



THE MIGHTY MESSENGER

JANUARY 2023

Volume 62, Number 1



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

“YOUR LIGHT HAS COME”

I had been saying for a long time that when we get our new sanctuary lighting we should have a dedication service with the text being Matthew 4:16 – *“The people which sat in darkness have seen a great light!”*

All joking aside, I’m very grateful for our new lighting and I know many others are, too. A big thank you goes out to Greg Wedel for spearheading the project and for all his amazing attention to detail, as well as his personal sweat equity that went into it. Thank you also to Pete Baird of Connections with Design who installed them, and thanks to the many givers at St. Michael who enabled us to complete the project debt free (not to mention the considerable savings that we will realize on our electric bill for years to come).

In Matthew 4, he is describing the ministry of our Lord Jesus and pointing out how He fulfilled the familiar Christmas prophecy of Isaiah 9:

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone... For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

We celebrate the name of our Savior on New Year’s weekend for it was eight days after He was born of the Virgin Mary that He was circumcised and given the name the angel told Joseph in a dream to name Him, namely “Jesus” (which means “Savior”) *“for He will save His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). He saved us by humbling Himself and becoming one like us so that He could suffer the death we deserve, but then rise again for our eternal salvation. Because of all that, now He has a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father (see Philipians 2).

The Holy Spirit has enlightened us to know and believe this saving truth about Jesus. Like Simeon who held the baby Jesus in the temple, our eyes have also seen in Him the Lord’s salvation for He is the *“light to enlighten the Gentiles,”* as well as the glory of the people of Israel (Luke 2:32). In Jesus we have seen the light and are no longer Spiritually in the dark for He is the Light of the world. The prophet Isaiah prophecies about this too, saying:

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light” (Isaiah 60:1-3a).

The Light was born at Christmas, but the Light grows and shines into the season of Epiphany that begins with the Magi from the east following the light of *“His Star”* (Matthew 2:2). These “kings” who came seeking the One born “King of the Jews” found Him in Bethlehem, the hometown of King David. But they were only the first of the Gentiles (“nations”) to come to Christ. For the last two thousand years people from every nation have come to see *“the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”* (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Jesus said, *“Go and make disciples of all nations”* (Matthew 28:19) and historically we have done just that. We have sent missionaries into other nations around the world to enlighten them about Jesus. But at the same time, people from many nations have been coming to us here in the United States for work and education and in the process many have come into our churches, too. Some came to faith in their homeland and others found Jesus here among us and through our witness. At St. Michael, we are blessed to have among us a number of first generation immigrants from places in Africa, South Asia, and the Far East.

WE ARE CALLED

to make disciples of *Jesus*

The latest “nation” to come into our pews are refugees from Afghanistan. The patriarch of the family we have met thus far came into the Christian faith while he was getting his MBA in Pakistan and he has passed the faith onto his family. It has been our joy and privilege to extend our hospitality to them for about a month, and we’ve been told that several more Afghan families will be coming into our community and into our congregation in the near future. We would like to offer them an ESL class and provide them a worship service in their own style and language. Rev. Vincent and Sonia Iqbal, whom the Lord brought to Portage this past summer, will be very helpful in this regard, as will POBLO (the People of the Book Lutheran Outreach) who has assured us that they will assist with their Lutheran catechesis.

Much prayer has gone into this exciting opportunity already, but our Board of Evangelism and Missions is inviting us to gather as a congregation and pray about it together in a ***special prayer meeting that we have scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary*** (in place of confirmation class for the evening). Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us for this time of prayer as we seek God’s face with regard to the open door He has set before us. There is always the fear of the unknown, but we pray that the Holy Spirit would enable us to step out in faith, trusting that His Word will be a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.



P.S. Once again, we have received a number of anonymous Christmas gifts for which we are very grateful. Thank you so much for remembering us in this way, and especially for remembering us in your prayers. We thank God for you and for the loving family of faith that we call St. Michael Lutheran Church and School.



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

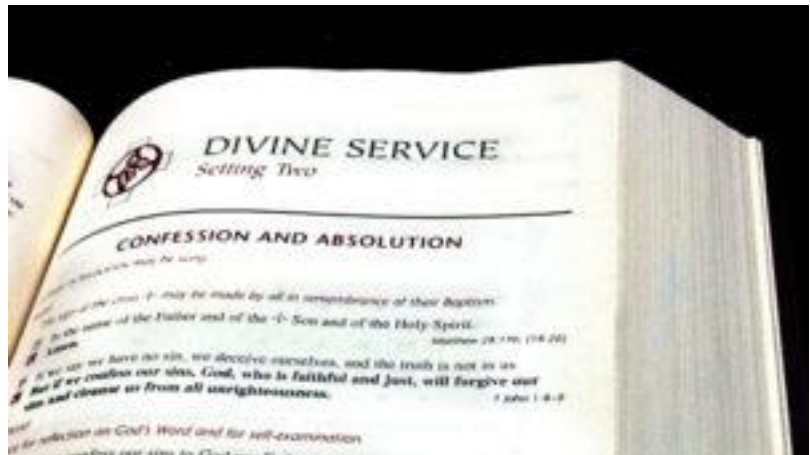
Christ For Kids + 269-327-4889

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



WHAT IS "THE LITURGY"?

As Lutherans we practice a liturgical form of worship... but just what does this mean? The word liturgy itself means "work for the people". Our focus, especially as Lutheran Christians, is that worship first and foremost is God coming down to serve His people. His work for us did not stop on the cross; God continues to serve His people daily, and beautifully through divine worship.

However, worship is also a work that we can joyfully go about together. Divine worship should never be a passive activity, but always a blessed striving to praise our Lord and come to Him in prayer. When you come to worship with your fellow saints, remember that the order of importance in the room is the Lord, then your pew-mates, then yourself. God doesn't need your praise, but your friends around you need to hear you praying, singing, and praising with your whole heart. In a beautiful way, you are actually serving that fellow churchgoer by worshipping sincerely and fully.

In this new year, remember all over again how much God loves you. He invites you into His peaceful presence in a very special way during worship, and we can show our love and appreciation by being actively participating worshipers. Sing loud! Pray earnestly. Smile at the folks around you, because we have this privilege to worship together. God will serve you, and you and I have the opportunity to love Him back and serve one another.

Pastor Maske



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

January 1, 2023 – Epiphany Observed Psalm 31:1-5; Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12 “New Year’s Comfort” - Sermon Text: Matthew 2:1-12 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Whenever you stand at the beginning of a new year, you have concerns. What events will take place in the world? What will happen in your own life? The good news is that the Triune God rules the universe and controls world history. This God also knows you, loves you, and will save you. You are in his hands, and that is the best place to be.

January 8, 2023 – The Baptism of Our Lord Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17 “Newness of Life” - Sermon Text: Romans 6:2-4 - Rev. Thomas Eggold

One of the most important things the Bible teaches us about Baptism is death. In fact, Paul’s words in Romans 6 tell us that Baptism is first about death. As odd as this may sound, it is only when we understand the death that occurs in our Baptism, that we can fully live as God’s people.

January 15, 2023 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42a “Lamb of God” - Sermon Text: John 1:29 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

Once again, John the Baptist is our preacher, pointing the way, the only way to the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. But don’t look to John, he’s not much to look at anyway, look to where he’s pointing. Look to Jesus. “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

January 22, 2023 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany Psalm 27:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25 “A Divided Family” - Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

It is always tragic when families are divided. The hurts and resentments can last for a lifetime and even be passed on to the next generation. The Apostle Paul encourages all families, including our church family, to look to Jesus and His love for us to resolve all quarrels and divisions.

January 29, 2023 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Psalm 15; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:1-12 “Walk Humbly with God” - Sermon Text: Micah 6:8 - Rev. William Mueller

Through the prophet Micah our Lord gives a great charge: walk humbly with Him. In good fashion we ask the question, what does this mean? How do we walk humbly with God? And why does it matter?



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

Spiritual Channel 187

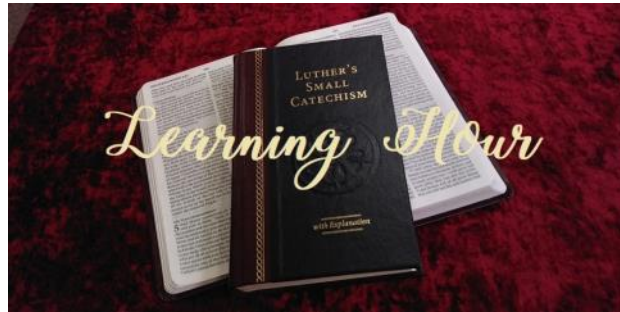
- 30-Minute Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod worship service
- Produced by Lutherans for the homebound, hospitalized...
- Includes the Gospel, Epistle, and Sermon by LCMS pastors
- Music by choirs, soloists, and small groups

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 MORNINGS 9:45-10:45 AM

**UNBROKEN
TRUTH.
WORTH
REPEATING.
AGAIN.**

JONATHAN FISK

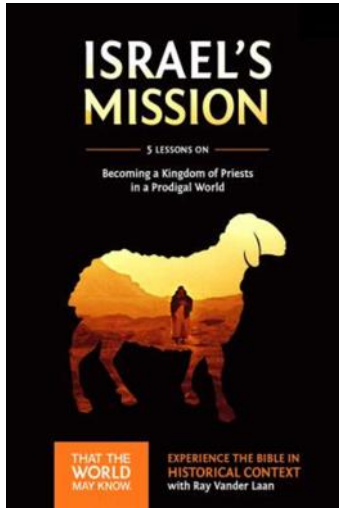
Join Us for a New Book Discussion
Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 AM
Beginning January 8
Led by Mel Schroeder



PS-K in Room #122
1st-3rd Grades in Room #123
4th-7th Grades in Room #119

STAFFING IS IMPORTANT: We are always looking for a few friends that enjoy storytelling, music, games or crafts. NURSERY ASSISTANT ALSO NEEDED.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



Volume 13 of Ray Vander Laan's *That the World May Know* series begins in January. **Israel's Mission: Becoming A Kingdom of Priests in a Prodigal World.**

It's a 5 week series. , led by David Groll and Jesse Hogue, in the Music Room (114).

As they stood at the foot of Mount Sinai, the Israelites not only agreed to partner with God by worshipping Him as king, they also took on a mission: become a kingdom of priests in a prodigal world. This had been God's plan for His people from the time He called Abraham out of Ur, a mission that would forever characterize Abraham's descendants and one which Jesus would

renew with His own ministry. Follow the rabbi through Israel and Jordan, scaling mountains in the Sinai and exploring the ancient cities of the Decapolis as you unpack what it means to be a kingdom of priests today.



Leader: **Angie Heimlich** (616-403-7342)

Kind of Group: Momma Bears

When: **2nd & 4th Mondays**, 7:30 pm

Where: Room 114

Leader: **Barbara Schubert**

(563-580-8975)

Kind of Group: Women of all ages

When: **Tuesdays**, 6:30 pm

Where: Library

A new study begins Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30pm in the library. We will be reading and discussing Dane Ortlund's book, Gentle and Lowly, The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers. This is a 10 week study, reading the book and using a study guide. There is no prerequisite for this class, other than loving Jesus and wanting to know more about how He loves us. Please contact Barbara Schubert

(563)580-8975 or schubertbrs@gmail.com for more information or to get the book. All ladies are welcome!

Leader: **Connie Chadderdon**

(269-327-7220)

Kind of Group: Mature Women

When: **Thursdays**, 9:30-11am

Where: Allan Hall

Leader: **Jan Chilcott** (269-324-9539)

Kind of Group: Women of all ages

When: **Thursdays**, 9:30 am

Where: Room 230

Leader: **Angie Heimlich** (616-403-7342)

Kind of Group: Moms –*children welcome*

When: **1st & 3rd Fridays**, 10 am

Where: Allan Hall

**** A new session of Exploring Our Faith will begins January 8 ****

“Exploring Our Faith”

Contact the Church Office,
to register or assist a friend in
learning more!
269-327-7832
naumann@mightymessengers.org

What does it mean to be a Lutheran? What do Lutherans believe? How is this similar and/or different from the doctrines taught by other denominations and religions? What makes Saint Michael Lutheran Church special? How do we care for one another and how can I get involved in what God is doing among us?

In order to address these questions, we offer this course of instruction entitled: **“Exploring Our Faith.”** It is taught on Sunday mornings during the same time as the children’s Sunday School and other Adult Bible Classes, at 9:45 am to 10:45 am.

Course Schedule (Winter 2023)

Date	Lesson #	Topic
1/8	Lesson #1:	God and the Bible
1/15	Lesson #2:	The Father & Creation
1/22	Lesson #3:	Sin & the Law
1/29	Lesson #4:	Person & Work of Jesus
2/5	Lesson #5:	The Holy Spirit
2/12	Lesson #6:	Holy Baptism
2/19	Lesson #7:	The Lord’s Supper
2/26	Lesson #8:	Lord’s Prayer
3/5	Lesson #9:	Office of the Keys

Sunday, March 12 from 9:45am-10:45am

New Member Orientation



ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Annual Report

January 2023

St. Michael Lutheran School and Christ for Kids Childcare Center are outreach ministries of St. Michael Lutheran Church. Sharing the Gospel with students, their families, and the greater community, while providing superior education. We believe that all children can learn and succeed, and are open to any student that our resources and training enable us to educate. This is accomplished through a caring staff of certified teachers and a commitment to continuous professional growth and improvement. We believe in teaching the whole child - spiritually, socially, emotionally and cognitively. We work to provide a level of education that is more in-depth and higher in quality than other educational options in the area.

Enrollment

School ministry enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year includes preschool (64), K-8 (125), and childcare (69) totaling **258 students served**. Since 2001, **253** individuals have become members of the St. Michael Lutheran Church congregation through the school ministry.

Tuition Assistance

This year a total of **\$42,250 of tuition assistance** has been awarded to 17 qualifying families. This assistance benefits 28 children or about 22% of students enrolled in the K-8 program.

Since 2005, **\$488,524** in tuition assistance has been awarded to qualifying families. Most of the funding comes from a number of events including the annual golf outing, the Gerri Wheeler Scholarship Fund, and many generous donations. This fund is always in need of donations, so please consider a tax-deductible gift.

Staffing

SMLS and CFK together employ **37 staff** – 14 in the school and 23 in the preschool/childcare. There are a number of individuals, including tutors, school psychologists, speech and occupational therapists, who frequent the school to meet the needs of the

students. Portage Public Schools provides (*at no cost*) certified teachers for Spanish, art, band, gym, and technology instruction in a partnership known as Shared Time.

Tuition Income

Based upon 2023 budget projections, the school will generate approximately 45% of the anticipated **\$1.2 million of income** for the school ministry. While the childcare/preschool will generate approximately 54% of that income. We anticipate a small fraction of uncollected income remaining at year's end. Tuition is collected through an automatic payment deduction program called *Tuition Express*.

Ministry Projects

The school participates in a number of ministry projects throughout the course of the year. The following organizations will benefit from the efforts of SMLS students this year: World Mission; Camp Concordia; Camp Luther Haven; the Michigan District's *Hearts for Jesus* initiative; the SMLC Trunk or Treat; and the American Heart Association. Additionally, our students regularly send cards and letters to St. Michael Lutheran Church shut-in members and sing for residents of Vineyard Assisted Living.

Curriculum/Programs

The school continues to offer a strong academic program. Kindergarten students arrive in 1st grade as eager readers. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills standardized test scores continue to be above the national average and fall in the top 5 among Lutheran schools in the Michigan District-LCMS that administer this assessment. The curriculum meets or exceeds state standards. Students in grades 1-8 enjoy weekly art, physical education, vocal music (K-4), computer (K-8), Spanish (K-8), Beginning Band (5) and Concert Band (6-8). SMLS also offers a variety of enrichment classes in a program known as *After the Bell*.

MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST

The school has an excellent working relationship with Portage Public Schools. Bus service for our students is provided and our school is a transfer point for PPS buses. It is common to see buses move in and out of the parking lot at the close of each school day. PPS also provides limited special education services and occasionally invites our staff for professional development opportunities.

Sports

The school participates in a loose association of Kalamazoo area private schools for sports. SMLS offers fall co-ed soccer, co-ed cross-country, girls' volleyball and basketball, and boys' basketball. We continue to offer *Girls' On the Run* as well as our community basketball camp each August.

St. Michael Lutheran School has twice been accredited by National Lutheran Schools Accreditation, and we engage in intentional improvement of our programs and prepare our students with skills for real-world success. Recently we began developing a STEM lab and are now providing STEM education to our students. This ministry would not be possible without the financial support and prayers from the members of St. Michael Lutheran Church. Please join me in praying for this ministry, as we share the Gospel and strive to influence the lives of children for both time and eternity.

Gregory Johnson, Principal

What?

Visit a St. Michael Lutheran School and Christ for Kids Open House and learn about what's in store for the 2023-2024 school year!

When?

Thursday, January 26 from 6:30-7:30pm

Thursday, February 23 from 6:30-7:30pm

Who?

Any current or community family interested in learning more about our educational programs. All are welcome!

Where?

7211 Oakland Drive, Portage, MI 49024

269-327-0512

www.stmikeschool.org



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

DECEMBER WAS A MUSICAL MONTH!



Caroling for Story Pointe & Bickford Assisted Living neighbors.



Sunday School Choir sings at both services.



School Program and Christ For Kids Program.

*Happy
New Year*



Band Concert.

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”



On Saturday/Sunday, January 21/22, St. Michael will be celebrating Jesus Christ and His gift of human life. You, as a human being, are the crown of His creation! This world was made for you to care for and to enjoy! Yet we also know that Satan, the Thief, has come to “steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10a). Many of us have come face to face with death by way of disease, accident, suicide, and even human violence. Some of us have lost our children due to miscarriage, a terrible violation of the original plan God had in mind for His creation. Yet we know that Jesus came to earth in Mary’s womb to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10) at all stages of life, and in all circumstances.

During the 9:45-10:45 Learning Hour on January 22 we will have **one large Bible class in the Music Room** that will address what is helpful to say and do (and what is not) when someone has suffered a miscarriage. Then also on January 22, in addition to our morning services, **we will have a special Memorial for Miscarriage service at 3:00 pm.** At that time we will remember our sons and daughters who died in the womb and we will celebrate the victory Jesus not only won through His cross and empty tomb, but also the victory Jesus won even as an unborn child in His mother’s womb.

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love! He loves you, and will always be with you. He knows your pain, and will make all things new when He returns to raise all the dead and bring His faithful people to be with Him forever. God bless those of you who grieve, no matter how long it has been, even as we all hope together in His second coming and ushering in of the New Creation.

FIND MORE NEWS AND
RESOURCES AT:
<https://lutheransforlife.org/>



Mark Your 2023 Calendar!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WEEK IS JULY 24-29

Please pray about how you will be serving the Lord during this week.

**Crafts, Snacks,
Storytelling, Music,
Registration,
Crew Leader,
Decorations, Media...**

Already know what you hope to do?

**Talk to Tammy in the
Church office!**



**Lac Brochet
Trip 2023**

For many years it’s been our privilege to venture to the far north and minister to the Dene First Nations community in Lac Brochet, Manitoba, Canada. There were three years in which the pandemic precluded us from going, but this past summer we returned and they are looking forward to our visit in August of 2023 to once again put on a week long Bible School for the kids as well as teen nights, and adult Bible classes. Would you like to join the travel team on this mission? Pray about it and let Pastor or Dana Naumann know of your interest. We’ll be announcing an informational meeting early in the new year.

FELLOWSHIP

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



YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

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

December was filled with some great youth events.



Both the Senior and Junior High groups had their Christmas party at Sakura Hibachi Grill.

There was plenty of entertainment, fellowship and great food!

Along with another evening event the following week decorating cookies.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8th - High School Studying the Scriptures of the week
9:45-10:45AM Youth Room



In January we look forward to more fun youth activities...

Please continue to pray for our youth!



MAKING MIGHTY MESSENGERS FOR CHRIST



WINTER SESSIONS

Saturdays 9:30-11:00 AM
Room 114

Signups begin January 2. Reach out
to Miss Sue at:

pointedancestudio@gmail.com

Classes start on
Saturday, January 7.



A special Life Skills Workshop is planned for Wednesday, January 4 from 3:30-5:00 pm. All kids 3-5th grades are invited. Check in with Mrs. Mary Wright, mary.wright65@gmail.com or 269-779-5624, to let her know you are interested in having your child attend.

Regular Wednesday evening sessions will begin on January 11 at 5:30 pm, following the confirmation class schedule.

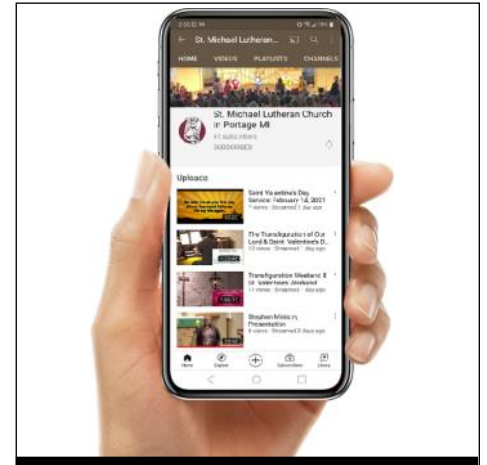
LCMS Foundation
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

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

Sharon was having coffee with her good friend, Karen, a week after Christmas. Sharon was sharing how much fun she had giving gifts to her family over Christmas. Karen shook her head, indicating she was very displeased with the same experience in her family. When pressed by Sharon for the reason for that reaction, Karen said, "They are all so entitled. They just expect things and don't really appreciate the gift." Teaching each other to appreciate "the gift" is why God designed families. It begins with appreciating the gift of Jesus to be our Savior. That faith then spreads out into thankfulness and appreciation for all the items shared and the time and energy expended. Teaching an understanding of gifting is crucial to a Christian family.

Planning your Christian estate is a crucial element of teaching gift. As you put the pieces of your plan together, you can celebrate with family how the gifts you have planned for them will bless them someday. You can encourage them in advance to receive the gifts with thanksgiving and begin to think about how they will also become good givers. You can share with family the reasons why you are planning gifts to support ministry, making it possible for ministries to share Jesus even after the Lord has called you home to heaven. You can invite family to celebrate those ministry gifts as well.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in putting your plan together and preparing you for family celebration of the gifts of God.



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

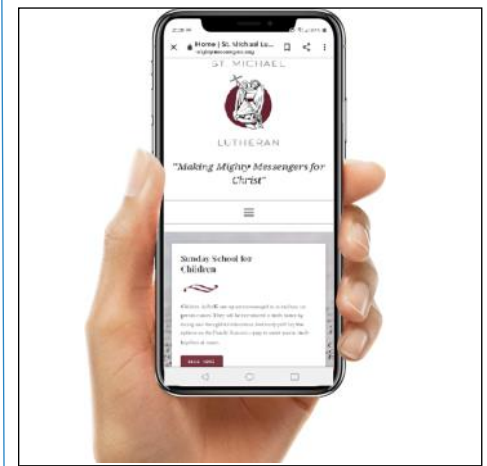
Find devotions, special event announcements and more:



@StMichaelLutheranChurchPortageMI

mightymessengers.org

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



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*

WE THANK GOD FOR CHRIS RUDOWSKE, OUR NEW WORSHIP MEDIA TECHNICAL DIRECTOR!

Chris and his family have been members at St. Michael for many years, but in just the last couple weeks we have hired him part-time to be in the control booth at all worship services. Over the years, we've added quite a bit of technology and computerized equipment in the sanctuary (i.e., computers, sound equipment, LED lighting controls, and video components). His job is to support and supervise the many volunteers who run the equipment in there and to help them with any technical challenges they encounter. When anything is not working, he will do his best to fix the problem on the spot, and when he can't, he will devote himself to getting the problem addressed before the next worship service. Lorraine Dudash remains our Worship Media Specialist who makes up all the worship slides, and recruits and schedules the various volunteer equipment operators. But Chris is now in charge of their training, support, and supervision.

Sunday School Collection Results Were Amazing!!

We were able to make a delivery to the Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries and the guests that were outdoors watching were amazed at what we brought:

11 Scarves

133 Pairs of Mittens/Gloves

145 Hats

513 Pairs of Socks



Thanks Be To God and All of You for your donations!!



**THE WORD WORKS CONFERENCE: Building an Ethic of Bible Reading
February 4, 2023 @ 8:30 am - 3:00 pm**

Register at: michigandistrict.org/theological23

Registration is now open. Deadline is January 15, 2023.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy Lansing, MI, 48917
or LIVESTREAMING**

Jesus rebuked the Sadducees saying, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22:29). The power of God is in His Word: The Word Works.

**Let's spend a day together and think about it! –
LCMS Michigan District President, Dave Davis**

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/>

OCTOBER FINANCIALS

End of FY2022

11/1/2021-10/31/2022

Church Revenue	\$ 48,593
School Revenue	\$ 0
Total Revenue	\$ 48,593
Total Expenses	\$ 156,768
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$ (108,175)
Expense Budget	\$ 159,691
Under/(Over) Budget	\$ (111,097)
Working Cash Balance	\$ 30,359
Mortgage Balance	\$ 705,425

Designated Fund Balances

Endowment Fund	\$531,188
Building Contingency	\$ 26,733
Parking Lot Fund	\$ 15,000
Technology Refresh	\$ 13,718
Sunday School	\$ 1,130
Youth Donations	\$ 15,240
Youth Accounts	\$ 5,936
Good Samaritan	\$ 2,666
Memorials	\$ 8,044
L.A.M.P. Mission Trip	\$ 3,557
Quilting	\$ 341
POBLO Afghan Support	\$
Church Worker Scholarship	\$ 485
School Improvements	\$ 38,134
Tuition Assistance	\$ 59,315
School Music	\$ 78
Flower Fund	\$ 3,502
CFK Mission Expansion	\$ 90,000
Women's Fellowship/LWML	\$ 2,012
Faith Budget	\$ 17,198

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Oct. Avg.	296
Nov. Avg.	289
Dec. Avg.	351

Annual Avg. 2019	347
Annual Avg. 2020	197
(+ uncounted online viewers)	
Annual Avg. 2021	265
Annual Avg. 2022	295

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
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ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Daniel Maske
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ASSISTANT PASTOR

Rev. Jason Toman
jtoman@mightymessengers.org

BUSINESS & FINANCE MANAGER

Jay Koski
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CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AND CHILD MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Tammy Songer
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SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Greg Johnson
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SCHOOL SECRETARY

Sharon Robinson

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Brenda Heintz

FIRST GRADE TEACHER

Maralyse Worm

SECOND GRADE TEACHER

Annie Hecht

THIRD GRADE TEACHER

Kim Ruesch

FOURTH GRADE TEACHER

Dawn Heid

FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Emily Lauterbach

SIXTH GRADE TEACHER

Julie Prentice

SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE TEACHER

Lisa Lam

CHRIST FOR KIDS CHILDCARE DIRECTOR

Emily Ritchie
eritchie@mightymessengers.org

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Becky Mohler
Cheryl Julian
Jessica Lonc

WORSHIP MEDIA SPECIALIST

Lorraine Dudash

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Carolyn Bertrand

ORGANIST

Keith Eiser

MORNING SONG DIRECTOR

Jane Connon

SEXTONS

Brian Chapman
Matthew Wright

VOLUNTEERS:

PRESIDENT

Jack Spenner

VICE PRESIDENT

Rob Kuhlmann

RECORDING SECRETARY

Tammy Songer

TREASURER

Jan Jett

BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTIES

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

BOARD OF LAY MINISTRY

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, Virginia Hetrick
Heather Crampton, Lynda Rea, Karen Shuler

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Lane Bertrand, Mandi Cerqua,
Jackie Michels, Peter Robert,
Bill Semrau, Kathy Zakarias

BOARD OF EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

Valerian Kwigizile, Director
Kathie Seufert, Assistant Director

GREETERS

Arlene Groll, Mark & Jan Chilcott

BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION

David Groll, Director
Kristin Shook, Assistant Director

ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jesse Hogue

CRADLE ROLL

Peggy Makowski

BOARD OF PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Vacant, Director
Judy Schroeder, Assistant Director

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

June Kucks

LWML

Sandy Maya

SOFTBALL

Shannon Miskovich

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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