a heart. Only God can do that.

WE PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY! CAN YOU HELP??

LISTENING MATTERS

Hearing and **listening** are easily confused. Most of us assume that listening requires no effort and that we are good at it. But good listening requires much more than just being able to hear. As James implored his fellow Christians: “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).



Stephen Ministers are taught how to actively listen – and even spend time cultivating the skill – because it is so powerful in ministering to others. ***Would you like to become a better listener?*** Here are some tips from the Stephen Ministry team at St. Michael.

1. Be Present

When a person shares a problem with you, they need your full attention. “Active listening” requires that you put aside all other thoughts and seek only to process what is being said.

2. Be Patient

As they share, a speaker may pause to sort out thoughts and complex feelings. Do not interrupt or try to fill silences. Do not share your own experiences. Listening is how you are helping.

3. Withhold Judgment

When the speaker does seek feedback, the best response will convey empathy. A good listener will not judge or try to solve problems. The speaker must trust that you are a safe person.

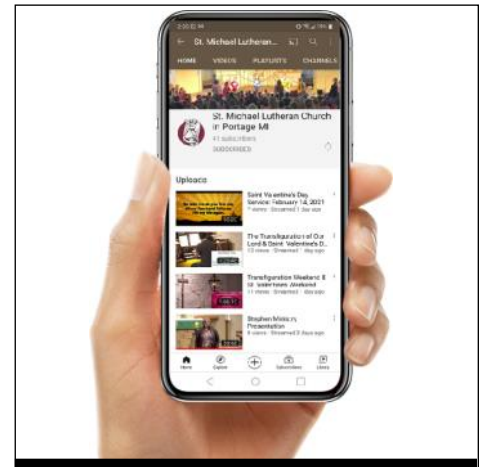
4. Ask Questions

A good listener seeks to understand. Focus only on the need or problem being shared. Ask for details or clarification. “How were you feeling when that happened?” is a good example.

5. Repeat and Verify

Especially with a difficult topic, the speaker needs to feel heard and understood. Summarize what has been said and include the feelings that you are hearing. This can offer great insight.

If you could use a listening ear, Stephen Ministry is here for you. Stephen Ministers offer one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered care to anyone going through life difficulties. Contact the church office or any Stephen Leader to request more information.



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

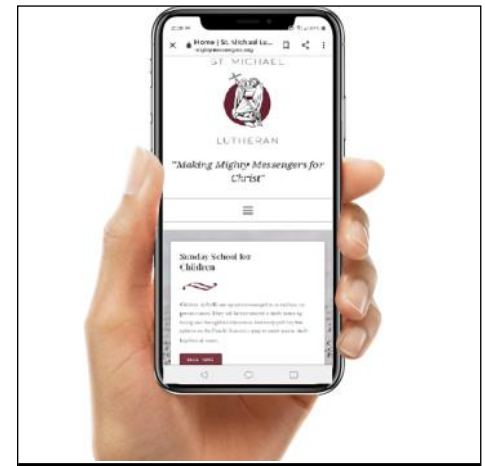
Facebook

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



mightymessengers.org

St. Michael's website is full of helpful information.



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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